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“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”

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THE PRICE TAG FOR COTAI'S NEW TEMPORARY ARENA MAY COST UP TO MOP113 MILLION AS THE GOV'T INVITES SIX BIDDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION P2

HONG KONG RACERS DOMINATE QUALIFICATION RACES FOR MACAU GP P4

HONG KONG: ACTIVIST JOSHUA WONG ASKS FOR A LESSER SENTENCE IN LANDMARK SECURITY CASE P6



China Five people were confirmed dead after tornadoes struck a city in the eastern Chinese province of Shandong, according to local media reports Saturday. Tornadoes struck parts of the city of Heze on Friday afternoon, including the counties of Dongming and Juancheng, injuring 88 people. That includes five who were later confirmed dead, according to the state-owned Xinhua news agency. Authorities said that 2,820 houses, 48 power supply lines and over 4,000 hectares of crops were damaged.



New Zealand will drastically ease zoning restrictions in a bid to “flood the market” with land for homes and override the powers of local councils to curb development, the nation’s housing minister said in announcing reforms to what he called one of the world’s least affordable housing markets. “It’s about allowing maximum choice and opportunity for people to build and develop,” said the minister, Chris Bishop, in a speech in Auckland last week.



India Hundreds of mostly exiled Tibetans gathered in India’s hillside town of Dharamshala to celebrate the birthday of the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism, the Dalai Lama, who turned 89 on Saturday. The Dalai Lama has made the hillside town his headquarters since fleeing Tibet in 1959. The main celebrations took place in Tsuglagkhang temple inside the complex where the spiritual leader lives. Tibetan and Buddhist flags adorned poles and railings.

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Beijing tightens grip on illicit money exchange groups, as authorities seize RMB9.23 million in fraudulent funds amidst rising gaming-related crimes P3



1955 FOOTAGE OF 2ND GP
LIFE IN MACAU IN THE MID-1950S BEYOND GUIA RACE TRACK P4



YAN ZHICHAN REMOVED FROM LIAISON OFFICE POST

China's State Council has announced that Yan Zhichan has been removed as deputy director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macau SAR. Yan was appointed as one of the Liaison Office's four vice-directors in 2020. Yan has held many senior government and Communist Party of China (CPC) positions in various cities and provinces, such as in Zhanjiang, Jieyang, Anhui and the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. Before her posting to Macau, Yan was a vice-chairwoman of Guangxi.

EXTENDING MEDICAL CARE TO ELDERLY IN GBA

The Association for the Elderly is working to expand medical services for seniors looking to retire in the Greater Bay Area (GBA). Access to medical treatment remains a top concern for many senior citizens, with some sources suggesting the government negotiate with surrounding cities to provide medical vouchers and other extended services in Macau. According to the group's president, "the government has invested heavily in aged care, making the region an attractive option for retirees." The Association for the Elderly aims to promote the importance of spending quality time with aging parents, hoping to set an example for younger generations.

BROADWAY CLASSIC 'ANNIE THE MUSICAL' COMES TO MACAU

"Annie the Musical" is coming to the Macau Cultural Centre's Grand Auditorium for twelve shows from Aug. 2 to Aug. 14. This optimistic celebration of love and the power of family is part of "The 1st Macau International Children's Arts Festival." The musical, featuring memorable tunes like "Tomorrow" and "It's the Hard Knock Life," tells the uplifting story of brave orphan Annie as she escapes the clutches of the evil Miss Hannigan and finds a new family with billionaire Oliver Warbucks. The original Broadway production won seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical. Produced by Crossroads Live North America and Broadway Asia, this touring production is making its way around the world.

VICTORIA CHAN

THE government has extended invitations to six companies to take part in the tender process for the construction of Cotai's new 50,000-seat temporary outdoor performance venue, aimed at enhancing the city's cultural and tourism growth.

The project, which is expected to take 107 days to complete, has received six bids ranging from MOP84 million to MOP113 million, according to the Public Works Bureau.

The selected venue will feature a reinforced concrete platform, complementary electro-mechanical systems, and water drainage facilities, as well as mobile amenities such as restrooms, offices and rest areas.

Leong Chun Kit, a member of the Islands Social Advisory Committee, believes the venue's completion will "inject new vitality into Macau's cultural and tourism development and community economy."

The outdoor performance arena is expected to attract more high-profile concerts and large-scale events to Macau, enhancing the city's competitiveness in the international performing arts market, he said.

Also, Leong remarked that the venue is expected to extend tourist stays and revitalize commu-

MOP113 MILLION PRICE TAG FOR COTAI'S NEW TEMPORARY ARENA



nity spending.

Therefore, he also called on the government to strategically place temporary market stalls, food trucks, and retail booths around the venue to provide more business opportunities for local merchants.

However, the influx of up to 50,000 concertgoers is expected to put significant pressure on

the nearby transport infrastructure.

The government has acknowledged the need for a comprehensive traffic diversion plan, including the provision of specialized bus stops, temporary parking areas, and clear signage to nearby light rail stations, to ensure the safe and convenient dispersal of the audience.

The selection of the Cotai site, located at the intersection of Avenida do Aeroporto and Rua de Ténis, is seen as a strategic move to reduce disturbance to the community.

This decision comes after residents raised concerns about the noise and traffic disruption caused by a previous K-pop concert held at the Taipa Stadium.

Construction sites adapt to scorching summer heat

NADIA SHAW

AS the summer heat continues, Macau's construction workers have been warned to take extra precautions to avoid heat exhaustion.

The scorching temperatures, which have reached highs of 33 degrees Celsius or above in recent days, are prompting construction sites to implement worker safety measures.

At a construction site near Nam Van Lake, workers are "fully equipped to cope with the extreme heat."

A worker surnamed Zheng said the site provides adequate rest breaks and heatstroke preven-



tion facilities. He also plans to bring his own tea and electrolyte drinks to stay hydrated.

The site's safety director, surnamed Ou, has told TDM about the importance of providing workers with equipment

such as cooling sleeves, and sun hats.

Regular drink breaks and beverages like ice water and herbal tea are provided to prevent the risk of heat stroke.

Workers are also given adequate rest breaks, the

standard recommendation – a 20-minute break for every two hours of work, which is extended during extremely hot weather.

According to an International Labor Organization (ILO) report, the global equivalent full-time job loss due to heat stress was 0.7% in 1995 and is projected to more than triple to 2.2% by 2030.

This translates to a staggering global GDP loss of USD280 billion in 1995 and is expected to reach USD2.4 trillion by 2030.

The Labour Affairs Bureau's (DSAL) Occupational Safety and Health Department has been actively promoting heat

safety measures for outdoor workers.

Since launching the "heat-resistant clothing and sun protection hat covers" program in 2018, nearly 300 companies have applied, and over 5,200 sets of heat-resistant clothing and 2,600 sun protection hat covers have been approved.

This year, the bureau introduced a new "portable waist-mounted fan" promotion plan, which has received a positive response from the industry, with 29 companies applying and 254 fans dispatched in just two months.

These heat stress initiatives have been met with positive uptake, and the bureau continues to inspect and monitor outdoor workplaces.

DSAL reports it has found no violations of health or occupational safety so far in 2024.

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VICTORIA CHAN

CHINA'S Ministry of Public Security has launched a major crackdown on "money exchange gangs" operating in Macau, targeting illegal foreign exchange activities linked to a surge in fraud, robbery and kidnapping.

The ministry said the move is to curb the "arrogance of criminals" and disrupt the entire illicit network.

According to the ministry, the "money exchange gangs" refer to groups in Macau illegally providing large-scale cash exchange services and loan sharking to gamblers.

In recent years, the ministry has seen a significant increase in the number of these groups organizing mainland Chinese to illegally engage in foreign exchange trading in Macau.

The crackdown has already yielded results, with authorities across China reporting a series of successful operations.

In Jilin, police cracked a case involving RMB10 million in illegal exchange activities, while in Jiangxi, over 30 people were arrested for selling illegal entry and exit documents to facilitate Macau trips for illicit currency trading.

Guangdong police, meanwhile, eliminated three fraud gangs using "practice banknotes" (non-genuine banknotes) for exchange, detected five illegal exchange cases, and busted six underground money laundering operations, arresting 101 suspects and seizing RMB1.47 billion.

Beijing cracks down on city's illicit 'currency exchange gang'



These criminal organizations are reportedly overseen by "hidden financiers", and the transfer of Hong Kong currency and renminbi is carried out through clandestine financial institutions in the nearby city of Zhuhai. It is estimated that these illicit activities have yielded yearly earnings exceeding HKD1.5 billion.

Sit Chong Meng, Judiciary Police (PJ) director, has acknowledged the strong support of the ministry. He said public security authorities across mainland China are comprehensively cracking down on related black and grey industries and have already achieved significant results.

"In recent months, there has been a drop in the number of illegal crimes involving money exchange gangs," he said.

"The (PJ) will actively cooperate with the mainland public security authorities in special operations to rectify the illegal activities of money changers at the source."

The crackdown comes as Seaport Research Partners analyst Vitaly Unmasky, warned of the potential negative impact on Macau's gaming industry, with the

disruption of unofficial currency exchange channels potentially leading to a slowdown in mainland Chinese travel to the gambling hub.

However, the authorities appear determined to maintain a "strict and high-pressure" campaign against the money exchange gangs, vowing to take further measures to eliminate the problem at its source.

Mainland recovers RMB9.23m in fraudulent funds as gaming-related crimes surge

VICTORIA CHAN & NADIA SHAW

MAINLAND authorities have recovered RMB9.23 million in fraudulent funds from Macau, according to the Judiciary Police (PJ).

As part of a wider crackdown on cross-border fraud and money laundering, the police froze 277 bank accounts linked to 45 fraud cases in Macau.

The PJ has returned the seized funds to the victims.

This announcement comes amid a surge in fraud cases in Macau.

From January to May, the police have opened 1,035 fraud cases, marking a 43% increase compared to the same period last year.

During this time, the police arrested 122 suspected members of fraud

syndicates.

To combat the rise in fraud, the police have implemented measures such as notifying the banking sector of 249 suspicious bank accounts, freezing funds and issuing early warnings.

The PJ director, Sit Chong Meng, described these efforts as "an effective result by the authorities."

Most of the 321 fraud cases involved internet fraud, up 12.2% year-on-year, and 221 cases of unauthorized use of credit cards, up 88.9% year-on-year.

Phishing text messages and websites remain the primary sources of credit card data loss.

From January to May, the police and telecom operators cooperated to successfully block 276 phishing websites.

To raise awareness and provide assistance, the Judiciary Police launched a WeChat anti-fraud mini program in April, which had recorded more than 22,000 visits by the end of May.

Meanwhile, the PJ also reported a significant increase in gaming-related crimes in the first five months of 2024, with a 75.5% year-on-year rise.

Between January and May 2024, 579 gaming-related crimes were recorded, a notable jump from the same period in the previous year, the PJ's data shows.

Loansharking cases rose by 86 in the period, reaching 104.

The PJ noted an uptick in theft and failure to report found objects, primarily occurring in high-traffic gaming districts.

Furthermore, gam-

ing-related fraud cases increased by 52 to 130, with the PJ attributing 66.7% of these incidents to money exchange gangs.

In response, the PJ and the Public Security Police intercepted 1,924 money

exchange gang members, 927 of whom were referred to the Gaming Inspection, and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) to be placed on the prohibited casinos list.

Additionally, 30 Macau residents were notified of

JOB SCAM TARGETS STUDENTS' MPAY ACCOUNTS

AT least 10 citizens have fallen victim to an online part-time job scam this month, resulting in the theft of their MPay accounts and a cumulative loss of nearly 140,000 patacas, according to the Judiciary Police.

The Judiciary Police has issued a warning about the growing trend of online part-time job scams that involve the theft of MPay accounts.

The scam typically begins with an advertisement on social platforms, promising safe and legal part-time work without requiring advance payments.

The scam operates by sending out fraudulent job postings on social media platforms, enticing applicants to complete "Like Task" missions.

Victims are instructed to bind their MPay account. During this process,

the victim must enter their MPay account number, login password and transaction password.

However, once the information is provided, victims find themselves unable to log into their MPay accounts, and the scammer obtains the victim's MPay account information through a phishing website and steals the account, transferring the funds away. NS



RARE 1955 FOOTAGE OF SECOND MACAU GP GOES ONLINE

RENATO MARQUES

RARE footage of the second Macau Grand Prix in 1955 has been published online.

Richard Delingpole, the son of racer Malcolm Delingpole who appears in the film, has uploaded the 70-year-old footage to YouTube.

Richard said in 1955 his 20-year-old father, Malcolm, was serving in the Royal Air Force in Hong Kong.

Malcolm had inherited a taste for cars and motor racing from his father Ken, which became a hobby

for him at that time.

Richard also said his grandfather, Ken, together with his Works Director, Ron Lowe, were not only racing cars but building them too.

In the mid-1950s they built the Dellow Mark 5, the name of which is a conflation of the creators' names, "Delingpole" and "Lowe."

The two car builders immediately shipped a newly built Dellow Mk5 to Malcolm so he could compete in a new race being held for its second time, the Macau Grand Prix.

Richard said Malcolm was ea-



gerly anticipating the arrival of the Dellow Mk2, a four-seater that was "far better suited to the lifestyle of a

young serviceman in Hong Kong." Nevertheless, the builders' eagerness for the new model to featu-

re at the local GP spoke louder and the Mk5 did enter the race.

The footage narrated in a simple conversation between Richard and Malcolm (now about to turn 90) gives insights and details on how the early days of Macau GP were lived as well as offering some perspective and images of life in Macau in the mid-1950s beyond the Guia race track.

"He is 90 next year but seems to remember it all like it was yesterday," Richard said in side comments, expressing hopes people can "enjoy this quirky piece of motor racing history."

Made famous for its renowned touring and hill-climbing capabilities, the Dellow is still a very popular name among antique car aficionados.

The Mk5 raced in Macau in 1955 and was the penultimate of a series of six models made by the brand, but the last made by the two car builders before the company was sold.

From 1954, the MK5 featured a coil sprung beam front axle, a tuned engine and a 3-speed Ford gearbox.

According to the Dellow Register website, the Mk5 "was the last and arguably the best model produced by Dellow Motors before the original company was sold."

"The design was based on the Lightweight although it was produced with styling changes to the nose and rear producing a slightly more stylish look."

The 29-minute-long footage has been viewed over 1,000 times in four days and can be seen at (<https://youtu.be/sQvpCqqIEHc?si=UGmM8IPyACoJhp1S>).

GRAND PRIX

Hong Kong racers dominate qualification races Macau GP

RENATO MARQUES

THE Macau Touring Car Series (MTCS) ended yesterday afternoon at the Zhuzhou International Circuit.

It consisted of two rounds of qualification races for this year's Macau Grand Prix, in two different categories.

In the most popular category, the Macau Roadsport Challenge, 58 racers who were divided into two groups (A and B), participated in the four racing events over the weekends of May 17-19 and July 5-7.

Showing absolute dominance, Hong Kong driver Damon Chan achieved the perfect score, winning all four races of group A.

Chan proved to be unbeatable at the wheel

of his Toyota GR86 finishing ahead of all competition and with a comfortable lead.

Another Hong Kong racer, Adrian Chung, repeated the results from Round 1 in May and finished last weekend's races in second, behind Chan.

Third place overall went to mainland driver Huang Ying who came third in Races 3 and 4 this weekend after having already scored important points in the first two races in May.

Similarly, in group B, the neighboring region drivers were also distinguished with wins to Wong Chuck Pan (Race 1) and Jactin Chung (Race 2).

Finishing second in Races 1 and 2 were two other drivers from Hong Kong, respectively



Vincent Yip and Cheung Chun Yuen, the last placing third in Race 1. Completing the podium in Race 2 was Race 1 winner Wong.

Best among the Macau racers were Sabino Lei (group B) and Lo Kai Tin (group A) both securing a sixth position in Race 1 and a seventh position in Race 2, respectively.

With this final

weekend at Zhuzhou, this year's MTCS has finished.

The next time the Subaru BRZ and Toyota GR86 will be on track will be Nov. 14 for the GP.

This year's championship also brought some novelties for the racers with several penalties being handed to drivers for track limit infringement, something that

MTCS drivers have not been used to but that caught many this time, particularly in Race 1 Saturday.

GLOOMY PROSPECTS FOR THE GBA GT CUP

Part of the 2024 MTCS is the Greater Bay Area GT Cup for GT4 specification cars.

As the Times reported in early May, the category seems to be lacking interest and participants.

With only 14 racers from Macau, Hong Kong, Taiwan and New Zealand listed to race before the championship began, only 10 participated in any of the four races held this year.

Over the last weekend, only eight racers were listed to participate in Races 3 and 4 and, of these, only seven raced.

In Race 1, local racer

Lao Kim Hou in a Ginetta G55 beat the competition over the 15-lap race winning comfortably over Hong Kong's Kenny Chung and Taiwan's Kan Che Wei, both driving Ginetta G55s.

Third in Race 1, Kan eventually won a more disputed Race 2, crossing the finish line ahead of local racer Miguel Lei in an Audi R8.

Leong Keng Hei, also from Macau in a BMW M4, completed the podium of Race 2 after Race 1, where he finished last, 2 laps behind the winner.

As in previous events, to have a GT4 race taking place at the local GP, organizers need to recruit many drivers from the mainland who were not part of this championship to fill up the grid.

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HONG KONG

Activist Joshua Wong asks for a lesser sentence in landmark security case

KANIS LEUNG, HONG KONG

Prominent activist Joshua Wong asked for a lesser sentence in court Friday after he earlier pleaded guilty in Hong Kong's biggest national security case.

Wong was one of 47 activists charged in 2021 under the national security law with conspiracy to commit subversion for their involvement in an unofficial primary. The activists were accused of attempting to paralyze Hong Kong's government and topple the city's leader by aiming to win a legislative majority and using it to block city budgets indiscriminately.

Wong and 44 others admitted their liability or were convicted by the court. They could be sentenced to life in prison, though those who pleaded guilty have a better chance of receiving shorter sentences.

Wong waved at the public gallery after he walked into the courtroom. Former Democratic Party chair Wu Chi-wai, former pro-democracy lawmaker Je-



Pro-democracy activist Joshua Wong

remy Tam and activist Tam Tak-chi were among the five other activists who also appeared in court.

Wong's lawyer Marco Li said his client should be considered an "active participant" because he neither organized nor assisted in the unofficial primary. The security law calls for active participants to face a jail term of be-

tween three to 10 years.

Li said Wong hoped that he could part with his past history and would be able to reform himself after serving his sentence. He suggested the judges offer his client a one-third reduction of sentence given his guilty plea.

Wong first became a household name in Hong Kong as a teenager in 2012 for leading pro-

tests against the implementation of national education in the city's schools.

In 2014, he rose to fame as one of the student leaders in the city's Occupy Movement, during which demonstrators occupied streets for 79 days and brought traffic in some areas to a standstill, demanding direct elections for Hong Kong's leader.

In the 2019, Wong helped drum up overseas support for the protests. His activism resulted in Beijing calling him an advocate of Hong Kong independence who had "begged for interference" from foreign forces.

When the security law was enacted on June 30, 2020, "Demosisto," a political party he co-founded, was disbanded.

The mitigation hearings for the 45 convicted defendants are expected to continue until early August and sentencing will come at a later date.

The national security law authorizes a range of sentences depending on the seriousness of the offense and the defendant's role in it, going from under three years for the least serious to 10 years to life in prison for people convicted of "grave" offenses.

Critics said the case illustrated how the security law is being used against the city's democracy activists. But both the Hong Kong and Beijing governments maintain that it restored stability following the 2019 protests. **MDT/AP**

World Anti-Doping Agency 'disappointed' at US investigation into Chinese doping case

THE World Anti-Doping Agency says it is "disappointed" to learn of a U.S. criminal investigation into the case of 23 Chinese swimmers who were allowed to continue competing despite testing positive for a banned substance in 2021.

The Associated Press reported last week that U.S. investigators had launched a probe into the case and ordered a top official of the international swimming federation to testify as a witness.

It could become the highest-profile use so far of a U.S. federal law passed in 2020 that allows investigations into suspected doping conspiracies even if they occurred outside the United States.

"The World Anti-Doping Agency is disappointed to learn that the U.S. Department of Justice is now investigating the 2021 contamination case of 23 swimmers in China," WADA said in a sta-

tement. "At this time, WADA has not received any contact or request from U.S. law enforcement."

A U.S. House Committee on China had asked the Justice Department and the FBI on May 21 to investigate the case under the 2020 Rodchenkov Anti-Doping Act, named for a whistleblower who exposed Russian state-backed doping.

WADA said the reports about the investigation "validate the concerns expressed broadly by the international community" about the Rodchenkov law.

WADA has previously criticized the law, warning of the risk of overreach from the "extraterritorial" jurisdiction the law would give to U.S. federal agencies. The International Olympic Committee has also voiced concerns.

The 23 Chinese swimmers tested positive for a banned heart medication



Workers stand by the olympic swimming pool last month at the Paris La Defense Arena

in January 2021 yet were allowed to continue competing. Some of them won medals at the Tokyo Olympics later that year. 11 of them are part of the Chinese swimming team heading to the Paris Olympics.

Chinese anti-doping authorities blamed the positive tests on food contamination, saying traces of the substance were found in the kitchen of a hotel where the team stayed.

WADA accepted the theory and has repeatedly

defended its handling of the case, which was only made public this year through reporting by the New York Times and German broadcaster ARD.

"WADA reviewed the Chinese swimmer case file diligently, consulted with scientific and legal experts, and ultimately determined that it was in no position to challenge the contamination scenario, such that an appeal was not warranted," the agency said in the statement.

"Guided by science and expert consultations, we stand by that good-faith determination in the face of the incomplete and misleading news reports on which this investigation appears to be based."

The international swimming federation, World Aquatics, confirmed to the AP last week that its executive director, Brent Nowicki, was subpoenaed to testify in the U.S. investigation.

Late last month, China Anti-Doping Agency (CHI-

NADA) refuted claims by the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), calling them "out of context with emotional and political rhetoric and mere preconceptions."

USADA CEO Travis Tygart testified at a congressional hearing in the United States last month, claiming, "WADA sat back and allowed China to disregard the rules" in dealing with TMZ contamination cases involving 23 Chinese swimmers in 2021.

CHINADA said in a statement that Tygart was speaking "out of context with emotional and political rhetoric and mere preconceptions, made hostile attacks on China's anti-doping work, accused the Chinese athletes of intentional doping without any factual basis, and vilified CHINADA and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) for jointly 'covering up' the positive tests of the Chinese swimmers."

"This has severely undermined the reputation of CHINADA, WADA, and the global anti-doping system," said CHINADA. **MDT/AGENCIES**

PHILIPPINES

Former leader Duterte and aide accused of steering government contracts to cronies

JIM GOMEZ, MANILA, PHILIPPINES

A former Philippine opposition senator accused ex-President Rodrigo Duterte of plundering state coffers in a criminal complaint filed Friday, alleging that he conspired with an aide to award government infrastructure contracts worth millions of dollars to cronies.

Filed with the Department of Justice in Manila, the accusation adds to the former president's legal worries, which include an investigation by the International Criminal Court into allegations of crimes against humanity over the widespread killings of suspects during Duterte's crackdown on illegal drugs.

Former Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV said two construction companies, owned by the father and brother of longtime Duterte aide and now Sen. Christopher Lawrence Go, received more than 100 government construction contracts worth at least 6.6 billion pesos (\$114 million) from 2007 to 2018 in the southern city of Davao, while Duterte was mayor and vice mayor and after he became president in 2016. Neither company



Former Sen. Antonio Trillanes shows documents to reporters after filing at the Department of Justice in Manila, Philippines, late last week

had the resources or manpower to handle large-scale infrastructure construction, Trillanes said.

Go said he has not seen the complaint but denied the allegations against him and Duterte.

"What I can assure everyone is I have not benefitted, and my family has not benefitted from my being in government," Go said in a statement to reporters. "Even if you ask around, my relatives could not approach me — even my own father and half-brother — to get help in getting any project or government contract."

Duterte did not immediately

comment, but he has previously denied any wrongdoing in office.

Trillanes accused Duterte, Go and the relatives who owned the two companies of plunder.

Under Philippine law, the crime of plunder is committed when a government official acquires ill-gotten wealth of 50 million pesos (\$862,000) or more from government funds through corrupt acts in combination with family or associates. It's punishable by life in prison. The government can also seize illegally acquired wealth or properties after a final conviction.

Go, "in conspiracy with Mr. Du-

terte, used his position, authority and influence to corner billions worth of government projects in favor of his father and brother, thus, unduly enriching himself and the members of his immediate family," Trillanes said. "Now is the perfect time to make them accountable." He added, without elaborating, that the former president would face more lawsuits in the future.

Trillanes, an anti-corruption advocate who served as senator from 2007 to 2019, was one of Duterte's most vocal critics. Trillanes also initiated a complaint against

Duterte over the widespread killings under the former president's deadly campaign against illegal drugs that sparked a still-ongoing investigation by the International Criminal Court.

Government prosecutors will conduct their own investigation before deciding whether to indict Duterte and the others accused in a process that could take months or years.

Duterte, 79, was a longtime mayor and vice mayor of Davao before rising to the presidency on a promise to rapidly rid his poverty-plagued Southeast Asian country of corruption and illegal drugs — both of which he's acknowledged failing to accomplish.

One of Asia's most unorthodox recent leaders, Duterte's six-year presidency was marked by expletives-laced outbursts and high-profile efforts to nurture cozy ties with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian leader Vladimir Putin while openly lambasting U.S. and European leaders.

Duterte, a former government prosecutor and legislator, launched police-enforced crackdowns against illegal drugs when he served as mayor and vice mayor to his daughter, Sara Duterte, in Davao city, and later as president. Those campaigns killed more than 6,000 mostly minor suspects. The campaign was unprecedented in its scale and lethality in recent Philippine history and drew alarm worldwide.

Duterte and his top police officials denied authorizing extra-judicial killings under the campaigns, but he openly threatened drug traffickers with death and encouraged policemen to shoot drug suspects if they violently resisted arrest. **MDT/AP**

SOUTH KOREA

Man who stabbed opposition leader sentenced to 15 years in prison

HYUNG-JIN KIM, SEOUL

A man who stabbed South Korea's opposition leader in the neck earlier this year was sentenced to 15 years in prison on Friday, court officials said.

The knife-wielding man attacked Lee Jae-myung, head of the liberal Democratic Party, South Korea's biggest political party, in January after approaching him asking for his autograph at an event in the southeastern city of Busan. After being detained by police, he told investigators that he wanted to kill Lee to prevent him from becoming South Korea's president.

The Busan District Court said the man was handed the prison term after being found guilty for an attempted murder and a violation of an election law.

The court said that both the man and prosecutors have one week to appeal.

The attack happened ahead of the country's crucial parliamentary elections in April, which ended with Lee's Democratic Party and other opposition parties winning a massive victory against President Yoon Suk Yeol's conservative governing party.

A court verdict called the attack "a grave challenge" to the country's election systems and an act that



Then South Korea's main opposition Democratic Party leader Lee Jae-myung

"significantly destroys social consensus and confidence on the basic liberal democratic principles," according to Yonhap news agency. It cited the verdict as saying the attacker had long loathed Lee because

of differences of political opinions, practiced stabbing his neck in advance and followed him on five public events.

The court's public affairs office couldn't immediately confirm details of Friday's

verdict. The court didn't disclose the man's identity. Police earlier said he's about 67.

The attack left Lee bleeding and slumped on the ground. He was hospitalized for eight days receiving surgery and other treatments. While leaving a Seoul hospital later in January, Lee expressed hopes for an end to "politics of hatred" in South Korea.

During police questioning, the attacker said he was unhappy with what he thought was a lack of progress in authorities' investigations of Lee over various corruption allegations. He told investigators that he tried to kill Lee to hurt his party's prospects for a victory in the parliamentary elections and to eventually eliminate chances of Lee becoming South Korea's next president, according to police.

Democratic Party officials earlier confirmed the attacker became a member last year. The ruling People Power Party said he is currently not their member but media reports said the man, only identified as his surname Kim, was previously affiliated with the party's predecessor.

Lee, a sharp-tongued former provincial governor, lost the 2022 presidential election to Yoon, a former top prosecutor, by the narrowest margin recorded in a South Korean presidential election.

Their closely fought race and post-election political bickering have intensified South Korea's already-toxic conservative-liberal divide. Surveys have showed that Lee is one of the early favorites for the 2027 presidential election. Yoon is by law barred from seeking reelection. **MDT/AP**

UK Election winner only becomes prime minister when King Charles III says so

DANICA KIRKA, LONDON

THE Labour Party has won Britain's general election, bringing a new party to power for the first time in 14 years. But Labour leader Keir Starmer didn't actually become prime minister until a carefully choreographed ceremony on Friday during which King Charles III formally asked him to form a new government.

It's a moment that embodies the fact that, technically at least, the right to govern in the United Kingdom is still derived from royal authority, centuries after real political power was transferred to elected members of Parliament.

The process is swift, if somewhat brutal for departing prime ministers, like Rishi Sunak. Here's how ceremonial events unfold after an election.

HISTORY MEETS THE MODERN WORLD

While Britain is a constitutional monarchy where the king's power is strictly limited by law and tradition, much of what happens here has echoes of the past. In this case, the process harkens back to a time when the king exercised supreme power and chose his pre-eminent minister — the prime minister — to run his government.

Today, the prime minister is the leader the party that holds a majority in the House of Commons, but technically he or she must still be offered the post by the monarch, said Anna Whitelock, professor of history of the monarchy at London's City University.

"It reflects our historic past and it reflects the fact that we do have a constitutional monarchy, a parliamentary democracy, and the prime minister and the monarch therefore work hand in glove," she said. "Both of them have a key role in the Constitution. And we see that enacted, on the day where a prime minister formally takes up his position."

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE PALACE?

First, the outgoing prime minister — Sunak, in this case — goes to Buckingham Palace to offer his resignation to the



King Charles III, left, welcomes Rishi Sunak during an audience at Buckingham Palace in London, Oct. 25, 2022

king. Then the incoming one — Starmer — arrives for his first audience with Charles.

"There's a tiny window where between the exiting prime minister, and officially the appointment of the new one, where technically power resides for those few minutes with the monarch," Whitelock said. "So there's a brief moment where there's effectively a kind of vacuum in terms of parliamentary democracy. ... But, of course, straight away there is that moment where the new prime minister is appointed."

That occurs when the prime minister-to-be sweeps into the palace for a ceremony known as the "Kissing of Hands," though no kissing actually occurs. After the king asks the new prime minister to form a government, he bows and shakes Charles' hand. A photo is snapped to record the moment power is transferred.

Though there's no record of what is said between monarch and prime minister, dramatic activity swirls outside the palace gates. News helicopters followed Starmer's and Sunak's cars to the palace. Commentators breathlessly record their progress and speculate about what's being said behind closed doors.

Traditionally, the new prime minister then leaves the palace in a prime ministerial car and returns to Downing Street to make a statement, receiving the applause of staff members as he enters the famous black

door of No. 10 and begins the business of government.

WHAT ABOUT SUNAK?

In Britain, the verdict of the voters is delivered swiftly.

After suffering a brutal defeat at the polls, Sunak was forced to vacate the prime minister's official residence before Starmer's arrival just a few hours later.

Sunak was driven to the palace in a chauffeur-driven ministerial car. But after tendering his resignation, he left in a private vehicle.

The transition is so rapid that the moving van for the exiting leader is usually somewhere near the back door of Downing Street as the new leader takes his bow out front.

Why does the ceremony matter?

The whole royal choreography shows, if nothing else, that the monarchy remains a symbol of stability and continuity at a time when deep divisions in society are driving angry political debate. The king, who stands above the political fray, nonetheless runs the show — albeit ceremonially — and will continue to do so even after this prime minister is gone.

"Everyone will say, 'Well, this is all the ceremonial bit,' but it's a really important part of the fact that governments can change in the U.K., and we don't do riots," said George Gross, a royal expert at King's College London. "Maybe that didn't need to be said before,

but in the context of the current political world and geopolitics, I think that is really healthy."

In her 70-year reign, Queen Elizabeth II was served by 15 prime ministers. Charles, who has been on the throne for less than two years, is now greeting his third.

"This is the summit of power," Gross said. "Ultimately the monarchy is the continuity and prime ministers come and go."

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The king holds weekly meetings with the prime minister to discuss government matters. While the monarch is politically neutral, he still has right to "advise and warn" the prime minister if he believes it's necessary. These meetings are private and the matters discussed remain confidential.

The king will return to the public stage later this month for his next big royal event: the state opening of Parliament.

Traditionally, the monarch arrives in a horse-drawn carriage, sits on the Sovereign's Throne in the House of Lords and wears the Imperial State Crown.

Then, during a joint meeting of House of Lords and the House of Commons, he will deliver a speech written for him by the incoming government to lay out its legislative program.

It's a moment of pageantry, true. But it typifies the role of the monarchy in modern Britain. MDT/AP

this day in history

2003 CONJOINED TWINS DIE IN SEPARATION OP



Conjoined Iranian twins who volunteered to go ahead with a major operation to separate them have both died during surgery.

Laleh and Ladan Bijani suffered a fatal loss of blood within a couple of hours of each other as surgeons tried to separate their brains.

During the marathon three-day operation it became clear that the brains of the 29-year-old sisters had become fused together.

Surgeons spent about 21 hours cutting the twins' brains apart "literally millimetre by millimetre" - something they had not expected to have to do.

The two women were separated after 53 hours, but half an hour later, Ladan's circulation began to fail. Despite the efforts of the team of 28 doctors and 100 medical assistants, she died.

Surgery continued on Laleh but her circulation also dropped away, and she died 90 minutes later.

The chairman of Raffles Hospital, Dr Loo Choon Yong, said, "When we undertook this challenge we knew the risks were great, and one of the scenarios was that we might lose both of them."

"Ladan and Laleh knew that too." The twins were told they only had a 50-50 chance of surviving the operation, but decided to go ahead anyway.

The operation marked the first time surgeons had tried to separate adult twins conjoined at the head.

The operation has been successfully performed since 1952, but only on children, who recover more easily.

German doctors had already turned away the twins in 1996, saying the operation would be too risky.

Both Bijani twins were national figures in Iran for their courage and academic success - both graduated after studying law.

One of their last acts was to send a message of thanks to well-wishers, published on the Raffles Hospital website.

"Both of us have started on this journey together," they wrote, "and we hope that the operation will finally bring us to the end of this difficult path and that we may begin our new and wonderful lives as two separate persons."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Ladan and Laleh Bijani were buried in separate graves in their home village four days later.

Hundreds of people paid their respects, and there was widespread mourning in Iran and in Singapore. The death of the twins triggered a debate on the ethics of this type of operation, with some experts voicing concern over the motives behind such risky surgery.

On 6 March 2004 an inquest in Singapore cleared doctors of criminal responsibility, and returned a verdict of misadventure.

In October 2003, a similar operation was carried out in Texas on two-year-old Egyptian twins Mohamed and Ahmed Ibrahim.

Like the Bijani sisters, they were joined at the head, but their operation was successful.

They left hospital in March 2004, although they will have to return for reconstructive surgery for some years to come.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
 Mar. 21-Apr. 19
 Plan some fun to replenish your heart. Savor games, sports and shared obsessions with family and friends. Learn new tricks from a master.

TAURUS
 Apr. 20-May. 20
 Get sucked into domestic projects. Clear the clutter. You can find what you need. Less is more. Savor the fruits of your labor.

GEMINI
 May. 21-Jun. 21
 Venture outside old boundaries for inspiration. Your creative muses harmonize. Capture inspiration in written words, visually or as audio. Express your discoveries and interpretations.

CANCER
 Jun. 22-Jul. 22
 Find lucrative opportunities when least expected. Have faith in your imagination. You can do more than you thought. Meet deadlines. Keep bargains. Discover unconsidered options.

LEO
 Jul. 23-Aug. 22
 You're strong, creative and attractive. Invest in work you love. Obsess on the details. Keep your feet on the ground. Write your ideas down.

VIRGO
 Aug. 23-Sep. 22
 Rest and recuperate in peaceful settings. Monitor the news and wait for developments. Research a potentially profitable hunch. Enjoy your favorite soothing rituals.

LIBRA
 Sep. 23-Oct. 22
 Your friends are there for you. Collaborate on a shared goal. Bounce interesting ideas around. Tap into new funding. New opportunities arise in conversation.

SCORPIO
 Oct. 23-Nov. 21
 A professional test or challenge has your focus. Schedule carefully. Focus on a new career target. Think fast under pressure. Communication is key.

SAGITTARIUS
 Nov. 22-Dec. 21
 Adventures beckon. Enjoy travels, exploration and investigation. Stay focused on your objectives. Consider long-range plans. Integrate what you're learning. Follow a brilliant idea.

CAPRICORN
 Dec. 22-Jan. 19
 Review and replenish your reserves. Figure out the budget. Gather and store provisions for the future. Collaborate with your partner. Share the load.

AQUARIUS
 Jan. 20-Feb. 18
 Collaborate and compromise with your partner. Prioritize shared commitments. You may not always understand each other. Patience brings creative solutions and sweet rewards.

PISCES
 Feb. 19-Mar. 20
 The work is in the details. An error can actually lead to something better. Keep practicing. Get support when needed. Keep your wits about you.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

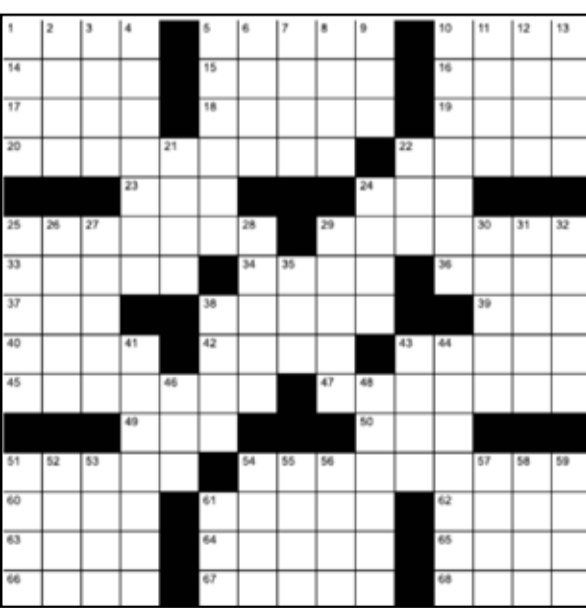
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	24	34	rain
Changchun	20	28	thunderstorms
Chengdu	23	27	rain
Chongqing	29	36	overcast
Fuzhou	28	37	cloudy
Guangzhou	27	35	showers
Guiyang	22	28	cloudy
Haikou	26	34	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	28	37	fine
Harbin	20	28	cloudy
Hefei	28	33	overcast
Nanjing	28	34	cloudy
Shanghai	30	38	overcast
Taipei	25	30	rain
Wuhan	30	35	fine
Hong Kong	29	33	showers
WORLD			
Moscow	17	28	sunny
Frankfurt	16	26	sunny
Paris	17	25	cloudy
London	14	19	showers
New York	23	33	cloudy

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Small dam; 5- Way to cook; 10- ___-friendly; 14- ___ account (never); 15- Author Zola; 16- Dole (out); 17- You've Made ___ Very Happy; 18- Finished; 19- Graph prefix; 20- Any plant of the pineapple family; 22- Stingy one; 23- "___ had it!"; 24- Sun, delivery; 25- Decapitates; 29- Forbidden by law; 33- Get to know; 34- Human bone, located in the arm; 36- Certain; 37- The whole enchilada; 38- Toothbrush brand; 39- 007 creator Fleming; 40- Ego; 42- ___-majesté; 43- Gymnast Comaneci; 45- Tab grabber; 47- Makes journeys; 49- Bus, bigwig; 50- Jackie's #2; 51- Take to the ice; 54- Luggage; 60- Not fooled by; 61- Choral composition; 62- Chuck; 63- Cordelia's father; 64- Traffic mess; 65- Makes a choice; 66- Contradict; 67- Little laugh; 68- Pi followers;

DOWN 1- Uterus; 2- Cabinet dept.; 3- Not ___ many words; 4- More spacious; 5- Staggered; 6- Prefix with present; 7- Verdi heroine; 8- Dog-powered snow vehicle; 9- Mack of old TV; 10- Referees; 11- Mariners can sail on seven of these; 12- French 101 verb; 13- Caboose; 21- Novelist Hunter; 22- Gibson or Brooks; 24- Thick piece; 25- Explosion; 26- Sniggler; 27- Actress Berry; 28- Less doubtful; 29- Cove; 30- Tour leader; 31- Thin as ___; 32- Horne and Olin; 35- Part of UNLV; 38- Yellow spread; 41- Mill; 43- Bust maker; 44- Pilot; 46- Golf prop; 48- Child's toy; 51- Auctioneer's cry; 52- Leg joint; 53- ___ impasse; 54- Unit of loudness; 55- Provo's state; 56- Able was ___; 57- Ex-frosh; 58- This, in Tijuana; 59- Flat sound; 61- Colo. clock setting;



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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 HKD 11,880,000 4 bed 3 bath

AD

EURO 2024

KYLIAN MBAPPÉ IS ENDURING A TOUGH MATCH. IT MIGHT NOT STOP FRANCE WINNING THE TITLE

STEVE DOUGLAS, HAMBURG

HE has a broken nose that requires him to wear a vision-limiting face mask. He is managing fitness issues stemming from the end of the club season. He has scored only one goal — from the penalty spot.

The European Championship is hardly going to plan for Kylian Mbappé and he knows it.

“These are the vagaries of the footballer,” the France captain said after his latest below-par performance at Euro 2024.

He doesn't really care, though, as long as he is lifting the Henri Delaunay Cup in Berlin on July 14.

Mbappé was so fatigued, so knocked out of his stride after a couple of bashes to his protective mask, that he asked to come off at halftime of extra time against Portugal in the quarterfinals in Hamburg on Friday.

It meant giving up a likely penalty in the impending shootout — which France won 5-3 because of Joao Felix's miss — but Mbappé simply couldn't continue.

France coach Didier Deschamps confirmed his captain asked to be replaced, for the good of the team.

“He is always very honest with me and the team. When he feels



Kylian Mbappe of France reacts after an injury during a quarter final match between Portugal and France at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Hamburg, Germany, July 5

he doesn't have the capacity to accelerate then we can't risk it, even a player like Kylian,” Deschamps said.

“With all that has happened

to him — the issues he has had, the trauma with his nose — he is hanging in there. He is not in his top form. He felt very tired indeed.”

Mbappé accepted before the Portugal game that he wasn't in prime shape and needed a “good pre-season to be at 100%.” That will come at Real Madrid, whi-

ch he has joined after running down his contract at Paris Saint-Germain.

Getting his nose broken in France's opening group game at Euro 2024 threw him off kilter, too, restricting a part of his game because of his lack of peripheral vision.

His best performances so far might have come in France's news conferences, where he has been vocal in urging French people to vote in the snap elections while warning about the dangers of the far right getting into power.

On the field, Mbappé is part of a France team that heads into a semifinal match against Spain on Tuesday having scored three goals this tournament — two own-goals and his penalty against Austria. No France player has scored a goal from open play yet.

Like Greece in 2004, France is looking to reach the final pretty much entirely based on its mean defense and team structure. Except the talent in this France squad far outweighs what was at Greece's disposal 20 years ago.

“In the locker room, we weren't thinking that we still hadn't scored a goal in the game,” said Mbappé, who netted a hat trick in the 2022 World Cup final. “But yes, we will look into the question (of France's lack of efficiency in attack) while maintaining this defensive solidity.

“I've only scored one goal,” he added, “but we're in the semifinals and I'm very happy.”

Mbappé didn't much like watching the penalty shootout from afar, either.

“It's worse than shooting,” he said, laughing. **MDT/AP**

EURO 2024 | REVIEW

Super sub Wout Weghorst to the rescue for the Netherlands

CIARÁN FAHEY, BERLIN

NETHERLANDS 1, TURKEY 0

WHERE there's a Wout, there's a way.

A goal down at half-time in its European Championship quarterfinal against Turkey, the Netherlands turned to 1.97-meter-tall forward Wout Weghorst to dig it out of a hole.

Weghorst provided the key to unlocking the stubborn Turkish defense as his runs and height gave the frustrated Dutch attack a new outlet.

Weghorst went close to scoring himself before Stefan De Vrij equalized in the 70th, six minutes before Cody



Wout Weghorst of the Netherlands

Gapko forced an own goal from Mert Muldur.

The Netherlands' 2-1 win sent the team through to a semifinal against England.

“Every attacking player in our squad has different qualities,” Gapko said. “But in this game, I think when we wanted to play a little

bit more opportunistic and then, you know, you can bring Wout because he's tall, he's good in the air, he fights for every ball that comes in the box.”

Netherlands coach Ronald Koeman sent Weghorst on at the start of the second half with his team 1-0 down

to Samet Akaydin's 35th-minute header.

“We played some good crosses, and then you saw, the Turkish side dropping a little bit more so we could play better. Maybe that was the key today. I'm, very happy that Wout could be Wout today,” Gapko said.

Gapko was initially credited with his team's second goal, but UEFA later ruled it was Muldur own goal. Both were trying to reach Denzel Dumfries' low cross.

“It went in, so I'm OK with it. But if I touched it, I'm going to make a call,” Gapko joked. “No, it doesn't matter. So, it went in. I think that's the most important after this game. We fought really hard to make that come back and yeah, very happy with that.”

Netherlands defender Nathan Aké also lauded Weghorst's impact.

“He gave us a presence in the box,” said Aké, who said Koeman had told the team at

half-time to put more crosses into the penalty area, and faster than before.

“And that's what we did a few times. And you get second balls and a little bit more of a scrimmage in the box. And I think because of that, you created a little bit more chaos in the box. And they have to defend more. So I think, he helped a lot,” Aké said of Weghorst.

“He's a nightmare to play against. You know, he's strong, he's a nuisance in the box. And he fights for everything. He runs after everything. So, for us, he's a great asset,” Aké said.

Weghorst spent last season on loan at Bundesliga

team Hoffenheim, scoring seven goals in 28 league appearances. He previously had loan spells at Manchester United and at Turkish team Besiktas, after joining Burney from Wolfsburg in January 2022. He scored 70 goals in 144 games over 3½ seasons for Wolfsburg.

Weghorst has played in five matches for the Netherlands at Euro 2024, all as a substitute, but none for longer than he played against Turkey.

Koeman may be tempted to play the 31-year-old forward from the start against England in Dortmund on Wednesday. **MDT/AP**

SCOREBOARD

Quarter-finals	Spain	2	1	Germany
Quarter-finals	Portugal	0(3)	0(5)	France
Quarter-finals	England	1(5)	1(3)	Switzerland
Quarter-finals	Netherlands	2	1	Turkey

EURO 2024 | REVIEW

Tearful Germany coach lauds his team's example for German society

CIARÁN FAHEY, BERLIN

GERMANY 1, SPAIN 2

GERMANY coach Julian Nagelsmann struggled to hold back tears Saturday as he talked about his team's exit from the European Championship the night before.

He said Germany's performances at Euro 2024 and going toe-to-toe with Spain on Friday showed the benefit of collective work and social cooperation — though he lamented the cruel end after Spain substitute Mikel Merino scored in the last minute of extra time to send his team to the semifinals.

"We would have liked to have given the fans more, to stay a while longer, played good football, successful football, and we'd have like to have collected the title," Nagelsmann said.

"I said we'd need the people of the country behind us,

because we know we simply weren't good at the last tournaments, that we as a team, as a federation, didn't give much back to the people of the country from a sporting perspective," Nagelsmann said. "And from the last matches, I think the fans realized that we want to achieve something and change things."

Nagelsmann spoke of the emotional investment his players made.

"I've been told it's not often the case that nearly every player who leaves the camp has tears in their eyes. I think that's a huge compliment for the entire staff," Nagelsmann said, choking back tears of his own.

The 2-1 loss to Spain left Germany considering the "what if" moments — what if Niclas Füllkrug's effort had gone off the post, or if his late header had gone to the other side, or if referee Anthony Taylor had awarded a penalty



Germany's Joshua Kimmich is hugged by Germany's head coach Julian Nagelsmann at the end of a quarter final match between Germany and Spain

in extra time when Jamal Musiala's goalward shot struck Marc Cucurella's arm.

Much of the German analysis and reflection focused on Taylor's decision, but German soccer federation president Bernd Neuendorf and team manager Rudi Völler focused instead on how Nagelsmann's team has restored German pride after

several major tournament flops.

"A few months ago, our dream was how to get the fans back on board, how can we make our fellow people in Germany proud of us again," Völler said. "You could feel it in every game, even yesterday when there was huge disappointment that we didn't make it and were knocked out.

But the people are standing right behind us and that's a great feeling."

German interest in the tournament grew as Nagelsmann's team progressed — public broadcaster ARD said just over 26 million watched Germany's quarterfinal against Spain, more than had watched any of the games before, and many more than had watched Germany's games at the World Cup in Qatar, when Hansi Flick's team was knocked out in the group stage.

But in Berlin at least, there were still few German flags flying in support of the team. Some cars had little German flags, while little convenience stores known as Spätkaufs and restaurants displayed flags to show potential guests they could watch the games there. While Germans are clearly very interested in following the team, many remain reluctant to display symbols of national pride. **MDT/AP**

AD

A collage of several photographs showing children engaged in sports. There are photos of kids playing football on a field, some in red jerseys, and others playing basketball on an outdoor court. The photos are arranged in a slightly overlapping, artistic manner.



BENFICAMACAU
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FOOTBALL | BASKETBALL | DAILY TRAININGS

仁德 *CENTRO MEDICO PEDDER*
• 仁德醫療中心 •

A black and white photograph of a male doctor wearing glasses and a white lab coat. He is holding a large X-ray film in front of him, looking at it intently. In the background, there is a medical monitor displaying another X-ray.

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Urology : Dr. Lo Kwong Yin Richard, Dr. Zhao Yun Qiao

Paediatric Surgery : Dr. Yeung Chung Kwong

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OPINION

China Daily
 Editorial, China Daily

PALESTINIAN SPACE BEING SINGLE-MINDEDLY SQUEEZED

With Israel's war in Gaza creating an ever-worsening humanitarian disaster and drawing ire and opposition from the world, the Jewish state's latest land appropriation in the occupied West Bank will only stoke Palestinian animosity and trigger condemnation worldwide.

Peace Now, an Israel-based settlement watchdog, reportedly said [last week] that the Israeli authorities have approved the appropriation of 12.7 square kilometers of land in the occupied West Bank, marking the largest single appropriation in about three decades. Israeli settlements in the West Bank have for years been a major obstacle for resolving the decades-long Palestinian-Israeli conflict. The Palestinians view the settlements as preventing any possibility of a cohesive state and most members of the international community consider the settlements the main barrier to any lasting peace agreement.

Late last month, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that the fighting against Hamas was "very close" to an end. But tension on the Israel-Lebanon border has subsequently flared higher, marking a dramatic turn in Israel's strategy and drawing growing worries that the conflict will spread beyond Gaza.

With the Israel-Hamas war drawing near to its 10th month, the Israeli authorities may feel compelled to adjust their strategy amid the mounting pressure from home and abroad. To date, the war has deprived the lives of more than 37,800 Palestinians in the Gaza strip, according to Hamas sources.

Though being reluctant to scale down the military offensive in Gaza, Netanyahu may have already set his eyes on the post-Gaza conflict era, and the latest land theft in West Bank could be part of Israel's attempts to squeeze the space for the Palestinians. But such an approach will only result in a strong backlash.

Over 2 million people are living in what amounts to an open-air prison, without adequate access to water, electricity, food, medication, and fuel. This man-made humanitarian disaster and serious breach of international law must end, and Israel must heed the international community's call to ensure the rapid and safe entry of humanitarian supplies into Gaza.

With the war in Gaza showing multiple signs of spilling over and involving more players in the region, Tel Aviv should exercise more restraint and stop making any irresponsible moves that may exacerbate confrontation and enmity with the Palestinian side. It should fulfill its obligations under international humanitarian law and fully implement United Nations Security Council resolutions on expanding humanitarian access and implementing an immediate cease-fire in Gaza.

Influential players in the region, the United States in particular, should also use their arts of persuasion to convince Tel Aviv to implement the relevant UNSC resolutions so that a cease-fire can be realized.

MOUNT EVEREST'S HIGHEST CAMP IS LITTERED WITH FROZEN GARBAGE, AND CLEANUP IS LIKELY TO TAKE YEARS

THE BUZZ

The highest camp on the world's tallest mountain is littered with garbage that is going to take years to clean up, according to a Sherpa who led a team that worked to clear trash and dig up dead bodies frozen for years near Mount Everest's peak.

The Nepal government-funded team of soldiers and Sherpas removed 11 tons of garbage, four dead bodies and a skeleton from Everest during this year's climbing season.

Ang Babu Sherpa, who led the team of Sherpas, said there could be as much as 40-50 tons of garbage still at South Col, the last

camp before climbers make their attempt on the summit.

"The garbage left there was mostly old tents, some food packaging and gas cartridges, oxygen bottles, tent packs, and ropes used for climbing and tying up tents," he said, adding that the garbage is in layers and frozen at the 8,000-meter altitude where the South Col camp is located.

Since the peak was first conquered in 1953, thousands of climbers have scaled it and many have left behind more than just their footprints.



Ukrainian servicemen carry the coffin of British combat medic, volunteer, Peter Fouche, 49 who was killed on June 27 during his work in East Ukraine, at the funeral ceremony on the city's main square in Kyiv, Ukraine, Saturday

PUTIN'S WAR

RUSSIAN STRIKES LEAVE THOUSANDS IN NORTHERN UKRAINE WITHOUT POWER AND WATER

RUSSIAN strikes overnight left over 100,000 households without power in northern Ukraine and cut off the water supply to a regional capital, Ukrainian authorities reported Saturday, while civilian casualties rose sharply in the country's embattled east.

The northern Sumy region, which borders Russia, was plunged into darkness after Russian strikes late Friday damaged energy infrastructure, the Ukrainian Energy Ministry said. Hours later, the Ukrainian public broadcaster reported that Russian drones hit the provincial capital, also called Sumy, cutting off water by hitting power lines that feed its system of pumps.

Russian state agency RIA cited a local pro-Kremlin "underground" leader as saying that Moscow's forces overnight hit a plant producing rocket ammunition in the city, which had a pre-war population of over 256,000. The report didn't specify what weapon was used, and the claim could not be independently verified. Explosions rocked the city during an air raid warning early Saturday, according to Ukrainian media reports.

Russia is continually

targeting Ukraine's badly damaged energy infrastructure, resulting in hours of rolling blackouts across the country. Ukrainian officials have warned that the situation may worsen as winter approaches.

In the Donetsk region in the east, Russian shelling on Friday and overnight killed 11 civilians and wounded 43, local Gov. Vadym Filashkin reported on Saturday. Five people died in the town of Selydove southeast of Pokrovsk, the eastern city that has emerged as a front-line hotspot.

The Ukrainian General Staff on Saturday morning said that Ukrainian and Russian forces clashed 45 times near Pokrovsk over the previous day. Hours later, the Russian Ministry of Defense announced its troops had captured a village some 30 kilometers (19 miles) east of the city.

According to Filashkin, three more civilians died in Chasiv Yar, the strategically located town in Donetsk that has been reduced to rubble under a monthlong Russian assault.

Russian forces have for months tried to grind out gains in Ukraine's industrial east, in an apparent attempt to lock its de-

fenders into a war of attrition, after Kyiv's forces thwarted a cross-border push further north that briefly threatened Ukraine's second-largest city of Kharkiv.

A Ukrainian military spokesperson on Thursday told the AP that Ukrainian forces had retreated from a neighborhood on the outskirts of Chasiv Yar. The town's elevated location gives it strategic importance, and military analysts say its fall would put nearby cities in jeopardy. It could also compromise critical Ukrainian supply routes and bring Russia closer to its stated aim of seizing the entire Donetsk region.

According to the Ukrainian General Staff, Russian forces on Friday and overnight launched six rocket strikes and 55 airstrikes across Ukraine, and used more than 70 "glide bombs" — retrofitted Soviet-era weapons that have wrought devastation in the country in recent weeks.

In Kyiv, Ukrainian service members gathered Saturday to pay last respects to a British combat medic who set up a charity delivering essential supplies to front-line fighters. **MDT/AP**



France Voting has begun in the mainland yesterday in pivotal runoff elections that could hand a historic victory to Marine Le Pen's far-right National Rally and its inward-looking, anti-immigrant vision — or produce a hung parliament and years of political deadlock. French President Emmanuel Macron took a huge gamble in dissolving parliament and calling for the elections after his centrists were trounced in European elections on June 9.

Hamas has given its initial approval of a U.S.-backed proposal for a phased cease-fire deal in Gaza, dropping a key demand that Israel commit up front to a complete end to the war, a Hamas official and an Egyptian official said Saturday. The apparent compromise by the militant group, which controlled Gaza before triggering the war with an Oct. 7 attack on Israel, could deliver the first pause in fighting since November and set the stage for further talks on ending a devastating nine months of fighting.



USA Roughly 130 million people were under threat over the weekend and into next week from a long-running heat wave that broke or tied records with dangerously high temperatures and is expected to shatter more from East Coast to West Coast, forecasters said. Ukiah, north of San Francisco, hit 117 degrees Fahrenheit on Saturday, breaking the city's record for the date and tying its all-time high.

Vatican City Pope Francis will preside over an interfaith meeting in a mosque in the world's largest predominantly Muslim country during a four-nation Asian visit in September that will be the longest and most complicated foreign trip of his pontificate. The Vatican on Friday released the itinerary for Francis' Sept. 2-13 trip to Indonesia, East Timor, Papua New Guinea and Singapore. The packed schedule makes clear that the 87-year-old pontiff, who has battled health problems and is increasingly reliant on a wheelchair, has no plans to slow down.