



DISCOVER Good Life Starts Here



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AP PHOTO



China's authorities said they were investigating food safety concerns in cooking oils after an investigative report from local media revealed that tankers carrying soybean oil from a major state-owned company were also used to carry a form of coal. The report from Beijing News, a state-backed outlet known for original reporting, found that it was an "open secret" among truck drivers that the tankers did not get cleaned in between their stints carrying edible oils and the chemicals.

AP PHOTO



India A double-decker passenger bus collided with a milk truck in northern India yesterday, killing at least 18 people and injuring many others, officials said. The collision occurred on an expressway in Uttar Pradesh state, and 19 injured people were rushed to the hospital by villagers in the area, said police officer Arvind Kumar, adding that their condition was reported to be stable. The bus was traveling from the northern state of Bihar to the capital New Delhi. "Authorities are in the process of identifying the victims, and a probe has been launched to determine the exact cause of the accident," Kumar added.

AP PHOTO



South Korea Unionized workers at Samsung Electronics declared an indefinite strike yesterday to pressure the country's biggest company to accept their calls for higher pays and other benefits. Thousands of members of the National Samsung Electronics Union launched a temporary, three-day strike on Monday. But the union said yesterday that it was announcing an indefinite strike, accusing the management of being unwilling to negotiate.

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SUMMER DRILL



The extensive road construction scheduled during the summer vacation period is anticipated to significantly impact commuters, DSAT warns P3

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SAR DRUG ABUSE CONFERENCE JULY 18

The "Treatment of Substance Abuse Disorders" conference, scheduled to take place at the University of Macau on July 18 to 19 will gather approximately 20 experts specializing in rehabilitation and drug addiction treatment. Notable speakers include: Masood Karimipour, Regional Representative for Southeast Asia and the Pacific at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); and Andy Tsang, Deputy Director of the National Narcotics Control Commission of the Ministry of Public Security of China. The event is in line with the celebration of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, an annual event of the United Nations observed annually on July 26.

270,000 VISIT MGTO MALAYSIA ROADSHOW

The Experience Macao roadshow in Malaysia has engaged a total of 268,000 spectators over four days, according to the Macao Government Tourism Office. Held at the Blue Concourse in Kuala Lumpur's Sunway Pyramid Shopping Mall, over 2,000 hotel and air ticket products were sold both online and offline throughout the roadshow. Over 30 KOLs and artists were invited to attend the roadshow. As of the night of July 8, the roadshow's total exposure has reached 31.2 million people.

FRAUDULENT FIREFIGHTER SACKED

A firefighter involved in a luxury watch fraud case has been dismissed from his post. The Office of the Secretary for Security announced that the Fire Services Bureau has completed relevant disciplinary procedures and that the Secretary for Security issued an order on July 4 to remove the firefighter involved in the case. On August 23, 2022, the dismissed firefighter pretended to be a customer ordering a luxury watch, and then presented a suitcase with miscellaneous items but no cash and rode off on his bicycle while the other party was checking the suitcase.

FDCT: MACAU'S LABS ACHIEVE 'REMARKABLE BREAKTHROUGHS'

VICTORIA CHAN

IN a display of scientific prowess, Macau has established itself as a center for cutting-edge research, boasting four state key laboratories within its higher education institutions, the Science and Technology Development Fund (FDCT) said.

The FDCT has lauded the "outstanding achievements" of these laboratories, with several projects reaching the crucial clinical trial phase.

In response to a query from lawmaker Leong Hong Sai, FDCT has emphasized the "great importance" it places on the development of these state reference laboratories in Macau, acknowledging the territory's "solid foundation" for scientific inquiry. According to the organization, the four state reference laboratories have "accumulated strengths and achieved remarkable results" in their work.

To support these endeavors,



FDCT has provided financial backing for the laboratories' operations, including increased funding for projects aimed at commercializing research outcomes and fostering collaboration between industry and academia. Among the noteworthy projects underway is a study on drug capsules for the treatment of degenerative brain diseases, which has entered the first phase of clinical trials, and a project

on tablets derived from the "motherwort" plant, which has progressed to the second phase of clinical trials.

Furthermore, FDCT has highlighted the establishment of several start-up companies in Hengqin and Zhongshan, which have been built upon the research findings of the state key laboratories. According to FDCT, "a number of achievements related to the state key laboratories

in Macau with good prospects for transformation have been set up as start-up companies and applied in mainland China." These include a company focused on analog and mixed-mode, very-large-scale integrated circuits, as well as a start-up leveraging the scientific research results of the state key laboratories in traditional Chinese medicine, currently conducting clinical trials in Zhongshan hospitals.

FDCT also emphasized the government's efforts to attract talent from the cutting-edge technology industry through the qualified staff recruitment program. The organization expressed the hope that these successful talents would "come to Macau under the program and bring advanced technologies and lead teams to create more industrial-related jobs in Macau, playing a leading role in facilitating the restructuring and upgrading of Macau's industries with their professional experience and technical capabilities."

António Leong wins Architectural Photography Competition 2024

RENATO MARQUES

ANTÓNIO Leong has won this year's Macau Architectural Photography Competition organized by CURB – Center for Architecture and Urbanism.

The results of the competition were recently announced, with Leong coming out on top in the Open Group Category.

The first runner-up was Nelson Manuel Sousa da Silva, with his work titled "Neighbors," while third place went to Huang Peizhi for "Sime-try."

According to CURB, the awarded works were chosen from a total of 339 photographs submitted by 144 participants.

In the Student Group Category, the first prize



Winning photos of António Leong and Wilson Song

was won by Wilson Song, followed by Chong Man Him and Iong Ka Chong.

The submitted works were evaluated by a panel of experienced judges who selected the best photographs under this year's theme, taking into

consideration their artistic and technical quality as well as originality of vision.

In its third edition, the Macau Architectural Photography Competition challenged photography enthusiasts to

rediscover Macau and its buildings and spaces, seeking evidence of contrast in architecture.

The award ceremony will be held at Ponte 9 – Creative Platform, at Rua das Lorchas Ponte No.9 - 3/E, on July 13 at 5 p.m.,

where the winner's works will be showcased.

An exhibition of the works will be open to the public from this day until August 16. The exhibition can be visited at CURB from Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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TRANSPORT

DSAT: Summer roadworks to affect traffic

RENATO MARQUES

THE large amount of roadwork taking place over the summer holidays is expected to have a substantially negative impact on traffic flow, particularly in the Areia Preta District, the Chief of the Coordination Division of the Transport Bureau (DSAT), Mok Soi Tou, said yesterday in a press conference, which was organized by the bureau to present some of its major works.

The same official also noted that a significant number of these works are in the Areia Preta District; they are related to either the connection of the road network to the new links, such as the Macau Bridge, or the completion of the public housing estate located at Plot P of Areia Preta.

Several officials noted that, given the completion of these large-scale projects, "it is necessary to continue connecting the road network and laying pipes. Considering that the road flow is relatively low during the summer holidays, DSAT coordinated with several authorities to start connecting and optimizing the road network during this period, commencing with various ground work such as the laying of pipes."

"Since these works involve several main roads, it is expected



that the traffic situation in the Areia Preta area will become more complex and congested, inconveniencing commuters," Wong Kuok Heng, Chief of the Division of Construction and Infrastructure of the Public Works Bureau (DSOP), added.

The government entities

asked residents to be patient and pay special attention to provisional traffic arrangements.

Wong also noted that, to ease the expected traffic constraints, heavy-duty vehicles wishing to access the Northern District would be detoured. Such vehicles

will not be able to circulate through Rua dos Pescadores, thereby avoiding the most congested areas.

Mok also said that is expected that tour buses bound for the Border Gate adopt alternative routes, avoiding Rotunda da Amizade.

Officials noted that, from a larger list of 24 major roadworks, 14 main works are being done this summer during July and August. These are divided into three broad categories: Works on Calamity Prevention, Road Paving, and Drainage and Sewage. Other works include the installation of both piping and high-voltage electric cables, as well as infrastructure upgrades to communications networks.

At the same press conference, Leong Chan Weng, Chief of the Division of Public Roads of the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM), also advanced details of several paving works being done over the next few weeks, which include the resurfacing of several parts of the Guia Circuit, as well as several main roads in NAPE, Nam Van, Ferreira do Amaral Square and surrounding streets, as well as Avenida de D. João IV in the city's Central District.

Resurfacing works will also be done at the Sai Van Bridge, Leong said, noting that this would be the first major paving work done to the bridge in 19 years.

The same official noted that all the resurfacing works would take place at nighttime, to better facilitate work and ease traffic. The roadworks will take place in phases every day, from 8 p.m. until 6 a.m. of the next day.

RENATO MARQUES

THE construction of the flyover (A2) between Zone A of the new landfills and the Peninsula is set to conclude in October this year, Wong Kuok Heng, Chief of the Division of Construction and Infrastructure of the Public Works Bureau (DSOP), said yesterday during a press conference organized by the Transport Bureau (DSAT), which announced several roadworks scheduled to take place over the summer holiday period.

Wong noted that this new road link between Zone A and the Peninsula is expected to be fully completed by October and that, as of now, one of the metal scaffold structures has already been removed, with a second expected to be removed by August.

When it begins operation, the new flyover will provide an alternative link between the two banks, as well as facilitate improved traffic flow. Presently, all traffic flows through the Amizade roundabout connections.

Besides being a road link, this flyover also includes a pedestrian sidewalk that will allow people to cross between the two banks on foot, linking it on the Peninsula side to the pre-existing pedestrian flyover over the Rua dos Pescadores, which connects to the reservoir area.

The road flyover has a total length (including the access roads) of 500 meters with two traffic lanes (one in each direction). The pedestrian flyover has a total length of 300 meters and a walkway five meters wide.

PUBLIC WORKS

Zone A and Peninsula flyover construction finishes October



The contract was attributed, after public tender, to the Companhia de Construção Cheong Kong Limitada for the price of MOP213.74 million and a maximum construction

time of 570 working days.

PHASE TWO OF INNER HARBOUR FLOOD PREVENTION STARTS

After the conclusion of the first phase of the

Inner Harbour flood prevention works, which includes a pumping station as well as the installation of box culverts, the second and third phases of the project are moving forward

immediately, explained the Chief of the Division of Construction and Infrastructure of DSOP, Wong Kuok Heng.

According to the official, some of the area that was occupied during the first phase of construction will, from July 14, be reopened to the public – but the works will not stop.

The second phase is already moving forward, majorly affecting the Rua do Almirante Sergio and the Rua do Dr. Lourenço Pereira Marques.

Wong noted that the third and final phase of this project should conclude in June 2025.

MAN BUSTED FOR TRANSPORTING DRUGS FROM HONG KONG

A 43-year-old local has been apprehended for allegedly purchasing narcotics in Hong Kong and transporting them back to Macau. Law enforcement officials confiscated 6.02 grams of methamphetamine, valued at approximately MOP18,000 on the blackmarket, according to the Judiciary Police yesterday. The detained individual identified himself as a professional driver. Following a tip-off, authorities suspected that an individual was traveling to Hong Kong to procure drugs and then smuggling them into Macau for distribution. Subsequent investigations led to the identification of the suspect. He was intercepted at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge port at 7 p.m. on July 9.

CITI EXPECTS BIG SIX EBITDA TO REMAIN STRONG

Investment bank Citi has stated it expects the combined EBITDA margins for Macau's six gaming concessionaires to have remained strong in the June 2024 quarter, at approximately 28%, despite a decrease in both gross gaming revenues and profitability. According to Citi's George Choi and Ryan Cheung, industry EBITDA is likely to have decreased about 5% quarter-on-quarter to USD1.95 billion, even though GGR only fell by 1.6% quarter-on-quarter to MOP56.4 billion. However, Citi's analysis indicates that the EBITDA margin for the six casino operators as a whole is still relatively strong at around 28%, despite the significant impact of The Londoner Phase 2 renovations and weaker retail sales.

IAS TO MAINTAIN CURRENT SUBSIDY SCHEME FOR CAREGIVERS

The Social Welfare Bureau said it will maintain the current subsidy scheme for caregivers without any modifications. Director Hon Wai confirmed that the government will continue to assess applications and provide financial assistance to caregivers as needed. In addition to the subsidies, individuals requiring caregiving services will have access to free medical care, rehabilitation training, and mobility services, while caregivers will receive emotional support and assistance in managing their stress levels.

RESTAURANTS DEMAND TAKEAWAY PLATFORM FEE REGULATIONS

VICTORIA CHAN

THE rise of food delivery platforms in Macau has created a new set of challenges for local restaurants. Several of the city's industry associations are now calling for new regulations to address the exorbitant service fees charged by these delivery platforms.

According to Fong Kin Fu, a representative of the Macau Restaurant Owners Association, restaurants are currently paying 20-40% of their order profits to partnered delivery platforms. These fees, they argue, are excessive and lack transparent and reasonable calculation.

"There are no clear provisions on the charging standards of the platforms, and restaurant traders have to rely on takeaway platforms for food delivery to grow their business," Fong explained, as cited in a *Jornal Cidadão* report.

The deputy director of the association emphasized the urgent need for legislation to regulate the sector. He stressed the importance of transparency in commission calculations and the necessity of justifying the reasonableness of these charges. Striking a balance between costs and profits for both platforms and restaurants is crucial for sustainable service operations.

In addition to the 20% com-



mission on each order, restaurants must also pay the platforms entry fees, delivery fees, advertising fees, and costs for promotions, resulting in actual costs reaching 30-40% of the order value, according to Chan Peng Peng, vice-president of the People's Alliance of Macau.

"Given that there is no legal regulation of the take-away market in Macau, traders have less influence in the food chain. In other words, given the growing demand for home delivery of food by locals, delivery service is one of the most

important ways for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to expand their business, and traders hardly have any other option but to join the platforms," Chan lamented.

The president of the Macau Restaurant Industry Association, Lei Lam Leong, agreed that SMEs are in a passive position, with delivery platforms creating a new type of monopoly as an important bridge between consumers and restaurants.

The associations are calling for new legislation to monitor the ope-

ration of food delivery platforms, establish reasonable commission rates, and create a quality management system for delivery services and after-sales support.

Without legislation, "platforms can increase commissions whenever they want, and traders can only accept them passively," stressed a People's Alliance of Macau spokesperson. The industry is hopeful the government will take action to address these concerns and create a more equitable environment for local restaurants.

TOURISM

Association: Low-cost tours are low value, incite smuggling

NADIA SHAW

LOCAL leaders have urged the government to ban low-cost tours amid fears of smuggling and reputational damage. The president of the Macau Regional Development Promotion Association, Chan Tak Seng, believes these tours not only bring in minimal revenue but also contribute to the smuggling of goods from Macau into the mainland.

Chan emphasized that these tourists do not spend much money in Macau and instead support smuggling operations by transporting contraband, in an interview with the newspaper *Exmoo*.

Chan argued that these excursions create a vicious



cycle, affecting Macau's reputation as a tourist destination and the quality of its tourism. He believes that focusing solely on the quantity of tourists is not sufficient and that the government should prioritize attracting tourists willing to spend more during their trips.

The association presi-

dent also highlighted the risks associated with these low-cost tours, including the promotion of smuggling. He called on the government to implement measures to prevent smuggling, particularly through increased inspections of vehicles with dual registration plates and those traveling to Guangzhou.

Chan's concerns are further amplified by the recent announcement of a tax exemption for mainland tourists, which he fears could encourage more smuggling activities. The exemption, which allows mainland residents to claim a tax rebate of up to MOP12,000 on purchases made in

Macau, may inadvertently promote the smuggling of goods from Macau into the mainland.

Chan also warned about the close ties between illegal money exchanges and smuggling, with many individuals involved in both types of criminal activities. As the new tax exemption only applies to mainland residents, there are concerns that more low-cost tours will be used to exploit this loophole.

The Macau Regional Development Promotion Association is urging the government to take immediate action to address these issues and promote a more sustainable and profitable tourism industry. The association's stance reflects a broader concern among Macau's tourism leaders about the impact of low-cost tourism on the local economy and the need to attract tourists who will contribute more significantly to the region's economic growth.

VISAS

CTS: Online booking requests for new China travel permit surpass 400

NADIA SHAW

CHINA Travel Service (CTS) has already processed over 400 online booking requests for China travel permits within the next 28 days as of 9:30 a.m. yesterday.

This comes as yesterday marked the start where non-Chinese permanent residents of Hong Kong and Macau can apply for the newly introduced China travel permit, which will be valid for five years.

CTS's Conny Chan told the press yesterday that the agency will be managing around 30 cases from residents who have submitted their documents, while also accommodating applicants who arrive without an online appointment.



NADIA SHAW

The new permits, which are electronic card-type travel documents, enable holders to visit the mainland for up to 90 days at a time for sightseeing, business, and other short-term purposes. This move eliminates the need for these residents to apply for a visa when entering the mainland.

The permits are valid for five years and allow multiple entries. Applicants must be at least 18 years old and must hold a valid Macau or Hong Kong permanent identity card, a passport with at least six months of validity, and a completed application form, along with a recent photo (in some instan-

ces, a photo will be taken at the travel service center.)

The application process involves submitting documents to designated CTS centers in Hong Kong and Macau.

"Applicants can obtain a permit to the mainland within 20 days at the earliest. CTS has increased its manpower, including people who speak Portuguese and English, to provide assistance to citizens who apply," said Chan.

If the applicant brings all the required information, the procedure can be completed in 10 to 20 minutes.

The application fee is set at HKD260 for Hong Kong residents, while those from the mainland who are looking to renew or replace their permits will pay RMB230.

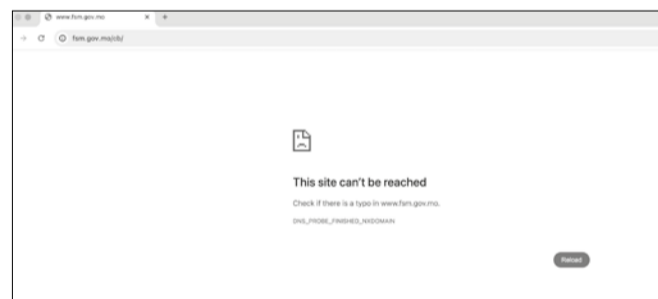
EVICTION FOR PROBLEM TENANTS WITH THREE MONTHS UNPAID RENT

THE government plans to revise the requirement for initiating the simplified eviction process from five months' rent arrears to three months. The deposit will no longer be allowed to offset rent.

The Legislative Assembly's First Standing Committee has discussed the bill aimed at amending the Civil Procedure Code and the eviction litigation system to address issues related to problematic tenants.

During the meeting, committee chairman Ella Lei stated that the bill also outlines the prerequisites for applications so that the eviction procedure is simplified. These include delay in rent payment for any period of five months. After considering feedback from committee members, the government has agreed to revise the requirement to three months, as many members believe it to be more appropriate.

Additionally, the government has decided to delete the provision allowing deposits to be used to offset rents, as such may lead to practical problems not in line with current legal requirements.



LYNZY VALLES

THE Office of the Secretary for Security's websites were the target of a cyber attack yesterday, as confir-

med by a statement released by Wong Sio Chak's office last night.

The attack, which started at 8 p.m. last night, resulted in the inactivity of several

Websites of Office of the Secretary for Security targeted in a cyber attack

websites, including those of the Office of the Secretary for Security, Public Security Police Force, the Fire Services Bureau, the Public Security Forces Affairs Bureau of Macau and the Academy of Public Security Forces "due to a distributed denial-of-

service (DDoS) attack from overseas."

"Emergency management efforts are being undertaken by the authorities in collaboration with telecommunication operators to restore regular services promptly," Wong's

office said.

The Judiciary Police have already begun investigations into the incident.

The cyber attack followed a surge in fraudulent activities and other related crimes in the city.

The SAR has seen a recent

uptick in identity theft and cybercrime, with an influx of sponsored ads popping up on social media platforms.

The Times has noticed a rise in paid content on Facebook and Instagram leading users to questionable websites in the past several days.

CORPORATE BITS

Cotai Water Jet launches two cruise routes for tourism



Cotai Water Jet is launching two new "Macau Cruise Tour" routes starting in August, offering travelers maritime voyages and unique travel experiences.

The "Macau Cruise Sightseeing Route" will kick off its inaugural voyage Aug. 10, departing at 5 p.m. from the Macau Taipa Ferry Terminal. Approximately 60-minutes, the cruise

promises an unparalleled sightseeing tour, allowing passengers to admire landmarks like the soon-to-open Macau Bridge and Sands Macau, with the latter currently celebrating its 20th anniversary. Other stops include the Macau Science Centre, Kun lam Ecumenical Centre and Macau Tower.

The "Macau Cruise Fireworks Route" returns on select dates to coincide with the city's fireworks displays. Around 70-minutes, the journey offers views of Macau's night sky illuminated by fireworks, as well as light and sound shows.

MGM junior lion dance summer class marks 10th anniversary



The "MGM Junior Lion Dance Summer Class" is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, marking a new milestone in MGM's commitment to preserving traditional Chinese culture.

Applications for this year's summer class tripled last year's record, enabling MGM to increase recruitment to 100 participants. The 10-week class teaches children ages 5 to 8 the history and

basic movements of lion dance, using various props and musical instruments.

The orientation recently drew almost 250 young lion dancers and parents to MGM Macau.

The summer class has trained over 540 lion dancers over the years. Outstanding performers can join MGM's year-round Lion Dance Training Program, which has 180 members representing Macau in local and international competitions.

MGM aims to encourage children to make good use of their summer breaks with lion dance training, strengthening their physical fitness, teamwork and cultural identity.



A worker feeds discarded textiles to a shredding machine at the Wenzhou Tiancheng Textile Company

LANDFILLS BRIM WITH TEXTILE WASTE AS FAST FASHION REIGNS AND RECYCLING TAKES A BACK SEAT

TIAN MACLEOD JI, WENZHO

AT a factory in Zhejiang province on China's eastern coast, two mounds of discarded cotton clothing and bed linens, loosely separated into dark and light colors, pile up on a workroom floor. Jacket sleeves, collars and brand labels protrude from the stacks as workers feed the garments into shredding machines.

It's the first stage of a new life for the textiles, part of a recycling effort at the Wenzhou Tiancheng Textile Company, one of the largest cotton recycling plants in China.

Textile waste is an urgent global problem, with only 12% recycled worldwide, according to fashion sustainability nonprofit Ellen MacArthur Foundation. Even less — only 1% — are cast-off clothes recycled into new garments; the majority is used for low-value items like insulation or mattress stuffing.

Nowhere is the problem more pressing than in China, the world's largest textile producer and consumer, where more than 26 million tons of clothes are thrown away each year, according to government statistics. Most of it ends up in landfills.

And factories like this one are barely making a dent in a country whose clothing industry is dominated by "fast fashion" — cheap clothes made from unrecyclable synthetics, not cotton.

Produced from petrochemicals that contribute to climate change, air and water pollution, synthetics account for 70% of domestic clothing sales in China.

China's footprint is worldwide: E-commerce juggernaut brands Shein and Temu make the country one of the world's largest producers of cheap fashion, selling in more than 150 countries.

To achieve a game-changing impact, what fashion expert Shaway Yeh calls "circular sustainability" is needed among major Chinese clothing brands so waste is avoided entirely.

"You need to start it from recyclable fibers and then all these waste textiles will be put into use again," she said.

But that is an elusive goal: Only about 20% of China's textiles are recycled, according to the Chinese government — and almost all of that is cotton.

While China is a global leader in the production of electric cars and electric-powered public transit and has set a goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2060, its efforts in promoting fashion sustainability and recycling textiles have taken a back seat.

According to a report this year from independent fashion watchdog Remake assessing major clothing companies on their environmental and equity practices, there's little accountability among the best-known

brands.

The group gave Shein, whose online marketplace groups about 6,000 Chinese clothing factories under its label, just 6 out of a possible 150 points. Temu scored zero.

Also getting zero were U.S. label SKIMS, co-founded by Kim Kardashian, and low-price brand Fashion Nova. U.S. retailer Everlane was the highest-scorer at 40 points, with only half of those for sustainability practices.

Cotton recycled from used clothing is banned from being used to make new garments inside China. This rule was initially aimed at stamping out fly-by-night Chinese operations recycling dirty or otherwise contaminated material.

But now it means the huge spools of tightly woven rope-like cotton yarn produced at the Wenzhou Tiancheng factory from used clothing can only be sold for export, mostly to Europe.

Making matters worse, many Chinese consumers are unwilling to buy used items anyway, something the Wenzhou factory sales director, Kowen Tang, attributes to increasing household incomes.

"They want to buy new clothes, the new stuff," he said of the stigma associated with buying used.

Still, among younger Chinese, a growing awareness of sustainability has contributed to the

emergence of fledgling "remade" clothing businesses.

Thirty-year-old designer Da Bao founded Times Remake in 2019, a Shanghai-based brand that takes secondhand clothes and refashions them into new garments. At the company's work room in Shanghai, tailors work with secondhand denims and sweatshirts, stitching them into funky new fashions.

The venture, which began with Da Bao and his father-in-law posting their one-off designs online, now has a flagship store in Shanghai's trendy Jing'an District that stocks their remade garments alongside vintage items, such as Levi's and Carhartt jackets.

The designs are "a combination of the past style and current fashion aesthetic to create something unique," Bao said.

Zhang Na has a fashion label, Reclothing Bank, that sells clothes, bags and other accessories made from materials such as plastic bottles, fishing nets and flour sacks.

The items' labels have QR codes that show their composition, how they were made and the provenance of the materials. Zhang draws on well-established production methods, such as textile fibers made from pineapple leaf, a centuries-old tradition originating in the Philippines.

"We can basically develop thousands of new fabrics and

new materials," she said.

Reclothing Bank began in 2010 to give "new life to old things," Zhang said of her store in a historic Shanghai alley with a mix of Western and Chinese architecture. A large used clothes deposit box sat outside the entrance.

"Old items actually carry a lot of people's memories and emotions," she said.

Zhang said she has seen sustainability consciousness grow since she opened her store, with core customers in their 20s and 30s.

Bao Yang, a college student who dropped by the store on a visit to Shanghai, said she was surprised at the feel of the clothes.

"I think it's amazing, because when I first entered the door, I heard that many of the clothes were actually made of shells or corn (husks), but when I touched the clothes in detail, I had absolutely no idea that they would have this very comfortable feel," she said.

Still, she conceded that buying sustainable clothing is a hard sell. "People of my age are more addicted to fast fashion, or they do not think about the sustainability of clothes," she said.

Recycled garments sold at stores like Reclothing Bank have a much higher price tag than fast-fashion brands due to their costly production methods.

And therein lies the real problem, said Sheng Lu, professor of fashion and apparel studies at the University of Delaware.

"Studies repeatedly show consumers are not willing to pay higher for clothing made from recycled materials, and instead they actually expect a lower price because they see such clothing as made of secondhand stuff," he said.

With higher costs in acquiring, sorting and processing used garments, he doesn't see sustainable fashion succeeding on a wide scale in China, where clothes are so cheap to make.

"Companies do not have the financial incentive," he said.

For real change there needs to be "more clear signals from the very top," he added, referring to government targets like the ones that propelled China's EV industry.

Still, in China "government can be a friend to any sector," Lu said, so if China's communist leaders see economic potential, it could trigger a policy shift that drives new investment in sustainable fashion.

But for now, the plastic-wrapped cones of tightly-wound cotton being loaded onto trucks outside the Wenzhou Tiancheng factory were all headed to overseas markets, far from where their recycling journey began.

"Fast fashion definitely is not out of fashion" in China, Lu said.

MDT/AP

PEW REPORT

Views toward China diverge between rich and middle-income nations

DIDI TANG, WASHINGTON

GLOBAL views toward China appear to be divided between high-income and middle-income countries, and the gap apparently is the widest among China's neighbors in the Indo-Pacific region, according to a newly released poll from the Pew Research Center that surveyed people in 35 countries.

Fifteen out of the 18 high-income countries surveyed expressed unfavorable views toward China, with Japan and Australia leading the pack with more than 8 in 10 in those countries viewing China negatively. By comparison, 14 of the 17 middle-income countries had rosier views of China, and Thailand held the most favorable views of China, with 80% of adults having a positive view toward China, according to Pew.

The report was released Tuesday as the leaders of NATO nations were convening in Washington to discuss the war in Ukraine but also to express concerns over China. The Western military alliance is expected to deepen cooperation with its four Indo-Pacific partners — Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand — at a time of intensifying competitions between Washington and Beijing over global governance.

In the Indo-Pacific region, Washington is forging alliances and partnerships with like-min-

ded governments to push back at Beijing's expanding influences. According to the Pew report, many countries surveyed in the region were very or somewhat concerned about China's territorial disputes.

The Philippines, locked in a dispute with China over the Second Thomas Shoal in the South China Sea, was the most worried, with about 9 in 10 Filipinos expressing concerns. A similar share of those in South Korea and Japan were concerned, and about 8 in 10 in Australia were. All three countries are members of an informal grouping of four NATO partners in the Indo-Pacific. The fourth one, New Zealand, was not part of the Pew survey. The three countries plus India were also among the least likely of those surveyed in the Asia-Pacific region to describe China as contributing to global peace and stability.

Thailand, which has no territorial dispute with China, was the least worried. About 4 in 10 expressed concerns over China's territorial disputes, and 80% of Thai people said China contributes to peace and stability around the world.

Overall in the Asia-Pacific region, Japan, Australia, South Korea, the Philippines and India held most unfavorable views of China, while Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and Sri Lanka exhibited most favorable views of China, according to Pew.



In another sign of the sharper divide in the region, Chinese President Xi Jinping got some of his highest and lowest ratings among the country's neighbors. Nine in 10 people in Japan said they have "not too much" confidence or "none at all" in Xi to do the right thing regarding world affairs, the lowest confidence of the 35 countries surveyed.

Thailand and Singapore, however, showed relatively high confidence in Xi — with roughly 6 in

10 saying the Chinese leader could be counted on to do the right thing. The ratings from Thailand and Singapore were among the highest of the countries surveyed.

Across the globe, the divide over China between the high-income countries and middle-income ones became clearer this year, when Pew surveyed 35 countries, up from last year's 24 nations that included only eight middle-income countries.

In North America and Europe,

all 12 countries surveyed except Greece viewed China more unfavorably than favorably. In Africa and Latin America, all 10 countries Pew had polled said they held at least slightly more positive than negative views of China.

The results of the global survey were based on telephone, face-to-face and online interviews conducted under several polling groups. The margins of error varied from 2.4 to 4.9 percentage points. **MDT/AP**

China and Bangladesh reaffirm their ties as territorial and economic issues rise in region

CHINA and Bangladesh are reaffirming their ties during a visit by Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to Beijing on Tuesday as tensions rise in the region over territorial disputes and resources.

China's official Xinhua News Agency quoted Wang Huning, a member of China's Politburo Standing Committee who met with Hasina, as saying that "China and Bangladesh have respected and treated each other with equality, setting a good example of friendly coexistence

and mutually beneficial cooperation between countries."

Bangladesh occupies a strategic position between Myanmar, a longtime Chinese ally now wracked by internal conflict, and India, the rising Asian giant with which China has a longstanding border conflict.

Hasina met with her Chinese counterpart, Li Qiang, on Tuesday and oversaw the signing of 28 agreements between the countries covering mostly trade and investment.

While Bangladesh



maintains development partnerships with the United States and India, it is also drawing closer to China, which is heavily engaged in the country's major infrastructure projects.

Hasina is eager to strengthen relations to encourage Chinese investment in her country's economy, which faces challenges over a heavy debt burden. China also

provides Bangladesh with tanks, missile launchers and other weapons and is building seaports, railway tracks, power plants and bridges. The U.S. remains Bangladesh's largest source of foreign direct investment.

Hasina's visit to China is taking place a few weeks after she visited India, demonstrating her plans for a partnership with both neighbors in the face of growing interest by the U.S. in the Indo-Pacific region.

While the U.S. and European countries pressu-

red Hasina's administration to hold free and fair elections in January, China openly sided with Hasina. China has also showed a willingness to help Bangladesh's economy as it faces dwindling foreign currency reserves.

Media reports in Bangladesh say it will seek \$20 billion in new loans from China during Hasina's visit.

Concerns have risen over China's border tensions with India, the Chinese military's expansion into the South China Sea and Indian Ocean, fighting in neighboring Myanmar and China's control of water resources in the Himalayas that affects agriculture in Bangladesh and neighboring countries. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



ISRAEL-HAMAS

Strikes in central Gaza kill 20 Palestinians as mediators make new push on cease-fire deal

WAFEA SHURAF & SAMY MAGDY, DEIR AL-BALAH

ISRAELI airstrikes early yesterday killed 20 Palestinians in central Gaza, including six children and three women, some of them inside a purported "safe zone" declared by the Israeli military, hospital authorities said.

This second straight night of deadly strikes in the central town of Deir al-Balah and nearby refugee camps came as U.S., Egyptian and Qatari mediators as well as Israeli officials came together in the Qatari capital, Doha, for talks trying to push through a long-elusive deal for a cease-fire and hostage release.

Israel and Hamas had appeared to narrow the gaps in recent days, but obstacles remain.

Strikes yesterday hit three houses in the Nuseirat refugee camp, killing 12 people including five children, said authorities at al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, where the casualties were taken. An Associated Press reporter counted the bodies.

The camp, like others around Gaza, was originally erected to house Palestinians driven from their homes during the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation. It has grown into an urban neighborhood in the decades since.

A fourth strike early yesterday killed four men, three women and a child when it hit a home in Deir al-Balah, an area that is located within the "humanitarian safe zone" where Israel has told Palestinians to seek refuge as it conducts offensives in mul-

iple parts of the Gaza Strip.

The overnight bombardment came hours after Israeli warplanes struck the entrance of a school sheltering displaced families outside the southern city of Khan Younis. The toll from the strike rose to 31 people killed, including eight children, and more than 50 wounded, officials at the nearby Nasser Hospital said yesterday.

Footage aired by Al-Jazeera television showed kids playing soccer in the school's yard when a sudden boom shook the area, prompting shouts of "a strike, a strike!"

The Israeli army said the airstrike near the school and reports of civilian casualties were under review, and claimed it was targeting a Hamas militant who took part in the Oct. 7 attack on Israel, though it provided no immediate evidence. The military blames civilian deaths on Hamas because the militants fight in dense, urban areas. But the army rarely comments on what it is targeting in individual strikes, which often kill women and children.

In nine months of bombardment and offensives in Gaza, Israel has killed more than 38,200 people and wounded more than 88,000, according to the territory's Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between combatants and civilians in its count. Nearly the entire population has been driven from their homes. Many have been displaced multiple times. Hundreds of thousands are packed into sweltering tent camps.

Israel's onslaught was trigge-

red by Hamas' cross-border raid on Oct. 7, during which militants killed 1,200 people in southern Israel, most of them civilians, according to Israeli authorities. The militants took roughly 250 people hostage. About 120 are still in captivity, with about a third said to be dead.

This week, Israeli troops have also been waging a new ground assault in Gaza City in the north of the territory — its latest effort to battle Hamas militants regrouping in areas the army previously said had been largely cleared.

Large parts of Gaza City and urban areas around it have been flattened or left a shattered landscape by previous Israeli assaults, and much of the population fled earlier in the war. But the latest incursions and bombardment prompted a new flight of people.

After Israel on Monday called for an evacuation from eastern and central parts of Gaza City, staff at two hospitals — Al-Ahli and the Patients Friends Association Hospital — rushed to move patients and shut down, the United Nations said.

The Israeli military said Tuesday that it told hospitals and other medical facilities in Gaza City they did not need to evacuate. But hospitals in Gaza have often shut down and moved patients at any sign of possible Israeli military action, fearing raids.

In the past nine months, Israeli troops have attacked at least eight hospitals, causing the deaths of patients and medical workers along with mas-

sive destruction to facilities and equipment. Israel has claimed Hamas uses hospitals for military purposes, though it has provided only limited evidence.

Only 13 of Gaza's 36 hospitals are functioning, and those only partially, according to the United Nations' humanitarian office.

International mediators were making a new concerted effort to push through a proposed cease-fire deal.

An Egyptian official said the head of Egypt's General Intelligence Service, Abbas Kamel, went to Doha to join discussions over the deal. The official said U.S. and Israeli officials were also attending. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief the press on the meetings.

A day earlier, CIA Director William Burns, who has led the American mediation, met with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi in Cairo.

Obstacles remain in the talks, even after Hamas agreed to relent on its key demand that Israel commit to ending the war as part of any agreement. Hamas still wants mediators to guarantee that negotiations conclude with a permanent cease-fire.

Israel has rejected any deal that would force it to end the war with Hamas intact. Hamas on Monday accused Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of "putting more obstacles in the way of negotiations," including the operations in Gaza City. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

2000 BRITAIN PIONEERS HIV VACCINE



The World Aids Conference in South Africa has announced trials for a new HIV vaccine will begin in Britain.

Liberal Democrat MP Evan Harris will be one of 18 healthy volunteers who will take part in the first toxicity tests.

The MP for Oxford West, Dr Harris, 35, said: "I hope to be a small part of a process that will deliver something that will save Africa from further devastation."

The vaccine has been developed by researchers at Oxford and Nairobi Universities who studied prostitutes in Kenya and found a group who resisted the disease in spite of daily exposure to it.

If the tests in Oxford are successful, trials will go to Nairobi in October under the supervision of Professor Job Bwayo and his team.

Professor of immunology at Oxford University Andrew McMichael said: "Our chances of developing a vaccine are better than 50-50. But the earliest we could expect a vaccine to be ready would be in seven to 10 years."

There are currently 34 million people in the world suffering from HIV and 70% of them are in Africa.

This is the first time a vaccine has been based on the HIV strain in Africa. It uses DNA and a wild animal virus similar to that used to combat smallpox.

The Oxford-Nairobi project is one of 11 similar groups around the world funded by the International Aids Vaccine Initiative (Iavi). It has received £14m from the British Government.

Iavi estimates that three times more than the £200m currently spent on research programmes is needed to find a vaccine within ten years.

Vaccination should provide a much cheaper and more effective means of tackling the pandemic, especially for the Third World which cannot afford HIV drugs and is barred from developing generic variations.

According to Iavi only 2% of the \$20m spent annually on Aids around the world is for vaccine development.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The trials began in Oxford in August 2000. In April 2002 the Oxford-Nairobi project trials were extended to a further 120 volunteers in Oxford and London. In July 2002 US pharmaceutical company VaxGen announced that it might develop a vaccine within five years and began the final phase of human testing. By 2001, 15,000 people were being infected with HIV every day around the world. By 2005 1.3 million people had access to Anti-Retroviral Treatment or ART - although still short of the 3 million target set for 2005, the figure has increased rapidly in recent years. In 2006 an estimated 38.6 million people around the world are living with Aids.

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Practice wellness and fitness routines. Abandon unhealthy habits and practices. Take extra time for yourself. Physical action energizes you. Rest and eat well.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Treat your heart with kindness and respect. Be gentle with yourself and others. Share appreciation for past kindness. Recognize admiration, respect and goodness.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Adapt to domestic changes. Avoid automatic reactions and emotional outbursts. Keep your focus on what's possible. Imagine beyond current messes. Encourage positive action.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Good news comes from far away. Find encouragement for your creative ideas. Optimism motivates positive results. Keep your objectives in mind. Edit and clarify.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Cut non-essential spending. Track cash flow to keep it positive. Simplify and budget for priorities. Stash your treasures. Your holdings are gaining in value.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Let go of limiting stories about yourself. Why listen to that? Get out of your head. Pay attention to someone who loves you.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Listen to your heart. Envision and make plans for a future that inspires you. Consider what makes your spirit happy. Schedule more of that.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Wait for developments before taking group actions. Adapt to unexpected circumstances. Focus on clarifying team communications and forging strong bonds. Share resources and talents.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

A rise in status is possible. Consider the possibilities. Lay plans and outline actions. Wait for better conditions to launch. Make professional preparations.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Travels, adventures and academic explorations take wing. Hidden truths get revealed. Plan your route in detail and launch later. Pack as lightly as possible.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Changes necessitate budget revisions. Financial plans give you a sense of what's probable and possible. Insights arise from reviewing the numbers. Persuade your partner.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Begin a new partnership phase. Clean up an old mess. Keep agreements. Brainstorm and collaborate. Take a creative tack. Make future plans together.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

1				7				
				6		5		
								4
	5	4				3		
						6	8	
					1			
2		5	3					
6							7	1

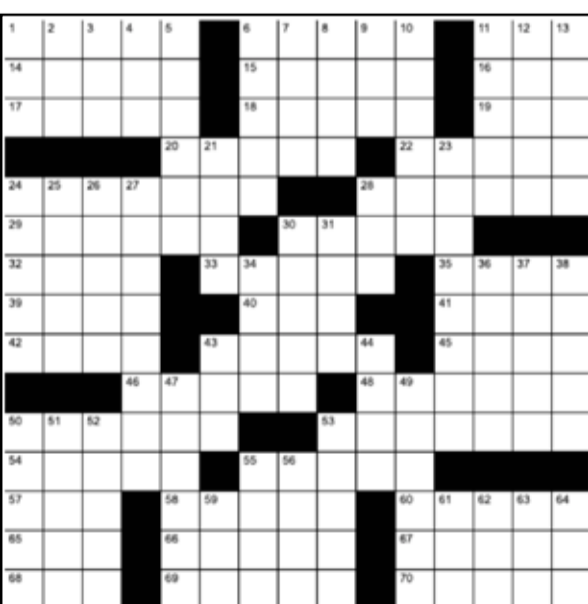
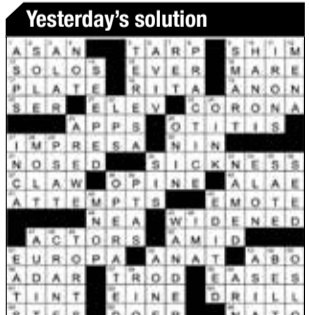
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	23	34	cloudy
Changchun	19	29	cloudy
Chengdu	23	32	overcast
Chongqing	26	31	rain
Fuzhou	28	38	cloudy
Guangzhou	28	35	thunderstorms
Guiyang	22	29	cloudy
Haikou	26	35	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	26	30	rain
Harbin	17	28	cloudy
Hefei	24	26	rain
Nanjing	25	26	rain
Shanghai	25	27	rain
Taipei	26	33	cloudy
Wuhan	25	30	rain
Hong Kong	28	31	showers
WORLD			
Moscow	16	28	cloudy
Frankfurt	15	25	cloudy
Paris	15	25	cloudy
London	13	23	cloudy
New York	23	31	cloudy

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Stradivari's teacher; 6- Paris subway; 11- Legal org.; 14- Grandmas; 15- Paddled; 16- Seminary subj.; 17- Like some statesmen; 18- Clan; 19- Moo goo ___ pan; 20- Imitating; 22- Sweatbox; 24- Ego; 28- Evaluate; 29- Gossip; 30- Arizona sights; 32- South American monkey; 33- Eight Days ___; 35- Looking down from; 39- Vocal; 40- Right-angle shape; 41- Must've been something ___; 42- Freelancer's end.; 43- Later, dudel!; 45- Stringed instrument; 46- Swap; 48- Pager; 50- Portable PC; 53- Oakland outfit; 54- Inuit dwelling; 55- Singer Bonnie; 57- Small battery size; 58- Stigma; 60- Wished; 65- Mus. slow-up; 66- Works hard; 67- Excess fluid in an organ; 68- ___-Cat (winter vehicle); 69- Have a feeling about; 70- Speedy;

DOWN 1- "Wheel of Fortune" buy; 2- Prefix with content; 3- Clause connector; 4- ___ kwon do; 5- Sharon's land; 6- Central theme; 7- Work for; 8- Math course; 9- Confederate soldier; 10- Black Sea port; 11- Bicker; 12- Legumes; 13- Assumed name; 21- "Not guilty," e.g.; 23- Went after; 24- Preminger et al.; 25- Monetary unit of Nigeria; 26- Kett and James; 27- Short dagger; 28- Invite; 30- Donnybrook; 31- Slippery; 34- Undesirable plant; 36- Brownish gray; 37- Web-footed mammal; 38- Equals; 43- Patsy; 44- Blind as ___; 47- Perches; 49- One or the other; 50- Perjurers; 51- Encore!; 52- Aristotle's teacher; 53- Wash lightly; 55- Parade spoiler; 56- Feels off; 59- Digit of the foot; 61- Room within a harem; 62- Vim; 63- U.K. record label; 64- Family man;



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 2,980,000 1 bed 1 bath

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

EURO 2024 | REVIEW

SPAIN BEATS FRANCE TO REACH FINAL. YAMAL SETS THE MARK AS YOUNGEST-EVER SCORER

DANIELLA MATAR, MUNICH

SPAIN 2, FRANCE 1

AP PHOTO



AFTER seeing off another one of the pre-tournament favorites to reach the Euro 2024 final, Spain coach Luis de la Fuente has warned England or the Netherlands that his team can still improve.

Spain reached the European Championship decider with a 2-1 victory over France yesterday (Macau time), with 16-year-old Lamine Yamal becoming the youngest-ever scorer at the continental tournament.

France took an early lead when Randal Kolo Muani headed in a cross from Kylian Mbappé, who played without a mask, before Yamal's moment of brilliance in the 21st minute. Dani Olmo scored the clincher four minutes later.

"We were in a difficult stretch after not expecting to concede so early. I just took the ball and wanted to put it right there. I am very happy," Yamal said.

"I don't try to think about it too much, just enjoy myself and help the team, and if it goes my way, then I am happy (for the goal) and for the win."

Spain, which is chasing a record fourth European Championship title, will play England or the Netherlands in the final on Sunday in Berlin — the day after Yamal's 17th birthday.

"We knew they were a great team, and they proved it again tonight," France coach Didier Deschamps said. "Even though we were fortunate to open

the scoring, Spain made things difficult for us.

"They were superior in terms of control and technique. The team that gave the best impression was Spain. So they deserve to win tonight."

Spain has been the best performing team of Euro 2024. It is the only team to have won all its matches and has scored 13 times, equaling a Spanish record for most goals at a European Championship and

only one behind the overall record set by France in 1984.

"I'm sure the final will be totally different, against opponents who will demand the best from us," De la Fuente said. "Even though it might sound difficult, there is room for improvement."

Spain will find out its next opponent when England plays the Netherlands in the second semifinal at Dortmund early today.

There was surprise in Munich when Mbappé went onto the field without the mask he has been wearing since sustaining a broken nose in France's opening group game at Euro 2024.

Mbappé had been complaining the mask was impeding him, and ditching it appeared to have an immediate effect as he created the game's opening goal in the ninth minute with a cross to the

back post that was headed in by Randal Kolo Muani.

That was the first goal France had scored at Euro 2024 that wasn't a penalty or an own-goal. Fortunately for Les Bleus they had also been exceptional at the back, allowing just one goal, a retaken penalty by Poland's Robert Lewandowski in the group stage.

But there was no stopping Yamal's stunning equalizer in the 21st minute as he became the youngest player ever to score at a men's European Championship when he curled the ball past Mike Maignan and in off the left post from 25 yards.

Spain turned the match around completely four minutes later when Olmo's goal-bound shot was turned into the net by France defender Jules Koundé. It was originally adjudged by UEFA to have been an own-goal but was later awarded to Olmo.

"It is incredible what the team is doing. We deserve to be in the final, one step from glory," Olmo said. "Whether it is my goal, or Koundé's, it doesn't matter. The important thing is that we are in the final."

France dominated possession in the second half but couldn't make it count.

Théo Hernández should have done better when he blazed a late chance over the bar, and Mbappé did similar with four minutes remaining.

Spain could have been further ahead between those chances as another powerful strike from Yamal flew narrowly over the crossbar.

MDT/AP

EURO 2024

Netherlands hit by travel disruption ahead of semifinal against England

STEVE DOUGLAS, DORTMUND

THE Netherlands' preparations for its match against England in the European Championship semifinals were disrupted yesterday (Macau time) when they had to rearrange travel plans to host city Dortmund because of a "blockage" on a train line.

The Dutch were due to get a train from Wolfsburg to Dortmund but the service was canceled, the team said.

The squad instead was having to fly around 300 kilometers to Dortmund, forcing the cancellation of the Netherlands' planned pre-match news conference at Westfalenstadion with coach Ronald

Koeman and defender Nathan Aké.

Dutch media reported that players and staff were on the train platform when they learnt about the issues with the service. Germany has been hit with very warm temperatures.

Members of the team typically take a walk on the field on the day before

a game at Euro 2024.

England coach Gareth Southgate said he didn't expect the Dutch to be too affected by the disruption.

"We don't play until 9 p.m. tomorrow so there's plenty of time," Southgate said with a smile. "I'm sure they'll still get dinner when they arrive." MDT/AP

AP PHOTO



SCOREBOARD

Semi-final	Spain	2	1	France
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EURO 2024 | REVIEW

Even after ditching the mask, Mbappé's match comes to a disappointing end

DANIELLA MATAR, MUNICH

EVEN without the mask, Kylian Mbappé was outclassed by a 16-year-old wonderkid.

Mbappé ditched the vision-restricting mask that he had been wearing since breaking his nose in France's opening match but Les Bleus fell to a 2-1 loss to Spain in the semifinals early yesterday as Lamine Yamal became the youngest goalscorer in the history of the European Championship.

Yamal is heading to the Euro 2024 final on Sunday — the day after his 17th birthday — while Mbappé will be on holiday before joining new team Real Madrid.

"I had the aim of being European champion, I had the aim of having a good Euros — I didn't do one nor the other," Mbappé said.

"It's disappointing, we have to go on holiday. I'll rest well, I think I need that to come back



fresh and have a really good pre-season preparation."

France coach Didier Deschamps had said on Monday that Mbappé would have to wear the mask for "weeks ... maybe months" so there was surprise when he took to the field in Munich without the

mask that had so annoyed him.

"I was fed up, I couldn't see well with it," Mbappé said. "I spoke with the doctor to see and he told me to make the decision like a man and I don't regret it."

Euro 2024 had hardly gone

to plan for Mbappé and France before early yesterday's match — no French player had scored from open play with their three goals coming from a solitary Mbappé penalty and two own-goals.

Mbappé had a total of 23 attempts at goal in Germany.

Only Deco with 24 at Euro 2004 had more non-penalty shots without scoring.

The 25-year-old Mbappé had described the mask-wearing experience as "an absolute horror" and removing it seemed to have an immediate effect as he set up France's ninth-minute opener with a pinpoint cross to the back post for Randal Kolo Muani's headed goal.

The France superstar should have scored and sent the match into extra time when he was released on the left by Bradley Barcola with four minutes remaining.

Mbappé seemed certain to score — and in front of France's fans — when he raced into the area and cut inside past Spain defender Dani Vivian but he uncharacteristically blazed his shot over the bar.

"I think I had to score, or at least hit the target," he said. "It went over and that's the harsh reality of football."


MDT/AP


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FOOTBALL | BASKETBALL | DAILY TRAININGS

OPINION

China Daily

Editorial, China Daily

DISPARAGING OF ORBAN'S SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY BELIES NATO'S TRANSITION IN PURPOSE

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban described his Monday visit to Beijing as "Peace Mission 3.0".

Orban and Chinese President Xi Jinping have demonstrated similar positions on a series of issues of global concern, including the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, with both having repeatedly called for a cease-fire and a negotiated end to it.

Unfortunately, when it comes to the Ukraine crisis, the Hungarian leader has been a lone voice in the European Union. While everyone across the EU and North Atlantic Treaty Organization seems to want to see the war end, they have very different visions about how peace should be accomplished and how it will be manifest.

In contrast with the mainstream idea in Brussels of peace after the ultimate goal of permanently debilitating Russia has been attained, Orban has opposed EU sanctions on Russia and resisted financial and military aid to Ukraine as well as negotiations on EU membership for Ukraine.

This is why the Hungarian leader's whirlwind visits have invited strong criticism from the EU and NATO members.

The EU leaders have pointed out that he is not representing the bloc, with EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell saying in a statement that the Hungarian prime minister is not representing the EU in any form.

The White House naturally has also been critical of his initiative, claiming it "will not advance the cause of peace and is counterproductive to promoting Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence".

Orban's Beijing visit comes after a visit to Kyiv last Tuesday, trying to persuade Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky to consider a cease-fire. On Friday, he was in Moscow, talking with Russian President Vladimir Putin about "ways to a negotiated end" to the conflict.

Unfortunately, his endeavors have been met with both Kyiv and Moscow reiterating their previous conditions for a cease-fire. As things stand at the moment, their positions remain "far apart", the Hungarian leader said after visiting the two capitals.

Yet his efforts come just before the NATO summit in Washington that Orban will be attending, his country being a member of that organization. Any message he might be able to deliver of a willingness to ease those entrenched positions in the interest of peace will get straight to the source of the current hostilities in Europe — NATO having allowed itself to be hijacked by the United States' aggressive national security strategy to overpower perceived challenges to what it regards as its god-given right to do as it likes.

A signed article by Orban, published on the website of the US magazine Newsweek the day he visited Moscow, made clear his view on this, and why he is out of step with other European leaders. In it he said the alliance had forsaken its founding values, stating bluntly: "The agenda is no longer peace, it is war."

It is natural that Orban should visit China as part of his diplomatic efforts. President Xi paid a state visit to Hungary in May and China is one of the few countries that is still able to talk to both of the antagonists in the conflict. It is also one of the very few that is consistent in its neutrality and its own efforts to mediate a cease-fire.

In his meeting with Orban on Monday, President Xi again stressed that it is in the best interest of all parties to end the conflict as soon as possible and seek a political solution. Xi also repeated his call for the international community to create the conditions for the resumption of direct dialogue and negotiation between the two sides. Only when all major countries exert positive energy instead of negative energy will a cease-fire be attained, Xi said. That is something the NATO leaders should reflect on when they meet in Washington.

China's Commerce Ministry announced yesterday it will launch an investigation into whether unfair trade practices were adopted by the European Union in its probe of Chinese companies.

It said the investigation will focus on wind power, photovoltaics, security equipment and others and will be completed before next Jan. 10, with a possible extension of three months to April.

The investigation was requested by China's Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Machinery and Electronic Products.

The announcement is an apparent retaliation for recent probes by the

EU of Chinese companies, launched earlier this year.

These include a probe into whether Chinese subsidies give wind turbine companies an unfair advantage in the competition for projects in five EU member countries, Spain, Greece, France, Romania and Bulgaria.

The EU also announced probes into two Chinese solar panel makers bidding for a 455-megawatt solar park in Romania.

China has accused the European Union of protectionism and "reckless distortion" of the definition of subsidies in response to a new EU investigation into Chinese wind turbine makers.



BELARUS

AUTHORITIES ARE DEPRIVING NOBEL PEACE PRIZE LAUREATE OF MEDICINE IN JAIL, HIS WIFE SAYS

YURAS KARMANAU, TALLINN

THE wife of an imprisoned Belarusian Nobel Peace Prize laureate said yesterday that the country's authorities are depriving her husband of medicine as his health deteriorates.

The 61-year-old pro-democracy activist, Ales Bialiatski, is serving a 10-year prison sentence. He suffers from a number of serious chronic illnesses that have worsened during his three years behind bars, his family says.

The family has been trying to supply him with medicine, but Belarusian authorities are refusing to pass it on to him, his wife, Natalia Pinchuk, told The Associated Press.

The Interior Ministry did not respond to a request for information from the AP.

Bialiatski was detained in the aftermath of mass protests following an election in 2020 that gave authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko a sixth term in office. The election was widely viewed as rigged by Western leaders and many Belarusians, triggering mass protests in the eastern European nation.

Lukashenko, a longtime ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin who supported Russia's invasion of Ukraine, has ruled the country with an iron fist since 1994. During the 2020 protests, the largest in Belarus' history, more than 35,000 people were arrested and thousands were beaten by police. The crackdown on dissent continues four years on.

Bialiatski was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2022 but that did not lead to an improvement in his detention conditions.

In March 2023, a court found Bialiatski and three of his colleagues at the Viasna Human Rights Center guilty of smuggling and financing actions which violate public order.

There are 1,405 political prisoners behind bars in Belarus, according to Viasna. Human rights activists claim that Belarusian authorities are deliberately creating unbearable conditions for many of them, depriving them of medical care, communication with loved ones and lawyers. At least six political prisoners have died behind bars.

Bialiatski is being held in a prison where prisoners are beaten and subjected to hard labor,

according to Viasna. He is not allowed to receive correspondence from relatives and friends, nor call them on the phone. Occasionally his supporters receive letters and postcards from him.

"The authorities have created unbearable conditions for Ales in prison; he is being kept in an information vacuum," Pinchuk said, adding that it is clear from Bialiatski's rare letters to her that he is not getting her letters or letters from other people.

Pinchuk said Bialiatski had previously been held in solitary confinement and is now forced to perform hard labor. He is often punished by being placed in a punishment cell for several days, she said, adding he goes through "all the circles of hell that thousands of Belarusian political prisoners go through in prison."

At the beginning of the month, Lukashenko announced an amnesty for the seriously ill, releasing 18 political prisoners, including Rylhor Kastusiu, who is suffering from a severe form of cancer.

Pinchuk said she did not expect Lukashenko to release Bialiatski. MDT/AP



Australia Rangers have shot dead a 4.2-meter crocodile in the north after it killed a 12-year-old girl while she was swimming with her family last week, police said yesterday. The girl's death was the first fatal crocodile attack in the Northern Territory since 2018 when an Indigenous woman was killed while gathering mussels in a river. The attack has rekindled debate on whether more should be done to curb the crocodile population in the Northern Territory, where the protected species has increasingly encroached on human populations.

USA Used to shrugging off the heat, Las Vegas residents are now eyeing the thermometer as the desert city was on track yesterday to set a record for the most consecutive days over 46.1 Celsius amid a lingering hot spell that will continue scorching much of the U.S. into the weekend. On Tuesday, Las Vegas flirted again with the all-time temperature record of 48.8 C reached on Sunday, but settled for a new daily mark of 48.3 C that smashed the old one of 46.6 C set for the date in 2021.



Kenya The ballooning debt in East Africa's economic hub is expected to grow even more after deadly protests forced the rejection of a finance bill that President William Ruto (pictured) said was needed to raise revenue. He now warns "it will have huge consequences." Facing public calls to resign, Ruto has said the government will turn to slashing a \$2.7 billion budget deficit by half and borrowing the rest, without saying from where.

Iranian government is covertly encouraging American protests over Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza in a bid to stoke outrage ahead of the fall election, the nation's top intelligence official said Tuesday. Using social media platforms popular in the U.S., groups linked to Tehran have posed as online activists, encouraged protests and have provided financial support to some protest groups, Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines said in a statement.