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AP PHOTO



Philippines Apollo Quiboloy, a Filipino preacher wanted for sexual abuse and human trafficking in both the Philippines and the United States, was arrested according to statements yesterday from Interior Secretary Benhur Abalos and Philippine police chief Gen. Rommel Francisco Marbil.

AP PHOTO



Japan Prince Hisahito of Japan (pictured) turned 18 yesterday becoming the first male in Japan's royal family to reach adulthood in almost four decades, highlighting challenges related to the nation's male-only succession law amid an aging and shrinking population.

AP PHOTO



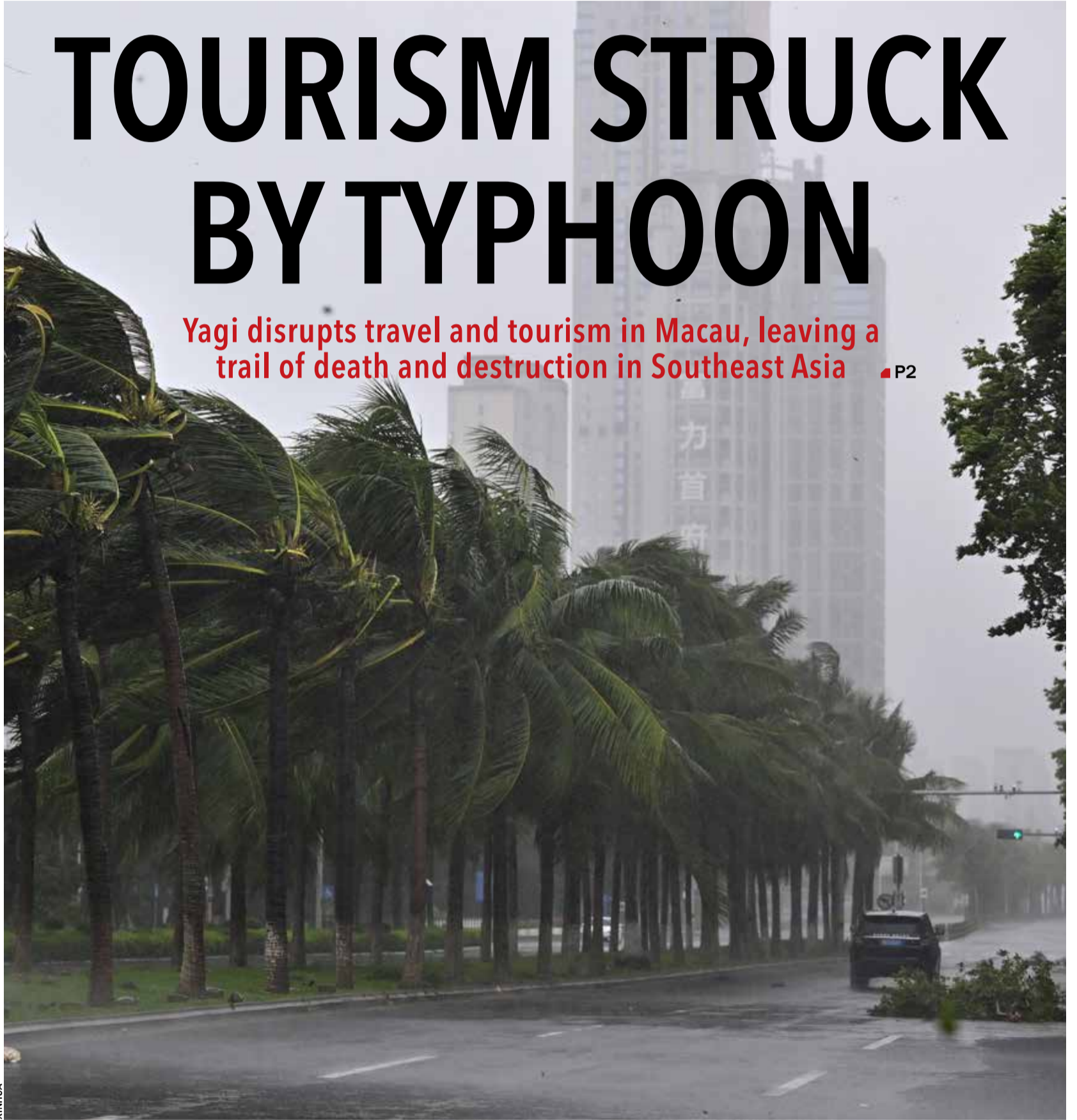
South Korea Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida visited Seoul, reaffirming sympathy for Koreans affected during Japan's colonial rule, and emphasized maintaining improved relations with South Korea. No new apology for colonization was issued during this visit focusing on future bilateral cooperation and regional stability.

AP PHOTO



Papua New Guinea Pope Francis visited Papua New Guinea, bringing humanitarian aid and promoting peace among local communities. He addressed tribal violence and cultural divisions, encouraging unity and civic responsibility during his visit aimed at supporting marginalized groups and reinforcing the Catholic Church's outreach to remote areas.

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TYPHOON YAGI

YAGI DISRUPTS TRAVEL AND TOURISM IN MACAU

VICTORIA CHAN

TYPHOON Yagi has disrupted tourism and various non-gaming services at Macau's casino resorts, the Times and other media have reported since last Friday.

The disruption began several hours before Typhoon Signal No. 8 was hoisted at 10 p.m. Thursday, affecting air and sea transportation.

Even after the alert was lowered to Signal No. 3 at 2 p.m. Friday, air services continued to face issues.

All casino resorts in Cotai district and on the peninsula announced some form of suspension to their non-gaming services, including restaurants, shops and outdoor facilities, when Signal No. 8 was in place.

One outlet of the Mocha Clubs Macau chain in the Inner Harbour district was also closed as a precautionary measure.

Hong Kong, which is the second-largest source of tourists for Macau, raised the No. 8 Signal as early as 6:20 p.m. Thursday.

This effectively disrupted transport between the two places during the storm.

Macau International Airport saw 41 flights canceled Thursday and another 156 flights canceled Friday.

Ferry services between Macau and Shenzhen, as well as between Macau and Hong Kong's Sheung Wan ferry terminal, were suspended during the storm.

The Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, a cross-border road link, was closed 9 p.m. Thursday and reopened 2 p.m. Friday.

Despite the disruptions, Macau managed to avoid significant damage after Typhoon Yagi passed about 300 kilometers west of the territory Thursday.

Preparations and the region's civil protection framework helped minimize the impacts.

"If Yagi had taken a more northerly path and hit Macau directly, it is believed that the impact on Macau would be quite severe," said Wong Sio Chak, the Secretary for Security.

"Yagi ultimately took a more

westerly path 300 kilometers away from Macau, and the typhoon had no direct impact on Macau."

During Signal No. 8, the Civil Protection Operations Centre recorded only three incidents related to the clearing of falling objects, and the Health Bureau and Kiang Wu Hospital reported three injury cases.

Additionally, 10 individuals used the four opened emergency shelters.

Cleanup efforts are now underway at local beaches, where typhoon-driven waves left piles of vegetation and garbage on

the shoreline.

The Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) has extra staff monitoring the situation and expects the work to take several days.

Visitors are advised to check official sources online for the latest conditions at beaches before visiting in the coming weeks.

While Macau International Airport reported around 200 flights were affected, at least 30 were expected to operate on the same day, with the rest returning to normal by the weekend.



VICTORIA CHAN

TYPHOON KILLS 14 IN VIETNAM, ANOTHER THREE IN MAINLAND CHINA

AT least 14 people have died and 176 others injured in Vietnam after Typhoon Yagi slammed the country's north, state media said Sunday, as officials warned of heavy downpours despite its waning power.

Described by Vietnamese officials as one of the most powerful typhoons to hit the region over the last decade, Yagi left more than 3 million people without electricity in northern Vietnam. It also damaged vital agricultural land, nearly 116,192 hectares where rice and fruits are mostly grown. Hundreds of flights were canceled after four airports were closed.

The typhoon made landfall in Vietnam's northern coastal provinces of Quang Ninh and Haiphong with wind speeds of up to 149 kilometers per hour on Saturday afternoon. It raged for roughly 15 hours before gradually weakening into a tropical depression early Sunday morning. Vietnam's meteorological department predicted heavy rain in northern and central provinces and warned of floods in low-lying areas, flash floods in streams and landslides on steep slopes.

Municipal workers along with army and police forces were busy in the capital, Hanoi, clearing uprooted trees, fallen billboards, toppled electricity poles and rooftops

Houses are submerged in flood after typhoon Yagi hit Yen Bai province, northwestern Vietnam



AP PHOTO

that were swept away, while assessing damaged buildings.

Yagi was still a storm when it blew out of the northwestern Philippines into the South China Sea on Wednesday, leaving at least 20 people dead and 26 others missing mostly in landslides and widespread flooding in the archipelago nation. It then made its way to China, killing three people and injuring nearly a hundred others, before landing in Vietnam.

The super typhoon swept south of Hong Kong and was moving toward the Chinese island province of Hainan where it was expected

to make landfall Friday, forcing many aspects of life in the region to a halt. Trading on the stock market, bank services and schools were halted in Hong Kong and Macau after the city's weather authority raised a No. 8 typhoon signal for Typhoon Yagi, the third-highest warning under the city's weather system. Yagi, with maximum sustained winds of 230 kilometers per hour near its center, forced more than 250 people to seek refuge at temporary government shelters and led to cancellations of more than 100 flights in the

city. Five people were injured and treated at hospitals. Heavy rain and strong winds overnight felled dozens of trees across the financial hub before the weather gradually calmed on Friday morning. The typhoon signal was downgraded in the afternoon, with public and transportation services slowly resuming. In Hainan, a tropical holiday island in southern China, residents were bracing for the powerful storm. The province's meteorological service expected Yagi to make landfall somewhere between the province's Wenchang city and Xuwen county in neighboring Guangdong province later Friday. People built sandbag barriers outside buildings to guard against possible floods and reinforced their windows with tape on Thursday, China's official Xinhua news agency reported. The official China Daily said classes, work, transportation and businesses were suspended in parts of the province as early as Wednesday evening. Some tourist attractions were closed and all flights at its international airport in Haikou city were grounded on Friday.

Storms like Typhoon Yagi were "getting stronger due to climate change, primarily because warmer ocean waters provide more energy to fuel the storms, leading to increased wind speeds and heavier rainfall," said Benjamin Horton, director of the Earth Observatory of Singapore. **MDT/AP**

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Gaming sector hits jackpot with 308% surge in revenue

NADIA SHAW

THE gaming sector experienced a turnaround in 2023, with total receipts skyrocketing by 308.1% year-on-year to MOP188.52 billion, according to the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).

This resurgence has been largely attributed to the resumption of travel activities following COVID-19, which has driven both visitor numbers and spending.

As tourists return, particularly from mainland China, gaming activity surged.

This influx led to a significant increase in gross gaming revenue (GGR), with receipts from games of chance—the primary revenue source—jumping by 335.9% to MOP183.60 billion.

This figure is 63% of 2019 revenue, before the pandemic.

Total sector expenditure, exclu-

ding taxes, reached MOP80.06 billion, a 98.6% increase year-on-year.

The largest shares of this expenditure were attributed to operating expenses and the purchase of goods, which accounted for 39.6% and 22.6%, respectively.

Notably, compensation for employees decreased from 46.7% in 2022 to 25.2% in 2023, reflecting changes in operational dynamics.

Expenditures on complimentary goods and services provided to customers, such as hotel accommodation and food and beverages, surged 365.1% year-on-year to MOP19.51 billion.

Additionally, spending on management services, contractual services, and market research saw significant increases of 234.6% and 232.2%, respectively.

The gaming sector's contribution to the economy, measured by Gross Value Added, escalated by 345.8%

year-on-year to MOP135.37 billion.

Gross surplus before taxes soared 896.5% to MOP115.20 billion.

Despite this growth, the number of enterprises engaged in gaming activities remained stable at nine in 2023, comprising six gaming concessionaires and three enterprises involved in pari-mutuels and lotteries.

The DSEC's Gaming Sector Survey focuses solely on gaming activities, excluding data from hotel, retail, and other businesses operated by these enterprises.

CLSA analysts issued a report last week predicting continued growth in the gaming sector, with expectations the GGR will rise further this year.

This optimism is fueled by anticipated increases in visitor numbers and expanded hotel capacities, alongside a recovering consumer confidence and spending patterns, as Macau continues to attract tourists from diverse markets.

RECEIPTS

	2022	2023	Change (%)
Total receipts	46,195	188,516	308.1%
Receipts from Gaming & Related Services	43,528	185,169	325.4%
Gaming	42,756	184,240	330.9%
of which: Games of Chance	42,119	83,598	335.9%
Others	771	929	20.5%
Interest	2,668	3,346	25.4%

*Units: MOP million

EXPENDITURE

	2022	2023	Change (%)
Total Expenditure	40,307	80,065	98.6%
Compensation of Employees	18,806	20,168	7.2%
Operating Expenses	9,416	31,707	236.7%
of which: Payments made abroad	647	2,633	307.0%
Purchase of Goods, Commissions & Customer Rebate	3,726	18,124	386.4%
of which: Payments made abroad	238	1,314	452.1%
Non-operating Expenses	3,726	10,066	170.2%
Interest	5,437	6,600	21.4%
Depreciation	2,922	3,466	18.6%

*Units: MOP million



OUTBOUND

Locals flock to Zhuhai, spending billions annually

A survey by the Zhuhai Municipal Bureau of Statistics has revealed Zhuhai is becoming an increasingly popular destination for Macau tourists.

The report found Zhuhai welcomed an average of over 360,000 visitors from Macau and Hong Kong monthly.

Macau tourists accounted for a significant portion of monthly visitors to Zhuhai, spending approximately RMB454 million monthly, according to the bureau.

Extrapolated annually, their estimated expenditures could reach RMB5.5 billion if the trend continues.

Traffic data showed peak entry volumes at the China-Macau border on weekends and holidays, with an influx of "Macau cars going north."

This is attributed to the convenience of the

Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, as well as Zhuhai's more affordable prices and diverse offerings.

About half of the Macau tourists visit Zhuhai for the day, while the rest stay one or more nights.

The findings signal Macau residents are increasingly opting to travel and spend leisure time in mainland cities like Zhuhai, which offer lower costs.

While presenting new opportunities for Zhuhai's development, this shift may pose challenges for Macau's businesses amid growing competition.

The data highlights Zhuhai's growing appeal, which may raise concerns among Macau's business community as it struggles to compete with the mainland city's cost advantages and variety of offerings. VC

TRAINING TO STOP TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE ERRORS

TO improve the quality of traditional Chinese medicine services and prevent medical errors, the government last week held a training course for local traditional Chinese medicine practitioners.

The training, jointly organized by the Health Bureau's Department of Traditional Chinese Medicine Services Development, the World Health Organization (Macau) Traditional Medicine Collaboration Centre, and a nationally recognized traditional Chinese medicine broadcaster, brought together 172 traditional Chinese medicine practitioners.

Speakers included Dr. Pang Heong Keong, Chairman of the Medical Malpractice Expert Committee; Dr. Chen Min, Associate Professor at the Macau University of Science and Technology; and Dr. Yang Lu, a traditional Chinese medicine doctor at the Macau University of Science and Technology Hospital.

Dr. Cheang Seng Ip,



Deputy Director of the Health Bureau, stated in his opening remarks that the country is placing strong efforts on advancing high-quality healthcare services.

He highlighted the government's "Action Plan for Comprehensive Improvement of Health Care Quality (2023-2025)" and the "Legal Framework for Medical Malpractice" enacted in 2017 to ensure fairness and protect patients' health

rights.

The training covered topics such as medical malpractice in traditional Chinese medicine, operational standards and risk prevention for acupuncture, and the potential side effects and clinical response measures for traditional Chinese medicine and acupuncture.

Participants found the course "very useful" in enhancing their clinical skills and safety awareness. VC

WTT CHAMPIONS MACAO DRAW 2024

Macau will host the WTT Champions Macao 2024, presented by Galaxy Entertainment Group, from Sept. 9-15 at the East Asian Games Dome in Cotai. The draw ceremony occurred Sept. 7, featuring top players like Wang Chuqin and Sun Yingsha, fresh from the Olympics. Sixty-four competitors will vie for titles in the men's and women's singles. The round of 32 matches begins Sept. 9 and culminates in finals on Sept. 15. Tickets range from MOP300 to MOP1,200 and can be purchased via the Damai app or from the event venue.

ROTARY CLUB CHARITY RUN TO SUPPORT POLIO

The Rotary Club of Guia is organizing a charity run on Oct. 20 at Hac Sá Reservoir Country Park in Coloane. Participants can choose between an 8-kilometer fun run or a 3-kilometer walk, with nearly 400 expected to join this year. Proceeds will aid global polio eradication efforts, which have already protected nearly 3 billion children across 122 countries. The event chairman said the last run in 2022 raised 50,000 yuan. With recent polio cases reported in Gaza, Afghanistan and Pakistan, the club aims to continue its vital work in combating this disease.

HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE GROWING BUT SLOWLY

The number of healthcare professionals has grown over the past five years, according to Health Bureau statistics. More doctors, nurses and dieticians were registered, while the number of occupational therapists and pharmacists fell. Demand for medical services also increased, with a 24.7% year-over-year rise in emergency department patients. By the end of last year, Macau had over 11,416 professionals, 99 more than the prior year. Growth came in dentistry, radiology and physiotherapy. The number of psychologists remained at 86.

GAMING

WYNN RESORTS PAYING \$130M FOR LETTING ILLEGAL MONEY REACH GAMBLERS AT VEGAS STRIP CASINO

CASINO company Wynn Resorts Ltd. has agreed to pay \$130 million to federal authorities and admit that it let unlicensed money transfer businesses around the world funnel funds to gamblers at its flagship Las Vegas Strip property.

The publicly traded company said a non-prosecution settlement reached this weekend represented a monetary figure identified by the U.S. Justice Department as "funds involved in the transactions at issue" at the Wynn Las Vegas resort.

In statements to the media and to the federal Securities and Exchange Commission, the company said the forfeiture wasn't a fine and findings in the decade-long case didn't amount to money laundering.

U.S. Attorney Tara McGrath in San Diego said the settlement showed that casinos are accountable if they let foreign customers evade U.S. laws. She said \$130 million was believed to be the largest forfeiture by a casino "based on admissions of criminal wrongdoing."

Wynn Resorts said it severed ties with all people and businesses involved in what the government characterized as "convoluted transactions" overseas.

"Several former employees facilitated the use of unlicensed



money transmitting businesses, which both violated our internal policies and the law, and for which we take responsibility," the company said in a statement Saturday to The Associated Press.

In its news release, the Justice Department detailed several methods it said were used to transfer money between Wynn Las Vegas and people in China and other countries.

One, dubbed "Flying Money," involved an unlicensed money agent using multiple foreign bank accounts to transfer money to the casino for use by a patron who could not otherwise access cash in the U.S.

Another involved having a person referred to as a "Human Head" gamble at the casino at the direction of another person who

was unwilling or unable to place bets because of anti-money laundering and other laws.

The Justice Department said one person, acting as an independent agent for the casino, conducted more than 200 money transfers worth nearly \$18 million through bank accounts controlled by Wynn Las Vegas "or associated entities" on behalf of more than 50 foreign casino patrons.

Wynn Resorts called its agreement with the government a final step in a six-year effort to "put legacy issues fully behind us and focus on our future." The SEC filing noted the investigation began about 2014.

It did not use the name of former CEO Steve Wynn. But since 2018, the parent company has been enmeshed with legal issues

surrounding his departure after sexual misconduct allegations against him were first reported by the Wall Street Journal.

Wynn attorneys in Las Vegas did not respond Saturday to messages about the company settlement.

Wynn, now 82 and living in Florida, has said he has no remaining ties to his namesake company. He has consistently denied committing sexual misconduct.

The billionaire developer of a luxury casino empire in Las Vegas, Massachusetts, Mississippi and the Chinese gambling enclave of Macau resigned from Wynn Resorts after the reports became public, divested company shares and quit the corporate board.

Last year, in an agreement with Nevada gambling regulators, he agreed to cut links to the industry he helped shape in Las Vegas and pay a \$10 million fine. He admitted no wrongdoing.

The Justice Department said Friday that as part of its investigation, 15 people previously admitted money laundering, unlicensed money transmission or other crimes, paying criminal penalties of more than \$7.5 million.

Wynn Resorts noted in its statement that its non-prosecution agreement with the government did not refer to money laundering. **MDT/AP**

GAMING

Sands China partners with Agoda to promote global tourism

VICTORIA CHAN

SANDS China has formed a strategic partnership with digital travel company Agoda to promote tourism in Macau, the companies announced.

The collaboration aims to attract international visitors to Macau and stimulate the city's tourism economy by driving increased visitation.

The agreement will see Sands China and Agoda launch multiple marketing campaigns through Agoda's platforms, starting in the fourth quarter. "We are thrilled to cement this meaningful agreement

with Agoda," said Kris Kaminsky, senior vice president of hotel operations at Sands China. "As visionary companies in our respective industries, we believe that we can make a positive impact on Macau's tourism economy. This is further demonstration of Sands China's commitment to supporting the various tourism+ initiatives and increasing diversification of visitor source markets."

Agoda will leverage its extensive Asian resources to attract more international visitors to Macau. The companies will also coordinate co-marketing ef-



orts to raise awareness of Sands China's properties. The plan is to create customized travel products and experiences aimed at attracting high-value overseas guests.

Additionally, Agoda will debut a new function

allowing flight bookings directly to Sands China locations. "We are excited to provide visitors with the opportunity to experience Macau's unique attractions and see the world for less," said Andrew Smith, Agoda's senior vice presi-

dent of supply.

The partnership supports Sands China's efforts to raise Macau's status to an international audience, aligning with the Macao Government Tourism Office's (MGTO) 'Experience Macao Limited Edition' International Promotional Campaign. The companies intend to leverage their resources for the mutual benefit and comprehensive growth of Macau's tourism industry. Together, they will explore business opportunities across multiple areas through the partnership.

Sands China runs five integrated resorts in Macau, including The Venetian Macao, The Parisian Macao and The Londoner Macao. Agoda is a digital travel platform assisting users in booking over 4.5 million global hotel and holiday listings.



1st Overseas Solo Exhibition in Macau

matsui THE DOG

by THE BIG APPLE

Barra is Now a Must-Visit Trendy Spot for Pet Lovers!



Barra District has emerged as a vibrant lifestyle hub where creativity and companionship intertwine seamlessly. With the first overseas solo exhibition of renowned Japanese illustrator matsui presented by MGM and local trendy retail brand THE BIG APPLE as its centerpiece, along with a wide array of pet-friendly activities, Barra District inspire visitors through a journey filled with heartwarming and innovative experiences, including limited-time exhibition, leisure attractions, retail collaborations and workshops, fusing art, lifestyle, pets and the community harmoniously this summer.

Barra District has been transformed into a one-stop entertainment destination for families with pets and pet lovers with the latest happenings of the "Summer Hype" Series in the area. At Navy Yard No. 1, "matsui 'The Dog' 1st Overseas Solo Exhibition in Macau" sets the stage for a truly unforgettable experience. The healing power of the artist's heartwarming works capture the pleasures of everyday life, inviting visitors to find simple happiness with each stroke of his brush. There is a pop-up store alongside the exhibition featuring matsui Macau exclusive merchandise and limited-edition chic collaborations with Japanese fashion brand BEAMS, including T-shirts, tote bags, and electronic accessories.

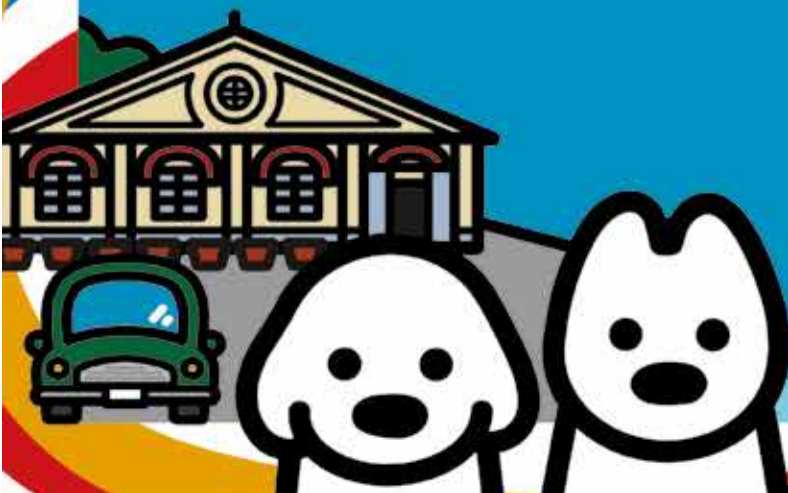


Pet lovers looking to unleash their creativity and relish family time with their furkids can opt for DIY workshops led by local artisans. From crafting pawrent-furkid shrink plastic jewelry and scarves to painting on ceramic plates and glass, these artistic workshops create unique and lasting memories for you and your furry companions.

At Navy Yard No. 2, a matsui "The Dog" themed café by local dining brand COTIZ serves a delectable curation of limited-edition specialties, as well as snacks for pets offering a sanctuary for relaxation and indulgence for humans and pets alike on hot days. Here, you can unwind and recharge with your furry companions. To facilitate a seamless experience for pet owners, local SMEs Dog Inn and Petly Duffy set up their physical stores for the first time at the Barra District, where pet owners can shop for artisanal pet food and care products during their visit. Pet strollers are also available for rent on-site. The Dog Park at the open area of Navy Yard No. 2 is another highlight, with various play facilities designed for pups, the park offers a safe and fun space for furry friends to frolic and play freely. What's more, there are plenty of photo spots indoors and outdoors!



Embark on a seamless journey with Macau's first-ever bus for pets, the "Pet Shuttle" that provides transportation service for pet owners and their furkids to travel directly to and from Barra district through Macau and Taipa on Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays. Visit this trendy hotspot during the coming holidays and be part of this evolving pet-loving community where every moment is a "pawfect" celebration of love, creativity and diversity. Visit mgm.mo for more information.



HONG KONG

VILLAGERS RELUCTANT TO SAY GOODBYE TO ONE OF THE CITY'S LAST SQUATTER SETTLEMENTS

KATIE TAM & KANIS LEUNG,
HONG KONG

IN months, Lo Yuet-ping will bid farewell to a centuries-old village he has called home in Hong Kong for more than seven decades.

The Cha Kwo Ling village in east Kowloon is filled with small houses built from metal sheets and stones, as well as old granite buildings, contrasting sharply with the high-rise structures that dominate much of the Asian financial hub.

Lo, 72, has spent his entire life here and is among an estimated 860 households required to move under a government redevelopment plan. He said he will miss the rich history, unique culture and warm interpersonal kindness that defined life in the village.

"I'm unwilling to part with anything," said Lo, who expects to be relocated to a newer district of east Kowloon.

The ongoing demolition of the Cha Kwo Ling village, set to enter its final phase in 2025, is erasing one of Hong Kong's last remaining squatter villages, making way for public housing. This settlement has wit-

nessed the former British colony's transformation from a fishing village to an industrial hub and finally to a global financial center.

Originally a settlement for the Hakka people, a Han Chinese group, Cha Kwo Ling saw an influx of mainland Chinese immigrants over the years, just like other squatter villages in the city.

Some of the immigrants arrived in the city between late 1940s and 1950s, fleeing the civil war in China or seeking better economic opportunities. The influx swelled Hong Kong's population from 600,000 in 1945 to 2 million by 1950, according to a government's website. Unable to afford housing, many people built wooden homes in squatter villages. In 1953, an estimated 300,000 people were living in such settlements across the city.

Researcher Charles Fung, co-author of a book on the city's squatter housing, described how people built squatter houses as part of a "catch-me-if-you-can game" with the authorities in British colonial times. Fung explained that the government wouldn't have to provide resettlement commitments for



Villager Lo Yuet-ping cleans the head prop that's used in the traditional Qilin Dance at the Cha Kwo Ling village in east Kowloon

homeowners if it managed to demolish the structures before people moved into them. This led people to cut wood and build houses at night along hillsides where they were difficult to find, he said.

While the structures looked vulnerable, Fung said, the villages played a crucial role in supporting Hong Kong's economy. They hosted small factories and were located

near industrial zones, informally bolstering the city's factory system during its time as a manufacturing hub, he said.

However, the precarious nature of the settlements came with risks. Fires in squatter houses have always been a concern and helped drive the British colonial government to resettle residents into public housing.

Officially, the public housing policy is presented as help for the fire victims in the squatter villages. But research suggests other political factors were at play, Fung said. One such factor was the British government's desire to prevent interference from mainland China, which wanted to send a delegation to help displaced villagers after a fire in the early 1950s. **MDT/AP**



澳門特別行政區
REGIÃO ADMINISTRATIVA ESPECIAL DE MACAU
科學技術發展基金

FUNDO PARA O DESENVOLVIMENTO DAS CIÊNCIAS E DA TECNOLOGIA

Notice

Proposal for 2024 Funding Scheme for Scientific Research and Innovation (Type A & B) of FDCT

I. Objectives

To align with the policy address of the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region, this Funding Scheme aims to assist local research institutions and researchers in launching all kinds of in-depth research projects, continue enhancing the scientific research strength and cutting-edge original innovation ability in Macao, and maintain the leading position of Macao's dominant discipline. Besides, it also promotes the industry-university-research partnership, facilitates the production of application-based research findings, and improves the contribution of scientific and technological innovation to social and economic development in Macao.

II. Types of application and requirements for Project Findings

1. Type A: for research projects conducive to enhancing scientific research strength and cutting-edge original innovation ability, with funding amount applied not exceeding MOP 3,000,000. The expected project findings, not limited to academic or applied research findings, may include papers, monographs, research (consultation) reports, patents, talent cultivation, software, hardware (prototype, mock-up), technical standards, formulas, new materials, new technologies, etc.
2. Type B: for research projects with application-oriented scientific research findings, with funding amount applied not exceeding MOP 3,000,000. The expected project findings shall include software, hardware (prototype, mock-up), technical standards, formulas, new materials, new technologies, etc., and specify the potential economic or social benefits after the utilization of the project; upon project conclusion, the expected TRL of the Type B projects shall be TRL 4 or above.

III. Target Group and Eligibility for Application

1. Public higher education institutions or public medical institutions in the Macao SAR.
2. Private higher education institutions established by law in the Macao SAR.
3. Private non-profit-making entities established by law in the Macao SAR.
4. Researchers engaged in research and development in the Macao SAR.

IV. Application Period

September 9 to October 9, 2024

V. Funding Priorities

1. To facilitate the industry-university-research collaboration in Macao, priority goes to Types B in case of limited budget.
2. For Types B, priority goes to the research projects that align with the Second Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development of the Macao Special Administrative Region (2021-2025), the Development Plan for Appropriate Economic Diversification of the Macao Special Administrative Region (2024-2028), the Policy Address for the Fiscal Year 2024, and related planning and programs of Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, etc., especially those that can promote scientific research and industrial development in the fields such as Chinese medicine, integrated circuits, electronic components, Internet of Things, big data, artificial intelligence, new energy, space science, advanced materials and biomedicine.
3. Priority goes to partnerships with enterprises in Macao or Hengqin, especially those that have been certified under the Technology Enterprises Certification Program by the DSED.

VI. Self-owned Investment

In case of collaboration with a commercial entrepreneur or commercial enterprise, such commercial entrepreneur or commercial enterprise shall provide the self-owned funds no less than 10% of the amount funded by FDCT. The self-owned investment shall meet the conditions of "Eligible Expenditures" prescribed in Article VIII.

VII. Assessment Criteria

1. Competence of the applying entity, including: R&D team and research basis, qualifications and quantity of team members, research conditions, and cooperative research.
2. Project planning, including: assessment of work plan, soundness of budget, and project feasibility.
3. Type A: it shall also consider the scientific value and cutting edge, including innovativeness and cutting edge, research findings and academic value, and assessment of research methods.
Type B: it shall also consider the assessment of technologies and research findings, including technical level, application prospect, and real-life application

VIII. Applying Method

Applying entity can apply for funding of part of the costs from FDCT through the Online Funding Application System (<https://apps.fdct.gov.mo/sams/public/main-page.faces>). Documents submitted to: Room K, 11/F, the Macau Square, No.43-53A Avenida do Infante D. Henrique, Macao; Enquiry: 28788777.

President of FDCT Administrative Committee,
Che Weng Keong
2024/09/09

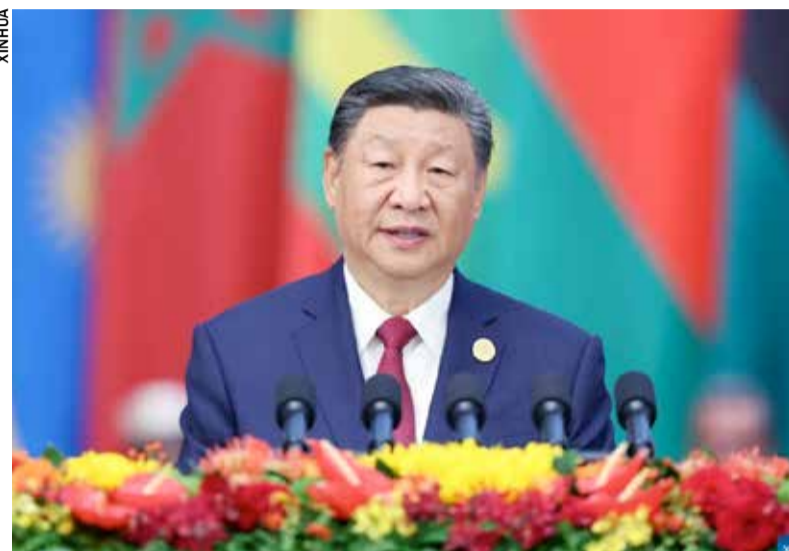
FORUM CHINA-AFRICA

Xi proposes partnership actions to jointly advance modernization with Africa

CHINESE President Xi Jinping last week announced initiatives to deepen China-Africa relations at the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). In his keynote speech, Xi outlined 10 partnership actions to be implemented over three years, aimed at advancing modernization in Africa and elevating bilateral relations.

Xi proposed raising China-Africa relations to a strategic level and characterizing them as an "all-weather China-Africa community with a shared future." He emphasized that modernization is an "inalienable right" and that global progress cannot happen without the development of China and Africa. Xi stressed the joint efforts of both regions will create a wave of modernization across the Global South, as cited by a Xinhua dispatch.

Xi's proposals were well-received. South African President



President Xi Jinping delivers keynote speech while attending the opening ceremony of the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, last week

Cyril Ramaphosa praised China's long-standing friendship with Africa and emphasized the need for continued cooperation. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called China-Africa ties a key part of South-South cooperation, noting China's development experience could

offer valuable lessons for Africa.

According to Xinhua, Xi's 10 partnership actions focus on trade, infrastructure, health, agriculture, education, green development, and security.

On mutual learning, Xi announced plans to establish 25 centers focused on China-Africa

studies. China will invite 1,000 members of African political parties to visit for governance exchanges.

In trade, Xi pledged zero-tariff treatment for 100% of products from the least developed African nations with diplomatic ties to China, benefiting 33 African countries.

China will also establish a China-Africa digital technology cooperation center and launch 20 digital projects. Xi committed to supporting small and medium-sized enterprises in Africa through empowerment programs.

Infrastructure is another major focus. China will implement 30 connectivity projects under the Belt and Road Initiative and 1,000 small livelihood projects to improve everyday life.

In health, China will send 2,000 medical personnel and establish joint medical centers. In agriculture, China will provide 1 billion yuan in emergency food assistance and send 500 experts,

aiming to create 1 million jobs in Africa.

China committed to 30 clean energy projects and cooperation in space exploration.

Regarding security, Xi announced 1 billion yuan in military assistance and proposed building a partnership to implement the Global Security Initiative in Africa.

To support these initiatives, Xi revealed that China will provide 360 billion yuan over the next three years. The summit concluded with a joint declaration to build an all-weather China-Africa community with a shared future and a three-year action plan.

Senegalese President Bassirou Diomaye Faye praised Xi's proposals, saying they demonstrate China's commitment to elevating cooperation with Africa to new heights. These initiatives reflect China's dedication to fostering stronger ties with the continent, the state news agency concluded. **MDT/XINHUA**



澳門特別行政區
REGIÃO ADMINISTRATIVA ESPECIAL DE MACAU
科學技術發展基金

FUNDO PARA O DESENVOLVIMENTO DAS CIÊNCIAS E DA TECNOLOGIA

Notice

Proposal for 2024 Funding Scheme for Enterprise Innovation and R&D (Type A & B) of FDCT

I. Objectives

To align with the policy address of the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region, this Funding Scheme aims to enhance innovation and R&D in Macao enterprises, create a research-friendly environment, and inspire enterprises to increase their R&D investment through providing financial support, so as to further promote the industry-university-research partnership, facilitate the transformation of scientific research achievements, cultivate emerging industries, and promote the appropriate diversified development of related industries in Macao.

II. Types of Application

Type A: not exceeding MOP 1,000,000;

Type B: exceeding MOP 1,000,000, but not exceeding MOP 3,000,000;

The applying entity shall invest self-owned R&D funds in a supporting manner, and the amount of investment shall not be less than the amount funded by FDCT.

III. Target Group and Eligibility for Application

Commercial entrepreneurs or commercial enterprises that fulfill the following conditions are eligible to submit application:

- Enterprises registered in the Macao SAR for one year or more.
- Enterprises not in arrears with tax and social security contributions (if any) in the Macao SAR.
- The applying entity shall also fulfill the following conditions:

Type A	Type B
<ol style="list-style-type: none">No less than three full-time employees.In case of full-time employees less than three, the applying entity shall be recommended by a nation-level makerspace established in Macao.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">No less than five full-time employees.The applying entity shall be an "enterprise engaged in scientific and technological innovation activities" accredited by the "Scientific and Technological Innovation Commercial Enterprise Accreditation Committee" according to law as stipulated in Article 6 of Law No. 1/2021 - Tax Preference System for Enterprises Engaged in Scientific and Technological Innovation Activities, or certified under the Technology Enterprises Certification Program by the DSED.

IV. Application Period

September 9 to October 9, 2024

V. Funding Priorities:

- For Types B, priority goes to the research projects that align with the Second Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development of the Macao Special Administrative Region (2021-2025), the Development Plan for Appropriate Economic Diversification of the Macao Special Administrative Region (2024-2028), the Policy Address for the Fiscal Year 2024, and related planning and programs of Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, etc., especially those that can promote scientific research and industrial development in the fields such as Chinese medicine, integrated circuits, electronic components, Internet of Things, big data, artificial intelligence, new energy, space science, advanced materials and biomedicine.
- Enterprises that have been certified under the Technology Enterprises Certification Program by the Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSED).

VI. Requirements for Project Findings

- The expected project findings shall include software, hardware (prototype, mock-up), technical standards, formulas, new materials, new technologies, etc., and specify the economic or social benefits produced after the utilization of the project.
- Upon project conclusion, the expected TRL of the Type A projects shall aim to reach TRL 4 or above, the expected TRL of the Type B projects shall be TRL 5 or above.

VII. Assessment Criteria

- Qualifications of the applicant, including scientific research foundation of the team, industry-academia-research cooperation, quality and number of members, and research conditions.
- Project planning, including the evaluation of work plan, the reasonableness of budget arrangements, and the project feasibility.
- Evaluation of technology and results, including economic or social benefits, technical level, and actual application scenarios.

VIII. Applying Method

Applying entity can apply for funding of part of the costs from FDCT through the Online Funding Application System (<https://apps.fdct.gov.mo/sams/public/main-page.faces>). Documents submitted to: Room K, 11/F, the Macau Square, No.43-53A Avenida do Infante D. Henrique, Macao; Enquiry: 28788777.

President of FDCT Administrative Committee,
Che Weng Keong
2024/09/09

AP PHOTO



CIA director William Burns

US and UK spy chiefs praise Ukraine's 'audacious' Russia incursion

JILL LAWLESS, LONDON

THE heads of the British and American foreign intelligence agencies said yesterday [Macau time that Ukraine's surprise incursion into Russia is a significant achievement that could change the narrative of the grinding 2 1/2-year war, as they urged Kyiv's allies not to be held back by Russian threats of escalation.

Richard Moore, the head of MI6, said Kyiv's surprise August offensive to seize territory in Russia's Kursk region was "typically audacious and bold on the part of the Ukrainians, to try and change the game." He said the offensive — which Ukraine said has captured about 1,300 square kilometers of Russian territory — had "brought the war home to ordinary Russians."

Speaking alongside Moore at an unprecedented joint public event in London, CIA Director William Burns said the offensive was a "significant tactical achievement" that had exposed vulnerabilities in the Russian military.

It has yet to be seen whether Ukraine can turn the gains into a long-term advantage. So far the offensive has not drawn Russian President Vladimir Putin's focus away from eastern Ukraine, where his forces are closing in on the strategically situated city of Pokrovsk.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has repeatedly pressed allies to let Kyiv use Western-supplied missiles to

strike deep inside Russia and hit sites from which Moscow launches aerial attacks. While some countries, including Britain, are thought to tacitly support the idea, others including Germany and the U.S. are reluctant.

U.S. President Joe Biden has allowed Ukraine to fire U.S.-provided missiles into Russia in self-defense, but the distance has been largely limited to cross-border targets deemed a direct threat, out of concerns about further escalating the conflict.

Burns said the West should be "mindful" of the escalation risk but not be "unnecessarily intimidated" by Russian saber-rattling, revealing that there was a moment in late 2022 when there was a "genuine risk of the use of tactical nuclear weapons" by Moscow.

He also warned of the growing and "troubling" defense relationship between Russia, China, Iran and North Korea that he said threatens both Ukraine and Western allies in the Middle East. North Korea has sent ammunition and missiles to Russia to use against Ukraine, while Iran supplies Moscow with attack drones.

Burns said the CIA had yet to see evidence of China sending weapons to Russia, "but we see lot of things short of that." And he warned Iran against supplying ballistic missiles to Moscow, saying "it would be a dramatic escalation" of the relationship.

He did not say whether such missiles had already been sent. But two people familiar with

the matter said the United States has told allies that it believes Tehran has transferred short-range ballistic missiles to Russia. They spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss a matter that has not been publicly disclosed.

Ahead of their joint appearance at the FT Weekend Festival at London's Kenwood House, the two spymasters wrote an opinion piece for the Financial Times, calling for a cease-fire in Israel's war against Hamas and saying their agencies had "exploited our intelligence channels to push hard for restraint and de-escalation."

Burns has been heavily involved in efforts to broker an end to the fighting, traveling to Egypt in August for high-level talks aimed at bringing about a hostage deal and at least a temporary halt to the conflict.

So far there has been no agreement, though United States officials insist a deal is close. Biden said recently that "just a couple more issues" remain unresolved. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, however, has said reports of a breakthrough are "exactly inaccurate."

"I cannot tell you how close we are right now," Burns told the London audience. He said negotiators are working on new, detailed proposals that would be presented within several days.

Burns said that while 90% of the text has been agreed between the warring sides, "the last 10% is the last 10% for a reason, because it's the hardest part to do."

Burns said ending the conflict would require "some hard choices and some difficult compromises" from both Israel and Hamas.

The U.S. and the United Kingdom are both staunch allies of Israel, though London diverged from Washington on Monday by suspending some arms exports to Israel because of the risk they could be used to break international law.

The intelligence chiefs' speech came ahead of a busy week of trans-Atlantic diplomacy that includes a meeting in Washington between Biden and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer. The White House said the talks would touch on Ukraine, Gaza and other issues.

In another sign of the intensification of the "special relationship," U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken will also travel to London early next week for talks with British Foreign Secretary David Lammy and other officials.

The State Department said Blinken would participate in the U.S.-U.K. strategic dialogue on Monday and Tuesday that will cover Ukraine, the Middle East, and the Indo-Pacific.

In their article, Burns and Moore stressed the strength of the trans-Atlantic relationship in the face of "an unprecedented array of threats."

They highlighted Russia's "reckless campaign of sabotage" across Europe and the "cynical use of technology to spread lies and disinformation designed to drive wedges between us." **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1976 CHAIRMAN MAO ZEDONG DIES

The chief architect of the Chinese revolution, Chairman Mao Zedong, has died at the age of 82.



His death - at 10 minutes past midnight - was announced by the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, the State Council, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and the party's Military Affairs Commission.

Chairman Mao had been in poor health for several years and had declined visibly in recent months. He had not seen any foreign visitors for some time.

It is not clear yet who will replace him. There is no designated heir to the leadership of China's 800 million citizens.

News of Chairman Mao's death has spread quickly through the Chinese capital. Many people are wearing black armbands. Groups have paid tribute opposite a huge portrait of Chairman Mao at the main entrance to the Forbidden City.

His body will now lie in state at the Great Hall of the People. A memorial service will be held in Tiananmen Square on 18 September. Everyone except those performing essential tasks will be expected to maintain a three minute silence.

The official Chinese obituary paid tribute to Chairman Mao's important struggles against "enemies" within the Chinese Communist Party, which he co-founded in 1921.

He rose to prominence as the man who led the communist forces on the epic 6,000 mile (9,656 km) "long march" to Shen in northern China to flee attacks from the nationalist Kuomintang party in the mid-1930s.

In 1949 he became chairman of the newly established People's Republic of China.

During the 1950s, Chairman Mao launched the Great Leap Forward, a campaign to increase industrial production by mobilising China's enormous manpower into rural peoples' communes.

Even after he retired as chairman of the republic he continued to influence policy as chairman of the Communist Party.

The Cultural Revolution was launched in 1966. Schools and colleges were closed and the students joined the Red Guards in an ideological crusade which led to many officials losing their jobs, being tortured and killed.

He was credited for encouraging President Richard Nixon's visit to China in February 1972, the first by an American leader. Other countries opened embassies in Beijing and China was finally granted a seat at the United Nations in 1971.

CourtesyBBCNews

IN CONTEXT

Mao Zedong was the founder of modern China and is still regarded by the Chinese as one of their great leaders.

However, he was also a ruthless leader whose policies allegedly killed tens of millions of people, according to recent academic research in the West.

The so-called "Great Leap Forward" of collectivised farming and rapid industrialisation led to nationwide famine [...]

The Cultural Revolution, which he launched to purge political opponents, dragged on for 10 years and ruined the lives and educations of a whole generation.

His death left a power vacuum in China.

The "gang of four" - leading radicals, including Mao's widow, responsible for the Cultural Revolution - attempted to take control but were arrested by Mao's successor Hua Guofeng and convicted of crimes against the state.

Deng Xiaoping emerged as China's new leader in 1978.

He liberalised academic debate and introduced economic reforms.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
 Mar. 21-Apr. 19
 Balance physical health, wellness and creative projects to grow. For three weeks, with Mercury in Virgo, physical efforts get satisfying results. Discover efficient tricks.

TAURUS
 Apr. 20-May. 20
 Express your heart. With Mercury in Virgo for three weeks, put your feelings into words. Make bold declarations. Communicate your love. Tap into creative inspiration.

GEMINI
 May. 21-Jun. 21
 Decorate, beautify and discuss solutions. Enjoy domestic creativity and self-expression over the next three weeks, with Mercury in Virgo. Share delicious moments with family.

CANCER
 Jun. 22-Jul. 22
 Savor artistry. Creative communications thrive and flower. Over three weeks, with Mercury in Virgo, you're especially brilliant. Discuss subjects you love. Share, connect and network.

LEO
 Jul. 23-Aug. 22
 Network, wheel and deal. Communication gets profitable over three weeks, with Mercury in Virgo. Use your creativity and artistry for rising cash flow.

VIRGO
 Aug. 23-Sep. 22
 Make important connections. Your natural communicative gifts and artistic creativity are enhanced over the next three weeks, with Mercury in your sign. Speak out powerfully.

LIBRA
 Sep. 23-Oct. 22
 Introspection, writing and organization provide productive results, with Mercury in Virgo. Take time for ritual, meditation and spiritual or philosophical thinking. Rest and recharge.

SCORPIO
 Oct. 23-Nov. 21
 Group communication flows. Team connections grow, with Mercury in Virgo for a three-week phase. Friends help you advance. Get more done faster together.

SAGITTARIUS
 Nov. 22-Dec. 21
 Advance your career. Take charge for desired professional outcomes over three weeks, with Mercury in Virgo. Pay attention, so you can move quickly.

CAPRICORN
 Dec. 22-Jan. 19
 Explore possibilities. Expand terrain for three weeks. Vacation or travel plans take shape, with Mercury in Virgo. Make long-distance connections. Learn and grow.

AQUARIUS
 Jan. 20-Feb. 18
 Profit through communication, with Mercury in Virgo for three weeks. Generate fruitful financial discussions, inquiries and requests. Make valuable connections. Network and collaborate.

PISCES
 Feb. 19-Mar. 20
 Collaborate with someone attractive. Partnership flowers over three weeks, with Mercury in Virgo. Compromise and negotiate for mutually beneficial solutions. Discuss dreams and possibilities.

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

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

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

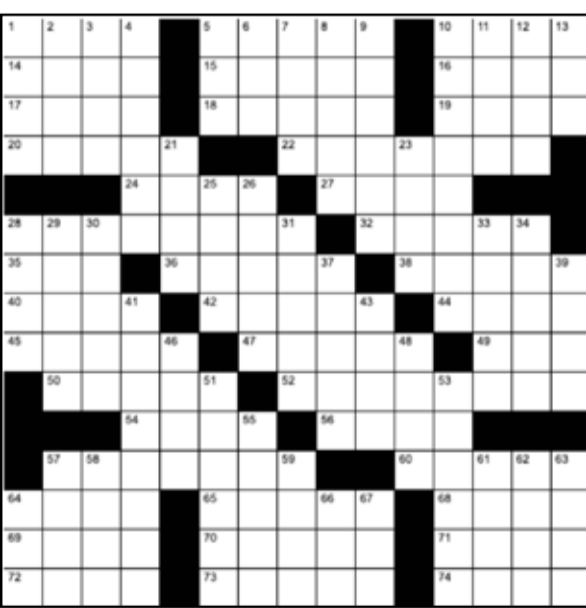
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	20	24	rain
Changchun	16	26	rain
Chengdu	25	33	rain
Chongqing	29	39	cloudy
Fuzhou	26	33	cloudy
Guangzhou	25	32	showers
Guiyang	19	27	showers
Haikou	25	34	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	26	35	cloudy
Harbin	16	27	rain
Hefei	25	35	fine
Nanjing	26	34	cloudy
Shanghai	27	34	cloudy
Taipei	25	30	rain
Wuhan	26	37	fine
Hong Kong	28	31	thunderstorm
WORLD			
Moscow	14	27	cloudy
Frankfurt	12	20	cloudy
Paris	11	18	cloudy
London	12	17	cloudy
New York	17	26	sunny

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1-Foot of a horse; 5- Blue book filler; 10- "Great" dog; 14- Ticklish Muppet; 15- ___ evil...; 16- Words of understanding; 17- Banned apple spray; 18- Primp; 19- Mariners can sail on seven of these; 20- Big; 22- Curative; 24- Periods; 27- Carson's successor; 28- Flat flour or corn bread; 32- Stream of water; 35- Half and half?; 36- Very much; 38- Informs; 40- Nair rival; 42- Columbus's birthplace; 44- Regrets; 45- Watering hole; 47- White-and-black bearlike mammal; 49- Summer hrs.; 50- Reason for a raise; 52- Proximity; 54- And others; Abbr.; 56- Sandusky's lake; 57- Smart aleck; 60- Challenger; 64- Mambo king Puente; 65- Persona non ___; 68- ___-Rooter; 69- Molecular component; 70- Brilliant success; 71- Moon goddess; 72- Sneaker or loafer; 73- Role for Clark; 74- 365 days;

DOWN 1- Get better; 2- ___ podrida; 3- Bridge expert Sharif; 4- Cease to remember; 5- Paranormal letters; 6- Sun. speech; 7- Appear; 8- Slippery as ___; 9- Over there; 10- Detect; 11- On a cruise; 12- "Hud" star Patricia; 13- Some M.I.T. grads; 21- ___ go brag!; 23- Monogram ltr.; 25- Sleep like ___; 26- Bed down; 28- ___ avail; 29- Wee hour; 30- Singer Della; 31- Kofi of the U.N.; 33- Evade; 34- Like non-oyster months; 37- Gift recipient; 39- Grounded jets; 41- Exasperating; 43- Hebrew month; 46- Web locale; 48- Like the Gobi; 51- Very thin sheet iron; 53- Almost; 55- "The Addams Family" butler; 57- Accompanied by; 58- Langston Hughes poem; 59- Bush alma mater; 61- Chap who plays the field; 62- Sicilian smoker; 63- Surf sound; 64- Univ. aides; 66- Rat-a-___; 67- Court fig.;



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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JEROME PUGMIRE &
CIARÁN FAHEY, PARIS

PARALYMPICS 2024

FRANCE WINS GOLD IN BLIND FOOTBALL UNDER EIFFEL TOWER LIGHTS

FRANCE defeated Argentina 3-2 on penalties under the lights of the Eiffel Tower for the gold medal in blind football on the penultimate day of the Paralympic Games.

Frederic Villeroux scored the decisive spot kick to get the partisan home fans' party underway after the teams drew 1-1 in normal time yesterday [Macau time].

"It felt like the script of a film," said Villeroux, who also made the breakthrough in the 12th minute when he rifled a shot inside the left post.

Argentine star forward Maximiliano Espinillo replied from close range straight away after the French defenders failed to clear the ball.

"You have to take the good and accept the bad, but we are still very proud," Espinillo said.

France is the first team other than Brazil to win blind football at a Paralympics. Brazil won all five previous golds since it was first played at the 2004 Athens Games.

AP PHOTO



France's captain Frederic Villeroux celebrate after scoring the decisive penalty and winning the blind football gold medal

The five-time defending champion, which had never lost a match before Thursday's penal-

ty loss to Argentina in the semifinals, was consoled by the bronze medal after a 1-0 win over Colombia

thanks to a fierce strike from Jefinho in the 24th minute.

Known as the "Paralympic Pelé" because of speed and skill, Jefinho scored in off the left post despite facing two defenders, setting off a roar of appreciation around the Eiffel Tower Stadium.

"Today we left all disappointments behind and were able to win," Jefinho said.

Blind football is an adaptation of soccer for teams of five players with an audible ball of rattles. The four outfield players must be classified as completely blind, while the goalkeeper is sighted and instructs his teammates where to go. A guide behind the opposition goal also instructs the attacking players.

Though the four outfield Argentine players couldn't have seen the sea of French flags around the stadium, they would have heard the fevered rendition of the French anthem around them, and chants of "Allez les Bleus" from the home crowd. The fans were quiet when the ball was in play so the players could hear their guides' instructions.

As fulltime approached, the supporters started a boisterous Mexican wave during a break in

play. It continued silently when play resumed – so the players would not be disturbed.

MORE GOLDS FOR THE US

On another solid day for United States athletes, Jake Williams scored 26 points as the men won the wheelchair basketball gold by beating Britain 73-69.

That made it three from three for the U.S. in Games basketball after the men and women won thrilling finals against France at the Olympics last month, also at Bercy Arena.

Fans at Bercy are used to hearing "The Star-Spangled Banner" and they will listen to it again if the women's team wins its final against the Netherlands on Sunday.

Earlier, Germany's men won the bronze-medal match against Canada 75-62.

Meanwhile, the U.S. sitting volleyball team made it three golds straight by defeating China 3-1 in the women's final. The Americans have won every title since 2016 in Rio de Janeiro.

The U.S. equestrian team won three more medals in Paralympics dressage, and Fiona Howard and Rebecca Hart clinched their third gold me-

dals of the Paris Games.

The Paralympic debutant Howard won the Grade II individual freestyle and the veteran Hart won it in Grade III. Earlier, teammate Kate Shoemaker claimed bronze in Grade IV.

Riders compete in five grades, with Grade I for the most severely impaired riders.

Howard and Hart previously won individual golds this week and helped the U.S. win the team event on Friday.

LONG MAY IT CONTINUE

American swimmer Jessica Long extended her mammoth Paralympics medal collection to 31 with gold in the S8 100-meter butterfly.

She won in 1 minute, 10.59 seconds at La Défense Arena, finishing one second clear of Viktoriia Ishchiulova. Britain's Alice Tai was third.

The 32-year-old Long also won the women's 400 freestyle on Wednesday.

Her Paralympic career started when she was 12 and won three golds at the 2004 Athens Games.

S8 is for swimmers with the absence of limbs. Long is a double amputee.

The last medals of the Games are up for grabs on Sunday. MDT/AP

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

RUGBY

Springboks close in on championship crown after fourth straight win over All Blacks

SOUTH Africa regained the Freedom Cup and put a hand on the Rugby Championship trophy by beating New Zealand 18-12 for a rare fourth successive time on Saturday.

The Springboks trailed 9-3 at halftime but scored the only two tries of the penalty-plagued game to remain unbeaten in the championship after four rounds. They can clinch their first championship since 2019 — before they won the last two Rugby World Cups — in two weeks against the Pumas in Argentina.

They last won the Freedom Cup, played for only between the teams, 15 years ago.

"This game was really big for us," captain Siya Kolisi said. "Outside of the Rugby World Cup final, this was the biggest game for us. We are really happy."

Behind 13-12, the All Blacks



AP PHOTO

had two penalty kick attempts in the last quarter to regain the lead while Springboks fullback Willie le Roux was in the sin-bin. But Damian McKenzie hit the post in the 63rd minute and missed from just 35 meters in front in the 72nd.

Moments later, All Blacks prop Tyrel Lomax obstructed Cheslin

Kolbe and was yellow-carded. The Springboks put the kickable penalty into the corner, mauled from the lineout, and replacement hooker Malcolm Marx charged over the tryline in the left corner.

For the last five minutes, world champion South Africa pinned the defending champion All Bla-

cks in their half then celebrated.

They'd ended the All Blacks reign over the Rugby Championship for the last four years, and kept their greatest foe tryless in this contest for the first time since 2007.

The game never reached the heights of the classic last weekend

at Ellis Park, where South Africa won 31-27. There were too many errors on top of 27 penalties, the Boks conceding 14.

In the first half, New Zealand deserved its 9-3 lead, all the points from penalties. It had the two best players on the field in hooker Codie Taylor, despite missing 10 minutes for a head injury check, and flanker Wallace Sititi, making his first test start on his 22nd birthday.

The pair continued to lead the All Blacks after the break. But the Springboks finally got a foothold in the New Zealand 22 and made it count in the 45th minute after a third straight lineout maul. Rucks thinned the New Zealand defense and Kolisi — playing with a broken nose — plunged over.

Handre Pollard converted to put South Africa in front for the first time at 10-9, and was replaced by Sacha Feinberg-Mngomezulu, who immediately landed a penalty for 13-9.

McKenzie's fourth penalty from five attempts cut the gap to one as they entered the final quarter.

The All Blacks, slower to clear their bench than South Africa, were on a roll that English referee Matt Carley rewarded with penalties. But McKenzie missed them and, in between, a penalty in Jordie Barrett's range was turned down.

The visitors never got chances at points again. **MDT/AP**

AD

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OPINION

Business Views

Michael Merschel, AHA News



SPORTS BETTING HAS CHANGED. COULD IT AFFECT YOUR HEALTH?

Sports betting has undergone a major transformation in recent years, driven by legal changes and mobile technology. "It's not even the same world," says Dr. Timothy Fong, a psychiatry professor at UCLA and co-director of the UCLA Gambling Studies Program. Twenty years ago, betting legally required a trip to a casino in Las Vegas or Atlantic City. Today, thanks to mobile apps and widespread legalization, you can gamble from anywhere.

This shift has been propelled by hundreds of millions of dollars spent on advertising by the gambling industry, making sports betting more accessible than ever. However, few people realize the potential health consequences tied to this type of gambling. According to Fong, gambling is "completely intertwined with our physical health."

The 2018 Supreme Court ruling that lifted restrictions on sports betting in the U.S. ignited a boom, with 38 states and Washington D.C. now offering legal betting. In 2023, a record \$119.8 billion was legally wagered on sports. Bettors can now wager on everything from individual pitches in a baseball game to obscure sports like Polish table tennis.

While this accessibility excites gamblers and benefits the industry, it raises concerns about problematic gambling behavior. Dr. Marc Potenza, a psychiatry professor at Yale University and director of Yale's Center of Excellence in Gambling Research, points to the risks associated with the rise in sports betting. After Connecticut legalized sports betting in 2021, calls to the state's gambling helpline jumped 91%, most from young men or their families. Other states have seen similar patterns.

Research shows that gambling problems often coincide with other health issues. About 1% of U.S. adults meet the criteria for a severe gambling problem, with an additional 2-3% having mild or moderate issues, according to the National Council on Problem Gambling. Fong says those with gambling disorders often experience poor physical health, are less likely to engage in self-care, and are more prone to smoking, heavy drinking, and cannabis use.

A study co-authored by Potenza in 2013 found that older adults with gambling problems were more than twice as likely to develop arteriosclerosis, a condition where plaque builds up in arteries, and 53% more likely to develop heart conditions. Another 2023 study on Swedish gamblers found higher rates of cardiovascular, respiratory, and diabetes-related issues among problem gamblers.

Much of the existing research predates the current sports-betting boom, and researchers are only beginning to explore how different types of gambling might affect health. A 2023 study found that sports bettors are more likely to be binge drinkers than non-gamblers, but more research is needed.

Fong emphasizes that gambling taps into the brain's reward systems, releasing chemicals that bring pleasure but can also lead to stress. The stress associated with gambling has been linked to various health issues, and problem gamblers often experience significant physical and mental tolls. Fong compares modern sports betting to playing a slot machine, where people may sit for hours, awaiting the next bet.

For most people, gambling is a form of entertainment. A 2022 Harris Poll found that 42% of sports bettors did so because their friends were doing it. However, Potenza warns that secretive behavior or lying about gambling is a sign of concern. If someone feels they're losing control, he recommends seeking help early, as the consequences can escalate.

Fong stresses the importance of addressing gambling problems before they spiral into severe issues, like financial ruin or legal trouble. "By the time people come see providers like me, things are really, really severe," he says. Though many questions remain about how sports betting affects health, Fong believes significant progress has been made in recent years, with much more still to be uncovered. [Abridged]

With hopes of attracting an average of 100,000 tourists daily from mainland China, Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, Director of the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO), expressed optimism about the upcoming holiday period yesterday to local media, as it is expected to be a peak time for tourism. The MGTO director foresees a significant influx of visitors during Golden Week.

Provisional data revealed that Macau welcomed 3.66 million tourists in August, marking a robust summer season. From July to August, the region recorded nearly 6.7 million arrivals, averaging 108,000 visitors per day—93% of pre-pandemic levels in 2019. Notably, August

saw an average of 118,000 daily tourists, surpassing figures from the same month in 2019.

Highlighting the festivities, the 32nd Macau International Fireworks Display Contest will coincide with the Golden Week, promising to enhance the appeal for visitors. The event, known for its spectacular pyrotechnic displays, will feature teams from around the world, further solidifying Macau's status as a premier tourist destination.

Following recent weather-related postponements, the MGTO plans to announce the revised schedule for the fireworks displays today.

VICTORIA CHAN



'PETS FRIENDLY EXHIBITION' BRINGS ART AND DOGS TOGETHER

VICTORIA CHAN

CELEBRATED Japanese illustrator Kazumasa Matsui has transported his vibrant and whimsical world of "The Dog" paintings to Macau, captivating art enthusiasts and pet lovers alike at a unique exhibition.

Matsui's innovative approach to art merges simplicity with vividness, capturing the lively essence and humor of dogs through his distinctive style. The "Pets Friendly Exhibition" not only showcases his works but also integrates pets into the art experience, breaking traditional boundaries and fostering a unique and inclusive atmosphere. Pet owners were encouraged to bring their furry friends, with the exhibition even providing trams for the pets to ride in, allowing guests to admire the art and participate in the activities with their dogs.

During the opening event, Matsui treated

guests to a live painting session, featuring two dogs and two flowers. In an interview, he shed light on his artistic inspirations, revealing how his deep affection for dogs and his imaginative interactions with them fuel his creativity. He explained his fondness for the bamboo fence symbol, which he feels resembles a dog's nose, and shared that drawing dogs is a relaxing and stress-free process for him.

Regarding his flower drawings, Matsui expressed that his aim is to evoke a sense of comfort and relaxation through his softer, stylized representations, rather than focusing on realism. He emphasized the bond between owner and pet as the primary focus of his dog-themed artworks, stating, "The focus is more on the bond between the owner and the pet. I really like the dogs I create because they seem to be very compatible and make great companions."

Beyond the paintings, the exhibition offers an interactive experience, with workshops designed to engage both people and pets, fostering shared memories and creativity. A pet-friendly café also provides a leisurely space for visitors to enjoy moments of relaxation with their furry companions.

Limited-edition products co-developed by Matsui and THE BIG APPLE creative team will be available for purchase, with a portion of the proceeds dedicated to supporting local animal protection associations, blending art appreciation with philanthropy.

With his "The Dog" series gaining widespread popularity across Japan, Matsui's debut overseas solo exhibition in Macau hopes to infuse the city with a new wave of creativity and warmth, bridging the gap between art and daily life in a truly unique and heartwarming manner.

AP PHOTO



Israel Three Israelis were killed yesterday in a shooting at the West Bank-Jordan border crossing, linked to ongoing tensions with Gaza. The assailant, entering from Jordan, was killed during the attack.

AP PHOTO



USA The U.S. believes Iran has transferred short-range ballistic missiles to Russia, escalating its involvement in the Ukraine conflict. This development is part of broader concerns about Iran's role in global security and its alliances with countries like Russia, China, and North Korea.

AP PHOTO



Haiti The U.S. and Ecuador proposed a U.N. resolution for deploying peacekeepers in Haiti to replace a Kenya-led police mission. The resolution aims to maintain security gains and support Haitian police in controlling gang violence amid severe political and social instability.

AP PHOTO



South Africa's Justice Minister Thembisa Simelane (pictured) denied corruption allegations related to a banking scandal at VBS Mutual Bank. She refuted claims linking her to illegal dealings and financial misconduct during her tenure as mayor, emphasizing her commitment to impartiality in her current role.