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PORTUGUESE DELEGATION TOURED HENGQIN AIMING TO ENHANCE INDUSTRIAL COLLABORATION

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MICE: MIF CONCLUDES WITH 14% MORE VISITATION

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PRABOWO SUBIANTO WAS INAUGURATED AS THE EIGHTH PRESIDENT OF INDONESIA

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XINHUA



China A Zhaopin report reveals that average wages for new recruits in major Chinese cities, including Beijing and Shanghai, dropped 2.5% in the third quarter, with Shanghai offering the highest salaries, according to China Daily. The financial sector remains the most lucrative for jobseekers.

AP PHOTO



Japan Former Japanese Empress Michiko, who turned 90, is recovering from a broken leg. The empress, Japan's first commoner to hold the title, remains engaged in literature and daily routines, sharing time with her husband, retired Emperor Akihito, at their residence.

AP PHOTO



Palau Rangers protect Palau's biologically diverse Helen Reef from poachers, patrolling its waters despite logistical challenges. This remote reef, rich in marine life, faces threats from poaching and climate change, with rangers planning measures to counter rising sea levels affecting their station.

AP PHOTO



Ukraine-Russia Russia returned yesterday [Macau time] 501 soldiers' bodies to Ukraine in the largest repatriation of war dead since the invasion. As negotiations stall, Ukraine pushes for NATO membership, while President Putin remains firm on keeping annexed regions under Russian control.

GUIA AMBITION

Malaysian racing star **Leona Chin** is seeking sponsorship to compete in this year's **Macau Grand Prix** P2



BASKETBALL

UB HUIZHAN NE WINS MACAU'S 3X3 WORLD TOUR EVENT

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GAMING

ASIAN AMERICAN TO APPEAL TO HIGHEST COURT IN LAWSUIT AGAINST LVS

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MACAU GP

MALAYSIAN RACING STAR SEEKS SPONSORS FOR MACAU GP AMBITION

RENATO MARQUES

MALAYSIAN racing star Leona Chin is actively seeking sponsorship to compete in the Macau Grand Prix, as announced on her social media channels.

In conversation with the Times, Chin hopes to secure support to participate in the Greater Bay Area GT Cup - GT4 category.

She noted that while she usually can find sponsors to race in Malaysia, she has faced "many rejections lately, mostly because of where the race is held." She emphasized that motorsport is bigger than regions or borders, stating, "It's about passion, persistence, and teamwork. I hope that somewhere, there are companies that see beyond boundaries and believe that supporting an athlete means empowering dreams, no matter where they race," she said.

Chin revealed that Malaysian sponsors are reluctant to back



her for this event because the race is set in Macau.

Although her name has previously appeared on entry lists for Macau races, she has never had the chance to compete on the Guia Circuit. She hopes to finally make her debut this No-

vember, driving a Porsche 718 Cayman GT4 RS.

Earlier this month, Chin celebrated her GT-level endurance racing debut with a podium finish at the Shanghai 8 Hours Endurance Race, held at the Shanghai International Circuit.

Competing with Team Z-Speed in the GTC-Porsche category, Chin and her teammates secured third-place in a field of 17 cars across multiple GT categories.

Chin gained international fame for a series of prank videos

made in collaboration with a motorsports channel in Malaysia, where she posed as various characters pretending to be inexperienced behind the wheel, only to surprise unsuspecting people with her impressive drifting skills.

BASKETBALL

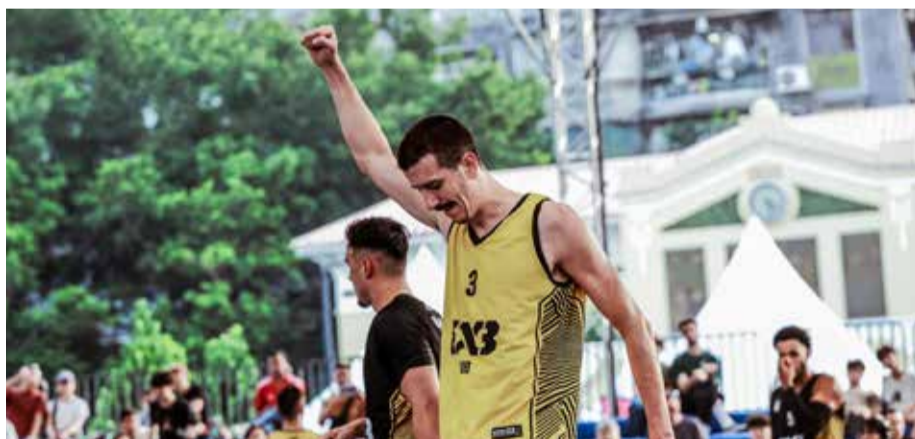
Ub Huishan NE wins Macau's 3x3 World Tour event

SERBIAN team Ub Huishan NE has won the Macau round of the 3x3 World Tour basketball event, held over the weekend at Tap Seac Square.

In the final match, Ub Huishan NE defeated the French team Paris 21-16.

The Serbian team finished the tournament with a perfect record, winning all five matches with an average of 20.6 points per match.

Before reaching the final, Paris beat Partizan Meta Force (Serbia) 21-15 in the semi-finals, while Ub Huishan NE secured victory over



Bahrain's team, Riffa, by an equal score (21-15).

Strahinja Stojacic from Ub Huishan NE continued his path to personal glory, currently leading the rankings for 'top player value,' 'top scorer' and

'most highlights.'

His teammate, Nemanja Bara, tops the list for 'most rebounds.'

With only four rounds remaining before the Grand Final in Hong Kong in November, the 3x3 World Tour

will head to Abu Dhabi this weekend, followed by events in Manama, Neom, and Shenzhen.

The Grand Final is scheduled for November 22-24, featuring the top competitors in the sport. **RM**

CHILDREN'S ARTS FESTIVAL GREETSS 210,000 PARTICIPANTS

HELD for the first time in July and August, the Macao International Children's Arts Festival saw 210,000 participants, Ieng Weng Fat, a member of the Cultural Development Consultative Committee, told a press briefing after a committee meeting.

Ieng noted this figure is, for the time being, an estimate; one of the festival's programs, the Fantastic Art World from Centre Pompidou, is still ongoing, running until Oct. 27.

From the total estimated number of participants, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) said 100,000 were involved merely through the festival's out-

door, large-scale events.

IC also noted this first Children's Arts Festival was very well received by both locals and visitors, with the bureau noting there had been over 1,000 local social media posts about it, as well as another 800 from outside Macau.

Ieng added that in the discussion during yesterday's meeting, members discussed how to improve next year's event, with the committee hearing several ideas related to festival themes and other aspects.

The committee members' opinions converged and this year's festival was considered a success. The committee believes this initiative should continue for years to come. **RM**

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Portuguese delegation tours Hengqin for cooperation talks

NADIA SHAW

A delegation from Portugal visited the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin (cooperation zone), aiming to enhance industrial collaboration and explore new avenues for cooperation between Chinese and Portuguese enterprises. This visit follows a recent trip by several other delegations, including Brazilian and Portuguese representatives to the same cooperation zone, highlighting a growing interest in cross-border partnerships in the Greater Bay Area.

The delegation engaged in discussions with major players, including Huafa Group, focusing on sectors such as cross-border e-commerce, biomedicine, and technology development.



Li Ziwei, director of the Economic Development Bureau of the cooperation zone, highlighted

Hengqin's four new growing industries and the supportive policies designed to attract foreign

investment. He emphasized the importance of leveraging the Macau-China-Portuguese pla-

tform to tap into international markets.

During their visit, the delegation toured various facilities within the cooperation zone, including the cross-border e-commerce industrial park. Representatives expressed optimism about Shenzhen He District's comprehensive infrastructure and vibrant industrial ecosystem, which they believe offers significant growth potential.

The timing of this visit coincided with the 29th Macao International Trade and Investment Fair, enhancing opportunities for networking and collaboration. The Commerce and Investment Promotion Institute noted that such exchanges foster a deeper understanding of investment advantages in Macau and Hengqin.

As both regions strive to attract more Portuguese-speaking enterprises, officials are optimistic that these initiatives will yield fruitful partnerships. "We aim to make the cooperation zone a preferred entry point for Portuguese-speaking businesses into mainland China," Li stated.

MIF concludes with 14% more visitation

NADIA SHAW

THE 29th Macao International Trade and Investment Fair and the Macao Franchise Expo 2024 concluded on October 19, with a significant increase in participation and business opportunities. The four-day event attracted over 66,000 visitors, including more than 9,600 trade visitors, marking a nearly 14% rise from last year.

The concurrent fairs featured over 1,300 exhibitors across ten themed areas, with a special focus on Portuguese-speaking countries. Paulo Dinis, Executive Director of the AEP Foundation, noted the importance of these events in promoting internationalization. "Macao represents an opportunity to take Portuguese products further in a constantly growing market," he said, emphasizing



the role of innovation and knowledge transfer in strengthening bilateral relations.

The organizers arranged over 1,000 business matching sessions, leading to 103 projects being signed. Nearly half of these projects align with Macau's "1+4" economic diversification strategy. "The effectiveness

of promoting investment through exhibitions was elevated this year," remarked Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng during the opening ceremony. He highlighted Macau's historical significance as a bridge between China and Portuguese-speaking nations.

Exhibitors expressed satisfaction with their experiences,

with one representative from a Portuguese-speaking enterprise saying, "The themed matching sessions enabled us to connect with mainland Chinese businesses." This sentiment was echoed throughout the fair, as many participants reported fruitful collaborations and new market insights.



MGM HOSTS CULTURAL HERITAGE FASHION EVENT

NADIA SHAW

MGM Macau hosted a series of fashion events yesterday aimed at promoting the innovative development of intangible cultural heritage within the fashion industry. The event, titled "Intangible Cultural Heritage Fashion Series," included seminars, workshops, and fashion shows designed to enhance the quality and modernization of Macau's fashion landscape.

The event invited students from mainland and overseas designers to explore the intersection of fashion and cultural heritage. Nearly 70 fashion students from universities in Macau, the mainland, and Hong Kong participated, fostering collaboration and interaction with local industry professionals. "I feel very grateful to the mentors at today's event," said a local secondary student attending a dress-making workshop. "This opportunity allows me to deepen my understanding of dress construction and the role fashion plays in Chinese culture."

Pansy Ho, Chairman and Executive Director of MGM China, emphasized the significance of this event as a collaborative effort with the Prince Kung's Palace Museum.

A key figure in this cultural dialogue was Lawrence Xu, a prominent designer known for his ability to blend Eastern and Western aesthetics. Born in 1974, Xu graduated from Tsinghua University's Central Academy of Fine Arts before studying fashion in Paris. He has since gained international acclaim for his haute couture designs that incorporate traditional Chinese elements, such as the iconic yellow dragon robe worn by actress Fan Bingbing at the Cannes Film Festival in 2010.

Xu served as a source of wisdom for aspiring designers present at the event, advocating for the integration of cultural heritage into contemporary fashion. His work exemplifies how traditional craftsmanship can be transformed into modern industry practices, inspiring a new generation of designers to explore their cultural roots while innovating for the future.

TOUR GROUPS VISITING NON-GAMING ATTRACTIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC SURGE

RENATO MARQUES

A surge in pedestrian traffic near gaming concessionaire venues in Macau appears to be caused by tour groups visiting non-gaming attractions, The Times has learned.

Recently, large crowds have been observed near the entrance of Wynn Macau. According to a public relations officer from Wynn, this influx is tied to tour groups visiting attractions such as the 'Tree of Prosperity.'

The Tree of Prosperity is one of the local attractions featured on the Macao Government Tourism Office website as part of its 'family fun' entertainment offerings.

The golden tree features over 2,000 branches and 98,000 leaves made from 24-karat gold leaf and brass, symbolizing auspiciousness.

Located at the Rotunda Atrium of Wynn Macau, the Tree of Prosperity is part of a choreographed performance blending music,



video, and light. The centerpiece, which fills the atrium, depicts Chinese and Western astrological

symbols rising from the floor. The performance runs daily from noon to 10 p.m. at 60-minute intervals.

According to Wynn security staff, visitor groups must be split into smaller groups for safety and ve-

nue capacity reasons, often resulting in visitors waiting outside for the next show.

Gaming equipment provided to enhance live multi-game offerings with AI features

VICTORIA CHAN

MACAU-BASED provider of gaming equipment LT Game Ltd is upgrading its live multi-game (LMG) product to better engage players. The upgraded platform, slated for launch in the first half of 2025, will feature improved hardware, software, and artificial intelligence capabilities, according to Chief Operating Officer Eddie Au.

The new LMG system will be offered through LT Game's "SpeedWave" slant-top cabinet, which will be unveiled at a product-release event in Macau this November. The new system interface will allow players to interact via touch gestures, offering a smartphone- or tablet-like experience. "This experience is much more aligned with how people typically use their mobile devices nowadays," Au explained.



Players will be able to enlarge the video feed of any live table game they wish to wager on, and customize the arrangement of game windows on the screen. "This will not be based on any 'point and click' feature," Au said. Instead, people will move one or two fingers on the touchscreen to interact with the interface.

The upgraded LMG

system will initially target the Macau market, according to Au. The LMG category's gross gaming revenue in Macau has shown strong recovery this year, reaching MOP3.16 billion in the first three quarters, about 9.3% higher than the nearly MOP2.9 billion generated in all of 2023.

In addition to the LMG updates, LT Game

is also looking to promote its standalone and fully-automated electronic table game (ETG) products overseas, particularly in the United States and Philippines markets. The company plans to launch its "Personal Craps" ETG product by the end of this year or early 2025, which will also be featured on the new SpeedWave cabinet.



CASINO SHUTTLE BUSES TO USE NEW MACAU BRIDGE

THE Macau Transport Bureau (DSAT) has directed casino shuttle buses to use the new Macau Bridge to relieve congestion on the Amizade Bridge.

To ease traffic congestion, the DSAT has instructed shuttle buses used by the city's concessionaires to transport passengers between the Macau peninsula and Cotai to use the recently opened Macau Bridge.

The new policy is expected to divert pressure from the heavily trafficked Amizade Bridge. DSAT confirmed the change has already been implemented for most such trips.

"To tie in with the opening of Macau Bridge, DSAT has coordinated the

vehicles of gaming companies (the concessionaires) to take Macau Bridge as the route for their operation from the Border Gate and Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge to Cotai, to ease the pressure of the traffic flow of the Amizade Bridge," the bureau said in a statement to Inside Asia Gaming.

According to DSAT, the average travel time for concessionaire vehicles has been reduced by 3-5 minutes after switching to the new Macau Bridge route. The bureau also noted the peak traffic volume on the Amizade Bridge has decreased by about 10% during evening rush hours since the opening of the new crossing. VC

AAEC VS LVS

TSI denies Asian American appeal in lawsuit against LVS that goes back to the origins of gaming liberalization

PAULO COUTINHO

THE Court of Second Instance (TSI) has denied the appeal of Asian American Entertainment Corporation (AAEC) in its lawsuit against Las Vegas Sands (LVS), upholding a previous ruling from the Court of First Instance (TJB).

In April 2022, the TJB ruled against AAEC's claim for damages from LVS. AAEC then appealed the decision to the TSI, which has now rejected the appeal. Other appeals filed by AAEC and LVS during the legal proceedings that had not been decided were held to be irrelevant to the decision.

The second court ruled that these other appeals previously filed by both parties were unnecessary to rule upon now that a decision has been made on the AAEC's appeal against the April 2022 TJB judgment.

AAEC's lawyer, Jorge Menezes, affirmed that AAEC will appeal the decision to the Court of Final Appeal (TUI).

AAEC has 10 days to request leave to appeal, which is mandatorily granted by law.

Once the TSI notifies AAEC that the appeal has been accepted, the company has 30 days to file its statement on the grounds of appeal, followed by another 30 days for LVS to file its counter statement of appeal.

On Friday, Menezes told the



Times that, "I have not yet seen a copy of the second instance's judgment, so I do not know the reasons underpinning the decision."

Since both parties' statements of appeal to the court of second instance were written in Portuguese and the judges of the court

are bilingual, he said, "I am confident that the judgment will be written in Portuguese, which is an official language in Macau."

"I can assure you that we will fight until the very end. We cannot see any reason that would justify denying AAEC's appeal after the errors found in the Court

of First Instance's judgment issued two years ago". Therefore, "we will stretch our right foot and accelerate at maximum strength," he added.

The lawyer, who was named Macau Daily Times' Person of the Year in 2018, declined to comment on the case itself.

"I will not comment on the contents of the case."

At stake are tens or hundreds of millions of dollars in compensation in a case that delves into the origins of gaming semi-liberalization and the creation of the juridical figure of sub-concessions.

CORPORATE BITS

SJM receives 13 accolades at China's Wine List of the Year Awards



SJM Resorts celebrated its achievements at China's Wine List of the Year Awards 2024, which was held during the "SJM Asia Top Sommelier Summit 2024".

The accolades included two Grand Awards for China's Best Hotel Group, two Grand Awards

for Best Wine List, and nine "3 Glass Awards" for its renowned restaurants.

Co-organized by SJM and the Asia Wine Institute, the five-day summit attracted over 300 sommeliers and food and beverage professionals from Asia.

The summit also featured a diverse range of events aside from the award ceremony, which included a wine carnival, competitions, masterclasses, the three-day "Court of Master Sommeliers Accreditation Program," and wine and spirits awards.

"We are deeply honored to receive these awards at China's Wine List of the Year Awards as they are a testament to our team's commitment to creating exceptional dining experiences," Ms. Daisy Ho, Managing Director of SJM, expressed. She further added that the summit gathered passionate professionals to share knowledge, showcasing Macau as "a bridge between cultures" and "a premier platform for global collaboration."

Chef Tam's Seasons and Broth honored in Trip.Best Gourmet Awards



Two signature restaurants from Wynn have been recognized in the Trip.Best Gourmet Awards 2024 by Trip.Gourmet, the leading food travel guide by Trip.com.

For their cuisine and guest dining experience, Chef Tam's

Seasons at Wynn Palace and Broth by André Chiang at Mizumi Wynn Macau garnered the "Diamond" award and the "Platinum" award, respectively.

Chef Tam's Seasons, helmed by Chef Tam Kwok Fung, serves a seasonal menu ins-

pired by the 24 solar terms of traditional Chinese wisdom and also offers tea and Chinese wine pairings to celebrate the region's rich history and culture.

The restaurant has received a number of awards within its debut year, including one Michelin star and the only entry from Macau to be ranked on Asia's 50 Best Restaurants 2024.

Broth by André Chiang, helmed by Chef André Chiang, presents a personalized hot pot experience that fuses Chinese culinary traditions, Pan-Asian varieties, and French precision.

Eight signature broths are being served at the restaurant, each claiming to be an elevated hot pot experience of fresh ingredients and homemade treats.

DIPLOMACY

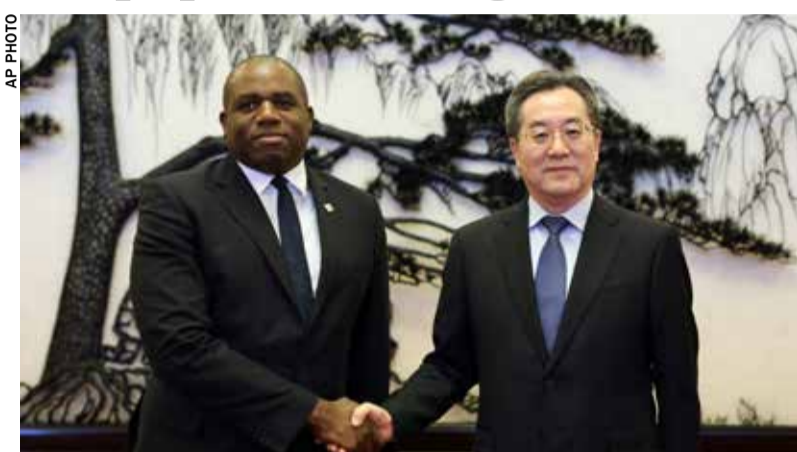
UK Foreign Secretary Lammy urges China against supporting Russia's military

BRITAIN'S foreign secretary raised concerns about China's support of Russia in its war against Ukraine, urging his Chinese counterpart to prevent Chinese firms from supplying to Russia's military in a meeting in Beijing.

David Lammy made the comments as he made his first visit by a Cabinet minister to China since the Labor government took control in July. He met last Friday with Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang and held talks with Foreign Minister Wang Yi later the same day.

The two-day trip is an attempt to reset ties with Beijing after relations turned frosty in recent years over spying allegations, China's support for Russia in the Ukraine war and a crackdown on civil liberties in Hong Kong, a former British colony.

While Britain's government stressed that engagement with China was "pragmatic and necessary," officials said Lammy raised thorny issues including Russia



Britain's Foreign Secretary David Lammy and Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang before their meeting at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing

and human rights concerns.

Lammy "stated how both the U.K. and China have a shared interest in European peace and ending the war. He reaffirmed that concerns over China's supply of equipment to Russia's military industrial complex risks damaging China's relationships with Europe whilst helping to sustain Russia's war," the Foreign Office said in a statement after the meeting.

Lammy urged Wang to "take all measures to investigate and to prevent Chinese companies from supplying Russia's military," the statement said, adding the two sides agreed to continue discussions on this and other geopolitical issues such as the conflict in the Middle East.

The United States sanctioned two Chinese companies last week for allegedly helping Russia build long-range attack drones

used in the war in Ukraine. The Chinese Embassy in Washington said the allegations were false.

Lammy also raised "serious concerns" about the implementation of a sweeping national security law in Hong Kong, and called for the release of Hong Kong publisher and activist Jimmy Lai.

Lai, 76, has been in custody since December 2020 and will testify in November for his defense in a landmark national security trial. He has British citizenship and his legal team has been pressing British authorities to do more to help him.

Before traveling to China, Lammy said it was important to speak "candidly" about "both areas of contention as well as areas for cooperation in the U.K.'s national interest."

Wang said that Taiwan and Hong Kong affairs were all "China's internal matters" and that "not interfering in internal matters was a basic premise of international relations," according to

a readout from China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

He said China and the United Kingdom should boost economic cooperation and find areas of consensus in global politics, despite areas of deep disagreement. The statement did not state particulars of China's response on the country's support of Russia in the war.

"China is willing to work with all countries including the U.K. ... to seek peace for the world and pursue development for mankind," Wang said.

Lammy's China tour also includes Shanghai, where he will meet with British business leaders, the Foreign Office said. China, including Hong Kong, is the U.K.'s fourth-largest trading partner.

The last British foreign secretary to visit China was James Cleverly in 2023, when he underlined the importance of maintaining regular dialogue with Beijing despite differences. **MDT/AP**

DIPLOMACY

South Africa asks Taiwan to move its unofficial embassy out of the capital

SOUTH Africa has asked Taiwan to move its unofficial embassy out of the administrative capital, Pretoria, in a move that's seen as appeasing ally China.

The South African foreign ministry said over the weekend that it had given Taiwan a "reasonable" timeframe of six months to relocate its "liaison office" to the commercial hub of Johannesburg. The decision was communicated to China last month by South African Foreign Minister Ronald Lamola when he was in China for the China-Africa summit, the ministry said.

South Africa severed formal diplomatic ties with the self-governing island.

The move comes during heightened tensions between China and Taiwan. Taiwan celebrated the founding of its government and its



national day this month and again rejected China's claims of sovereignty. China then held large military exercises around Taiwan.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said "we appreciate South Africa's correct decision to relocate the Taipei liaison office in South Africa out of its administrative capital, Pretoria. Taiwan independence is unpo-

pular and doomed to failure."

Taiwanese Foreign Minister Lin Chia-long said his government would consider closing South Africa's own liaison office in Taiwan, cutting off a major channel for travel, trade and educational exchange.

China and South Africa are both members of the BRICS bloc of developing economies, which will hold its annual

summit in Kazan, Russia, next week. China is by far South Africa's largest trade partner.

Moving the Taiwan office out of Pretoria "will be a true reflection of the non-political and non-diplomatic nature of the relationship between the Republic of South Africa and Taiwan," the South African foreign ministry said. It said the office will be rebranded a "trade office." **MDT/AP**

A SMALL BLAST IN MYANMAR'S SECOND-BIGGEST CITY DAMAGES CHINESE CONSULATE

THE Chinese Consulate in Myanmar's second-largest city has been slightly damaged by an explosive device, but there were no casualties, the military, independent media and a city resident said over the weekend.

No public claims of responsibility were made for the attack on Friday in Mandalay. China is a major ally of Myanmar's military, which came to power after ousting the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in 2021 but is now fighting fiercely against resistance forces challenging its rule.

The military said in a statement sent to journalists on Saturday evening that roof tiles on the two-story Chinese Consulate were damaged by an explosion Friday afternoon.

The security forces are investigating in order to arrest the "terrorists" behind the blast, it said.

The army is engaged in nationwide fighting against pro-democracy guerrillas and ethnic minority militias. It was forced onto the defensive late last year when ethnic armed

organizations dealt it major defeats in the country's northeast, seizing important territory along the border with China.

Those gains, made by armed ethnic groups who separately maintained their own good relations with China, have weakened the army's position all over the country, causing Beijing concern about the military government's stability.

China has reportedly sought to have some of the more powerful ethnic minority groups with which it maintains good ties to discourage the groups that seized territory in the northeast from continuing their offensive, which they launched in October last year.

China, along with Russia, is a major arms supplier to Myanmar's military. It also is Myanmar's biggest trading partner and has invested billions of dollars in Myanmar's mines, oil and gas pipelines and other infrastructure.

The military government is shunned and sanctioned by many Western nations for its 2021 takeover and for major human rights violations. **MDT/AP**

INDONESIA

Prabowo Subianto sworn in as president

PRABOWO Subianto was inaugurated yesterday as the eighth president of the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation, completing his journey from an ex-general accused of rights abuses during the dark days of Indonesia's military dictatorship to the presidential palace.

The former defense minister, who turned 73 on Thursday, was cheered through the streets by thousands of waving supporters after taking his oath on the Quran in front of lawmakers and foreign dignitaries. Banners and billboards filled the streets of the capital, Jakarta, where tens of thousands gathered for festivities.

Wearing a blue Betawi traditional cloth and a dark baseball cap, Subianto stood up in the sunroof of a white van and waved, occasionally shaking people's hands, as his motorcade struggled to pass through the thousands of supporters calling his name and chanting "Good luck Prabowo-Gibran," filling the road leading from the parliament



Indonesia's newly-inaugurated Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto delivers a speech during the presidential inauguration ceremony at the Parliament building in Jakarta, yesterday

building to the presidential palace.

"I see a firm and patriotic figure in him," said Atalaric Eka Prayoga, 25. "That's a figure we need to lead Indonesia."

Another resident, Silky Putri, said he hopes Subianto "can build Indonesia to be more advanced and improve the current gloomy economic situation."

Subianto was a longtime ri-

val of the immensely popular President Joko Widodo, who ran against him for the presidency twice and refused to accept his defeat on both occasions, in 2014 and 2019.

But Widodo appointed Subianto as defense chief after his reelection, paving the way for an alliance despite their rival political parties.

Backed by Widodo, Subianto swept to a landslide victory

in February's direct presidential election on promises of policy continuity.

Subianto was sworn in with his new vice president, 37-year-old Surakarta ex-Mayor Gibran Rakabuming Raka. He chose Raka, who is Widodo's son, as his running mate, with Widodo favoring Subianto over the candidate of his own former party. The former rivals became tacit allies, even though Indonesian presidents don't typically endorse candidates.

But how he'll govern the biggest economy in Southeast Asia — where nearly 90% of Indonesia's 282 million people are Muslims — remains uncertain after a campaign in which he made few concrete promises besides continuity with the popular former president.

After decades of dictatorship under President Suharto, Indonesia was convulsed by political, ethnic and religious unrest in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Since then, it has consolidated its democratic transition as the world's thir-

d-largest democracy, and is home to a rapidly expanding middle class.

Subianto, who comes from one of the country's wealthiest families, is a sharp contrast to Widodo, the first Indonesian president to emerge from outside the political and military elite.

A former general with a checkered past

Subianto was a special forces commander until he was expelled by the army in 1998 over accusations that he played a role in the kidnappings and torture of activists and other abuses. He never faced trial and went into self-imposed exile in Jordan in 1998, although several of his underlings were tried and convicted.

Subianto, who has never held elective office, will lead a massive, diverse archipelago nation whose economy has boomed amid strong global demand for its natural resources. But he'll have to contend with global economic distress and regional tensions in Asia. **MDT/AP**

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In this image provided by the Office of the Ukrainian Presidency, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is watched by Rich Hansen, the commander's representative for the Scranton Army Ammunition Plant, while signing military ordnance in Scranton, Pa., late September

PUTIN'S WAR

Ukraine's 'victory plan' receives mixed reactions from Western allies

HANNA ARHIROVA, KYIV

PRESIDENT Volodymyr Zelenskyy's plan to end Ukraine's nearly three-year war with Russia has received mixed reactions from Western allies so far.

The "victory plan" that Zelenskyy outlined at home and abroad includes a formal invitation for Ukraine to join NATO and permission to use Western long-range missiles to strike military targets in Russia — two steps Kyiv's allies have been reluctant to support before.

U.S. backing is crucial if Zelenskyy is to get support from other allies for proposals he believes are necessary to strengthen Ukraine's position on the battlefield and ahead of any peace negotiations. But analysts say the Biden administration is unlikely to make a decision before the U.S. presidential election on Nov. 5, as it may not appeal to voters.

"They seem to be just doing very little now and waiting for the election," said Phillips O'Brien, professor of strategic studies at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland. "So much of the strategy will live or die in Washington."

Analysts said the plan is a step in the right direction for Ukraine's military efforts. They also described it as ambitious, given

allies' fears of escalation with nuclear-armed Russia. Ukraine has previously secured Western support for requests once deemed unrealistic, such as Patriot air defense systems and F-16 jets.

Presenting the plan now puts on the radar for the next U.S. administration, analysts said, though it's unknown how the next president will receive it.

After returning from making his case to the European Council, Zelenskyy said he expects the White House to provide feedback. "They will be here soon with some form of response," he said.

WILL THE PLAN BRING VICTORY TO UKRAINE?

Zelenskyy laid out the five-point plan as Ukraine's troops struggle to hold back Russian slow but steady advances in eastern Ukraine. The plan includes three "secret annexes" that were presented only to some leaders. It also addresses partners' concerns about Ukraine's strategy after the failed summer 2023 counteroffensive.

Zelenskyy described the main goal as "to strengthen us and force Russia to come to the negotiating table with all partners."

The plan won't immediately alter the battlefield situation, but it will help Ukraine wear down Russia

and give more means to keep going in the attrition war.

"I think people were potentially expecting some sort of more operational plan on winning the war," said Justin Crump, a former British tank commander who heads Sibylline, a strategic advisory firm. "That's a naive opinion to have expected a plan to have provided operational details that would obviously be of use to the enemy."

Some Ukrainian analysts blame the name of the plan, adding that it was likely chosen for marketing purposes. Ukrainian analyst Yurii Bohdan said the goal is get resources.

"To win such war (of attrition), Ukraine needs to increase its resilience and exhaust its opponent," said Glib Voloskyi, an analyst from a Ukrainian think tank, Come Back Alive Initiatives Center. "The side that falls last wins."

WHAT WAS THE ALLIES' RESPONSE?

U.S. reaction was muted and noncommittal, though it did issue a new \$425 million package of security assistance for Ukraine the day that Zelenskyy presented the plan to lawmakers.

"It's not my position to publicly evaluate his plan," Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said. "We have been supporting him by provi-

ding security assistance in a major way for 2 1/2 years. We are going to continue to do that."

In Europe, reactions ranged from categorical opposition to strong support.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot stated in Kyiv yesterday [Macau time] that he will work with Ukrainian officials to rally other nations to get behind the proposal.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz stood by his refusal to supply Taurus long-range cruise missiles to Kyiv.

"Our position is clear: We are supporting Ukraine as strongly as possible," he said. "At the same time, we are taking care that NATO does not become a party to the war so that this war doesn't culminate in an even bigger catastrophe."

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, widely seen as having the warmest relations of any EU leader with Russian President Vladimir Putin, called Zelenskyy's plan "more than frightening" in a Facebook post.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov mocked Zelenskyy's plan as "ephemeral," and Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova called it "a set of incoherent slogans."

WHAT'S AT STAKE FOR UKRAINE?

Without an invitation to join NATO, Ukraine won't have an "assurance that its geopolitical future will not be a bargaining chip with Russia," said Voloskyi, the Ukrainian analyst.

Ukrainian officials say there are no other guarantees for Ukraine besides NATO to protect against Russia's aggression after the war.

Zelenskyy made ambiguous comments suggesting that nuclear weapons are the only other security alternative. Some thought he was talking about self-made nuclear weapons, sparking strong reaction among Ukrainians, many of whom were pessimistic about the prospects for an invitation to NATO.

Zelenskyy later clarified that he was highlighting the dire situation for Ukraine by referencing the 1994 Budapest Memorandum, in which Ukraine relinquished its nuclear arsenal in exchange for security guarantees from major nuclear powers, including the U.K., the U.S., and Russia.

MDT/AP

this day in history

2001 ANTHRAX CLAIMS THIRD VICTIM IN US



A third person has been diagnosed in the US with the most serious form of anthrax.

The unnamed Washington postal worker is being treated for inhalation anthrax but doctors expect him to make a full recovery.

This is the ninth confirmed case of anthrax in the United States since infected mail began turning up in Florida, Washington and New York following the 11 September attacks.

The only person to die from anthrax in this scare had the inhalation form of the disease but it was not caught as early.

The other victims have been infected through the skin, a less serious form of the disease.

The latest victim works at the Washington mail centre which processed an anthrax-tainted letter sent to Senate Majority leader Tom Daschle.

But it is not known whether he was exposed to the disease through this letter.

US Homeland Security Chief Tom Ridge said that the strain of anthrax used in the attacks on US media companies and the Senate appeared to be the same.

"We are obviously preparing for more," he said.

Nearly 40 people in the United States, including 28 who work at the US Senate, have been exposed to anthrax bacteria in the past month.

Teams of hazardous material experts have been checking the House of Representatives after an anthrax-tainted letter was found in the Ford House Office Building mailroom.

The US is offering \$1m for information on who is behind the anthrax attacks.

The US postal service is sending cards to every home and business - 147 million addresses - telling people how to deal with suspicious post.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

There were a total of 18 cases of anthrax in the United States in 2001, five people died. The offices of prominent politicians and media figures were among the targets. All mail addressed to the US Government is now irradiated to kill anthrax.

Investigations in 2002 concluded the spores used in the 2001 attacks were less than two years old. This proved that the spores had been grown and could therefore be grown again.

It is not yet known who was behind the attacks. Original suggestions pointed to the al-Qaeda network as the attacks began shortly after the 11 September attacks but experts now believe it was the work of a lone man with a highly scientific background.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

<p>ARIES  Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Technical difficulties could disrupt communications. Make repairs. Reinforce infrastructures and foundations. Stay practical despite distractions. Focus on meeting deadlines. Write, edit and craft.</p>	<p>TAURUS  Apr. 20-May. 20 Keep things simple. Avoid jealousies, controversy or conflicting interests. Meet or beat the budget. Hold out for the best deal. Make a firm offer.</p>
<p>GEMINI  May. 21-Jun. 21 Focus on immediate priorities. A mess requires personal attention. Avoid overconsumption or excess. Postpone non-essential matters. Align logic with emotion. Imagine yourself winning.</p>	<p>CANCER  Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Review and revise plans around changes. Lay low. Take it easy. Avoid crowds, noise or chaos. Get productive in a peaceful space. Reinforce the basics.</p>
<p>LEO  Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Things could get socially chaotic. Ignore illusions. Slow to avoid mistakes. Clarify and simplify plans. Practice diplomacy and tact. Find the underlying humor.</p>	<p>VIRGO  Aug. 23-Sep. 22 Focus on a professional project. Choose private over public engagements. Hunt for efficiencies. Improve your process to increase your yield. Discipline is required.</p>
<p>LIBRA  Sep. 23-Oct. 22 Discover enchantments in your own backyard. Expect delays with long-distance travel or shipping. Study a fascinating subject. Prepare presentations. Share your research and discoveries.</p>	<p>SCORPIO  Oct. 23-Nov. 21 Expect the unexpected with your finances. Stick to the budget despite unscheduled expenses. Buy toys later. Learn and teach simultaneously. Prioritize practical basics.</p>
<p>SAGITTARIUS  Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Spontaneous fun with your partner is worth pursuing. Maintain basic foundational structures. Listen to experience. Support each other to finish early and go play.</p>	<p>CAPRICORN  Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Practice basic moves before getting tricky. Repeat the fundamental and foundation elements. Don't force or overdo things. Nurture yourself with good food and rest.</p>
<p>AQUARIUS  Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Have fun with people and activities that you love. Avoid expense or fuss. Resolve misunderstandings as they occur. Listen generously. Relax and enjoy.</p>	<p>PISCES  Feb. 19-Mar. 20 Maintain functional domestic systems despite a structural breakdown. Quickly make repairs, especially involving water. Focus on home and family. Find a lucky solution.</p>

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	1	14	cloudy
Changchun	-1	16	cloudy
Chengdu	16	21	rain
Chongqing	18	21	overcast
Fuzhou	21	31	cloudy
Guangzhou	23	31	cloudy
Guiyang	14	22	overcast
Haikou	25	30	rain
Hangzhou	14	23	cloudy
Harbin	3	16	cloudy
Hefei	10	18	rain
Nanjing	13	20	rain
Shanghai	17	25	rain
Taipei	23	27	cloudy
Wuhan	13	17	overcast
Hong Kong	27	31	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	4	14	sunny
Frankfurt	13	20	fog
Paris	9	18	cloudy
London	8	14	cloudy
New York	16	28	sunny

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Yalies; 5- Tabula ___; 9- Cumberbund; 13- ___ is human...; 15- Novelist Hunter; 16- Zeno's home; 17- Synagogue scroll; 18- Broadway gas; 19- Old oath; 20- Did lunch; 21- Lulu; 23- Naked-faced Amazon monkey; 25- From scratch; 26- Talks back to; 27- Walks with long steps; 30- Cockpit abbr; 31- Ornamental coronet; 32- State in the central United States; 37- Jocular Johnson; 38- Like a chimney sweep; 40- Bookie's concern; 41- Pioneer's rug material; 43- Nobelist Bohr; 44- Nada; 45- Locks; 47- Restaurant; 50- Acceptable; 51- Regard; 52- Civil disturbance; 53- Part of UNLJ; 56- Romance lang.; 57- Object of worship; 59- Novelist Jong; 61- 1994 Jodie Foster film; 62- Trigonometric function; 63- Laughs loudly; 64- Snake-like fishes; 65- Warmth; 66- "___ Tu"; 1974 hit.

DOWN 1- Kett of the comics; 2- Booty; 3- Able was ___; 4- Mexican Mrs.; 5- Continues a subscription; 6- State firmly; 7- ___ Paulo, Brazil; 8- Once every year; 9- Looks for; 10- Pond scum; 11- Sings; 12- ___ but known...; 14- Girl in a Beach Boys song; 22- Originally named; 24- ___ Spumante; 25- Broadcaster; 26- Shaker contents; 27- Pierce with a knife; 28- Air-filled rubber hoop, become fatigued; 29- Pro ___ (proportionally); 32- Charged atom; 33- Boisterous; 34- Keats creations; 35- Twiddling one's thumbs; 36- Flat sound; 38- Brisk conflict; 39- Greasy; 42- Dagger; 43- More in order; 45- Washroom; 46- "Citizen Kane" studio; 47- Cosmetician Lauder; 48- In the least; 49- Informs; 51- Mozart's "___ kleine Nachtmusik"; 52- Gossipy Barrett; 53- Storyteller; 54- Land unit; 55- Talk back to; 58- Vegas roller; 60- Lobster eggs;

Friday's solution

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency calls 999	Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222	Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993	Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775	Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333	Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
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	



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FIGURE SKATING

US skaters Levito, Tennell lead after short program at season-opening Skate America

DAVE SKRETTA

ISABEAU Levito channeled her inner Holly Golightly in a stylish performance set to music from the film "Breakfast at Tiffany's" this weekend to lead after the short program at Skate America, the opening event of figure skating's Grand Prix season.

The reigning world silver medalist, wearing a black dress that invoked the character played by Audrey Hepburn in the 1961 film by George Axelrod, scored 68.43 points at the Credit Union of Texas Event Center in Allen, Texas. American teammate Bradie Tennell was second with 66.99 points in her comeback from a broken ankle, while Japan's Rinka Watanabe was third with 66.54 points.

"I'm really glad that I skated well," said the 17-year-old Levito, who endured an up-and-down season a year ago but has matured significantly



Wakaba Higuchi, of Japan, competes during the women's short program at the Skate America Figure Skating event in Allen, Texas

as she begins to eye the 2026 Winter Olympics. "I'm excited to keep working on this program. I love it."

Levito opened with a triple lutz-triple toe loop, which she

slightly under-rotated, and landed a double axel and triple flip later in the program. It was only the second time the former U.S. champion had performed it in competition.

"I'm excited to rest, begin tomorrow a new day, skate clean the way I do in practice and see where it takes me," she said.

Tennell won lower-level events in Hungary and China ahead of last year's Grand Prix season. But during a relatively routine step sequence in practice, the two-time U.S. champion caught an edge and broke her ankle in the fall. She wound up needing a pair of procedures and spent five months off the ice before finally resuming her training earlier this year.

When she took the ice this weekend, it looked as if Tennell had never left it.

Her only miscue came when she under-rotated the second half of a triple lutz-triple toe loop combination. Tennell hit her double axel and triple loop to complete her short program set to music from the Irish dance show "Lord of the Dance."

"I wasn't sure if I was ever going to be able to jump again.

It was a very long road and I am so grateful to my recovery team," Tennell said. "I didn't watch any events last year it was too painful. I took my recovery as this is where I am in life, and what is happening in skating isn't my life right now."

In the pairs competition, world silver medalists Riku Miura and Ryuichi Kihara of Japan took a comfortable lead over Ellie Kam and Danny O'Shea of the U.S. — and the rest of the field — with a rocking program set to "Paint it Black" by the Rolling Stones.

Miura and Kihara were solid on their side-by-side triple toe loop and throw triple lutz for a score of 77.79 points.

Kam and O'Shea, the reigning American champions, scored 70.66 points for their short program set to "Rain, in Your Black Eyes" by Italian composer Ezio Bosso. Anastasiia Metelkina and Luka Berulava of Georgia were in third with 68.64 points. **MDT/AP**

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OPINION

China Daily
Editorial, China Daily

NATO CHIEF ASSUMES
PREDECESSOR'S MANTLE

Before Mark Rutte assumed the NATO general secretary's post on Oct 1, there were hopes he would make more balanced and independent decisions than his predecessor Jens Stoltenberg, even try to persuade Russia and Ukraine to end their hostilities at the earliest. Yet a gathering of NATO defense ministers the former Dutch prime minister presided over last week belied those hopes.

The NATO defense ministers' meeting in Brussels on Thursday and Friday was by no means a gathering to exchange views on the global security situation. Instead, it was an occasion for the new NATO chief to assume the mantle of his predecessor as a US yes-man.

With North Atlantic Treaty Organization's close partners in the Asia-Pacific region — Australia, Japan, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea — and the European Union taking part in the executive-level meeting of NATO, the organization, under Rutte's leadership, has taken a big step forward in transforming their symbolic presence at the NATO summits in Madrid last year and Washington earlier this year into a worrisome routine practice.

Although details of the meeting remain unknown, the selective information NATO has chosen to release shows China's growing national strength was cited as the main "reason" for NATO to justify its expansion to the Asia-Pacific.

Rutte said the participation of NATO's "Indo-Pacific" partners and the EU in the defense ministers' meeting is "a clear sign of our deepening cooperation in the face of shared challenges".

"The war in Ukraine has shown that instability in Europe can have far-reaching consequences across the world, and that countries thousands of miles away — as far away as Iran, China and even North Korea — can become security spoilers in our own backyard. Our world is closely linked — and so is our security," Rutte told journalists.

Rutte even outdid his predecessor by publicly declaring that he is willing to fulfill Ukraine's wish to become a NATO member, a move widely seen as a grave provocation to Russia and will further complicate the Ukraine crisis.

Allies need "to move further and faster to meet the growing threats we face", he said, adding that "this requires more forces, capabilities and investment to meet the ambitious targets set by our defense plans". It is apparent that Rutte was carrying out Washington's task of merging security with technology, trade and climate action by overgeneralizing the concept of "security", which the United States-led West believes will prove effective in countering the China "threat".

However, neither NATO's promise to help Ukraine nor its so-called commitment to contain China is new. While the former has worsened the security situation in Europe, the latter has soured relations between China and NATO, which is a pity because before the Ukraine crisis broke out, China and NATO could still communicate with each other in good faith to seek to work together to deal with common security threats.

As Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said, China has the best track record among major countries when it comes to maintaining peace and security. So it is to be hoped that NATO will take a hard look at what it has done to Europe's security architecture, reflect on the consequences of triggering bloc confrontation, and stop smearing China and see China for what it is: a peace-loving, development-oriented nation. [Abridged]

TRUMP SAYS HE'S 'CONFIDENT'
CHINA WILL NOT INVADE TAIWAN

Donald Trump is confident China wouldn't invade Taiwan if he returns to the White House.

Why? Because Chinese President Xi Jinping "knows I'm f—— crazy." That's according to Trump's latest interview with the Wall Street Journal editorial board, which published highlights from the 90-minute sit-down on Friday.

Trump said it would be "very easy" to persuade China's leader to stand down from a blockade of Taiwan.

"I had a very strong relationship with him. He was actually a really

good, I don't want to say friend—I don't want to act foolish, 'he was my friend—but I got along with him great," Trump told the Journal editorial board. "He stayed at Mar-a-Lago with me, so we got to know each other great. He's a very fierce person."

And how exactly would his relationship with Xi prevent an invasion of Taiwan?

First, Trump said he would threaten to impose tariffs of 150% to 200%. Asked whether he would use military force, Trump responded: "I wouldn't have to, because he respects me and he knows I'm f—— crazy."

THE
BUZZ



A view of a 1/10 model of a next-generation combat jet Japan to be jointly developed with the UK and Italy for deployment in 2035, on display at a booth of their joint Global Combat Air Program, or GCAP, at the Japan International Aerospace Exhibition, in Tokyo

JAPAN

TOKYO, LONDON AND
ROME TO EXPEDITE NEXT-
GENERATION FIGHTER
JET TO REPLACE F-2S AND
EUROFIGHTER TYPHOONS

MARI YAMAGUCHI,
TOKYO

THE defense ministers of Japan, the U.K. and Italy agreed to accelerate the joint development of a next-generation fighter jet, and announced that a trilateral government organization would be established by the end of this year to work with the parties producing the aircraft, Japanese officials said yesterday.

The three countries agreed in 2022 to jointly produce a new combat aircraft that will be ready for deployment in 2035, under the Global Combat Air Program, or GCAP, to strengthen cooperation in the face of growing threats from China, Russia and North Korea.

The next-generation stealth fighter jet would replace Japan's retiring F-2s that it jointly developed with the U.S., and Eurofighter Typhoons, which were produced in partnership with the U.K, Italy, Spain and Germany.

Yesterday, Japanese Defense Minister Gen Nakatani, after meeting with his U.K. and Italian counterparts, John Healey and Guido Crosetto, said a joint body called the GCAP International Government Organiza-

tion, or GIGO, will be set up by the end of this year to oversee the aircraft's development.

The ministers met on the sidelines of the Group of Seven defense ministers meeting in Naples, Italy.

Several private sector companies, including Japan's Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Britain's BAE Systems PLC and Italy's Leonardo, are taking part in the project.

GIGO, to be based in the U.K. and headed by a Japanese official, will oversee the aircraft's development.

"We now see the launch of GIGO and a joint venture on track" toward signing their first contract next year, Nakatani said.

The agreement addresses concerns over the progress of the project despite changes of leadership in both Japan and the U.K.

Mitsubishi Heavy and their U.K. and Italian counterparts had a 1/10th model of the joint fighter jet on display at their GCAP booth at a major aerospace exhibit in Tokyo last week.

Akira Sugimoto, MHI's Japan program senior representative for GCAP, said that the joint fighter

jet development will be meaningful for Japanese suppliers and for the country's industrial base.

"Our basic position is to bring our strengths together to develop a high quality fighter jet. I believe Japanese suppliers have outstanding technologies and I do hope as many of them as possible would join (GCAP)," Sugimoto said.

"I think it will also help Japanese suppliers to enhance their capacity to develop equipment and contribute to provide a better outlook and business environment and stability," he said.

Japan, which is rapidly building up its military, hopes to have greater capability to counter China's rising assertiveness, and the joint fighter jet project would help strengthen Japan's mostly domestic and underdeveloped defense industry.

Japan has significantly eased its arms export restrictions to allow foreign sales of the future fighter jet and licensing back of weapons, such as surface-to-air PAC-3 missile interceptors produced in Japan to complement U.S. inventory, which has decreased because of its support for Ukraine. MDT/AP



Serbia's President Aleksandar Vucic yesterday spoke with Russian President Putin, affirming his commitment to maintaining relations and refusing to impose sanctions on Russia despite Western pressure. Vucic celebrated Serbia's WWII liberation anniversary, acknowledging Russia's role in the event.



Switzerland The U.S. expressed disappointment after Switzerland decided not to fully adopt the latest EU sanctions against Russia. While Switzerland adopted most of the measures, it allowed subsidiaries to bypass sanctions, a move criticized by U.S. Ambassador Scott Miller.



Israel A drone targeted Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's home amid escalating conflicts with Hezbollah and Hamas. Israel responded with airstrikes on Hezbollah targets in Lebanon, while the U.S. urged Israel to reduce civilian casualties in the intensifying regional conflict.



Australia King Charles III and Queen Camilla made their first public appearance in Sydney during their Australian visit. They were greeted by children at a local church, while the monarch's health has led to a reduced itinerary during this trip.