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CCTV



**China** Coastal cities in northern China, including Panjin and Yingkou, were hit by high tides, flooding homes and vehicles. Experts linked the flooding to backflow from storm surges and astronomical tides. The water quickly receded, with no reported injuries or fatalities.

**Cambodia-Thailand** Cambodia is considering Thailand's "Six Countries, One Destination" tourism initiative, designed to facilitate cross-border travel among six regional nations. Cambodia's Tourism Minister, Huot Hak, requested detailed information before confirming support for the proposal aimed at boosting regional tourism cooperation.

AP PHOTO



**Malaysia** has charged 22 members of the Islamic business group Global Ikhwan, including its CEO, for organized crime after over 500 children were rescued from abuse at their welfare homes. Authorities are also investigating human trafficking, money laundering, and ties to a banned Islamic cult.

AP PHOTO



**India** A seven-story building under construction collapsed in Bengaluru during heavy monsoon rains, killing at least five workers. Thirteen people were rescued by disaster response teams. Building collapses are common during India's monsoon season, often due to poor enforcement of regulations and substandard materials.

RENATO MARQUES



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# MACAO YEARBOOK 2024 RELEASED IN THREE LANGUAGES

NADIA SHAW

**T**HE Government Information Bureau (GCS) yesterday officially launched the electronic edition of the Macao Yearbook 2024. This comprehensive resource provides crucial insights into the region's political, economic, social and cultural developments and is available in Chinese, Portuguese and English.

Since its inception in 2002, the Macao Yearbook has served as an annual chronicle of significant events and advances across various sectors. The 2024 edition boasts 588 pages in Chinese, 741 pages in Portuguese, and 698 pages in English, accompanied by over 232 photographs.

It is organized into four main sections: Consolidate Development and Enhance Diversification: Administrative Direction and Priorities of the MSAR Government in 2024, Calendar of Events in 2023, Overview of the



Macao Special Administrative Region in 2023, and Appendices.

The overview of the MSAR for 2023 includes 15 chapters that cover critical areas such

as governance, tourism, public welfare and economic recovery initiatives. Notably, this edition highlights efforts to enhance national security and improve

social welfare conditions.

According to GCS, as of Dec. 31, 2023, Macau's population was 683,700, comprising 318,900 males and 364,800 females. The age

distribution reveals that 13.2% are aged 0-14 years, while those between 15-64 years account for 72.8%, and individuals aged 65 years and older make up 14%.

According to the 2021 census, Chinese residents constitute the majority at 89.2%, followed by Filipinos at 5% and Vietnamese at 1.8%. Additionally, 41.3% of the population was born in Macau, while 43.8% hail from mainland China. The crude birth rate stands at 5.5 per 1,000 people, with a death rate of 4.4 per 1,000.

The marriage rate is reported at 4.7 per 1,000 individuals, while the divorce rate is lower at 1.9 per 1,000. With an aging index of 106.1%, there are approximately 204,400 households in Macau, averaging about 2.85 persons per household. Most residents live in apartments; specifically, 73.4% occupy private housing while 19.4% rent their homes. The population density is notably high at approximately 20,400 persons per square kilometer.

Readers interested in exploring the Macao Yearbook 2024 can access it on the GCS website (<https://yearbook.gcs.gov.mo>) for further details.

The Macao Yearbook transitioned to an exclusively electronic format in 2016.

## Albergue SCM hosts 10th Halloween party this weekend

**T**HE Círculo dos Amigos da Cultura de Macau (CAC) will host the 10th Halloween Albergue SCM this weekend to celebrate the festive season. The event will take place in Albergue SCM on Saturday, October 26, and Sunday, October 27 from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

This year's Halloween event will feature several spooky-themed areas, including a 'Zombie Room' and 'Quirky Graveyard.' With a variety of ghostly decorations, the event will provide visitors with surprising and thrilling experiences. Free makeup booths will be available on-site, allowing both adults and children to immerse themselves in the Halloween atmosphere and capture memorable photos with family and friends.

For younger attendees, the event also includes the 'Albergue SCM - Let's Trick or Treat' program for children aged 5 to



12. Scheduled for October 26 and 27 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., this activity will feature a treasure hunt around St. Lazarus District and a costume contest.

Halloween is a festival that celebrates the autumn harvest, symbolizing the end of summer and the beginning

of winter and has since evolved into a global celebration. The CAC has been organizing Halloween-themed events since 2013. Organizers said that the main goal of these activities is to provide a space and program for families and friends to enjoy the season and enrich their cultural lives. **RM**

## IIM AND MANDARINA LAUNCH BOOK AT LUSOFONIA FESTIVAL

**T**HE International Institute of Macau (IIM) and children's publisher Mandarin will launch a new children's book, "Little Explorers – A Place of Discoveries," during the Lusofonia Festival.

The trilingual (Portuguese, Chinese and English) children's book was sponsored by the Generations International School and produced in collaboration with the Macao Heritage Ambassadors Association and the Macanese Youth Association.

This edition comes after the success of four previous books with games and activities, which are almost sold out.

IIM and Mandarin believes that the book, with English, Chinese



and Portuguese texts, will be an important guide to Macau for school activities, as well as increasing interaction among families and children, and even tourists.

The initiative aims to promote interest among the younger generation, not only in Macau's local heritage but also in various as-

pects of Macau society. The publishers will continue to promote this collaboration to bring these books to local schools and an international audience.

The launch will be at Casa da Nostalgia (Nostalgic House) at the Taipa Houses-Museum Oct. 26 at 4:30 p.m. **RM**

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RENATO MARQUES



# Zone D landfill begins preliminary work

VICTORIA CHAN

**P**RELIMINARY landfill work has begun for Zone D of the New Urban Landfills in Taipa, according to the Public Works Bureau (DSOP).

The work includes new measurements of the water depth,

sludge sampling tests, proposals for a temporary maritime terminal and navigation channel excavation.

Officials expect the preliminary works to be finished by the end of the year, with landfill construction to follow.

The government has also taken steps to ease pressure on its waste

construction materials landfill.

In recent years, it implemented a waste disposal fee through an administrative regulation and completed geological improvements at the landfill in 2021. Dikes were also constructed in 2023 to create more space.

However, major infrastructure projects underway have produ-

ced soft ground waste that is difficult to stack vertically at landfills, posing new challenges.

Estimates show several projects will generate over 2 million cubic meters of soft ground waste, but the waste construction materials landfill lacks capacity. As a result, officials are looking for other suitable disposal locations.

After analysis, Zone D meets the conditions to use soft ground waste under its design's 7 million cubic meter capacity for natural sand, inert materials, and landfill execution.

Processing soft ground for use as a priority material could achieve resource reuse and reduce natural sand costs.

With ministry support, dredged materials from the temporary terminal and channel excavation can also be transported to mainland China through inter-regional cooperation for disposal.

Zone D's preliminary works are moving forward to ease Macau's waste pressures.

In 2022, the government launched a public tender for the construction of Zone D, which will have an area of about 570,000 square meters located in the north of Taipa and the maritime area away from the Estrada Nordeste da Taipa; that is, in the area between the Amizade Bridge and the Governador Nobre de Carvalho Bridge.

The land plot will be used mainly for housing purposes, according to the assignment in the Urban Master Plan.

According to the tender, the maximum execution period for the construction has been set to 1,450 working days (about four years). The landfill is expected to cost almost 2 billion patacas.

## AUTHORITIES FOUND 46 ALLEGED ILLEGAL WORKERS IN SEPTEMBER

In September, joint operations by the Public Security Police Force (PSP) and the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) led to significant actions against illegal work. Authorities inspected 211 locations, including construction sites, private buildings, industrial establishments, and commercial premises, resulting in the interception of 46 suspected illegal workers. This initiative highlights ongoing efforts to combat illegal employment practices, reduce criminal activity, and protect vulnerable workers from exploitation. The crackdown is part of a broader strategy to ensure compliance with labor laws and uphold the integrity of the workforce. Further operations are expected as authorities continue to address this issue.

## PASSPORT HOLDERS TO ENJOY KAZAKHSTAN VISA-FREE ACCESS

Starting today, holders of Macau-issued passports will be allowed to enter Kazakhstan without a visa and remain in the Central Asian country for up to 14 days per visit, under a new agreement. The visa waiver pact will provide reciprocal visa-free access to each country's citizens. Macau passport holders will therefore be able to join the ranks of those from 147 other economies with zero visa or visa-on-arrival access to Kazakhstan. The new arrangements follow various discussions and are expected to facilitate travel and people-to-people exchanges between Macau and Kazakhstan.

# China to issue RMB5 billion in treasury bonds in Macau

**C**HINA'S Ministry of Finance announced yesterday that it will issue RMB5 billion in renminbi-denominated treasury bonds in Macau on Oct. 30.

The issuance coincides with the 25th anniversary of Macau's return to Chinese sovereignty.

The bond issuance is part of the central government's efforts to bolster Macau's financial sector and encourage economic diversification.

This marks the third consecutive year the Central government has issued bonds in Macau to enhance the local bond market and provide



de stable investment options for investors.

According to the Ministry of Finance, this

initiative will not only improve the regular issuance mechanism but also expand the investor

base and integrate Macau's financial markets with international systems.

Considering China's broader economic challenges, including a property crisis and deflationary pressures, these bonds are seen as a crucial element of a comprehensive stimulus strategy.

Besides monetary policy adjustments, the Chinese government plans to issue special bonds worth approximately RMB2 trillion to fund consumer subsidies and infrastructure projects.

These measures are expected to stimulate economic activity and support small and medium-sized enterprises.

As China strives for a growth target of around 5% this year, the issuance of treasury bonds in Macau reflects its commitment to strengthening local financial markets and enhancing economic resilience. **NS**

## 3,000 TOBACCO LAW VIOLATIONS DETECTED

Authorities have found over 3,000 instances of tobacco laws being broken between January and September, according to numbers from the Department of Health. Restaurants and casinos topped the list of places where most violations occurred, with 448 and 343 cases respectively. There were also 37 suspected violations of the law on controlling alcohol consumption by minors. Most tobacco violations involved smoking in designed non-smoking areas. The Health Services conducted nearly 200,000 inspections of establishments during the first nine months of the year, finding violations through random checks at restaurants, casinos and other venues. One case involved the illegal sale of tobacco to minors in Areia Preta, with authorities reminding sellers to check IDs to avoid fines.





## Raffles Macau celebrates luxury unveiling 'Long Bar'

NADIA SHAW

**T**HE recent event, "A Celebration of Raffles Luxury," marked a significant collaboration between Accor Group's Raffles Hotel and Galaxy Macau.

The event introduced the all-suite property, which promises exceptional guest service and a variety of world-class dining options, including a unique speakeasy version of the iconic Raffles Long Bar.

Nestled on the east promenade of Galaxy Macau, adjacent to the historic Old Taipa Village, Raffles at Galaxy Macau offers beautiful views of Macau's skyline.

A highlight of its architectural design is a stunning 15-meter glass air bridge that connects two towers, providing guests with unparalleled vistas. A video presentation showcased this architectural marvel, further enhancing the allure of the property.

Francis Lui, Vice Chairman of Galaxy Entertainment Group, expressed his enthusiasm for this new addition to Galaxy Macau's portfolio.

"This hotel elevates our offerings to eight luxury hotels with over 5,000 rooms," he said. "Each is designed to meet high standards for returning guests."

Raffles at Galaxy Macau aims to deliver an unforgettable culinary experience.

The property features 450 elegantly designed suites and offers dining options that include Sushi Kissho by acclaimed chef Masaaki Miyakawa and Teppanyaki Shou.

During his remarks, Lui reiterated his excitement about Raffles at Galaxy Macau being the brand's largest destination worldwide.

Gary Rosen, CEO of Accor Greater China, said Raffles is not just about luxury; it's about creating memorable experiences for guests.

The hotel has been recognized as a global travel hub that sets new benchmarks in accommodation and dining.

He highlighted its all-suite experience tailored for discerning guests: "Each suite is attended by a dedicated Raffles butler," he said, ensuring personalized service synonymous with the Raffles brand.

The event also highlighted innovative cocktail offerings crafted by renowned mixologist Antonio Lai and his team. Inspired by the spice trade, these cocktails promise unique experiences that create lasting memories.

"Raffles at Galaxy Macau is not merely a place but a promise," Rosen said. "A promise of exceptional encounters and moments that turn into cherished memories."

The evening concluded with dinner at the Raffles Lounge, showcasing contemporary European gastronomy, followed by a cocktail hour at the Raffles Long Bar.

The newly introduced Raffles Long Bar serves as a modern interpretation of its historic counterpart, designed by Joyce Wong. This bar continues the tradition of exceptional cocktails under Lai's guidance, promising a vibrant atmosphere for guests.

"At Raffles, we believe travelers arrive as guests but leave as friends and return as family," Rosen said.

This commitment to hospitality underscores their mission to transform luxury experiences into lasting relationships.

### TOURISM

## 26 MILLION VISITED MACAU IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS

RENATO MARQUES

**A** total of 25,920,914 visitors entered Macau in the first three quarters of this year, according to the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).

This is an increase of 30.1% year-on-year when compared to 2023 and a recovery of 85.8% in the number of visitors in the same period in 2019 (pre-pandemic).

This result was mostly due to an influx of same-day visitors (13,834,674), which grew 42.8% year-on-year.

Also up but to a lesser degree were overnight visitors (18.1%), which totaled 12,086,240 from January to September.

As a result of the increase in same-day visitors, the overall average length of stay of visitors shortened by 0.1-day year-on-year to 1.2 days, with that of overnight visitors remaining unchanged at 2.3 days.

Mainland visitors continue to top the visitors' sources, registering an increase of 36.3% year-on-year to 18,217,413 (70.3% of market share), with those traveling under the Individual Visit Scheme (IVS) reaching 9,257,455, a growth of 20.4%.

Visitors from the nine Pearl River Delta cities in the Greater Bay Area totaled 8,796,640 (+35.5%).



In the first three quarters of this year, visitor arrivals from the ten cities newly added to the IVS surged 53.9% year-on-year to 366,817. Of these, 76,464 were IVS visitors.

Visitors from Hong Kong (5,402,071) and Taiwan (623,880) rose 0.8% and 81.9% year-on-year, respectively.

The number of visitors from the mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan rebounded to 84.9%, 97.2%, and 76.5% of the corresponding levels in the first three quarters of 2019.

### INTERNATIONAL VISITORS SOARING

The official statistics also note international visitors soared 95.1% year-on-year to 1,677,550 in the first three quarters of this year, returning

to 70.7% of the level in the first three quarters of 2019.

Among international visitors, those from Southeast Asian markets dominated, with visitors from the Philippines (345,537), Indonesia (127,861), Thailand (95,108), and Singapore (74,156) increasing respectively by 75.6%, 33.6%, 70.6%, and 61.6% year-on-year.

From Asian markets, the most significant rises were registered by visitors from Malaysia (117,739), which leaped 136.4%, and India (77,071), which surged 133.6%.

Visitors from the Republic of Korea (341,497) and Japan (93,001) also jumped 207% and 102.6%, respectively.

On the long-haul markets, visitors from the USA

(103,379) recorded an uplift of 83.2% year-on-year.

### SEPTEMBER ON A HIGH NOTE

In September, the number of visitor arrivals expanded by 9.9% year-on-year to 2,528,011, a figure that is 91.4% of the same month in 2019.

In addition, the number of international visitors (173,614) rose 37.6% year-on-year, representing a recovery rate of 92.7% of September 2019 levels.

In the same month, same-day visitors (1,308,147) and overnight visitors (1,219,864) grew 15.6% and 4.3% year-on-year, respectively.

Meanwhile, the average length of stay of visitors (1.3 days) shortened by 0.1-day year-on-year.

## FORMER MCB PRESIDENT PLEADS NOT GUILTY IN FRAUD TRIAL

**T**HE trial against Yau Wai Chu, the former president of Macau Chinese Bank (MCB), continued in the court of first instance, with the defendant once again pleading not guilty to charges of fraud involving 456 million patacas, the public broadcaster TDM reported.

During the hearing, Yau's lawyers questioned the procedures and oversight involved in approving the loans at the center



of the case.

Yau claimed the lending decisions were based on documents provided by the companies seeking the loans, as well as on-site inspections by bank

employees to verify the projects' operations.

However, the prosecution has alleged many of the projects financed by the loans were non-existent, including work on

several integrated resort hotels and a large rapid transit line.

Yau argued the Monetary Authority of Macao and the Bank Association had urged the bank to ease lending poli-

cies due to the financial difficulties faced by companies during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Yau said she trusted her employees' judgment and did not personally verify the authenticity of the projects.

Ryan Ng, a former high executive of MCB's business department, also testified that the bank had granted the loans without customer guarantees based on trust in the borrowers.

Ng admitted that MCB did not ask for information about the purpose of the borrowed funds. VC



RENATO MARQUES

ENVIRONMENT

# Investing in environmental sustainability in forum debate

**T**HE Macau Institute for Corporate Social Responsibility in Greater China (MICSRGC) is hosting a forum on Innovative & Sustainable Finance & Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) tomorrow.

The forum will explore the role of innovative sustainable financing methods and new concepts to create an enabling investment environment in line with global sustainability development.

Two prominent figures in finance and accounting as well as ESG product strategy will be among the keynote speakers.

Jill Atkins is a world-renowned finance and accounting professor from Cardiff University who has been published widely in the area of sustainability and advocates for an extinction accounting framework.

Martina Macpherson is Head of ESG Product Strategy and Management at SIX (the Swiss and Spanish Stock Exchanges Group) and advisor to several high-level organizations in the UK and Europe.

Prof. Carlos Noronha, a founder and vice president of the Administrative Council of the MICSRGC and one of the event panelists, told the Times, "The focus is mainly on sustainability, biodiversity, and 'extinction' accounting and finance. The idea is that we can address climate change and sustainability problems that have resulted in many animal and plant species going extinct through what is known as



Prof. Carlos Noronha

'extinction' accounting or 'extinction' finance."

"Keynote speaker Martina McPherson will be talking about extinction bonds as a way to help with conservation and protection to prevent certain species from going extinct through various financing methods," he said.

"I think this is a key selling

point for the forum because, in Macau, people may be more familiar with investment in bonds. The point here is that we are trying to bring something very new [about bonds], which is about extinction accounting and the so-called 'nature credit'."

"In simpler words, whenever a company does something good

for the environment or biodiversity, they can collect a credit certificate that operates as a trading instrument."

"This is conceptually similar to 'carbon accounting' and 'carbon trading', which generates 'carbon credits' – we find people are more familiar with this concept."

Noronha noted that in Macau,

people are familiar with the government retrieving unused land plots for future development.

But repurposed land plots have historically been used to construct social housing or other facilities.

"What is never considered is the possibility of giving it to our non-human stakeholders for rewilding so it can return to its original form."

He noted that through this innovative system, "people [and corporations] can invest in rewilding projects and can invest in related activities."

Noronha said the different topics are intertwined. To undertake these projects and new methods of investment, there is a need for regulatory frameworks and the ability to conduct assessments.

He said that while such systems and regulations are already common in some countries and regions, they are new to Macau. As such, the association is seeking to bring knowledgeable speakers and experts in the field to this forum in Macau.

The forum will take place at the Grand Hall, Inspiration Building of the Mong-Há Campus of the Macau University of Tourism.

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Event Coordinator: 承辦單位:

**Event Date and Time 活動日期及時間:**  
25 October 2024 (Friday), 2:00pm  
2024年10月25日下午二時

**Event Venue 活動地點:**  
Grand Hall, Inspiration Building,  
Mong-Há Campus, Macao University of Tourism  
澳門旅遊大學望廈校區啟思樓大禮堂

**Event details link: 活動詳情連結:**

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澳門企業社會責任大中華學會  
Instituto para a Responsabilidade Social das Organizações no Grande China em Macau  
Macau Institute for Corporate Social Responsibility in Greater China

**MICSRGC International Forum: Innovative & Sustainable Finance & ESG**  
**MICSRGC國際論壇：創新及可持續金融與ESG**





A view shows a banner with the logo of the annual BRICS summit next to the Kazan Kremlin in Kazan, Russia

ANALYSIS

# BRICS CREATES NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR AFRICA

HISHAM ABUBAKR METWALLY\*

At the ongoing BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia, the leaders of BRICS member states are focusing on strengthening strategic partnerships and enhancing the grouping's role in international affairs.

BRICS has a multi-tiered framework of pragmatic cooperation in fields such as economy and trade, finance, technology, agriculture, culture,

education, health, and so on. It has become a constructive force in promoting global economic growth, enhancing global governance, and advancing the democratization of international relations.

The grouping also has to strengthen the roles of its member states in the global monetary and financial system, deepen interbank cooperation, facilitate the transformation of the global settlement system and expand the use of national currencies of

BRICS member states to settle payments.

The BRICS summit is becoming increasingly important for the countries of the Global South, because the grouping is no longer just a platform for economic cooperation, but has become an effective and important means for the Global South to build a safer and fairer world.

Some powers and their allies have monopolized the control of international organizations and institutions

that were established after the end of World War II to realize global stability and development for all. But the whole world has realized that those countries do not abide by international or humanitarian law, or adhere to the United Nations Charter or UN agencies' rules.

By controlling their wealth and movement of their trade, and by printing copious amounts of monetary dominance, some developed powers have also drowned the countries of the Global South in debt for decades without giving them the opportunity — by triggering wars and political upheaval — to develop their economies.

According to the World Bank Group's estimates, Africa's total external debt reached \$1.15 trillion in 2023, compared with \$1.12 trillion in 2022, with some estimates suggesting the debt could reach \$2 trillion by the end of this year.

This means Africa's debt challenge will continue in the near future, especially because global interest rates have reached the highest level in 40 years. Also, African countries have suffered due to declining export revenues since commodity prices began falling in 2015, with the COVID-19 pandemic further worsening the situation.

The fall in commodity prices has reduced the foreign exchange earnings of the Global South countries, which need them to service their loans. Many countries have taken out new loans to pay off old debts, putting them in a debt spiral that prevents them from investing in infras-

tructure, healthcare systems and education. In fact, the World Bank said last year that 22 countries were at risk of "over-indebtedness". African countries alone will have to pay \$163 billion in debt service in 2024, a sharp increase from \$61 billion in 2010.

About 80 percent of these debts are to international institutions including the World Bank and the IMF. China, too, has given loans to the African countries to boost their infrastructure development. But China accounts for only about 11 percent of African countries' total loans, which fortunately are all investment projects that promote Africa's economic growth.

As for the five countries that formally participated in BRICS cooperation on Jan 1, they have outstanding financial capability and development potential. For example, the United Arab Emirates has the capability and means to finance and invest in major projects, and Egypt is a large country occupying a strategic location with expertise in the field of agriculture and communications.

BRICS now accounts for 37 percent of global GDP, 46 percent of the world population, about 40 percent of global oil production, and 25 percent of global exports. By becoming BRICS members or partnering BRICS, African countries can create a lot of opportunities for themselves and thus further boost the growth of their economies despite the many challenges. **MDT/CHINA DAILY**

\*The author is a researcher in economics at the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Trade and Industry.

HONG KONG

# Lee bars services like WhatsApp and Google Drive from government computers

KANIS LEUNG, HONG KONG

The Hong Kong government is barring most civil servants from using popular apps like WhatsApp, WeChat and Google Drive on their work computers due to potential security risks.

The latest IT security guidelines from the Digital Policy Office have many civil servants complaining about added inconvenience. Government workers will still be allowed to use the services from personal devices at work, and can get exceptions to the ban with approval

from a manager.

Information technology experts said companies have adopted similar policies due to increasing risks of data leaks and cybersecurity challenges.

Sun Dong, Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry, said on a radio program Tuesday that the ban is needed as hacking is becoming a more serious problem. He said the governments of the United States and China have also adopted stringent measures for their internal computer systems.

A civil servant surnamed



Francis Fong, the honorary president of the Hong Kong Information Technology Federation

Lee, who requested anonymity because she was not authorized to speak to me-

dia, said her office often uses cloud storage services to exchange large files with

vendors outside the government.

Francis Fong, the hono-

rary president of the Hong Kong Information Technology Federation, said officials told him that the policy aims to prevent malware from bypassing its firewall through encrypted messages. He added that it could also address issues with data breaches.

Anthony Lai, director of VX Research Limited, a cybersecurity firm based in Hong Kong and Britain, said the government's approach is appropriate due to low cybersecurity awareness among some staff and a lack of comprehensive internal monitoring systems.

Earlier this year, data breaches at various Hong Kong government departments compromised the personal information of at least tens of thousands of people and sparked concerns. **MDT/AP**



PHILIPPINES

# Storm-triggered floods spark frantic calls to rescue trapped people

JIM GOMEZ, MANILA

**T**ORRENTIAL rain set off by an approaching tropical storm swamped eastern Philippine cities and towns overnight in widespread flooding that trapped people, some on their roofs, and sparked frantic appeals for rescue boats and trucks, officials said yesterday.

The government shut down public schools and government offices — except those urgently needed for disaster response — on the entire main island of Luzon to protect millions of people as Tropical Storm Trami blew closer from the Pacific.

At least one person died after being hit by a fallen tree branch in central Masbate province while seven others were reported missing, including three men who sailed to fish in the high seas from Masbate but haven't returned, officials said.

The storm was about 310 kilometers east of Baler town in the northeastern province of Aurora with sustained winds of 85 kilometers per hour and gusts to 105 kph (65 mph). Its wide rain band could dump up to 20 centimeters of rainwater in one day of intense downpours in the most vulnerable provinces on its path, according to state forecasters.

The storm was forecast to hit Aurora's coast Wednesday night to early Thursday, then barrel



Residents start cleaning their area after floods caused by Tropical Trami, locally named Kristine, in Polangui, yesterday

across northern Luzon's mountain range, valleys and plains before exiting to the South China Sea later in the week, they said.

Thousands of villagers have evacuated to emergency shelters in northeastern provinces, and storm warnings were raised in more than two dozen northern and central provinces, including in the densely populated capital of Manila, which was not in the storm's direct path but could be lashed by its pounding rains.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. canceled all his appointments yesterday and convened an emergency meeting in military headquarters to discuss disaster mitigation efforts, Communications Secretary Cesar Chavez said.

During the meeting, Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro said the military's aircraft and ships would be used for evacuations and disaster response. He said additional airlift power could be provided by friendly countries, including Singapore, if needed.

"People have been stuck on roofs of their houses for several hours now," former Vice President Leni Robredo, who lives in the northeastern city of Naga, said in a post on Facebook early in the day. "Many of our rescue trucks have stalled due to the floods."

Robredo expressed hopes the flooding would ease at low tide yesterday morning when swollen rivers could flow out faster into

the sea.

Coast guard personnel have been rescuing residents in flooded villages in the eastern provinces of Sorsogon, Albay, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes and outlying regions since Tuesday, but provincial authorities said the number of rescue boats and personnel was not enough.

Thousands of passengers and cargo workers were stranded in several seaports after the coast guard said it suspended inter-island ferry services and barred fishing boats from venturing into the increasingly rough seas.

"We need national intervention," Rep. Luis Raymund Villafuerte of Camarines Sur province told DZRH radio network, saying

his flood-prone province has about 50 rescue boats but needs about 200 due to the widespread appeals from villagers to be rescued.

Thousands of villagers were evacuated from low-lying communities and landslide-prone areas starting two days ago in Camarines Sur but many more were asking for help.

"Last night, my phone was filled with nonstop calls and text messages from people pleading 'Help us, rescue us,'" Villafuerte said. "It's sad when you feel helpless because of this deluge of problems."

In nearby Quezon province, Governor Angelina Tan said floods in some areas reach up to 3 meters and at least 8,000 villagers have evacuated from low-lying communities.

About 20 storms and typhoons batter the Philippines each year. The archipelago also lies in the "Pacific Ring of Fire," a region along most of the Pacific Ocean rim where many volcanic eruptions and earthquakes occur, making the Southeast Asian nation one of the world's most disaster-prone.

In 2013, Typhoon Haiyan, one of the strongest recorded tropical cyclones in the world, left more than 7,300 people dead or missing, flattened entire villages, swept ships inland and displaced more than 5 million in the central Philippines. **MDT/AP**

CAMBODIA

# How a nearly extinct crocodile species returned from the brink

**A** tiny snout poked out to widen the crack of the slowly shattering eggshell.

The Siamese crocodile was taking its time, lagging others that had already wriggled out, chirping, into the sand. Adults can be up to 4 meters long and weigh up to 350 kilograms. They have few natural predators. But these hatchlings — each roughly the size of a New York hotdog — are vulnerable and their chorus of shrill calls was a signal for mothers to protect them and for stragglers to catch up.

Hor Vichet, a zookeeper at the nonprofit Fauna and Flora's breeding center for the critically endangered reptiles in Cambodia's Phnom Tamao, broke the rest of the shell.

"It's time to go into the world," he said.

Siamese crocodiles are making an unlikely comeback. Once widespread across Southeast Asia, demand for leather made from their skins decimated wild populations in the last century. Thousands were hunted or captured for breeding



Siamese crocodile hatchlings rest together at a hatchling nursery in Phnom Tamao Zoo in Takeo province

at farms. By the late nineties, they were thought to be extinct.

But a 2000 survey in the

Cardamom Mountains in western Cambodia found a vestige of a wild population. These misty rain-

forests were among the last strongholds of Khmer Rouge guerrillas who fought the government until 1999. That, combined with the reverence of local Indigenous communities saved this lingering enclave of crocodiles. But they were still too few and too scattered to recover the population.

Conservationists realized that saving the species would require captive breeding of purebred, fertile crocodiles. The crocodile farmers who had nearly hunted the species to extinction now play a vital role in that effort.

Today there are about 1,000 Siamese crocodiles in the wild, roughly 400 in Cambodia and the rest scattered in Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and

Indonesia. Protecting the reptile also requires safeguarding its habitat in the Cardamom Mountains — a diverse ecosystem that is one of the last surviving rainforests in Southeast Asia. It stretches over an area larger than Denmark, helping to trap earth-warming greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.

The efforts are finally paying off: The first crocodiles were reintroduced into the wild in 2012 and they have begun breeding in the wild: over a hundred eggs were discovered in the forests in July, the most so far. "We are still far from being able to say the species is in a good place," admitted Pablo Sinovas of Fauna and Flora. "But it is making progress." **MDT/AP**



AP PHOTO



Police block pro-Palestinian demonstrators from entering a building on the UCLA campus, last May, in Los Angeles

US ELECTIONS

# Russia and Iran may fuel violent protests post-elections: intel

DAVID KLEPPER,  
WASHINGTON

**R**USSIA and Iran may try to encourage violent protests in the U.S. after next month's election, senior intelligence officials warned yesterday [Macau time] in a declassified memo, citing two recent examples of foreign intelligence agencies seeking to sow discord ahead of the vote.

The memo, released by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, said both countries could support violent protests either by covertly organizing events themselves or by encouraging participation in those planned by domestic groups. The aim, the officials wrote, would be to increase division, cast doubt on election results and complicate the transfer of presidential power.

In January, Russian military intelligence tried to recruit an American to organize protests in the U.S., according to a declassified national intelligence memo released publicly Tuesday. The American was "probably unwitting" and did not know he was in contact with Iranian agents, the memo said.

The U.S. first accused the Iranian government of covertly supporting protests against American support for Israel during the war in Gaza. Individuals linked to Iran offered to cover the cost of travel to protests this year in Washington,

the memo said.

The risk that one of America's adversaries could encourage political violence after the election is greater this year, officials said, because officials in both nations now have a better understanding of the complicated process the U.S. uses to certify the vote.

The Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol by Trump supporters also highlighted just how easily false and misleading claims about election results can trigger deadly real-world action.

The period between Election Day and the inauguration of the new president poses special risks as foreign adversaries and domestic extremists could seek to disrupt election certification by exploiting misleading claims or innocent irregularities.

Concerns about safety already have prompted election workers in some communities to install bulletproof glass and panic buttons because of the risk of election-related incidents.

Fears of political violence have grown amid concerns about widening polarization and growing distrust, a trend America's adversaries have tried to accelerate by using online disinformation and propaganda. Besides hoping to shape the outcome of the election, officials say Russia and Iran — as well as China — want to undermine American unity by spreading false and misleading claims about elections, voting

and hot-button issues like immigration, the economy or the federal response to recent hurricanes.

For Russia, which aims to erode support for Ukraine, that means favoring former President Donald Trump, who has praised Russian President Vladimir Putin and criticized the NATO alliance. Iran, meanwhile, has sought to hurt Trump's campaign through disinformation and by hacking into its campaign emails.

Trump's administration ended a nuclear deal with Iran, reimposed sanctions and ordered the killing of Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani, an act that prompted Iran's leaders to vow revenge.

Russia will likely try to foment protests in the U.S. regardless of who wins the White House, according to an official with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, who briefed reporters on the condition of anonymity under rules set out by the office of the director. Officials said they expect Russia's response will be more aggressive, however, if Harris defeats Trump.

China also has spread disinformation seemingly designed to mislead and confuse Americans, but intelligence officials say they have no indication that Beijing will seek to encourage violent protests. While China has sought to meddle in down-ballot races for Congress or state and local office, U.S. in-

telligence officials and private analysts agree that Beijing has expressed no meaningful preference in the presidential race.

Groups looking to meddle in the election also could use the threat of violence at polling places to keep certain groups of voters from casting a ballot, officials have warned. Something similar happened in 2020, when Iranian hackers allegedly posed as members of the far-right Proud Boys organization and sent threatening emails to Democratic voters as a vote suppression tactic.

Voting advocacy organizations and civil rights groups have responded to concerns of election violence with public outreach initiatives aimed at increasing resilience to disinformation and at reminding them that Americans agree on more than the current political climate suggests.

"In 2024, voters must know that they will decide the outcome of the election — not a political party, extremist groups or purveyors of disinformation," said Maya Wiley, president and CEO of the Leadership Conference for Civil and Human Rights, which has launched its own efforts to fight election misinformation and the political violence it could spur. "Democracy requires passionate persistence."

Russia, China and Iran have all rejected claims that they seek to meddle with the U.S. election. On Tuesday, a spokesperson for Iran's U.N. mission pointed to past statements denying an intention to interfere in American politics. A spokesperson for China's Embassy in Washington told The Associated Press that U.S. officials' claims about Chinese disinformation are "full of malicious speculations against China."

A message left with Russia's embassy was not immediately returned. **MDT/AP**

## this day in history

### 1986 UK CUTS LINKS WITH SYRIA OVER BOMB PLOT



The UK government has broken off diplomatic relations with Syria following revelations of official complicity in Nezar Hindawi's plot to blow up an El Al airliner.

Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe said in a statement there was "conclusive evidence" of Syrian official involvement with Mr Hindawi.

It is understood the bomb Mr Hindawi planned to use was constructed at the Syrian Embassy in London and that Mr Hindawi held a Syrian passport normally reserved for government officials.

The Syrian ambassador, Dr Loutof Haydar, said the decision to expel him was "nonsense".

The decision came just hours after Mr Hindawi was sentenced to 45 years in jail for plotting to blow up the Israeli airliner flight to Tel Aviv.

Mr Hindawi attempted to blow up the flight by planting a timer bomb inside his girlfriend's hand luggage. Ann Murphy had been under the impression that he would follow her on a later flight.

The explosives were only discovered when a security official searched the bag thinking it was too heavy. The 3lb of plastic explosives and a detonator concealed in a pocket calculator had made it through two X-ray machines undetected.

When the bomb was discovered Mr Hindawi went to the Syrian embassy in London where he was told he had done 'good things', taken to a safe house and given a disguise. He was caught when he left the safe house to go to a hotel.

The judge, Mr Justice Mars-Jones said: "This was a well planned, well organised crime which involved many others besides yourself, some of them people in high places."

"If your attempt had succeeded and that bomb had gone off then some 380 innocent civilians, men, women and children would have perished, including the woman you professed to love and who was carrying your child".

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Following their expulsion the Syrian authorities admitted Mr Hindawi was carrying a Syrian passport in a false name and that two separate visa applications had official support.

It was also admitted that he met the ambassador immediately after the bomb's discovery and he then stayed in accommodation belonging to a member of the Syrian Embassy.

Syria responded to their expulsion by cutting all links with Britain, including closing airspace and sea ports to British planes and ships.

The expulsion of the Syrian Embassy official was the first time an ambassador had ever been removed for being involved in criminal activities.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Home holds your heart. Pour energy into domestic improvement. Clean and clear out clutter. Add a colorful touch. Share delicious treats with family.

TAURUS Apr. 20-May. 20 You're especially creative. Do the preparation to present your idea gloriously. You can get what you need. Edit your communications and marketing materials.

GEMINI May. 21-Jun. 21 Compute expenses and simplify to increase efficiency. Make extra income with extra efforts. Research purchases for value and quality. Grab a lucrative break.

CANCER Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Draw upon hidden resources. Self-discipline pays extra. Don't worry about the future. Focus on concrete results, here and now. Make satisfying personal improvements.

LEO Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Carve out some quiet time to rest and prepare for upcoming events. Organization and planning now provides ease and efficiency later. Consider options.

VIRGO Aug. 23-Sep. 22 Together, you get farther, faster. Teamwork makes light work of a big job. Provide food and treats for those who help. Your friends come through.

LIBRA Sep. 23-Oct. 22 Work with what others deliver. Find solutions for a professional puzzle. Invest time and efforts in success. Push for great results. Collaborate for common dreams.

SCORPIO Oct. 23-Nov. 21 An adventure is more fun shared with someone special. Manage the logistics carefully. Make reservations and schedules. Leave time for observation and rest.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Apply a bonus to family savings. A steady income trickle builds over time. Work together for a common goal. Contribute to shared accounts.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Collaborate with your partner for booming results. Stay receptive. Invent new possibilities and motivate each other. Share a bold adventure. You've got each other's back.

AQUARIUS Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Practice health and fitness routines for growing strength and endurance. Eat well for growing energy. Nurture your body, mind and spirit. Nature inspires.

PISCES Feb. 19-Mar. 20 Share words and actions from your heart. Empower your creative vision. Energize a passionate collaboration. Have fun! Play with it. Disciplined efforts can leap forward.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized by difficulty: EASY, EASY+, MEDIUM, and HARD. Each category contains a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled.

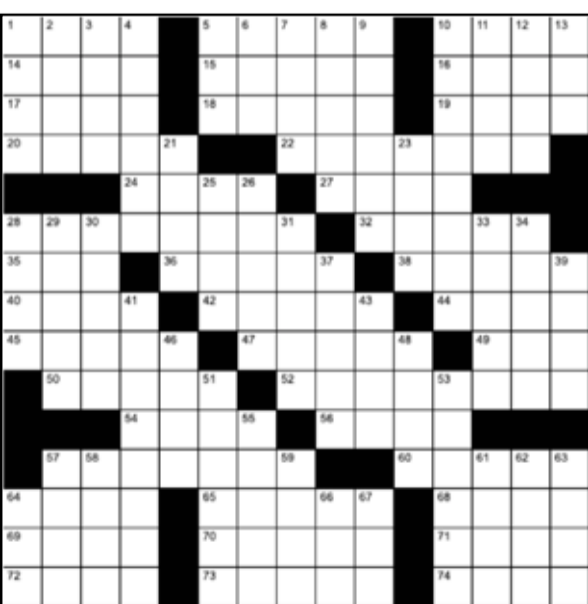
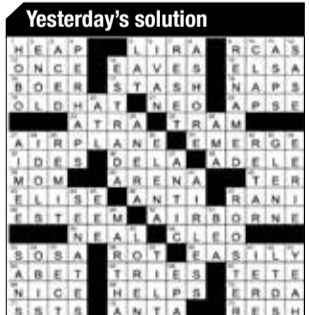
WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION. It lists weather for various cities in CHINA and WORLD.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1-Greek portico; 5- Coniferous evergreen forest; 10- Ed and Mel of baseball; 14- Stepped; 15- Ohio tire city; 16- Writer Ephron; 17- Greek liqueur; 18- A Judd; 19- Cabinet dept.; 20- Hammer parts; 22- Agent of retribution; 24- SALT subject; 27- Hindu queen; 28- Roman capital of Palestine; 32- Ski cottage; 35- Run smoothly; 36- Nabisco's \_\_\_ Wafers; 38- Fortune tellers; 40- Billy \_\_\_ had a hit song with 'White Wedding'; 42- Mall frequenters; 44- Distribute cards; 45- Quotes; 47- Bird of prey, score in golf; 49- U-turn from NNW; 50- Office subs; 52- Linseed; 54- Lubricates; 56- Prophetic sign; 57- State in the NW United States; 60- Sub detector; 64- Dr. Zhivago's love; 65- Twangy, as speech; 68- Portrayal by an actor; 69- Somewhat; 70- Commerce; 71- Soviet news service; 72- Story; 73- Have a feeling about; 74- Ammo;

DOWN 1- Word on a red sign; 2- Loyal; 3- Seep; 4- Handsome young man; 5- Light brown color, common to pale sunworshippers; 6- Alias letters; 7- Golf club which can be numbered 1 to 9; 8- Private Pyle; 9- Beast; 10- Unequal; 11- Singer Tennille; 12- Very, in Versailles; 13- Mediterranean isl.; 21- Read quickly; 23- Baseballer Slaughter; 25- Londoner, e.g.; 26- Free-for-all; 28- Trendy; 29- Examine account books; 30- Overact; 31- Shake like \_\_\_; 33- V-formation fliers; 34- Clear the board; 37- \_\_\_Saxon; 39- Dog-powered snow vehicle; 41- Pulp summer refreshment; 43- Shut with force; 46- Rotisserie part; 48- Former spouses; 51- Biases; 53- Grunts; 55- Animal trap; 57- \_\_\_Hari; 58- Like some vaccines; 59- Strong \_\_\_ ox; 61- Ark builder; 62- As well as; 63- Take five; 64- Back muscle, for short; 66- Spots on TV; 67- Levi's rival;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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



Real estate advertisement for jml property. It features three photos of properties: Hoi Wan Retail (Taipa) HKD 12,980,000, Tou Un (Taipa) HKD 2,750,000 (1 bed 1 bath), and Jade Garden (Taipa) HKD 11,880,000 (4 bed 3 bath). Contact information is provided: hello@jmlproperty.com, www.jmlproperty.com, jmlmacau, jmlproperty.



# GOLF NELLY KORDA HAS ALL BUT WRAPPED UP LPGA PLAYER OF THE YEAR

DOUG FERGUSON,  
GOLF WRITER

**T**HE case for LPGA Tour player of the year could be compelling if it were decided by a vote of the players instead of a points system.

As it stands, Nelly Korda has virtually locked up the award for the first time. Lydia Ko would have to win four more tournaments the rest of the season, and she is playing in only two of them. Two other players, Ayaka Furue and Haeran Ryu, would have to win out.

Korda winning would not elicit much of a debate. Her six victories this year include a major at The Chevron Championship, and she tied an LPGA record by winning five in a row that brought much-needed attention to the LPGA.

Ko has won four times this year, including the Women's British Open at St. Andrews. The LPGA remarkably counts only three wins toward the points-based award. Left out is that shiny gold medal at the Olympics.



AP PHOTO

Nelly Korda, of the United States

The benefit of using points is eliminating subjectivity. The PGA Tour uses a player vote, and it was surprising last year when Scottie Scheffler with his two wins captured the award over Jon Rahm, whose four wins included the Masters.

Scheffler's consistency — the best statistical season since peak Tiger Woods — was a big factor.

Unknown was whether Rahm lost votes by defecting to LIV Golf in the middle of the voting.

Ko might be the first to agree Korda is deserving of the award. It's also likely the Kiwi wouldn't trade her season. Golf is about trophies, and it's also about moments. Ko had some big ones.

Her gold medal in Paris, which followed a bronze in Tokyo and a

silver in Rio de Janeiro, made her eligible for the LPGA Hall of Fame. Winning another major was big, but winning at St. Andrews is next level.

The Golf Writers Association of America will decide at year's end through a vote.

The PGA Tour, meanwhile, might have a similar argument. Scheffler is the likely choice for

another stunning statistical year, this time to go along with seven victories, including the Masters and The Players Championship, and four signature events.

He also won the Olympic gold medal with a 62 in the final round.

Xander Schauffele won only twice, but they were majors at the PGA Championship and British Open. And players tend to put the most weight on majors.

No PGA Tour member has ever won two majors in the same year without being voted player of the year (Nick Faldo was not a member in 1990). Then again, it could be a measure of whether players really put The Players on par with a major.

Voting for PGA Tour player of the year doesn't start until after the season ends on Nov. 24.

This would seem to be an easy choice — at least Schauffele thinks so. He was asked Tuesday in Japan what it would take to win the award next year.

"It seems I need to have the best career ever," he said. "I just had my best career ever and wasn't really close." **MDT/AP**

AD

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FOOTBALL | CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

# PSG struggling to impress and the new format could prove helpful

JEROME PUGMIRE, PARIS

PSG 1, PSV EINDHOVEN 1

**T**HREE games. One win. No goals from the forwards. Judging by Paris Saint-Germain's performances so far, the revamped Champions League format could actually prove to be PSG's salvation because it may have struggled to qualify under the previous group format.

Yesterday's 1-1 home draw in the league stage against PSV Eindhoven, the Dutch league leader, exposed familiar weaknesses in defense while PSG no longer has galacticos like Kylian Mbappé or Neymar to decide tight matches.

Poor marking led to PSV's goal from left winger Noa Lang and, after right back Achraf Hakimi had equalized early in the second half, PSV twice threatened a late winner from counterattacks.

"It's the little details that count. PSV managed to make our

AP PHOTO



PSG's head coach Luis Enrique

mistakes count," Hakimi said. "It's difficult when you have to chase the game and come from behind."

PSG lost 2-0 away to Arsenal in its previous game amid poor defending and needed a huge stoppage-time blunder from the

visiting goalkeeper to scrape a 1-0 home win against modest Girona in its opening game.

PSG's only two goals so far have been from defenders amid wasteful finishing.

Left back Nuno Mendes netted against Girona but only because

his cross became a goal because of the goalie's mistake.

The new Champions League has 36 teams, playing eight games against eight different opponents through January, and gives plenty of scope for qualifying even if not in form.

The top eight go direct to the round of 16 in March. Teams ranked ninth to 24th go into the knockout playoffs in February and only the bottom 12 are immediately eliminated. PSG is currently 17th.

Hakimi said the players should have taken their chances better, but PSG coach Luis Enrique was satisfied with how his team played. He preferred to highlight that there was nearly a stoppage-time winner after PSV goalkeeper Walter Benitez made a stunning point-blank save.

"We created opportunities. This match was not a disappointment," he said through a translator. "The only thing is we didn't score one more than them and that's a pity."

But there looks much harder matches to come against Atletico Madrid, six-time winner Bayern Munich and 2023 champion Manchester City.

The previous format with only two teams out of four qualifying from each group may have been difficult for this PSG team — as it was last season.

PSG only qualified for the knockout stage in the last round of group games. After losing at Newcastle and AC Milan, it finished second behind Borussia Dortmund, which then beat PSG home and away in the semifinals.


Overall, PSG lost five games in the competition. **MDT/AP**


AD



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**OPINION**

**China Daily**

Vox South

**DRIVING FORCES BEHIND CHINA'S HIGH-QUALITY, COST-EFFECTIVE EVs**

The rise of Chinese electric vehicles (EVs) is undoubtedly a historic event reshaping the landscape of the global auto industry. Chinese automotive manufacturers now produce over half of the world's EVs, most of which are sold on the domestic market, and only 25 percent are for export. However, the advanced technologies and competitive pricing of Chinese EVs have left many international automakers feeling impacted. Some Western countries are hyping up the narrative that the appealing prices are primarily attributed to government subsidies. Is this really the case? Upon closer examination, it is apparent that the secret to China's cost-effective EVs lies not in government subsidies but in China's unique innovation-driven approach.

Chinese automakers have applied Moore's Law and Internet thinking, enabling Chinese EVs to go beyond the constraints of conventional transportation tools. These EVs have transformed into multi-functional and cutting-edge platforms combining transportation, entertainment, and information. This agile approach is better matched for today's consumer — with rapid updates and new features. While traditional automakers typically need four years to launch a new model, Chinese EV manufacturers require merely 1.3 years. Some emerging Chinese enterprises are even capable of releasing three model updates within a single year. Chinese EVs are updated and iterated like electronic products such as smartphones and computers, and it's obviously difficult for traditional carmakers to keep up with such a rapid pace.

Compared to traditional gasoline-powered cars, electric vehicles need different core technologies—batteries, motors, electronic control systems, as well as different related materials and supply chains. This has presented China's automotive manufacturers with an opportunity to catch up and surpass their global peers. As the saying goes, "chance favors the prepared mind." Chinese manufacturers invested in core EV technologies early on and for the long term. For instance, China's CATL, a global leader in new energy innovative technologies, has focused its efforts on the development of power batteries, which generally accounts for one-third of the cost of an EV. Leading the world technologically, the company holds a 38 percent global market share. Besides, Chinese enterprises also dominate the processing of raw materials, which is key to the manufacturing of batteries and motors, thanks to their early start and constantly upgraded technologies. These combined advantages have given Chinese EV companies a significant lead in cost control and quality improvement.

Thanks to robust consumer demand, well-developed supporting infrastructure, and consumers' burgeoning interest in green and smart technologies, China has become the world's largest EV market. In 2023, China's new energy vehicle sales reached 9.495 million units, ranking first in the world for nine consecutive years. By 2030, the sales are projected to reach 15 million units. According to Wright's Law, for every cumulative doubling of units produced, costs will fall by at least 10 to 15 percent. The massive market empowers Chinese EV manufacturers to continuously cut costs sustainably.

China's EV industry has pioneered an efficient development path characterized by rapid innovation, strong emphasis on R&D, specialized division of labor, vertical integration, and market-driven strategies. This new path serves as a beacon for countries aiming for green transformation, especially Global South countries. What is advisable is to learn from the experience of China's success in the EV sector rather than spreading rumors, smearing, or decoupling. Such erroneous actions cannot impede the progress of China's EVs but will only end up hindering one's advancements in innovation. [Abridged]

Police in Sri Lanka have raised security around a popular surfing destination after receiving information about a possible threat to Israeli travelers, a spokesperson said yesterday.

Police spokesperson Nihal Thalduwa said special security measures had been put in place at Arugam Bay in the country's east.

The police statement came after the U.S. embassy in Sri Lanka alerted Americans to avoid Arugam Bay area until further notice due to "credible information warning of an attack targeting popular tourist locations in the Arugam Bay area."

Thalduwa said the regional police had stepped up security over the past days increasing road blocks and vehicle checks and police will be putting in place security measures around the country to protect tourists who will be visiting Sri Lanka for the oncoming year-end tourist season.

Sri Lanka is slowly emerging from its worst economic crisis and the tourism industry has been a main driver of its recovery.

Simultaneous suicide bomb attacks on three tourist hotels and three churches on Easter Sunday in 2019 caused a downturn in the industry and contributed to an economic collapse three years later.



Protesters gather to demand the resignation of President Mohammed Shahabuddin, in Dhaka

**FRESH TENSION GRIPS BANGLADESH AS STUDENT DEMAND PRESIDENT'S RESIGNATION**

JULHAS ALAM, DHAKA

**P**OLITICAL tension in Bangladesh is growing anew on Wednesday after a leading student group called for the country's figurehead president to resign over comments he made that appeared to call into question former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's resignation in August.

The interim government was expected to hold a Cabinet meeting to discuss the issue yesterday [Macau time].

The student group, known as the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, set a two-day deadline for President Mohammed Shahabuddin to step down. Hundreds of protesters rallied in the capital, Dhaka, while hundreds of others attempted to storm the presidential palace, Bangabhaban.

Police and witnesses said security officials charged at protesters with batons and used stun grenades to disperse people. Media reports said at least two protesters were injured by bullets.

The new political turmoil began after Shahabuddin told a Bengali-language newspaper earlier this week that he had not seen Hasina's resignation letter as she

fled to India in August amid a student-led uprising. An interim government led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus took power and formed a government after Hasina stepped down on Aug. 5.

Shahabuddin said in his interview with the Manab Zamin daily that he only heard about Hasina's resignation but had not seen the actual letter, a statement that infuriated the Yunus-led government and student activists, prompting them to call for his resignation.

"I tried (to collect the resignation letter) many times but failed," the president was quoted as telling the news outlet about the events of Aug. 5. "Maybe she did not have the time."

Hasina fled the country as thousands of protesters moved toward her official residence.

Shahabuddin, in an earlier address to the nation on Aug. 5, said that Hasina tendered her resignation letter to the president and that he received it.

Asif Nazrul, the country's law adviser, recently accused Shahabuddin of spreading falsehoods and questioned if he was fit to remain in office as head of state.

Under Bangladesh's constitution, an elected prime minister must submit his or her resignation in writing to the president. Shahabuddin was appointed president by parliament after Hasina was elected prime minister for a fourth consecutive term in an election in January.

Shahabuddin dissolved parliament before the interim government took power on Aug. 8.

Yesterday, some 200 student protesters demonstrated at a monument in Dhaka and described Shahabuddin as a collaborator with Hasina's "fascist" regime.

Separately, a few hundred protesters attempted to break through a security barricade to enter the presidential palace late Tuesday. The protests continued past midnight into Wednesday.

Experts say the resignation or removal of the president could create a constitutional vacuum.

Under the constitution, only parliament can impeach the president for misconduct or other inabilities.

Hasina is now in India, but the Yunus-led government has said it would seek her expatriation to try her for alleged crimes against humanity. MDT/AP



**Australia** Indigenous Australian senator Lidia Thorpe yesterday intensified criticism of King Charles III, accusing him of complicity in the "genocide" of First Nations peoples. Despite backlash for her protest at a royal event, Thorpe vowed to continue her activism, focusing on colonial injustices and Indigenous rights.



**South Korea's** intelligence chief confirmed North Korea has sent another 1,500 troops to Russia, reportedly to aid in its war against Ukraine. This addition brings the total to 3,000, with a goal of deploying up to 10,000 by December.



**Russia's** President Vladimir Putin yesterday world leaders at a summit of the BRICS. Speaking at the start the summit, Putin named the deepening of cooperation in the financial sector as part of its agenda. He said participants were also set to discuss a range of international issues including the settlement of regional conflicts, along with the expansion of the BRICS group of countries.



**United States** In the final weeks before the U.S. election, Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump held key campaign events in Michigan. Both targeted critical areas, highlighting their agendas to influence voters in the pivotal battleground state before the November election.