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**INFLATION: CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR SEPTEMBER PRESENTS A COMPLEX PICTURE WITH YEAR-ON-YEAR PRICES RISING 0.59% BUT A SLIGHT MONTH-ON-MONTH DECLINE**

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**STATE ALIEN LAND LAWS DRIVE SOME CHINA-BORN US CITIZENS TO RETHINK THEIR POLITICS**

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**PHILIPPINES: TROPICAL STORM TRAMI STRUCK HOMES, LEAVING SEVERAL VILLAGERS DEAD IN TALISAY, BATANGAS PROVINCE**

P7



AP PHOTO



**Taiwan** Thousands joined Taipei's annual Pride parade, one of Asia's largest LGBTQ+ celebrations. Participants, some dressed for Halloween, highlighted Taiwan's status as Asia's first to legalize same-sex marriage in 2019. Advocates stressed the significance of Taiwan's inclusivity amidst regional conservatism.

**Taiwan** The U.S. approved a \$2 billion arms sale to Taiwan, including advanced missile defense systems, marking the first such transfer. Taiwan thanked the U.S. for supporting its defense, while China condemned the sale, calling it a threat to regional stability.

AP PHOTO



**Japan** Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba faces elections that may weaken his party's majority due to financial scandals and economic issues. Ishiba, facing a slide in public support, has aimed to retain control while apologizing for his party's alleged misuse of funds.

AP PHOTO



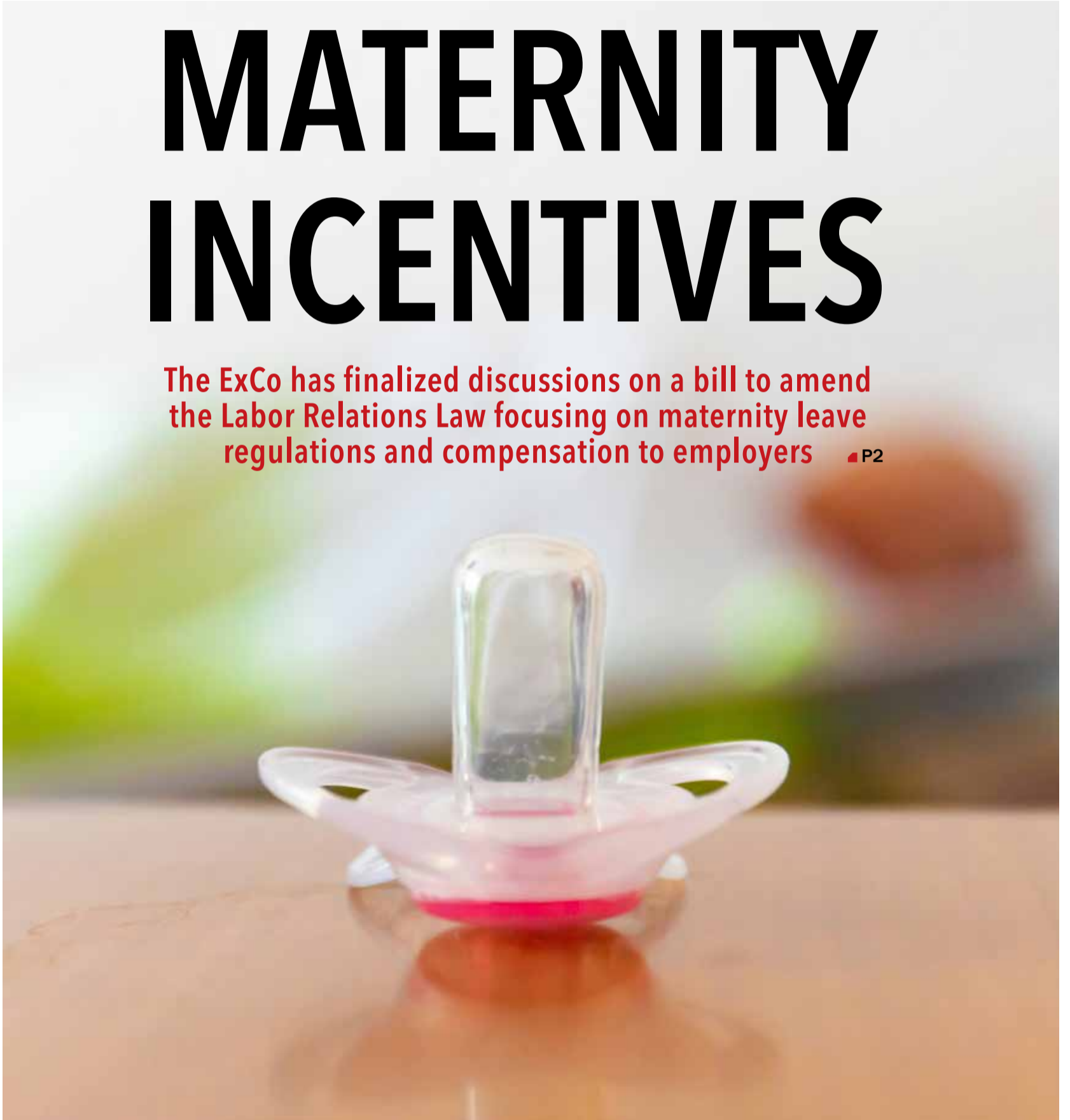
**Indonesia** Forests across Indonesia are being cleared to meet the growing demand for biomass energy, mostly for export to South Korea and Japan. Environmentalists warn the rising biomass demand threatens biodiversity and undermines efforts to combat climate change and forest conservation.

**Indonesia** Marapi volcano erupted yesterday, spewing ash columns up to 2,000 meters high and covering nearby villages with volcanic residue. Although no casualties were reported, officials warned locals to remain 3 kilometers from the crater, following past deadly eruptions and flash floods of cold lava.

More on backpage

# MATERNITY INCENTIVES

The ExCo has finalized discussions on a bill to amend the Labor Relations Law focusing on maternity leave regulations and compensation to employers P2



## GOVERNANCE

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## ON THE ROAD TO GP

**COUTO AND LEONG OUT OF GP DUE TO LAMBORGHINI WORLD FINALS**

P3

# EXCO APPROVES NEW MATERNITY LEAVE BILL

NADIA SHAW

**T**HE Executive Council (ExCo), the advisory body to the Chief Executive and core policy-making organ of the government, has finalized discussions on a bill to amend the Labor Relations Law, specifically focusing on maternity leave regulations and employer compensation. The proposed changes, discussed during a press conference late last week, will soon be submitted to the Legislative Assembly for review.

The draft law, known as "Amending Law No. 7/2008 (Labor Relations Law)," seeks to address key issues regarding maternity leave and dismissal compensation. Notably, the bill proposes raising the maximum monthly basic remuneration used to calculate dismissal compensation from MOP20,000 to MOP21,500. This adjustment reflects a comprehensive analysis of local economic conditions and employment status from April 2021 to



April 2023.

In addition to changes in dismissal compensation, the ExCo has also completed discussions on administrative regulations for a new "Subsidy Scheme for Employers to Pay Maternity Leave Remuneration." This initiative is designed to help employers adapt to increased maternity leave requirements while fostering harmonious labor relations. Under this scheme, employers who provide 70 days of maternity leave remuneration to eligible female employees between May 26, 2023, and December 31, 2025, can apply for a subsidy equivalent to

the employee's basic salary for up to 14 days.

The proposed regulations aim to enhance support for local businesses while ensuring that employees receive fair maternity benefits. The ExCo spokesperson, André Cheong, said these measures are crucial for promoting workforce stability and improving overall labor conditions in the region.

The regulations are set to take effect immediately upon promulgation. Stakeholders from both labor and management sectors are encouraged to engage in discussions as the bill moves through the legislative process.



# ExCo greenlights investment funds bill

VICTORIA CHAN

**T**HE Executive Council (ExCo) has approved a new "Investment Funds Law" to accelerate the development of the modern financial sector and promote economic diversification in the region.

The proposed law, which will be submitted for consideration by the Legislative Assembly (AL), aims to strengthen coordination with international supervisory regimes, optimize regulations on investment fund transactions, and add new prudential limits for entities within the same group.

The proposed Investment Funds Law was drafted after consulting financial experts and analyzing legislation elsewhere. It will replace the current Decree-Law No. 83/99/M, regulating investment funds and fund management companies. The bill seeks to strengthen coordination with international oversight while optimizing transaction rules and adding new limits for group-owned entities. It also increases disclosure requirements and unit holder

meeting provisions to boost investor protections.

To encourage fund operation and development, the law would remove minimum participant and fundraising thresholds to form investment funds along with scrapping inspection fees. It also lifts a limit confining real estate funds to local property investments. The scope of fund management companies is expanded as well, allowing them to organize as limited liability companies. Eligible depositaries are increased, and new provisions clarify that private funds can be established by way of contracts, commercial companies, or partnerships.

The bill also aims to optimize the development of the fund management sector by expanding the scope of activity of investment fund management companies and adding provisions relating to private investment funds. A one-year transitional period is provided for current funds and entities under the proposed Investment Funds Law, which now moves to the AL for discussion and voting.

## ONE SHOT NEWS



16,098 people visited the government headquarters over the weekend during the "2024 Government Headquarters Open Day sessions," according to the Government Information Bureau.

## GOV'T ADVANCES TALENT DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

**T**HE Executive Council has finalized discussions on the draft administrative regulation titled "Amendment of Administrative Regulation No. 20/2023: Talent Development Committee." This regulation aims to enhance Macau's talent policy and accelerate initiatives for talent recruitment and training.

Key updates in the new regulation include converting the high-end talent planning task force from a temporary body to a permanent one and solidifying its role in talent development. Additionally, the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) will now be responsible for coordinating educational

policies and supporting the Talent Development Committee, both financially and with human resources.

Budgetary provisions have also been addressed. Previously without a dedicated budget, the Talent Development Committee's financial operations will now be managed by the DSEDJ, which will bear costs associated with the Talent Introduction Review Committee.

These regulations take effect immediately after their publication.

For further updates on implementation, stakeholders are encouraged to stay informed through official channels. NS

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# State Council appoints Sam Hou Fai as new CE

RENATO MARQUES

**C**HINA'S State Council appointed Sam Hou Fai as Macau's sixth-term Chief Executive (CE) Friday, according to Xinhua news agency.

His tenure will begin on Dec. 20, following a decision made at a State Council meeting presided over by Premier Li Qiang.

The State Council's appointment confirms the Oct. 13 election results, in which Sam secured the top post with 394 of 398 possible votes.

During the meeting, Li said, "Over the past 25 years since its return to the motherland, Macau has seen full and faithful implementation of the principle of 'one country, two systems' and ushered in the best development situation in history. The Central People's government will maintain its firm commitment to the letter and spirit of the 'one country, two systems' principle, under which the people of Macau administer the SAR with a high degree



of autonomy."

Li pledged that the Central People's Government would fully support the new CE and the new local government in "exercising law-based administration, breaking new ground while

upholding fundamental principles, and shouldering their responsibilities."

He also pledged full support for the CE and his incoming administration in maintaining national security, promoting the region's

economic diversification, improving the well-being of its residents, and building a harmonious and stable society to foster the joint development and prosperity of Macau and the mainland.

Born in Zhongshan, Guang-

dong Province, in May 1962, Sam later moved to Macau, where he joined the first group of Macau's judicial auditors in 1995. He served in several public posts, including as president of the Court of Final Appeal.

## Consumer prices show mixed signals in September

NADIA SHAW

**T**HE Consumer Price Index (CPI) for September presents a complex inflationary picture, with year-on-year prices rising 0.59% but experiencing a slight month-on-month decline of 0.09%, according to the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). This data indicates an average CPI growth of 0.98% over the past twelve months, reflecting a moderate inflationary environment.

Significant increases in specific categories contributed to annual growth. Notably, miscellaneous goods and services rose 2.74%, followed by recreation and culture at 1.76% and health at 1.67%. Additionally, increased costs were observed at dining outlets and petrol stations, where higher liquid



petroleum gas prices contributed to a rise in food and non-alcoholic beverages, which increased 0.89%. Sectors such as transport and household furnishings experienced declines of 3.51% and 0.5%, respectively, indicating tightening consumer spending in those areas.

Comparing September to August, the slight decrease in CPI was primarily influenced by decreases in transport prices, which fell 2.25%, largely due to reduced airfares and

package tour costs following the summer season.

Clothing and footwear also saw a decrease of 0.92%. However, price increases for miscellaneous goods and services (+1.13%) and education (+0.54%) helped cushion the overall decline.

For the third quarter of 2024, the average composite CPI increased 0.72% year-on-year, while the first nine months of the year recorded an average rise of 0.89%. The CPI-A and CPI-B indices,

which represent different household expenditure ranges, also showed modest increases of 0.9% and 1.08% respectively.

DSEC compiles three separate CPI series to reflect varying impacts on households based on their spending patterns. The composite CPI encompasses all households, with significant weightings given to housing and fuels (33.75%), food and non-alcoholic beverages (27.94%), and transport (7.84%).



André Couto



Charles Leong

### ON THE ROAD TO GP

## COUTO AND LEONG OUT OF GP DUE TO LAMBORGHINI WORLD FINALS

RENATO MARQUES

**M**ACAU racer André Couto will not be racing this year at the local Grand Prix (GP), scheduled for Nov. 14-17.

His absence is due to his participation in the Lamborghini Super Trofeo World Finals, taking place in Jerez de la Frontera, Spain, on Nov. 16 and 17.

"This year, we are going to participate in the 'World Finals' of the Lamborghini Super Trofeo em Jerez, Spain. We will also try to bring home the Pro-Am championship title, where we are currently tied in first position," Couto said.

As the Times has reported, the local racer is teaming up with the Chinese racer, Jason Chen (Madness Racing), for this year's Lamborghini Super Trofeo Asia series in the Pro-Am category.

After 10 races (out of 12), the duo is

currently sitting in first position with 118 points, tied with Thomas Yu Lee and Nikolas Pirttilahti.

To Hoje Macau newspaper, Couto added, "Of course, I would like to be at the Macau Grand Prix, but I have a commitment to the Madness Racing Team, and we are going to Spain to try to win our category in the championship. We are on par with our opponents and close to being able to beat them."

Also missing from the local GP for the same reason is regular racer, Charles Leong, who will compete in the same event but in the Pro class, partnering with Japanese racer Miki Koyama at the SJM Iron Lynx Theodore team.

Leong and Koyama currently occupy second place in the standings with 104 points, just 10 points behind leader Dan Wells.

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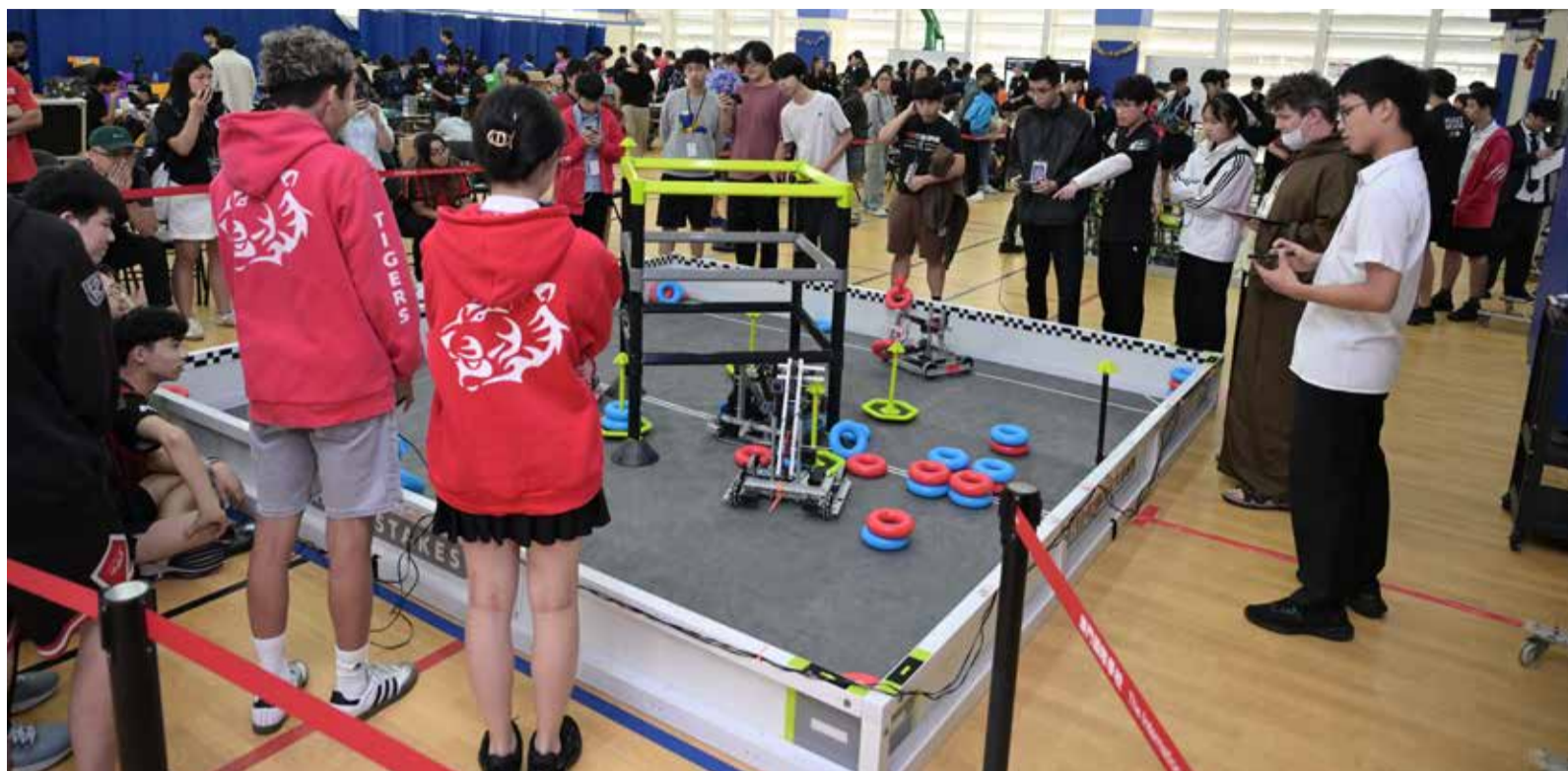
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TIS

# Robotics competition fosters innovation

VICTORIA CHAN

**T**HE International School of Macao (TIS) recently hosted its second TIS Robotics Competition,

the Macau Mecha Monster Mash, underscoring its commitment to fostering innovation, sportsmanship, and academic excellence. The event welcomed over 100 students from five international

schools from the Greater Bay Area in a large-scale VEX robotics competition.

The Macau Mecha Monster Mash competition served as an early season match for many

newcomers to the robotics arena. Notably, TIS has expanded its robotics program to include elementary students, welcoming Grade 5 and Grade 6 students. This change has allowed you-

ng innovators to experience the game format for the first time, while also fostering valuable connections among schools across the region.

The event provided a valuable opportunity for community engagement as parents, friends, and teachers gathered to support the competitors. As students showcased their ingenuity and collaboration, the Macau Mecha Monster Mash highlighted TIS's dedication to equipping students with the tools, experiences, and knowledge necessary to thrive in the 21st century.

"We believe that this competition not only highlights innovation and technical skills but also expands the horizons of our robotics programs," said Head of School Lorne Schmidt. "It provides an invaluable learning experience, encouraging students to collaborate and develop good sportsmanship."

The Macau Mecha Monster Mash stands as a testament to TIS's commitment to educational excellence. The school is dedicated to unlocking each student's potential, shaping innovators who will positively impact the future with their creativity and skills, and inspiring the next generation of engineers and technologists.

# Lusophone exports to China hit record high in first 8 months

VICTORIA CHAN

**A**CCORDING to a report from news agency Lusa, exports from Lusophone countries to China reached USD97.6 billion (MOP781.1b) between January and August, setting a new record for the period, according to data released Friday by the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Forum Macau).

This figure marks the highest level of exports to China for the first eight months of the year since Forum Macau began releasing customs data from China in 2013. Exports increased 4.9% from the same period in 2023, led by a 5.2% rise in sales from Brazil, the top Lusophone



supplier to China, to USD81.5 billion (MOP652.3b).

Angola saw its exports to China climb 1.8% to USD12 billion (MOP96b). Meanwhile, Portugal's exports jumped 11.4% compared to last year to reach USD2.09 billion (MOP16.7b). Most other Lusophone nations also increased shipments to China, including Mozambique, with a 25.5% rise to USD1.16 billion (MOP9.3b).

However, exports declined for Equatorial Guinea by 8% to USD838.5 million (MOP6.7b), while sales from East Timor (down 99%), Cape Verde (down 82.2%), and São Tomé and Príncipe (down 91.5%) also declined compared to 2023.

On the import side, Lusophone purchases from China set another record at USD58.5 billion (MOP468.18b), a 19.7% annual gain. Bra-

zil topped imports at USD49.5 billion (MOP396.15b), followed by Portugal at USD4.19 billion (MOP33.53b). Total trade between the regions amounted to USD156.1 billion (MOP1.25 trillion) in the first eight months, up 10% from 2023. In April, Forum Macau hosted its sixth ministerial gathering, where officials endorsed a new action plan to guide the organization through to 2027.



# IEEM ANNOUNCES INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW EVENTS

VICTORIA CHAN

**T**HE Institute of European Studies of Macau (IEEM), in collaboration with Maastricht University, will host three intellectual property (IP) law events from Oct. 28 to Nov. 6.

The headline event is the 17th IEEM Intellectual Property Law School, scheduled from Oct. 28 to Nov. 1. The law school, held at the Artyzen Grand Lapa Macau, aims to introduce students from around the world to intellectual property (IP) law from an international and practical perspective, featuring case studies and mock trials. It will be led by Professor Anselm Kamperman Sanders from Maastricht University and Dr. Christopher Heath from the European Patent Office. Following the law school, the 20th IEEM Intellectual Property Seminar will take place on Nov. 4-5,

focusing on the topic of proportionality in IP law. The first day covers the origins and justifications of proportionality in lawmaking and enforcement. The second day will examine specific case studies. Esteemed scholars from Europe, Asia, the U.S. and Macau have been invited to present on various topics.

The program concludes with the Professional IP Update on Nov. 6 at the Hong Kong Intellectual Property Department. Speakers from the seminar will provide an overview of the latest IP developments in Asia and Europe.

All events are free and conducted in English. The program is supported by the Macau Foundation and has previously drawn global participants. Further information can be found at <https://ieem.org.mo/index.php/ipls/>.

OVERSEAS CHINESE

# State alien land laws drive some China-born US citizens to rethink their politics

TERRY TANG & DIDI TANG

**D**IANA Xue has always followed the politics of her husband, friends and neighbors in Orlando, Florida, and voted Republican.

This Election Day, she'll break that pattern.

When Florida's GOP-dominated Legislature and Republican governor enacted a law last year banning Chinese nationals without permanent U.S. residency from buying property or land, Xue, who became a U.S. citizen about a decade after coming from China for college, had an "awakening." She felt then that the Sunshine State had, more or less, legalized discrimination against Chinese people.

Florida has proved reliably Republican in recent years, but Xue said, "Because of this law, I will start to help out, flip every seat I can."

At least two dozen states have passed or proposed "alien land laws" targeting Chinese nationals and companies from purchasing property or land because of China's status as a foreign adversary. Other countries are mentioned, but experts say China is the constant focus in political discussions.

Mostly Republican legislators have pushed the land laws amid growing fears of intelligence and economic threats from China. At the time of the Florida law's signing, Gov. Ron DeSantis called China the "greatest geopolitical threat" to the U.S. and said the law was taking a stand against the Chinese Communist Party.

Some China-born people with American citizenship are now feeling alienated by the laws to the point that they are leaning Democratic. Many are afraid of being treated wrongly because of their ethnicity.

U.S.-China tensions hit a fever pitch in February 2023 after a suspected Chinese spy balloon was spotted over Montana. Shortly after, GOP-leaning states like Missouri, Texas and Tennessee introduced similar land ownership measures.

The measures all involved restrictions on businesses or people from China and other foreign adversaries, including not buying land within a certain distance from military installations or "critical infrastructure." Under some

AP PHOTO



Diana Xue poses for a photo at her home in Orlando, Florida

of the laws, very narrow exceptions were made for non-tourist visa holders and people who have been granted asylum.

The National Agricultural Law Center now estimates 24 states ban or limit foreigners without residency and foreign businesses or governments from owning private farmland. Interest in farmland ownership restrictions emerged after a Chinese billionaire bought more than 130,000 acres (52,600 hectares) near a U.S. Air Force base in Texas, and Chinese company Fufeng Group sought to build a corn plant near an Air Force base on 300 acres (120 hectares) in North Dakota.

Liu Pengyu, the spokesperson for the Chinese Embassy in Washington, raised concerns that such laws not only counter market economy principles and international trade rules, but "further fuel hostility towards the Asian and Chinese community in the U.S., intensify racial discrimination, and seriously undermine the values that the U.S. claims to hold."

State laws banning Chinese

nationals from owning land discourage Chinese investors and spook other foreign investors who would otherwise help the U.S. to rebuild its industrial base, said John Ling, who has worked for decades to attract international, especially Chinese, manufacturing projects to the U.S.

The laws have also thrown off real estate agents and brokers. Angela Hsu, a commercial real estate attorney in Atlanta, said it's been confusing to navigate a law Georgia's governor signed in April restricting land sales to some Chinese citizens.

"The brokers I've talked to, they're just trying to figure out what they can do safely," Hsu said.

## China owns less than 1% of total foreign-owned farmland in the US, far behind Canada, the Netherlands, Italy, the UK, Germany or Portugal

On the federal level, the House in September approved a bill that would flag as "reportable" farmland sales involving citizens from China, North Korea, Russia and Iran. The odds for it to win approval from the Senate, however, are

slim.

China "has been quietly purchasing American agricultural land at an alarming rate, and this bill is a crucial step towards reversing that trend," said Rep. Dan Newhouse, a Republican from Washington state.

Democratic Rep. Maxine Waters, of California, joined multiple Asian American organizations in opposing the bill, arguing its "broad-brush approach" of targeting people from specific countries amounted to racial profiling.

China owns less than 1% of total foreign-owned farmland in the U.S., far behind Canada, the Netherlands, Italy, the U.K., Germany or Portugal.

After Florida's land law was signed in May 2023, four Chinese nationals filed a lawsuit. In April, an American Civil Liberties Union attorney representing them asked a federal appeals court to block it.

The saga sparked the Chinese diaspora in Florida to mobilize. Some formed the Florida Asian American Justice Alliance. Among them was Xue. She became inte-

rested studying the Legislature and lobbying. She found that only Democrats like state Rep. Anna Eskamani, who is Iranian American, agreed the law was xenophobic.

"She said, 'This is discrimination. I'll stand with you, and I'll fight with you,'" Xue said.

Hua Wang, board chair of another civic engagement group, United Chinese Americans, said more people are becoming aware that these laws are directly "affecting each one of us."

"There are people in both Texas and Florida who say for the first time they are becoming interested and they become organized," Wang said.

Land laws passed in the name of national security echo a pattern from World War II, when the U.S. saw Japanese people as threats, said Chris Suh, a professor of Asian American history at Emory University. It's difficult to argue the laws are unconstitutional if on paper they are citizenship-based and other countries are named, Suh said.

Anti-Chinese sentiment has shaped policies going back over 150 years. Among these was the Page Act of 1875, which strategically limited the entry of Chinese women to the U.S., and the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, the first broad race-based immigration law.

Policies targeting foreigners hurt the bottom line of all Americans, Suh said, noting that excluding Chinese laborers from railroad work or Japanese immigrants from buying homes didn't benefit U.S. railroad tycoons and landowners.

"That's something to keep in today's context as well," Suh said. "One of the key allies of the the people who are trying to overturn the alien land law in Florida are the people who are going to lose money if they lose the potential buyers of their land."

The law makes Chinese immigrants who achieved citizenship worry about things like racism or accusations of being a spy in their own home, Xue said.

"You think it's nothing to do with you, but people look at you — how you look, how your last name is," Xue said. "They are not going to ask you are you a U.S. citizen or not." MDT/AP



Tropical Storm Trami struck homes, leaving several villagers dead in Talisay, Batangas province

## PHILIPPINES

# At least 126 dead and missing in massive flooding and landslides

JIM GOMEZ & AARON FAVILA, TALISAY

**T**HE number of dead and missing in massive flooding and landslides wrought by Tropical Storm Trami in the Philippines has reached nearly 130 and the president said Saturday that many areas remained isolated with people in need of rescue.

Trami blew away from the northwestern Philippines on Friday, leaving at least 85 people dead and 41 others mis-

sing in in one of the Southeast Asian archipelago's deadliest and most destructive storms so far this year, the government's disaster-response agency said. The death toll was expected to rise as reports come in from previously isolated areas.

Dozens of police, firefighters and other emergency personnel, backed by three backhoes and sniffer dogs, dug up one of the last two missing villagers in the lakeside town of Talisay in Batangas province Saturday.

A father, who was waiting for

word on his missing 14-year-old daughter, wept as rescuers placed the remains in a black body bag. Distraught, he followed police officers, who carried the body bag down a mud-strewn village alley to a police van when one weeping resident approaching him to express her sympathies.

The man said he was sure it was his daughter, but authorities needed to do checks to confirm the identity of the villager dug up in the mound.

In a nearby basketball gym at the town center, more than

a dozen white coffins were laid side by side, bearing the remains of those found in the heaps of mud, boulders and trees that cascaded Thursday afternoon down the steep slope of a wooded ridge in Talisay's Sampaloc village.

President Ferdinand Marcos, who inspected another hard-hit region southeast of Manila Saturday, said the unusually large volume of rainfall dumped by the storm — including in some areas that saw one to two months' worth of rainfall in just 24 hours —

overwhelmed flood controls in provinces lashed by Trami.

"The water was just too much," Marcos told reporters.

"We're not done yet with our rescue work," he said. "Our problem here, there are still many areas that remained flooded and could not be accessed even big trucks."

His administration, Marcos said, would plan to start work on a major flood control project that can meet the unprecedented threats posed by climate change.

More than five million people were in the path of the storm, including nearly half a million who mostly fled to more than 6,300 emergency shelters in several provinces, the government agency said.

In an emergency Cabinet meeting, Marcos raised concerns over reports by government forecasters that the storm — the 11th to hit the Philippines this year — could make a U-turn next week as it is pushed back by high-pressure winds in the South China Sea.

The storm was forecast to batter Vietnam over the weekend if it would not veer off course.

The Philippine government shut down schools and government offices for the third day on Friday to keep millions of people safe on the main northern island of Luzon. Inter-island ferry services were also suspended, stranding thousands.

Weather has cleared in many areas on Saturday, allowing cleanup work in most areas.

Each year, about 20 storms and typhoons batter the Philippines, a Southeast Asian archipelago which lies between the Pacific Ocean and the South China Sea. In 2013, Typhoon Haiyan, one of the strongest recorded tropical cyclones, left more than 7,300 people dead or missing and flattened entire villages. **MDT/AP**

## SOUTH CHINA SEA

# Indonesian coast guard drives away a Chinese vessel for the third time in a week

EDNA TARIGAN, JAKARTA

**I**NDONESIAN patrol ships drove a Chinese coast guard vessel away from a survey vessel in a disputed area of the South China Sea for the third time in a week, according to a statement from Indonesia's Maritime Security

Agency on Saturday.

A video distributed by the agency showed the Indonesian ship following the Chinese one on Friday afternoon.

China's coast guard said it was patrolling within its own jurisdiction.

However, Indonesia's coast guard and navy insisted that the Indonesian

Continental Shelf in the area has received international recognition and that Indonesia has sovereign rights to exploit and explore natural resources in that area without being disturbed by any country.

Indonesian authorities said the Chinese ship was first detected near MV Geo Coral on Monday. An Indo-

nesian patrol ship contacted the ship, whose crew insisted that the area was under China's jurisdiction, before Indonesian coast guard and navy ships drove the Chinese ship away.

The second attempt happened on Wednesday morning when the Chinese ship again approached the site of the seismic sur-

vey and was driven away, according to the Maritime Security Agency.

"Indonesia's Maritime Security Agency will continue to show its commitment to maintaining security and enforcing the law in Indonesian waters and Indonesian jurisdictional areas," said the statement from the agency.

China's "nine-dash line," which it uses to roughly demarcate its claim to most of the South China Sea, overlaps with a section of Indonesia's exclusive economic zone that extends from the Natuna Islands.

Indonesia does not have a formal territorial dispute with China over the South China Sea but has become increasingly protective of its rights in the region, while Chinese ships have regularly entered the area Indonesia calls the North Natuna Sea, fueling tensions between the countries. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



In this photo taken from video released by the Russian Defense Ministry last week, a Russian soldier aims from a bunker in the Russian - Ukrainian border area in the Kursk region

## this day in history

### 1979 CHAIRMAN HUA ARRIVES IN LONDON



The first Chinese leader to visit Britain, Chairman Hua Kuo-Feng, has arrived in London at the start of a six-day visit.

He was welcomed at Heathrow airport by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who paid tribute to China as a "great and historical nation which has a crucial role to play in world affairs".

She said the two countries enjoyed a "close understanding in many fields" and she hoped their talks would further improve relations.

In his reply, Chairman Hua stressed "the important role Western Europe has to play in defending world peace".

He said this was why China had given "high priority to the development of good relations with the West European countries".

Chairman Hua was given the kind of treatment usually reserved only for royalty and presidents.

The Coldstream Guards formed a guard of honour before he was taken to the luxury Claridges hotel, where he and his party will be staying.

Chairman Hua has an invitation to lunch at Buckingham Palace where the Queen will personally take him on a tour of the state rooms.

This is the Chinese leader's first visit to the non-Communist world, apart from a short stay in Iran before Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlevi was forced into exile.

During his visit, he is expected to discuss trade, various bilateral issues, including the future of Hong Kong, and world peace.

It is hoped he and Mrs Thatcher will sign a number of deals, including an air services agreement giving Chinese airlines the rights to fly to Britain.

Trade issues are expected to focus on the process of modernisation in China - in particular improvements to its armed forces, transport infrastructure and industry.

The Chinese delegation will pay a visit to Rolls Royce in Derby, BP and British Rail's technical centre.

Chairman Hua, who spent 20 years of his life in the Chinese agricultural sector, will also be shown a farm in Wallingford, Oxfordshire, and fit in a quick visit to Oxford University, before flying on to Rome on Saturday.

He has already spent a week each in France and West Germany.

Courtesy BBC News

## PUTIN'S WAR

# Zelenskyy says North Korean troops are poised to join the war, cancels UN chief's visit

ILLIA NOVIKOV & EFREM LUKATSKY, KYIV

**N**ORTH Korean troops are poised to be deployed by Russia on the battlefield in Ukraine as early as this weekend, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy claimed over the weekend.

Western officials have warned that North Korean units joining the fight would stoke the almost three-year war and bring geopolitical consequences as far away as the Indo-Pacific region.

The possibility has alarmed leaders and deepened diplomatic tensions.

White House national security spokesman John Kirby said Friday that the top national security advisers for the United States, Japan and South Korea met and "expressed grave concern" about North Korea's troop deployments for potential use with Russia on the battlefield against Ukraine.

Kirby said that the national security advisers from the three countries "call on Russia and the DPRK to cease these actions that only serve to expand the security implications of Russia's brutal and illegal war beyond Europe and into the Indo-Pacific."

"It is possible that there are now more than 3,000 troops from North Korea that have been dispatched to Russia for

outfitting and for training," Kirby said on a call with reporters.

Kirby said the U.S. government did not have firm intelligence assessments on where the troops were going "but we believe it is certainly possible" and "perhaps even likely" that some of the North Korean troops would be deployed to the Kursk region of Russia, where Ukraine has held some territory since capturing it in August. But he cautioned that he did not know in what capacity and to what purpose the North Korean troops would be deployed.

A senior official in the Ukrainian presidential office told The Associated Press on Friday that Zelenskyy had canceled a planned visit to Kyiv by U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly about the matter, said the visit was supposed to come after this week's summit in the Russian city of Kazan of the BRICS bloc of developing economies, which Guterres attended.

A photograph of Guterres shaking hands with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the summit triggered an outcry in Ukraine.

Zelenskyy, in a post on Telegram, said Ukrainian intelligence had determined that

"the first North Korean military will be used by Russia in combat zones" between Sunday and Monday.

He said on Telegram that the deployment was "an obvious escalating move by Russia." He didn't provide any further details, including where the North Korean soldiers may be sent.

Russia has been conducting a ferocious summer campaign along the eastern front in Ukraine, gradually compelling Kyiv to surrender ground. But Russia has struggled to push Ukrainian forces out of its Kursk border region following an incursion almost three months ago.

North Korean units were detected on Wednesday in Kursk, according to Ukraine's Main Intelligence Directorate, known by its acronym GUR.

The soldiers had undergone several weeks of training at bases in eastern Russia and had been equipped with clothes for the upcoming winter, GUR said in a statement late Thursday.

It estimated the number of North Korean soldiers sent by Pyongyang to Russia at around 12,000, including some 500 officers and three generals.

GUR provided no evidence for its claims.

Dutch Defense Minister Ruben Brekelmans said Friday on the social platform

X that intelligence reports indicated the North Korean soldiers "will probably first be deployed in Kursk."

The deployment of North Korean forces under a military pact between Moscow and Pyongyang brings a new dimension to the conflict, which is Europe's biggest war since World War II and has cost tens of thousands of lives on both sides, including many civilians.

The U.S. said Wednesday that 3,000 North Korean troops have been deployed to Russia and are training at several locations, calling the move very serious.

Zelenskyy said a week ago that his government has intelligence information that 10,000 troops from North Korea are being readied to join Russian forces fighting against his country. He said that a third nation wading into the hostilities would turn the conflict into a "world war."

North Korea had already been supplying ammunition to Russia under a defense pact, but putting boots on the ground could severely complicate a war that has inflamed international politics, with most Western countries supporting Kyiv.

Putin, meanwhile, has looked for support among BRICS countries.

He has neither confirmed nor denied that North Korean troops were in Russia. MDT/AP

## IN CONTEXT

In an interview before his visit to Western Europe, Chairman Hua was quoted as saying he wanted to see for himself the reality of advanced economic, scientific and technological experience to see how they could benefit China's modernisation programme. The trip paved the way to improved relations between Britain and China. Official negotiations on the future of Hong Kong began in 1982 and were completed with the handover on 1 July 1997. The Queen became the first British monarch to visit China in 1986. However, the brutal suppression of the pro-democracy protests in Tiananmen Square massacre in 1989 led to a breakdown in China's relations with the West. China has since become of the world's leading growth economies, prompting greater trading links with the West.





# Oktoberfest Macau at MGM Cotai draws crowds



The signature event, marketed to rock the town with a 12-day authentic German bierfest, will run until Nov. 5. MGM promises an array of surprises in addition to classic German cuisine as well as live performances from HÖGL FUN BAND—returning with their theme song “Nei Hou, Macau!”—and traditionally dressed German performers.

Supported by the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) and the German Macao Business Association, the event was launched with the traditional beer keg tapping ceremony by president and executive director of MGM China Holdings Limited, Kenneth Feng.

“Since MGM introduced this traditional German cultural mega event to Macau in 2009, Oktoberfest Macau at MGM has developed as a signature extravaganza of gastronomy and entertainment in town,” Feng said, further adding that the event represents “the synergy of gastronomy, creativity, culture, festivals, and tourism”, with more than 180,000 attendees since its commencement.

This year, MGM introduces authentic Munich snacks and vegetarian dishes, notably their Roasted Pork Shoulder with Potato Dumpling and Dark Beer Sauce, Spaetzle Gratin with Caramelized Onions and Cheese, and Bratwurst Sausage.

Featuring blue-and-white Bavarian patterned beer tents, guests can enjoy an authentic German Oktoberfest alongside traditional Löwenbräu brew, German food and beverage, and waitresses in dirndl costumes.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

AP PHOTO



**TENNIS**

# Qinwen Zheng wins in Tokyo and clinches WTA Finals berth

**TOP-SEEDED** Qinwen Zheng of China claimed the Toray Pan Pacific Open with a 7-6 (5), 6-3 win over American wild card Sofia Kenin in yesterday's final and clinch her place in the WTA finals next month. The No. 7-ranked Zheng, who won gold at the Paris Olympics, fired 16 aces and only faced a single break point throughout the 1 hour, 52 minute victory in Tokyo over the 2020 Australian Open champion Kenin. It is the 22-year-old Zheng's third title of the year and first

on hardcourt she winning at Guangzhou last year. She has gone 28-4 since Wimbledon, including a 12-2 run in women's tour Asian swing. It was the 25-year-old Kenin's best performance of the season. The American was ranked as high as No. 4 early in 2020, but a series of injuries, including ankle and quadricep ailments, has seen her WTA ranking drop to its current 155. The WTA Finals begin in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on Nov. 2. **MDT/AP**

**GOLF**

# Yin Ruoning of China wins LPGA Tour's Maybank Championship

**S**TARTING her final round in a three-way tie for the lead, Yin Ruoning shot a 7-under 65 yesterday to win the LPGA Tour's Maybank Championship in Malaysia by one stroke for her second title this month. Yin of China finished at 23-under 265 after a safe two-putt on the final hole held off Thai player Jeeno Thitikul (66), who was also runner-up at last year's event after losing the second longest playoff in LPGA Tour history. Yin had a dominant 6-shot win at LPGA Shanghai earlier this month and also won the 2024 Dow Championship in June, where she partnered with Thitikul. "I had such great year last year I was wondering if I can win again, what if I can't, such things," Yin said. "But I think I just really learned that I just need to



enjoy myself out here and have fun, happy, so that's what I do." South Korea's Haeran Ryu shot a 67 and was two shots behind Yin. American Bailey Tardy, who shot the round's equal best of 65, and second-round leader Maja Stark (70) of Sweden were tied for fourth at 16-under 272. Hannah Green, who earned

her third victory of 2024 and sixth of her career last week in South Korea, also carded a 65 to finish sixth at 15-under 273. She was tied with American Marina Alex (69), Hsu Wei-Ling (68) and Choi Hye-Jin (66). Defending champion Celine Boutier of France was 11 strokes behind Yin after a 72 and was tied for 12th. **MDT/AP**

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**OPINION**

**The Conversation**

Rebecca Cordell, University of Pittsburgh



**COUNTRIES ARE HELPING AUTOCRACIES REPRESS EXILED DISSIDENTS FOR ECONOMIC GAIN**

**Governments**, even democratic ones, are willing to aid autocracies in silencing exiled dissidents if the host nation thinks it's in its economic interest.

That is what we found when looking into cases of transnational repression – the act of governments reaching across their national border to repress diasporas and exiles – from 2014 to 2020.

Since 2014, international watchdog Freedom House recorded 1,034 cases of governments reaching across borders to illegally deport, abduct, intimidate or assassinate their citizens.

The most frequent offenders were countries such as China (213 cases), Turkey (111), Egypt (42), Tajikistan (38), Russia (32) and Uzbekistan (29).

These governments have extended their reach into over 100 foreign countries to silence critics abroad. While autocracies sometimes act alone or collaborate with nongovernment actors, the most common form of transnational repression involves the governments of countries to which targeted people have fled. This includes democracies working closely with autocratic regimes to arrest, detain and deport people who face the risk of persecution and repression in the home country.

Our analysis of Freedom House data found that cooperation in transnational repression is most common among trade partners and when foreign countries wish to maintain or improve their economic relationship with autocratic governments.

Meanwhile, autocratic countries were most successful in securing cooperation among foreign countries with a weak rule of law.

For example, Turkey has successfully secured cooperation from multiple countries with a weak rule of law, such as Lebanon, in its efforts to silence Turkish journalists and overseas citizens linked to the opposition Gülen movement. Meanwhile, China has used its economic leverage to compel foreign governments to cooperate, with Cambodia deporting 20 Uyghur asylum-seekers to China after signing 14 trade deals with the country. Similarly, Thailand forcibly returned numerous dissident journalists to China, its largest trade partner.

Our analysis looked specifically at countries hosting refugees and asylum-seekers, since having diaspora populations is necessary for transnational repression to occur. For example, we included Poland, which hosts many Russian refugees, but excluded Belize, which has none.

Using Freedom House's database, we tracked 608 cases of direct government cooperation in transnational repression. We focused specifically on detentions, renditions without legal representation, and unlawful deportations, but we excluded cases such as assassinations where host countries weren't directly involved.

Then, using statistical models, we analyzed IMF data on annual trade flows and World Bank assessments of a country's rule of law.

We found strong quantitative evidence that international cooperation on transnational repression relies on a country's economic ties to the origin country and the quality of the country's rule of law.

Our findings suggest that many countries are willing to sacrifice the civil liberties of foreign dissidents for economic opportunities with authoritarian governments. Autocracies also appear to be strategically targeting vulnerable states with weak rule of law institutions, such as the police, courts or immigration authorities.

Countries that are less concerned about the consequences of breaking the rule of law are easier to co-opt and coerce, especially when they're more financially dependent on the autocratic partner. [Abridged]

This provides autocracies with both the opportunity to repress and the leverage to elicit cooperation in violation of the "non-refoulement" rule – which, under international law, protects migrants from being returned to a country where they are at risk of torture. [Abridged]

**BEYONCÉ ENDORSES KAMALA HARRIS IN JOYFUL SPEECH AT HOUSTON RALLY: 'I'M HERE AS A MOTHER'**

**THE BUZZ**

"I'm not here as a celebrity, I'm not here as a politician. I'm here as a mother," Beyoncé said at a campaign rally for Kamala Harris.

"A mother who cares deeply about the world my children and all of our children live in, a world where we have the freedom to control our bodies, a world where we're not divided," she said Friday night in Houston.

"Imagine our daughters growing up seeing what's possible with no ceilings, no limitations," she continued. "We must vote, and we need you."

At the end, Beyoncé, who was joined onstage by her Destiny's Child bandmate Kelly Rowland, introduced Harris. "Ladies and gentlemen,

please give a big, loud, Texas welcome to the next president of the United States, Vice President Kamala Harris," she said.

She did not perform — unlike in 2016, when she performed at a presidential campaign rally for Hillary Clinton in Cleveland.

Houston is Beyoncé's hometown, and Harris' presidential campaign has taken on Beyoncé's 2016 track "Freedom," a cut from her landmark 2016 album "Lemonade," as its anthem.

Beyoncé gave permission to Harris to use the song, a campaign official who was granted anonymity to discuss private campaign operations.



AP PHOTO

**JUDGE BLOCKS FURTHER SWEEPS OF HOMELESS CAMP IN NEW ORLEANS AHEAD OF SWIFT CONCERTS**

**KATE PAYNE**

A judge in Louisiana has temporarily blocked further efforts by state officials to clear homeless encampments in New Orleans — stalling a push that came ahead of three Taylor Swift concerts in the city this weekend.

The effort to relocate about 75 people living in tents beneath an overpass near the Superdome began in the days leading up to pop star's shows, which could draw 150,000 visitors to the stadium.

Judge Lori Jupiter granted a temporary restraining order on Friday, directing state law enforcement officials to not "destroy or dispose of the property of unhoused people without judicial process" and to notify people in the "state sanctioned camp" that they are "free to leave."

The order is in effect until Nov. 4.

The judge's ruling came in response to a lawsuit filed by homeless people who were subject to the sweep. In legal filings, they argued that state troopers violated their constitutional rights by illegally

searching, seizing and destroying their property, disposing of their prized possessions and "forcibly herding" them away.

According to the lawsuit, a legal observer overheard state troopers saying "the governor wants you to move because of the Taylor Swift concert."

State officials have said the residents were being moved to a new location about two blocks away, where unhoused people living in the tourist-heavy French Quarter neighborhood would also be moved.

A spokesperson for Gov. Jeff Landry has said that the effort was meant to address homelessness and safety issues, linking the push to the concerts and February's Super Bowl, which will take place in the city.

"As we prepare for the city to host Taylor Swift and Super Bowl LIX, we are committed to ensuring New Orleans puts its best foot forward when on the world stage," Landry's communications director, Kate Kelly, said in a statement issued to local media.

Advocates argue the ef-

fort disrupted the work of local officials to connect homeless people with social services and help them find more permanent housing solutions.

Martha Kegel, executive director of Unity of Greater New Orleans, a nonprofit that seeks permanent housing for unsheltered people, said the sweep was a needless and harmful endeavor and that many of those in the camp have mental illnesses and are distrustful of authorities and those trying to help them.

"Some people were frightened and left, and that's not good," she said. "Because then all the work that we did to assess them and document their disabilities and, you know, work with them on their housing plan has now been wasted."

Among those who made the move Wednesday was Terrence Cobbins. Taking a break from gathering his belongings, he said he was told to move because of the concerts.

"They ain't never did it before for other people," he said. "Why Taylor Swift?" **MDT/AP**



AP PHOTO

**Australia** Three men died when two light planes collided mid-air near Sydney during the weekend. The crash, which occurred over a forested area southwest of the city, has prompted an Australian Transport Safety Bureau investigation to determine the cause.



AP PHOTO

**Iran** Satellite images reveal extensive damage to Iran's secretive Parchin and Khojir military bases following Israeli airstrikes, which allegedly targeted nuclear and ballistic missile facilities. The assault killed four Iranian soldiers, with leaders from both nations responding cautiously, refraining from immediate retaliation.



AP PHOTO

**United States** Amid Israeli airstrikes on Iranian military sites, U.S. candidates Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump addressed the conflict yesterday [Macau time]. Harris called for de-escalation, while Trump criticized her engagement in campaign events amidst Middle Eastern tensions.



AP PHOTO

**Uruguayans** are voting in a rare calm election pitting conservative Álvaro Delgado against left-leaning Yamandú Orsi. Amid rising security concerns and a proposed social security reform, the race is marked by shared stability goals as citizens select their next president and legislative representatives.