

AN ASSOCIATION SURVEY REVEALED 94% OF MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS EXPERIENCE SIGNIFICANT ACADEMIC PRESSURE

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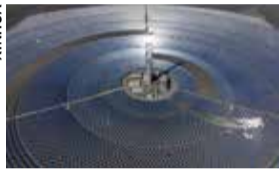
SAM WILL RETAIN AT LEAST THREE CURRENT SECRETARIES IN NEW CABINET: MDT SOURCES

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GOV'T REJECTED CALLS FOR STRICTER PENALTIES FOR SEXUAL OFFENSES, FOLLOWING WONG KIT CHENG'S ADVOCACY FOR IMPLEMENTING HARSHER MEASURES

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XINHUA



China has released a set of guidelines on boosting the use of renewable energy amid efforts to cut fossil fuel consumption in green energy transition. The guidelines, issued by the National Development and Reform Commission and five other government departments, outline China's goal to replace traditional fuel with renewable energy.

AP PHOTO



China A closely watched survey on manufacturing has edged into positive territory after months of contraction, the government statistics agency said yesterday. The Purchasing Managers' Index rose to 50.1. A reading above 50 indicates an improvement over the previous month. It was the first improvement after five straight months of decline.

Philippines At least 14 people were killed in a long-seething land dispute involving two Muslim guerrilla commanders and their followers in a southern Philippine town, military and civilian officials said yesterday. The fighting erupted Wednesday between the two commanders of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in a village in Pagalungan town in Maguindanao del Sur province.

AP PHOTO



Spain Survivors of the worst natural disaster to hit Spain this century awoke to scenes of devastation yesterday after villages were wiped out by monstrous flash floods that claimed at least 95 lives. The death toll is expected to rise as search efforts continue with officials removing bodies from vehicles and an unknown number of people still missing.

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THE HUMAN TOUCH

Experts warn that ethically responsible humans should supervise AI-generated outcomes amid its ability to revolutionize industries and boost productivity

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GBA VIEWS
FIRST GBA CULTURAL HERITAGE FORUM STARTS IN MACAU

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NADIA SHAW

THE International Advertising Association Macao, China (IAA Macao) hosted its monthly "Talk at Sunset" Oct. 30, featuring global marketing expert Steven Yung.

The event attracted a diverse audience of industry professionals and focused on the theme "Reinventing Brand 'Macau' in an Ever-Changing World."

Yung's extensive experience in marketing and branding provided invaluable insights into how Macau can enhance its global brand identity.

The IAA Macao's "Talk at Sunset" series aims to connect industry specialists and educate new talent in the field.

Yung, who has held top management roles across various multinational corporations, emphasized the importance of innovative branding strategies in today's fast-paced market.

His career spans multiple sectors, including consumer experience, media and entertainment and FinTech.

As a former CEO of Imagi International Holdings Limited and General Manager at Sino Land Company Limited, Yung has a proven track record of elevating brands through strategic partnerships and creative marketing initiatives.

Rebecca Choi, president of IAA Macao, was enthusiastic about Yung's participation.

"We are thrilled to invite esteemed marketing guru Steven to deliver this insightful talk about the power of brand."

The talk attracted entrepreneurs and executives from Hong Kong and key Chambers of Commerce.

During his presentation, Yung highlighted successful global brands such as Coca-Cola and Disney, illustrating how

MACAU NEEDS TO LEVERAGE CULTURAL HERITAGE WHILE EMBRACING MODERN BRANDING TECHNIQUES: EXPERT

they maintain relevance through strong brand narratives and adaptive marketing strategies.

He said Coca-Cola's brand value is largely based on intangible assets that resonate with consumers across generations.

"Branding is not just about selling a product; it's about creating an emotional connection with your audience," Yung said.

Yung also discussed the significance of storytelling in branding, using examples from his tenure at The Coca-Cola Company.

He recalled leading a campaign that raised funds for U.S. Olympic hopefuls, showcasing how effective branding can mobilize community support and create positive social impact.

As Macau looks to diversify its economy beyond gaming, he stressed the need for Macau to leverage its unique cultural heritage while embracing modern branding techniques to appeal to a global audience.

"Macau is not just about casinos; it has a rich tapestry of culture that can be woven into its brand story," he said.

He stressed the importance of security in the current global landscape, particularly for international tourism.

"If you see Europe, if you see the Middle East, if you see Asia, what are the most secure cities? Macau, Hong Kong. It's about security," he said.

He said security is a key is-



Steven Yung (right), marketing and brand innovation expert and artist Tony Tam

sue worldwide, and that both Macau and Hong Kong offer a sense of safety increasingly sought after by travelers.

This perception of safety is crucial as it aligns with what international tourists are looking for when choosing their travel destinations.

Yung also emphasized the urgent need to define and promote the unique identities of both Macau and Hong Kong.

Both cities possess rich British and Portuguese heritages that set them apart in the global market.

"It's a timely opportunity," he said, stressing that understanding these differences is crucial for economic growth.

Yung envisions a collaborative approach where Macau is marketed not just as a gaming destination but as a vibrant cultural hub.

He noted, "There's nothing like Macau in this world," underscoring its unique status by focusing on its cultural contrasts and historical significance.

By leveraging its multicultural heritage and promoting itself as a "twin city" alongside Hong Kong, Macau can attract a diverse range of tourists, enhancing its economic prospects and global recognition.

Yung said that despite Hong Kong's larger population and economy, Singapore has outpaced it in many areas.

He referenced Taylor Swift's concert in Singapore ("The Eras Tour" from March 2 to 9), where local stakeholders effectively engaged with international artists to enhance the cultural scene.

Initially scheduled for three nights, overwhelming demand led to the addition of three

more dates at the Singapore National Stadium.

In contrast, Yung criticized Hong Kong's complacency, suggesting its claim to be "the Hollywood of Asia" lacks tangible results.

As cities like Hong Kong and Macau navigate their identities amid rapid urban development, Yung urged a collaborative approach to branding that leverages their unique characteristics while fostering cultural pride for future generations.

In closing his presentation, Yung encouraged attendees to think creatively about their branding efforts.

"Growth happens when we connect the dots and create better experiences."

His call to action resonated with many participants eager to contribute to Macau's evolving identity as a cultural hub.

ARTS

Biennial fosters artist exchanges across regions

AN exhibition featuring artworks from Hong Kong and Macau opened at the Gongwang Museum in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, in late October, aiming to fuel exchanges between artists from Hong Kong, Macau and the mainland, according to a China Daily report.

The exhibition "Integration and Dialogue: Hong Kong-Macau Visual Art Biennial 2024" includes three sections — Hong Kong Snapshots, But Named Macau, and Landscapes in Hangzhou.

The Hangzhou section displays paintings, videos

and installations by 16 local artists who create works focused on landscapes.

The Hong Kong section, curated by the Hong Kong Heritage Museum, reflects how young Hong Kong artists revitalize traditional crafts through the inheritance of

the Lingnan School of painting and innovative approaches to intangible cultural heritage.

The local section focuses on ordinary stories from the perspective of artists living and working in Macau. It narrates the ever-changing region in the realm of people's

knowledge and understanding.

After Hangzhou, the exhibition will continue its tour to Nanjing, Jiangsu province, as well as Guangdong province's Guangzhou and Shenzhen, ending the tour in Beijing. The biennial in Hangzhou will be on dis-

play until Nov. 14.

The biennial was established in 2008 with themes of past biennials ranging from calligraphy, painting, photography, and graphic design to contemporary art, new media art and design, and the intersection of art and technology.

It has become an important platform for fostering exchanges between young artists from the mainland, Hong Kong and Macau. **MDT/CHINA DAILY**

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AI: A useful tool that needs human supervision

RENATO MARQUES

ARTIFICIAL Intelligence (AI) applications can be powerful and useful tools to help journalists and media professionals but AI requires thorough, informed, and ethically responsible humans to take control of it and to supervise the outcome.

These were the general conclusions of a panel of journalism and media production specialists, as well as news controllers and journalism ethics experts.

They were invited by the School of Communication of the Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBP) for a symposium Wednesday which debated the innovations and the risks AI technology presents for the profession.

The symposium, titled, "When Journalism Meets AI," discussed the challenges and opportunities Artificial intelligence (AI) tools pose for both journalists and media organizations.

The symposium noted that, in an era where AI is reshaping industries, journalism is at a crossroads.

While AI promises to revolutionize news production, enhance storytelling, and redefine audience engagement, it also poses challenges and ethical considerations.

Though they discussed different aspects of AI according to their fields of expertise and professional experience, all the speakers agreed AI can help journalists and media professionals do their jobs in many different ways.

This included tasks that are traditionally time-consuming and tedious.

But new technologies still need human judgment, demanding more attentive and ethically responsible professionals to control them.

Haris Amiri, senior machine learning engineer at Ground News said AI helps journalists and the public to understand the tone and political inclination of a news report.

It can help journalists to produce more balanced and trustworthy news stories because it helps them find original sources and original quotes that may have become distorted due to the way different people have treated the information.

Amiri said the technology is great and useful but it "needs to rely on guardrails."

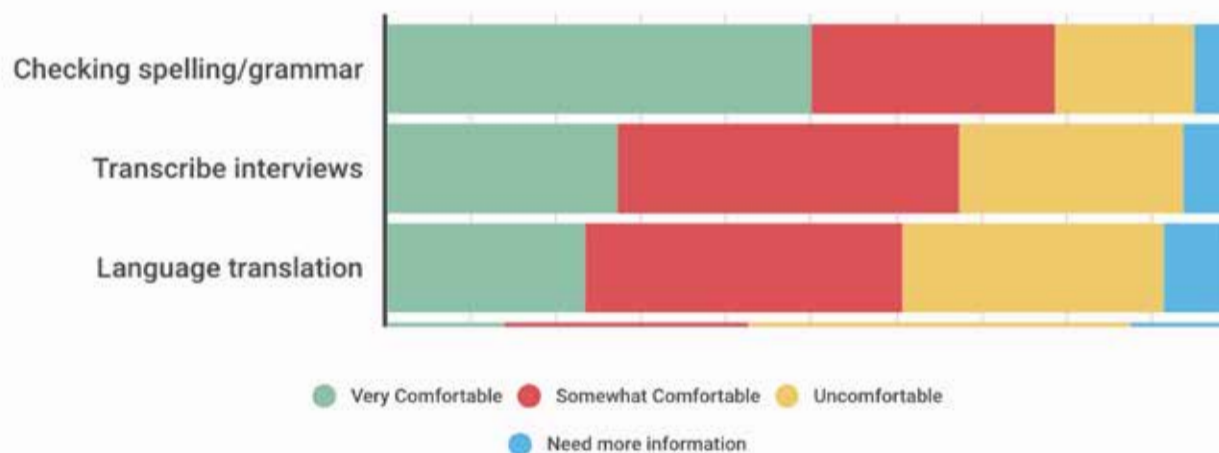
He said that in some cases, while trying to balance news with no sources from a particular point of view, AI tools had generated what he termed "hallucinations."

That is, the AI produced a "false" and "non-real" view contrary



How comfortable are you with journalists using AI?

Based on survey responses from news consumers in July/August 2024 solicited by newsrooms participating in a Trusting News and Online News Association cohort.



to the one originally suggested.

Eric Wishart, Standards and Ethics Editor of Agence France-Presse raised the same issue, noting the difficulty of using AI-generated images in news stories.

Wishart said there is a risk AI might "amplify stereotypes in images."

"Human oversight is the basic principle. AI can be a great tool, very useful, but needs human oversight," he said.

He noted AI is now so significant that it has forced most news agencies to update their charters.

He said that while AI can help with many time-consuming aspects of journalistic work including research, fact-checking and translations, it cannot do one thing that is crucial, and that is to replace the reporter in the field.

He noted a study from Trusting News and Online News Association found 94% of people want journalists to disclose their use of AI in the production of news sto-

ries.

A very significant portion of the public (news consumers) tend to distrust content created using AI, he said.

The study notes that while consumers are mostly "very comfortable" with the use of AI for checking spelling and grammar, this comfort drops drastically when the topic involves news anchor/presenter tasks and drops even further when it comes to writing headlines, even if there is a human review in place.

Wishart showed how media companies that use of AI-generated images to report on news stories have lost consumer trust.

"I don't think it does much for your credibility and your media organization [if you publish AI-generated images] unless it is a story about AI-generated images," he said.

"Doing real news with AI images raises a lot of questions and distrust from users. It needs to

be real and not how AI thinks it should look."

Wang Yi, deputy director of the Technology Research and Development Centre of the Xinhua News Agency, and Echo Wai, Controller (Production Services) at RTHK, have shown how both organizations are using AI to enhance some aspects of reporting.

They showed how AI can help the restoration process and enhance the quality of old, low-resolution archives as well as to prepare topics and help to choose the best images to illustrate a given story.

Wang also showed how Xinhua uses AI tools to track, for example, copyrighted materials and how it tracks the original source of a given image for written content.

She showed how the same agency uses AI to make its content available in many languages to reach a broader audience.

Wang and Wai joined with other speakers to highlight the

need to "double-check" stories with the objective of "aiding and assisting rather than replacing a human's job."

The symposium Convener, professor Raymond Wong from the HKBP opened the discussion by saying that intelligence, being a human quality of its very nature, can never be artificial.

"I always advise my students, don't trust Google," said Wong.

"You can google as a reference but once you get the references go back to the original sources otherwise you will end up with misleading statements every day of the week."

"Likewise, what is artificial intelligence, these two words are contradictory. If it is artificial, it isn't intelligence."

"If you want good journalism, you need to do it the hard way, ask the sources, and don't go to Google, Wikipedia, or ChatGPT. Trust yourselves, use your intelligence, not artificial intelligence."



VICTORIA CHAN

FIRST ARRESTS UNDER NEW ILLEGAL GAMING LAW

VICTORIA CHAN

A 40-year-old unemployed male suspect was arrested due to suspicion of operating illegal currency exchange activities, by the

Judiciary Police (PJ).

According to the PJ, the suspect was found speaking with a witness in a private room at the venue.

The suspect presented a QR code on his mobile phone, and

after the witness confirmed the payment, the suspect handed over HKD21,000 in gaming chips.

Further investigation revealed the suspect was profiting HKD80 for every HKD10,000 exchanged,

indicating an illegal currency exchange operation.

In the same operation, authorities seized HKD25,900 in gaming chips, HKD500 in cash, and the mobile phone used in the transaction.

The detention is the second in two consecutive days as authorities have launched a crackdown on unlawful currency exchange operations related to gambling activities.

This comes after the recent enactment of Law No. 20, which targets illegal gambling crimes and includes a provision to turn currency exchange into a criminal offense.

Offenders may face up to five years in prison, and any money or valuables associated with these activities will be confiscated.

On Wednesday, the same police force uncovered the first case of illegal currency exchange for the purpose of gambling since the new law came into effect, on the same day.

In this first case, the police arrested two mainland Chinese suspected of committing the same crime that took place at a Cotai casino smoking room. At that time the PJ seized over RMB51,000 in cash.

Since the law came into force, authorities have been urging the public to conduct currency exchanges only at authorized financial institutions or legitimate shops to avoid involvement in unlawful activities.

94% of middle school students face academic pressure: Survey

NADIA SHAW

A survey from the General Association of Chinese Students of Macau has revealed 94% of middle school students experience significant academic pressure.

The study, which surveyed 1,769 students across 14 secondary schools from June 6 to 26, highlights the need for effective stress relief strategies.

The survey found 34% of respondents reported feeling "very stressed" about their academic responsibilities, particularly regarding future educational opportunities.

Only about 10% indicated they felt little to no academic pressure.

In addition to academic stress, 77% of students expressed concerns about interpersonal relationships, while 56% cited family financial pressures as a source of anxiety.

Ho Tin Hou, vice chairman of General Association of Chinese



se Students of Macau, underscored the importance of collaboration between families and schools in teaching students healthy stress management techniques. He urged the government to invest more resources into promoting student well-being.

"Parents and society should pay attention to the reasonable arrangement of after-school activity time for middle school students to ensure that middle school students have enough time to study and develop interests, and they should also have time to participate in physical exercise, reading and other

diverse activities," he said.

The findings revealed nearly 80% of students engage in after-school activities for one to three hours daily, with 74% participating in tutoring or interest classes.

However, the report cautions excessive involvement in these programs can lead to increased anxiety, with nearly 19% of students feeling frequently overwhelmed by their commitments.

To address these issues, the association recommends that parents and society critically evaluate the balance and rationality of after-school activities.



GOV'T MAINTAINS CURRENT APPROACH TO SEXUAL CRIMES

VICTORIA CHAN

Authorities say amendments to criminal provisions for sexual offenses are unnecessary despite lawmaker Wong Kit Cheng appeals.

In response to Wong's inquiry, the government rejected the suggestion for stricter penalties for sexual offenses, arguing the current legal framework and preventive measures adequately address the issue.

In the inquiry, Wong advocated for the abolishing of suspended sentences and the implementation of harsher punitive measures.

In the response, the Legal Affairs Bureau (DSAJ) said the 2017 amendments to sexual crime provisions were designed to enhance victim protection.

The bureau said judges consider various factors when determining penalties, including the severity of the act, the perpetrator's intent, the crime's consequences, and the need for deterrence, emphasizing the authorities' commitment to preventing and addressing sexual crimes.

While the Penal Code allows for suspended sentences and the replacement of prison sentences with fines, such alternatives are contingent on specific legal conditions and the necessity for both general and special deterrence.

Moreover, the government has implemented community measures to prevent sexual crimes, including educational lectures and the dissemination of materials through social media aimed at raising awareness among children and youth.

DSAJ also noted the Education and Youth Development Services Bureau has incorporated sexual education into various subjects, and student counseling agents have been organized to provide related activities.

In the first three quarters of this year, the Judicial Police conducted 62 lectures on sexual abuse prevention, reaching over 14,000 participants.

Additionally, the Public Security Police Force conducted 70 community outreach initiatives, engaging more than 8,000 attendees.

ADVERTORIAL

SANDS CHINA NEWS

Sands China Providing Discounts to Macao Residents with 'Exclusive Dual Celebration Offers'

Sands China has launched an “**Exclusive Dual Celebration Offers**” campaign to share the excitement of this year’s **75th Anniversary of the Founding of the People’s Republic of China** and **25th Anniversary of Macao’s Return to the Motherland** with all local residents, running from now until **Dec. 22** at Sands China properties.

“Macao has made remarkable achievements and drawn global acclaim since its handover, which are the results of the concerted efforts of community and industry,” said Grant Chum, chief executive officer and executive director of Sands China Ltd. “As an integrated tourism and leisure enterprise rooted in Macao for over 20 years, Sands China is grateful to be a participant in some of the most important milestones in Macao’s incredible story. We have witnessed the city’s rapid development in multiple areas while walking alongside the local community throughout the years, in rain or shine.

“As we celebrate the dual anniversaries this year, we are excited to roll out a two-month promotion dedicated to all Macao residents, including our team members, business and community partners, as a way to express our appreciation. We hope this initiative brings joy and happiness to the local community as they enjoy its variety of offers.”

For residents presenting a valid Macao ID, the **Exclusive Dual Celebration Offers** promotion features complimentary gondola rides at Shoppes at Venetian, free entry to Qube Kid’s Play Zone at The Venetian Macao and Qube Kingdom at The Parisian Macao, and free access to Level 37 of The Parisian Macao’s Eiffel Tower. Besides these free recreational activities, Macao residents can indulge their taste buds with exclusive food and beverage treats at 25 percent off at Sands Macao’s 888 Buffet, Le Buffet at The Parisian Macao, and the new Chelsea Garden at The Londoner Macao. Finally, guests under 18 years of age get free admission to enjoy the interactive art experience **teamLab SuperNature Macao** at The Venetian Macao.

More celebratory events are on the way, including an outdoor concert and a high-profile art exhibition. Be sure to visit <https://en.sandsresortsmacao.com/sands-lifestyle/offers/sands-loves-macao-2024.html> for more information.



Lawmaker calls to review veterinary services again

VICTORIA CHAN

LAWMAKER Ella Lei has requested the government assess the supply and demand of veterinary care following a new law regulating the profession.

Lei has submitted a written question requesting the executive assess the veterinary industry and address the alarming rise in animal slaughter in the region.

Her inquiry comes amid the implementation of a new law governing veterinary practitioners, which has raised concerns about the availability and accessibility of veterinary services.

The law has raised concerns about the adequacy of qualified professionals to meet market demand.

According to data presented by the lawmaker, the Council of Veterinary Medicine Professionals (CPMV) had received 117 applications for professional accreditation of veterinarians by June this year, with 101 individuals successfully passing the assessment and receiving their Professional Accreditation Certificates by Sept. 30.

However, Lei said some individuals have struggled to transition and obtain their qualifications since the new law took effect, which could impact the public’s choice of services and the fees associated with veterinary care.

To address these concerns, she has called for increased monitoring of medical expenses in private veterinary clinics and greater transparency regarding price changes and clinic operations.

Alongside her inquiry into the state of veterinary services, Lei also highlighted the alarming rise in the number of animals slaughtered at the Municipal Kennel.

The lawmaker criticized the Municipal Affairs Bureau, which had previously reported success in its capture, sterilization, and adoption measures.

Data from January to August indicates a rise in the number of dogs slaughtered compared to previous years.

To address these issues, Lei has demanded explanations from the government about the rise in animal slaughter and sought information on plans to mitigate pet abandonment among residents.

GAMING

MGM LAUNCHES MAJOR UPGRADES AT RESORTS TO STRENGTHEN MARKET POSITION

LYNZY VALLES

MGM China is embarking on a series of significant upgrade initiatives across its two integrated resorts in Macau, aiming to solidify its market share in the competitive mid-teens range following a record-breaking quarter.

In an earnings call with analysts, the gaming operator announced the group is investing heavily in capital expenditure projects at both MGM Macau and MGM Cotai.

The company plans to expand its premium gaming area and renovate its villas at MGM Macau, with completion expected by mid-2025, which will increase the total suite count by 25%.

At MGM Cotai, about 160 standard hotel rooms are being transformed into 60 luxurious suites, set to be available by the end of next year.

These enhancements are designed to protect MGM's position in the premium mass market and foster organic visitation.

"We are expecting all these projects to be completed by the mid-



dle of next year. So once all these projects are finished, we all believe we are going to continue to lead our Macau market, said Kenneth Feng, president and executive director, MGM China.

"For our Cotai suite conversion project, we are expecting to finish by the end of next year."

In addition to these renovations, MGM China is set to launch

a new show, "MGM 2049," by the end of the year.

This production is directed by the acclaimed Zhang Yimou, known for his work on the 2008 Beijing Olympics opening ceremony.

As part of its commitment to enhancing cultural offerings, MGM China is also developing a new poly museum at its property

in the Macau Peninsula.

RECORD-BREAKING Q3

MGM China has announced a record-breaking performance for the third quarter of 2023, marking a milestone in the company's growth trajectory.

With net revenues soaring by 14% year-on-year and adjusted property EBITDAR increasing by

5%, the company achieved a margin of 26%.

Adjusted earnings before interest, taxation, depreciation, and amortization (EBITDA) totaled HKD1.98 billion, reflecting a 5% increase compared to the same period last year.

However, this figure represents a 19% decline from the second quarter of this year, according to a recent filing.

For the period from July to September, net revenue reached HKD7.96 billion, which is a 14% rise year-on-year.

The market share for the quarter was 15%.

The driving force behind this growth has been robust mass market volumes and the performance during the Golden Week, which saw volumes rise 20% compared to pre-pandemic levels in 2019.

"Our team continues to perform at a high level, and we remain confident in our long-term ability to sustain market share in the mid-teens," said Bill Hornbuckle, president and CEO of MGM Resorts.

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 IN MACAU (2023)



TECH

Microsoft reports quarterly sales up 16% to \$65.6 billion as investors ask if AI spending worth it

MATT O'BRIEN

MICROSOFT on Wednesday reported its quarterly sales grew 16% to \$65.6 billion as the company sought to assure investors its huge spending on artificial intelligence is paying off.

The company has spent billions of dollars to expand its global network of data centers and other physical infrastructure required to develop AI technology that can compose documents, make images and serve as a lifelike personal assistant at work or home.

As a result, AI-related products are now on track to contribute about \$10 billion to the company's annual revenue, the "fastest business in our history to reach this milestone," CEO Satya Nadella said on a call with analysts Wednesday.

The software maker also reported an 11% increase in quarterly profit to \$24.7 billion, or \$3.30 per share, which beat Wall Street expectations for the July-September period.

Analysts polled by FactSet Research were expecting Microsoft to earn \$3.10 per share on revenue of \$64.6 billion.

Microsoft hasn't yet formally reported revenue specifically from AI products but

says it has infused the technology and its AI assistant, called Copilot, into all of its business segments, particularly its Azure cloud computing contracts.

Leading in sales for the quarter was Microsoft's productivity business segment, which includes its Office suite of email and other workplace products, growing 12% to \$28.3 billion.

Microsoft's cloud-focused business segment grew 20% from the same time last year to \$24.1 billion for the three months ending Sept. 30.

Its personal computing business, led by its Windows division, grew 17% to \$13.2 billion. A big part of that growth came from Microsoft's Xbox video game business, which was boosted by its purchase of game publishing giant Activision Blizzard a year ago.

Microsoft and the computer makers that run its Windows operating system also this year unveiled a new class of AI-imbued laptops as the company confronts heightened competition from Big Tech rivals in pitching generative AI technology to consumers and workplaces.

Building and operating AI systems is costly and Microsoft reported spending \$20 billion over the quarter, mostly for its cloud computing and AI needs. That includes building energy-hungry computing

AP PHOTO



centers and supplying them with specialized chips to train and run AI models.

Microsoft has also invested billions of dollars in AI startups, particularly its partner OpenAI, maker of ChatGPT and the underlying chatbot technology on which Microsoft's own Copilot is based.

Nadella emphasized the company's push to get custo-

mers applying AI platforms in their workplaces as AI tools transform jobs and work tasks.

Nadella, now in his tenth year as CEO, saw his annual compensation increase 63% this year to \$79 million, according to a statement filed ahead of Microsoft's upcoming annual shareholder meeting in December. That's despite Nadella offering to have his cash

incentive reduced to reflect his personal accountability for handling cybersecurity threats.

Earlier this year, a scathing report by a federal review board found "a cascade of security failures" by Microsoft let Chinese state-backed hackers break into email accounts of senior U.S. officials.

MDT/AP

CORPORATE BITS

Melco hosts tech business matching event



Melco Resorts & Entertainment hosted the "Melco Resorts & Entertainment and Certified Tech Enterprises Business Matching Event" in collaboration with the Macao Young Entrepreneur Incubation Cen-

tre to explore opportunities for collaboration. More than 20 local certified technology enterprises participated in the event, which was addressed by Pong Kai Fu, deputy director of the Macao Economic and

Technological Development Bureau, and Andy Ng, director of Macao Young Entrepreneur Incubation Centre.

Leveraging its corporate strength, Melco seeks to support local small and medium-sized enterprises through partnerships.

The event provided a platform for innovation startups and SMEs to showcase products and gain insights into Melco's future projects and procurement needs. Three SMEs introduced their products on stage. Melco aims to support Macau's economic development through sustaining positive relationships and collaboration with local technology suppliers and enterprises.

Poly MGM Museum to sail the seas of the Maritime Silk Road



Poly MGM Museum will open Nov. 2 with its inaugural exhibition on the history and legacy of the Maritime Silk Road. Housed at MGM Macau, the museum is a collaboration between Poly

Culture Group and MGM. It will feature over 200 rare artifacts and artworks exploring the ancient trade route. The exhibition traces the evolution and impact of maritime connecti-

ty between East and West. Visitors will journey from early navigation guided by monsoons to the cultural exchanges and globalization fueled by maritime commerce. Underwater archaeological discoveries and remnants of ancient ports will be displayed alongside contemporary art illuminating the Silk Road's enduring influence.

As a forum for cultural dissemination, the Poly MGM Museum has curated its program with international experts to authentically portray countries along the route. Merging artifacts with interactive technology, the museum hopes to stimulate creative inquiry and dialogue on our shared history.



People dine at Lan Fong Yuen main restaurant located on Gage Street in Central, Hong Kong

CATERING TO A FOOD HEAVEN

FEATURE REPORT
BY LUO WEITENG, CHINA DAILY

WITH a unique melding of Eastern and Western cultures, Hong Kong has long stood out as a culinary paradise.

But as business leaders and the special administrative region government ponder how the city could revive its fortunes in the post-pandemic tourism market, the city's catering business is facing a reality check.

Although the recent National Day Golden Week brought some respite with nearly 1.4 million visitors descending on the financial hub, including over 1.2 million from the Chinese mainland - a heartening 27 percent rise over the same period last year - eateries see an uncertain future in the face of perennial problems and a structural shift.

"In the good old days, Hong Kong's caterers and restaurants used to enjoy a roaring trade as many consumers would spend big on the back of the fast buck they had made in the red-hot stock market," recalls Winston Yeung Chun-nin, an executive director of Hong Kong-based Chinese restaurant chain, Fulum

Group Holdings.

"Today is probably the toughest time we have experienced in two to three decades. But catering isn't the only business to have seen its heyday go by."

At the heart of the problem lies a structural and fundamental rollback in spending patterns as Hong Kong residents routinely flock to Shenzhen and neighboring cities for dining, shopping and entertainment.

The winds of change have been sweeping across a competitive landscape north of the Shenzhen River. It seems like only yesterday when deep-pocketed mainland spenders cleaned up the shelves of Hong Kong's drugstores and boutiques.

Just as Shenzhen's commercial skyline has become almost unrecognizable over the years, the country's new breed of "super-consumers" has now gone beyond mimicking the patterns of more sophisticated foreign shoppers to being trendsetters and innovators themselves.

The increasingly fickle and over-fastidious customers going after quality, fine services and experience have significantly contributed to the catering industry's rat race on the mainland.

Having seen how his mainland peers have been racking their

brains and trying out new ideas to beat cut-throat competition, Yeung calls it a "real mind blower" to the extent of making Hong Kong's caterers and restaurants, beset by deep-seated snags, hard to compete with.

A critical dearth of labor, plus skyrocketing operation costs, have plagued the industry for years, and local business operators may still lack the foresight, courage or ability to change and go forward.

"Among professions generally, catering is seen as tailor-made for low-skilled workers and not rewarding enough, so it has never been the top choice among job seekers. They tend to job hop to alternative work that is less tiring and which offers almost identical pay, such as security officers, especially with the statutory minimum wage regime having come into force more than decade ago," says Yeung who also chairs the Hong Kong Federation of Restaurants and Related Trades.

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the situation. Between 2018 and 2022, the city's lower-skilled workforce decreased by about 160,000, or over 4 percent of the working population, according to Legislative Council data.

With an estimated manpower gap of 20 to 30 percent, the hea-

vy workload for catering staff is partly to blame for the oft-criticized brusque service, says Tommy Cheung Yu-yan, a nonofficial member of Hong Kong's Executive Council and legislator representing the catering sector. As part of efforts to alleviate the labor crunch, the Enhanced Supplementary Labour Scheme was endorsed by the Executive Council in June last year, and has accepted applications since September 2023. By late August, the Labour Department had received 6,852 applications involving 61,343 external workers, with waiters, waitresses and junior cooks as the most preferred jobs. Up to 40 percent of the applications were given the nod, including 21,720 workers most of whom were in the catering, retail and hospitality businesses.

While importing labor may have helped to reshape the job market, Yeung notes the hard fact is that employers have to bear all the expenses incurred by hiring workers from outside Hong Kong, such as accommodation under a maximum two-year contract, as well as expenses arising from public holidays. The manpower headache may also be compounded by some local workers choosing to work part time as a stable income would disqualify them from public rental housing, according

to Yeung. "Basically, catering jobs won't pay enough to compensate for the subsidies they may risk losing," he says. "So, why not just 'lie flat'?"

Describing public rental housing as something that is even harder to come by than winning a lottery, Yeung sees no shortage of workers adopting a "rather realistic mindset", prioritizing housing over employment regardless of the average five-and-a-half-year queue promised by the Housing Authority.

The graying population is another aggravating factor, albeit not unique to the catering business, that has expanded rapidly. The Census and Statistics Department revealed that in the second quarter of this year, the number of employees aged 40 and above in the retail, accommodation and catering sectors had far exceeded that in other age groups, reaching 320,300.

The average age of workers in the city's 18,000 catering establishments now stands at 45, according to Simon Wong Ka-wo, president of the Hong Kong Federation of Restaurants and Related Trades. Although the industry's middle-aged workforce should not be viewed as a "fallback solution", he believes it does offer a glimpse of the difficulties in hiring and retaining people.

Rising costs are another headache for the catering trade. Yeung estimates that rents take up as much as 15 to 20 percent of their revenues, with another 30 percent going to wages, without the costs of ingredients and utilities being taken into account.

However, there is comfort in Hong Kong's notoriously hefty commercial rents heading south since the middle of 2023. Data from the Rating and Valuation Department show average private rentals in August dropped by almost 4 percent from the previous year.

Over a longer time span, rents for shops have fallen by 60 percent since 2014, and 40 percent since 2019, according to Lawrence Wan Wan-keung, Hong Kong-based senior director of retail advisory and transaction services for US-based global real-estate advisory group CBRE.

But unlike retailers who stand to benefit from rent cuts under short-term leases, Chinese restaurateurs whose businesses are generally heavy-asset investments with upfront costs of up to HK\$10 million (\$1.28 million) are often required to sign six-year leases for the huge area required, and get little or no relief from rent cuts, says Yeung.

RIDING THE WAVE OF CHANGE

For a highly competitive and saturated sector like catering, Yeung believes the industry's plight should not be looked at in isolation, with the philosophy of "survival of the fittest" and the attitude of "letting it go". In the past few

years, he has seen a good many catering workers starting their own businesses to cash in on the rent cuts. Due to the relatively low bar for starting from scratch, catering outlets take up a sizeable portion of tenancies at shopping malls, especially in tough times, when retail is in retreat, he says.

"In the push to rejuvenate the catering business, could we introduce new elements for visitors, particularly those from the mainland who have been an integral part of the country's rapid development and meteoric rise over the past decades?" asks Wan.

Citing the now-demolished Kowloon Walled City which was featured recently in a blockbuster film, he says what makes Hong Kong's tourism-related sectors stand out are the flagship events and iconic landmarks embedded in the city's heritage.

Pascal Siu Yat-kui, a senior researcher with think tank, Our Hong Kong Foundation, believes it's essentially a matter of choice, not only in winning back tourists, but locking in local consumers, as patrons could hardly be expected to pay through the nose for mediocre food and substandard services like before, with a wealth of spending choices available and accessible north of the border.

Amid talk of "consumption downgrading" aggravating the catering sector's woes, Siu thinks it is more appropriate to call it "consumers going after value-for-money products and services" as a normal response to global economic uncertainties.

As the mainland and the SAR deepen economic and social links, he notes that the "new normal" of Hong Kong people heading north, which may fall into the narrative of "consumption downgrading", has become a secular trend rather than a fleeting phenomenon or passing fad purely out of novelty.

The concept of a "one-hour living circle" in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area has timed its takeoff with the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link and six road-based land checkpoints between Shenzhen and Hong Kong. Other mega projects, including the Shenzhen-Zhongshan Link that opened in June and the new Huanggang Port Area, due for completion in 2026 with a "co-location" arrangement for commuters, will accelerate connectivity, says Siu.

"Such a new normal is the hard reality every business in Hong Kong has to live with and adapt to," Yeung says.

At the height of cross-border travel, up to 800,000 Hong Kong residents made daily trips to nearby mainland cities on weekends. However, with commuter flow having stabilized to an expected level of 600,000, he is calling for concerted efforts by industry and government agencies to help local businesses ride the winds of change. **MDT/CHINA DAILY**

First GBA Cultural Heritage Forum starts in Macau

**ON THE AGENDA
BY RENATO MARQUES,
MDT**

The first Greater Bay Area (GBA) Cultural Heritage Forum began yesterday

The Forum invited experts from Macau, Hong Kong, and Guangdong province to discuss topics such as the integration and sharing of cultural heritage in the GBA.

It also invited experts, scholars, and practitioners in the field of cultural heritage from China and abroad to discuss six major topics.

There will also be discussion about the connections and value of cultural heritage in the GBA, adaptive reuse concepts and practices for heritage buildings,

the use of technology in archaeology, the resources of the "revolutionary cultural relics," and exchanges about the Maritime Silk Road and cultural heritage, as well as the sharing of practical experiences and research results.

The Forum comes after a memorandum of understanding signed between the three sides in 2022 to hold a Forum regularly with the cities taking turns on its organization.

The Forum has the patronage of the National and Cultural Administration of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and Macau's Secretariat for Social Affairs and Culture.

It was jointly organized by Macau's Cultural

Affairs Bureau, the Department of Culture and Tourism of Guangdong Province and the Development Bureau of the government of Hong Kong being supported by MGM China Holdings Limited.

CULTURAL HERITAGE TOUR TRAIL WEBSITE LAUNCHED

Besides the Forum, organizers yesterday launched for the first time a website titled "GBA Cultural Heritage Tour Trail."

The website includes some 99 cultural heritage buildings from Macau, Hong Kong and the different cities in the Guangdong province.

It collates the results of an archeological collaboration between the

three sides.

It includes the GBA educational theme trail, which features educational historical buildings to allow the audience to gain an in-depth understanding of the historical significance of the buildings through text, photos and audio guides.

Organizers said the platform will be improved, with more diverse types of content to be added.

CCM EXHIBITS NATIONAL CULTURE IN HISTORICAL BUILDINGS

Alongside the Forum, which is taking place at the Small Auditorium of the Macao Cultural Centre (CCM), the CCM is also hosting an exhibition at the ART Space titled "Shared Roots and Interconnected Branches: The Importance of National Culture and Sentiment within the heart of Macau's Historical Buildings."

The exhibition features a series of elements that depict the city's diverse cultural coexistence alongside the legacy of Chinese historical buildings and culture.

Beyond the sites' historical and cultural value, there is also information about how the sites over the years have served as venues for intangible cultural heritage activities that are integrated into the daily lives of local residents.

The exhibition features many buildings including the Mandarin House, General Ye Ting's Former Residence, as well as buildings such as Kiang Wu Hospital, Tung Sin Tong Charitable Society and Kun Iam Tong. It includes posters, newspaper clippings, historical documents and other relics that provide proof of the uses and activities hosted by them.

RENATO MARQUES



AP PHOTO



the island were closed. Off the north coast, a tugboat was dispatched to tow away a Chinese-registered freighter that floundered and had been abandoned by its crew amid heavy seas.

Earlier yesterday, the typhoon's eye blew about 110 kilometers east of the northernmost Philippine province of Batanes, a cluster of islands and islets of about 19,000 people. Villagers in northern Philippine provinces evacuated to shelters on Wednesday.

The Philippines weather agency had warned the storm could blow away roofs and shatter windows and wreak extensive damage to farmland, but there were no immediate reports of casualties.

"It's so, so powerful and we haven't seen the extent of the damage yet because the wind outside is still so strong," Batanes Governor Marilou Cayco told The Associated Press by cellphone before the line was cut off.

Kong-rey, the 12th weather disturbance to hit the Philippine archipelago this year, lashed the Southeast Asian nation while it's still recovering from a storm last week that left 179 dead and missing. Hundreds of thousands of people are still in emergency shelters from Tropical Storm Trami.

China, which claims Taiwan as its own territory and regularly sends planes and warships around the island, largely suspended its patrols, with just eight planes detected around the island between Wednesday and Thursday, according to Taiwan's Defense Ministry. **MDT/AP**

TAIWAN

Typhoon Kong-rey hits east coast, leaving one dead

A powerful typhoon made landfall in Taiwan yesterday, killing one person and bringing high winds and floods to much of the island's east coast and northern areas, after barreling past the northern Philippines.

Flights and train service were

suspended in Taiwan and 8,600 people moved to shelters.

Typhoon Kong-rey was blowing at 184 kilometers per hour with gusts of up to 227 kph as it moved over the eastern county of Taitung. Parts of Yilan and Hualien counties were inundated by heavy rain, but many farmers in

the largely rural areas had already brought in their crops in anticipation of damage from the storm.

Taiwan authorities reported one death and 73 injuries from the storm as of Thursday afternoon. The fatality occurred after a tree fell on a vehicle. Officials also said they were trying to contact

a pair of Czech tourists who had been hiking in Hualien's Tarako National Park, famed for its steep cliffs and mountain trails. Other travelers were advised to stay where they were.

Taipei was largely shut down as it was hit by high winds and heavy rains. Offices and schools across

India says frontier disengagement with China along their disputed border is 'almost complete'

SHEIKH SAALIQ
NEW DELHI

INDIA and China have moved most of their frontline troops further from their disputed border in a remote region in the northern Himalayas, India's defense minister said yesterday, some 10 days after the two countries reached a new pact on military patrols that aims to end a four-year standoff that's strained relations.

Rajnath Singh said the "process of disengagement" of Indian and Chinese troops near the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh is "almost complete."

The Line of Actual Control separates Chinese and Indian-held territories from Ladakh in the west to India's eastern state of Aru-

AP PHOTO



Indian army vehicles move in a convoy in the cold desert region of Ladakh, India, Sept. 18, 2022

nachal Pradesh, which China claims in its entirety. India and China fought a war over the border in 1962.

Ties between the two countries deteriorated in July 2020 after a military clash killed at least 20 Indian soldiers and four Chinese. That turned into a long-running standoff in the rugged mountainous area, as each side stationed

tens of thousands of military personnel backed by artillery, tanks and fighter jets in close confrontation positions.

Earlier this month the two neighbors announced a border accord aimed at ending the standoff, followed by a meeting between India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and China's President Xi Jinping

on the sidelines of the recent BRICS summit in Russia, their first bilateral meeting in five years.

It's not clear how far back the troops were moved, or whether the pact will lead to an overall reduction in the number of soldiers deployed along the border.

"Our efforts will be to take the matter beyond disengagement; but for that,

we will have to wait a little longer," Singh said.

Chinese Defense Ministry spokesperson Zhang Xiaogang said yesterday that the frontline troops were "making progress in implementing the resolutions in an orderly manner."

The pact called for Indian and Chinese troops to pull back from the last two areas of the border where they were in close positions. After the deadly confrontation in 2020, soldiers were placed in what commanders called "eyeball to eyeball" positions at at least six sites. Most were resolved after previous rounds of military and diplomatic talks as the two nations agreed to the creation of buffer zones.

However, disagreements over pulling back from in

the Depsang and Demchok areas lasted until the Oct. 21 pact.

"It is a positive move," said Lt. Gen. D.S. Hooda, who from 2014 to 2016 headed Indian military's Northern Command, which controls Kashmir region, including Ladakh. "Given how deep mistrust has been between the two countries and how all confidence building measures collapsed, it is quite a positive beginning," he said.

However, Hooda added, it will take time for both countries to return to their pre-2020 positions. "It does not mean everything is going to as normal as it existed earlier. We have to re-establish traditional patrolling and also the buffer zones need to be sorted out," he said.

The border standoff also damaged business ties between the two nations, as India halted investments from Chinese firms and major projects banned. **MDT/AP**

ELAINE KURTENBACH,
BANGKOK

ENVIRONMENT

COUNTRIES in Asia will suffer worse damage from the climate crisis than other regions and are falling far behind in spending on improvements to limit the damage and adapt to changing weather patterns and natural disasters, the Asian Development Bank said in a report released Thursday.

The report said financing needs in developing Asian countries to cope with climate change range from \$102 billion to \$431 billion a year. That far exceeds the \$34 billion committed to those purposes in 2021-2022, the Manila, Philippines-based regional development bank said.

Developing Asia accounted for nearly half of all global emissions in 2021, the latest year for comprehensive data, with China accounting for two-thirds of that and South Asia nearly 20%, the report said. That's because even though emissions per person remain far lower than in Europe, Japan and North America, it is the world's most populous region, home to about 70% of all human kind.

Most countries in the region have ratified treaties on climate change and presented national plans to cut their carbon emissions, but most also still lack clear road maps to reach "net zero" carbon emissions, the report said.

Countering moves toward greater reliance on renewable energy such as solar and wind power, regional governments were providing \$600 billion in su-

Asia needs to spend much more to adapt to climate change and limit its damage, bank study says



AP PHOTO

pport for fossil fuels such as oil, gas and coal in 2022, it said. The subsidies make fuels cheaper, discouraging a shift to cleaner energy.

The report noted that the rate of sea level rises is about double the global average in the Asia-Pacific and about 300 million people in the region would face the risk of coastal inundation if sea ice in Antarctica collapses. Worsening storm surges also mean that China, India, Bangladesh and Vietnam would be the most affected, with damage amounting

to an average of \$3 trillion a year.

At the same time, higher temperatures are hurting worker productivity and health, said the report, which estimated that regional economies might see their gross domestic products decline by 17% by 2070 in a worst-case scenario of high carbon emissions. Such a scenario would also result in a doubling of the destructive power of tropical cyclones and storms, as weather grows more volatile and extreme.

The trends are already "locked in," and warming will continue for

decades, though the full implications of climate "tipping points," such as warming seas melting polar ice caps, are not fully understood, the report said. Meanwhile, environments that usually would "capture" carbon emissions, such as the oceans and tropical forests, are changing so much that they instead are becoming sources of carbon emissions, through forest fires and other events.

The benefits of limited and adapting to climate change far outweigh the costs, the report contended. The ADB estimates

that "aggressive decarbonization" could create 1.5 million energy sector jobs by 2050, while also preventing up to 346,000 deaths a year from air pollution by 2030.

By some estimates, poverty could increase by 64%-117% by 2030 under a high-emissions climate scenario, relative to no climate change, and the entire regional economy could fall by about 17%. The worst declines are forecast for Bangladesh, Vietnam, Indonesia and India and will deepen over time.

The report said the largest losses will be through reduced productivity, followed by fisheries, flooding and farming.

But governments can act to reduce the worst damage, the report said, pointing to the example of flood shelters in Bangladesh, which reduced deaths from catastrophic storms from hundreds of thousands of people in the past to fewer than 100 in recent years up to 2020.

"There is no avoiding the impacts of climate change, so stronger policy responses are needed to minimize loss and damage," it said. **MDT/AP**

COLOMBIA

Fourth mass coral bleaching prompts UN emergency session at biodiversity summit

STEVEN GRATTAN, CALI

THE United Nations, scientists and governments made an urgent call Wednesday for increased funding to protect coral reefs under threat of extinction.

Research this year shows that 77% of the world's reefs are affected by bleaching, mainly due to warming ocean waters amid human-caused climate change. It's the largest and fourth mass global bleaching on record and is impacting both hemispheres, United Nations Capital Development Fund said.

The findings prompted a U.N. special emergency



AP PHOTO

session — typically called to address escalating conflicts or natural disasters — on corals to be convened on sidelines of the U.N. biodiversity summit,

known as COP16, nearing its end after two weeks in Cali, Colombia.

Coral reefs are vital ecosystems that support over 25% of marine life

and nearly a billion people, many relying on reefs for food security, coastal protection and livelihoods, the U.N. development fund said.

After the emergency session, the governments of New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Germany and France made new pledges totaling around \$30 million to the U.N. fund for coral reefs established in 2020. By 2030, the fund seeks to leverage up to \$3 billion in public and private finance to support coral reef conservation efforts. Around \$225 million has been raised to date.

"Protecting our ocean and its precious habitats is fundamental to life on earth," said U.K. Minister for Nature Mary Creagh. "But without urgent action, the world's coral reefs face extinction from global heating, acidification,

disease, and pollution; a vital ecosystem lost within our lifetime."

Next year, a U.N. ocean conference will take place in Nice, France, and countries are being urged beforehand to pledge more to the U.N. global fund for coral reefs with the aim of mobilizing an additional \$150 million in donations by the conference.

"In 2024, climate change and other human impacts triggered the fourth mass coral reef bleaching event, the most extensive and devastating on record," said Peter Thomson, the U.N. Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean. "With the window to protect these ecosystems closing rapidly, world leaders must act now."

"We must secure a sustainable future for coral reefs and the countless lives that rely on them — before it's too late," Thomson said. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO

A North Korean soldier stands at the North's military guard post as a North Korean flag flutters in the wind, seen from Paju, South Korea



N. Korea's long-range missile test signals its improved, potential capability to attack US

HYUNG-JIN KIM,
KIM TONG-HYUNG &
MARI YAMAGUCHI, SEOUL

NORTH Korea test-fired an intercontinental ballistic missile for the first time in almost a year yesterday, demonstrating a potential advancement in its ability to launch long-range nuclear attacks on the mainland U.S.

The launch was likely meant to mean grab American attention days ahead of the U.S. election and respond to condemnation over the North's reported troop dispatch to Russia to support its war against Ukraine. Some experts speculated Russia might have provided technological assistance to North Korea over the launch.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un observed the launch, calling it "an appropriate military action" to show North Korea's resolve to respond to its enemies' moves that have threatened the North's safety, according to the North's state media.

Kim said the enemies' "various adventurist military maneuvers" highlighted the importance of North Korea's nuclear capability. He reaffirmed that North Korea will never abandon its policy of bolstering its nuclear forces.

North Korea has steadfastly argued that advancing its nuclear capabilities is its only option to cope with the expansion of U.S.-South Korean military training, though Washington and Seoul have repeatedly said they have no intention of attacking North Korea. Experts

say North Korea uses its rivals' drills as a pretext to enlarge its nuclear arsenal to wrest concessions when diplomacy resumes.

The North Korean statement came hours after its neighbors said they had detected the North's first ICBM test since December 2023 and condemned it as a provocation that undermines international peace.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said North Korea could have tested a new, solid-fueled long-range ballistic missile on a steep angle, an attempt to avoid neighboring countries. Missiles with built-in solid propellants are easier to move and hide and can be launched quicker than liquid-propellant weapons.

Japanese Defense Minister Gen Nakatani told reporters the missile's flight duration of 86 minutes and its maximum altitude of more than 7,000 kilometers (4,350 miles) exceeded corresponding data from previous North Korean missile tests.

Having a missile fly higher and for a longer duration than before means its engine thrust has improved. Given that previous ICBM tests by North Korea have already proved they can theoretically reach the U.S. mainland, the latest launch was likely related to an effort to examine whether a missile can carry a bigger warhead, experts say.

Jung Chang Wook, head of the Korea Defense Study Forum think tank in Seoul, said that it's fair to say the missile involved in yesterday's launch

could carry North Korea's biggest and most destructive warhead. He said the launch was also likely designed to test other technological aspects that North Korea needs to master to further advance its ICBM program.

North Korea has made strides in its missile technologies in recent years, but many foreign experts believe the country has yet to acquire a functioning nuclear-armed missile that can strike the U.S. mainland. They say North Korea likely possesses short-range missiles that can deliver nuclear strikes across all of South Korea.

There have been concerns that North Korea might seek Russian help to perfect its nuclear-capable missiles in return for its alleged dispatch of thousands of troops to support Russia's war against Ukraine. U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said Wednesday that North Korean troops wearing Russian uniforms and carrying Russian equipment are moving toward Ukraine, in what he called a dangerous and destabilizing development.

Lee Choon Geun, an honorary research fellow at South Korea's Science and Technology Policy Institute, said the early results of Thursday's launch suggested Russia might have given a key propellant component that can boost a missile's engine thrust. He said that a higher thrust allows a missile to carry a bigger payload, fly with more stability and hit a target more accurately.

Jung said he speculates Russian experts might have given

technological advices on missile launches since Russian President Vladimir Putin visited North Korea for a meeting with Kim in June.

Kwon Yong Soo, an honorary professor at South Korea's National Defense University, said that North Korea likely tested a multiple-warhead system for an existing ICBM. "There's no reason for North Korea to develop another new ICBM when it already has several systems with ranges of up to 10,000 to 15,000 kilometers (6,200 to 9,300 miles) that could reach any location on Earth," Kwon said.

The North Korean confirmation of an ICBM test was unusually quick since North Korea usually describes its weapons tests a day after they occur.

"North Korea could have probably thought that its rivals could look down it after it gave away so much in military resources to Russia," Yang Uk, an expert at South Korea's Asan Institute for Policy Studies. "The launch may have been intended as a demonstration to show what it's capable of, regardless of troop dispatches or other movements."

U.S. National Security Council spokesperson Sean Savett called the launch "a flagrant violation" of multiple U.N. Security Council resolutions that "needlessly raises tensions and risks destabilizing the security situation in the region." Savett said the U.S. will take all necessary measures to ensure the security of the American homeland and its South Korean and Japanese allies. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1966 VIET CONG BOMBS SAIGON



At least eight people have been killed and several wounded after Viet Cong artillery shelled the South Vietnamese capital, Saigon.

Altogether about 30 shells were fired into the city centre.

The first round came as troops and spectators were getting ready to watch a parade to mark National Day, the third anniversary of the overthrow and assassination of former Prime Minister Ngo Dinh Diem.

There was a lull and then a second round of shells exploded as Prime Minister Nguyen Kao Ky was saluting his troops.

There was chaos as crowds tried to find cover on foot or by motor scooter.

Many found their way blocked by American and South Vietnamese armoured vehicles coming from the opposite direction.

One shell hit the Chapel of Saint Anthony of Padua in the cathedral.

And another exploded just outside the cathedral killing an American officer.

Five other Americans were wounded and at least two Vietnamese killed when a shell hit the crowded central market.

The Viet Cong were firing from bases at the edge of the jungle some three and half miles away from Saigon and amazed military observers with their accuracy.

They also sank an American minesweeper in the Saigon River with a mine later in the day, killing several crew members.

So far US armed helicopters and South Vietnamese ground forces have failed to track down any Viet Cong bases.

Yesterday, former US President General Dwight D Eisenhower called for more troops to be sent to Vietnam to bring about a swift end to the conflict.

He told the US News and World Report that the war had been "going on too long" and said America should be "putting in the kind of military strength we need to win" as soon as possible.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Viet Cong was a communist movement dedicated to the union of North and South and had been fighting a guerrilla war against South Vietnam since 1954.

They were reinforced by North Vietnamese troops in 1959 in an effort to overthrow the South Vietnamese Government.

In 1961 the US began sending troops to the region to bring a halt to what it saw as the spread of communism in South-East Asia.

In 1965 the US started air raids on the North. Peace talks in 1969 saw American involvement decrease but war took hold once more in 1970 when the US and South Vietnam invaded Cambodia.

A major communist offensive in 1972, coupled with strong opposition at home to US involvement in the war, led to further peace talks and the Paris Agreement in January, 1973 and the withdrawal of US troops.

Saigon fell to communist forces on 30 April 1975. Some 900,000 Viet Cong and North Vietnamese, 50,000 Americans, and about 400,000 South Vietnamese had died.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Grab a lucky chance to grow shared finances. Ignore negative internal chatter. Avoid noise. Discuss ideas with partners and family. Plan moves in advance.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
Share support with your partner. Harmony may require effort. Coordinate and communicate around unexpected changes. Choose easy options.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
Take extra care with your health, fitness and work. Talk your way through an unexpected situation. Get expert support as needed. Don't push. Recharge.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Stretch your imagination. Get creative! Have fun with beloved activities and people. Take on an entertaining challenge. Avoid fuss or controversy.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Enjoy domestic decoration, fun and crafty projects. Bake something delicious. Share tricks and treats with family. Come up with homemade wonders.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
Notice the emotional undercurrent. Avoid stress or fuss. Don't get dissuaded by a breakdown. Consider options. Invent creative, simple solutions.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Keep cash flowing in a positive direction. Adapt to changes. Avoid expensive options. Put fun and creativity into your work. Come up with clever ideas.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Choose the easy option. You can find what's needed. Who do you want to be? Make a statement. Stand for something close to your heart.

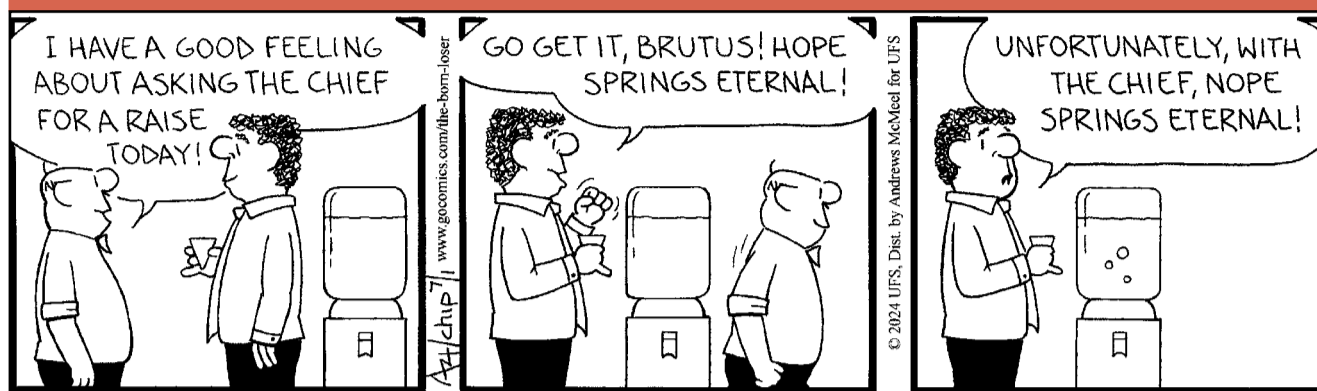
SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Light candles. Retreat from stressful situations. Avoid travel. Enjoy peaceful time to unwind and contemplate. Hand out treats. Consider where you've been and what's ahead.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Get together with friends. Things may not go as planned. Choose simple options. Invent creative plans. Find a new purpose for mundane objects. Have fun together.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Dress for the part. You're being tested by a professional challenge. Use your wits and skills to navigate a chaotic situation. Get creative.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Get out and explore. Try on new ideas. Avoid expensive or complicated plans. Keep an open mind. Discover fun adventures in your own backyard.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

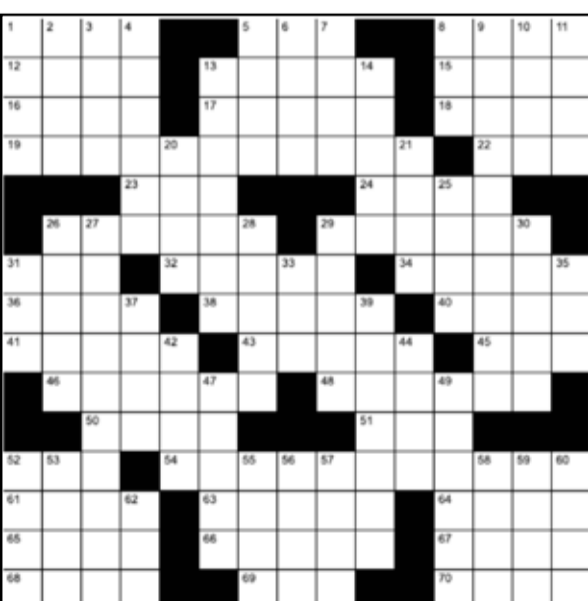
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	9	19	fine
Changchun	5	12	fine
Chengdu	15	24	cloudy
Chongqing	18	22	cloudy
Fuzhou	22	25	rain
Guangzhou	20	29	cloudy
Guiyang	12	20	overcast
Haikou	21	26	cloudy
Hangzhou	16	18	rain
Harbin	4	7	fine
Hefei	13	20	cloudy
Nanjing	16	20	rain
Shanghai	18	20	rain
Taipei	24	25	rain
Wuhan	11	24	fine
Hong Kong	22	30	overcast
WORLD			
Moscow	0	11	rain
Frankfurt	8	12	cloudy
Paris	9	12	fog
London	10	13	cloudy
New York	10	26	cloudy

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- I've Got ___ in Kalamazoo; 5- Owned; 8- Nintendo rival; 12- Not punctual; 13- Facial hair; 15- Dinghy pair; 16- Drops the ball; 17- Diamond flaw?; 18- Got it!; 19- Leaping insect; 22- Airline until 2001; 23- Wide shoe width; 24- Wise; 26- Pertaining to the teeth; 29- On the beach; 31- Breast-supporting undergarment; 32- Proverb; 34- Nice days, usually; 36- Panhandles; 38- Night noise; 40- South American monkey; 41- Shops want to achieve high ones!; 43- Prepares for publication or release; 45- Meditative sect; 46- Measuring instruments; 48- More spine-tingling; 50- Ayatollah's predecessor; 51- Far out!; 52- Monsters; 54- Accountable; 61- Southwestern art colony; 63- "Lovergirl" singer ___ Marie; 64- Word-of-mouth; 65- Be tangent to; 66- Bring up the rear; 67- Domesticate; 68- Queue after Q; 69- Gallery offering; 70- Con game;

DOWN 1- Shake ___ (hurry); 2- Teri of "Tootsie"; 3- Razor name; 4- Reduce; 5- Illustrious warrior; 6- "Modern Maturity" org.; 7- Fall; 8- ___-disant (self-styled); 9- Orientalize; 10- Got bigger; 11- On the main; 13- Decapitates; 14- Women's wear; 20- ___ precedent; 21- Stadium cheers; 25- Joint problem; 26- Fantasy; 27- Highest rank in Baden-Powell's organization; 28- Bowling alley divisions; 29- High home; 30- Keyboard key; 31- Air rifle ammo; 33- Deity; 35- Yang's counterpart; 37- Adam's third son; 39- Endless; 42- Scorch; 44- Ladies of Spain; Abbr.; 47- Role for Clark; 49- Foolish persons; 52- ___-Tass (Russian news agency); 53- Apprehends; 55- Antitoxins; 56- Bosc; 57- Put a lid ___!; 58- Bric-a-___; 59- Buddhist monk; 60- K-6; 62- Actor Erwin;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
- Fire department 28 572 222
- PJ (Open line) 993
- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IAM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
- Telephone - Report 1000
- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
- Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

DRIVE IN

AN UNMOVING CAMERA AND DE-AGING TECHNOLOGY MAKE 'HERE' WITH TOM HANKS PAINFUL TO WATCH

MARK KENNEDY

ROBERT Zemeckis' latest movie is insanely ambitious, starting with the dinosaurs and ending in present day with the Roomba. But it's fixed on just one spot.

"Here" reunites Zemeckis, screenwriter Eric Roth and actors Tom Hanks and Robin Wright, who collaborated on "Forrest Gump." This time, they're not telling the larger-than-life story of a man moving through time — they're telling the centuries-old story of a living room and all the different people who lived there.

In this living room, we see a wedding, a death, a birth, a marriage tested, a funeral, lots of vacuuming, many birthdays, Christmases and Thanksgivings, some sex, adults getting drunk and Jazzercise.

Zemeckis puts the camera at a fixed angle for the movie's entire 105-minute duration without moving. It's not so strange after

AP PHOTO



This image released by Sony Pictures Entertainment shows Tom Hanks, right, and Robin Wright in a scene from "Here."

a while — so bursting with life is each shot and vignette — but there's a gnawing feeling that we're in some sort of film experiment, like testing an audience on how long they'll watch old security camera footage.

The camera may not move but the eras do, melting back and forth in time from pre-history, to the

1700s, to the 1940s, back to hunter-gatherer times and then the '60s and '70s, before hitting the early 1900s. It begins and ends in 2022.

Hanks and Wright form the movie's spine, as Richard and Margaret. Over dozens of little scenes, we watch him as a boy grow up in the house and fall in

love with Margaret, marry, move her in, have a baby and inherit it all. Whether they survive as a couple isn't guaranteed.

Zemeckis is a filmmaker known for incorporating the latest in technology and this time it's de-aging as a visual effect, basically turning 68-year-old Hanks into what he looked like while fil-

ming "Splash." It's a lot of work, clumsy often, and Zemeckis has gotten lost in the uncanny valley, trying to tell a very human story about what unites us but by altering the actors so much that the human connection is lost. Look closely and you'll see cigarette smoke go into one character, but never come out.

Other roles include Richard's parents — played brilliantly by Paul Bettany and Kelly Reilly — and some unconnected people: a fun-loving couple living in the home from 1925 to 1944, and a less fun couple in the early 1900s. There's an Indigenous couple in the 1600s who frolic in the space the living room will take over in 300 years and another family who rides out 2020 in the house amid the pandemic.

If that isn't enough, we have an appearance by Benjamin Franklin. Why Benjamin Franklin? He's connected to the house across the street. What he adds is not entirely clear. The movie could do with fewer Founding Fathers and cutesy touches like hummingbirds. **MDT/AP**

"Here," a Sony Pictures release that premieres Friday in theaters, is rated PG-13 for "thematic material, some suggestive material, brief strong language and smoking." Running time: 105 minutes. ★★☆☆

AD



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TASTE OF EDESIA

Old School Cantonese

IRENE SAM, MDT

KAMCENTRE Roast Goose, known for its exceptional roast goose with two locations in Hong Kong at the South China Athletic Association and BaseHall 02, is now bringing its beloved classic Cantonese flavours to Holt's Café at Rosewood Hong Kong for an exclusive pop-up event on the 19th and 20th November for both lunch and dinner. Since opening the first location in 2019, Kamcentre Roast Goose has become an instant hit with local food lovers and international travellers to dine at its restaurant. This unique dining experience will feature two lunches and two dinners, showcasing a total of 10 dishes crafted

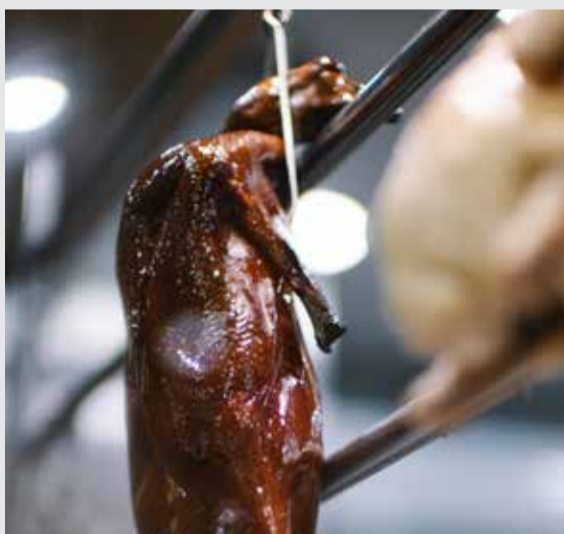
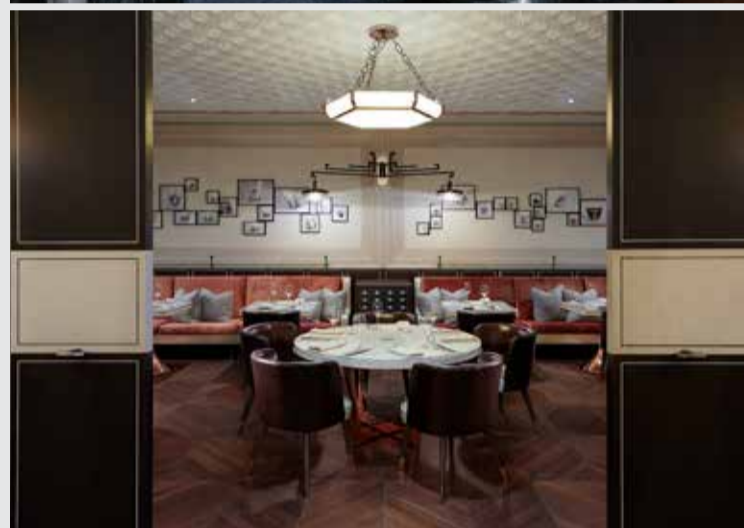
by Kamcentre Roast Goose. One of Hong Kong's most popular destinations for roast goose and barbecued meats, Kamcentre Roast Goose has been delighting patrons with expertly prepared traditional Cantonese dishes by Chef Fung Ho Tong – an esteemed industry veteran of almost fifty years, previously overseeing Chinese barbeque operations at Hong Kong's legendary restaurant, Yung Kee.

Kamcentre's signature dishes include the Kamcentre First Cut Char Siu, made with premium Spanish pork and recognised by the Hong Kong Tourism Board as one of the top barbecue pork dishes in Hong Kong. Additionally, they offer a classic traditional Pork Cold Cut and their signature Watercress Soup – all of which will be available during

the pop-up period at Holt's Café. This exclusive pop-up perfectly aligns with Rosewood's A Sense of Place guiding philosophy, embodying the property's commitment to immersing guests in the local history, culture, and flavours of Hong Kong. For a limited time, guests can indulge in Kamcentre Roast Goose's 10 à la carte special dishes in the heart of Kowloon, including chef's recommendations such as the Signature Kamcentre Roast Goose, "First Cut" Char Siu using Spanish pork and Signature Galantine Boneless Pork Shank. One can savour the succulent texture of old-school Cantonese barbecue, skillfully prepared by one of the city's renowned roast goose institutions, available at Holt's Café for two days only.



Chef Fung Ho Tong



tTUNES

The Cure return after a long break to look at mortality with one of their best albums

MARK KENNEDY

YOU might think that after being silent for 16 years, The Cure would be in a rush to get things going. Think again. It takes over three minutes of "Alone" — the first song on their new album — before we finally hear Robert Smith's voice. The Cure are back, but definitely on their terms.

The eight-track album "Songs of a Lost World" is lush and deeply orchestral, swelling and powerful, with often several minutes of instruments jamming before any singing.

There are melancholic and mournful lyrics that confront mortality and wonder where time went. "I'm outside in the dark/Wondering/How I got so old," Smith sings in the last, sprawling, heartbreaking song.

"Songs of a Lost World" is, indeed, not of this world. None of the tunes are under four minutes and the last one saunters past 10. In an era when music is fashioned for microbursts on TikTok, Smith is disinterested. He lets songs take their time, unrushed and able to breathe, the beauty of the melodies and instruments lea-

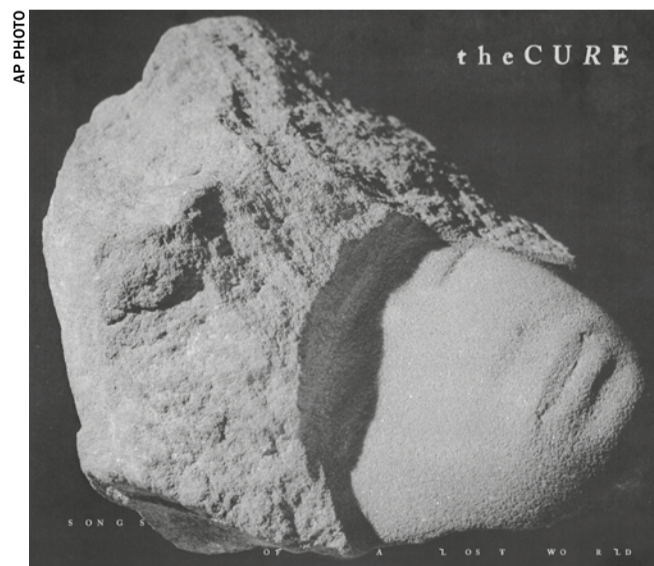
ding the way.

The first and last songs are in conversation, with the first stating "This is the end/Of every song we sing/Alone" and the final echoing the thought: "It's all gone/Left alone with nothing/The end of every song." There is a finality that fans will find distressful.

The album is The Cure's first since 2008's "4:13 Dream" — although Smith has been making music, including a terrific collaboration with CHVRCHES. Eight new songs doesn't sound like a lot, but they are all rich and satisfying.

One of the highlights is "I Can Never Say Goodbye," in which a simple, insistent piano noodle is surrounded by fluttering guitar work as Smith comes to terms with his brother's death. The band also goes cinematic with "And Nothing Is Forever," which has an Aaron Copland bright orchestral vibe, while "Warsong" is a dissonant, spiky downer that concludes "we are born to war."

"All I Ever Am" is built on some interesting drumming, plinky piano and fuzzy guitars, a bright wave of music with Smith's customary gloomy lyrics: "All I ever am/



AP PHOTO

theCURE

"Songs of a Lost World" by The Cure

Is somehow never quite/All I am now." It is classic The Cure and yet thrillingly not.

We are in an era of '80s bands reemerging like cicadas — Tears for Fears, Crowded House, the The, Pet Shop Boys, Duran Duran, among

them — but "Songs of a Lost World" is no attempt to recapture "Friday I'm In Love" or "In Between Days." It is a huge step forward. It is The Cure's best album since "Disintegration." Hopefully, there will be more. MDT/AP

OPINION

China Daily
 Editorial, China Daily

EU TAKING WRONG PATH OF PROTECTIONISM BY IMPOSING HEFTY TARIFFS ON CHINESE EVs

In a sign of the European Union resorting to rising protectionism, the 27-member bloc on Tuesday formally approved the imposition of hefty extra tariffs of up to 35 percent on imports of Chinese-made electric vehicles starting Wednesday, based on the results of a probe that the EU claims indicates Chinese government subsidies have unfairly undercut European automakers.

Chinese car giant Geely — one of the country's largest sellers of EVs — now faces an extra duty of 18.8 percent, while SAIC will be hit with the highest at 35.3 percent, on top of the current 10 percent on imports of EVs from China. Other EV producers in China including Western companies such as Volkswagen will be subject to duties of 20.7 percent, according to the final ruling of the European Commission. The tariffs will be definitive and last for five years.

Despite the EU trying to justify the protectionist move targeting Chinese auto companies by describing it as "fair market practices" aimed at safeguarding the European industrial base, it cannot change the fact that the so-called anti-subsidy probe did not comply with the World Trade Organization rules. Moreover, the levying of extra duties will inevitably disrupt the stability of the global auto manufacturing supply chains and harm the interests of European consumers.

Given that Chinese-made EVs, known for their advanced battery technology and energy efficiency, have played an irreplaceable role in Europe's green transportation revolution, the new curbs on them will erode their confidence in investing in the continent and severely slow down the global fight against climate change.

There has been strong opposition to the protectionist practice even within the trade bloc, with five countries including the group's biggest economy, Germany, voting against the tariffs and 12 abstaining. The extra tariffs are "a step backwards for free global trade and thus for prosperity, job preservation and growth in Europe", German Association of the Automotive Industry's president, Hildegard Mueller, said in response to the tariffs.

China has always sought to resolve its trade disputes with the EU, its second-largest trading partner, through dialogue and consultations, and has conducted more than 10 rounds of negotiations with the EU on its EV exports to Europe since the end of June, in the hope of avoiding the escalation of trade tensions, as it believes that would lead to a "lose-lose" situation for both sides. Some Chinese car producers have also offered to restrict their sales and raised prices to avoid tariffs.

It is therefore disappointing that the EU has ignored the efforts on the part of China to keep trade relations on the right track of healthy and stable development by going ahead with the "unreasonable" and "protectionist" practice.

The Ministry of Commerce has made it clear that China does not "agree with or accept" the tariffs, and has already filed a complaint under the WTO dispute settlement mechanism, with a ministry spokesman saying "China will take all necessary measures to firmly protect the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese companies".

A trade war between China and the EU is in the interests of neither side, and the best way ahead for them is to continue negotiations in pursuit of an alternative to tariffs even after the tariffs are in place. The EU, a long-time champion of free market and globalization, should exercise strategic autonomy by maintaining the mutually beneficial trade relations with China, rather than allowing itself to degenerate into a pawn in the US-orchestrated economic Cold War against the country to the detriment of the bloc's own economy. [Abridged]

LONGTIME MUSIC DIRECTOR AT MICHIGAN CHURCH FIRED FOR SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

THE BUZZ

The longtime music director at a northern Michigan church said he was fired just a few months before retirement after officials learned that he was in a same-sex marriage, a dismissal that has angered members and led to sidewalk protests by the choir.

"He's extremely talented, he's perfect on the piano, he has perfect pitch and because of him, I look forward to going to church every week," said Bob Holden, a chorister at St. Francis Church in Traverse City.

"I'm divorced. Do I get thrown out next?" Holden told the Traverse City Record-Eagle.

Fred Szczepanski said he was fired on Oct. 18 by the Rev. Michael Lingaur for marrying his longtime partner in a same-sex ceremony in Nevada in 2020. The church confronted him after receiving a letter from an unnamed person.

Szczepanski had been music director for 34 years and planned to retire in January. His recorded voice greets people who call the parish office.

The Catholic Church teaches that marriage is a lifelong union between a man and a woman.



Secretary for Administration and Justice André Cheong



Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong



Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak



Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Ao Ieong U



Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo do Rosário

BREAKING NEWS

SAM WILL RETAIN THREE CURRENT SECRETARIES IN NEW CABINET, OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT IMMINENT

PAULO COUTINHO & RENATO MARQUES

CHIEF Executive-designate Sam Hou Fai will retain at least three key secretaries from the current administration in his new cabinet, "signaling an emphasis on stability in Macau's governance," sources familiar with the matter told the Times. An official announcement on the new government lineup is expected in the coming days.

As the former top judge prepares to take office, reliable sources indicate that André Cheong, the Secretary for Administration and Justice; Wong Sio Chak, the Secretary for Security; and Elsie Ao Ieong U, the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, are expected to stay on.

While Sam's choice appears to favor continuity, there is notable speculation regarding Raimundo do Rosário, the current Secretary for Transport and Public Works.

Although Rosário was reportedly invited to continue in his role, an insider told the Times that "Raimundo is leaving the post; he's already packing." Final confirmation is pending, and people close to Rosário's office hint that his decision could be influenced by personal factors rather than policy shifts.

An observer of these matters, who asked to remain anonymous, said that beyond seeking stability and continuity, "if that is confirmed, it shows the new leadership's recognition of the work done well by some policy secretaries and their loyalty over the last five years."

In contrast to Raimundo's "uncertain position," sources indicate that the current Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lei Wai Nong, will be replaced.

Ip Sio Kai, a prominent lawmaker and the Deputy General Manager of the Bank of China (Macau branch), is the leading candidate for this role. Having served

as the director of Sam Hou Fai's campaign office, Ip's close alignment with Sam's vision makes him "a strong contender to drive Macau's economic agenda in the upcoming administration."

Sam Hou Fai's strategy "appears to blend experienced leadership with fresh perspectives," the observer added, particularly in areas critical to the city's economic future.

The Chief Executive-elect is currently in Beijing to receive formal recognition from the State Council confirming his official appointment as the sixth-term Chief Executive.

His tenure begins on December 20, the 25th anniversary of the Macau SAR, 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 out of 398 possible votes.



USA Most Americans are feeling a lot of emotions heading into Election Day, but excitement is not one of them. A new poll from The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds that about 7 in 10 Americans report feeling anxious or frustrated about the 2024 presidential campaign, and a similar share say they're interested. Only about one-third say they feel excited.



Mozambique At least 10 people were fatally shot by police and dozens of others were injured when authorities cracked down on unrest following its presidential election, two medical groups said, as the country braced yesterday for more protests against a vote criticized as fraudulent by opposition parties and questioned by international observers.



Russian forces struck a residential building in Ukraine's second-largest city of Kharkiv early yesterday, killing a 12-year-old boy and injuring scores of others. Regional head Oleh Syniehubov said the boy was fatally injured when the building was hit by a Russian 500-kilogram glide bomb.



UN General Assembly voted overwhelmingly Wednesday to condemn the American economic embargo of Cuba for a 32nd year after its foreign minister strongly criticized the Biden administration and expressed hope a new president would end it. The vote in the 193-member world body was 187-2, with only the United States and Israel against the resolution, and one abstention.

HOLIDAY TIMES

Macau Daily Times will not be published during the holiday. The Times will be back on the stands on Wednesday November 6. However the MDT website will be updated with breaking news during the recess period. We wish our readers, advertisers and friends the best of times.