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**NEWS**

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**GAMING REVENUE SOARED IN OCTOBER, MARKING A 6.6% YEAR-ON-YEAR INCREASE, THANKS TO A SURGE IN VISITORS DURING THE GOLDEN WEEK** P4

**GAMING: WYNN EXPANDS PREMIUM GAMING AREAS AS PART OF CAPEX EFFORTS** P4

**A TINY VILLAGE IN INDIA WHERE KAMALA HARRIS HAS ANCESTRAL ROOTS IS PRAYING FOR HER VICTORY** P7



**China** Ministry of Civil Affairs announced earlier this week it has intensified efforts to crack down on illegal social organizations, aiming to protect public interests and prevent fraud. In the first nine months of the year, the ministry disbanded 152 illegal social organizations, persuaded 383 others to voluntarily close, and required 124 organizations to obtain official registration.



**Indonesia** Rescue workers yesterday were sifting through smoldering debris and thick mud in search of survivors, a day after a volcano the remote island of Flores erupted with fury, killing at least nine people with its searing lava and ash.

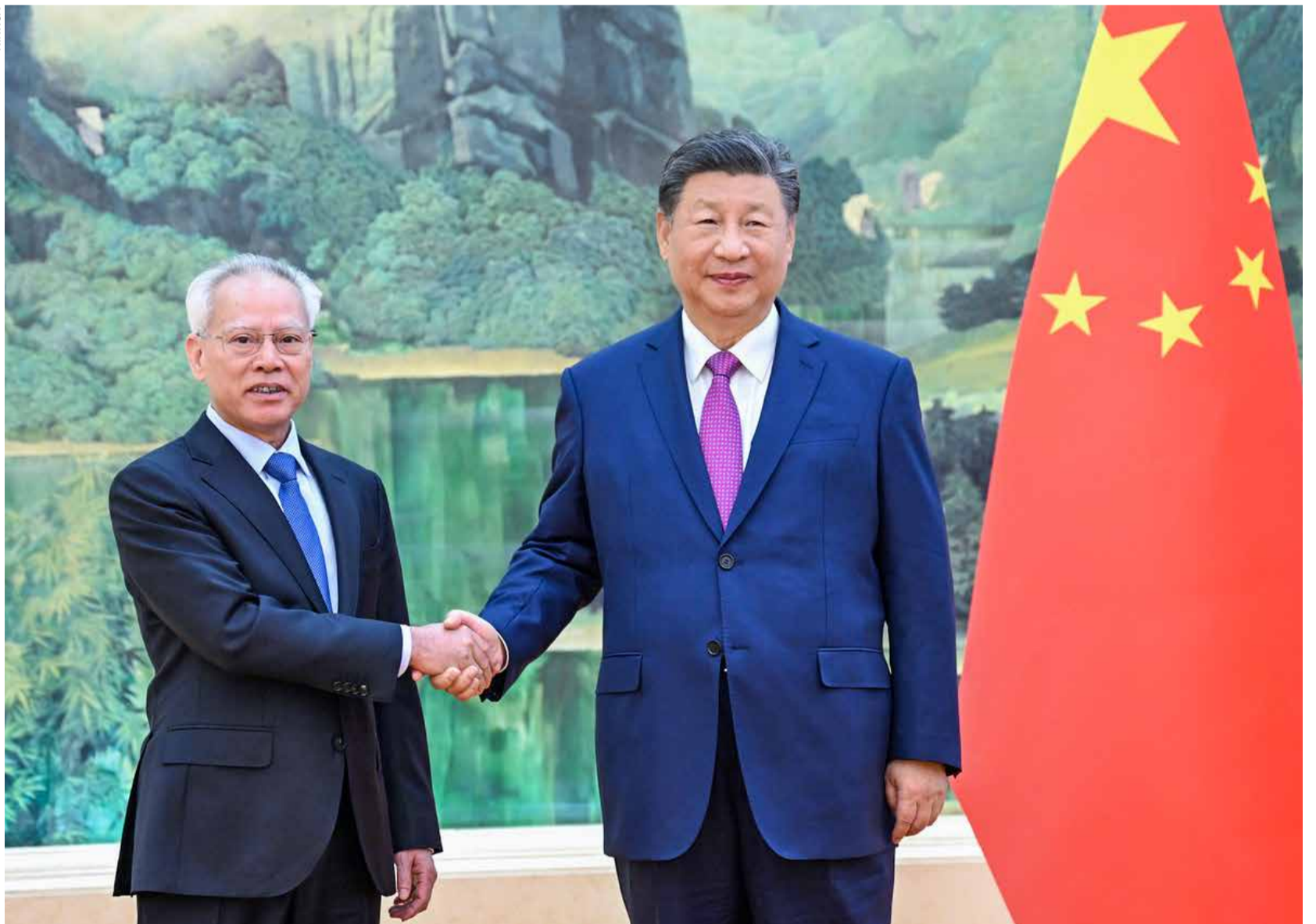
**Philippines** The military opened two weeks of combat drills earlier this week that would include seizing an island in the disputed South China Sea and likely be frowned upon by China. More than 3,000 Filipino army, navy and air force personnel will take part in the maneuvers.



**Pakistani** guard shot and wounded two Chinese nationals working in a textile mill in the southern port city of Karachi yesterday, but authorities said the attack was not related to militant violence. China has frequently demanded better security for its nationals working in Pakistan. Last month, two Chinese were killed in a suicide car bombing.

# LIVE UP

**Sam Hou Fai expresses his vision for transforming Macau into the 'perfect home', aiming to meet expectations of both residents and the Central Government** P3



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**ECONOMY**

# UM ADJUSTS GDP GROWTH DOWNWARDS

VICTORIA CHAN

**T**HE Centre for Macau Studies and the Department of Economics of the University of Macau have adjusted their projections for the local economic outlook for this year downward after signs of coo-

ling in mainland China.

The report notes that a key assumption has been reduced - visitors from the mainland are now expected to reach only 85% of record-breaking 2019 levels in the second half of the year.

Consequently, GDP growth was

been revised to 12.1%, bringing GDP to MOP399.3 billion or 89.7% of 2019's level. Alongside the GDP revisions, other forecasts have also been tweaked.

Service exports are now projected to rise 15.3% as visitor numbers stabilize, while private consump-

tion should grow a modest 5.8% and inflation should ease to 0.9%.

Unemployment is predicted to hold steady at around 1.9% overall and 2.5% for residents, and tax coffers are expected to see MOP112.2 billion in revenues.

The revision comes after visitation slowed in the second quarter (Q2), with total arrivals down nearly 20% from early 2019's pace.

Arrivals from the mainland fell over 23% short of pre-pandemic levels. Spending also softened, with gaming growing but non-gaming spending declining. However, domestic demand has proved resilient.

Consumption exceeded Q2 2019 despite headwinds for goods and overseas shopping, and investment rose nearly 7%.

Prices stayed tame, with food and housing inflation under 2%.

Furthermore, the job market held firm, with unemployment matching lows and median earnings for residents reaching 2019 levels.

Building on the latest visitor arrival data, the University of Macau's research team has further refined its 2024 forecasts.

From January to July, arrivals from mainland China reached 13.72 million, accounting for 81.3% of the comparable 2019 period.

This prompted analysts to lower their second-half assumption for Chinese visitors to 85% of pre-pandemic levels, leading to the revised 12.1% GDP growth projection.

Other estimates have also been adjusted, with services exports anticipated to grow 15.3%, private consumption projected to see more modest gains of 5.8%, and inflation inching up to 1.3%.

Investment is forecast to rise a stronger 7.7%.

Positive signs remain, with median salaries expected to increase by 2.8% and unemployment holding at 1.9% overall and 2.5% among local residents.

Government revenue is estimated to be at MOP112.2 billion.

The revised outlook relies on the University's renowned Macro econometric Structural Model of Macau, a sophisticated 87-equation model that tracks 209 variables quarterly since 1998.

# International air traffic now 80% pre-pandemic levels

VICTORIA CHAN

**P**ASSENGER traffic at Macau International Airport (MIA) in the first 10 months of the year reached 6.34 million passengers, an increase of 56.92% over the same period last year, the Macau International Airport Co. Ltd. (CAM) unveiled in a statistical report.

According to the report, aircraft movements rose substantially, reaching over 49,000 - a 49.37% jump.

Compared to the same period in 2019, before the pandemic, passenger volume and aircraft movements have recovered to around 80% and 78%, respectively.

During the January-September this year, international visitors with foreign passports made up 15% of arriving passengers, 1.1 times last year's total. This indicates the MIA is steadily rebuild-

RENATO MARQUES



ing traffic after Covid-19 disruptions and moving closer to pre-pandemic levels.

Most flight routes suspended during the health crisis have now reopened, with some carriers up-sizing aircraft on routes with strong demand.

An expansion project will boost capacity to accommodate growth by attracting new airlines and destinations.

Additionally, some airlines are modifying winter schedules in response to market needs.

Air Macau will debut a new route to Taichung,

Taiwan, this month and increase Bangkok flights in December.

Flights to Chongqing and Guiyang will rise to five weekly, while Nanning services will expand to four per week.

West Air plans to inaugurate a Lhasa-Chongqing-Macau route with Jeju Air resuming flights from South Korea. Other carriers are also tweaking schedules based on local demand.

Beyond expanding direct services, MIA is actively cultivating transfer business.

Partnerships allow one-

-ticket-through-baggage flights to Canada, France, the US, Europe, Australia, Egypt, India, and Sri Lanka via connections of two to six hours, aiming to integrate Macau's regional network with long-haul international routes.

Collaboration with land transport providers is developing air-rail-bus options from Greater Bay Area hubs like Guangzhou, Jiangmen, and Dongguan.

Passengers can buy bus tickets to border points and easily transfer to MIA, providing convenient mainland access.

Looking to 2025 and its 30th anniversary, MIA will intensify overseas promotional efforts aligned with Macau's tourism master plan.

In the same statement, MIA also said to aim to further tourism growth by attracting airlines and servicing more international visitors, supporting Macau's diversification goals.



# CITYU TO HAVE A NEW CAMPUS IN COLOANE

**T**HE City University of Macau (CityU) will build a new campus after the government grants land to the school foundation free of charge, according to an announcement.

The land plot is located between the Estrada do Alinho de Ka Ho and the Avenida de Ip Heng in Seac Pai Van, Coloane, facing the Islands Police Department - Coloane Subdivision.

The plot has a total area of 10,696 square meters and allows a gross area of construction of up to 53,490 m2.

The current academic facilities used by the CityU in Taipa (former University of Macau campus) will be returned to the government upon completion of the new CityU campus and will be used to optimize the teaching spaces

for the Macao Tourism University (UTM), the Land and Urban Construction Bureau (DSSCU) informed.

According to the DSSCU website information, the land grant to CityU was directly attributed without passing to a public tender after an application from the institution for the land granting, justified with an upcoming growth in the number of students of the institution from 6,000 to 10,000.

According to the DSSCU statement, the CityU Foundation will bear all expenses for the construction of the new campus.

DSSCU noted that after the completion of the concession procedure, the land concession contract will be published in the government's official gazette. VC

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DIRECTOR & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF\_Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com  
ASSISTANT EDITOR\_Lynzy Valles  
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS\_Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS\_Alex Torrão, Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Emilie Tran, Grace Yu, Irene Sam, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Jorge Costa Oliveira, Joseph Cheung, Juliet Risdon, Linda Kennedy, Paulo Cordeiro de Sousa, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Sérgio de Almeida Correia, Viviana Seguí DESIGNER\_Rebeca Almeida | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS\_JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES\_Associated Press, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua SECRETARY\_Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

SEND NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND PRESS RELEASES TO: NEWSROOM@MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM WEBSITE: WWW.MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM.MO

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ADMINISTRATOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

OFFICE MANAGER\_Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS\_Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

Advertisement\_advertising@macaudailytimes.com

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# Sam Hou Fai shares ambitions for building Macau as the 'perfect home'

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE sixth-term Chief Executive (CE), Sam Hou Fai, has shared his ambition to build Macau as the perfect home, to live up to the trust and expectations of both the Central government and the Macau people.

He was speaking late last week in a media briefing at the Macau International Airport, the Government Information Bureau said.

Sam was returning from Beijing, where he met President Xi Jinping and other high-ranking Central government officials.

He met Premier Li Qiang, who presented him with a decree of the State Council appointing him as the sixth-term CE.

Sam expressed profound appreciation for being received by President Xi and acknowledged his appointment as the sixth-term CE by the Central government.

He said the appointment not only reflects the trust and support granted to him but also embodies the Central government's concern for the people of Macau and its backing for local development.

Sam specifically highlighted President Xi's remarks that "One country, two systems" is a beneficial system that aligns with the fundamental interests of both the nation and Macau.

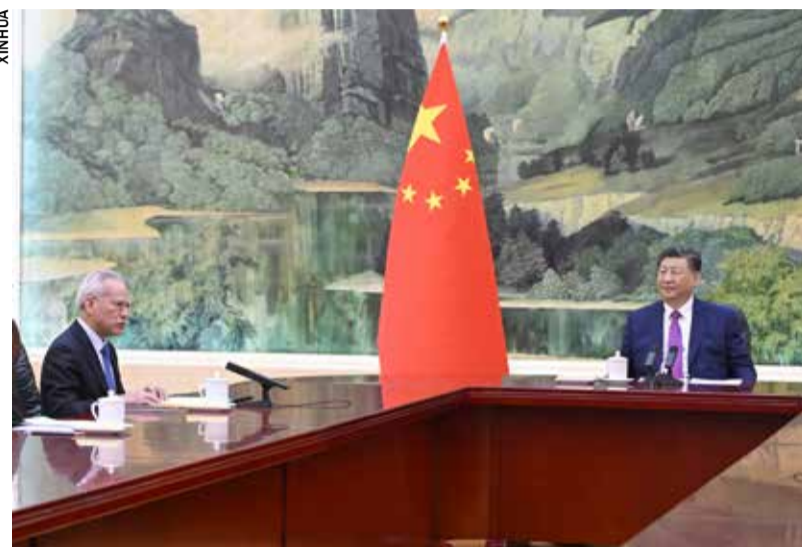
The Central government will continue comprehensively implementing the principles of "One country, two systems," "Macau people governing Macau," and a high degree of autonomy, ensuring that these principles remain intact.

Sam said President Xi hoped he could embrace the heavy responsibilities and fulfill his mission of leading the new-term MSAR government.

President Xi hoped Sam could unite all sectors of society and work to create a new chapter in the practice of "One country, two systems" with distinct Macau characteristics, to make greater contributions to the country's high-quality development and national rejuvenation.

During his meeting with President Xi, Sam said the president also said national security is a fundamental principle and is of utmost importance. It requires the MSAR government to safeguard national sovereignty, security and developmental interests.

He said President Xi also cal-



led for the new MSAR Government to create a favorable environment for local economic diversification.

President Xi highlighted the need to fully leverage Macau's advantages as "One Centre, One Platform, One Base" to participate in the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area and the Guangdong-Macau Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin.

President Xi also expressed concern regarding elderly care, childcare, education and healthcare, urging the new MSAR government to consider measures to ensure the public could enjoy equitable, precise and targeted social welfare.

Sam said he was fully committed to implementing President Xi's important directives.

Sam aims to improve the national security legal framework to adapt to changing circumstances and challenges, thereby reinforcing national security without compromise.

Sam promised to unite Ma-

cau to enhance governance capabilities and standards, improve people's livelihoods, promote economic diversification, and better contribute to national development to build a better home for Macau people.

The Central government fully supports the new CE and government in leveraging Macau's position and advantages to better contribute to national development while playing a more active role in China's opening to the outside world.

## NEW GOV'T OFFICIALS LIST WITHIN THIS MONTH

Sam said he is organizing the new government but has not yet chosen candidates for the principal positions.

He said he is listening to opinions and engaging with people and aims to submit a list of principal officials to the Central government this month.

He said loyalty to the nation and the MSAR, support for the Basic Law, patriotism, dedication to duty, and integrity are

essential for anyone serving as a principal official.

Furthermore, candidates must earn the trust of the Central government and the recognition of local people.

"They must possess national awareness, a commitment to public welfare, a sense of responsibility, a spirit of teamwork, governance capabilities and integrity," Sam said.

He said that once the Central government appoints the principal officials, they will start working to prepare next year's policy address by "refining certain campaign platform elements into key priorities for governance."

## FOCUS ON ENHANCING LIVELIHOOD AND DIVERSIFICATION

Sam said the main focus will be on enhancing livelihoods, promoting economic diversification, advancing high-quality development in the next phase of the Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, improving public

governance capabilities and standards, and perfecting the legal system and enforcement mechanisms for safeguarding national security.

Speaking of people's livelihoods, he said attention should continue to be given to post-pandemic recovery, support for the underprivileged, and the development of small and medium-sized enterprises.

Regarding economic diversification, Sam is considering promoting an industrial fund led by the government.

The fund will guide the development of high-tech industries while creating conditions to encourage international high-end talent to remain in Macau and further develop the cultural and tourism sectors.

Sam also said public administration reform, optimization, and restructuring will be conducted step by step to improve overall civil service awareness and proactivity in delivering efficient public administrative services to citizens.





**GAMING**

# WYNN EXPANDS PREMIUM GAMING AREAS AS PART OF CAPEX EFFORTS

LYNZY VALLES

**W**YNN Resorts is expanding its premium gaming areas in a move to drive share gains in a market.

During the company's third-quarter earnings call, CEO Craig Billings disclosed ongoing and planned capital expenditure projects to elevate both gaming and non-gaming experiences.

"We are currently revitali-

zing and expanding the Chairman's Club, our most exclusive gaming area at Wynn Macau," he told analysts.

"And in the design phase for a similar expansion and renovation of the Chairman's Club at Wynn Palace. We are supporting these capital expenditure (capex) efforts with continued improvements to our recently enhanced loyalty program and are only at Wynn events and experiences across culinary,

music, entertainment and sport," he added.

Longer term, the company's concession-related capex, including an event center and a production show "will support visitation and ultimately drive share gains in a market where unique experiences are increasing appealing."

Wynn's commitment to capex is significant, with plans to invest between USD350 million to USD425 million

across various projects through 2025.

This includes the development of an event center, and a production show designed to attract visitors and bolster market share.

"We've seen the current competitive dynamic in Macau before, and we are confident that continued investment in our market-leading assets and five-star service positions us well to effectively compete

profitably over time."

The company is currently progressing through the design and planning stages of several concession commitments, which require various government approvals and present a wide range of potential capex outcomes in the near term.

This initiative comes on the heels of a robust financial performance, with the company reporting USD263 million in EBITDA for the third quarter, reflecting a 3% year-on-year increase.

The gaming operator recorded a 6% growth in operating revenue, primarily driven by a 10% rise in mass table and slot wins.

Operating revenues were USD1.69 billion for the third quarter, an increase of USD21.4 million from USD1.67 billion for the third quarter of 2023.

"Our third quarter results reflect healthy demand across our resorts highlighted by strong mass gaming win in Macau and solid non-gaming performance in Las Vegas," said Billings.

"The investments we have made in our properties, our team and our unique programming continue to extend our leadership position in each of our markets."

The executive also announced it is continuing to invest in growing the business with construction on Wynn Al Marjan Island rapidly advancing.

"We are confident the resort will be a 'must see' tourism destination in the UAE and expect that it will support strong long-term free cash flow growth."

# October gaming revenue hits record high

**G**AMING revenue soared in October, marking a 6.6% year-on-year increase, thanks to a surge in visitors during China's Golden Week holiday, the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau revealed late last week.

The city's gross gaming revenue (GGR) reached MOP20.8 billion (USD2.6 billion), the highest since the pandemic halted travel.

According to a Bloomberg report, the numbers align with analysts' predictions and represent a 20% rise over September's revenue, although they remain 21% below pre-pandemic levels from 2019.

During the seven-day Golden Week holiday,

Macau saw a significant influx of visitors, with average daily tourist numbers reaching nearly 142,000 — surpassing 2019 levels.

September alone saw 2.5 million arrivals, roughly 91% of pre-pandemic figures, with most tourists arriving from mainland China.

In addition to the Golden Week boost, casinos benefited from concerts by popular Hong Kong and Korean artists in late October, which resulted in another Golden Week for the operators, drawing additional crowds, industry analysts said.

However, the gaming industry is facing regulatory challenges as China tightens its stan-

ce on capital outflow and money laundering.

Macau's legislature recently criminalized unlicensed money exchanges, a practice common around casinos.

Adding to the city's regulatory shift, former judge Sam Hou Fai, elected as the new leader in October, has expressed concerns over the gaming industry's dominant influence, signaling a possible push for economic diversification.

Meanwhile, the financial impact on casino operators has been mixed.

The Bloomberg Intelligence index of Macau casino operators dropped 11.4% in October,

and the Hang Seng Index, Hong Kong's main benchmark, declined 3.9%, reflecting investor caution amid regulatory uncertainties.

According to analysts at JP Morgan, GGR could continue to grow by 2% to 3% quarter-on-quarter.

"This looks pretty impressive to us, considering headwinds from weak macro and consumer sentiment," noted JP Morgan analysts DS Kim, Mufan Shi, and Selina Li in their report.

Seaport's Vitaly Umansky is even more optimistic, forecasting a 6.4% quarter-on-quarter increase in GGR for Q4, projecting it to reach MOP59.1 billion.

He expects November

revenues to dip by month-on-month, although this would still represent a 17% increase compared to November 2023.

For December, Umansky has predicted a 4% month-on-month rise and a 5% year-on-year increase.

He said the base mass segment will likely be-

nefit from recently announced stimulus measures in mainland China, which "should lead to an improvement in economic activity and consumer confidence in China in 2025."

This could result in a stronger recovery for the base mass segment alongside continued growth in premium offerings, leading to an estimated 8% GGR growth for 2025. PC/LV

## MONTHLY GGR

	2024	2023	Variance
Jan	19,337	11,580	+67.0%
Feb	18,486	10,324	+79.1%
Mar	19,503	12,738	+53.1%
Apr	18,545	14,722	+26.0%
May	20,188	15,565	+29.7%
Jun	17,694	15,207	+16.4%
Jul	18,595	16,662	+11.6%
Aug	19,754	17,213	+14.8%
Sept	17,253	14,937	+15.5%
Oct	20,787	19,501	+6.6%

\*Units: MOP billion



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AUTOMOBILE

# US agency ends investigation into Ford engine failures after recall

**T**HE U.S. government's auto safety regulator has ended a 2 1/2-year investigation into Ford engine failures after the company replaced engines or extended the warranty on some vehicles.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says in documents posted Monday on its website that its analysis traced the problem to intake valves that can fracture inside some 2.7-liter and 3-liter turbo-charged engines.

Documents say the probe opened in May of 2022 ended up covering more than 411,000 vehicles from the 2021 and 2022 model years including the Ford F-150 Bronco, Edge and Explorer as well as the Lincoln Aviator and Nautilus.

The agency was looking into catastrophic engine failures caused by intake valves fracturing, dropping into the cylinder and hitting the piston.

The documents say a forensic analysis of fractured valves found that when they were made by a parts supplier, the temperature got too high, making them brittle and likely to fracture during normal engine use.

An analysis of failure report data found that the faulty valves were made from May through October of 2021, the agency said. Ford contended that not all valves produced during this period were faulty and that a vast majority of the failures happened before the vehicles were driven 20,000 miles.

An agency statistical analysis to predict the number of failures, and an analysis of failure reports "are generally consistent" with Ford's determination that the valves would fail at low mileage, and the majority of vehicles with the faulty valves "have already experienced a failure," the agency said.

Earlier this year Ford recalled about 91,000 vehicles with valves made during the suspect period. They'll be tested and get a new engine if necessary. The company also extended the warranty on vehicles with valves made during the period to 10 years or 150,000 miles, the documents said.

During the investigation, the agency said it found 396 customer complaints, 825 warranty claims and 936 engine replacements. There were no reported crashes or injuries. **MDT/AP**

Create A Better  
**TOMORROW TODAY**  
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## MGM and Prince Kung's Palace Museum Introduce a New Cultural MICE Model in Macau



MGM has been pioneering innovation in cultural tourism, exploring new models that integrate MICE and cultural attributes. After signing a long-term partnership agreement with Prince Kung's Palace Museum of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the People's Republic of China in September, the two parties aspire to pass down Chinese intangible craftsmanship to Macau's creative industry through the project "Eastern Elegance: Timeless Tale" Intangible Cultural Heritage Fashion Series.

This event has been held earlier, encompassing symposium, workshops, and fashion shows. It is an all-inclusive industry-driven exhibition – designed not only to show local fashion practitioners the ropes on how to turn the time-honored handicraft into novel opportunities that foster the modern development of Chinese intangible cultural heritage, but also open a widened path for the "Tourism + MICE" integration. It attracted around 200 participants from cultural institutions, industry professionals, and students from Mainland China, Macau, and Hong Kong.



The fashion series made full use of the resources of both MGM and Prince Kung's Palace Museum of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, offering multifaceted learning and hands-on experience with the theme of high fashion. Around 20 experts and scholars from Mainland China and Macau were invited to lead a number of interactive masterclasses that offered in-depth insights into the entire journey from design basics like Chinese embroidery techniques to the culmination of haute couture fashion shows. Participants could either gain hands-on experience in the workshops or observe as spectators. These two modes of participation enabled people of varying skill levels to experience and learn together on-site.

Riding on the event's educational activities, MGM also organized an "Educational Tour for Greater Bay Area Fashion Industry", and nearly 70 students majoring in fashion from Guangzhou, Zhuhai, Shenzhen, and Hong Kong attended the series. This tour was set to provide a platform for young designers to exchange, further promoting the collaborative development of the industry within the region. In addition, the tour highlighted MGM's efforts in developing "Tourism+" content into in-depth and captivating study tour itineraries that enrich Macau's status as a diversified travel destination.

Through this new MICE model in Macau, MGM aims to not only facilitate the modernization of intangible cultural heritage in the contemporary industry, but also promote Chinese traditional culture further on the world stage.



MGM  
Avenida Dr. Sun Yat Sen, NAPE, Macau  
E info@mgmchina.com.mo  
W http://www.mgm.mo/





**T**HE head of Myanmar's military government embarked yesterday on an official visit to China, the embattled Southeast Asian nation's most important international ally, for several regional meetings.

It is the first time Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing has traveled to the neighboring country since his army seized power in February 2021 from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

Myanmar's army suffered unprecedented battlefield defeats over the past year, especially in areas near the Chinese border. Both Myanmar's ruling generals and China's government have shown concern as pro-democracy guerrillas and armed ethnic minority groups, sometimes working hand in hand, have taken the initiative in their fight against military rule.

But Beijing is now concerned about instability that threatens its strategic and business interests in Myanmar. China's government has maintained good working relations with Myanmar's ruling military.

State-run MRTV television said that Min Aung Hlaing departed on a flight from the capital, Naypyitaw, yesterday morning to begin his visit.

He will visit the Chinese city of Kunming today and tomorrow to attend three summits: The Greater Mekong Subregion, the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy and the Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Vietnam Cooperation. Kunming, the capital of China's Yunnan province, is about 400 kilometers from the border with Myanmar.

The report said he will also have "meetings with Chinese government officials to discuss ways to enhance goodwill, economic and various sectors be-

# Head of Myanmar's military government visits China for the first time since taking power

AP PHOTO



Myanmar military leader Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, front right, shakes hands with a military officer while members of the State Administration Council including deputy leader Vice Senior Gen. Soe Win, far right, at airport in Naypyitaw, Myanmar, yesterday

tween the two governments and the people."

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

Russia is the only other foreign destination to which Min Aung Hlaing is known to have traveled since taking power, aside from his attendance at an April 2021 summit meeting of the Association of Southeast

Asian Nations in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta. His government's unwillingness to cooperate in efforts to achieve a peaceful resolution of his country's conflict led to him and other top Myanmar government officials being disinclined from ASEAN summits since then.

Myanmar's pro-democracy opposition has expressed concern about China welcoming a visit by Min Aung Hlaing.

Kyaw Zaw, a spokesperson for the opposition National Unity Government, said in a recorded video posted on Facebook before the official announcement of

the trip that he was deeply concerned about China's invitation to Min Aung Hlaing and urged the Chinese government to review its action.

"Myanmar's people want stability, peace and economic growth. It is Min Aung Hlaing and his group who are destroying these things," Kyaw Zaw said. "I am concerned that it will unintentionally incite a misunderstanding of the Chinese government among Myanmar's public."

The shadow National Unity Government was established by elected lawmakers barred from

taking their seats in 2021 and is closely linked to Suu Kyi's former ruling National League for Democracy party, which had friendly relations with Beijing. Although China is scorned by many for backing the army, the shadow government tries to avoid antagonizing Beijing too much, recognizing the influence it has in the region.

Myanmar's army has been on the defensive since late last year when ethnic armed organizations dealt it major defeats in the country's northeast.

The offensive by the "Three Brotherhood Alliance," comprising the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army, the Arakan Army and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army, was able to quickly capture towns and overrun military bases and command centers and strategic cities along the Chinese border in northeastern Shan state. It was widely seen at the time as having Beijing's support to help stamp out rampant organized crime activities in the area controlled by ethnic Chinese.

Beijing helped broker a cease-fire in January, but that fell apart in June when the ethnic rebel forces launched new attacks.

China was displeased with the ongoing warfare, shutting down border crossings, cutting electricity to Myanmar towns and taking other measures to discourage the fighting. **MDT/AP**

## TRADE

# Beijing files complaint at World Trade Organization over EU tariffs on electric vehicles

**C**HINA has moved forward with a complaint at the World Trade Organization that alleges the European Union has improperly set anti-subsidy tariffs on new Chinese-made electric vehicles.

The Chinese diplomatic mission to the WTO said Monday it "strongly opposes" the measures and insisted its move was designed to protect the EV industry and support a global transition toward greener technologies.

The European bloc an-

nounced last month it was imposing import duties of up to 35% on electric vehicles from China, alleging the Chinese exports were unfairly undercutting EU industry prices. The duties are set to remain in force for five years, unless an amicable deal can be struck.

Electric vehicles have become a major flashpoint in a broader trade dispute over the influence of Chinese government subsidies on European markets and Beijing's burgeoning exports of green

technology to the bloc.

China alleged that the EU move amounted to "an abuse of trade remedies" that violates WTO rules, and amounted to "protectionist" measures, according to the mission's statement.

Valdis Dombrovskis, the executive vice president of the EU's Commission, last week called the steps "proportionate and targeted" and were aimed to underpin fair market practices and support the bloc's industrial base. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



European Executive vice president and commissioner for Economy and Trade Valdis Dombrovskis



INDIA

# A tiny village where Kamala Harris has ancestral roots is praying for her victory

SHEIKH SAALIQ,  
THULASENDRAPURAM

**T**HE temple reverberated with rhythmic Sanskrit and Tamil hymns, as a Hindu priest held a flame before the god. As this tiny South Indian village gathered to pray for Kamala Harris, a gaggle of reporters jostled for space and camera angles.

There's little to distinguish the village of Thulasendrapuram from any other rural community in Tamil Nadu, except its connection to a woman who could become America's first leader with South Asian roots.

As millions of Americans vote, Harris has people rooting for her from thousands of miles away in a village surrounded by rice paddies and coconut trees, where her mother's family has ancestral ties. They talk about her at the local tea shop. Banners and billboards bearing her face are seen throughout the community.

"Our deity is a very powerful God. If we pray well to him, he will make her victorious," said M. Natarajan, the temple priest that led the prayers in front of the image of Hindu deity Ayyanar, a form of Lord Shiva.

Harris' maternal grandfather was born in the village, about 350 kilometers from the southern coastal city of Chennai, more than 100 years ago. As an adult, he moved to Chennai, where he worked as a high-ranking government official until his retirement.

Harris has never visited Thulasendrapuram and she has no living relatives in the village, but people here still venerate the family that made it big in the U.S.

"Our village ancestors' granddaughter is running as a U.S. presidential candidate. Her victory will be happy news for every one of us," Natarajan said.

The village's sudden fame has helped bring money into the village. Recently, construction began on a water storage



AP PHOTO

tank with funds donated by a local bank. Village residents say it will carry a plaque with Harris' name.

Harris' late mother, Shyamala Gopalan, was born in India. After moving to the U.S. to study, she married a Jamaican man, and they named their daughter Kamala, a Sanskrit word for "lotus flower."

Other than trips during her childhood, Harris hasn't visited India much — particularly not since becoming vice president — but she has often spoken emotionally about her ties to her late mother's country of birth. Yesterday, she released a campaign video highlighting her mother, who arrived in the U.S. at age 19 and became a cancer researcher.

Titled "Mother," the video ends with a narrator saying: "This daughter of Shyamala, this daughter of the American story, is ready to lead us forward."

Harris has often talked about how she was guided by the values of her Indian-born grandfather and mother. She has also spoken of her love of south Indian food, especially a type of steamed rice cake called idli.

Harris' name is engraved in a list of donors — her aunt Sarala Gopalan

gave money to the temple in her name — along with that of her grandfather. Outside, a large banner wishes "the daughter of the land" success in the election.

Yesterday, the village temple also received rare international visitors: two American tourists and one from the U.K., all wearing black t-shirts that said "Kamala Freakin Harris."

Manikandan Ganesan, a villager who runs a small store near the temple, said Harris' bid for the presidency has made the village famous. He hopes Harris will eventually visit them.

"Even if she mentioned that she would visit our village, it would make us very happy," Ganesan said. "Her victory itself will be a big source of happiness for us."

Village residents also prayed for Harris' victory in 2020, and set off firecrackers when she became the U.S. Vice President.

For women of the village, the candidate's journey is a source of inspiration.

Local politician Arulmozhi Sudhakar said Harris embodies a significant step toward female empowerment in places like Thulasendrapuram, where a majority of wo-

men continue to face discrimination and gender inequality.

"From the time when women were not even

allowed to step out of their house, to now a woman from our village contesting in the U.S. presidential election — this

brings happiness for us," Sudhakar said. "The coming generations will see her as a role model to succeed in life." MDT/AP

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AP PHOTO



## US ELECTIONS

# Tens of millions have already cast their ballots, even before the final day of polling

CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY & ALI SWENSON, WASHINGTON

**E**LECTION Day 2024 arrived — with tens of millions of Americans having already cast their ballots. Those include record numbers in Georgia, North Carolina and other battleground states that could decide the winner.

The early turnout in Georgia, which has flipped between the Republican and Democratic nominees in the previous two presidential elections, has been so robust — over 4 million voters — that a top official in the secretary of state's office said the big day could look like a “ghost town” at the polls.

As of Monday (Macau time), Associated Press tracking of advance voting nationwide showed roughly 82 million ballots already cast — slightly more than half the total number of votes in the presidential election four years earlier. That's driven partly by Republican voters, who were casting early ballots at a higher rate than in recent previous elections after a campaign by former President Donald Trump and the Republican National Committee to counter the Democrats' longstanding advantage in the early vote.

Despite long lines in some places and a few hiccups that are common to all elections, early in-person and mail voting proceeded without any major problems.

That included in the par-

ts of western North Carolina hammered last month by Hurricane Helene. State and local election officials, benefiting from changes made by the Republican-controlled legislature, pulled off a herculean effort to ensure residents could cast their ballots as they dealt with power outages, lack of water and washed out roads.

By the time early voting in North Carolina had ended on Saturday, over 4.4 million voters — or nearly 57% of all registered voters in the state — had cast their ballots. As of Monday, turnout in the 25 western counties affected by the hurricane was even stronger at 59% of registered voters, state election board Executive Director Karen Brinson Bell said.

Brinson Bell called the voters and election workers in the hurricane-hit counties “an inspiration to us all.”

Besides the hurricanes in North Carolina and Florida, the most worrisome disruptions to the election season so far were arson attacks that damaged ballots in two drop boxes near the Oregon-Washington border. Authorities there were searching for the person responsible.

The absence of any significant, widespread problems has not stopped Trump, the Republican nominee, or the RNC, which is now under his sway, from making numerous claims of fraud or election interference during the early voting period, a possible prelude to challenges after Election Day.

He has mischaracterized

an investigation underway in Pennsylvania into roughly 2,500 potentially fraudulent voter registration applications by saying one of the counties was “caught with 2600 Fake Ballots and Forms, all written by the same person.” The investigation is into registration applications; there is no indication that ballots are involved.

In Georgia, Republicans sought to prohibit voters from returning mailed ballots to their local election office by the close of polls on Election Day, votes that are allowed under state law. A judge rejected their lawsuit over the weekend.

Trump and Republicans also have warned about the possibility that Democrats are recruiting masses of noncitizens to vote, a claim they have made without evidence and that runs counter to the data, including from Republican secretaries of state. Research has consistently shown that noncitizens registering to vote is rare. Any noncitizen who does faces the potential of felony charges and deportation, a significant disincentive.

One case of noncitizen voting was caught during early voting last month and resulted in felony charges in Michigan after a student from China cast an illegal early ballot.

This is the first presidential vote since Trump lost to Joe Biden four years ago and began various attempts to circumvent the outcome and remain in power. That climaxed with the violent Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol to halt certification of the results after

Trump told his supporters to “fight like hell.”

Even now, a solid majority of Republicans believe Trump's lie that Biden was not legitimately elected, despite reviews, audits and recounts in the battleground states that all affirmed Biden's win. A survey last month from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research showed Republicans remain much more skeptical than Democrats that their ballots will be counted accurately this year.

Seeking to rebuild voter confidence in a system targeted with false claims of widespread fraud, Republican lawmakers in more than a dozen states since 2020 have passed new voting restrictions. Those rules include shortening the window to apply or return a mail ballot, reducing the availability of ballot drop boxes and adding ID requirements.

On the last weekend before Election Day, Trump continued to falsely claim the election was being rigged against him and said a presidential winner should be declared on election night, before all the ballots are counted.

Vice President Kamala Harris urged voters not to fall for Trump's tactic of casting doubt on elections. The Democratic nominee told supporters at a weekend rally in Michigan that the tactic was intended to suggest to people “that if they vote, their vote won't matter.” Instead, she urged people who had already cast ballots to encourage their friends to do the same. **MDT/AP**

## this day in history

### 1968 NIXON WINS CLOSE CONTEST FOR PRESIDENT



After a day when the United States appeared to be on the brink of a constitutional crisis, Richard Nixon has finally emerged as the country's next president.

It was not until midday EST (1800 BST) that Democrat Vice-President Hubert Humphrey conceded victory to the Republican candidate.

The announcement came after a full 24 hours of waiting when at times it seemed any of the three presidential candidates could have won the race to the White House.

At the latest count, only 25,552 votes separated the two front runners. Mr Nixon and Mr Humphrey have each won 43% of the popular vote.

‘Gallant and courageous’

The third nominee, George Wallace, running on his own American Independent Party ticket, made early gains in the Southern states for his segregationist views and calls for the use of nuclear weapons in Vietnam.

At a news conference this afternoon, Mr Nixon, surrounded by his family, appeared in a packed ballroom of the Waldorf Astoria hotel.

He praised his opponent's “gallant and courageous” fight and pledged to “bring us together” in a united country.

The president-elect did not dwell on the closeness of the race.

He told reporters he had received a “gracious” message of congratulations from Mr Humphrey and had spoken to him on the phone.

He had also been congratulated by President Johnson and the two men had pledged to work together for a smooth transition of power.

The president-elect clinched his winning margin in the electoral college by taking Illinois — the same state which cost him victory against John F Kennedy eight years ago.

Illinois's 26 votes have taken him above the 270 majority required — although not all the electoral college votes are in yet.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Richard Milhous Nixon was sworn in as the 37th president of the United States on 21 January 1969.

His most acclaimed achievements in office included reducing tension with China and the USSR. He also ended the war in Vietnam with what he termed “peace with honour”. He won a second term in 1973 but became the first president in US history to resign — over the Watergate scandal.

It was revealed there had been a break-in at the Democratic National Committee office in the Watergate building during the presidential election campaign which was traced back to Nixon's supporters.

Tape recordings showed the president had tried to influence the police investigation into the break-in.

By the time of his death on 22 April 1994 he had re-established his reputation as an elder statesman in foreign affairs.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

## YOUR STARS

**ARIES**  
Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
Work takes priority. A challenge looms. Address potential impacts in advance. Advance projects with long-term possibilities. Prioritize practical steps.

**TAURUS**  
Apr. 20-May. 20  
Travel may tempt but traffic and delays could arise. Take the back route, or connect virtually. A dream appears within reach. Find creative solutions.

**GEMINI**  
May. 21-Jun. 21  
Minimize financial risks. A challenge requires collaboration. Coordinate actions with your partner. Be careful and thorough to advance. Get your crew paid.

**CANCER**  
Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
Work with your partner to surmount a hurdle. Collaboration can realize long-term dreams. Test theories for a workable solution.

**LEO**  
Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
Learn correct techniques before launching into action. Practice with a good coach to avoid accidents. Gather more than information. Accept encouragement and support.

**VIRGO**  
Aug. 23-Sep. 22  
Have fun with someone charming. Take a break from routines for a relaxing escape to share common passions. Develop long-term plans together.

**LIBRA**  
Sep. 23-Oct. 22  
Family matters have your attention. Don't just tromp blindly in. Listen first. Find out what's wanted and needed. Communication gets you through a tight spot.

**SCORPIO**  
Oct. 23-Nov. 21  
Discuss creative possibilities. Brainstorming reveals clever solutions. Coordinate action plans with your dream team. Advance your common dreams one step at a time.

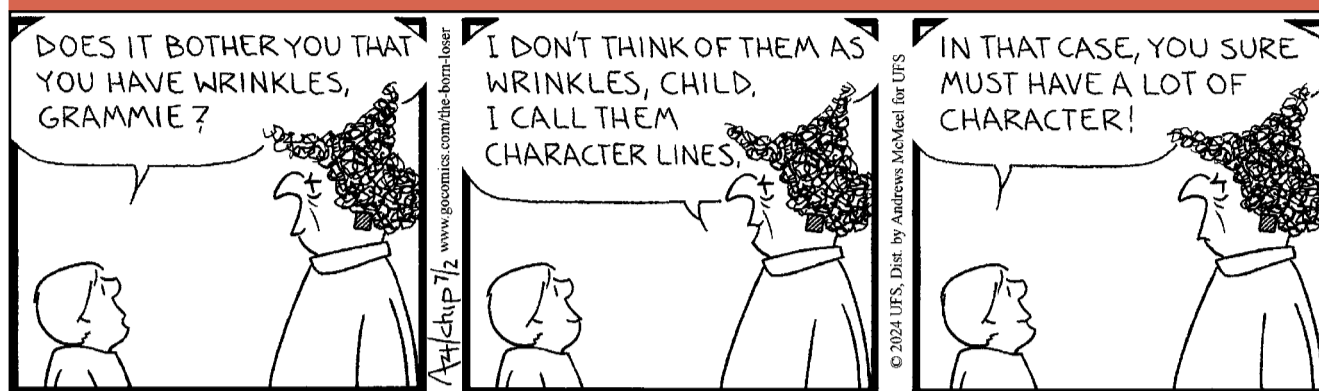
**SAGITTARIUS**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
Develop profitable opportunities. Invest for the future. Balance income and expenses for positive cash flow. Patiently contribute a trickle to savings. You've got this.

**CAPRICORN**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
Smile for the cameras; you're attracting attention. Stay in action, despite chaos. Accept assistance with a personal goal. Get experienced coaching and practice as taught.

**AQUARIUS**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
Envision, imagine and dream. Plan your moves in advance. How would you like things to go? Invent an inspiring possibility and plot the logical steps.

**PISCES**  
Feb. 19-Mar. 20  
Contribute to a team effort. Stick to practical priorities advancing common dreams. Find clever solutions by brainstorming ideas.

## The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



## SUDOKU

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

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

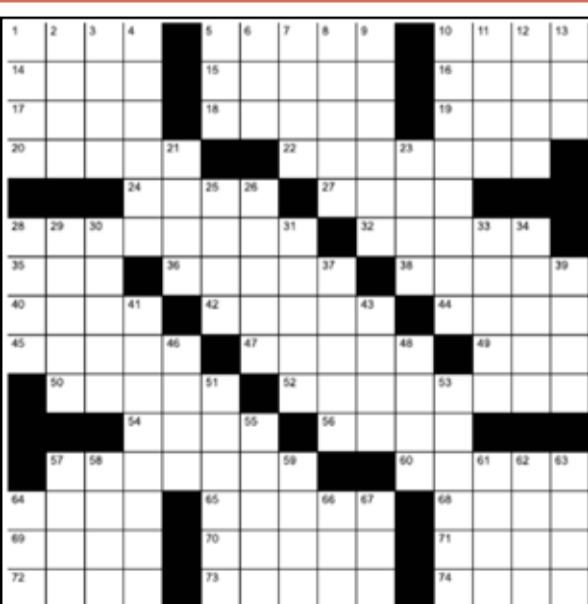
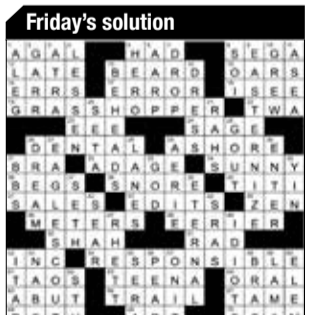
## WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	0	14	fine
Changchun	-7	3	fine
Chengdu	13	20	rain
Chongqing	17	22	cloudy
Fuzhou	17	22	cloudy
Guangzhou	19	28	cloudy
Guiyang	9	21	overcast
Haikou	22	26	cloudy
Hangzhou	11	17	fine
Harbin	-6	1	cloudy
Hefei	5	18	fine
Nanjing	7	17	fine
Shanghai	11	18	fine
Taipei	20	21	rain
Wuhan	9	22	fine
Hong Kong	21	26	overcast
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	3	4	snow
Frankfurt	4	9	overcast
Paris	11	13	cloudy
London	10	13	cloudy
New York	17	26	cloudy

## CROSSWORDS

**ACROSS** 1- Actress Bonet; 5- Tree houses; 10- Defeat; 14- Nile biters; 15- Cheri of "Saturday Night Live"; 16- Thomas Edison's middle name; 17- Pile; 18- Speed contests; 19- Lascivious look; 20- Continue a subscription; 22- Narc; 24- Layer of paint; 27- Rip; 28- Agreement between states; 32- Like tubers; 35- Well, \_\_\_-dah!; 36- Caesar's tongue; 38- Sensitive spots; 40- List finish; 42- Lama lead-in; 44- Kind of ticket; 45- Hawk's home; 47- Cow catcher; 49- Brandy letters; 50- Frame; 52- Suitable place for setting a tent; 54- Ashtabula's lake; 56- Vichyssoise ingredient; 57- Registers; 60- Titled; 64- Tract; 65- Wears well; 68- Story; 69- Tidy, without fault; 70- Aquatic mammal; 71- Otherwise; 72- Dreadful; 73- Bridge seats; 74- Precious;

**DOWN** 1- Cowardly Lion portrayer; 2- Fortuneteller's opening; 3- Reach across; 4- Facet; 5- Hide-hair connector; 6- JFK listing; 7- Religious offshoot; 8- Unexpected pleasure; 9- Female sibling; 10- Large hall for dancing; 11- Gen. Robt. \_\_\_; 12- State firmly; 13- Cigarette ingredient; 21- Fleece; 23- Southwestern art colony; 25- Mil. school; 26- Add up; 28- "Not guilty," e.g.; 29- Gives a 9.8, say; 30- Chicago's airport; 31- Light purple; 33- Rome's Fontana di \_\_\_; 34- You can get a rise out of it; 37- Twangy, as a voice; 39- \_\_\_ gin fizz; 41- Able to read and write; 43- Woe \_\_\_; 46- Drachma replacement; 48- Dentist's request; 51- Head rest; 53- Moved over ice; 55- Bring joy; 57- ... saw Elba; 58- Close by; 59- Concordes, e.g.; 61- Boy or man; 62- "Born Free" lion; 63- Antlered animal; 64- Your point being?; 66- Vietnamese holiday; 67- SAT takers;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
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- 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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Nam Long (Taipa Village)  
2 bed 1 bath  
59.92 m<sup>2</sup> / 645 ft<sup>2</sup> | HKD3,650,000



Jade Garden (Taipa)  
4 bed 3 bath  
379.04 m<sup>2</sup> / 4,080 ft<sup>2</sup> | HKD 11,880,000



Ocean Garden Cattleya Court (Taipa)  
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**RUGGER ACADEMY**

# Bats kicks off season with bang

DONALD SHAW, MDT

**L**OCAL rugby team, the Macau Bats played in their first Hong Kong festival of season Sunday. The club took four teams to compete at the USRC Tigers festival at King's Park and the U12s in the Richard Hawkes Cup at Happy Valley.

Despite the early start, the U7s came out of the traps fast and fortunately scored tries faster than they were letting them in! The young Bats racked up impressive wins over Tai Po, Sandy Bay, Aberdeen and the Hong Kong

Football Club (HKFC). The U8s did well - a narrow loss to Valley Fort; a draw with Stingrays; and wins against Kukris and Tigers while the U9s played strong and very positive rugby resulting in four convincing wins against Tuen Mun Sharks, Tsuen Wan Rhinos, Kukris and Monkeys.

Meanwhile, over at Happy Valley, the U12s got their season of to a great start as well - three wins and a draw - Football Club (8-0); DB Pirates (6-1); Valley Fort (3-0) and Tin Shui Wai Eagles (2-2). Next round of games is scheduled for Nov. 24.



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**OPINION**

**Multipolar World**

Jorge Costa Oliveira



**ASSASSINATION OF INDIAN OPPONENTS ABROAD AND RED LINES**

According to a recent edition of The Economist, “in a press conference held on October 14th Mike Duheme, the head of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, accused India’s top diplomat in Canada, Sanjay Kumar Verma, of involvement with a criminal network that has coerced and killed Canadian citizens who support Sikh separatism.”

In September 2023, Canada’s Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, publicly claimed that Indian agents were involved in a shooting targeting Hardeep Singh Nijjar — a Canadian citizen, activist for the Khalistan separatist movement, and Sikh religious leader labeled a “terrorist” by the Indian government — outside a Sikh temple in a Vancouver suburb.

The Indian government dismissed the accusation as ridiculous and demanded that Canada provide evidence; Canada reportedly shared evidence via the intelligence services of both countries, though India continues to deny the allegations. It’s hard to believe the Canadian government would create a diplomatic storm with commercial repercussions for both countries without a strong basis.

Another similar case involved the attempted assassination of American citizen Gurpatwant Singh Pannun (another Khalistani activist), which led to accusations from the U.S. Department of Justice against “an Indian working for the Indian government” in November 2023.

Pannun and Nijjar are just two in a long list of Indian opponents who have been assassinated (or faced assassination attempts) abroad. The Indian government denies having an overseas assassination program, but analysts suggest the sheer number of cases points to the existence of such a program.

While not unique on a global scale, it’s clear that the Modi/BJP government does not hesitate to violate the sovereignty of friendly nations and strain international relations with key Western countries in order to extend abroad its domestic sectarian persecution of religious minorities, in line with its Hindutva policies.

It’s also true that some Western powers (e.g., the U.S.) do not have entirely clean hands in actions of this sort, carried out in the name of “raison d’État”. Just as we criticize such actions when committed by Western powers, there must be consequences for the brazen way the Modi government engages in these acts that violate international law.

The West must recognize that, under BJP rule, India is a highly imperfect democracy with severe civil liberties violations, many stemming from BJP policies and the nature of RSS/BJP — a blend of religious-based ultranationalism with a proto-fascist organization. Access to India’s lucrative market and geopolitical considerations cannot be the only factors taken into account. If Modi continues crossing red lines in international law, there must be consequences.

[linkedin.com/in/jorgecostaoliveira](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jorgecostaoliveira)

Nintendo, the Japanese video game maker behind the Super Mario franchise, said Tuesday that its profit fell 60% in the first half of the fiscal year, as demand waned for its Switch console, now in its eighth year since going on sale.

Kyoto-based Nintendo Co. reported a 108.7 billion yen (\$715 million) profit for the April-September period, as sales slipped 34% from the previous year to 523 billion yen (\$3.4 billion).

More than 74% of its sales revenue came from overseas, according to Nintendo, which didn’t break down quarterly numbers.

Global Switch sales during the period dropped to 4.7 million machines from 6.8 million units the previous year.

But Nintendo said in a statement that Switch sales were still growing and vowed to stick to its goal of selling a Switch console to each and every individual, not just one Switch per every household.

Nintendo stuck to its earlier projection for a 300 billion yen (\$2 billion) profit for the full fiscal year through March 2025, down nearly 29% from the previous fiscal year.

AP PHOTO



South Korean Personal Information Protection Commission's director Lee Eun Jung speaks during a briefing at the government complex in Seoul, South Korea, yesterday

**SOCMED**

**SOUTH KOREA FINES META \$15 MILLION FOR ILLEGALLY COLLECTING INFORMATION ON FACEBOOK USERS**

**KIM TONG-HYUNG, SEOUL**

**S**OUTH Korea’s privacy watchdog yesterday fined social media company Meta 21.6 billion won (\$15 million) for illegally collecting sensitive personal information from Facebook users, including data about their political views and sexual orientation, and sharing it with thousands of advertisers.

It was the latest in a series of penalties against Meta by South Korean authorities in recent years as they increase their scrutiny of how the company, which also owns Instagram and WhatsApp, handles private information.

Following a four-year investigation, South Korea’s Personal Information Protection Commission concluded that Meta unlawfully collected sensitive information about around 980,000 Facebook users, including their religion, political views and whether they were in same-sex unions, from July 2018 to March 2022.

It said the company shared the data with around 4,000 advertisers.

South Korea’s privacy law provides strict protection for information related to personal beliefs, political views and sexual behavior, and bars com-

panies from processing or using such data without the specific consent of the person involved.

The commission said Meta amassed sensitive information by analyzing the pages the Facebook users liked or the advertisements they clicked on.

The company categorized ads to identify users interested in themes such as specific religions, same-sex and transgender issues, and issues related to North Korean escapees, said Lee Eun Jung, a director at the commission who led the investigation on Meta.

“While Meta collected this sensitive information and used it for individualized services, they made only vague mentions of this use in their data policy and did not obtain specific consent,” Lee said.

Lee also said Meta put the privacy of Facebook users at risk by failing to implement basic security measures such as removing or blocking inactive pages. As a result, hackers were able to use inactive pages to forge identities and request password resets for the accounts of other Facebook users. Meta approved these requests without proper verification, which resulted in data breaches affecting at least 10 South Korean Facebook users, Lee said.

In September, European regulators hit Meta with over \$100 million in fines for a 2019 security lapse in which user passwords were temporarily exposed in an un-encrypted form.

Meta’s South Korean office said it would “carefully review” the commission’s decision, but didn’t immediately provide more comment.

In 2022, the commission fined Google and Meta a combined 100 billion won (\$72 million) for tracking consumers’ online behavior without their consent and using their data for targeted advertisements, in the biggest penalties ever imposed in South Korea for privacy law violations.

The commission said then that the two companies didn’t clearly inform users or obtain their consent to collect data about them as they used other websites or services outside their own platforms. It ordered the companies to provide an “easy and clear” consent process to give people more control over whether to share information about what they do online.

The commission also hit Meta with a 6.7 billion won (\$4.8 million) fine in 2020 for providing personal information about its users to third parties without consent. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



North Korea fired a barrage of short-range ballistic missiles into the sea yesterday, its neighbors said, as it continued its weapons demonstrations hours before the U.S. presidential election. Japanese Defense Minister Gen Nakatani said at least seven North Korean missiles flew as far as 400 kilometers.

AP PHOTO



Mideast The 13-month war between Israel and Hezbollah has killed more than 3,000 people in Lebanon, the country’s Health Ministry said, more than double the number of people killed since their last major war two decades ago. Israel has said it is carrying out new operations targeting Hezbollah infrastructure across Lebanon.

AP PHOTO



US The nation’s federal law enforcement and election security agencies are debunking two new examples of Russian election disinformation on the eve of Election Day, highlighting attempts by foreign actors to sow doubt in the U.S. voting process and warning that the efforts run the risk of inciting violence against election officials.

AP PHOTO



Germany Police arrested eight suspected members of a far-right militant organization yesterday. The suspects, some of them minors and adolescents, were allegedly part of a group of around 15-20 individuals called Sächsische Separatisten, or Saxonian Separatists, that is characterized by racist, antisemitic and partially apocalyptic ideas.