

GRAND PRIX

MGPOC CLAIMS IT HAS A MECHANISM TO PREVENT ILLEGAL ADVERTISING ON RACE CARS

RENATO MARQUES

IN response to concerns about the legality of certain advertisements during the 71st Macau Grand Prix, the Macau Grand Prix Organizing Committee (MGPOC) told the Times that it has an established mechanism to monitor and evaluate advertising on racing vehicles.

According to the MGPOC's response to the Times, "MGPOC has a mechanism to prevent advertising on the race cars. Before the start of the event, the MGOC warned all participating teams to avoid using logos and inappropriate messages. After the participating teams arrived in Macau, we evaluated the advertising once again," the committee said. "Whenever a possible violation is detected, we communicate with the respective teams and coordinate with the Tobacco and Alcohol Prevention and Control Office to ensure that any offending content is removed."

The MGPOC said such rules come directly from the regulations for the advertising of alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, and electronic cigarettes (Laws 7/89/M and 5/2011 and Chief Executive Order 39/2018) as well as the regime for the prevention and control of the consumption of alcoholic beverages by minors (Law 6/2023).

The committee noted that according to the racing event rules, "The MGPOC has restrictions on advertising containing tobacco, pornography, and betting, among others." Furthermore, "In the event of non-compliance, the [Race] Steward has the right to impose sanctions, which may end in disqualification from the race."

Despite all the facts listed and rules acknowledged by the MGPOC, over the last GP weekend, there were several racing vehicles displaying logos and brands that appeared to violate these regulations.

In addition to the previously reported finding by the Times that certain cars were displaying banners with the Chinese characters followed by the English words "Crypto



A notice on TV from the committee states, "Non-alcoholic champagne was provided to the winners for a celebration, in accordance with the existing regulations."

Casino," the Times also observed two other vehicles, part of the FIA GT World Cup category, that displayed logos from "Tsingtao" Beer and "Geek VP" (a well-known electronic cigarette "vape" brand).

While the presence of the Tsingtao beer branding had become a recurring sight in previous local GP events, this was the first time advertising for a vape brand had appeared. The Times also observed that the livery of one of the cars featuring the e-cigarette branding was altered over the course of the weekend to remove the most obvious references to the vape product.

According to the amended Law 5/2011 "Regime of Tobacco Prevention and Control," individuals are barred from bringing e-cigarettes into and out of Macau. Individual offenders are liable for a fine of MOP4,000.

Macau has also recently

banned the import of vaping products (or e-cigarettes), which led the Macao Government Tourism Office to issue a warning on its official website to remind those traveling to Macau that they are "barred from either bringing this type of product into Macau or from taking it out of the city." The website further states that "Visitors to Macau should check their personal belongings for any vaping products before arriving to the city, in order to avoid violating the law."

The law that entered into force Dec. 5, 2022, also provides that any private entity caught breaching this law could face fines ranging between MOP20,000 and MOP200,000.

Under the law, all activities associated with the production, selling, distribution, import and export of e-cigarettes are strictly prohibited.

Law 5/2011 also clearly states in Article 1, Number 5 that

the law aims for the "prohibition of tobacco advertising, as well as its promotion and sponsorship."

In the case of the ban on advertising alcoholic beverages, enforced worldwide, certain brands have found loopholes to continue to advertise non-alcoholic versions of their products – for example, 0% or "zero alcohol" beers, which has the effect of indirectly drawing attention to the overall suite of products that may include alcoholic variants. Brands also advertise other related products that are non-alcoholic, such as mineral water or fruit and juice-based drinks.

In the cases found in Macau, no references of this kind have been identified.

MGPOC FOCUSED ON UNDERAGE DRINKING

In the same response, the MGPOC attested that special measures taking into account

new laws banning the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages by minors have been implemented. Such measures include visible signage in refreshment areas warning about the prohibition of alcohol consumption by minors. Additionally, adjustments were made at the prize-giving ceremony to ensure that underage winners did not receive alcoholic beverages.

According to MGPOC, "The public was also warned via messages on the broadcast screens [that the drinks were alcohol-free], while commentators present on site also publicized the information."

Finally, the MGPOC noted that it was closely monitoring the issue of gambling advertising, as reported by the Times, and would take appropriate action against the illegal use of the Macau Grand Prix logo by betting sites.

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Macau Legend contests Cape Verde casino project termination

VICTORIA CHAN

MACAU Legend Development Ltd., a Hong Kong-listed hotel and casino services business, has announced its intention to “vigorously contest” the decision by the government of Cape Verde to terminate its concession to develop and operate a casino resort in the West African island nation.

According to GGRASIA, in a filing to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange Friday, Macau Legend confirmed it was “seeking legal advice in Cape Verde” on the “appropriate course of action” to defend its interests in the matter.

The company stated it “intends to vigorously contest these allegations to safeguard the interest of the company and its shareholders.”

This comes after the Cape Verdean government notified Macau Legend Nov. 19 of its decision to terminate the agreement, citing unmet deadlines and the firm's failure to complete the investment project as agreed.

The Cape Verde government last week announced in the nation's Official Bulletin that it was canceling the Establishment Convention and its Addendum entered into with Macau Legend subsidiaries MLD Cabo Verde Resorts SA and MLD Cabo Verde Entretenimento SA. Authorities cited the company's alleged “flagrant and repeated” violations of its obligations regarding



the project's timeline and investment commitments.

According to reports from Lusa, the Cape Verdean authorities accused Macau Legend of “flagrantly and repeatedly” breaching its obligations for the EUR250 million project, which was slated to include luxury hotels, a casino, a conference center, and a marina on a 152,700-square-meter site in the capital city of Praia.

The government stated it had acted “in good faith” previously, by giving Macau Legend numerous opportunities to resume work, negotiate a sale, or transfer its position to another interested party, but the company failed to do so.

In addition, the Cape Verdean government announced two weeks ago that it will analyze alternatives to the Macau Legend tourism and gaming venture, which was meant to transform the capital city of Praia.

An eight-story building has been completed but remains empty, while a bridge connecting to the Santa Maria Islet has also been constructed in the fenced-off waterfront area. The government cited Macau Legend's non-compliance as the reason for terminating the contracts.

Macau Legend, which operates the Macau Fisherman's Wharf precinct and the Legend Palace casino

in Macau, reported a net loss of just over HKD109.9 million for the first half of 2024, despite a 16.5% year-on-year increase in revenue to HKD390.4 million. The company acknowledged that it would need to perform an assessment regarding the provisions for impairment on the assets, but added that the financial impact of the Cape Verdean government's decision is “not expected to materially deteriorate the financial position of the group.”

Macau Legend said it would “make further announcements to keep its shareholders and investors informed of any material development” in connection with the Cape Verde case “when appropriate.”

GALAXY HONORS LUI CHE WOO WITH MEMORIAL AREA

Galaxy Entertainment Group will establish a memorial area at the Galaxy International Convention Center to honor its late founder, Dr. Lui Che Woo, who passed away Nov. 7, aged 95. The memorial, located in Hall B, will be accessible tomorrow to Dec. 3, allowing the community to pay their respects and leave messages of condolence. Following the memorial, a funeral service will take place Dec. 4 at the Hong Kong Funeral Parlour, with a public memorial service Dec. 5. Dr. Lui was renowned for his philanthropic efforts and commitment to education and public welfare.

GOV'T COLLECTED MOP6.65B FROM GAMING TAXES IN OCTOBER

The government reported a fiscal revenue of nearly MOP6.65 billion from gaming taxes in October, as disclosed by the Financial Services Bureau. This latest monthly figure brings the total gaming tax revenue for the first 10 months of 2024 to over MOP73.04 billion. Notably, gaming taxes accounted for 82.1% of the government's total current revenue, which reached MOP88.99 billion during this period. Under the 2024 budget plan, the government projected gaming tax revenue to approach MOP83.61 billion. The revenue collected in the first 10 months represents 87.4% of this anticipated amount.

COMMITTEE SEEKS JUSTIFICATION FOR GROWTH IN GOV'T EMPLOYEES

Chairman of the Legislative Assembly's Second Standing Committee, Chan Chak Mo, said yesterday that lawmakers are concerned about the significant increase in the number of workers in government services, according to the committee's analysis of the 2025 budget. The committee plans to send an opinion and request a written explanation from the different government services, regarding this increase. Health service workers, who represent the largest increase in hiring, will be personally contacted to explain this increase.

The Venetian Arena reopens after state-of-the-art upgrades

NADIA SHAW

THE Venetian Macao has unveiled its newly renovated arena, now known as The Venetian Arena, marking a significant upgrade from its previous incarnation as the Cotai Arena.

This state-of-the-art venue boasts a capacity of 14,000 and an array of modern amenities designed for an exceptional guest, VIP and artist experience.

The multipurpose venue is well-suited for large-scale live entertainment, major concerts, world-class sporting events, live broadcasts, innovative MICE events,



E-sports tournaments, and other special occasions.

The renovation includes 15 luxurious VIP suites, enhanced acoustics, and advanced lighting systems, making it one

of the most technologically advanced arenas in Asia.

The venue features 15 brand new VIP Suites with food and beverage facilities, seven VIP Bunker Suites, 10 skybox



suites on level four with F&B facilities, and a VIP Lounge accommodating up to 450 guests.

Additionally, the back-of-house facilities include five-star dressing rooms for its performers

and dancers as well as two player locker rooms for athletes alike.

Sands China, the operator of The Venetian Macao, has invested in the refurbishment so as to attract high-profile events. Stephanie Tanpure, vice president of Sales for Sands China has said, “Not only Sands but also Macau is really investing a lot of effort on diversification and changing the perception away from Asia's Las Vegas.”

“When we reopen The Venetian Arena, it will be one of the most state-of-the-art entertainment venues in our region,” she said.

The arena is set to host a series of exciting events starting Dec. 7, including the NBA Legends Celebrity Game and concerts featuring artists like Charlie Puth on Dec. 14.

ECOLOGICAL ZONES OPEN TO PUBLIC

The Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA) will be accepting applications for December activities in the Cotai Ecological Zones starting today. The "Open Day to the Public" activity on Dec. 14 and Dec. 28 will allow 120 participants to tour the Ecological Zones, and the "Birdwatching in the Wetlands" tour on Dec. 14 will guide 50 participants to view migratory birds. The "Nature Education Activity" workshop will be held Dec. 28, opening slots for 12 children.

ZODIAC BANKNOTE EXCHANGE PERIOD ENDING

The exchange period for four previously issued Zodiac Banknotes will conclude Dec. 6, the Monetary Authority of Macao said in a statement yesterday. Holders of the Rat, Ox, Tiger, and Rabbit Zodiac Banknotes are encouraged to exchange their notes at their previously selected banks before the deadline. The bureau urges registrants who have not yet conducted the exchange to do so before the exchange period ends.

GUANGZHOU AND MACAU DEEPEN PHARMACEUTICAL COOPERATION

A Guangzhou delegation visited Macau's pharmaceutical regulator last week. The parties exchanged perspectives on drug and device inspection, reaching a consensus on deepening cooperation in personnel training. Their partnership began in 1999 and will expand to ensure safety in the Greater Bay Area. Authorities said they will develop more practical projects related to public health, like medicine and device testing. The parties also discussed optimizing inspection processes to promote healthy industry development in both regions.

TENNIS

BU AND LIU WIN AT THE CTA TOUR FINALS

BU Yunchaokete and Liu Fangzhou claimed victory in the men's and women's singles finals, respectively, at the 2024 CTA (Chinese Tennis Association) Tour SJM Professional Finals, held over the weekend at the Macau Tennis Academy.

In the men's final, Bu defeated Bai Yan 6-4, 6-1, while Liu triumphed in the women's final, beating Zheng Wushuang 6-4, 6-4. This marked Liu's second singles title at the event, having previously won in 2022. For Bu, it was his first national championship victory.

In the men's doubles, Yang Zijiang and Zheng Baoluo emerged

as champions, defeating Zheng Zhan and Tang Sheng in the final. In the women's doubles, Xu Yifan and Yang Jianxuan claimed the title after winning against Guo Hanyu and Zheng Saisai.

Throughout the event, spectators had the chance to interact with the players and receive autographed tennis balls from their favorites.

Following the matches, a gala ceremony was held at the Grand Lisboa Hotel, where the winners were awarded their prizes in the presence of event organizers, sponsors and official representatives. **RM**



COLOANE VILLAGE MARKET CLOSING DEC. 16

RENATO MARQUES

THE Coloane Village Municipal Market will close Dec. 16, as announced in yesterday's official government gazette. The closure follows an order from the Chief Executive, which includes an updated list of public markets.

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) confirmed the market will close for revitalization and reuse studies. According to IAM, the market has experienced a steady decline in recent years, primarily due to a decrease in the local population and the increasing availability of products in nearby privately owned stores.

Reports indicate that in recent years, the number of vendors has dwindled, with only two remaining just a few months ago. IAM said these last two vendors infor-



med the bureau of their decision not to renew their stall licenses, leaving no option but to shut the market down.

IAM is currently conducting a study on the market's original site and is working with other entities to determine its future. One potential option being considered

is revitalizing the building to restore its original appearance and repurpose it for new uses, such as a commercial or event space.

There is also the possibility the market will be incorporated into a larger revitalization project for Coloane Village, which will extend

from the village center to the historic Lai Chi Vun shipyard.

This shipyard is currently undergoing a major renovation, supported by Galaxy Entertainment Group, and is scheduled to reopen next month after being closed since July 1.

MMA

Yan beats Figueiredo on return of UFC to Macau

RENATO MARQUES

RUSSIAN fighter Petr Yan reemerged victorious in the main event of UFC's return to Macau after more than a decade. In the headline bantamweight bout, Yan defeated Brazilian fighter Deiveson Figueiredo by unanimous decision after five rounds at the Galaxy Arena.

A former bantamweight champion, Yan extended his impressive form following a win over Song Yadong by unanimous decision in March, which broke a three-fight losing streak. This latest victory puts him in contention for the bantamweight title, currently held by Georgian Merab Dvalishvili.

In other bouts, Yan Xiaonan dominated Tabatha Ricci in a women's strawweight fight, also winning by unanimous decision after three closely contested rounds (30-27, 30-27, 30-27). With the win, Yan Xiaonan is now in a strong position to challenge current champion Zhang Weili.

In the welterweight division, Muslim Salikhov defeated Chinese fighter Song Kenan by knockout (KO) with a



spinning wheel kick in the first round, less than three minutes into the fight. Meanwhile, in the women's flyweight division, Gabriella Fernandes triumphed over Wang Cong with a technical submission (rear-naked choke) before the second round ended.

Other main card winners included light heavyweight Carlos Ulberg, who defeated Volkan Oezdemir by unanimous decision, and Zhang Mingyang, who won by technical knockout after landing an elbow strike and a flurry of punches halfway through the first round.

UFC's debut in Macau took

place in November 2012 at Cotai Arena, with two additional events held in 2014, one in March and the other in August, before this recent return after a 10-year hiatus.

According to MMAJUNKIE, the UFC Promotional Guidelines Compliance payout for the event totaled USD160,000 (MOP1.28 million). Fighters Salikhov, Fernandes, Zhang, and Shi Ming (from the preliminary card) earned an additional USD50,000 (MOP400,750) in performance of the night bonuses. The event drew a crowd of 12,615 spectators, though live gate details were not disclosed.

HENLEY

Macau passport ranks 33rd globally

MACAU'S passport has been ranked 33rd in the world, according to the latest Henley Passport Index. This ranking has been awarded as Macau passport holders have visa-free access to 145 of 277 countries and territories, which poses a significant advantage for international travelers.

The Macau passport outperforms its mainland Chinese counterpart, which ranks 60th with access to only 85 destinations. However, it still lags behind Hong Kong, which holds the 18th position with visa-free entry to 171 locations.

Despite these improvements, Macau's overall ranking fell by one spot since the previous quarter. Macau was granted visa-free access to Kazakhstan, and

Myanmar introduced a visa-on-arrival policy for Macau residents in October.

Historically, the Macau passport achieved its highest rank of 30th in 2014 and its lowest at 44th in 2010. While the passport facilitates travel to many destinations, holders still require visas for popular tourist locations such as the United States, Australia and Vietnam.

The Henley Passport Index, first published in 2005, is recognized as a leading authority on passport rankings, utilizing data from the International Air Transport Association and various government sources.

Currently, Singapore boasts the most powerful passport globally, allowing entry to 195 countries without a visa. **NS**

TOURISM

Hengqin Port sees record passenger traffic

NADIA SHAW

THE Hengqin Port has achieved a significant milestone, surpassing 20 million passengers for the first time since its opening in August 2020.

As of Nov. 21, the total number of travelers crossing the port reached 20 million, reflecting a remarkable year-on-year increase of 38.2%, according to data from the Hengqin Border Inspection Station.

Among the total, Macau residents accounted for over 4.35 million trips, which is approximately 22% of the overall traffic.

Regular cross-border travelers played a crucial role in this surge, making up nearly 70% of the total with 13.33 million trips, marking a 38.8% increase from last year.

The introduction of the "Hengqin-Macau Group Tour" policy in May has further heightened this growth.

This policy allows Chinese mainland tourists in organized



groups to travel back and forth between Hengqin and Macau multiple times within a week, significantly enhancing visitor numbers. Data indicates that mainland visitors alone totaled 5.42 million this year, up 31.4% from the previous year.

During peak holiday periods, single-day passenger records were shattered on five occasions, with Oct. 3 seeing an all-time high of 103,500 travelers.

In addition to domestic traffic,

Hengqin Port is becoming a gateway for international visitors as well.

Approximately 210,000 foreign travelers utilized the port this year for various purposes including business and tourism, representing a staggering 97% increase compared to last year. Streamlined travel processes and expanded visa options have bolstered Hengqin's status as a hub for global exchanges, paving the way for future developments in tourism and trade.

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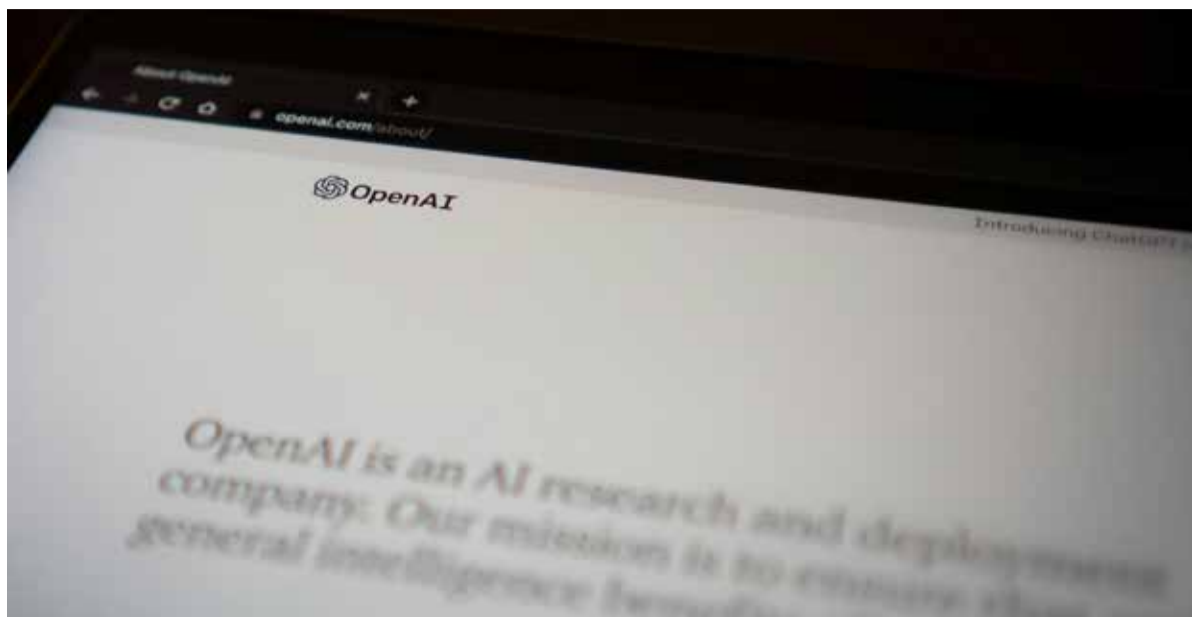
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C&C RECEIVED THE 1ST SILVER
"DEIGNAN AWARD"
FOR RESPONSIBLE ENTREPRENEURSHIP
IN MACAU (2023)





TECH

US ahead in AI innovation, surpassing China in Stanford's new ranking

MATT O'BRIEN

THE U.S. leads the world in developing artificial intelligence technology, surpassing China in research and other important measures of AI innovation, according to a newly released

Stanford University index.

There's no surefire way to rank global AI leadership but Stanford researchers have made an attempt by measuring the "vibrancy" of the AI industry across various dimensions, from how much research and investment is happening to how res-

ponsibly the technology is being pursued to prevent harm.

"The gap is actually widening" between the U.S. and China, said computer scientist Ray Perrault, director of the steering committee that runs Stanford's AI Index. "The U.S. is investing a lot more, at least at the level of

firm creation and firm funding."

The California-based university's Institute for Human-Centered AI — which has ties to Silicon Valley's tech industry — released the report Thursday as government AI officials from the U.S. and several allies met in San Francisco this week to compare notes on AI safety measures.

Here's which countries made the top 10:

UNITED STATES

The U.S. ranks No. 1 on Stanford's list and has consistently held that position since 2018 when it overtook China. It has far outpaced China in private AI investment, which hit \$67.2 billion in the U.S. last year compared to \$7.8 billion in China, according to the report. It also leads in publishing responsible AI research. It's no surprise that the home of commercial AI powerhouses such as Google and Meta, along with relative newcomers like OpenAI and Anthropic, has produced many notable AI models that have influenced how the technology is being developed and applied. The U.S. also gets some points for having a number of AI-related laws on the books, though Congress has yet to pass any broad AI regulations.

CHINA

China has requested far more patents than any other country regarding generative AI, the U.N.

intellectual property agency said earlier this year. Stanford researchers counted that as one measure of China's strong growth in AI innovation but not enough to lead the pack. Still, the report says that "China's focus on developing cutting-edge AI technologies and increasing its R&D investments has positioned it as a major AI powerhouse." China's universities have produced a large number of AI-related research publications and it has commercial leaders developing notable AI models, such as Baidu and its chatbot Ernie.

UNITED KINGDOM

Coming in at No. 3 is the UK, which also ranked high in research and development, and educational infrastructure due to top computer science universities churning out a skilled AI workforce. It's also home to Google's AI subsidiary DeepMind, whose co-founder recently won a Nobel Prize; and "had more mentions of AI in parliamentary proceedings" than any other country. Last year, the UK hosted the world's first international AI safety summit.

INDIA

Close behind the UK was India, thanks to a "strong AI research community," improvements in economic investments tied to AI and a robust public discourse about AI on social media, according to the report. **MDT/AP**

LOGISTICS

China's parcel sector reaches new heights

AT 10:40 am on Tuesday, a 32-year-old Chongqing resident surnamed Mu received a box of apples from Tianshui, Gansu province. This seemingly routine delivery was the 150 billionth parcel delivered in China this year, highlighting the immense scale of the country's logistics industry and its growing role in the economy.

"I order all kinds of things online — from clothes to food, and even fruit," Mu said as she unpacked the fresh apples. "It's incredible how quickly everything arrives. Just two days ago, I ordered these apples, and now they're here. It's so convenient, and the quality is guaranteed. I can't imagine life without this service."

The 150 billionth parcel is part of a larger trend showcasing explosive growth in China's delivery sector. To put the scale into perspective: if all parcels

delivered this year were laid end to end, they would stretch between the Earth and the moon 50 times.

The milestone underscores the critical role of logistics in China's economy. Starting from this year, the average consumer in China is expected to receive more than 100 parcels annually, with the country's delivery network handling over 5,400 parcels every second.

The broader national trend is that as more people embrace online shopping, fast and reliable deliveries have become a cornerstone of daily life.

"Everything I buy is online, and the prices are always better than in the store," Mu said. "The speed of delivery is amazing. I can order something in the morning and have it delivered by the afternoon. It's also cheaper than going out to buy it in a store."

China's logistics indus-



try has reached new heights this year, with daily parcel volumes peaking at 7.29 million. Beyond volume, affordable prices and reliable service have made online shopping more appealing, further fueling the sector's growth.

China's parcel delivery network is not limited to urban centers.

Increasingly, services are being expanded to rural and underserved areas. Companies such as J&T Express and platforms like Pinduoduo have been instrumental in extending logistics infrastructure to cen-

tral and western regions.

The apples Mu received came from Gansu, a province that has significantly improved its logistics capabilities.

In the past, Gansu farmers struggled to sell their produce due to a lack of e-commerce channels.

Today, local entrepreneurs like Zhang Pengfei are bridging the gap, enabling farmers to sell thousands of apples daily through online platforms.

"The rapid growth of e-commerce and logistics here has been a game changer," Zhang said. "A

few years ago, these apples wouldn't have made it out of the region. Now, we're shipping them nationwide, all thanks to the delivery network."

The expanding parcel network is also driving economic growth in rural areas. In Gansu, government investment in logistics infrastructure has led to new delivery stations and transportation hubs. From January to October, the province saw a 46.8 percent year-on-year increase in parcel volume, with logistics costs declining due to improved infrastructure, according to Gansu's postal bureau.

"The arrival of the 150 billionth parcel in Chongqing highlights the progress of the postal and delivery industry in central and western China," said Chen Denghua, an official from Chongqing's postal administration. "This milestone reflects not only the industry's expansion,

but also the vibrant market potential in these regions."

National policies, including subsidies for county-level distribution centers and financial support for remote areas, have also contributed to the sector's success.

China's logistics market, the largest in the world, accounted for over 60 percent of global parcel volume last year. The country processes more parcels than the next nine countries combined, according to Gui Ning, vice-president of J&T Express.

"China's logistics innovations are being applied overseas, improving delivery efficiency in other markets," Gui said.

Zhao Guojun, director of the postal development research center at the Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications, said "China's express delivery industry improves livelihoods while stimulating production and consumption. This virtuous cycle supports economic growth and strengthens China's global supply chain leadership." **CHINADAILY**

INDONESIA

Landslide and flash floods hit Sumatra island, leaving 16 dead and six missing

BINSAR BAKKARA, KARO

RESCUERS in Indonesia recovered 16 bodies under tons of mud and rocks or that were swept away in flash floods that hit mountainside villages on Sumatra Island, officials said Monday.

Six people are still missing, officials said.

Mud, rocks and trees tumbled down a mountain after torrential rains over the weekend and rivers burst their banks, tearing through four hilly districts in North Sumatra province, washing away houses and destroying farms.

Police, soldiers and rescue workers used excavators, farm equipment and their bare hands to sift through the rubble looking for the dead and missing in Semangat Gunung, a resort area in Karo district, said Juspri M. Nadeak, who heads the local disaster management agency.

Rescuers recovered six bodies after a landslide hit two houses and a cottage late Sunday, he said. Nine injured people managed to escape, he said. Rescuers on Monday were still searching for four



missing people, including two children.

Rescuers on Sunday pulled two bodies from a river after flash floods swept away at least 10 houses and damaged about 150 houses and buildings in villages in South Tapanuli district, said Pupun Mashuri, who heads the local disaster management agency.

Dozens of people were injured by the flash floods, which also destroyed more than 130 hectares (321 acres) of agricultural land and plantations.

Flash floods on Sunday left four people dead in Deli Serdang district and rescue workers on Monday were searching for two people who were swept away by flash

floods and are still missing.

A landslide hit several houses in Harang Julu, a mountainside village in Padang Lawas district, said Mustari, the chief of the local search and rescue agency, who like many Indonesians goes by a single name.

Rescuers late Saturday pulled out the bodies of a four-member

family, including two children, and rescued at least three injured people from the devastated village, he said.

Television reports showed relatives wailing as they watched rescuers pull mud-caked bodies from a room at a buried house in Harang Julu village.

Seasonal rain from about October to March frequently causes flooding and landslides in Indonesia, an archipelago of 17,000 islands where millions of people live in mountainous areas or near fertile flood plains.

Last December, 12 people were swept away to Lake Toba or buried under tons of mud after heavy rains triggered flash flood and landslide in mountainside villages in North Sumatra province. Only one of them was found dead and 11 others remain unaccounted for.

The 1,145-square-kilometer Lake Toba, formed out of an ancient super volcano, is a popular sightseeing destination on the island of Sumatra and an area the government aims to develop as a magnet for international tourists. **MDT/AP**

SOUTH KOREA-JAPAN

S. Korea holds memorial for forced laborers at Sado mines, a day after boycotting Japanese event

MARI YAMAGUCHI, SADO

SOUTH Korea paid tribute to wartime Korean forced laborers at Japan's Sado Island Gold Mines in a memorial ceremony yesterday, a day after boycotting a similar event organized by Japan, as tensions over historical atrocities continue to strain relations between the two sides.

Monday's ceremony at a former dormitory near the 16th century Sado mines, which were listed this summer as a UNESCO World Heritage site, was organized by South Korea's Foreign Ministry and attended by nine family members of Korean wartime laborers, the country's ambassador to Japan and other officials.

Japan on Sunday held a memorial service for all workers at the Sado mines, including Koreans. It

thanked them for their contributions at the mines but did not acknowledge their forced labor or issue an apology.

At the Korean-sponsored memorial on Monday, participants in dark suits observed a moment of silence and offered white chrysanthemums in honor of the South Korean laborers, along with offerings such as dried fish, sliced apple and pears.

In a short speech, South Korea's Ambassador to Japan Park Choel-hee offered his condolences to the forced laborers and their families, expressing hopes that the memorial would bring comfort to families. He said South Korea and Japan should both make efforts to ensure that the painful wartime history is remembered.

"We will never forget the



tears and sacrifices of the Korean workers behind the history of the Sado mines," Park said.

"I sincerely hope that today will be a day of remembrance for all the Korean workers who suffered indescribable pain under harsh conditions, and that this memorial service will bring comfort to the souls of the deceased Korean workers and their bereaved families," Park added.

At the mines, about 1,500 Koreans were forced to labor under abusive and brutal conditions during World War II, historians say.

Sunday's ceremony, which was supposed to further mend wounds, renewed tensions between the two sides. South Korea announced Saturday its decision to not attend the Japanese-organized ceremony, citing unspecified disagreements with Tokyo over the event.

There was speculation that the South Korean boycott was related to parliamentary vice minister Akiko Ikuina's attendance at Sunday's ceremony.

Ikuina reportedly visited Tokyo's controversial Yasukuni Shrine in August 2022, weeks after she was elected as a lawmaker. Japan's neighbors view Yasukuni, which commemorates 2.5 million war dead, including war criminals, as a symbol of Japan's past militarism.

The Sado mines were registered as a UNESCO cultural heritage site in July after Japan agreed to include an exhibit on the conditions of Korean forced laborers and to hold a memorial service annually, after repeated protests from the South Korean government.

Signs, including one at the site where South Ko-

reans held their ceremony, have been erected indicating former sites of Korean laborers' dormitories. A city-operated museum in the area also added a section about Korean laborers, but a private museum attached to the main UNESCO site doesn't mention them at all.

The site of South Korea's memorial was the former Fourth Souai Dormitory, one of four dorms for Korean laborers without families. A newly erected sign there reads, "Workers from the Korean Peninsula lived here during the wartime."

On Saturday, the families visited a former housing site where Korean laborers lived. They also briefly saw the city-run museum and an exhibit on the Korean laborers as they listened to explanations through a translator. **MDT/AP**

UN

An average of 140 women and girls were killed by a partner or relative per day in 2023

EDITH M. LEDERER,
UNITED NATIONS

THE deadliest place for women is at home and 140 women and girls on average were killed by an intimate partner or family member per day last year, two U.N. agencies reported yesterday.

Globally, an intimate partner or family member was responsible for the deaths of approximately 51,100 women and girls during 2023, an increase from an estimated 48,800 victims in 2022, UN Women and the U.N. Office of Drugs and Crime said.

The report released on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women said the increase was largely the result of more data being available from countries and not more killings.

But the two agencies stressed that "Women and girls everywhere continue to be affected by this extreme form of gender-based violence and no region is excluded." And they said, "the home is the most dangerous place for women and girls."

The highest number of intimate partner and family



Ariana Campos takes part in a march marking the upcoming International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, in Lima, Peru, Nov. 23

killings was in Africa – with an estimated 21,700 victims in 2023, the report said. Africa also had the highest number of victims relative to the size of its population — 2.9 victims per 100,000 people.

There were also high rates last year in the Americas with 1.6 female victims per 100,000 and in Oceania with 1.5 per 100,000, it said. Rates were significantly lower in Asia at 0.8 victims per 100,000 and Europe at 0.6 per 100,000.

According to the report, the intentional killing of women in the private sphere in Europe

and the Americas is largely by intimate partners.

By contrast, the vast majority of male homicides take place outside homes and families, it said.

"Even though men and boys account for the vast majority of homicide victims, women and girls continue to be disproportionately affected by lethal violence in the private sphere," the report said.

"An estimated 80% of all homicide victims in 2023 were men while 20% were women, but lethal violence within the family takes a much higher toll

on women than men, with almost 60% of all women who were intentionally killed in 2023 being victims of intimate partner/family member homicide," it said.

The report said that despite efforts to prevent the killing of women and girls by countries, their killings "remain at alarmingly high levels."

"They are often the culmination of repeated episodes of gender-based violence, which means they are preventable through timely and effective interventions," the two agencies said. **MDT/AP**

Russia captures UK national fighting alongside Ukraine in the Kursk region, report says

THE Russian military have captured a British national fighting alongside Ukrainian troops in Russia's partially occupied Kursk region, state news agency Tass reported yesterday, citing unidentified sources in law enforcement.

The man was identified by Tass and other media as James Scott Rhys Anderson. Tass quoted him as saying that he had served as a signalman in the British army for four years and then joined the International Legion of Ukraine, formed early on in Russia's nearly 3-year-

old war against its neighbor.

In Ukraine, Anderson reportedly served as an instructor for Ukrainian troops and was deployed to the Kursk region against his will. Tass published a video of the man saying in English that he doesn't want to be "here."

The report couldn't be independently verified, but if confirmed it could be one of the first publicly known case of a Western national captured on Russian soil while fighting for Ukraine.

The U.K. Embassy in



Moscow said officials were "supporting the family of a British man following reports of his detention" but provided no further details.

The Russian Defense Ministry did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The soldier's father,

Scott Anderson, told Britain's Daily Mail newspaper that his son's Ukrainian commander had informed him that the young man had been captured.

Scott Anderson said his son had served in the British military for four years, then brie-

fly worked as a police custody officer before going to Ukraine to fight. He said he tried to convince his son not to join the Ukrainian military, and now he fears for his safety.

"I'm hoping he'll be used as a bargaining chip, but my son told me they torture their prisoners and I'm so frightened he'll be tortured," he told the newspaper.

The UK Foreign Office said it was "supporting the family of a British man following reports of his detention." **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1983 £25M GOLD HEIST AT HEATHROW



An armed gang has carried out Britain's largest ever robbery at London's Heathrow Airport.

Over £25m worth of gold bullion bound for the Far East was stolen from the Brinks Mat warehouse, about one mile (1.6km) outside the airport perimeter, between 0630 and 0815 GMT.

Police have said a group of at least six men overcame the guards and successfully disabled a huge array of electronic security devices.

Insurers have offered a reward of £2m for information leading to the recovery of the 6,800 gold bars - which are all identifiable by refiners' stamps.

The members of the gang - who were all armed and wearing balaclavas - also stole £100,000 worth of cut and uncut diamonds. Inside information

They dressed in security uniforms to get into the warehouse and then terrorised the guards into giving them the alarm codes.

All the guards were handcuffed, one was hit on the head with a pistol and two had petrol poured over them.

Once inside the safes, the robbers used the warehouse's own forklift trucks to transport the 76 boxes of gold into a waiting van.

Scotland Yard Flying Squad chief Commander Frank Cater is leading the hunt for the thieves.

He said he believed they had inside information and were a "highly professional team".

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Police estimated 15 people were involved in the planning of the Brinks Mat robbery, but only three of the gang members were convicted.

Micky McAvoy and Brian Robinson were both jailed for 25 years in December 1984, and Kenneth Noye served 14 years for handling some of the stolen gold.

Noye was released in 1990, but 10 years later was convicted of murdering Stephen Cameron in a road-rage fight on the M25 and is now serving a life sentence.

Despite a huge police investigation most of the gold has never been recovered.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

 ARIES Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You and your partner are hot stuff. Your influence is growing. Coordinate actions for ease and efficiency. Support each other. Inspire others with your teamwork.	 TAURUS Apr. 20-May. 20 Practice your physical moves. Both words and actions hit their mark today. Steady efforts reap satisfying results. A dream or goal appears within reach.
 GEMINI May. 21-Jun. 21 Tap into love, creativity and passion. Raise the level of your game. Advancement is possible with a romance, sport or diversion. Express your heart.	 CANCER Jun. 22-Jul. 22 The next few days are great for making changes at home. Talk with family about how you'd love things to be. Invest in efficiency.
 LEO Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You're especially creative and brilliant. Words flow with ease. You can resolve a puzzle. Write, paint or craft a masterwork, one step at a time.	 VIRGO Aug. 23-Sep. 22 Generate some positive hustle. Cash flow can increase with your words and actions. Money saved is money earned. Use your secret recipe for success.
 LIBRA Sep. 23-Oct. 22 You're strong and getting stronger. Take advantage to push your personal agenda. Words and actions are in sync. An old dream is within reach.	 SCORPIO Oct. 23-Nov. 21 Listen to intuition. Peaceful privacy soothes your spirit. Consider where you've been and what's ahead. Rest and recharge. Make dreamy plans. Organize and plot.
 SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Team discussions can be especially productive. Resolution, clarification and new possibilities arise in conversation. Share energy, resources and ideas. Motivate each other to greatness.	 CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Expand your professional territory. Angels guide your actions. Trust a crazy hunch. Experience pays high dividends. Keep practicing your arts. Develop an exciting opportunity.
 AQUARIUS Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Plan your next trip. Travel dreams can come true. Words, creativity and traffic all flow with ease. Find ways to mix studies with fun.	 PISCES Feb. 19-Mar. 20 Discuss shared finances. Determine which actions to pursue, and coordinate who does what. What you resolve today can have long-term benefit. Contribute to savings.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER


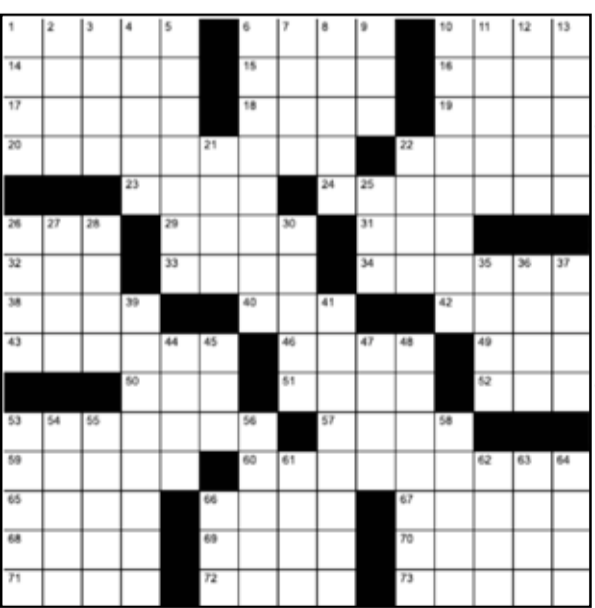
	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-3	4	cloudy
Changchun	-11	4	snow
Chengdu	6	12	cloudy
Chongqing	9	11	rain
Fuzhou	15	22	overcast
Guangzhou	14	20	rain
Guiyang	4	9	overcast
Haikou	21	22	cloudy
Hangzhou	8	12	fine
Harbin	-1	0	snow
Hefei	2	8	cloudy
Nanjing	5	9	cloudy
Shanghai	8	11	fine
Taipei	16	21	rain
Wuhan	2	12	fine
Hong Kong	18	23	sunny
WORLD			
Moscow	-7	-1	cloudy
Frankfurt	5	10	cloudy
Paris	8	11	cloudy
London	6	8	cloudy
New York	4	14	rain

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Fearsome; 6- Mayberry lad; 10- Loop; 14- We're Off ___ the Wizard; 15- Sleeveless garment; 16- As to; 17- Zones; 18- Actor Stoltz; 19- Aloe ___; 20- Sugar substitute; 22- Located; 23- Strikes; 24- Study of rocks; 26- Common ID; 29- Competes; 31- Actor Jude; 32- ___ loss for words; 33- Rat ___; 34- Speaker; 38- Freeway access; 40- B'way hit sign; 42- Depend; 43- Spain and Portugal; 46- Tel ___; 49- Golf gadget; 50- Eccentric; 51- Andean country; 52- Slalom curve; 53- Underwater missile; 57- Make angry; 59- Cream-filled cookies; 60- Excellent; 65- Makes brown; 66- European erupter; 67- Not ready; 68- Singer James; 69- Breather; 70- Fashionably old-fashioned; 71- Marine mammal, secure something; 72- Poker payment; 73- Ruhr Valley city;

DOWN 1- RR stops; 2- Mrs. Dithers, in "Blondie"; 3- Wait ___; 4- Arrive at; 5- Orthodox Jewish school; 6- Abroad; 7- Persian fairy; 8- OffThee ___; 9- List-ending abbr.; 10- Conflict within the same country; 11- ___ a customer; 12- Like some vbs.; 13- Dull; 21- Busily working; 22- Fly high; 25- "Xanadu" grp.; 26- Rani's garb; 27- Wild guess; 28- Identify; 30- Sandal part; 35- Head of France?; 36- Corrida cries; 37- Deli loaves; 39- Offer of marriage; 41- Hype up; 44- Mid-month time; 45- Put two and two together; 47- Eye part; 48- Bird of prey; 53- Carryalls; 54- Speechify; 55- ___-car; 56- Many times; 58- Sea eagles; 61- Part of MIT; 62- P.M. times; 63- Grow weary; 64- School on the Thames; 66- Memorable period;

Yesterday's solution

Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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



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THESE PERUVIAN WOMEN LEFT THE AMAZON, BUT THEIR HOMELAND STILL INSPIRES THEIR SONGS AND CRAFTS

MARÍA TERESA HERNÁNDEZ,
LIMA

AP PHOTO

SADITH Silvano's crafts are born from ancient songs. Brush in hand, eyes on the cloth, the Peruvian woman paints as she sings. And through her voice, her ancestors speak.

"When we paint, we listen to the inspiration that comes from the music and connect to nature, to our elders," said Silvano, 36, from her home and workshop in Lima, Peru, where she moved two decades ago from Paoyhan, a Shipibo-Konibo Indigenous community nestled in the Amazon.

"These pieces are sacred," she added. "We bless our work with the energy of our songs."

According to official figures, close to 33,000 Shipibo-Konibo people inhabit Peru.

Settled in the surroundings of the Uyacali river, many relocated to urban areas like Cantagallo, the Lima neighborhood where Silvano lives.

Handpainted textiles like the ones she crafts have slowly gained recognition. Known as "kené," they were declared part of the "Cultural Heritage of the Nation" by the Peruvian government in 2008.

Each kené is unique, Shipibo craftswomen say. Every pattern speaks of a woman's community, her worldview and beliefs.

"Every design tells a story," said Silvano, dressed in traditional clothing, her head crowned by a beaded garment. "It is a way in which a Shipibo woman distinguishes herself."

Her craft is transmitted from one generation to another. As wisdom is rooted in nature, the knowledge bequeathed by the elders connects younger generations to their land.

Paoyhan, where Silvano was born, is a flight and a 12-hour boat trip away from Lima.

In her hometown, locals rarely speak languages other than Shipibo. Doors and windows have no locks and people eat from Mother Nature.

Adela Sampayo, a 48-year-old healer who was born in Masi-sea, not too far from Paoyhan, moved to Cantagallo in the year 2000, but says that all her skills come from the Amazon.

"Since I was a little girl, my mom treated me with traditional medicine," said Sampayo, seated in the lotus position inside the home where she provides ayahuasca and other remedies for those ailing with a wounded body or soul.



Sadith Silvano, from Paoyhan, a Shipibo-Konibo Indigenous community in the Amazon

"She gave me plants to become stronger, to avoid getting sick, to be courageous," said Sampayo. "That's how the energy of the plants started growing inside me."

She, too, conveys her worldview through her textiles. Though she does not paint, she embroiders, and each thread tells a tale from home.

"Each plant has a spirit," said the healer, pointing to the leaves embroidered in the cloth. "And medicinal plants come from God."

The plants painted by Silvano also bear meaning. One of them represents pure love. Another symbolizes a wise man. One more, a serpent.

"The anaconda is special for us," Silvano said. "It's our protector, like a god that cares for us and provides food and water."

In ancient times, she said, her people believed that the sun was their father and the anacondas were their guardians. Colonization brought a new religion — Catholicism — and their Indigenous worldview was diluted.

"Nowadays we have different religions," Silvano said. "Catholic, evangelical, but we respect our other beliefs too."

For many years, after her father took her to Lima hoping for a better future, she yearned for her mountains, her clear sky

and her time alone in the jungle. Life in Paoyhan was not precisely easy, but from a young age she learned how to stay strong.

Back in the 1990s, Amazonian communities were affected by violence from the Shining Path insurgency and illegal logging. Poverty and sexism were also common, which is why many Shipibo women taught themselves how to navigate their anguish through the heartfelt music they sing.

"When we encounter difficult times, we overcome them with our therapy: designing, painting, singing," Silvano said. "We have a song that is melodic and heals our soul, and another one that is inspiring and brings us joy."

Few Shipibo girls are encouraged to study or make a living of their own, Silvano said. Instead, they are taught to wait for a husband. And once married, to endure any abuse, cheating or discomfort they may encounter.

"Even though we suffer, people tell us: Take it, he's the father of your children. Take it, he is your husband," Silvano said. "But deep inside, we are wounded. So what do we do? We sing."

The lesson is taught from

mothers to daughters: If you hurt at home, grab your cloth, your brush and leave. Go far away, alone, and sit. Connect with your kené and paint. And while you paint, sing.

"That's our healing," Silvano said. "Through our songs, our kenés, we are free."

In the workshop where she

"That's our healing. [...] Through our songs, our kenés, we are free."

SADITH SILVANO

now works and raises her two children on her own, Delia Pizarro crafts jewelry. She, too, sings as she creates birds out of colorful beads.

"I didn't use to sing," Pizarro said. "I was very submissive and I didn't like to speak, but Olin, Sadith's sister, told me, 'You can do this.' So now I'm a single mother, but I can go wherever I want. I know how to defend myself and fight. I feel valued."

The figures in the products they craft for sale are varied. Aside from anacondas, they like to depict jaguars, which represent women, and herons, which were treasured by the elders.

A Shipibo textile can take up to a month and a half to be

completed. Materials required to craft it — the cloth, the natural pigments — are brought from the Amazon.

The black color used by Silvano is extracted from a bark tree that grows in Paoyhan. The cloth is made of local cotton. The mud used to set the colors comes from the Uyacali river.

"I like it when a foreigner comes and leaves with something from my community," said Silvano, touching one of her freshly painted textiles to bless it for a quick sale.

She said that her people's crafts were barely known when she and her father first arrived in Lima 20 years ago. But in her view, things have now changed.

In Cantagallo, where around 500 Shipibo families have settled, many make a living selling their crafts.

"My art has empowered me and is my loyal companion," Silvano said. "Thanks to my mother, my grandmother and my sisters, I have a knowledge that has allowed me to open doors."

"Here's the energy of our children, our ancestral world and our community," she added, her textiles still between her hands. "Here's the inspiration from our songs." **MDT/AP**

RUGBY

Pieter-Steph du Toit and Ellie Kildunne named world rugby's best players

SOUTH Africa flanker Pieter-Steph du Toit and England fullback Ellie Kildunne were named World Rugby's players of the year yesterday [Macau time].

Antoine Dupont was the best men's sevens player after helping France win the Olympic gold medal.

Du Toit, also the 2019 winner, became only the fourth men's player to win the award at least twice, after New Zealanders Richie McCaw, Dan Carter and Beauden Barrett.

Despite the Springboks' policy of rotation, Du Toit showed his immense value by appearing in 10 of their 13 tests, and played the full game in eight of them. The double World Cup winner helped the Springboks win their first Rugby Championship since 2019 and achieve a first unbeaten autumn tour of Europe in 11 years.

He missed Saturday's tour-ending win against Wales in Cardiff because of a shoulder issue.



South Africa's Pieter-Steph du Toit and England's Ellie Kildunne

Du Toit was crowned ahead of teammates Eben Etzebeth and Cheslin Kolbe, and Ireland captain Caelan Doris.

Kildunne's award capped an impressive year in which she was also the Women's Six Nations best player.

In an unbeaten year with England, she won a Six Nations Grand Slam, retained the WXVI title and scored 14 tries in 10 tests. She also

had time to help Britain in the Paris Olympics sevens.

Also nominated were teammate and No. 8 Alex Matthews, France scrumhalf Pauline Bourdon Sansus and Canada flyhalf Alex Tessier.

Kildunne was the fourth England winner in the last five awards.

Erin King became the first Irishwoman to win an individual award when she was chosen the women's breakthrough player of

the year.

King also went to the Olympics, and made her 15s debut only in September, when the back-rower helped Ireland finish second in the WXVI after an historic win over world champion New Zealand.

All Blacks flanker Wallace Sititi was the men's breakthrough player. Sititi, the son of former Samoa captain Semo Sititi, debuted off the bench against Fiji in July, and made

a huge impression in his first test start against South Africa in Cape Town in September, on his 22nd birthday. He was undroppable from then on; starting all seven remaining tests. He was the only All Black to start all five on their tour of Japan and Europe.


The coach of the year was Jerome Daret, for guiding the France men's sevens team to a first Olympic gold medal and first world series title. The France men, thanks to the injection of Dupont, had never previously medaled in the Olympics — didn't even qualify for the 2021 Tokyo Games — and its best previous finish in world series history was fourth.

Dupont skipped the Six Nations to prepare for the Olympic sevens, and lived up to his billing. He scored two tries in the final against defending champion Fiji.

Australia's Maddison Levi was the best women's sevens player. She scored 69 tries in the world series and another 14 at the Olympics. **MDT/AP**

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OPINION

China Daily
Chen Weihua, China Daily



LET'S HOPE NEW US PRESIDENT ENDS CONFLICTS AS PROMISED

Donald Trump's election victory on Wednesday has raised concerns. During the election campaign he proposed to an extra 10 percent tariffs on all US imports and a 60 percent tariffs on Chinese goods.

Given the highly interconnected global supply chains, a tariff war against one economy today means a tariff war against many countries, not to mention that a tariff or trade war launched by the US ends up harming the US economy and consumers. Studies show that tariff wars have been and will continue to be disastrous for US workers, consumers and businesses.

Win-win cooperation, especially between the world's two largest economies, has always benefited not just the people of the two countries but also the world as a whole.

One major concern is what kind of people the president-elect will choose for his new cabinet. On Tuesday, Ron Paul, a former Republican congressman from Texas, warned of the danger of "neocons yet again infesting" the new US administration — people like John Bolton and Mike Pompeo. His message on X was applauded by Tesla and SpaceX founder Elon Musk, who responded by saying "I agree that we should not empower neocon warmongers".

The world has become a more dangerous place today because of the Biden administration's obsession with playing zero-sum games, especially in its dealings with China, and focusing its energy on measures to contain China and divide the world into confrontational political blocs.

The US' sordid role in the Asia-Pacific includes stoking tensions in the Taiwan Strait and the South China Sea. It has also prolonged the Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Palestine conflicts, by adding fuel to the fire to fulfill its own narrow geopolitical goals.

Many experts, including Columbia University professor Jeffrey Sachs, have warned that the existing US foreign policy is pushing the world toward a new Cold War, a potential third world war, and even a nuclear war that could annihilate the entire human race.

While many people are skeptical about the promises the US president-elect made during his presidential campaign as well as on Wednesday, particularly his pledge to "stop wars", such promises are needed more than many other things in today's world.

Despite being politically incorrect in Washington, Trump has repeatedly said that it is a great thing to get along with China, Russia and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

As a journalist who covered the first summit between Trump and DPRK leader Kim Jong-un in Singapore in 2018, I was impressed by his efforts to make a rapprochement with the DPRK, because that's another important thing the world needs today.

It's way too early to tell what Trump administration 2.0 will look like. But I hope he makes good on his promise to end the conflicts in Eurasia and the Middle East, restore lasting peace in the Middle East, and improve relations with China, Russia and the DPRK, thus stopping the downward spiral toward a new Cold War, even third world war.

The world should never see a new Cold War, let alone another world war.

DHL CARGO PLANE CRASHES AND SKIDS INTO A HOUSE IN LITHUANIA, KILLING AT LEAST ONE

THE BUZZ

A DHL cargo plane crashed on approach to an airport in Lithuania's capital and skidded into a nearby house yesterday, leaving at least one person dead, officials said. The cause of the accident was not immediately known.

The head of the country's firefighting service said that the plane skidded for a few hundred meters, and photos showed smoke rising from a damaged structure in an area of barren trees.

"Residential infrastructure around the house was on fire, and the house was slightly damaged, but we managed to evacuate people," said Renatas Pola, chief of the Fire and Rescue Department.

Lithuanian's public broadcaster LRT, quoting an emergency official, said two people had been taken to the hospital after the crash, and one was later pronounced dead.

The person who was killed was a member of the flight crew but not a pilot. Firefighters freed two pilots from the cockpit, one of whom was more seriously injured than the other, according to the General Commissioner of the Lithuanian Police, Arnas Paulauskas.

Paulauskas told a news conference that the causes of the accident were not yet known.

VICTORIA CHAN

Czech rider Matyáš Novotný



MOTOSURF

NOVOTNÝ TOPS ELITE CLASS, CROWNED WORLD CHAMPION

RENATO MARQUES

CZECH rider Matyáš Novotný claimed the 2024 MotoSurf World Championship (MSWC) overall title in the elite category Sunday at Hac Sa Beach in Coloane. Novotný finished the final round of the championship with 54 points, securing third place in the heats and winning the finale. This victory brought his total to 346 points, 50 ahead of his fellow Czech competitors, Alex Lukscheider, and Dominik Kadlec.

The championship was dominated by Czech racers, with the first non-Czech competitor, Slovak Marek Škamla, placing 10th.

In the Stock category, Korean racer Kim Minseong was crowned champion with 428 points after securing 72 points in the Macau round. Kim finished first in both the heats and the fi-

nal, displaying complete control of the class. His victory was further aided by a mistake from Kuwaiti racer Hasan Boabbas, who miscalculated the number of "joker" laps he needed to complete during a heat Saturday, effectively handing the world title to Kim.

In the women's category, Czech racer Eliška Matoušková outperformed her compatriots Aneta Stloukalová and Eli Charousová to claim the championship title with 428 points.

Matoušková finished 35 points ahead of Stloukalová, despite both riders earning 68 points in the final round in Macau.

This event marked the first time the MSWC was held in Macau, co-hosted by Melco Resorts & Entertainment. It attracted over 120 racers from more than 20 countries and regions, including Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechia,

China, Cyprus, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Korea, Kuwait, Poland, Romania, Russia (AIN), Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, UAE, USA and Macau.

The Macau round was the sixth and final stop of the championship, which began in the UAE and included events in Poland, Sweden, Italy, and Croatia before concluding in Macau.

Although the MSWC has been around since 2012, it has gained greater recognition in recent years, particularly after 2019 when it was officially sanctioned by the Union Internationale Motonautique, the global governing body for powerboating sports, including Aquabike/Jet Ski and MotoSurf. MotoSurf will also debut at the 2025 World Games in Chengdu, with MSWC results serving as qualifying points for the competition.

AP PHOTO



UN head, Pope Francis and others called yesterday for nations to end the production and use of land mines, even as their deployment globally grows. U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a message to delegates that 25 years after it went into force some parties had renewed the use of antipersonnel mines and some are falling behind in their commitments to destroy the weapons.

AP PHOTO



Uruguay's leftist opposition candidate, Yamandú Orsi (pictured), became the country's new president in a tight runoff Sunday, ousting the conservative governing coalition and making the South American nation the latest to rebuke the incumbent party in a year of landmark elections worldwide.

AP PHOTO



Namibia's Vice President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah (pictured) could become the country's first female president if she wins the presidential election tomorrow. At least 1.4 million people, or about half of the population, have registered to vote in the elections, with 15 political parties running for president and seats in the National Assembly.

AP PHOTO



Space Planet Earth is parting company with an asteroid that's been tagging along as a "mini moon" for the past two months. The harmless space rock peeled away yesterday, overcome by the stronger tug of the sun's gravity. But it will zip closer for a quick visit in January.