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AP PHOTO



Japan's Epsilon S rocket engine exploded yesterday during test at Tanegashima Space Center. This second failure jeopardizes the rocket's planned 2024 debut. Officials are investigating, aiming to resolve concerns about the nation's ambitions in the competitive satellite launch market.

AP PHOTO



South Korea A man received a suspended prison sentence for gaining over 20 kilograms to avoid active military duty. Authorities reported an increase in similar cases, sparking scrutiny of evasion tactics in a country with compulsory military service amid regional tensions.

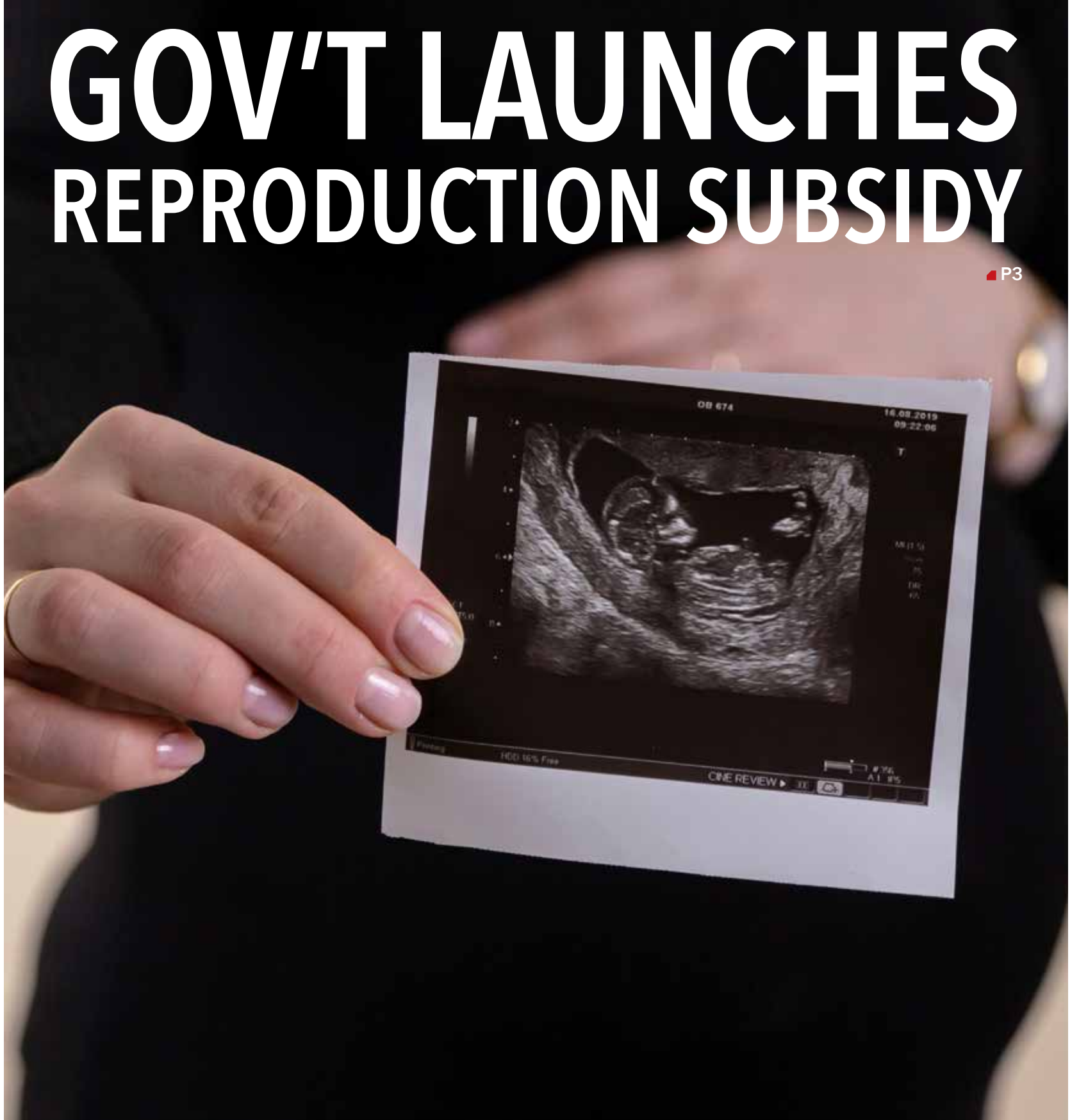
AP PHOTO



Indonesia Flash floods and landslides in North Sumatra killed 20 people, with two still missing. Heavy rains over the weekend devastated homes and farms. Rescuers continue searching affected districts as seasonal weather heightens disaster risks across Indonesia's vulnerable mountainous and flood-prone areas.

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ONLY ONE DEFENDANT FOUND GUILTY IN THE MACAU CHINESE BANK CASE

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DSAL HOSTS DECEMBER JOB MATCHMAKING SESSIONS

The Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) is organizing three job matchmaking sessions in early December, offering a total of 480 job vacancies to assist residents seeking employment. The sessions aim to alleviate staffing shortages in key sectors, including hospitality and aviation. The first session, scheduled for Dec. 4, will focus on the hotel industry, offering positions such as facilities management technicians. On Dec. 6, the aviation sector will present 30 vacancies for airport security agents. The final session, on Dec. 11, will highlight a range of roles in hospitality, including sous chefs and customer service managers.

400 SENIORS' APARTMENT APPLICATIONS SIGNED AHEAD OF DECEMBER MOVE-IN

The Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) announced yesterday that 400 applications have been signed for occupancy in over 600 elderly apartments, with all arrangements set to conclude by Dec. 10. These applications represent approximately 70% of this year's total requests. Authorities emphasized the need for careful planning to accommodate elderly residents, ensuring they have adequate time to adjust before moving in. Inspections of the facilities will precede any relocations, addressing concerns raised by applicants about the process.

VISUAL ARTS EXHIBITION TO KICK OFF FRIDAY

Organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), the "Annual Exhibition of Macao Visual Arts 2024 - Western Media Category" will be inaugurated on Nov. 29 at the Tap Seac Gallery and will run from Nov. 30 to Dec. 29. This year's exhibition will feature 178 pieces covering a variety of Western media and will be presented in two-dimensional, three-dimensional, and multimedia formats. The exhibition will also feature 45 pieces of award-winning works which cover a variety of themes. The exhibition aims to encourage innovation and present contemporary artworks to illustrate the latest development of visual arts in the city.

EXPORTS DROP BY 10%

Total merchandise exports and imports in October decreased by 10% and 3.7%, year-on-year, amounting to MOP1.21 billion and MOP11.26 billion respectively, according to a Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) report. Merchandise trade deficit totaled MOP10.05 billion, down by MOP11.13 billion compared to 2023. Moreover, total value of merchandise exports increased by 3.8% year-on-year to MOP11.27 billion, whereas total value of merchandise imports decreased by 9.2% to MOP106.34 billion. By destination, exports to Hong Kong, the Belt and Road Countries, and the EU rose by 1.2%, 17.4%, and 37.7% respectively year-on-year in the first 10 months this year.

COURTS

TJB RULES ON MACAU CHINESE BANK CASE: ONLY ONE DEFENDANT FOUND GUILTY

RENATO MARQUES

The Court of First Instance (TJB) found just one defendant guilty in the fraud case linked to the Macau Chinese Bank (MCB) in a ruling issued yesterday. This case involved 15 defendants who were accused of various offenses, including participation in a criminal organization.

Of the 15 defendants, 14 were acquitted, with the court determining that there was insufficient evidence to support the prosecution's claims.

Five of the acquitted defendants were in preventive custody waiting for the trial. The court ordered their immediate release, according to media reports.

These individuals were all MCB staff members, and were found not to have committed any wrongdoing while verifying documents provided by borrowers. The court also concluded that they had no personal interest in or benefit from the fraudulent activities.



Among those acquitted was Yau Wai Chu, former president of MCB, who was found not guilty of operating the loan-based fraud scheme that shook the credibility and accounts of the bank.

The case centered around a series of illicitly approved loans under false pretenses, resulting in a loss of over MOP450 million for the bank.

The only defendant to be

convicted by the TJB was businessman Liu Wai Gui, who was sentenced to a total of 18 years of imprisonment after being found guilty of 16 counts of fraud and document forgery.

Liu was judged in absentia, and now faces a warrant for his arrest following the sentence.

In delivering the TJB ruling, Judge Lou Ieng Ha stated, "there was no proof that indicated that Yau and Liu had formed

and were leading the alleged criminal organization formed for the purpose of defrauding the bank."

Judge Lou also noted that all the evidence reviewed pointed to the fact that the relationship between the two was merely institutional, as client and service provider.

The public prosecution will likely appeal this sentence to the Court of Second Instance.

Market vendors association calls for gov't support amid Coloane closure

NADIA SHAW

The president of the Market Vendors Mutual Aid Association, O Cheng Wong, has called for urgent government support as street vendors grapple with unprecedented challenges.

Wong acknowledged the Municipal Affairs Bureau's efforts to improve market facilities but warned that shifting population dynamics and changing consumption patterns threaten vendor livelihoods, speaking to Macao Daily.

Wong noted that



while recent renovations have enhanced the cleanliness and appeal of markets and hawkker areas, many vendors are facing a significant decline in customer traffic. "Without a stable customer

base, new facilities will struggle to thrive," he stated.

He urged the government to consider the operational realities of vendors when implementing policies aimed at revitalizing the fresh

food retail market.

The association also expressed concern about the increasing number of vacant stalls in markets. Wong called for swift action from authorities to auction these spaces to new vendors, which could help reverse the cycle of decline. "A diverse and vibrant market is essential for its success," he added. "Otherwise, there will be no business in the new facilities, the flow of people will decrease day by day, and only a few will return to their stalls."

His comments came

after the government announced that the Coloane Village Municipal Market is set to close on December 16 due to a drastic decrease in vendor participation and local patronage."

The Municipal Affairs Bureau confirmed that only two vendors remain, both of whom have opted not to renew their licenses.

This closure is part of a broader revitalization effort, with plans underway to explore potential new uses for the space, including commercial or event facilities.

Wong remains hopeful that more supportive measures will be introduced to ensure the survival of street vendors and maintain the city's rich market culture.

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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, MacaoNews, Xinhua SECRETARY_Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

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

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

ADMINISTRATOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

OFFICE MANAGER_Juliana Cheung 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

For subscription and general issues:

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IVF Gov't launches assisted reproduction subsidy program

VICTORIA CHAN

IN a move to encourage childbirth and assist couples facing fertility difficulties, the government has introduced the "Medically Assisted Reproduction Subsidy Program," which will begin accepting applications on Dec. 1.

The program, managed by the Health Bureau (SSM), is designed to provide financial support for eligible Macau resident couples or those in a de facto relationship who wish to undergo medically assisted reproductive services.

According to Lei Wai Seng, deputy director of Macau Union Hospital, each qualified couple can receive up to two cycles of fee exemptions. The subsidies cover first-generation in vitro fertilization (IVF) or second-generation intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) procedures, as well



as related assessments and routine expenses. Qualified candidates can apply at the Conde S. Januário Hospital or via the SSM's designated website.

Kuok Cheong U, deputy director of the SSM, estimates

that the program could benefit up to 100 applicants annually, based on data from neighboring Hong Kong.

Currently, around 200 women are receiving treatment at the infertility clinic of the Macau Union Hospital. He ho-

pes the program will help gauge the demand for these services in Macau, stating, "After the launch of this project, we will continue to re-evaluate to see the progress of our entire subsidy program."

To ensure the responsible

use of public funds, the program will not cover treatment costs for underlying medical conditions that may be causing infertility, such as weight loss management or diabetes control.

Lei emphasized that the plan is an "exempt service" within the government's broader policy to support the public, rather than a free treatment initiative. While some applicants may attend at the infertility clinic, they may not be able to undergo infertility treatment immediately if they have underlying health issues, such as poorly controlled diabetes or other chronic conditions.

Such patients may need treatment before fertility procedures can proceed. Lei noted that the role of the service is to provide professional guidance and treatment for the various causes of infertility. However, the cost of treating any underlying diseases or health conditions themselves are not within the scope of the subsidy. Lei highlighted that while many applicants may have undergone various examinations, the Macau Union Hospital will coordinate with the SSM to verify information and expedite appointments, thereby minimizing waiting times.

AVIATION

Airport expands cargo operations with new terminal in Hengqin

NADIA SHAW

MACAU International Airport is enhancing its cargo capabilities with the acquisition of a 66,700-square-meter land parcel in Hengqin, where a new cargo terminal will be built. The acquisition of the land parcel, costing approximately RMB129 million, was announced recently by the airport's logistics division.

The three-story terminal will include a logistics warehouse, an underground garage, and a canopy, designed to handle up to 300,000 tonnes of cargo annually.

This initiative



aims to streamline cargo delivery between Hengqin and Macau, ensuring efficient processing of imports and exports. The facility will also feature an integrated building for customs declarations and data processing, alongside accommodations for staff.

At an investment promotion event earlier this year, Su

Kun, deputy director of the executive committee of the cooperation zone, highlighted the terminal's key role in improving logistics operations. The terminal will support the receiving and palletizing of exports as well as the unloading and distribution of imports at the airport.

Macau International Airport,

which commenced operations in 1995, is currently pursuing long-haul flight services to boost international tourism as part of a broader development plan initiated by the central government in 2016. Recent reclamation efforts aim to expand the airport's area to 325 hectares, further enhancing its capacity.



PUBLIC WORKS

PEDESTRIAN FLYOVER AT PATANE TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION IN Q2 2025

RENATO MARQUES

A new pedestrian flyover will be constructed at the intersection between the Rua Norte do Patane and the Rua do Comandante João Belo, near the North Bay leisure area of Fai Chi Kei.

The Public Works Bureau (DSOP) said that it expects construction will start during the second quarter (Q2) of next year.

At the recent opening of proposals for the public tender, DSOP revealed that it had received 11 proposals for the project, with proposed costs ranging between MOP46 million and MOP63 million.

The construction is expected to take 450 working days to complete.

The project comprises two segments of flyover that are 40 and

50 meters long, respectively, and three access points.

These access points will be located at the Fai Tat Building, Wang Hoi Building, and the outdoor leisure area of the North Bay of Fai Chi Kei.

As with similar infrastructure projects, the flyover will feature elevators, escalators, and stairs for the convenience of people with mobility challenges.

This pedestrian flyover is part of a broader initiative to improve safety and traffic flow across the city. Similar projects have been implemented or are being planned in areas with heavy vehicle and pedestrian traffic to help separate pedestrian movement from road traffic, reducing congestion and improving overall traffic efficiency.

LAWMAKERS EXPRESS CONCERNS OVER NEW ROAD TRAFFIC BILL, CALLING FOR CLARIFICATION

RENATO MARQUES

LAWMAKERS from the First Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly are not satisfied with some aspects of the bill proposing amendments to the road traffic law in Macau.

In a media briefing after the last committee meeting, the president of the committee, Ella Lei, said that the members have expressed several concerns, which were subsequently submitted as questions to the government. Among the points of contention is the proposed MOP300 fine for pedestrians using mobile phones and other similar devices while crossing the streets and roads of Macau.

Lei questioned the practical implementation of this rule and noted that it was unclear under what conditions it would be enforced. She also noted that it was illogical to only apply the penalty to electronic devices and not to others. Lei pointed out that a pedestrian

RENATO MARQUES



might be crossing the street while reading a book, causing potentially the same danger as someone on their phone, but the former action would not constitute an infraction under the new provisions. For this reason, she believes the government needs to provide clarification on the matter.

Another aspect that is controversial is the absence of a mandatory requirement for passengers seated in the back seats of vehicles to wear seatbelts. The lawmaker noted that the omission of such a rule is outdated, given that neighboring regions have long had laws mandating seatbelt

use in all car seats.

She also mentioned that, at the time of the public consultation held by the government before the presentation of this bill, the mandatory use of seatbelts in all car seats was part of the proposal. There was no justification provided for the government's decision to re-

move it from the bill.

Among the many questions that the committee drafted to present to the government is a request for clarification on the mandatory use of helmets by cyclists as well as the rules surrounding the transportation of bicycles on pedestrian areas and sidewalks.

CRIME

PJ continues to crack down on illegal currency exchange

VICTORIA CHAN

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) has announced the arrest of two cases in connection with an illegal currency exchange scheme.

In the first case, on Nov. 21, PJ received a report about a suspected fraud case that occurred in a hotel in Cotai. During the investigation, authorities discovered that the suspect was conducting illegal money exchange activities in Macau. The case involved two witnesses, a male and a female, both middle-aged mainland residents, who were approached by the suspects in a casino in Cotai and offered assistance in exchanging currency.

Later that day, the witnesses needed to convert their Hong Kong dollar cash winnings into RMB and transfer it back to their bank accounts in the mainland. The suspect met the two witnesses outside a hotel in Cotai, where another unknown man was present.



The parties agreed to exchange HKD70,000 in cash for RMB67,900. After the first witness successfully received the RMB transfer, the second witness handed over the cash to the unknown man, who then left the scene.

However, the first witness later discovered that his bank account was temporarily restricted due to the large transfer, and he believed the transaction was involved in a crime. The witnesses then stopped the suspect from leaving the scene and repor-

ted the incident to the authorities. During the investigation, the suspects refused to cooperate, and the police found strong indications that they had collaborated with an unknown individual to run an illegal currency exchange operation.

PJ detained the suspects Nov. 23 and transferred them to the Public Prosecutions Office for further investigation. Authorities are also actively searching for the whereabouts of the unidentified man involved in the transaction.

In a separate case, PJ detained three suspects in connection with a large-scale fraud and illegal currency exchange scheme involving a victim who lost HKD100,000 on Nov. 25. The victim had contacted a mainland resident through WeChat to exchange his gambling winnings, but later received a notification that the account had been frozen by mainland police due to receipt of fraudulent funds.

The police investigation revealed that in addition to the first suspect, two other suspects were involved.

The three suspects were uncooperative during questioning, but police found evidence linking them to illegal exchange activities in Macau.

The police also seized HKD48,000 in cash suspected to be involved in the case. All three suspects have been detained, and the case has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office for further investigation.

CRIME

DIVORCED COUPLE OF SIX YEARS GUILTY OF MARRIAGE FRAUD

STAFF REPORTER

THE Public Security Police Force (PSP) recently uncovered a case of marriage fraud involving multiple suspects.

The bureau received a report from the Identification Services Bureau (DSI) regarding a suspected fake marriage involving a male, surnamed Zhang (in his 50s), claiming to be a businessman seeking to settle his wife and two children in Macau on the grounds of marital reunion.

According to the report, Zhang, originally a resident of mainland China, married Macau female resident Ho in 2009 and obtained Macau resident status in 2016, before their divorce in 2018.

However, the investigation revealed that their marriage had continued. During this period, Zhang and his current wife, a mainland China resident, gave birth to two children.

After DSI's investigation, the couple was suspected of having entered into a fraudulent marriage. The police intercepted Ho and Zhang at a residence in Coloane District and the border gate, respectively.

During questioning, Ho admitted that she had entered into a sham marriage with Zhang to help him obtain Macau resident status, for which she was paid around MOP1million.

Both Zhang and Ho admitted they had never lived together as a married couple. As a result, both are likely in violation of Law No. 16, 2021, No. 78 Article 76 for falsely committing and asserting certain legal acts to obtain benefits, as well for making false declarations of identity. Moreover, because Zhang had previously made a false declaration to DSI, he is also suspected of violating Article 323 of the Penal Code.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Macau chefs seek sponsorship for Bocuse d'Or finals

NADIA SHAW

THREE chefs from Macau are preparing to represent China at the prestigious Bocuse d'Or finals in Lyon, France, on Jan. 26 and Jan. 27, 2025.

Team leader Richard Stuart, along with Oscar Wang and Xy Zhao Jie, recently triumphed at the national finals in Guangzhou, earning a coveted wild card to compete against culinary giants from around the world.



The Bocuse d'Or, often referred to as the "Culinary Olympics," was established by legendary French chef Paul Bocuse and has become a hallmark of culinary excellence.

The Macau team's victory at the Asia-Pacific heats not only highlights their skills but also aims to elevate Macau's status as a culinary destination.

Oscar Wang also won the championship in the Bocuse d'Or 2024 China Selection, which ended in Guangzhou in early June.

However, the journey to Lyon is fraught with challenges.

The team is actively seeking approximately RMB1 million in sponsorship to cover training, travel, and accommodation

costs for themselves and four support staff. Stuart emphasized the disparity between their resources and those of European teams, who often have extensive sponsorships. "They bring lorries through Europe loaded with different types of equipment. We can't do that," he noted.

The chefs are scheduled to fly to Lyon on Jan. 9, where they will prepare a hot dish featuring venison as the centerpiece for 16 guests, alongside three garnishes.

Competing against teams from 23 countries, Stuart believes that making it into the top 15 would be a monumental achievement for both the team and Macau. "This is an opportunity to showcase Macau as an even more prominent culinary destination," he said.

CINEMA

Chinese, Portuguese-speaking countries film festival kicks off

THE "China and the Portuguese-speaking Countries Film Festival," is showcasing nearly 30 films in Chinese and Portuguese from Nov. 22 to Dec. 13. The festival is integrated into the 6th "Encounter in Macao - Arts and Cultural Festival between China and the Portuguese-speaking Countries."

The festival kicked off Nov. 22 with the screening of the Chinese film "Escape from the 21st Century," which has garnered acclaim at international festivals. Themed "Creating an Interesting Contrast," the festival features five sections, including



"Dual Screening Delight," "Premiere of Chinese and Lusophone Films," "Chinese-Portuguese Short Films," and "Outdoor Screening—New Visual Forces in Macao."

Throughout the festival, various outreach

activities will be held, such as the "Kidz Fun: Parent-child Experience Session," the "Portuguese Tile Painting Workshop," and a talk with renowned Portuguese filmmaker Miguel Gomes. A special film ticket promotion,

"CinemathequePassion" X "Galaxy Cinemas," will also be launched. The festival is open to all, offering an immersive experience in the meeting of Chinese and Lusophone cultures through the power of cinema. VC

CRIME

LOCAL BUSINESSES LOSE HKD175,000 IN MATTRESS SCAM

TWO local business owners have fallen victim to an elaborate "order fraud" scam, collectively losing HKD175,000 in the process.

According to the police yesterday, the two victims received calls last week from individuals who claimed to be "middle school staff" from Macau.

The callers falsely claimed they wanted to cooperate on a decoration project and purchase kitchen utensils, before saying they needed to order mattresses for a nursing home.

The victims were told the "supplier" had fallen out with the scammers and were subsequently asked to assist in ordering, respectively, 200 and

60 mattresses. The victims then transferred HKD145,000 and HKD30,000 to the Hong Kong bank accounts in question.

After inquiring with the relevant schools and viewing anti-fraud advertisements, the victims suspected they had been deceived and reported the incident to the police, seeking assistance.

The police are investigating the case and remind the public to be cautious when receiving similar calls requesting financial assistance. Residents are advised to verify the identity of callers and not to transfer funds unless they are certain the request is legitimate. VC

CORPORATE BITS

Sands China donates MOP300,000 to Caritas Macau



Sands China Ltd. recently donated MOP300,000 to support two annual Caritas Macau events: the 55th Charity Bazaar and the 2024 Charity Run, where they presented checks of MOP200,000 and

MOP100,000 respectively, marking the 21st year in a row of supporting Caritas Macau's operational expenses and its efforts to develop and implement social services in the community.

Wilfred Wong, the executive vice chairman of Sands China Ltd, said "the funds raised from the events will help expand Caritas Macau's Agerich Senior Service to support local home-based elderly care so that seniors can enjoy a fulfilling life."

In addition, the company is celebrating the 15th anniversary of the Sands Cares Ambassador program this year, whose membership now surpasses 3,300 volunteers from across all Sands China properties and comprises all levels of team members. Many Sands Cares Ambassadors also attended and participated in the events.

Chef Tam's Seasons earns place in Tatler Best 100 in Asia



Chef Tam's Seasons at Wynn Palace has earned a prestigious place in the Tatler Best 100 in Asia, according to a recent press release from the gaming operator.

The inaugural ceremony was held in Bangkok on Nov. 24 to celebrate excellence in the hospitality industry and honor the best hotels, restaurants, and

bars of the year. Chef Tam's Seasons - led by Chef Tam Kwok Fung - opened just last year and was honored to be included as one of the best 100 restaurants in Asia, according to the same release.

Chef Tam is committed to the legacy and authenticity of Cantonese cuisine, reimagining traditional dishes at Chef Tam's Seasons with contemporary concepts and techniques.

The Cantonese restaurant, known for its changing menus based on the 24 solar terms, has already achieved international acclaim in its debut year, receiving a Michelin star as well as a place in Asia's 50 Best Restaurants.

HONG KONG

Top court rules in favor of equal inheritance and housing benefits for same-sex couples

KANIS LEUNG, HONG KONG

HONG Kong's top court yesterday upheld earlier rulings that favored subsidized housing benefits and equal inheritance rights for same-sex married couples, in a landmark victory for the city's LGBTQ+ community.

The Court of Final Appeal's dismissal of the government's appeals ended some yearslong legal battles over the differential treatment facing same-sex couples married overseas under Hong Kong's Housing Authority policies and two inheritance laws.

The unanimous decisions are expected to have a far-reaching impact on the lives of same-sex couples, who have traditionally had fewer rights compared to their heterosexual counterparts in the global financial hub.

Chief Justice Andrew Cheung said in his judgement that exclusionary housing policies were argued to be beneficial to opposite-sex married couples because they increase the supply of subsidized housing for them and thereby support the institution of traditional families.

But Cheung said authorities failed to provide evidence showing the potential impact on opposite-sex couples if those policies were relaxed.

"The challenged policies can-



Nick Infinger, who won a years-long legal battle over the differential treatment facing same-sex couples, holds up a rainbow banner after speaking to media members outside Hong Kong's top court, yesterday

not be justified," he wrote.

On the inheritance laws, judges Roberto Ribeiro and Joseph Fok ruled that the disputed provisions are "discriminatory and unconstitutional" in their written judgement.

The Housing Authority said in a statement it respects the court's decisions, adding it will study the judgements and seek legal advice, if necessary, on follow-up actions.

Hong Kong does not recognize same-sex marriage, prompting some couples to marry elsewhere.

Currently, the city only recognizes same-sex marriage for certain purposes such as taxation, civil

service benefits and dependent visas. Many of the government's concessions were won through legal challenges, and the city has seen a growing social acceptance toward same-sex marriage.

In September 2023, the top court ruled that the government should provide a framework for recognizing same-sex partnerships. This ruling, along with other successful legal challenges brought by members of the LGBTQ+ community, made Hong Kong the only place in China to grant such recognition for same-sex couples.

In separate judgements handed down in 2020 and 2021, a lower

court had ruled that the housing policies involved in Tuesday's cases violated the constitutional right to equality, and that excluding same-sex spouses from inheritance law benefits constituted unlawful discrimination.

The government had challenged these decisions at the Court of Appeal but subsequently lost in October 2023. It then took the cases to the top court.

Nick Infinger, who first launched a judicial review against the Housing Authority in 2018, told reporters that Tuesday's rulings "acknowledged same-sex couples can love each other and deserve to

live together."

"This is not only fighting for me and for my partner, but this is fighting for all the same-sex couples in Hong Kong," he said outside the court building.

But he added he was still "a bit pessimistic" about whether Hong Kong could become like Taiwan and Thailand in legalizing same-sex marriage.

Hong Kong Marriage Equality, a non-governmental organization, said in a statement that the judges' decisions made it clear that discrimination and differential treatment on the grounds of sexual orientation violate human dignity and equality. It called on the government to immediately end the exclusion of same-sex couples from marriage.

The top court's rulings also concluded a long legal journey taken by Henry Li and his late partner, Edgar Ng. After they married in Britain in 2017, Ng bought a subsidized flat as his matrimonial home with Li.

The Housing Authority, however, said Li could not be added as an authorized occupant of the flat in the capacity of Ng's family member because same-sex married partners do not fall within its definition of "spouse." Ng was also concerned that if he died intestate, his properties would not be passed to Li, the court heard.

Ng died in 2020 after suffering years of depression.

After the rulings, Li posted a message on his Facebook account, saying that although he has lived in pain in the absence of Ng, he has not given up his husband's aspiration to pursue equality.

"Without you by my side, the arguments of the government and the Housing Authority in the cases seemed to become more cruel, causing me even more distress," he wrote to Ng in the message. "I hope you can still hear everyone's recognition of you." **MDT/AP**

OVERSEAS CHINESE

Lawsuit alleges that young dancers for Shen Yun Performing Arts have faced abuse

A former dancer for Shen Yun Performing Arts sued the nonprofit dance company yesterday [Macau time], saying it has subjected some children who perform for it to harsh conditions, including long hours for little pay.

The lawsuit brought by Chang Chun-Ko in White Plains federal court sought unspecified damages on behalf of Chang and other alleged victims of Shen Yun, which is based in Dragon Springs in Cuddebackville,

New York, along with other entities named as defendants.

It said the group has adopted "some of the most abusive practices of the Chinese Communist Party, including subjecting children to public humiliation as discipline."

The lawsuit said Shen Yun has made hundreds of millions of dollars by exploiting young dancers it recruits from abroad, forcing them to work grueling hours and scaring them

into thinking they'd face harm if they quit.

Shen Yun did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Its website said 85% of its performers were adults. It called touring with Shen Yun a "chance of a lifetime" for aspiring young artists, enabling them to receive \$50,000 worth of scholarships to attend schools registered with the New York State Department of Education or accredited by the New England Commission

of Higher Education.

According to the website, Shen Yun, along with Fei Tian Academy of the Arts and Fei Tian College — which were also named as defendants — were founded by followers of the Falun Gong faith.

The lawsuit said Chang joined the Fei Tian Academy of the Arts on a full scholarship after her father died when she was 11 because she believed she could help her family by dancing for Shen Yun.

It said she began performing with Shen Yun in December 2009 and received no pay for the first year despite working up to 18 hours a day preparing for shows, including seven at Radio City Music Hall in Manhattan.

After the first year, she was paid \$500 a month until she "graduated" from Fei Tian College in 2019, when her salary was raised to \$1,000 a month, according to the lawsuit.

She trained from May

through November before touring from December to May as a dancer at over 100 shows in the United States and internationally, all while being disallowed from seeing her mother except during a two-week holiday once a year, it said.

The lawsuit said she contracted measles when she was 14 but was not permitted to see a doctor. Instead, the lawsuit said, she was told to meditate to feel better and was required to work while she recovered.

Chang was terminated from Shen Yun in 2020 when she was 24 years old and was returned to Taiwan, where she was diagnosed with clinical depression and post-traumatic stress disorder, according to the lawsuit. **MDT/AP**

PHILIPPINES

President and vice president clash in a feud that's testing an Asian democracy

JIM GOMEZ, MANILA

A major political storm set off by a bitter feud between the Philippine president and the vice president is testing an Asian democracy that has long been troubled by rowdy politics, poor law enforcement and bareface impunity.

Just over two years ago, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and Vice President Sara Duterte won in landslide electoral victories on a campaign battle cry of national unity.

But their fragile alliance rapidly floundered over major differences, including their leanings toward either the United States or China, and Marcos' rejection of the bloody crackdown on illegal drugs launched by his predecessor and Duterte's father, Rodrigo Duterte.

The hostilities came to a head over the weekend when Sara Duterte told reporters she had arranged for Marcos, his wife and his cousin and speaker of the House of Representatives, to be assassinated if she were fatally attacked herself. Marcos went on TV and declared he was ready to fight back.

Here are the key figures in the unfolding political crisis:

SARA DUTERTE

Like her father, ex-President Rodrigo Duterte, the 46-year-old lawyer is a populist politician known for profanity-laced outbursts and temper that often clashed with official decorum. She made the political elites wary but endeared herself to ordinary



Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and Vice President Sara Duterte: from allies to foes

people in a nation where name recall, political patronage and star-studded campaigns matter more than policy and governance platforms. As a provincial city mayor, Duterte successfully ran as Marcos' running mate in the 2022 race. But soon rifts appeared, including Duterte's opposition to congressional inquiries led by Marcos' allies into the thousands of deaths in the crackdown on drugs during Rodrigo Duterte's presidency 2016-2022. Also being investigated is her alleged misuse of funds while she served as education secretary.

When Duterte's chief of staff was temporarily detained by legislators after refusing to cooperate with the inquiry, Duterte made the threats in an online news conference against Marcos, his wife and House Speaker Martin Romualdez. She also accused Marcos' family of responsibility for the 1983 assassination of an opposition leader, which sparked a 1986 pro-democracy uprising that ousted Ferdinand Marcos,

the current president's father.

FERDINAND MARCOS JR.

Marcos' resounding electoral victory in 2022 was regarded as one of the most stunning reversal of fortunes for his family, which had fled the Philippines following the 1986 army-backed "people power" revolt and returned years later. He inherited a battered economy, divisive politics and calls for him help prosecute his predecessor for the drug killings, which are being investigated by the International Criminal Court.

Rodrigo Duterte has accused Marcos of being a weak leader and a drug addict, accusations the president denied. The new course Marcos chartered for the Philippines broke away with Duterte, who built close ties with China and Russia and antagonized the U.S. Marcos broadened defense ties with Washington and began going public with China's aggressive actions to claim territory in the disputed South China Sea.

In a sign of growing enmity, first

lady Liza Araneta-Marcos disclosed her ill-feelings toward Sara Duterte in a radio interview in April. Duterte resigned two months later as Marcos' education secretary and head of an anti-insurgency body. She said last month that her relationship with Marcos had "gone so toxic" she has imagined "cutting his head." Addressing the country on Monday, Marcos said he would fight the vice president's "criminal plot" and uphold the rule of law. "The truth should not be summarily executed," Marcos said in Tagalog, using a term associated with Rodrigo Duterte's drug killings.

RODRIGO DUTERTE

One of Asia's most unorthodox contemporary leaders until his six-year term ended in 2022, Duterte, 79 and in frail health, has retained a sizable following and remains one of the president's harshest critics. In his decades-long political career, he carved a name for his profanity-laced outbursts and disdain for human rights and the West while nurturing close ties

with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian leader Vladimir Putin. He has accused Marcos, his wife and the House speaker of financial anomalies and once warned Marcos could be ousted like his father if they attempt constitutional reforms to allegedly prolong their grip on power. In a news conference on Monday, Duterte asked the military how long it would continue to support a president "who's a drug addict."

"There is a fractured governance ... It is only the military who can correct it," Duterte said, but clarified that he was not calling for a coup.

MARTIN ROMUALDEZ

Widely speculated to be harboring plans to run for the presidency in 2028, House Speaker Martin Romualdez has been accused by Sara Duterte of trying to destroy her reputation to eliminate a future contender. The 61-year-old member of a wealthy clan in the central Philippines, he has played a crucial role as head of the lower chamber, which is dominated by Marcos' allies. He will be key to handling a possible impeachment complaint against the vice president for the alleged misuse of funds. Addressing the House on Monday, Romualdez stressed that Sara Duterte should be held accountable for the death threats against him, the president and his wife. "The gravity of such a confession demands accountability. It demands answers. It demands that we, as the representatives of the Filipino people, take a stand to protect our democracy from any and all forms of threats," Romualdez said. MDT/AP

INDONESIA

Authorities arrest Filipino fugitive accused of running a \$67 million investment scam

Authorities on Indonesia's tourist island of Bali arrested a Filipino fugitive accused of helping scam over \$67 million out of clients in the Philippines, officials said yesterday.

Hector Aldwin Pantollana, 35, widely known in the Philippines as a casino junket operator, was arrested on Nov. 9 when an automatic gate at immigration in I Gusti Ngurah Rai interna-

tional airport in Bali identified him as a wanted person using biometric data, said Saffar M. Godam, the acting Director General of immigration at Indonesia's Immigration and Correctional Ministry.

He said Pantollana first arrived in Bali on Oct. 10, and on Oct. 31 Interpol released a so-called Red Notice for him, a request to law enforcement agencies worldwide to de-

tain or arrest a suspect wanted by a specific country.

Indonesian authorities brought the suspect to Indonesia's capital, Jakarta, for further investigation and will deport Pantollana to the Philippines on Wednesday, Godam said.

Indonesia's National Central Bureau Interpol chief Untung Widyatmoko said Pantollana was named as a suspect by the Philippines'

national police after he allegedly collected more than 4 billion Philippine pesos (\$67.7 million) from thousands of people for fake investments.

Widyatmoko lauded cooperation between immigration and the national police for capturing foreign criminals who have tried to hide in Indonesia.

"This collaboration aims to make the ASEAN region

an area free from transnational crime and criminal hiding," Widyatmoko said.

Indonesia, an archipelago nation on the crossroads between Asia and the South Pacific, is attractive to local, regional and global organized crime because of its geographical location and its multi-cultural society.

Last month, Indonesia's immigration officers in Bali arrested a Chinese suspect

sought by Beijing for helping to run investment scams that brought in over \$14 billion from clients in China.

Indonesian authorities in September arrested Alice Guo, a fugitive former mayor of a town in the Philippines accused of having links to Chinese criminal syndicates. She has since been deported to the Philippines.

In June, Chaowalit Thongduang, one of Thailand's most wanted fugitives, was escorted back to Thailand on a Thai air force plane after being arrested in Bali following months on the run over allegations he was involved in several killings and drug trafficking. MDT/AP

USA

Trump threatens to impose sweeping new tariffs on Mexico, Canada and China on first day in office

JILL COLVIN & ROB GILLIES, NEW YORK

PRESIDENT-ELECT Donald Trump threatened yesterday [Macau time] to impose sweeping new tariffs on Mexico, Canada and China as soon as he takes office as part of his effort to crack down on illegal immigration and drugs. He said he would impose a 25% tax on all products entering the country from Canada and Mexico, and an additional 10% tariff on goods from China, as one of his first executive orders.

The tariffs, if implemented, could dramatically raise prices for American consumers on everything from gas to automobiles to agricultural products. The U.S. is the largest importer of goods in the world, with Mexico, China and Canada its top three suppliers, according to the most recent U.S. Census data.

Trump made the threats in a pair of posts on his Truth Social site in which he railed against an influx of illegal migrants, even though southern border apprehensions have been hovering near four-year lows.

"On January 20th, as one of my many first Executive Orders, I will sign all necessary documents to charge Mexico and Canada a 25% Tariff on ALL products coming into the United States, and its ridiculous Open Borders," he wrote, complaining that "thousands of people are pouring through Mexico and Canada, bringing Crime and Drugs at levels never seen before," even though violent crime is down from pandemic highs.

He said the new tariffs would remain in place "until such time as Drugs, in particular Fentanyl, and all Illegal Aliens stop this Invasion of our Country!"

"Both Mexico and Canada have the absolute right and power to easily solve this long simmering problem. We hereby demand that they use this power," he went on, "and until such time that they do, it is time for them to pay a



very big price!"

A senior Canadian government official said Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Trump spoke after Trump's posts. The two spoke about the border and trade and had a good conversation, the official said. The official was not authorized to speak publicly about the matter and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Trump also turned his ire on China, saying he has "had many talks with China about the massive amounts of drugs, in particular Fentanyl, being sent into the United States - But to no avail."

"Until such time as they stop, we will be charging China an additional 10% Tariff, above any additional Tariffs, on all of their many products coming into the United States of America," he wrote.

The Chinese Embassy in Washington cautioned yesterday that there will be losers on all sides if there is a trade war.

"China-US economic and trade cooperation is mutually beneficial in nature," embassy spokesman Liu Pengyu posted on X. "No one will win a trade war or a #tariff war." He added that China had taken steps in the last year to help stem drug trafficking.

It is unclear whether Trump will actually go through with the threats or if he is using them as a negotiating tactic before he

returns to the White House in the new year.

Trump's nominee for treasury secretary, Scott Bessent — who if confirmed, would be one of several officials responsible for imposing tariffs on other countries — has on several occasions said tariffs are a means of negotiation.

He wrote in a Fox News op-ed last week, before his nomination, that tariffs are "a useful tool for achieving the president's foreign policy objectives. Whether it is getting allies to spend more on their own defense, opening foreign markets to U.S. exports, securing cooperation on ending illegal immigration and interdicting fentanyl trafficking, or deterring military aggression, tariffs can play a central role."

Trump won the election in large part due to voter frustration over inflation, but his threatened tariffs pose the risk of pushing prices even higher for food, autos and other goods. If inflationary pressures increase, the Federal Reserve might need to keep its benchmark interest rates higher.

Trump's threats come as arrests for illegally crossing the border from Mexico have been falling. The most recent U.S. numbers for October show arrests remain near four-year lows, with U.S. Border Patrol making 56,530 arrests in October, less than one third of the

tally from October last year.

Meanwhile, arrests for illegally crossing the border from Canada have been rising over the past two years. The Border Patrol made 23,721 arrests between October 2023 and September 2024, compared with 10,021 the previous 12 months. More than 14,000 of those arrested on the Canadian border were Indian — more than 10 times the number two years ago.

Last week, a jury convicted two men on charges related to human smuggling for their roles in an international operation that led to the deaths of a family of Indian migrants who froze while trying to cross the Canada-U.S. border during a 2022 blizzard.

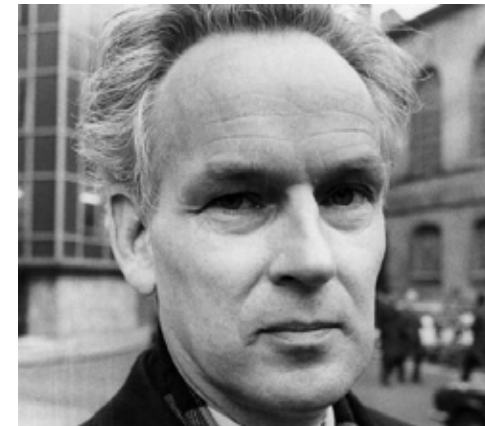
Much of America's fentanyl is smuggled from Mexico. Border seizures of the drug rose sharply under President Joe Biden, and U.S. officials tallied about 21,900 pounds (12,247 kilograms) of fentanyl seized in the 2024 government budget year, compared with 2,545 pounds (1,154 kilograms) in 2019, when Trump was president.

If Trump were to move forward with the threatened tariffs, the new taxes would pose an enormous challenge for the economies of Canada and Mexico, in particular.

The Canadian dollar weakened sharply in foreign exchange markets immediately following Trump's post. MDT/AP

this day in history

1975 TV PRESENTER ROSS McWHIRTER SHOT DEAD



Guinness Book of Records co-founder and editor Ross McWhirter has been shot dead outside his North London home.

Mr McWhirter was hit at close range in the head and chest at 1845 GMT. He was taken to a local hospital, but died soon after being admitted.

The well-known author and BBC Record Breakers presenter recently offered a reward of £50,000 for information leading to the arrest of IRA bombers.

Scotland Yard said no group had yet claimed to be behind the attack.

The two gunmen are thought to have waited in the garden of the couple's Enfield house for an hour while Mr McWhirter was in the house preparing to go out to the theatre.

When Rosemary McWhirter arrived home, she got out of her blue Ford Granada and was approached by two men holding pistols. She ran into the house as her husband came to the front door and seconds later heard two shots.

The killers then used her car to escape. Police later found the car abandoned a few miles away in Tottenham.

Mrs McWhirter and her two sons, Iain and James, were taken to a secret address soon after the murder, where they are being guarded around the clock.

Mr McWhirter edited the Guinness Book of Records with his twin brother, Norris, and also worked closely with Guinness Director David Hoy, who said the outspoken critic of the IRA was aware he could be in danger.

"He took normal precautions recommended by the police and always looked under his Mercedes - he also varied his routes home," he said.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The IRA gang who killed Ross McWhirter and carried out dozens of other attacks in London throughout 1975 was apprehended two weeks later.

Martin O'Connell, Edward Butler, Harry Duggan and Hugh Doherty exchanged shots with police in central London on 6 December and escaped to a flat in Balcombe Street, taking two hostages.

The four men were arrested after a six-day siege, charged with 10 murders and 20 bombings and jailed for life in 1977.

They were freed in April 1999 under the terms of the 1998 Good Friday Agreement - the multi-party peace deal for Northern Ireland.

Norris McWhirter continued to edit the Guinness Book of Records until 1985 and presented BBC's Record Breakers until 1994. He died in April 2004.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Collaborate to clean messes. Make educational plans and itineraries, with Mercury retrograde. Expect travel delays. Communicate carefully. Make your deadlines.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
Consider financial strategies with your partner to secure what you've gained. Review statements and accounts for errors over the next three weeks, with Mercury retrograde.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
Develop shared goals. Support each other. Resolve misunderstandings with your partner, with Mercury retrograde for three weeks. Adapt around barriers.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Keep equipment repaired. Delays, misunderstandings or mistakes could frustrate your work and health over three weeks, with Mercury retrograde.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Romantic overtures could backfire over the next three weeks, with Mercury retrograde. Clarify misunderstandings right away. Find your sense of humor, and re-connect.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
Review papers, photos and possessions. Clean, sort and organize at home over, with Mercury retrograde. Maintain equipment and backup files.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Take extra care with communications, with Mercury stationing retrograde for three weeks. Clarify misunderstandings immediately.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Monitor cash flow. Allow extra time for travel, transport, payments and collections, with Mercury retrograde for three weeks. Double-check numbers.

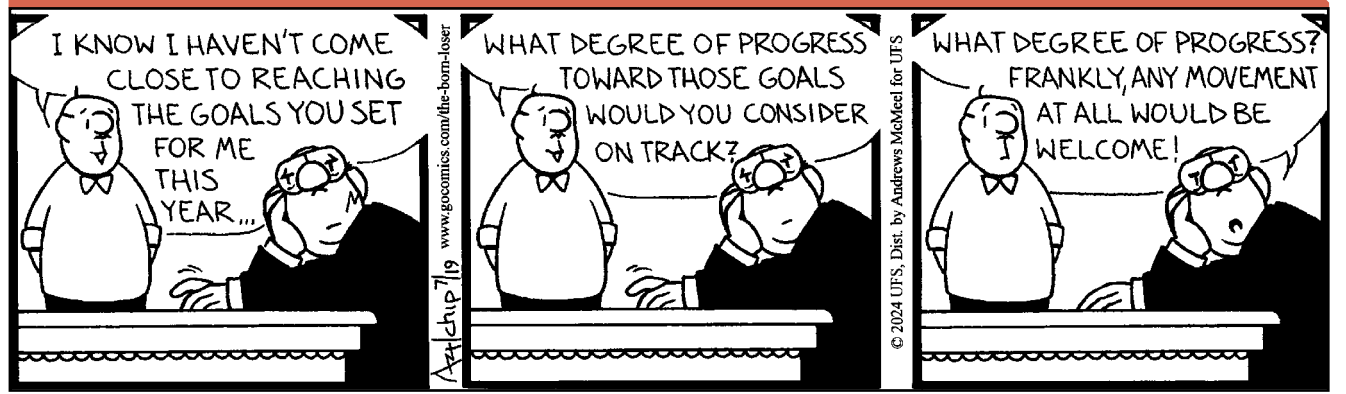
SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Consider consequences before speaking, with Mercury retrograde in your sign. Review what works and doesn't. Reaffirm commitments. Edit communications carefully.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Avoid misunderstandings, with Mercury retrograde. Revise and refine plans. Anticipate mechanical or digital delays or breakdowns. Review lessons from the past.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Team practice makes perfect over three weeks, with Mercury retrograde. Nurture old friends and connections. Have patience and humor with communication snafus.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Review professional data closely, with Mercury retrograde for three weeks. Misunderstandings could cause delays. Guard against communication breakdowns.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

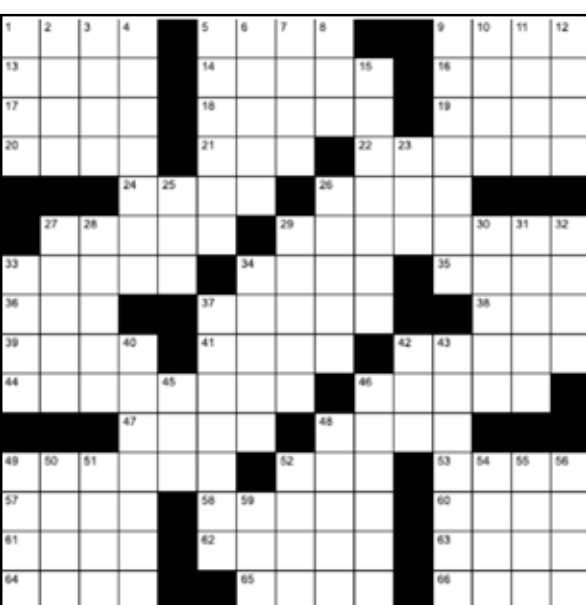
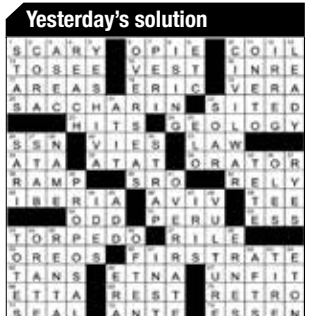
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-4	4	cloudy
Changchun	-9	3	snow
Chengdu	5	12	cloudy
Chongqing	9	11	rain
Fuzhou	15	21	cloudy
Guangzhou	14	20	rain
Guiyang	5	10	overcast
Haikou	21	24	overcast
Hangzhou	7	13	fine
Harbin	0	1	snow
Hefei	2	9	cloudy
Nanjing	5	10	cloudy
Shanghai	8	11	fine
Taipei	16	21	rain
Wuhan	1	12	overcast
Hong Kong	17	21	overcast
WORLD			
Moscow	-7	-2	cloudy
Frankfurt	8	9	rain
Paris	8	13	rain
London	2	11	rain
New York	6	11	cloudy

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Like an abyss; 5- Ray of light; 9- Actress Ward; 13- Salt tree; 14- Mystery writer's award; 16- High-performance Camaro; 17- Bakery worker; 18- Actor Christopher; 19- President before Wilson; 20- Ayatollah's predecessor; 21- Naval rank, briefly; 22- Pie coverings; 24- Pound sounds; 26- Answer to a charge; 27- Bus station; 29- Outburst; 33- Rub out; 34- Med. care providers; 35- Highest European volcano; 36- Beverage made with beaten eggs; 37- Mr. Magoo, for one; 38- Body shop fig.; 39- Individuals; 41- Long objects used to row a boat; 42- Walk-on role; 44- Tranquillity; 46- Emo anxiety; 47- Class struggle?; 48- Russo of "Ransom"; 49- Group of six; 52- ___ favor; 53- Close by; 57- Hurler Hershtiser; 58- China's Zhou ___; 60- Roy's "singin' pardner"; 61- Queue; 62- Boîte ___; 63- Envelope abbr.; 64- Six feet under; 65- Capone nemesis; 66- Uttered;

DOWN 1- Oration station; 2- Draw with acid; 3- Zeno's home; 4- Possibly; 5- Deprived; 6- Parades; 7- Matures; 8- Dallas player, briefly; 9- Locate; 10- Historic periods; 11- Attic; 12- Performs; 15- Person who lives in seclusion; 23- Agent; 25- Fish eggs; 26- Stage items; 27- Honeybee; 28- Enthusiastic; 29- Atlanta university; 30- Units; 31- Inception; 32- Western pact; 33- Baseballer Slaughter; 34- Hilton competitor; 37- Dampen; 40- Colonized; 42- MSNBC rival; 43- To-do lists; 45- Word used to precede a woman's maiden name; 46- Hawk homes; 48- Lion sounds; 49- Auctioneer's cry; 50- Great lake; 51- Role for Lucy Lawless; 52- Ballet movement; 54- I could ___ horse; 55- Prefix with meter; 56- Tear; 59- Prefix with profit or fiction;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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HKD 11,880,000 4 bed 3 bath

FOOTBALL

TOTTENHAM GOALKEEPER PLAYED AN HOUR AGAINST MAN CITY WITH A FRACTURED ANKLE

TOTTENHAM goalkeeper Guglielmo Vicario says he played for an hour against Manchester City with a fractured right ankle that has since required surgery.

Vicario pulled off a series of saves and managed to keep a clean sheet in Tottenham's stunning 4-0 win at Etihad Stadium on Saturday, despite needing treatment on his ankle during the first half. He played the full game.

"Sometimes football gives you its highs, and sometimes it challenges you in ways you don't expect," the Italy international wrote on Instagram late Monday. "I played 60 minutes at the Etihad with a broken bone in my ankle, giving absolutely everything I had for the team. Unfortunately there was no way around this one. I needed surgery."

Tottenham confirmed the



28-year-old Vicario had an operation on Monday.

Fraser Forster, 36, is likely to come into the team as cover.

"The operation went well, and from tomorrow I'll be working hard to come back stronger, fitter, and ready to give my all for you again," Vi-

cario wrote.

Vicario's injury revived memories of the late Man City goalkeeper Bert Trautmann continuing to play to the end of the FA Cup final in 1956 after breaking his neck in the 73rd minute.

City won that game 3-1 against Birmingham. **MDT/AP**



FOOTBALL

Ronaldo puts Al-Nassr on brink of Asian CL playoffs

CRISTIANO Ronaldo scored twice as Al-Nassr of Saudi Arabia defeated Al-Gharafa of Qatar 3-1 in the AFC Champions League Elite group stage yesterday [Macau time].

Al-Nassr is virtually assured of a place in the knockout stages.

Ronaldo had two early shots well saved by goalkeeper Sergio Ricom, and half an hour in he placed the ball on the penalty spot. Sadio Mane went down in the area under a challenge from Matias Nani and the referee awarded a penalty. But the VAR overturned

the decision.

Ronaldo then missed the best opportunity of the first 45 minutes, heading a free kick just wide from close range.

He made amends in the new half, heading home powerfully from an Angelo cross. Angelo then went around the goalkeeper for 2-0 in the 58th.

Ronaldo sealed the victory six minutes later, shooting home from inside the area.

Former Real Madrid striker Joselu pulled a goal back for Al-Gharafa. **MDT/AP**

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General Medicine : Dr. Ng Kam Hong, Dr. Lam Weng Chio

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AUTO RACING

Formula 1 expands grid to add General Motors' Cadillac brand, new American team for 2026 season

JENNA FRYER, LAS VEGAS

FORMULA 1 yesterday [Macau time] at last said it will expand its grid in 2026 to make room for an American team that is partnered with General Motors.

"As the pinnacle of motorsports, F1 demands boundary-pushing innovation and excellence. It's an honor for General Motors and Cadillac to join the world's premier racing series, and we're committed to competing with passion and integrity to elevate the sport for race fans around the world," GM President Mark Reuss said. "This is a global stage for us to demonstrate GM's engineering expertise and technology leadership at an entirely new level."

The approval ends years of wrangling that launched a U.S. Justice Department investigation into why Colorado-based Liberty Media, the commercial rights holder of F1, would not approve the team initially started by Michael Andretti.

Andretti in September stepped



aside from leading his namesake organization, so the 11th team will be called Cadillac F1 and be run by new Andretti Global majority owners Dan Towriss and Mark Walter. The team will use Ferrari engines its first two years until GM has a Cadillac engine built for competition in time for the 2028 season.

Towriss is the CEO and president of Group 1001 and entered motorsports via Andretti's IndyCar team when he signed on financial savings platform Gainbridge as a sponsor. Towriss is now a major part of the motorsports scene with

ownership stakes in both Spire Motorsports' NASCAR team and Wayne Taylor Racing's sports car team.

Walter is the chief executive of financial services firm Guggenheim Partners and the controlling owner of both the World Series champion Los Angeles Dodgers and Premier League club Chelsea.

"We're excited to partner with General Motors in bringing a dynamic presence to Formula 1," Towriss said. "Together, we're assembling a world-class team that will embody American innovation and deliver unforgettable momen-

ts to race fans around the world."

Mario Andretti, the 1978 F1 world champion, will have an ambassador role with Cadillac F1. But his son, Michael, will have no official position with the organization now that he has scaled back his involvement with Andretti Global.

"The Cadillac F1 Team is made up of a strong group of people that have worked tirelessly to build an American works team," Michael Andretti posted on social media. "I'm very proud of the hard work they have put in and congratulate all involved on this momentous next step. I will be cheering for you!"

The approval has been in works for weeks but was held until after last weekend's Las Vegas Grand Prix to not overshadow the showcase event of the Liberty Media portfolio. Max Verstappen won his fourth consecutive championship in Saturday night's race, the third and final stop in the United States for the top motorsports series in the world.

Grid expansion in F1 is both infrequent and often unsuccessful.

Four teams were granted entries in 2010 that should have pushed the grid to 13 teams and 26 cars for the first time since 1995. One team never made it to the grid and the other three had vanished by 2017.

There is only one American team on the current F1 grid — owned by California businessman Gene Haas — but it is not particularly competitive and does not field American drivers. Andretti's dream was to field a truly American team with American drivers.

The fight to add this team has been going on for three-plus years and F1 initially denied the application despite approval from F1 sanctioning body FIA. The existing 10 teams, who have no voice in the matter, also largely opposed expansion because of the dilution in prize money and the billions of dollars they've already invested in the series.

Andretti in 2020 tried and failed to buy the existing Sauber team. From there, he applied for grid expansion and partnered with GM, the top-selling manufacturer in the United States. **MDT/AP**

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OPINION

China Daily
 Editorial, China Daily

SECESSIONIST ANTICS SHOULD NOT BE CONDONED

Multiple senior members of the ruling Lai Ching-te authorities of Taiwan island have engaged in a series of overseas “visits” recently, indicating that the secessionist-minded Democratic Progressive Party authorities are trying to take advantage of the power transition in Washington to make a splash in the world for their push for “Taiwan independence”.

The DPP authorities’ “foreign affairs chief” Lin Chia-lung paid a weeklong visit to Brussels to meet European Union lawmakers and to offer Taiwan’s drone tech to Lithuania; former Taiwan leader Tsai Ing-wen paid a trip to Canada to accept a so-called democracy leadership award; and Taiwan leader Lai Ching-te is paying ongoing “visits” to three Pacific “diplomatic allies” — during which he is reportedly to have a “technical stop” in or “transit through” the United States, where talks will be the real purpose of his detour.

The three “visits” are characteristic of the Lai authorities in their pursuit of “Taiwan independence” — exploit the island’s technology and economy to advantage for their narrow political ends, mount the moral high ground of “democracy” to make the island part of the West’s “value alliance”, and always curry their foreign patrons’ support.

But these seemingly carefully planned moves are just a veneer of “nonofficial contacts” to try and muffle Beijing’s words and blind the world to their “provocative” and “pro-independence” nature, so as to further strengthen the island’s “presence” on the world stage as not only an economic powerhouse and a tech pioneer, but more importantly a “democracy” in its own right.

These are indispensable, as Lai’s “secessionist” framework speeches on May 20 and Oct 10 indicate, to forging the “legitimacy” of the island’s “noble independent” status from the Chinese mainland.

Leaving no room for any possible misinterpretation of those colluding parties’ overtly and covertly tangoing with the Lai authorities in these “pro-independence” pantomimes, the Chinese government said it opposes any form of official interaction between Taiwan and countries having diplomatic ties with Beijing. It has called on the relevant parties to fully recognize the extreme importance and high sensitivity of the Taiwan question, strictly abide by the one-China principle, stop any form of official interaction with the Taiwan authorities, and stop sending wrong signals to “Taiwan separatist forces”.

Taiwan is an inalienable part of China. The Chinese government has always firmly opposed any form of official exchanges between countries with diplomatic ties with Beijing and the Taiwan region, including the signing of any agreement with sovereignty implications or of an official nature that de facto creates a “one China, one Taiwan” falsehood violating the one-China principle.

The one-China principle is the basic norm of international relations and the general consensus of the international community. The Lai authorities’ political manipulation and provocations through the aforementioned tricks will never succeed, nor can they alter the firm pattern of the international community’s adherence to the one-China principle. They cannot stop the historical trend that China will eventually reunify.

The separatist acts of the “Taiwan independence” elements are incompatible with peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait. If those external forces giving their nod and a wink to the antics of the Lai authorities really want to maintain peace across the Taiwan Strait as they claim, they should fully recognize the “Taiwan independence” nature of the DPP authorities led by Lai, handle the Taiwan question with great caution and due prudence, and support China’s peaceful reunification.

MIDDLE EAST: EU URGES ISRAEL TO ACCEPT CEASEFIRE DEAL WITH HEZBOLLAH

The European Union’s top diplomat said yesterday there were “no excuses” for Israel to refuse to implement a ceasefire with the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, saying all its security concerns had been addressed in the U.S.-French-brokered deal.

Josep Borrell, the outgoing EU foreign policy chief, called for increased pressure on Israel to blunt extremists in the government who are refusing to accept the deal. Speaking on the sidelines of a Group of Seven meeting in Italy, Borrell warned that if a ceasefire is not implemented, “Lebanon will fall apart.”

Israeli officials said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s security

Cabinet was set to convene early today [Macau time] to discuss a proposed ceasefire. Among the issues that remain is an Israeli demand to reserve the right to act should Hezbollah violate its obligations under the emerging deal.

Borrell said the U.S. would chair a ceasefire implementation committee, but France would participate at the request of Lebanon.

“On the proposal agreement brokered by the U.S. and France, Israel has all security concerns (addressed),” Borrell told reporters in Fuggi, Italy. “There is not an excuse for not implementing a ceasefire. Otherwise, Lebanon will fall apart.”

THE BUZZ



REBEL GROUP TAKES KEY MYANMAR BORDER TOWN IN SETBACK FOR MILITARY REGIME

DAVID RISING, BANGKOK

A powerful rebel group has seized a key trading town in northeastern Myanmar on the Chinese border, taking control of a lucrative rare earth mining hub in another setback for the military-led government, according to witnesses.

The apparent loss of Kanpaiti to the Kachin Independence Army leaves Myanmar’s military in control of only one town with a border crossing, Muse, and deprives it of potential profits from the mines that provide China with rare earth minerals critical for electric motors and wind turbines, as well as high-tech weapons and a broad range of electronics.

Neither Col. Naw Bu, the KIA’s spokesperson, nor Thet Swe, spokesperson for the military, responded to multiple requests for comment, but several local media outlets reported that Kanpaiti fell last week. The ongoing civil war and military restrictions make travel for journalists nearly impossible, but the reports were confirmed by witnesses by telephone.

Video clips circulating on social media, which could not be independently verified, showed what was said to be a KIA member raising the

group’s flag at the tunnel through the mountain to China. Other clips showed a vast quantity of weapons allegedly captured by the KIA.

The military seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in February 2021, triggering intensified fighting with long-established armed militias organized by Myanmar’s ethnic minority groups in its border regions which have struggled for decades for more autonomy.

The once-mighty armed forces, known as the Tatmadaw, have suffered a series of unprecedented defeats over the past year, especially in areas to the east near the Chinese border and in the western state of Rakhine, after an alliance of three powerful militias launched a coordinated offensive on Oct. 27, 2023.

Since then, other militias organized along ethnic lines have joined in, including the KIA in the northern state of Kachin.

In Kachin’s so-called Special Region 1, where Kanpaiti is located, the KIA since late September has been increasing assaults on a rival ethnic militia, the New Democratic Army-Kachin, which is allied with the government military and had provided border guard forces.

The NDA-K also con-

trolled the web of small, unlicensed operations where heavy rare earth elements are mined, then sold directly to China’s big state-owned mining conglomerates or through intermediaries.

There are more than 300 unregulated mines in the area, producing most of the \$1.4 billion in rare earths for sale to China last year “at a terrible cost to the environment and local communities,” according to a report issued by London-based environmental group Global Witness in May.

It’s not clear how much of the profits flowed to the military government, and how much directly to the NDA-K, however, and while the loss of any revenue stream would be bad for the military, the fall of Kanpaiti is not necessarily a game changer for the overall conflict, said Morgan Michaels, a Singapore-based analyst with the International Institute of Strategic Studies who runs its Myanmar Conflict Map project.

“This is another series of embarrassing losses for the regime, but may not significantly affect the regime’s ability to wage war,” he said. “China had already shut most of the border to dissuade the KIA’s offensives, and the regime is thought to primarily generate revenue through other means than rare earths.” **MDT/AP**



New Zealand Kim Dotcom, founder of Megaupload, suffered a November 7 stroke amid his ongoing extradition fight to the U.S. for copyright infringement charges. The 12-year legal battle over alleged illegal file-sharing continues, with his health further complicating the protracted case.



United States Smartmatic’s \$2.7 billion defamation suit against Fox News extends to Rupert Murdoch’s family trust disputes. The case involves 2020 election fraud reporting, with both sides seeking new evidence. Pretrial investigations continue as Fox denies liability, asserting journalistic integrity in its coverage.



United States Democrats will elect a new DNC chair on February 1, 2025, following Vice President Kamala Harris’ 2024 loss. This leadership decision will shape the party’s response to Trump’s re-election and preparations for the 2028 presidential campaign cycle.

United States A plane crashed in snowy woods near Windham, New York, killing the pilot and one dog while transporting rescue animals. Two surviving dogs were rescued. Authorities are investigating the November 24 crash, believed to be caused by poor weather and turbulence.



Egypt A tourist yacht sank in the Red Sea near Marsa Alam, leaving 16 people missing. Rescuers saved 28 passengers after rough waves capsized the vessel yesterday [Macau time]. Authorities continue searching while survivors recover with minor injuries in local facilities.

Serbia Scuffles erupted in the parliament yesterday [Macau time] as opposition lawmakers demanded accountability for a rail station collapse that killed 15. The incident, linked to alleged corruption, has intensified public dissatisfaction with the government’s infrastructure oversight and legislative priorities.