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- Wash hands frequently and wear a mask;
- Keep a distance and avoid crowd gathering;
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Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報 Times

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THE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE RECEIVES 14 BIDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS LINKING TO FOURTH MACAU-TAIPA BRIDGE

30 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES RECORDED IN FIRST THREE QUARTERS OF 2020

TWO FLIGHTS CARRYING A TOTAL OF 109 RETURNING RESIDENTS ARRIVED LAST NIGHT FROM TOKYO VIA AIR MACAU

China It will take at least 15 more days to get through a massive amount of debris and reach miners already trapped for 11 days since an explosion in a gold mine in eastern China, authorities said yesterday. The mine shaft is blocked 350 meters below the surface by 70 tons of debris that extends down another 100 meters.



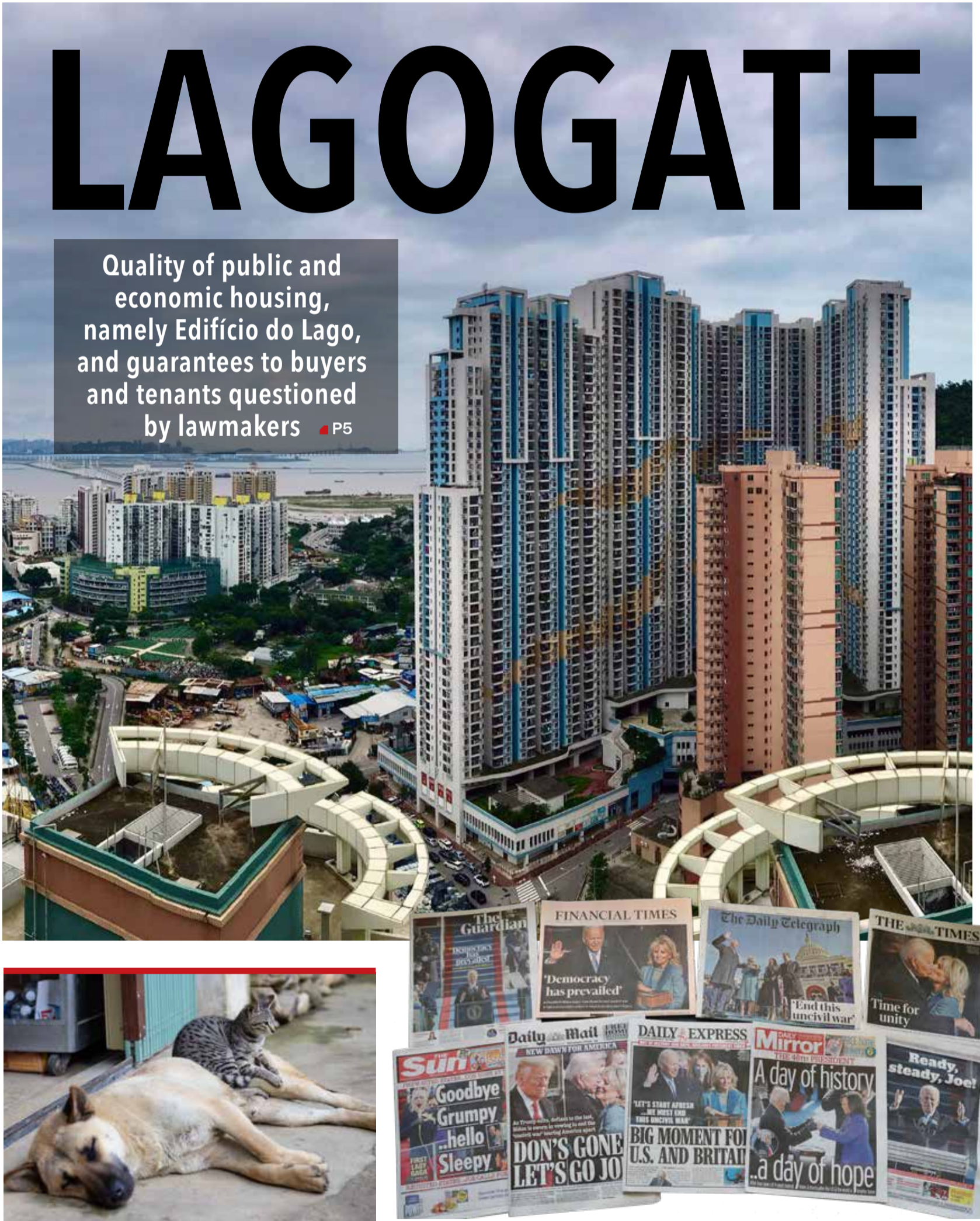
India A fire broke out yesterday at a building under construction at Serum Institute of India, the world's largest vaccine manufacturer, but production of COVID-19 vaccine will not be affected, the company said. Firefighters were extinguishing the flames, the fire office in Pune city in southern Maharashtra state said. The cause of the fire and extent of damage were not immediately clear.

Pakistan A roadside bomb exploded near a paramilitary vehicle in a remote area of southwestern Baluchistan province, wounding at least 11 troops, security officials said. The attack on the Frontier Corps patrol took place in the district of Sibi and at least four soldiers were listed in critical condition.



Iraqi Twin suicide bombings ripped through a busy market in the capital yesterday, killing at least 28 people and wounding dozens, officials said. The rare suicide bombing attack hit the Bab al-Sharqi commercial area in central Baghdad amid heightened political tensions over planned early elections and a severe economic crisis. Blood smeared the floors of the busy market amid piles of clothes and shoes as survivors took stock of the disarray in the aftermath.

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Quality of public and economic housing, namely Edifício do Lago, and guarantees to buyers and tenants questioned by lawmakers



ANIMA IN FINANCIAL HARDSHIP, CALLS FOR FUNDING TO SAVE OVER 700 ANIMALS



WORLD HOPES FOR RENEWED COOPERATION WITH US UNDER BIDEN

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ANIMA IN FINANCIAL HARDSHIP AS IT CALLS FOR FUNDING TO SAVE OVER 700 ANIMALS

HONEY TSANG

THE lives of over 700 animals are on the line as Anima has been struck with financial hardship due to the sharp shrinkage in funding granted by casino operators last year, as well as the indeterminate timeframe for government financial aid.

As a result of the economic fallout of Covid-19, the non-profit animal rights association was given a total of MOP360,000 by four local casino operators, a significant plunge from the average of MOP2 million it received pre-pandemic.

Adding to its predicament is uncertainty regarding how much the annual government financial support granted by the Macao Foundation (FM) would amount to and when it would be paid. This has put Anima, its animals and its 32 staff under "great pressure," former Anima



president Albano Martins said yesterday.

Last year, Anima received MOP5 million from the FM. Normally, the FM holds a council meeting at the end of each year to discuss the delivery schedule

and the amount of funding to be given to the city's associations over the next year.

However, the meeting was postponed to next month, meaning that Anima would not receive funding from FM until Fe-

bruary.

Anima has racked up significant debts of around MOP2.91 million. MOP 2.26 million of this was debt accumulated in 2020 and a further MOP 650,000 resulted from the total operating costs of the association this month.

"Currently, we have no money to buy food, [and] no money to bring the animals to the vets for treatment," Martins stressed.

In order to provide food for the animals, Martins and another member of Anima donated a total of MOP1.4 million to prevent the association from going under.

Currently, Anima houses 400 dogs, 300 cats, some rabbits, tortoises, and hamsters. All of these creatures are being taken care of by just 20 handlers — a situation in which, Martins stressed, Anima "is totally understaffed."

Since Anima is in a large

amount of debt, 2020 was the first time the group did not pay its employees' bonus, as well as overwork payments and January's wages.

Ms. Jeong, who has worked for Anima for over 10 years, said that most staff at Anima were quite understanding when they were told there would be no double pay last year.

According to Martins, around 50% of the group's funds came from the FM, 20-30% from casino operators, and the remaining amount from public donations.

"The worst [case] scenario is that we don't receive any funds in coming months and have no choice but give all our animals to the government, which is very likely to kill them all later," Martins said.

He urged the government to give the group funding as soon as possible to help keep the animals out of danger.

Team members prepare for The Londoner's opening

LYNZY VALLES

MORE than 2,000 Sands China team members joined rallies at the Londoner Theatre Tuesday, as they gathered to prepare for the upcoming February 8 first-phase unveiling of The Londoner Macao.

The Londoner Macao's opening team consists of more than 5,700 team members, according to the gaming operator. Among them, 25% have served the company for at least 10 years.

"The entire company is eagerly anticipating the launch of our newest themed destination – The Londoner Macao," said Sands China president Wilfred Wong.

At The Londoner Macao, a "Be a Londoner Guide" programme has been introduced where the team members are able to gain knowledge about the new integrated resort at different stages, so as to provide



guests with a "personalised experience."

"The success of any of our integrated resorts is directly tied to the dedication of our hard-working team members, who bring our properties to life each day," Wong said in his speech.

The bold British-themed reimagining of the Sands Co-

tai Central integrated resort represents an investment of USD1.9 billion (MOP 15.2 billion), and will open progressively throughout 2021. At the rallies, Wong also delivered a tribute to Las Vegas Sands and Sands China Ltd. Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Sheldon G. Adelson, who passed away January 11.

SANDS CHINA TO HAND OUT DISCRETIONARY ALLOWANCE TO 99% OF ITS EMPLOYEES

SANDS China Ltd. has affirmed its commitment to deliver a discretionary allowance to its more than 26,000 eligible full-time staff, according to a statement released by the group yesterday.

The additional remuneration for each staff member amounts to one month's salary, but is capped at MOP45,000. It will be paid to the employees on February 8.

The conglomerate stated that the additional stipend will reward "99% of Sands China's total employment" for their "dedication and contributions in 2020."

Sands China's release came a day after Galaxy Entertainment Group announced it would pay eligible staff at the senior manager level and below a one-off special payment. The payment is equivalent to one month's wages and will be

awarded on February 10.

As of now, all six of Macau's licensed casino operators have pledged to hand out extra payments, also known as a winter bonus, for eligible employees before the Lunar New Year.

Wilfred Wong, the president of Sands China, stated in the release that the company's founder, the late Sheldon Adelson, "was adamant, even during the most difficult times last year, that the company should do all that it can to support team members, their families, and the [Macau] community at large."

"It gives me great pleasure therefore to announce that in Mr. Adelson's memory, the company will pay a discretionary allowance in appreciation of team members' support, hard work and personal sacrifices," Wong added. **HT**

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109 residents arrive after difficulties coming back home

LYNZY VALLES

TWO flights carrying a total of 109 returning residents arrived last night from Tokyo-Narita via Air Macau's NX861 and NX867.

The flights arrived at around 7:50 p.m. and 9:20 p.m., bringing back stranded Macau residents, mostly from Europe.

Originally, the flights were supposed to carry a total of 115 residents. However, five chose to not board the flight for personal reasons, while one tested positive in the U.K., which barred the resident from flying.

The first flight had 63 local residents on board, with people coming from high-risk countries such as Portugal and the U.K., while the second flight carried 46 passengers.

The 63 passengers on the first flight tested negative for Covid-19.

The flights were divided into two in a bid to reduce pas-



Screenshot from TDM's live broadcast

senger contacts.

In a TDM live stream last night, once the passengers, who were in full personal protective equipment (PPE) and wearing masks and face shields, got off the airplane in groups, they were then required to wait their turn for two swab tests.

Upon arrival, authorities will collect two samples simultaneously – one for a rapid test and another for routine testing. If the rapid test result is negative, the passenger is directed to a hotel where they will quarantine for 21 days.

If the rapid test result is positive, the passenger will be sent to the Public Health Clinical Centre in Coloane for treatment.

The returning residents were separated into groups according to origin to avoid transmission of infection to others on the part of those coming from high-risk countries.

Some netizens were not so welcoming however, saying that the returnees will only put the city at risk after 298 Covid-19 free days in the SAR.

Prior to the arrival of these

flights, health authorities were seen allocating staff, who were also wearing PPE to prepare for the arrival of the passengers, to tasks such as setting up the Covid-19 testing site outside the immigration building.

Those who managed the cargo of the planes were also required to wear full protective gear.

One of the passengers who arrived on the first flight described the flight as "smooth," adding, "the PPE is quite uncomfortable but ultimately we're all happy that we've managed to return."

The use of PPE for all passengers and crew was among the common protocols that were enforced last year during the peak of the pandemic when flights with returnees arrived in Macau.

Meanwhile, family members of the passengers were refrained from going to the airport as part of the government's restrictive measures.

30 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES RECORDED IN FIRST THREE QUARTERS OF 2020

IN the first three quarters of 2020, the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) has categorized 30 cases as domestic violence violations, out of 1,381 incidents recorded by the Central Registration System.

The figure is a 13% drop from that of the same period in 2019.

Among the 30 cases, 18 involved violence between spouses and eight occurred between adults and children. The remainder involved violence against elderly or other family members.

In terms of current shelter capacity, the bureau believes it is sufficient for hosting victims and their family members. It is part of

legal stipulations that the bureau should provide support or help victims find shelter.

On the other hand, calls to change the crime from public to semi-public have emerged in society recently. The authorities can initiate legal procedures regarding a public crime even if the victim chooses to let the matter go. In contrast, the authorities need the victim's consent to start a procedure if the crime is semi-public.

An official from the IAS refrained from providing an extensive opinion when questioned by the media recently. The official said that legal experts may conduct a study on the matter. **AL**

AD



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HEAD OF LOAN SHARK GROUP HANDED TO MACAU

The suspected head of a money laundering cartel, which was busted by the Judiciary Police (PJ) two years ago, has been arrested in Zhuhai and was handed over to local police yesterday. Over four years, the cartel allegedly lent HKD25 million illegally, resulting in more than 60 victims and 200 "customers." The man arrested is a 33-year-old local surnamed Kuan, who the PJ said was involved in profiteering, being part of a cartel and money laundering.

OFFICIALS: CNY MACAU-ZHUHAI TRAVEL WILL BE UNINTERRUPTED

Zhuhai health authorities have stressed that although the mainland government has discouraged interprovincial travel during the Lunar New Year holiday, travelling between Macau and Zhuhai is acceptable as Macau is a low-risk city for Covid-19. The authorities are discouraging crowded gatherings, including weddings and banquets; and are reminding residents to monitor their health and avoid unnecessary travel outside of Zhuhai. This, however, does not include Macau.

ASSOCIATIONS ASK TO RETAIN ORIGINALITY OF PRESERVED BUILDINGS

Highlighting the value of the resemblance Ka-Hó Our Lady Village bears to Macau's early industrial development, Kou Seng Man, head of two local relic preservation groups, is recommending that the government refer to national and international guidelines on preserving buildings with historic value because of their originality. Taking the group of buildings in Ka-Hó as an example, their original appearance and functions should be restored and exhibited but integrated with the neighborhood, without being over developed.

GOV'T PROPOSES EXEMPTING DOMESTIC RETENTION OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

ANTHONY LAM

DETERGENTS, laundry bleach, alcohol swabs and a stipulated amount of liquidized petroleum gas shall be allowed to be stored at a household and will not be subject to prosecution, the Secretariat for Security noted at a press conference yesterday.

The conference was held to announce the public consultation process to be conducted on the Legal System Supervising Hazardous Materials. The government is running the public consultation between January 23 and March 8.

This is not a public consultation on a bill that is to be made into law. Rather, the government is consulting the public in particular industries related to hazardous materials, on a direction of legislation.

In the consultation text, it is proposed that if a law is to be made in future, the government head can make exemptions on the holding of hazardous materials. For example, Leong Lok Sam, Commander of the Fire Services Bureau (CB), noted in his presentation that the storage of three barrels of LPG



with a combined volume no greater than 90 squared meters can be exempted as illegal, for example.

The bureau is responsible for this public consultation.

In addition, it is proposed that some substances should be excluded from the legislation. The justification is that the substances are already part of existing laws and regulations. This would include anesthetics, medical disposables and medicines, as well as drinks and food. However, it is proposed that alcoholic drinks exceeding 60% alcohol by volume be included in the new legislation.

"In this sense, Maotai will be

excluded," Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak jested at the press conference. Maotai is a famous Chinese alcoholic drink that is about 55% alcohol by volume.

On the categorization of hazardous materials, the CB head suggested that there would be nine categories, ranging from explosives and inflammable liquids, to radioactive and corrosive matter.

A mechanism is also being included to allow for the importation and storage of such materials. Related industries can apply for a permit to import from Customs at least 48 hours prior to the importation.

An interdepartmental mechanism will then be triggered to monitor the activity. The mechanism shall consist of the CB, Customs, the Health Bureau, the Public Security Police Force, the Economic Bureau, the Marine and Water Bureau and the Civil Aviation Authority.

Storage shall be conducted on a licensed basis. Academic use of such materials shall be allowed with prior approval.

As for permanent hazardous material storage, Wong said there is no timetable for the opening of this, but that work is currently being done.

Finance secretary pledges to attract more major MICE events

SECRETARY for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong has pledged that the government will attract large-scale international conventions and exhibitions to Macau on a continuous basis.

Furthermore, the government has joined with some cities in the Greater Bay Area (GBA) to accommodate the city's Meetings, Incentives, Conventions and Exhibitions (MICE) industry practitioners for site studies and visits.

The news was recently



revealed when a delegation from the Macao Convention and Exhibition

Association visited the senior official.

At the meeting, Lei

complimented the industry for showing resilience during the Covid-19 pandemic, which struck the industry hard. In order to support the development of the industry, Lei made the aforementioned pledge and announced the aforementioned news.

Song Xiaodong, president of the association, voiced six suggestions to the senior official. First, the government is suggested to enhance its instruction and support for the industry. Second, incentive measures for

the industry should be refined. Third, government resources should be integrated to expand support for the industry. Fourth, the image of Macau as a safe, multicultural city should be highlighted further. Fifth, the industry should be integrated into the mainland. Sixth, support from the mainland for the local industry should be requested.

Association vice president Ho Hoi Meng proposed that the government pick a land plot that it had reserved to build an area that highlights Macau as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy, which will house local specialty shops and restaurants that earn accolades. **AL**

GDI RECEIVES 14 BIDS FOR 4TH MACAU-TAIPA BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION

HONEY TSANG

THE Infrastructure Development Office (GDI) opened the bidding process yesterday morning for the construction of the road network on the periphery of the starting and ending points of the fourth Macau-Taipa bridge - Ave-

nida Wai Long connection.

The GDI received a total of 14 bids, with one bid being rejected.

The project covers the construction of the connecting flyovers that connect the fourth bridge with Avenida Wai Long and Taipa Maritime Terminal, as well as the enhancement

of the peripheral road and sewerage network.

The overall structure will span a total of 44,500 square meters, with an estimated construction cost of MOP260 to MOP290 million.

The construction is slated to commence in the third quarter of this year

and be completed in no more than 800 working days.

A GDI civil engineer, Lai Sio Chun, said that the project warrants the relocation of the surrounding power grids. Hence, construction will be carried out in two phases.

According to GDI docu-

ments, the project will be awarded to the bidder with the highest score.

There are five projects in total regarding the construction of the road network surrounding the fourth bridge. The bidding for the construction of the Pac On connection took place on January 8.

Quality of public housing and guarantees to buyers and tenants questioned

RENATO MARQUES

THE quality of construction in public housing developments was brought into question at yesterday's plenary session at the Legislative Assembly (AL).

Four lawmakers presented spoken inquiries on the topic before the agenda, questioning both the quality of construction and the guarantees to the buyers and tenants of the housing developments. The questions come in the wake of another series of incidents involving the falling of tiles from the interior common areas of both the Edifício do Lago and Ip Heng Building in Seac Pai Van came to light.

According to lawmakers Ho Ion Sang, Lei Chan U, Ella Lei, and Zheng Anting, these problems are not new and reveal both a poor standard construction for the public works and authorities' inability to find a suitable solution for repairing damaged structures.

According to the lawmakers, the problem is due to the "bad choice of materials and lack of quality control [in construction]." They pointed to the fact that the tiles used on the walls are too big and heavy, and are not fit to be used as a wall lining, as they were



originally meant to be floor tiles, noting that the issues originate from the design plan.

The Times noticed the problem early this week after receiving a Letter to the Editor from a resident of the Edifício do Lago building acknowledging precisely this issue.

The lawmakers also remarked that the problem is particularly important due to the fact that it

was occurring in an economic housing building. Many of the families living there had limited ability to deal the costs of constant repairs since the warranty period was already expired, according to the government.

The lawmakers found such a response from the government unacceptable and urged the authorities to take responsibility for their lack of inspection of the

construction works, and failure to find a definitive solution with the contractor when the problems started arising.

Using these cases as an example, the lawmakers also expressed concerns over the high number of public works that are currently occurring or about to start, calling on the government to reinforce their inspection and supervision of the construction of public in-

frastructure to not only guarantee that they will be built on time, but also that they will be built to last.

Some lawmakers also urged the government to include an added guarantee for buyers and users in new contracts, by extending the warranty period in which the contractors are responsible for the fixing of damage or failures in the construction. This period is currently only two years for general constructions and five years for impermeabilization issues, a period considered insufficient.

Lei also mentioned other public constructions that have reportedly suffered many flaws, including the underwater tunnel that connects Taipa Island to the University of Macau campus in Hengqin, as well as the Taipa Maritime Terminal. She urged the government to change its attitude regarding the design and construction of Zone A of the new landfills and other crucial projects, such as the Light Rapid Transit.

Zheng also added that similar problems have occurred at Ilha Verde with the fire doors, which is an essential safety structure in the event of a fire. The quality of the doors was certified to be below all the standards for such equipment.

Hearing on Viva Macau voted down by AL

RENATO MARQUES

A proposal to hear former government high officials on the case of the unpaid loans of airline Viva Macau has been voted down by the majority of the lawmakers of the Legislative Assembly (AL).

In yesterday's plenary session, 27 out of the 32 lawmakers voted against the proposal from lawmakers José Pereira Coutinho and Sulu Sou. The pair wanted to hold a hearing with several former government officials at the AL, as well as former administrators of the company, including the former Chief Executive Edmund Ho, former Secretary for Economy and Finance Francis Tam, several high-ranking Viva Macau officials, as well as staff members from the government's Industrial and Commercial Development Fund (FDCI), the body that granted the loans.



The 212 million patacas granted to the airline across five different loans are still on the line, with the government never being able to retrieve the money after the company went bankrupt.

For Sou and Pereira Coutinho, it is important to hear from former officials and high-ranking adminis-

trators because a previous investigation report from the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) "skipped" these important testimonies, which they say are crucial to ascertaining the truth.

"If CCAC did not hear the former Chief Executive Edmund Ho, the AL should do

that work," said Sou during the presentation of the justification to the plenary.

For Pereira Coutinho, the lawmakers are still addressing this topic because the government had previously failed to provide proper justifications.

"The government pleaded that it was due to the

financial crisis [at the time] but there was no further explanation. We are still discussing this because the government refuses to give a clear explanation," the lawmaker said, adding, "the purpose is to ascertain the truth. Many citizens in Macau wish to know and that is why we are insisting."

Chan Chak Mo, Chan Wa Keong, Iau Teng Pio, and Vong Hon Fai were some of the lawmakers against the hearing. They explained their reasoning, saying that since a previous petition had been sent to the AL by the New Macau Association, which is being handled by the Second Standing Committee of the AL, it is more logical for the committee to decide on what actions they need to take to handle the case.

"This is a responsibility of the Standing Committee to request the information that the lawmaker Sou is now asking for. So I think

there isn't a need for a hearing, as the committee already has this competence that is being asked [for] in this proposal," Chan Chak Mo said. This statement was immediately backed by Chan Wa Keong, who added, "The AL is not an investigative body, we should respect the work of CCAC."

"Lawmakers that are not members of the Second Standing Committee should respect the work of the committee and present opinions in written [form]," Iau said. Meanwhile, Vong claimed to be voting against the proposal because "it has defects at the technical level," explaining that "the objective stated is different of the one from a hearing. We are addressing the petition of the ANM that aims to review the law, while the hearing says it [is] to reveal details."

Following the result of the vote, the idea of hearing former officials on the case has finally been put aside and is waiting for results from the Second Standing Committee's analysis of the case.

KEN MORITSUGU,
BEIJING

ANALYSIS

BIDEN FACES A MORE CONFIDENT CHINA AFTER US CHAOS

As a new U.S. president takes office, he faces a determined Chinese leadership that could be further emboldened by America's troubles at home.

The disarray in America, from the rampant COVID-19 pandemic to the Jan. 6 riot at the Capitol, gives China's ruling Communist Party a boost as it pursues its long-running quest for national "rejuvenation" — a bid to return the country to what it sees as its rightful place as a major nation.

For Joe Biden, sworn in as the 46th president, that could make one of his major foreign policy challenges even more difficult as he tries to manage an increasingly contentious relationship between the world's rising power and its established one.

The stakes are high for both countries and the rest of the world. A misstep could spark an accidental conflict in the Western Pacific, where China's growing naval presence is bumping up against America's. The trade war under President Donald Trump hurt workers and farmers in both countries, though some in Viet-

nam and elsewhere benefited as companies moved production outside China. On global issues such as climate, it is difficult to make progress if the world's two largest economies aren't talking.

The Chinese government expressed hope yesterday that Biden would return to dialogue and cooperation after the divisiveness under Trump.

"It is normal for China and the United States to have some differences," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said. "Countries with different social systems, cultural backgrounds and ideologies should and can coexist ... and work together to achieve peace and stability and development in the world."

But Kurt Tong, a former U.S. diplomat in Asia, sees a stalemate in the coming few years in which China keeps doing what it has been doing and the U.S. is not happy about it.

"I think it's going to be a

AP PHOTO



tough patch, it's just going to be more disagreements than agreements and not a lot of breakthroughs," said Tong, now a partner with The Asia Group consultancy in Washington, D.C.

A more confident China may push back harder on issues such as technology,

territory and human rights. Analysts draw parallels to the 2008 global financial crisis, from which China emerged relatively unscathed. The country's foreign policy has grown increasingly assertive since then, from staking out territory in disputed waters in the South China Sea to its more recent use of Twitter to hit back at critics. China's relative success in controlling the pandemic could fuel that trend.

The U.S. has also shifted, with wide support among both Republicans and Democrats for treating China as a competitor, and embracing the need for a tougher approach to China, if not always agreeing with how Trump carried it out. Biden needs to be wary of opening himself up to attacks that he is soft on China if he rolls back import tariffs and other steps taken by his predecessor.

His pressing need to prioritize domestic challenges could give China breathing room to push forward its agenda, whether it be technological advancement or territorial issues from Taiwan to its border with India.

Biden has pointed to potential areas of cooperation, from climate change to curbing North Korea's nuclear weapons development, but even in those areas, the two countries don't always agree.

The pandemic, first viewed as a potential threat to President Xi Jinping's

leadership as it spiraled out of control in the city of Wuhan in early 2020, has been transformed into a story of hardship followed by triumph.

The Communist Party has sought to use the pandemic to justify its continued control of the one-party, authoritarian state it has led for more than 70 years, while rounding up citizen-journalists and others to quash any criticism of its handling of the outbreak.

That effort has been aided by the failure of many other nations to stop the spread of COVID-19. Biden takes over a country where deaths continue to mount and virus-related restrictions keep it in recession. China is battling small outbreaks, but life has largely returned to normal and economic growth is accelerating.

"It would have been more difficult for them to push that narrative around the world if the United States had not done such a poor job," said Bonnie Glaser, director of the China Power Project at the Center for Strategic & International Studies in Washington, D.C. "That's a theme that runs through many issues, that China's just able to point to the United States and democracy in general as not delivering good governance."

It's impossible to gauge support for the Communist Party in a country where many would be unwilling to criticize it publicly, for fear

of repercussions. But Niu Jun, an international relations professor at Peking University, said that objectively, public trust should rise given China's faster recovery from the outbreak.

"To ordinary people, the logic is very simple," he said, predicting the pandemic would spark public thinking and discussion about which system of governance is more effective.

"The party's policies are good, our policies are not like the ones in foreign countries, ours are good," said Liu Shixiu, strolling with her daughter in Wuhan, the city that bore the brunt of the pandemic in China. "We listen to the party."

It is unclear whether the Communist Party foresees exporting its way of governance as an alternative to the democratic model. For now, Chinese officials note that countries choose different systems and stress the need for others to respect those differences.

"As China becomes more and more confident, maybe they'll try to shape the internal operations or ways of thinking of other countries," Tong said. "But to me, it feels more like they don't want anyone to be able to say that China is bad and get away with it."

The leadership wants China to be seen and treated as an equal and has shown a willingness to use its growing economic and military might to try to get its way. AP

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Paediatrics : Dr. Zhang Zhiqin

Obstetrics & Gynaecology : Dr. Fong Kuan Io

Plastic & Aesthetic Surgery : Dr. Lam U Lin

Orthopaedic Surgery & Sports Medicine : Dr. Lam Kun Kuan

ENT : Dr. Cheng Zheng Ang

Cardiology : Dr. Wong Kwok Yiu Chris, Dr. Jin Chun, Dr. Leong Man Kin

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

Dietitian : Chan Lai U Joey

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World hopes for renewed cooperation with US under Biden

LORNE COOK & CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN, MEXICO CITY

WORLD leaders welcomed into their ranks the new U.S. President Joe Biden, noting their most pressing problems, including the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, require multilateral cooperation, an approach his predecessor Donald Trump ridiculed.

Many expressed hope Biden would right U.S. democracy two weeks after rioters stormed the Capitol, shaking the faith of those fighting for democracy in their own countries.

Governments targeted and sanctioned under Trump embraced the chance for a fresh start with Biden, while some heads of state who lauded Trump's blend of nationalism and populism were more restrained in their expectations.

But the chance to repair frayed alliances and work together on global problems carried the day.

China, whose U.S. relations nosedived due to widespread frustration in Washington over its human rights record and accusations of technology theft, expressed hope about the change in the White House.

Biden "understands the importance of cooperation among nations," said former Colombian president and Nobel Peace Prize winner Juan Manuel Santos, who left office in 2018. "As a matter of fact, if we don't cooperate - all nations - to fight climate change, then we will all perish. It's as simple as that."

French President Emmanuel Macron and Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama were among those welcoming U.S. attention to climate change. After Trump withdrew the U.S. from the Paris climate accord, Biden reversed the move in the first hours of his presidency yesterday [Macau time].

With Biden, "we will be stronger to face the challenges of our time. Stronger to build our future. Stronger to protect our planet," Macron wrote on Twitter. "Welcome back to the Paris Agreement!"

Other European allies saw a chance to come in out of the cold after strained relationships with the Trump administration.

European Council President Charles Michel said trans-Atlantic relations have "greatly suffered in the last four years" while the world has become less stable and less predictable.

"We have our differences and they will not magically disappear. America seems to have changed,

AP PHOTO



and how it's perceived in Europe and the rest of the world has also changed," added Michel, whose open criticism of the Trump era contrasted with the silence that mostly reigned in Europe while the Republican leader was in the White House.

In Ballina, Ireland, where Biden's great-great-grandfather was born in 1832, a mural of a smiling Biden adorned a wall in the town, where some of the president's relatives still live.

"As he takes the oath of office, I know that President Biden will feel the weight of history - the presence of his Irish ancestors who left Mayo and Louth in famine times in search of life and hope," Irish Prime Minister Michael Martin said.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who formed close ties with Trump, noted a personal friendship with Biden and said he looked forward to working together to further strengthen the U.S.-Israel alliance.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who has accused Trump of unfair bias toward Israel with policies like moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, expressed hope for a more even-handed approach from Biden. He urged "a comprehensive and just peace process that fulfills the aspirations of the Palestinian people for freedom and independence."

In Latin America, Biden faces immediate challenges on immigration, and the leaders of the two most populous countries - Brazil and Mexico - were chummy with Trump. The Trump administration also expanded painful sanctions against governments in Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua.

In Venezuela, President Nicolás Maduro's government urged dialogue with the Biden administration, while hoping the new president abandons the avalanche of damaging sanctions Trump imposed to attempt a regime change.

Some Venezuelans, however, like retired accountant Jesús Sánchez, 79, said he was disappointed to see Trump leave power. Trump backed opposition leader Juan Guaidó, giving Venezuelans like him hope that Maduro's days in power were numbered.

Carlos Vecchio, Guaidó's envoy in Washington who the U.S. recognizes as Venezuela's ambassador, tweeted photos of himself at Biden's inauguration. The invitation to attend was touted by Venezuela's opposition as evidence the Biden administration will continue its strong support and resist entreaties by Maduro for dialogue that the U.S. has strenuously rejected until now.

Cuba's leaders perhaps have a more realistic hope for improved relations: Biden was in the White House for the historic thaw in relations in 2014, and various officials expressed willingness to reopen a dialogue with Washington if there was respect for Cuba's sovereignty.

President Miguel Díaz-Canel railed against Trump via Twitter, citing "more than 200 measures that tightened the financial, commercial and economic blockade, the expression of a despicable and inhuman policy."

In Mexico, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, who cultivated an unexpectedly friendly relationship with Trump and was one of the last world leaders to re-

cognize Biden's victory, read from a letter he sent to Biden in 2012, calling for reorienting the bilateral relationship away from security and military aid and toward development.

He urged Biden to implement immigration reform, and added: "We need to maintain a very good relationship with the United States government and I don't have

any doubt that it's going to be that way."

U.S. allies in the Asia-Pacific region expressed anticipation of strengthening those alliances under a Biden administration. Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen and others highlighted their shared values as leaders of democracies.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in said: "America's new beginning will make democracy even greater."

Former Australian diplomat Rory Medcalf said Biden would likely find diplomatic partners across the Indo-Pacific region ready not for American leadership but partnership in "collective action" against Chinese "strategic assertiveness."

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said Biden was a good friend to New Zealand and highlighted in particular the words given in his inaugural address. "President Biden's message of unity as he takes office is one that resonates with New Zealanders," Ardern said.

World leaders also acknowledged the history of Vice President Kamala Harris taking office. She is the first woman, the first Black woman and the first South Asian to hold that office in the U.S.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Twitter congratulated both Biden and Harris, whose maternal grandfather was Indian.

"That is an historic moment and one that, I think as a father of daughters, you can only celebrate," Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said. AP



" Biden's message of unity as he takes office is one that resonates with New Zealanders.

JACINTA ARDERN, NEW ZEALAND



" Biden understands the importance of cooperation among nations.

JUAN MANUEL SANTOS, COLOMBIA



" Welcome back to the Paris Agreement!

EMMANUEL MACRON, FRANCE



" America's new beginning will make democracy even greater.

MOON JAE-IN, SOUTH KOREA

AP PHOTO



Lady Gaga sings the national anthem during the 59th Presidential Inauguration at the U.S. Capitol for President-elect Joe Biden in Washington

HOLLYWOOD ON THE POTOMAC

A-list turns out for Biden-Harris

A full-throated, supremely confident Lady Gaga belted out the national anthem at President Joe Biden's inauguration in a very Gaga way — with flamboyance, fashion and passion.

The Grammy winner wore a huge dove-shaped brooch and an impressively billowing red sculpted skirt as she sang into a golden microphone, delivering an emotional and powerful rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner." She was followed at yesterday's ceremony by Jennifer Lopez, dressed all in white, who threw a line of Spanish into her medley of "This Land is Your Land" and "America the Beautiful" — a pointed nod to multiculturalism, just two weeks after white supremacists and other violent rioters stormed the Capitol in an effort to undermine the peaceful transfer of power.

And country star Garth Brooks, doffing his black cowboy hat, sang a soulful a capella rendition of "Amazing Grace," his eyes closed for much of the song. He asked the audience to sing a verse with him: "Not just the people here, but the people at home, to work as one united."

The three superstars were among a slew of glittery celebrities descending on Washington — virtually or in person — to welcome the new administration of Biden and Kamala Harris, a duo popular in Hollywood, where former President Donald Trump was decidedly not.

While stars mostly eschewed Trump's inauguration four years ago, the A-list was back for Biden.

Brooks was careful to call his decision to perform non-political, and in the spirit of unity. He had performed during the inaugural celebration for Obama in 2009, but turned down a chance to perform for Trump in 2017, citing a scheduling conflict.

Gaga went on Twitter later to explain that the giant brooch accompanying her Schiaparelli haute couture outfit was "a dove carrying an olive branch. May we all make peace with each other." Lopez was in all-white Chanel, and Brooks kept it real in jeans, an open-collared black shirt and blazer.

While the podium was full of high-wattage star power, there was little question that a new star had also emerged: 22-year-old poet Amanda Gorman, whose poise and urgency as she recited "The Hill We Climb" enthralled a global audience.

None other than Bruce Springsteen launched the evening's entertainment: "Celebrating America," a 90-minute, multi-network broadcast hosted by Tom Hanks that took the place of the usual official inaugural balls, with Biden and Harris watching along and giving brief remarks. Alone with his guitar, The Boss sang his "Land of Hope and Dreams" in front of the Lincoln Memorial. "I will provide for you, and I'll stand by your side," he sang. "You'll need a good companion, for this

part of the ride."

Hanks, also at the Lincoln Memorial, spoke of "deep divisions and a troubling rancor in our land" over the past few years. "But tonight we ponder the United States of America, the practice of our democracy, the foundations of our republic, the integrity of our Constitution, the hope and dreams we all share for a more perfect union," he said.

Jon Bon Jovi contributed a rendition of "Here Comes the Sun" from Miami, and Ant Clemons and Justin Timberlake performed "Better Days" from Memphis. John Legend sang "Feeling Good" in Washington; Foo Fighters sang "Times Like These" in honor of teachers, and Demi Lovato performed "Lovely Day" along with doctors and nurses in Los Angeles.

A starry collection of Broadway's most prominent musical actors collaborated on a medley of "Seasons of Love" from the show "Rent" and "Let the Sunshine In" from "Hair," among them Christopher Jackson, Renée Elise Goldsberry, Laura Benanti, Betty Buckley, Leslie Uggams and Javier Muñoz. "Hamilton" creator Lin-Manuel Miranda recited from "The Cure at Troy" by Irish poet Seamus Heaney.

Reciting excerpts of notable past inaugural addresses were basketball legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, labor leader Dolores Huerta and Kim Ng, the first female general manager in MLB history. Peppering musical performances among stories of ordinary Americans

and their contributions, the show included tributes to a UPS driver, a kindergarten teacher and Sandra Lindsay, the first in New York to receive the COVID-19 vaccine outside a clinical trial.

The proceedings ended with a lavish fireworks show in the Washington night sky, watched by Biden (at the White House) and Harris (at the Lincoln Memorial) and their families to — what else? — "Firework," performed by Katy Perry.

The history of celebrities performing at inaugurations dates back to Franklin D. Roosevelt's third inauguration in 1941, when a gala celebration the evening before saw performances from Irving Berlin, Mickey Rooney and Charlie Chaplin, says Lina Mann of the White House Historical Association. "Chaplin performed his monologue from 'The Great Dictator,'" Mann notes.

The celebrity component only increased over time, and one of the starriest inaugurations was that of John F. Kennedy in 1961. That celebration, hosted by Frank Sinatra, drew Harry Belafonte, Nat King Cole, Ella Fitzgerald, Gene Kelly, Ethel Merman, Laurence Olivier, Sidney Poitier and other celebrities.

Fast forward to the first Obama inauguration in 2009, where Aretha Franklin sang "My Country, 'Tis of Thee" at the swearing-in, and the new president and his wife, Michelle, were serenaded by Beyoncé singing "At Last" at an inaugural ball. AP

this day in history

1990 GORBACHEV EXPLAINS CRACKDOWN IN AZERBAIJAN



President Mikhail Gorbachev has made a statement on Soviet television explaining the Soviet crackdown on civil unrest in the republic of Azerbaijan.

Two days ago Soviet troops were ordered into the republic to try and end the undeclared conflict between Muslim Azeris and Christian Armenians, and put down a separatist insurrection by Azerbaijani nationalists.

Official reports say up to 60 people died when tanks rolled into the republic's capital, Baku.

President Gorbachev, who is confronting his worst crisis since he became leader, said he had no choice but to order his troops in.

"To our deepest regret people have died," the Soviet leader said in a live 12-minute address on TV.

"Militant nationalist careerists refused to listen to the voice of reason.

"Events took a particularly tragic turn in Baku. There were growing calls for seizure of power by force."

He said that he hoped the decision to send in the army would "be understood and supported by all citizens of our country".

President Gorbachev also extended his deepest condolences to the relatives of the victims who died in the takeover.

The move comes after tension erupted recently at a nationalist rally in Soviet Transcaucasia.

In the ensuing pogroms in Baku, Armenian homes were set on fire and looted while many Armenians were killed or injured.

In the disputed Azerbaijani region of Nagorno-Karabakh, roads were blocked and trains were halted.

Azerbaijan's President Elmira Kafarova said in a statement broadcast on Baku radio that her people would "never forgive" those responsible for the deaths.

Communist Party politician Boris Yeltsin also condemned the use of armed forces.

"It is a mistake to dispatch troops and suppress ethnic problems by armed force," he added.

He warned that East European socialism had become corrupted "because it was state socialism guarded by the military".

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

President Gorbachev's decision to deploy the army in Azerbaijan as a warning to separatist movements failed to have an impact in some Soviet republics.

In January 1991 troops acted against pro-independence protesters in Lithuania and Latvia, killing about two dozen people.

Following a failed coup by Communist hardliners in August 1991 the USSR recognised the independence of the Baltic states, and other republics soon began moves to break-away.

Azerbaijan's independence in 1991 lifted the lid on a simmering ethnic conflict with the mainly Armenian populated enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, which declared itself an independent republic.

Full scale war broke out in 1992 between Azerbaijani, Armenian and ethnic Armenian forces - who now control Nagorno-Karabakh.

It is estimated that between 20,000 and 30,000 people lost their lives during five years of conflict, and that more than one million fled their homes.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Aren't you curious to know what that is? Give them some but not all of your time. Make it clear that you have boundaries that you have no intention of crossing for them, at least not yet.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Call a spade a spade. People will respect your honesty and give you more responsibility because of it. If someone is bragging a bit too much, tell them not to be so pompous.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Whether or not you have a good day totally depends on your attitude this morning. If you're feeling up for a challenge, then you're going to be well pleased with how the day unfolds.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Be wary of extravagant gifts from co-workers or casual acquaintances. They could be giving you something with the expectation that they'll be getting something in return.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

It will be surprisingly simple to do, and it will give you one more achievement to celebrate. Ask around and you'll find out that a few of your friends have something to celebrate too!



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Your growing confidence is helping you impress all the right people now, but too much action might cause you to get overwhelmed all over again. Do yourself a favor and scale back on your plans for the day.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

When it comes to making new friends, you're going to be absolutely unstoppable today. Everyone wants to be on your team, and they won't be shy about letting you know it!



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Your ego is growing, and that is nothing but a good thing! Now might be the right time to take that risk that has intimidated you for so long. You may finally have the faith in yourself that you need to prevail.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

That grouchy person who tries to steal your parking space, the overbearing boss who spends more time breathing down your neck than doing their own job, the roommate who never cleans up their messes.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

They'll be flattered by the attention, which will encourage them to keep on going with this lifestyle renovation. Don't be afraid to let someone know you're proud of them.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

This day could unfold in some unpredictable directions, but not knowing exactly what's going to happen next might be a very good thing for you right now.

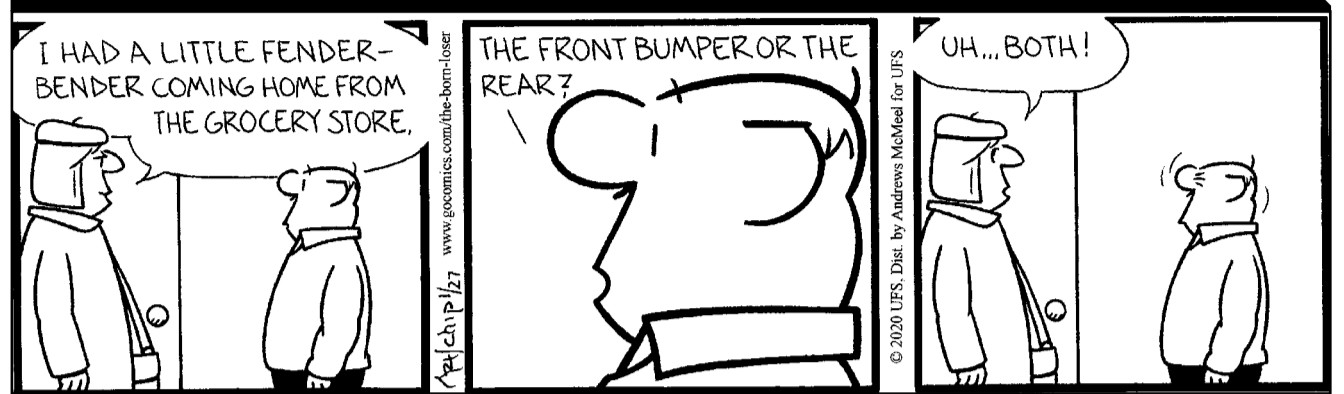


PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Someone you care deeply about has been living in a bit of a fantasyland lately, and it's going to be up to you to give them the reality check they need. It's never fun to burst someone's bubble...

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

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

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

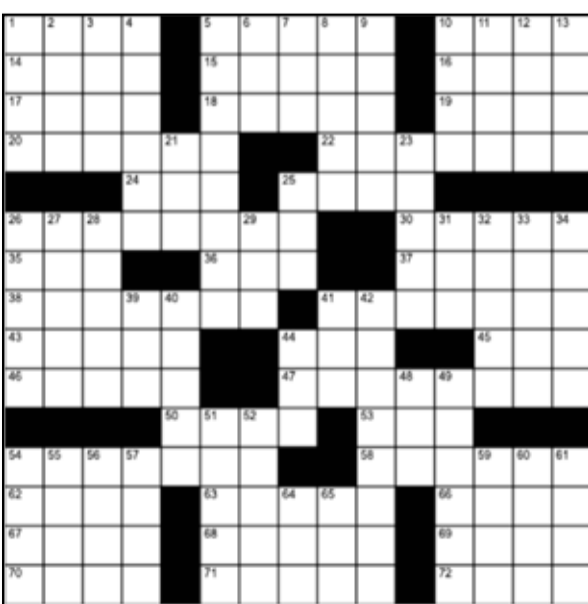
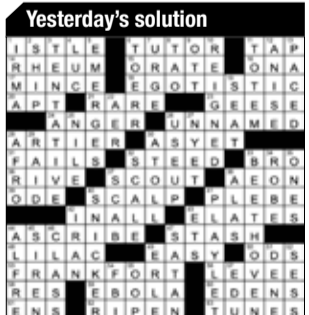
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-5	4	clear
Harbin	-21	-9	clear
Tianjin	-4	3	cloudy
Urumqi	-10	-2	cloudy
Xi'an	-1	9	cloudy
Lhasa	-9	10	clear
Chengdu	6	16	clear
Chongqing	7	13	clear
Kunming	5	15	cloudy
Nanjing	9	10	drizzle
Shanghai	9	14	drizzle
Wuhan	6	12	drizzle
Hangzhou	11	14	drizzle
Taipei	19	22	cloudy
Guangzhou	16	22	overcast
Hong Kong	18	24	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	-4	2	sleet
Frankfurt	7	10	drizzle
Paris	5	10	drizzle
London	1	8	overcast
New York	-2	8	cloudy

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Swedish auto; 5- Closes; 10- Cop's collar; 14- Gimlet garnish; 15- Square; 16- Hurler Hershiser; 17- Mine entrance; 18- Gaucho's rope; 19- Costa ___; 20- Zany; 22- Shaky; 24- "___ Alibi"; Selleck film; 25- List from which to choose; 26- Divide; 30- U-Haul competitor; 35- Doo-wop syllable; 36- Caesar of comedy; 37- Piece of poetry; 38- Determined; 41- See-through material; 43- Specialized language; 44- Jurist Fortas; 45- ___ Brooks, filmmaker responsible for "Blazing Saddles"; 46- Tiny; 47- Eyeglasses with tinted lenses; 50- Light source; 53- Bind; 54- Antiapartheid activist; 58- Guarantee; 62- "Hard ___!" (sailor's yell); 63- More aloof; 66- Aviation pioneer Sikorsky; 67- Midday; 68- Rasp; 69- Spicy stew; 70- Longings; 71- Wanderer; 72- Russian no;

DOWN 1- Close with force; 2- Verdi heroine; 3- Among; 4- You ___; 5- Astonishment; 6- Chemical ending; 7- Caught ya!; 8- Brit's bottle measure; 9- European kingdom; 10- Flesh of a hog; 11- HOMES part; 12- Four-sided fig.; 13- Drama; 21- ___ Lingus; 23- Bend; 25- Kind of school; 26- Fiddlesticks!; 27- Chicago's airport; 28- Big; 29- Clearasil target; 31- Nevertheless; 32- Stage play; 33- Politico Kefauver; 34- Staggers; 39- Put on; 40- Elegance; 41- "Aladdin" monkey; 42- In the middle; 44- Nile reptile; 48- Rickey ingredient; 49- Wound; 51- Straighten; 52- PC shortcut; 54- Numerous; 55- Burn balm; 56- Dodge model; 57- Studies; 59- Unattractive; 60- Acting part; 61- Quod ___ demonstrandum; 64- Cartesian conclusion; 65- LAX posting;



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



FOR SALE

Superb Studio, Old Taipa
HK\$3,780,000 650 ft² 1 1 1

FOR RENT

Taipa Village studio
HK\$8,500/mth 478 ft² 1 1

Rain Dance Property
"We dance until it's SOLD!"

Apartment in the Historical Centre
HK\$3,900,000 840 ft² 2 1 1

PROPERTY LIST

- [Taipa] Buckingham 2 2 2
1,439 ft² \$11,770,000 (ref: 19045004)
- [Taipa] Ocean Garden Fragrant Court 4 3 3
3,500 ft² \$24,000,000 (ref: 20036001)
- [Taipa] Designer 2 bedroom 2 1 1
630 ft² \$11,500/mth (ref: 20121001)
- [Taipa] Nova Park 2 2 2
1,148 ft² \$14,500/mth (ref: n/a)

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AD

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

DRIVE IN

'Locked Down' mirrors our quarantine experiences

JAKE COYLE,
MDT/AP FILM WRITER

DOUG Liman's "Locked Down," one of the first and most ambitious films to be conceived and shot during the pandemic, is, like our own quarantine experiences, erratic, a little absurd and sporadically delightful.

Unlike our time in quarantine, it has Chiwetel Ejiofor and Anne Hathaway. This, not a small difference, is crucial in "Locked Down," an energetic romantic comedy-slash-heist movie that makes a game entry into the emerging genre of COVID-19 movies. Liman, the director of "Mr. and Mrs. Smith," "The Edge of Tomorrow" and "The Bourne Identity," has always, in a movie world of lumbering, oxygen-depleted action films, had a knack for more agile and playful films that give A-list performers ample room to breathe.

That serves "Locked Down"

well, with Hathaway and (especially) Ejiofor making a charming pair, even as they play a couple that, just before lockdown began, have had it with each other. The script is by Steven Knight ("Eastern Promises," "Peaky Blinders"), who penned an early breakout for Ejiofor in the very good, London-set "Dirty Pretty Things." Knight wrote "Locked Down," which debuted Thursday on HBO Max, in July, and by September, they were filming in London with COVID on-set protocols — mainly shooting in a townhouse, on empty city streets and a culminating scene at Harrods. That things build to a semi-ridiculous heist is fitting; the whole movie feels stolen.

It also feels very March-April 2020. There are pajama pants, baking plans and Zoom calls (Ben Stiller, Ben Kingsley and Mindy Kaling make remote cameos playing characters seen only through the computer screen). "Locked Down" points to one problem of pandemic movies: So

much has changed so fast that some of the novelties of last spring now feel dated and stale.

But seeing two terrific performers like Ejiofor and Hathaway in such circumstances lends them a far less familiar glamour. Knight's lively and verbose script (he also wrote the even-more-confined "Locke") gives the actors a kind of quarantine-screwball atmosphere rich in claustrophobia and shut-in frustration. The experience is causing Linda (Hathaway) and Paxton (Ejiofor) to doubt much in their lives. Linda, who has initiated the break-up, runs the London division of a global corporation. After being ordered to fire her staff by Zoom, she begins to question her career. Paxton's never got going. A biker and poet who occasionally reads to his locked-down block from the middle of the street, he's never risen above delivery man, his record tarnished by a long-ago crime.

For a while, they're both monologuing around the house in



Anne Hathaway and Chiwetel Ejiofor in a scene from "Locked Down"

between videoconference confessions, but their existential distress eventually syncs up, and "Locked Down" — like someone finally settling into a pandemic rhythm — takes shape.

"Locked Down" is inevitably, and intentionally, of the moment. But I hope some of its off-the-cuff spirit lasts after the pandemic. So much Hollywood moviemaking is laboriously preordained. The largest studios have release calendars planned out years in advance.

Little is spontaneous and, as a consequence, films that feel connected to their time are hard to find at the studio level. Hopefully the COVID-made movie is soon a relic, but its fleet-footedness sticks around.

"Locked Down," a Warner Bros. release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for language throughout and some drug material. Running time: 118 minutes. ★★★★★

AD

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MACAU

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FOOD AND FUN

THE ROADHOUSE MACAU
IS MACAU'S MOST POPULAR BAR FOR BLUES, BOOZE AND ROCK.
COME ON DOWN AND LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL.

UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH
USJ 2020/2021 COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS AWARD CEREMONY
21ST OF JANUARY, 2021

The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) held its 2020/2021 Community Scholarships and Fellowships Award Ceremony on the 21st of January, 2021, at the Auditório Centenário de Fátima of Ilha Verde Campus. A total of 79 scholarships and fellowships were donated by 17 different organisations and individuals, with the amount exceeding MOP 3,000,000.

Representatives from USJ's Community Scholarships and Fellowships donors were present at the ceremony (listed alphabetically): Alumni Association of USJ, Banco Nacional Ultramarino, Bank of China Macau Branch, British Chamber of Commerce in Macao, Companhia de Electricidade de Macau, Macau Parking Company Ltd., Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Center, Companhia de Telecomunicações de Macau, Galaxy Entertainment Group, Henry Fok Foundation, Higher Education Bureau - Higher Education Fund, Mr Kuan Vai Lam, Macao Foundation, Macau Tower Convention & Entertainment Center, Sands China Ltd., Ms Sio Wai Chu and Social Welfare Bureau.

To foster inclusiveness, fairness and respectful diversity in the community life of the University, USJ is committed to providing equal opportunities to all our students, which is reflected in the scholarship and fellowship principles and operations. This year, USJ community fellowships were awarded to four non-local students who are in need of financial aid. Additionally, the Higher Education Fund offers a Specialised Scholarship to attract Outstanding Students from Portuguese-speaking countries and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries to study in Macao. A total of thirteen USJ undergraduate students from Portuguese-speaking and ASEAN countries received awards this year. This scholarship covers recipients' full tuition fees, on-campus accommodation and stipend.

The USJ Community Scholarships and Fellowships Award Ceremony takes place annually. It is aimed to recognise our students' academic achievements and the contributions of the donors, as well as encouraging students with financial difficulties. Moreover, "USJ is in, of and for Macao; in, of and for China", therefore, we are committed to cultivating Macao's future talents.

Community Scholarships and Fellowships (in no particular order)

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TASTE OF EDESIA

Understated sophistication

IRENE SAM, MDT

MANY years ago, I met Chef Michele Dell' Aquila and was particularly touched by the stories from his childhood. His eyes would light up as he talked about how he enjoyed picking fresh vegetables from the garden with his grandparents in Italy. Indeed, Michele is a man deeply

passionate about selecting the best ingredients from around the world for his dishes. Meticulously plated and refined, Michele's creations exude a certain quiet elegance that is not normally found in Italian cuisine. Sophistication could be appreciated in every detail and for sensitive palates, Michele vows with uncompromising precision and unique cooking methods that trans-

cend cultural boundaries. Recently I was remarkably excited to see Michele once again at The Manor in St. Regis Macao, where he prepared a special occasion lunch experience titled "Let's do a Luxe Lunch." The journey starts with a Boston lobster served with mushroom consommé, foie gras and parmesan chips. Staying true to Michele's style,

the dish pairs earthy wonders with seafood, yet the umami characteristic of the lobster balances intricately with the delicate consommé. Carefully prepared sous vide, the lobster's texture is tender and exquisite, while the flavours of foie gras is slightly enhanced by the parmesan. Another highlight on the menu is turbot with baked celeriac, red mullet bottarga, fen-

nel and cilantro. Visually, the dish is like a beautiful painting, and as diners begin to appreciate it, various nuances and melanges available through the combination of ingredients on the plate showcase different tastes and textures, surprising the palate with hidden acidity, sweetness and herbal contrast. Discerning diners who admire Michele find each of his dishes to have a world of its own, where exploration is met with sensory rewards. This level of precise, culinary execution already far exceeds what we usually consider as "fine-dining."

Macau Racing Tips

By Davy Chiu, MDT



THE BALTIMORE 1200 METRES TURF 2021-01-23|Sat

HOSTWIN SATURN has been very eye catching in his recent morning works, and he gave me the impression that he is quite ready to bounce back to his racing fitness and ready for a crack in his coming engagement. On Saturday his trainer enter him for a 1200 metres turf race which is pet distance; although the wide draw is a hindrance, but if you look at his racing closely, the wide draw in barrier ten could actually turn out to be his blessing in disguise. **Hostwin Saturn** has the booking of F. Henrique a strong jock, which should give him every chance in the running. The wide draw would offer us attractive odds, and he is my best value bet of the day.

Race 3 | Horse no. 6 Hostwin Saturn Win and Place bets



OPINION

World Views

Jonathan Bernstein, MDT/Bloomberg



BIDEN INAUGURAL WASN'T NORMAL, BUT WE'RE GETTING THERE

That was almost ... normal.

And, as presidential inaugurations go, nicely done. Three excellent musical performances, an outstanding poem from Amanda Gorman, fully appropriate prayers from clergy. The Capitol balcony filled with distinguished politicians from both parties. The always excellent Marine Corps band.

And normal President Joe Biden, giving a normal inaugural address.

Of course it wasn't really a normal inauguration. The absence of the usual crowds of citizens — even the podium was nowhere near as crowded as it usually is when new presidents take the oath of office — and the face masks were constant reminders of the coronavirus pandemic. The heavy security visible in the days leading up to Wednesday's event was a reminder that a mob of insurrectionists rioted in the Capitol just two weeks ago. And the outgoing president who provoked that mob and prevented a peaceful transfer of power was nowhere to be seen.

Biden's challenge continues to be that his two main promises — to restore traditions and comity after Donald Trump's divisiveness and lawlessness, and to try to enact an aggressive liberal policy agenda — don't fit naturally together. His inaugural address met that conflict head on.

He was helped, if that's the correct word, by the events of Jan. 6. The rout of the Capitol mob allowed Biden to claim that "democracy has prevailed," and to place his presidency on the side of unity and against what he pointedly called "white supremacy." Biden championed an America in which the government tackles the problems of the day and in which there is room for democratic disagreement about how to go about it. In this way, Biden claims that his job and the job of the American people is to "restore the soul and secure the future" of the nation, which "requires the most elusive of all things in a democracy: unity."

All this would have sounded arrogant — claiming all of democracy for himself and for Democratic policy goals — if it hadn't been for Trump's weeks-long attempt to overturn the election, with the support of many congressional Republicans and, eventually, of the mob. But Biden could speak for everyone who supported the Constitution, Democrats and Republicans alike.

Biden would have asked for unity anyway; all presidents except for Trump promise to govern on behalf of the entire nation. But the context elevated this commonplace above the level of cliché. When Biden talked about "a constant struggle between the American ideal that we're all created equal, and the harsh, ugly reality that racism, nativism, fear, demonization have long torn us apart," he wasn't just spouting talking points. He was calling out tangible threats to the republic.

Biden was inviting everyone, including Trump supporters, to unite in rejecting Trumpism, without insisting that unity required agreement with Democrats on specific policy questions. At the same time, he essentially invoked Trump's mob to give himself and the slim Democratic majorities in Congress license to work towards their policy goals, no matter how controversial, without violating the underlying unity. That is, in the face of true "bitterness and fury ... exhausting outrage ... [and] a state of chaos," Biden promises that we can all be united no matter how many differences and disagreements we have.

I doubt that Biden's speech will go down in history as one of the greatest, but it was solid and well delivered. He promised to "lower the temperature," and that should be a fairly easy promise to keep (even as the Senate prepares to try Trump after his second impeachment).

Inaugural speeches don't determine whether a presidency will succeed or not; that's the hard work that's ahead. But they do mark the next stage of representation, in which presidents begin to explain what they are doing in office in the context of what they promised to do on the campaign trail. That makes them important. As is the democratic and patriotic pageantry surrounding them.

Normal? Almost. Nice? Very.

ITALIAN POLICE FIND STOLEN COPY OF LEONARDO 'SALVATOR MUNDI'

Italian police have recovered a 500-year-old copy of Leonardo da Vinci's 16th century "Salvator Mundi" painting of Jesus Christ that was stolen from a Naples church during the pandemic without the priests even realizing it was gone.

The discovery was made when Naples police working on a bigger operation found the painting hidden in an apartment. Police chief Alfredo Fabbrocini said the apartment owner was detained after he offered a "less than credible" explanation that he had "casually" bought it at a market.

The painting is a copy of the "Salvator Mundi" (Savior of the

World) by Leonardo that sold for a record \$450 million at a Christie's auction in 2017. The unnamed bidder was later identified as a Saudi royal who purportedly purchased it on behalf of the Louvre Abu Dhabi. It was supposed to have been unveiled a year later at the museum, but the exhibition was delayed indefinitely and the work hasn't been seen in public since.

The copy, attributed to the Leonardo school but not the Renaissance artist himself, had been housed in a small museum in a side chapel of the Basilica of San Domenico Maggiore in Naples, which had been closed during the coronavirus pandemic.

AP PHOTO



COVID-19

BIDEN PUTS FORTH VIRUS STRATEGY, REQUIRES MASK USE TO TRAVEL

AS the U.S. enters "what may well be the toughest and deadliest period of the virus," President Joe Biden is putting forth a national COVID-19 strategy to ramp up vaccinations and testing, reopen schools and businesses and increase the use of masks — including a requirement that they be worn for travel.

Biden also will address inequities in hard-hit minority communities as he signs 10 pandemic-related executive orders yesterday, his second day in office.

"We need to ask average Americans to do their part," said Jeff Zients, the White House official directing the national response. "Defeating the virus requires a coordinated nationwide effort."

But Biden officials say they're hampered by lack of cooperation from the Trump administration during the transition. They say they don't have a complete understanding of their predecessors' actions on vaccine distribution.

They're also depending on Congress to provide \$1.9 trillion for economic relief and COVID-19 response. And they face a litany of complaints from states that say they are not getting enough vaccine even as they are being asked to vaccinate more categories

of people.

Biden acknowledged the urgency of the mission in his inaugural address. "We are entering what may well be the toughest and deadliest period of the virus," he said before asking Americans to join him in a moment of silence in memory of the more than 400,000 people in the U.S. who have died from COVID-19.

Biden's top medical adviser on COVID-19, Dr. Anthony Fauci, also announced renewed U.S. support for the World Health Organization after it faced blistering criticism from the Trump administration, laying out new commitments to tackle the coronavirus and other global health issues. Fauci said yesterday that the U.S. will join the U.N. health agency's efforts to bring vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics to people in need, whether in rich or poor countries and will resume full funding and staffing support for WHO.

The U.S. mask order for travel being implemented by Biden will apply to airports and planes, ships, intercity buses, trains and public transportation. Travelers from abroad must furnish a negative COVID-19 test before departing for the U.S. and quarantine upon arrival. Biden has already mandated masks on federal

property.

Although airlines, Amtrak and other transport providers now require masks, Biden's order makes it a federal mandate, leaving little wiggle room for passengers tempted to argue about their rights. It marks a sharp break with the culture of President Donald Trump's administration, under which masks were optional, and Trump made a point of going maskless and hosting big gatherings of like-minded supporters. Science has shown that masks, properly worn, cut down on coronavirus transmission.

Biden also is seeking to expand testing and vaccine availability, with the goal of 100 million shots in his first 100 days in office. Zients called Biden's goal "ambitious and achievable."

The Democratic president has directed the Federal Emergency Management Agency to begin setting up vaccination centers, aiming to have 100 up and running in a month. He's ordering the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to begin a program to make vaccines available through local pharmacies starting next month. And he's mobilizing the Public Health Service to deploy to assist localities in vaccinations. **MDT/AP**

Libya A boat carrying migrants bound for Europe capsized in the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Libya, drowning at least 43 people, the U.N. migration agency said. The International Organization for Migration said the "tragic" shipwreck was the first maritime disaster in 2021 involving migrants seeking better lives in Europe.

Turkish prosecutors sought the maximum possible 12 years in prison each for a private airline official and two pilots accused of smuggling the former Nissan Motor Co. chairman out of Japan, state news agency reported. In the third hearing in the trial of seven people over Carlos Ghosn's dramatic escape in 2019, prosecutors also requested that the court acquits two other pilots of the charge of "illegally smuggling a migrant," Anadolu Agency said.

AP PHOTO



US Construction on the long disputed Keystone XL oil pipeline halted yesterday (Macau Time) as incoming President Joe Biden revoked its permit on his first day in office. The 1,700-mile pipeline was planned to carry roughly 800,000 barrels of oil a day from Alberta to the Texas Gulf Coast, passing through Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma.

AP PHOTO



Spain A powerful gas explosion tore through a residential building in central Madrid, killing four people and ripping the facade off the structure. A tower of smoke rose from the building, where repairs were being done to a gas boiler, and billowed through Toledo Street, near the city's center. Aerial footage shared by Spain's National Police showed rubble covering a nearby schoolyard — though Madrid's mayor said no one was seriously injured at the school.