



**MACAU HAS RECORDED JUST 1,800 VISITORS ON FOURTH DAY OF GOLDEN WEEK, A FIGURE TO BE EXPECTED FOLLOWING THE NEW COVID-19 CASES RECENTLY DETECTED IN THE CITY** P4

**GAMING GROSS REVENUE INCREASES 32.4% IN SEPTEMBER TO MOP5.88B** P5

**A MIDSIZE CHINESE REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER FAILED TO MAKE A \$205.7 MILLION PAYMENT DUE TO BONDHOLDERS, ADDING TO THE INDUSTRY'S FINANCIAL STRAIN** P6

AP PHOTO



**Japan's** new Prime Minister Fumio Kishida held his first talks as Japanese leader with President Joe Biden and confirmed they will work to strengthen their alliance and cooperate in regional security in the face of growing challenges from China and North Korea. Kishida, who was elected by Parliament and sworn in Monday, told reporters that Biden reassured him of the U.S. commitment to defend the Japanese-controlled East China Sea island Senkaku. *More on p7*

AP PHOTO



**Afghanistan** Taliban forces unlawfully killed 13 ethnic Hazaras, most of them Afghan soldiers who had surrendered to the insurgents, a prominent rights group said yesterday. The killings took place in the village of Kahor in Daykundi province in central Afghanistan on Aug. 30, according to an investigation by Amnesty International. Eleven of the victims were members of the Afghan national security forces and two were civilians, among them a 17-year-old girl.

AP PHOTO



**Russia** An actor and a film director rocketed to space yesterday on a mission to make the world's first movie in orbit. Actor Yulia Peresild and director Klim Shipenko blasted off for the International Space Station in a Russian Soyuz spacecraft together with cosmonaut Anton Shkaplerov, a veteran of three space missions. Their Soyuz MS-19 lifted off as scheduled at 1:55 p.m. (0855 GMT) from the Russian space launch facility in Baikonur, Kazakhstan and successfully reached the designated orbit.

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# SOFT LOCKDOWN

Health authorities close Casino Oceanus while reinstating a lockdown on entertainment and sports venues in the wake of a new Covid case which brought tally to 75 P3,4



SIMON ZHU

XINHUA

## WHAT'S UP, FACEBOOK?

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## CHINA FLIES RECORD 56 WARPLANES TOWARD SELF-RULED TAIWAN

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**THE CONVERSATION**

# LOOKING FOR TRANSFORMATIVE TRAVEL? KEEP THESE SIX STAGES IN MIND

JACOJ.HAMMAN  
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**A**FTER a cooped-up year, people are hungry to travel. But why do we travel in the first place? What is the allure of the open road?

As a professor of religion, psychology and culture, I study experiences that lie at the intersection of all three. And in my research on travel, I'm struck by its unsolvable paradoxes: Many of us seek to get away, in order to be present; we speed to destinations, in order to slow down; we may care about the environment, but still leave carbon footprints.

Ultimately, many people hope to return transformed. Travel is often viewed as what anthropologists call a "rite of passage": structured rituals in which individuals separate themselves from their familiar surroundings, undergo change and return rejuvenated or "re-born."

But travelers are not just concerned with themselves. The desire to explore may be a defining human trait, as I argue in my latest book, but the ability to do it is a privilege that can come at a cost to host communities. Increasingly, the tourism industry and scholars alike are interested in ethical travel, which minimizes visitors' harm on the places and people they encounter.

The media inundate tourists with advice and enticements about where to travel and what to do there. But in order to meet the deeper goals of transformative, ethical travel, the "why" and "how" demand deeper discernment.

In writing "Just Traveling: God, Leaving Home, and a Spirituality for the Road," I studied travel stories in sacred scriptures and researched findings from psychologists, sociologists, ethicists, economists and tourism scholars. I argue that meaningful travel is best understood not as a three-stage rite but as a six-phase practice, based on core human experiences. These phases can repeat and overlap within the same journey, just as adventures twist and turn.

AP PHOTO



Indonesia has reopened tourism after intensified vaccination campaigns have helped control the spread of COVID-19

## 1. ANTICIPATING

Traveling begins long before departure, as we research and plan. But anticipation is more than logistics. The Dutch aptly call it "voorpret": literally, the pleasure before.

How and what people anticipate in any given situation has the power to shape their experience, for better or worse – even when it comes to prejudice. Psychology experiments, for example, have shown that when children anticipate greater cooperation between groups, it can reduce their bias in favor of their own group.

But phenomenology, a branch of philosophy that studies human experience and consciousness, emphasizes that anticipation is also "empty": our conscious intentions and expectations of what's to come could be fulfilled or dashed by a future moment.

With that in mind, travelers should try to remain open to uncertainty and even disappointment.

## 2. LEAVING

Leaving can awaken deep emotions that are tied to our earliest experiences of separation. The attachment styles psychologists study in infants, which sha-

pe how secure people feel in their relationships, continue to shape us as adults. These experiences can also affect how comfortable people feel exploring new experiences and leaving home, which can affect how they travel.

Some travelers leave with excitement, while others experience hesitation or guilt before the relief and excitement of departure. Mindfulness about the stages of travel can help people manage anxiety.

## 3. SURRENDERING

Travelers cannot control their journey: A flight is canceled, or a vehicle breaks down; the weather report predicts sunshine, but it rains for days on end. To some extent, they have to surrender to the unknown.

Modern Western cultures tend to see "surrendering" as something negative – as hoisting a white flag. But as a therapeutic concept, surrendering helps people let go of inhibiting habits, discover a sense of wholeness and experience togetherness with others. The perfectionist learns that a changed itinerary doesn't mean a diminished travel experience and lets go of their fear of failure. The person with a strong

sense of independence grows in vulnerability as they receive care from strangers.

In fact, some psychological theories hold that the self longs for surrender, in the sense of liberation: letting down its defensive barriers and finding freedom from attempts to control one's surroundings. Embracing that view can help travelers cope with the reality that things may not go according to plan.

## 4. MEETING

Meeting, traveling's fourth phase, is the invitation to discover oneself and others anew.

All cultures have unconscious "rules of recognition," their own ingrained customs and ways of thinking, making it more difficult to forge cross-cultural connections. Carrying conscious and unconscious stereotypes, travelers may see some people and places as uneducated, dangerous, poor or sexual, while hosts may see travelers as rich, ignorant and exploitable.

Going beyond such stereotypes requires that travelers be mindful of behaviors that can add tension to their interactions – knowing conversational topics to avoid, for example, or following

local dress codes.

In many parts of the world, those challenges are intensified by the legacy of colonization, which makes it harder for people to meet in authentic ways. Colonial views still influence Western perceptions of nonwhite groups as exotic, dangerous and inferior.

Starting to overcome these barriers demands an attitude known as cultural humility, which is deeper than "cultural competence" – simply knowing about a different culture. Cultural humility helps travelers ask questions like, "I don't know," "Please help me understand" or "How should I..."

## 5. CARING

Caring involves overcoming "privileged irresponsibility": when a traveler does not recognize their own privilege and take responsibility for it, or does not recognize other people's lack of privilege.

Travel becomes irresponsible when tourists ignore injustices and inequities they witness or the way their travels contribute to the unfolding climate crisis. Ethically, "empathy" is not enough; travelers must pursue solidarity, as an act of "caring with." That might mean hiring local guides, eating in family-owned restaurants and being mindful of the resources like food and water that they use.

## 6. RETURNING

Travels do end, and returning home can be a disorienting experience.

Coming back can cause reverse culture shock if travelers struggle to readjust. But that shock can diminish as travelers share their experiences with others, stay connected to the places they visited, deepen their knowledge about the place and culture, anticipate a possible return trip or get involved in causes that they discovered on their trip.

I believe that reflecting on these six phases can invite the kind of mindfulness needed for transformative, ethical travel. And amid a pandemic, the need for thoughtful travel that prioritizes host communities' well-being is clear.

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COVID-19

# Gov't defends decision not to cordon off Sands Macao, Oceanus closed

ANTHONY LAM

**T**HE 72nd Covid-19 patient did not walk into too many areas of the Sands Macao Hotel; so it poses less risk than the Oceanus Casino, public health doctor Leong Iek Hou, coordinator of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, said.

The patient is a non-resident worker from mainland China who is now quarantined at the Public Health Clinical Center in Coloane. As confirmed by the Health Bureau (SSM), he has only mild symptoms or possibly none at all.

At yesterday's regular health press briefing, Leong was asked by several journalists, including one from the Times, to justify the authorities' decision not to cordon off the Sands Macao Hotel, in which the patient had stayed for accommodation.

In contrast, the Grand Emperor Hotel and the Victoria Hotel, both of which had accommodated the patient prior to his testing positive for the virus, were cordoned off and identified as red zones, meaning that no one is allowed to leave.

Meanwhile, the Oceanus Casino, where he gambled, is closed for sanitization.

In response, Leong stressed that the patient, though staying at the Sands, stayed only in his own hotel room. "He has not used any facilities in the hotel," Leong said.

However, unlike his behavior at the Sands, he spent several hours gambling in the casino. "Considering his interactions with others, among other factors,



we did our evaluation [based] on his risks," Leong said, hinting that there was higher risk of infection at the Oceanus than the Sands.

The 72nd case was detected after the man took a SARS-CoV-2 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test at the private Kiang Wu Hospital. The sample collection venue was then suspended for cleaning and has now reopened.

Explaining this, Leong said that it has been the practice adopted by the government. Once a venue has been sanitized, it can reopen. "However, whether or not to run operations is the decision of the operators," Leong added.

Based on this, a journalist wanted to know why the same procedure did not apply to the Grand Emperor Hotel and the Victoria Hotel.

"The patient stayed in the Grand Emperor and the Victoria

for a relatively longer period," Leong explained. "In addition, the period when he stayed at these two hotels was closer to his onset."

She added that not all individuals in the two hotels were put under lockdown. After epidemiologist inspections, some individuals proven to have not interacted with the patient were released, albeit with health codes turned to yellow, implying the need for health self-management.

"We handle different venues with different tactics," Leong added.

## 66TH, 74TH PATIENTS TRAVEL ON SAME BUS

The Health Bureau's (SSM) epidemiological inspections have discovered connections between the city's 66th and 74th Covid-19 patients, Leong said.

During investigations attempting to find possible links between the city's recent two outbreaks, involving six security guards and four property renovation workers, the SSM made an unexpected but unsurprising discovery.

On September 24, the 66th and 74th patients, both before their onset of symptoms, traveled on the same shift of bus.

"After reviewing bus surveillance camera footage, we discovered that the two patients stood close to each other," Leong disclosed. "They have even touched the same handrail on the bus."

They took bus route 25 with plate number MX-45-51. The 74th patient boarded the bus at 6:02 p.m. at the Sunny View Garden bus stop on Avenida do Colonel Mesquita; the 66th patient

at 6:08 p.m. at the Victory Garden bus stop on Avenida do Sidónio Pais.

The 66th patient then alighted the bus at 6:29 p.m. at the Chun Leong Building bus stop in Taipa, while the 74th patient alighted at 6:56 p.m. at the Seac Pai Van Park bus stop.

Although they have been in the same space, the relation of the bus trip to the infections cannot be fully confirmed, according to the public health doctor.

The public laboratory, meanwhile, has run a comparison of the DNA patterns of the virus samples collected on the 72nd, the 64th to 66th and the 68th to 71st patients. The patterns of these Delta-variant samples are identical, meaning that the virus has the same source genetically.

With this information revealed, it can be seen that the 74th patient was overlooked in the epidemiological investigations.

Leong attributed the omission to the daily number of bus passengers in Macau. "I believe most of us have taken the bus in Macau. There are a lot of people," she said. "During the tracing of the 65th and 66th patients, we have been faced with [a list containing] several thousands of people."

Leong disagrees with the opinion that the government surveillance system will be able to spot all passengers, "especially when most people wear face masks now." She also disagrees that the government surveillance camera system is the "best" way to identify all passengers at risk.

Rather, she hinted at other methods which could be used, such as the identity-verified bus card and movement registration app.

However, both methods have been called into question by some technical professionals with concerns about the potential leakage of personal data should the database be subject to cyber-attack.

COVID-19

# Traces of virus found in mass NAT taker

ANTHONY LAM

**A** sample in a batch of 10 has been tested "suspiciously positive," neurosurgeon Tai Wa Hou, medical director of the public Conde de São Januário Hospital, announced at the press briefing. The 10 individuals whose samples were included in the batch have been transported to the public hospital for a re-test.

The individual who

has been found mildly positive is a relapsing case. He had been diagnosed with the disease overseas, hospitalized and recovered, before arriving in Macau. Upon arrival, he was hospitalized again and was later released after his recovery.

The cycle threshold (Ct) value of the individual was found to be 40.5, which Tai stressed is "highly noncommunicable."

He explained that the Ct value indicates the extent to which a sample is magnified in order to spot the virus or traces of it.

"Magnifying the sample 40 times before seeing the virus indicates that it is very harmless," Tai said. "More importantly, only parts of the virus's DNA pattern were found."

Nonetheless, for safety reasons, the individual has been put into quarantine, he added.



### CATHOLIC CHURCHES TO CLOSE FOR THREE DAYS

In line with the government's appeal, Bishop Stephen Lee announced that, until October 7, all churches, institutions, and commission offices of the diocese will be closed. Staff are not required to come to work and meetings of all kinds are suspended, according to the announcement. The diocese urged the faithful to "stay home and avoid gatherings, [and] participate in online masses."

### WORK SUSPENSION FOR PUBLIC SERVANTS

A public service work suspension has been implemented from October 5 to 7 in order to reduce the risk of novel coronavirus spread, the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau (SAFP) announced yesterday. The bureau indicated that those in charge of public services should take measures to guarantee that those services continue to be provided to the community. The SAFP's guidelines also highlight that the objective of this suspension is to reduce the spread of the pandemic, therefore the furloughed workers should avoid leaving their homes unless absolutely necessary.

### MONEY IN CIRCULATION RISES: AMCM

Currency in circulation has risen whereas demand deposits has dropped. Resident deposits fell 0.5% in August compared to the previous month, while non-resident deposits went up 8.5%. Public sector deposits with the banking sector decreased by 0.3%, resulting in a 2.1% increase in total deposits in the banking sector. Domestic private sector loans rose 1.2% from the previous month while external loans rose 0.3%. As a result, total private sector loans went up by 0.7%. At the end of August, the loan-to-deposit ratio for the residents had risen 1%, while the ratio for both resident and non-residents decreased by 1.3%.

### COVID-19

## 24-HOUR PCR REQUIRED IN DEPARTURE AREAS

ANTHONY LAM

**C**HIEF Executive Ho Iat Seng issued an Executive Dispatch yesterday, announcing updates on the requirement for entrants to the departure area of any local border checkpoint.

Following Dispatch No. 144/2021, from midnight today, all entrants into border checkpoints are required to present a negative SARS-CoV-2 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test result issued within the 24 preceding hours by an entity accredited by the local Health Bureau.

Public health doctor Leong Iek Hou, coordinator of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, said at yesterday's regular health press briefing that the new Executive Dispatch represents the government's sense of responsibility in attempting to control the spread of the virus.

"We are trying to minimize the chance of leaking an undetected pa-



tient out of the city," Leong told the press conference.

Meanwhile, all individuals from "extreme high risk" countries (Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Nepal, Pakistan,

Philippines, Russia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Turkey) must present three negative Covid-19 certificates in the last seven days prior to entering Macau. Said certificates must have at least 24 hours of in-

terval between each sampling and the last must be carried out up to 48 hours before boarding.

### BROADWAY NOW 'YELLOW CODE' HOTEL

Lau Fong Chi, chief of the Department of Communications and External Affairs of the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO), announced yesterday that the Broadway Macau will be used to house certain individuals with a yellow health code.

Considering that entrants from some areas will have a yellow health code after quarantine-upon-arrival, that they do not have homes in Macau and that they are not allowed to rent hotel accommodation, the MGTO has decided to use the hotel as a "yellow code hotel."

Galaxy Entertainment Group, the owner and operator of the facility, will charge these guests MOP350 per night. Meals are not included in the charge.

The hotel will provide more than 200 rooms.

The Sky Tower of the Sheraton Grande Macao Hotel is now being used as a centralized quarantine facility. It will provide more than 2,000 rooms.

## 75th Covid-19 case confirmed

STAFF REPORTER

**T**HE Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre confirmed another Covid-19 case yesterday, Macau's 75th. This is the fourth locally diagnosed case in just under 24 hours.

The patient, a 42-year-old woman, is a non-resident worker of Vietnamese origin. She worked with cases 72, 73 and 74 at a residential unit undergoing renovation, located at Rua Pedro Coutinho, Edifício Kam Toi Lei Fa Yun, 5th Floor A.

Patient 75 was classi-

fied as a close contact and tested, returning a positive nucleic acid test result. She had been vaccinated with two doses of the Sinopharm inactivated vaccine on the 26th of August and 30th of September. The patient is not presenting with any symptoms, but

has been brought to the Public Health Clinical Center for further diagnosis and treatment.

The following areas have been designated as red zones due to the 75th Covid-19 case: Edif. San Mei On, Estrada Marginal do Hipódromo 36B-38E and

40-52, Rua Quatro do Bairro da Areia Preta 1-13, Rua Três do Bairro da Areia Preta 39-49 e 51-63 and Rua Cinco do Bairro da Areia Preta 2-14.

The current cases have led to the third round of city-wide mass testing which concludes tomorrow at 9 p.m., and also to further restrictions such as the closure of entertainment venues.

## TOURIST ARRIVALS IN FIRST FOUR DAYS OF GOLDEN WEEK DOWN 91% Y-O-Y

LYNZY VALLES

**T**HE city has recorded just 1,800 tourist arrivals on the fourth day of Golden Week, a figure to be expected following the new Covid-19 cases recently detected in the city.

According to preliminary data provided by the Public Security Police there were only about 6,700 arrivals from October 1 to 4, to the disappointment of local retailers and the tourism sector.

The figure represents a staggering decrease of 91.3% compared to the 77,000 visitors welcomed over four days in Golden Week last year.

The 77,000 figure in 2020 was already 87.4% lower than the same period in 2019.

Visitor arrivals to Macau from September 10 to 16 totaled

201,891, according to data from the Macao Government Tourism Office.

Prior to the most recent cases, the tourism industry had been anticipating a boost in tourist arrivals during the upcoming Golden Week, with authorities predicting approximately 40,000 arrivals during the seven-day national holiday.

However, on September 27, tourist arrivals recorded a significant drop of 70% compared to a day earlier due to the new Covid-19 cases in the region. Authorities said that only 10,000 tourists entered the region that day.

From September 27, the city recorded a total of nine new cases.

In light of the new cases, Zhuhai authorities have imposed a 14-day quarantine requirement for arrivals from Macau.

## COTAI EXPO HALLS TRANSFORMED INTO MASS TESTING STATION

**S**INCE Monday, Sands China is offering 24-hour Covid-19 testing at The Venetian Macao's Cotai Expo Halls A, B and C.

The gaming operator also announced that free parking is available on-site to help ensure smooth operations at the station.

The move comes after the government announced another city-wide Covid-19 test following the discovery of the 72nd positive case and a preliminary positive result

for a batched sample comprising ten individual samples.

The third mass test is running for three days, ending tomorrow at 9 p.m.

A total of 41 testing stations will remain open 24 hours a day.

Due to the risk of community transmission of the virus, the government calls on citizens to stay at home as much as possible, and to avoid unnecessary activities and mass gatherings. LV



GAMING

# GGR at MOP5.88b following late September Covid-19 cases

LYNZY VALLES

**M**ACAU'S gross gaming revenue (GGR) recorded an increase of 32.4% in September, reaching MOP5.88 billion and following the steep downturn in revenues in August due to the Delta variant cases and resulting border restrictions.

September's figure is the second-lowest GGR the city has recorded this year. August recorded the lowest figure at MOP4.44 billion, with visitors discouraged by the entry and exit measures imposed by Zhuhai authorities.

Data from the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau shows that gaming industry revenue in September rose 165.9% year-on-year.

Accumulated revenue in the first nine months of this year reached MOP67.79 billion, up 75.6% year-on-year.

The SAR was hit by a new outbreak of the Covid-19 pan-



PHOTO ARCHIVE

demic near the end of September.

In response to the outbreak, neighboring Guangdong province on the Chinese mainland required those entering from Macau to quarantine for 14 days.

The entry measure was initially set to be lifted at noon on October 4, however the detection of another Covid-19 case in the SAR saw neighboring authorities withdraw their decision to provide quarantine-free entry to local residents.

They formerly announced

that residents will be able to enter Zhuhai from Monday via Macau checkpoints if they have a negative nucleic acid test valid for 48 hours and proof of Covid-19 vaccination.

Last Wednesday, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng announced at an impromptu press conference that if no new Covid-19 cases were detected by September 30, the quarantine-upon-arrival measures for entrants to Zhuhai from Macau would "likely be lifted."

However, Macau recorded five new cases over the past

two days.

The current outbreak is expected to exacerbate the city's fall in GGR, missing the government's initial gaming revenue forecast.

The MOP130 billion revenue forecast is currently being revised since the government had noted that it may not reach this figure due to the recent downturn.

To reach the goal of MOP130 billion, the city's casinos would need to bring in MOP81 billion in revenue in the second half of the year.

## ANOTHER GAMING PUBLIC CONSULTATION CANCELED

**F**OLLOWING the recent outbreak of Covid-19 cases, the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau has called off the planned second public consultation on gaming that was to be held this Saturday.

Last week's first public consultation on the amendments to the law was also cancelled due to the outbreak.

The casino regulator said that developments in the pandemic were the main reason for canceling these two sessions.

Another session is scheduled for October 19. It is unknown at this stage whether a face-to-face consultation will occur on this date.

There are no plans to extend the consultation process because members of the public are still able to give their opinions in writing, the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lei Wai Nong, announced late last week.

Last month, the Secretary announced proposed amendments to the gaming law including tighter government scrutiny for concessionaires. The government will have greater authority to verify the background of staff hired by both the concessionaires and entities who work with them.

This includes oversight of those who seek to establish partnerships with the concessionaires.

The announcement led to a plunge in casino stocks of some USD18 billion in market value the following day. **LV**

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AP PHOTO



## PLA FLIES RECORD 56 WARPLANES TOWARD SELF-RULED TAIWAN

HUIZHONG WU, TAIPEI

CHINA flew 56 fighter planes toward Taiwan on Monday in the largest show of force on record, continuing the three days of sustained military harassment against the self-ruled island.

The first sortie of 52 planes included 34 J-16 fighter jets and 12 H-6 bombers, among other aircraft, according to Taiwan's authorities. Later, four more Chinese J-16s flew toward the southwestern part of Taiwan's air defense

identification zone — a buffer outside a country's airspace.

The Taiwanese air force scrambled its fighter planes and monitored the movement of the Chinese warplanes on its air defense system, the ministry said.

China claims democratically ruled Taiwan as its own territory, to be brought under its control by force if necessary. It refuses to recognize the island's government and has increasingly sought to isolate the independence-leaning administration of Tsai Ing-wen.

Experts have called the flights and other military maneuvers by Beijing gray zone warfare, or any type of military action short of direct combat. Many say they do not believe the display of force and aggressive rhetoric, much of which is repetitive, will lead to war.

"We are very concerned that China is going to launch a war against Taiwan at some point, even though the threat may not be imminent at this point," Taiwanese Minister Joseph Wu said in

an interview with the Australian Broadcasting Corp. broadcast on Monday.

Taiwan and China split during a civil war in 1949, and Beijing opposes Taiwan's involvement in international organizations. Taiwan announced on Sept. 23 that it had applied to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, a week after China submitted its own application to join the trade pact.

Starting last Friday, on China's

National Day, the People's Liberation Army sent 38 warplanes into the area and 39 aircraft on Saturday, previously the most in a single day since Taiwan began releasing reports on the flights in September 2020. China sent an additional 16 planes on Sunday.

The latest maneuvers by the Chinese air force bring the total to 814 flights.

In Washington yesterday [Macau time], White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said: "We remain concerned by the People's Republic of China's provocative military activity near Taiwan, which is destabilizing, risks miscalculations and undermines regional peace and stability. We urge Beijing to cease its military, diplomatic and economic pressure and coercion against Taiwan."

In response to a similar statement over the weekend from the U.S. State Department, China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs had said that the U.S. selling weapons to Taiwan as well as ships navigating the Taiwan Strait were "provocative actions that harmed U.S.-China relations."

"China will take all necessary countermeasures and resolutely crush any 'Taiwan independence' plot," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said in a statement Monday night.

The latest flights have come in separate groups with daytime and nighttime incursions. The nighttime flights are of note, analysts say, because they're more challenging due to reduced visibility.

"They have the kind of confidence to operate at night," said Chen-Yi Tu, a researcher at the Institute for National Defense and Security Research in Taiwan. **MDT/AP**

### PROPERTY

## Midsized developer misses payment, adding to industry strain

A midsized Chinese real estate developer failed to make a \$205.7 million payment due to bondholders yesterday, adding to the industry's financial strain as one of China's biggest developers tries to avoid defaulting on billions of dollars of debt.

Fantasia Holdings Group announced it missed the payment in a statement issued through the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. It gave no explanation but said it had asked for trading of Fantasia shares to be suspended.

Some Chinese developers are struggling to repay debt after regulators tightened limits last year on their use of borrowed money. That is fueling fears about possible defaults and turmoil in financial markets.

Investors are worried Evergrande Group might collapse with 2 trillion yuan (\$310 billion) of debt. The company has missed at least one payment to bondholders abroad but has yet to be declared in default.

Economists say Beijing can prevent a broader credit crunch if Evergrande defaults but wants to avoid bailing out the company or its creditors as a warning to other borrowers and lenders to be more disciplined.

Fantasia, valued by the stock market at \$415 million, reported a 153 million yuan (\$24 million) profit for the first half of 2021 and said revenue rose 18.5% over a year earlier to 10.9 billion yuan (\$1.7 billion).

"Fantasia's missed payment highlights its strained liquidity, despite its

reported sufficient cash on hand," said S&P Global Ratings in a statement.

Fantasia said it had 27.1 billion yuan (\$4.2 billion) in cash as of June 30, according to S&P.

"As funding conditions worsened, it's likely that the cash was utilized for other repayments or was not accessible," S&P said. "Asset disposals have been slower than we expected, failing to bring in liquidity sources in time."

The failure to pay is likely to trigger cross defaults on other Fantasia bonds, accelerating repayment on other debt, S&P said.

Hundreds of smaller Chinese developers have gone bankrupt since regulators began tightening control over the industry's financing in 2017 amid

AP PHOTO



concern about rising debt and the possible risk of a financial crisis.

In March, another developer, Fortune Land Development Co. said it missed

interest and debt payments totaling 5.3 billion yuan (\$813.5 million). **MDT/AP**

JAPAN

# Kishida, Biden agree to cooperate on China, N.Korea

MARI YAMAGUCHI, TOKYO

**J**APAN'S new Prime Minister Fumio Kishida held his first talks as Japanese leader with President Joe Biden and confirmed they will work to strengthen their alliance and cooperate in regional security in the face of growing challenges from China and North Korea.

Kishida, who was elected by Parliament and sworn in Monday, told reporters that Biden reassured him of the U.S. commitment to defend the Japanese-controlled East China Sea island Senkaku (Daiouyu), which China also claims and has escalated coast guard activity in the area.

Biden provided "a strong statement about U.S. commitment for the defense of Japan, including ... Senkaku," Kishida said, adding that the two leaders also reaffirmed they would tackle together the "challenges facing neighboring regions such as China and North Korea."

Kishida supports stronger Japan-U.S. security ties and partnerships with other like-minded democracies in Asia, Europe and Britain, in part to counter China and nuclear-armed North Korea. Kishida has also pledged to beef up Japan's missile and naval defense capabilities.



Japan's Emperor Naruhito (left) stands before new Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, as former PM Suga looks on during Kishida's attestation ceremony at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo

Kishida this week acknowledged the need to continue dialogue with China, an important neighbor and trade partner, but said that "we must speak up" against China's attempt to change the status quo in the East and

South China Seas. The two leaders confirmed their commitment to work together toward achieving the "free and open Indo-Pacific" vision of partnerships among the regional democracies as a counter to Chi-

na's increasingly assertive activity, Kishida said.

Holding his first talks as prime minister with the U.S. president serves "a first step toward lifting the Japan-U.S. alliance to even higher levels," Kishida said.

The 20-minute phone talks yesterday [Macau time] started with Biden congratulating Kishida on taking office. The leaders agreed to call each other by their first names, Joe and Fumio, and agreed to meet for their first in-person talks at an early date.

Later Monday, Kishida held online talks with Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, agreeing to strengthen their security and economic ties bilaterally and as part of the Quad alliance, which also includes the United States and India, to promote the regional peace and stability, Japan's Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Kishida expressed his support of a newly launched security partnership among Australia, Britain and the United States, or AUKUS. He and Morrison reaffirmed their firm objection to what's seen as economic overbearing by China and unilateral attempts to change the status quo in the regional seas, the ministry said.

Kishida, 64, had been known as a moderate in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party but won the party's leadership last week after a hawkish turn on security and taking a more conservative stance on gender equality and other issues, apparently to win over influential conservatives in the party.

He succeeds Yoshihide Suga, who resigned after only one year in office after seeing his support plunging over his handling of the virus and insistence on holding the Olympics — seen as high-handed and ignoring the public's concerns. **MDT/AP**

PHILIPPINES

# Son of Marcos to seek presidency

**T**HE son and namesake of the late Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos, who was toppled in a 1986 revolt, announced yesterday that he would seek the presidency in next year's elections in what activists say is an attempt to whitewash a dark period in the country's history marked by plunder and human rights atrocities.

Former senator Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. said in a brief Facebook video that he would unite Filipinos to be able to overcome the coronavirus pandemic that has destroyed lives, battered the economy and brought widespread misery. Issues surrounding the Marcoses, however, continue to stoke political divisions more than three decades after the dictator's downfall.



Former Senator Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., the son and namesake of the late Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos

"We must face the challenge as one — as one country, as one people,"

Marcos Jr. said. "I will bring that form of unifying leadership back to our country."

Loretta Ann Rosales, a former chairwoman of the Commission on Human

Rights and a political detainee who was tortured and molested during the Marcos era, said his presidential bid "seeks to institutionalize the dark, corrupt and tyrannical legacy of his father and sabotage our efforts to exact full accountability from his family."

"We must not allow him to use his family's ill-gotten wealth to fund his presidential ambition, whitewash their crimes against the people and complete their quest for historical distortions," Rosales said.

Marcos was ousted in a 1986 army-backed "people power" uprising and died in exile in Hawaii three years later without admitting any wrongdoing, including accusations that he and his family amassed an estimated \$5 billion to \$10 billion while he was in power.

Marcos placed the Philippines under martial rule in 1972, a year before his term was to expire. He pa-

dlocked Congress, ordered the arrest of political rivals and left-wing activists and ruled by decree.

A Hawaii court found Marcos liable for human rights violations and awarded \$2 billion from his estate to compensate more than 9,000 Filipinos who filed a lawsuit against him for torture, incarceration, extrajudicial killings and disappearances.

Marcos Jr., 64, is the latest to express his intention to succeed President Rodrigo Duterte, an ally of the Marcoses who has been in the crosshairs of human rights groups himself. Marcos Jr. is one of at least eight politicians and celebrities who said they'll run for president or lower posts, including Vice President Leni Robredo, who leads the opposition.

Marcos Jr. narrowly lost to Robredo in the 2016 vice presidential race and then unsuccessfully contested alleged elections irregularities. **MDT/AP**



Frances Haugen on the TV news show 60 Minutes

SOCIAL MEDIA

# Ex-Facebook employee bringing sharp criticisms to Congress

MARCY GORDON,  
WASHINGTON

**A** former Facebook data scientist has stunned lawmakers and the public with revelations of the company's awareness of apparent harm to some teens from Instagram and her accusations of dishonesty in its fight against hate and misinformation. Now she is coming before Congress.

Frances Haugen has come forward with a wide-ranging condemnation of Facebook, buttressed with tens of thousands of pages of internal research documents she secretly copied before leaving her job in Facebook's civic integrity unit. Haugen also has filed complaints with federal authorities alleging that Facebook's own research shows that it amplifies hate, misinformation and political unrest, but the company hides what it knows.

After recent reports in The Wall Street Journal based on documents she leaked to the newspaper raised a public outcry, Haugen revealed her identity in a CBS "60 Minutes" interview aired Sunday night. She insisted that "Facebook, over and over again, has shown it chooses profit over safety."

The ex-employee challenging the social network giant with 2.8 billion users worl-

dwide and nearly \$1 trillion in market value is a 37-year-old data expert from Iowa with a degree in computer engineering and a master's degree in business from Harvard. She worked for 15 years prior to being recruited by Facebook in 2019 at companies including Google and Pinterest.

Haugen is set to testify to the Senate Commerce subcommittee on consumer protection at a hearing today [Macau time].

The panel is examining Facebook's use of information from its own researchers on Instagram that could indicate potential harm for some of its young users, especially girls, while it publicly downplayed the negative impacts. For some of the teens devoted to Facebook's popular photo-sharing platform, the peer pressure generated by the visually focused Instagram led to mental health and body-image problems, and in some cases, eating disorders and suicidal thoughts, the research leaked by Haugen showed.

One internal study cited 13.5% of teen girls saying Instagram makes thoughts of suicide worse and 17% of teen girls saying it makes eating disorders worse.

"And what's super tragic is Facebook's own research says, as these young women begin to consume this eating

disorder content, they get more and more depressed," Haugen said in the televised interview. "And it actually makes them use the app more. And so, they end up in this feedback cycle where they hate their bodies more and more."

As the public relations debacle over the Instagram research grew last week, Facebook put on hold its work on a kids' version of Instagram, which the company says is meant mainly for tweens aged 10 to 12.

The senators are eager to hear from Haugen.

"I look forward to asking her follow-up questions about why Facebook hasn't taken action to fix problems on its platforms, even when its own internal research reflects massive problems," Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., a member of the subcommittee, told The Associated Press yesterday. "I want to discuss how Facebook's algorithms promote harmful and divisive content, and how much Facebook really profits off of our children."

At issue are algorithms that govern what shows up on users' news feeds, and how they favor hateful content. Haugen said a 2018 change to the content flow contributed to more divisiveness and ill will in a network ostensibly created to bring

people closer together. Despite the enmity that the new algorithms were feeding, Facebook found that they helped keep people coming back — a pattern that helped the social media giant sell more of the digital ads that generate most of its revenue.

Haugen's criticisms range beyond the Instagram situation. She said in the interview that Facebook prematurely turned off safeguards designed to thwart misinformation and incitement to violence after Joe Biden defeated Donald Trump last year, alleging that contributed to the deadly Jan. 6 assault on the U.S. Capitol.

After the November election, Facebook dissolved the civic integrity union where Haugen had been working. That, she said, was the moment she realized "I don't trust that they're willing to actually invest what needs to be invested to keep Facebook from being dangerous."

Facebook maintains that Haugen's allegations are misleading and insists there is no evidence to support the premise that it is the primary cause of social polarization.

"Even with the most sophisticated technology, which I believe we deploy, even with the tens of thousands of people that we employ to try and maintain safety and integrity on our platform, we're never going to be absolutely on top of this 100% of the time," Nick Clegg, Facebook's vice president of policy and public affairs, said Sunday on CNN's "Reliable Sources."

That's because of the "instantaneous and spontaneous form of communication" on Facebook, Clegg said, adding, "I think we do more than any reasonable person can expect to."

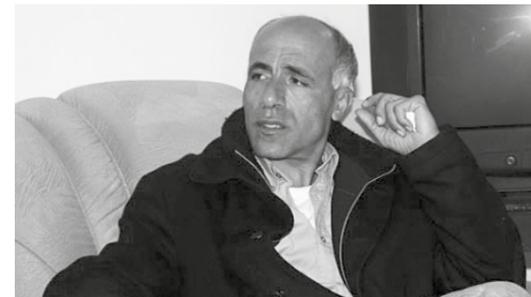
By coming forward, Haugen says she hopes it will help spur the government to put regulations in place for Facebook's activities. Like fellow tech giants Google, Amazon and Apple, Facebook has for years enjoyed minimal regulation in Washington.

Separately Monday, a massive global outage plunged Facebook, Instagram and the company's WhatsApp messaging platform into chaos, only gradually dissipating by yesterday [Macau time]. For some users, WhatsApp was working for a time, then not. For others, Instagram was working but Facebook, and so on.

Facebook didn't say what might have caused the outage, which began around 11:40 a.m. EDT and was still not fixed more than six hours later. **MDT/AP**

## this day in history

### 1986 NUCLEAR TECHNICIAN MISSING AFTER SECRETS LEAK



Fears are growing for the missing nuclear technician who disappeared in London after revealing details of Israel's nuclear weapons programme.

The American magazine, Newsweek, claimed earlier this week that Mordechai Vanunu had been abducted from a yacht in the Mediterranean by agents of the Israeli intelligence service, Mossad.

But these reports have been rejected by a close friend of Mr Vanunu. The Rev John McKnight, who is an Australian priest, says he believes the nuclear technician was kidnapped in London and is now being held for trial in Israel for treason.

So far Israeli officials have refused to confirm reports Mr Vanunu is being held on remand at Gadera military prison near Jerusalem, a jail normally used to house Palestinian rebels.

Scotland Yard confirmed Mr Vanunu left a London hotel on 30 September in unexplained circumstances.

On 5 October an article appeared in The Sunday Times newspaper based on an interview with Mr Vanunu in which he gave details of Israel's nuclear weapons stockpile, with photographs of the research plant at Dimona in the Negev desert.

Mr Vanunu, who was born in Morocco, moved to Israel with his family in 1963 and spent almost 10 years working at the Dimona plant.

He came to the attention of the Israeli authorities for his affiliation to a group called Movement for the Advancement of Peace and his alleged sympathies for the Palestinians.

He was sacked from Dimona and set off round the world, arriving in Sydney, Australia, where he was befriended by Rev McKnight and converted to Christianity.

Mr McKnight said his friend had spoken to him of his fears he would be captured and returned to Israel after his newspaper interview.

He said: "My sources in the media in Israel tell me that he is being held probably for trial for treason for disclosing nuclear arms' secrets."

Mr McKnight also rejected suggestions Mr Vanunu was a Palestinian sympathiser, saying: "He was at the crossroads of his life and started becoming involved with peace groups and was concerned about nuclear weapons and Israeli policies."

"He did what he did for his own reasons, because he felt he had to give details about Israel's nuclear arsenal."

The vicar said he would remain in Britain until he had discovered the whereabouts of his friend.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

It was later confirmed Mordechai Vanunu had been befriended in London by an American Mossad agent, Cheryl Bentov, who was masquerading as an American tourist. She lured him to Rome with her on holiday on 30 September. Once there he was kidnapped and drugged and returned to Israel on a freighter.

The details were revealed by Mr Vanunu himself, who wrote them on the palm of his hand which he held up against the window of a van while being transported from prison so waiting journalists could get the information.

The Sunday Times article based on an interview with Mr Vanunu contained the most substantive evidence at the time of Israel's nuclear weapons programme. It led the international community to revise sharply upwards the number of weapons it believed Israel held in its stockpile.

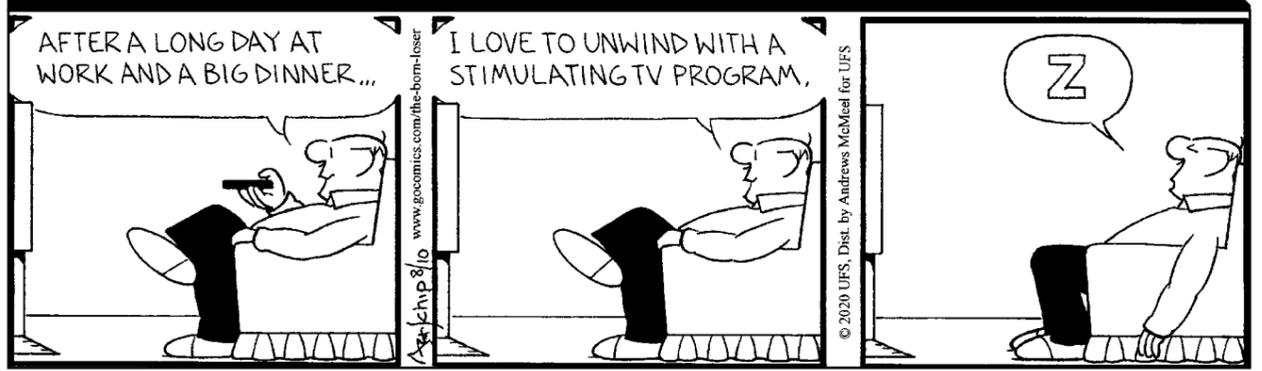
Mr Vanunu was subsequently put on trial in March 1987 on charges of treason and espionage and sentenced to 18 years in prison. Eleven of those were spent in solitary confinement. He was freed on 21 April 2004 and has since been refused permission to leave Israel.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

<p><b>ARIES</b> Mar. 21-Apr. 19</p> <p>You may want to make plans to take a vacation together. Avoid any confrontations with colleagues. Losses could occur if you haven't been careful when dealing with joint financial ventures.</p>	<p><b>TAURUS</b> Apr. 20-May. 20</p> <p>Travel should be on your agenda. You mustn't make promises that you won't be able to keep. You will get along well with your colleagues today.</p>
<p><b>GEMINI</b> May. 21-Jun. 21</p> <p>Make sure that new mates live up to your high standards. You will find good buys and you will lift your spirits. A second chance will result in good work.</p>	<p><b>CANCER</b> Jun. 22-Jul. 22</p> <p>Be sure to think twice before you say something that might hurt your partner's feelings. However, you should be concerned about what they want in return.</p>
<p><b>LEO</b> Jul. 23-Aug. 22</p> <p>Someone may try to damage your reputation. You should look into making some physical changes, such as new hair color or toning up your body.</p>	<p><b>VIRGO</b> Aug. 23-Sep. 22</p> <p>Don't vacillate about asking for assistance if you need it. Sudden changes regarding your circle of friends could prove interesting and stimulating.</p>
<p><b>LIBRA</b> Sep. 23-Oct. 22</p> <p>You are best to concentrate on work. You have been stagnating for some time now and you need a change of pace. Real estate and joint financial ventures will be profitable.</p>	<p><b>SCORPIO</b> Oct. 23-Nov. 21</p> <p>Your mate could get on your nerves if he or she backs you into an emotional corner or puts restrictions on your time. Direct your energy wisely.</p>
<p><b>SAGITTARIUS</b> Nov. 22-Dec. 21</p> <p>You may get some opposition. Personal changes will be to your benefit. You may find that your anger stems from lending or borrowing money.</p>	<p><b>CAPRICORN</b> Dec. 22-Jan. 19</p> <p>Hassles with female colleagues may lead to problems with your boss. You might not accomplish all that you want to at home today.</p>
<p><b>AQUARIUS</b> Jan. 20-Feb. 18</p> <p>Be aware that you don't get anything for nothing. Your intellectual charm will entice new love interests. Show what a dedicated person you can be.</p>	<p><b>PISCES</b> Feb. 19-Mar. 20</p> <p>Get into fitness programs to keep in shape. Your ambitious mood may not go over well with loved ones. Satisfy your passionate mood.</p>

**The Born Loser by Chip Sanson**



**SUDOKU**

<b>EASY</b>					<b>EASY+</b>							
1	9		6		4	2	7		6	5		
8	2	1			5	8	5		1			
6		9	8		7	4	2			1		
			7		3	6	9			5	2	
3	6	5		2	8	8	5	6	9	4		
2	9		6			3	8			6		
	1		4	5		3			4	6		
	6			8	4	2		7			5	8
8		7		9	6	5	9		2	7		

<b>MEDIUM</b>					<b>HARD</b>						
1	9		2		4		4		1		
			9		6	8	2	3			
			3			5				5	7
3				6							2
	2		9		3		1				3
			4			9				7	6
2			4					8		4	
	8	5		7			6	5			
4		8		1	7						1

**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	12	14	rain
Harbin	5	14	cloudy
Tianjin	19	31	cloudy
Urumqi	17	20	rain
Xi'an	22	29	overcast
Lhasa	11	15	rain
Chengdu	24	32	cloudy
Chongqing	24	35	fine
Kunming	27	36	cloudy
Nanjing	19	29	fine
Shanghai	25	30	thunderstorms
Wuhan	22	31	rain
Hangzhou	4	14	cloudy
Taipei	20	27	cloudy
Guangzhou	8	13	rain
Hong Kong	12	15	rain
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	-1	11	overcast
Frankfurt	8	13	rain
Paris	11	16	overcast
London	10	14	rain
New York	16	21	rain

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS 1-** Rebuff; 5- Pier; 10- Lay an egg; 14- Actress Skye; 15- Conger catcher; 16- Autobahn auto; 17- Tailless amphibian; 18- A-one; 19- Futile; 20- Implant deeply; 22- Nobleman; 24- Take exception; 25- Infernal; 26- Dies \_\_\_\_; 28- Burton of "Roots"; 32- King of comedy; 35- B'way hit sign; 37- Methuselah's claim to fame; 38- Used car locale; 39- More bizarre; 41- Sportscaster Berman; 42- Import or export duty; 45- Paris's Pont \_\_\_\_ Arts; 46- Start from scratch; 47- Muscat native; 48- Deep affection; 50- Stupidity; 54- Gut course; 58- Serrate; 61- One engraving; 62- Et \_\_\_\_ (and other men); 63- Eye drops; 65- Sharpen; 66- Vincent Lopez's theme song; 67- Upbeat, in music; 68- Tolkien tree creatures; 69- Aquatic bird; 70- Surround; 71- Chair;

**DOWN 1-** Located; 2- Peter of Herman's Hermits; 3- Render weaponless; 4- Wanderer; 5- Cried; 6- The Beatles' "And I Love \_\_\_\_"; 7- Not dead yet; 8- Pardon; 9- High-school freshman; 10- Privileged; 11- Hawaiian outdoor feast; 12- Thor's father; 13- Pub quantity; 21- Bruins great Bobby; 23- Type of phone; 25- Square; 27- Starting on; 29- Low-lying area; 30- Ripened; 31- "All The Way To \_\_\_\_", song by REM; 32- Singing voice; 33- Rich soil; 34- Gillette brand; 36- Out of the ordinary; 37- About; 40- Hard to hold; 43- First; 44- Rover's pal; 46- Attains; 49- Spot checker?; 51- Little bits; 52- Cheri of "Saturday Night Live"; 53- Pursue; 55- Excelled; 56- Gossipmonger; 57- Give it \_\_\_\_; 58- Squealed; 59- Baseball family name; 60- Volition; 61- "\_\_\_\_ quam videri" (North Carolina's motto); 64- Semi;

**Friday's solution**

L	A	I	D	E	C	O	Y	A	R	B	E
A	L	O	E	T	R	O	D	E	F	I	A
M	A	Y	A	L	E	A	D	S	T	O	R
P	R	O	S	P	E	C	T	L	O	B	B
C	A	S	T	F	E	A	R				
S	O	L	A	R	S	L	A	P	D	A	S
A	D	A	P	T	T	W	E	R	P	N	I
I	D	B	E	A	R	I	E	L	T	I	N
D	E	D	E	V	E	N	S	P	R	O	U
A	R	R	I	V	I	N	G	T	A	N	S
H	O	N	O	R	E	D					
E	L	A	N	A	S	T	I	N	U	L	E
A	L	L	I	C	L	E	A	N	R	A	T
T	A	L	C								
H	O	N	D	A							
E	Y	E	D								

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

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



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Property of the Week



FOR SALE

**Nam Long**  
**HKD 8,380,000** 1,404 ft<sup>2</sup> 4 2

Taipa village is the perfect location for both work and pleasure. These two apartments were connected 8 years ago into a showroom. It's a wonderful place to work but would also be equally great to live too. Located close to central Taipa it is all about convenience; in this location you are close to transportation, banks, restaurants, shops and schools.

The showroom could easily be converted back into two apartments or one apartment with an adjacent office, so many options. Within five minutes stroll you are in Old Taipa village with all its charm then a further five minutes you arrive at the hustle and bustle of Cotai.

Parking can be offered over at the Manhattan, parking spaces can be sold separately to the same buyer. The new owner can take vacant possession of the apartments or continue with the current tenants to produce a significant rental income becoming a straightforward investment opportunity.

Current owners will pay stamp duty as the showrooms has two separate. Deeds to register.

Viewings by appointment. Find out more on [www.jmlproperty.com](http://www.jmlproperty.com)



SCAN ME  
Ref: 1909 6006

Property Hotlist



FOR SALE

**Wa Seng San Chong**  
**HKD 4,500,000**

800 ft<sup>2</sup>

2

1



SCAN ME  
Ref: 2108 6005



FOR RENT

NEW

**One Oasis**  
**HKD 11,200/mth**

1,185 ft<sup>2</sup>

2

2



SCAN ME  
Ref: 2109 1001



FOR RENT

REDUCED

**Jardim Lamerias**  
**HKD 10,800/mth**

747 ft<sup>2</sup>

2

2



SCAN ME  
Ref: 2106 1003

More Listings

For Sale

- [Macau] Jardim do Dragao 2 1 980 ft<sup>2</sup> **HKD 6,680,000** Ref: 2106 6001
- [Taipa] Chun Fok 2 2 868 ft<sup>2</sup> **HKD 7,988,000** Ref: 2106 6002
- [Taipa] Manhattan 3 2 1,720 ft<sup>2</sup> **HKD 12,980,000** Ref: 1909 6006
- [Taipa] Nova Taipa 1 3 2 1,880 ft<sup>2</sup> **HKD 15,000,000** Ref: 2103 6004
- [Taipa] Manhattan 4 2 2,305 ft<sup>2</sup> **HKD 17,980,000** Ref: 1807 5558

For Rent

- [Taipa] Old Taipa Studio 1 470 ft<sup>2</sup> **HKD 7,200/mth** Ref: 2106 1004
- [Macau] Tai Nin 1 1 720 ft<sup>2</sup> **HKD 8,600/mth** Ref: 1909 1002
- [Coloane] One Oasis 2 2 1,033 ft<sup>2</sup> **HKD 11,900/mth** Ref: 2107 6003
- [Cotai] One Grantai 3 3 2,158 ft<sup>2</sup> **HKD 20,000/mth** Ref: 2105 1002
- [Taipa] One Central 3 3 2,332 ft<sup>2</sup> **HKD 29,800/mth** Ref: 2010 1001

Rain Dance Property "WE DANCE UNTIL IT'S SOLD!"



FOR SALE

**Traditional apartment**  
**HKD 2,680,000**

788 ft<sup>2</sup>

2

1



SCAN ME  
Ref: 2103 6001

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Honda CR-V Touring



Hyundai Tucson

**WHEELS**

# Edmunds compares Hyundai Tucson and Honda CR-V SUVs

CAMERON ROGERS,  
EDMUNDS

FOR years, the Honda CR-V has been one of the most appealing small crossover SUVs on the market. It boasts a smooth ride, enjoyable acceleration and handling, and lots of passenger and cargo space. However, Honda introduced this latest CR-V generation back for the 2017 model year and hasn't significantly updated it since. And that has opened the door for newer rivals to challenge its reign.

One of those hopefuls is the redesigned 2022 Hyundai Tucson. Some of its highlights include distinctive new styling and an impressive list of standard and available features. The experts at Edmunds examine both to determine whether the overhauled Tucson has what it takes to dethrone the 2022 CR-V.

**COMFORT AND INTERIOR**

First and foremost, a small crossover SUV must be practical. They are inherently smaller than midsize SUVs, so maximizing the amount of room is paramount. Both the CR-V and Tucson have a greater amount of passenger headroom and legroom than you might expect, allowing 6-foot-tall occupants to fit with ease. From an ergonomics perspective,

primary controls in both vehicles are within the driver's reach.

SUVs should also transport passengers in comfort, and both of these superlative crossovers abide. They each feature cushy seats that conform to most body types as well as a ride that glides over even rougher road surfaces. Exterior noise doesn't seep into the cabin much in either vehicle.

**Winner: Tie**

**UTILITY**

As with passenger room, cargo capacity can sometimes be at a premium in a small SUV. Thankfully, the Honda CR-V and Hyundai Tucson have some of the largest cargo areas in the class. Most versions of the CR-V offer 39.2 cubic feet of storage behind the rear seats, just slightly more than the Tucson's 38.7 cubic feet. Lower the rear seats, and the CR-V gives you 75.8 cubic feet and the Tucson offers 74.8 cubic feet.

The CR-V does gain a slight edge when you consider storage inside the cabin. The Hyundai offers numerous small cubbies throughout the cabin in which you can place water bottles, a phone and other small items. But the Honda's bins are a bit larger and more useful. In particular, it has a sizable storage area under the armrest that features a sliding divider.

**Winner: Honda CR-V**

**TECHNOLOGY**

The CR-V's age is most apparent in its technology package. The 7-inch touchscreen is slow to respond to user inputs, and the interface itself is crammed with small virtual buttons that can be distracting to push when driving. By contrast, the Tucson's standard 8-inch screen is more responsive. But its optional 10.25-inch screen does present some usability issues because the touchscreen and climate control panel feature no physical buttons. Both vehicles' touchscreen interfaces require quite a bit of familiarization before they're easy to operate.

Both SUVs come with a similar number of advanced driving aids as standard, such as forward collision warning and lane keeping assist, which steers the vehicle back into its lane if it begins to drift over the lane marker. While the Tucson's best features are reserved for models in upper trims, overall it offers a wider range of safety systems than the CR-V. The Tucson's driving aids also feel more natural in their operation than the CR-V's, which can be overly abrupt and sensitive.

**Winner: Tucson**

**PERFORMANCE**

The Honda and Hyundai are both powered by four-cylinder engines and produce nearly identical levels of power. But the CR-V's turbocharged engine develops peak torque earlier in the rev

range, and the continuously variable automatic transmission keeps it in the sweet spot more easily. These two aspects explain why in Edmunds' testing an all-wheel-drive CR-V accelerated from 0 to 60 mph in 8.3 seconds com-

pared to an all-wheel-drive Tucson at 10.2 seconds to 60 mph. The CR-V's steering and handling are also a bit sharper, making this family-friendly crossover a little more enjoyable to drive.

**Winner: CR-V**

**VALUE**

Value has always been a Hyundai strong suit, and the Tucson is no different. The Hyundai's starting price is a bit lower, but it also comes with a stronger set of standard features. The base Tucson — \$26,175, including destination charges — comes with a touchscreen, a six-speaker audio system, and wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto smartphone connectivity. You have to upgrade to the CR-V Special Edition at \$28,175 for any of these, and the Honda doesn't have wireless smartphone connectivity at all.

In their fully loaded forms, the Tucson is a little more expensive than a comparable CR-V — \$37,425 for the Hyundai versus \$36,775 for the Honda — but comes with more features.

**Winner: Tucson**

**EDMUNDS SAYS:**

The 2022 Honda CR-V and 2022 Hyundai Tucson are both excellent choices. It's a close match, but we think the CR-V's superior driving dynamics and more thoughtful storage are worth paying a little extra for. **MDT/EDMUNDS**

AD

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**OPINION**

**World Views**

Liz Weston, MDT/NerdWallet



**HOW GRATITUDE CAN HELP  
 YOUR FINANCIAL LIFE**

**Gratitude** makes us more aware of the sources of joy, wonder and hope in our lives. Being grateful also can improve health, strengthen relationships and help us manage our money.

Developing gratitude requires us to focus on what we have rather than on what we lack, says Meghaan Lurtz, a senior research associate with financial planning site Kitces.com and past president of the Financial Therapy Association. Such thankfulness has been shown to reduce feelings of impatience, perhaps making it easier to save and delay gratification as well as decreasing the temptation to spend.

Gratitude is a social, relationship-strengthening emotion with two parts, according to Robert Emmons, a professor of psychology at the University of California, Davis, and author of "Thanks! How the New Science of Gratitude Can Make You Happier."

The first part is acknowledgement of the gifts and benefits we've received. The second is recognition that we have been blessed by help from others, good luck or perhaps the intervention of a higher power. Gratitude "requires us to see how we've been supported and affirmed by other people," Emmons writes.

"There is a really important social quality to gratitude," Lurtz says. "It can bring us together, it can connect us, it can help us to feel safe."

It also short-circuits many negative emotions, such as resentment, envy or regret, Emmons found — it's tough to feel envy and gratitude at the same time, for example. Lurtz believes that gratitude can increase contentment and reduces the desire to "keep up with the Joneses" by overspending or working excessively.

"We're always trying to get to that next level," Lurtz says. "We should be asking, 'When is enough, enough?'"

The positive effects of gratitude, such as improvements in mental health, can strengthen over time. In a 2017 study, college students who wrote weekly letters of gratitude to another person for three weeks reported better mental health than other participants four weeks later, and the difference in mental health increased after 12 weeks, according to researchers at Indiana University.

Feeling appreciated and expressing appreciation are hallmarks of strong partnerships, says Ed Coombs, a certified financial planner and couples therapist in Charlotte, North Carolina.

"In a flourishing, healthy relationship, gratitude flows naturally and pretty easily," Coombs says. "In a functioning relationship, it's more intermittent, a little less consistent. In a dysfunctional relationship, it's absent."

Lurtz believes many couples' disputes over money stem from partners not feeling appreciated. For example, one partner may reward themselves with purchases because they don't feel adequately rewarded elsewhere in their lives. Meanwhile, the other partner may feel underappreciated for their efforts to save money and look after the couples' future.

The future-focused spouse isn't "right" and the present-focused one isn't "wrong." Financial planning is all about finding a balance between the present and the future. Expressing gratitude for each other can help couples strengthen their bonds and cultivate feelings of well-being so they can find that balance, Lurtz says.

Research shows that writing down a few things you're grateful for, keeping a gratitude journal or composing letters thanking others for something they've done can all contribute to more positive emotions, better relationships and greater happiness.

Positive emotions and strong relationships are in turn associated with greater "financial self efficacy," or people's belief in their ability to accomplish their financial goals, Lurtz says.

And while sadness can increase feelings of "economic impatience" — the desire for a smaller cash award now over a larger one in the future — gratitude has the opposite effect, helping people to delay gratification, according to a 2014 study by researchers from Northeastern University; University of California, Riverside; and Harvard.

What doesn't work is demanding that someone else feel grateful. Admonitions to "count your blessings" can actually intensify feelings of shame, anger or resentment, Coombs says.

"It may be well intended, but it can land very inconveniently," he says.  
 [Abridged]

An estimated 330,000 children were victims of sex abuse within France's Catholic Church over the past 70 years, according to a report released yesterday that represents the country's first major accounting of the worldwide phenomenon.

The figure includes abuses committed by some 3,000 priests and other people involved in the church — wrongdoing that Catholic authorities covered up over decades in a "systemic manner," according to the president of the commission that issued the report, Jean-Marc Sauvé.

The head of the French bishops' conference asked for forgiveness from the victims, about 80% of whom were boys, according to the report. The bishops are meeting Tuesday to discuss next steps.

The independent commission urged the church to take strong action, denouncing "faults" and "silence." It also called on the Catholic Church to help compensate the victims, notably in cases that are too old to prosecute via the courts.

"The consequences are very serious," Sauvé said. "About 60% of men and women who were sexually abused encounter major problems in their emotional or sexual life."

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**HAITI TO UN SECURITY  
 COUNCIL: HELP US  
 HANDLE GANG VIOLENCE**

JENNIFER PELTZ,  
 NEW YORK

**H**AITI'S top diplomat implored the U.N. Security Council yesterday [Macau time] for help tackling gang violence and crime, saying the existing U.N. political mission needs to pivot toward strengthening security and law enforcement institutions in the crisis-wracked country.

"It's vital to take account of the new realities that the country is facing and that the mandate is adjusted accordingly," Foreign Minister Claude Joseph told the council after a summer of calamities in the Western Hemisphere's poorest country.

President Jovenel Moise was assassinated in July. A magnitude 7.2 earthquake killed over 2,200 people and damaged or destroyed tens of thousands of homes in August. U.S. border patrol agents' treatment of Haitian migrants massed at the southern U.S. border sparked outrage last month.

Meanwhile, Haiti has been contending with escalating gang-related killings, kidnappings and turf wars. The U.N. says gang violence has forced 19,000 Haitians from their homes in recent months, with many living in makeshift shelters and unsanitary conditions.

Haiti's National Police have been working to follow recommendations that U.N. policing experts made this summer, the U.N.'s Haiti envoy, Helen La Lime, told the council. But she said the force is "over-stretched and under-resourced."

Haiti's government "must implement a more holistic approach to addressing gang violence," La Lime said.

Joseph, in turn, said officials need the U.N.'s Haiti mission to focus on supporting the government's efforts in "security stabilization and the protection



of civilians." He didn't list specifics.

The mission's mandate, which is up for renewal this month, currently includes promoting police professionalism and supporting a national strategy to reduce violence. It also has a number of other goals, such as advancing electoral reforms.

The Security Council deployed a full-fledged peacekeeping mission in Haiti after a devastating 2010 earthquake. It was replaced in 2017 by a police mission, which was then replaced by the smaller political mission in 2019.

Joseph also appealed for the international community's support on technical, financial and other matters.

Council members said Haiti needs continued support to find its way forward, though some also emphasized the country's own role in doing so.

"It is ultimately up to the Haitian people themselves to bring the country out of his plight," Chinese deputy Ambassador Geng Shuang said. He compared years of international aid efforts to giving someone a blood transfusion or oxygen that "has proven to be neither markedly effective nor sustainable."

He and Russian deputy Ambassador Dmitry Polyanskiy also criticized the expulsion of more than 2,300 Haitian asylum-seekers along the U.S. border. Thousands of others were allowed into the U.S. temporarily to pursue their claims to stay.

Images of U.S. border patrol agents on horseback corralling the migrants stirred an outcry, the resignation of Washington's special envoy to Haiti, an investigation, and a visit to Haiti and apology last week from a top American official.

"We are dismayed by the decision to forcibly return to Haiti those who cobbled together the totality of their means to leave Haiti in search of better lives for their children," Polyanskiy said.

U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield didn't mention migrants or the border during her remarks to the council.

Joseph, the Haitian foreign minister, called the images from the border "horrific" and called for the migrants to be treated "with dignity and humanity." He went on to note the U.S. apologies, praise President Joe Biden's response and thank Mexico for its efforts to address migration issues.

**Czech Republic** signed a deal to buy a new air defense system for its military from the Israeli government, the Defense Ministry said yesterday. The SPYDER system, which is made by the Israeli state-run company Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd., is capable of providing protection against aircraft, helicopters, bombers, cruise missiles and other weapons.

**EU** leaders are meeting for the first time since the messy Western troop withdrawal from Afghanistan and France's loss of a multi-billion dollar submarine deal with Australia, events that they argue have exposed Europe's need for more autonomy on defense. The leaders will have plenty to discuss during their dinner at Brdo Castle in Slovenia, during the eve of a summit with leaders from neighboring Balkans countries. The 27-nation trade bloc's tense relationship with China and rising energy prices will also be on agenda.

**Swedish** prosecutors issued an international search warrant yesterday for a tenant in an apartment building in Sweden's second-largest city after an explosion and a fire left 16 people injured last month. The man is suspected of attempted murder, arson and general destruction, authorities said in a statement, adding that he should be extradited to Sweden if arrested. Investigators, however, aren't certain the man is abroad.



**French** President Emmanuel Macron and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met yesterday to explore potential cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and other areas as the Biden administration moved to repair damage caused to relations by excluding France from a new security initiative. A senior U.S. State Department official said the two discussed possible joint projects that could be announced by Macron and President Joe Biden when they meet later this month in Europe.