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THE GOV'T IS TAKING THE LEAD IN SMALL-AMOUNT INTERBANK MOBILE TRANSFERS WITH A NEW FAST PAYMENT SYSTEM TO BE TESTED NEXT MONTH

P2

SATELLITE IMAGES SHOW CHINA BUILT MOCK-UPS OF US WARSHIPS

P6

IC HOLDS AN EXHIBITION AT THE VILLAGE OF OUR LADY IN KA HO, THE ONLY EXISTING LEPROSARIUM SITE IN MACAU TO SHOWCASE ACHIEVEMENTS IN RESTORATION

P4



Singapore's High Court yesterday halted the imminent execution of a Malaysian man believed to be mentally disabled, amid pleas from the international community and rights groups. Nagaenthran K. Dharmalingam, 33, was due to be executed by hanging on Wednesday for trying to smuggle a small amount of heroin into the country — nearly 43 grams.



Pakistan said it has lifted a ban on a radical Islamist party behind a violent anti-France protest last month that triggered clashes with police, leaving six officers and four demonstrators dead. The development follows an agreement reached last week between the government of Prime Minister Imran Khan and Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan that the party would halt its march to Islamabad. The march was called to demand the closure of the French Embassy in the Pakistani capital.



Iran's judicial authorities reportedly banned a newspaper yesterday for publishing a front-page graphic that appeared to show Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's hand drawing the poverty line in the Islamic Republic amid widespread anger over the nation's cratering economy. The semiofficial Mehr news agency said Iran's media supervisory body shut down the daily newspaper Kelid after it published a front-page article titled "Millions of Iranians Living under Poverty Line".

More on backpage

FOREVER XI



Communist Party central committee in plenary session this week to reinforce Xi Jinping's leadership and make him an 'equal' to Mao and Deng: observers

P7

TIMES REPORT
WELFARE BUREAU ASSURES CONFIDENTIALITY RIGHTS FOR DRUG USERS IN HEALTHCARE SETTINGS

P2

SHOW ME THE MONEY
VISITORS TO PROVE THEY POSSESS AT LEAST MOP5,000 PER WEEK

P3

RENATO MARQUES



IAS ASSURES CONFIDENTIALITY RIGHTS FOR DRUG USERS IN HEALTHCARE SETTINGS

ANTHONY LAM

THE Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) has assured that users of illicit addictive substances can enjoy the right to confidentiality when they approach medical facilities for healthcare services.

The comments were made in a statement-form reply to a recent email enquiry from the Times. The enquiry was made following the arrest of an alleged marijuana user at the public Conde de São Januário Hospital (CHCSJ).

Pursuant to the latest version of Law No. 17/2009, the IAS explained, "illicit users of anesthetic or psychiatric medications have their personal identity protected when they approach healthcare services from any doctor, public or private healthcare facility."

In addition, the authority recapped that it has long been promoting "full understanding of the stipulations" through the Narcotics Control Committee. A cross-departmental cooperation and referral mechanism has also been established to provide rehabilitation to illicit substance users who seek assistance from "relevant bureaus," which include but are not limited to the IAS, the Health Bureau (SSM) and the Judiciary Police.

The IAS assured that it is in touch with a civil entity in the hopes of reaching the arrested individual to thus provide requisite assistance. According to information obtained by the Times, the entity is The Association for Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers of Macau (ARTM).

Although the IAS noted that the law does not allow the police authorities to disclose a suspect's personal particulars to it, it stressed that assistance is provided to those suspected of being at risk for drug use and abuse through non-government entities on a 24/7 basis.

Concerns have been raised that this incident has opened the door to healthcare professionals turning alleged illicit substance users in to the police. When questioned how it can ensure confidence in it moving forward, the IAS noted in the statement that a mechanism to provide assistance to illicit substance users has been in place since 2017.

As part of this mechanism, the Workers' Clinic identify such users through medical check-ups. The IAS may subsequently intervene to provide suitable help. By far, the mechanism has assisted 75 users.

Meanwhile, the IAS stressed that each year, it conducts exchange and discussion sessions with

2,000 members of medical staff at the two hospitals and staff at police authorities to ensure understanding of relevant laws, among other topics.

On the manner in which the patient was handled by the CHCSJ, the IAS spokesperson declined to make a comment, citing the fact that the case is now in judicial procedure as justification.

An email enquiry on the matter was sent to the Health Bureau on October 21, but no email reply has been received as of press time yesterday. By far, the most official response from the bureau was the comments made by neurosurgeon Tai Wa Hou, medical director of the CHCSJ, last week at the regular press conference, when he was questioned by the press about the case.

In response, the doctor assured that the principle of duty to confidentiality "has to be complied with by medical staff." However, he added, when this principle of duty to confidentiality clashes with public interests and conditions in which third-party individuals may face harm, "medical staff will consider prioritizing the protection on public interests and third-party individuals."

He said that it is a choice between the two obligations, and the matter is being currently analyzed.

GOV'T TO TEST CROSS-BANK MOBILE TRANSFER PLATFORM NEXT MONTH

FOLLOWING the introduction of Simple Pay, the government is taking the lead in small-amount interbank mobile transfers with a new function to be tested next month.

Officially known as a fast payment system (FPS) and branded as Easy Transfer, the function is a new online platform on which users can conduct interbank transfers of a small amount of funds, such as when splitting the bill after a meal.

As introduced by the Monetary Authority of Macao (AMCM), the FPS builds a network that connects all local banks so that small-amount transfers can be conducted between different

banks on at any time.

Currently, the interbank transfer function is available at each bank's discretion.

Individuals must register to use the function when it becomes available. Registration for and use of the FPS can be conducted on each bank's mobile app or online banking platform.

The AMCM stressed that if a bank offers instant transfer, the funds can reach the destination account in about 30 seconds. The function will also help facilitate cross-bank salary payment, the AMCM pointed out.

The new function will not be restricted to individual users. Business users can also sign up to transfer and receive funds. AL

CE DISCUSSES BOOSTING BILATERAL TIES WITH ZHEJIANG

THE Chief Executive (CE), Ho Iat Seng, spoke about Macau's effort in accelerating development of the Guangdong-Macau Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin with Zhejiang authorities, saying the SAR was welcoming this "major opportunity for advances in socio-economic development."

Ho visited Shanghai and Hangzhou from November 4 to 7, where he met with leading officials of the Zhejiang Government in Hangzhou city, Zhejiang Province, in order to exchange views on how to extend bilateral ties.

In Shanghai, Ho attended the opening ceremony of the 4th China International Import Expo (CIIE).

In Hangzhou, Ho met with

the Secretary of the Zhejiang Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Zhejiang Provincial People's Congress, Yuan Jiajun.

The CE noted during the meeting that Macau and Zhejiang enjoyed close relations and cooperation; he additionally expressed that he was looking forward to seizing development opportunities with Zhejiang and fostering reciprocal ties.

Secretary Yuan said Zhejiang and Macau had enjoyed close links for a long time. He said the two sides had much potential in economic and trade-related matters, and the promotion of people-to-people exchanges. LV



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IMMIGRATION LAW

Visitors to prove they possess at least MOP5,000 per week

RENATO MARQUES

FROM November 15, the new Legal Regime for Immigration Control, Permanence, and Residence Permits will come into force. Under the new law, all visitors arriving in Macau must prove that they possess financial reserves of a minimum amount of 5,000 patacas per week of stay, a Chief Executive (CE) order published yesterday in the government's official gazette notes.

The order comes to fulfill the final requirements of law 16/2021 in which the CE established the minimum requirements for visitors to prove at their entry in Macau.

For the first seven days of stay, visitors must prove either in cash or in an electronic bank statement that they have at least 5,000 patacas. This amount grows to 10,000 patacas for intended stays ranging in between 7 and 14 days.

For those who intend to stay in between 14 and 21 days proof of possession of 15,000 patacas is needed, while stays over 21 days are subjected to proof of financial resources of at least 20,000 patacas.

People who enter Macau in a family group are must prove they possess an extra 80% of the amounts mentioned for the relevant length of stay.

For longer stays (over 14 days),



authorities may reduce the required amount of money to prove they possess, provided they hold a valid credit card or provide proof of pre-paid lodging and meals in a local hotel.

Exempted of such requirements are those who enter Macau with a working permit or other forms of temporary permanence authorizations.

The new law, among other aspects, also increases the minimum of the expiration dates (at the entry) for passports or other immigration documents to 90 days, as well as creating a special residence permit for those not considered non-resident workers but who aim to provide services within the scope of cooperation actions be-

tween public entities, the exercise of arbitration functions, duties within the scope of intergovernmental or interregional cooperation, or undertake business-related trips.

Another of the significant changes under the new law relates to the expiration and renewal of the residence permit.

The new law clearly defines that the residence permit expires upon the end of the period of validity and establishes transitory provisions for renewal of the permit.

Fines will also be imposed for non-compliance with the renewal of the residency permits. Individuals whose documents have expired for over 180 days must pay fines up to 5,000 patacas for the tardy renewal of those documents,

Public Security Police Force (PSP), Immigration Department Chief, Wong Chio Man, noted yesterday during a presentation to the media on the sidelines of the regular police forces joint press conference.

According to Wong, a transition period will be considered in the enforcement of this final rule. The PSP have already notified people in this situation by SMS.

Those accustomed to filling out immigration forms to enter Macau will also notice that from November 15, the form will change to include a statement of the purpose of the entry to Macau which will be addressed in conjunction with the rule for the proof of sufficient funds and duration of the stay.

NEWLY ESTABLISHED COMPANIES ON DECLINE

A total of 1,394 new companies were incorporated in the third quarter of 2021. This represents a decrease of 326 year-on-year, according to data from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). Newly incorporated companies operating in Wholesale & Retail Trade and Business Services totalled 501 and 375 respectively. The total value of registered capital across the new companies soared by 253.1% year-on-year to MOP370 million, attributable to the incorporation of new companies with relatively large capital in Wholesale & Retail Trade and Financial Services during the quarter. Companies in dissolution totalled 180 in the third quarter, and the value of registered capital of these companies amounted to MOP123 million.

BNU RECORDS 6.8% PROFIT PLUNGE

Banco Nacional Ultramarino (BNU) recorded a plunge of 6.8% in profits to MOP338.5 million from January to September, compared to the same period last year. Despite the dip, the bank recently said in a statement that it is confident of "a strong fourth quarter and expects to close the year with a better result than 2020 when the bank recorded a profit of MOP420.3 million in an adverse period both globally and locally." Its Hengqin branch, meanwhile, saw an increase in its net income of 76.5% across the first nine months of the year.

IC HOLDS ACTIVITIES TO COMMEMORATE CENTENARY OF TAIPA HOUSES

To commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Taipa Houses, in November, the Cultural Institute (IC) is launching around 30 sessions of themed activities to inform about the history of the Taipa Houses. These include workshops and guided visits as part of the "Arts and Culture Festival between China and Portuguese Speaking Countries." The five houses were built in 1921 and once served as residences for highly-ranked civil servants of Macanese background. In 1992, they were recognized as a building complex of architectural value. In 1999, the government decided to completely renovate the houses and turn them into a museum site.

LYNZY VALLES

THE "CESL Asia and Friends Sport Fun Day" has raised a total of MOP107,000 in donations to support Macau Special Olympics' (MSO) work with people who have intellectual disabilities.

In order to remain in line with the government's anti-pandemic policy and avoid crowds, CESL Asia rescheduled arrangements for the event and held a Bocce Tournament to promote the inclusive culture.

Usually, the event is held at the Workers Stadium, but because of the pandemic, the sports fun day was mounted on a reduced scale.

"We discussed with MSO and our partners and most said that they would still like to do it this year in a smaller scale at MSO headquarters. So, we reduced the scale of the event

CESL ASIA RAISES MOP107,000 IN ANOTHER SUPPORT FOR MSO



and allowed one team per corporate partner, and the event was a huge success," CESL Asia President & CEO António Trindade told the Times.

Together with MSO, seventeen entities and various volunteers organized

the sports day event that included a Bocce Tournament, Guest Race and MSO Individual Race.

The champions and the runners-up of the Bocce tournament were the teams formed by MSO Athletes and employees of

Banco Tai Fung, Bank of China Macau Branch, and Macau Institution of Engineers.

"The [event] has been held for five years now [...] Despite the impact of the pandemic, CESL Asia keeps living its commit-

ment to support those in need with positive actions and donations and we are very grateful to like-minded clients and partners for their support," said Trindade.

Echoing the sentiment, Hetzer Siu Yu Hong, CEO of MSO shared: "Over the years, we have seen how the participants truly understand the needs of disadvantaged groups and we also recognize the role they play in promoting a culture of inclusion in society. I believe we will be able to overcome all adversity with the support of so many companies and CESL Asia."

Last year, the event attracted more than 150 participants and volunteers, raising over MOP120,000 patacas, which was donated to the MSO.

***Macau Daily Times is an official media partner of the event**

CRIME

CASINO PUBLIC RELATIONS STAFF STEALS, DRIVES TAXI WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE

RENATO MARQUES

A local 31-year-old man, identified by the Public Security Police Force (PSP) as a public relations officer for a casino, has been detained by the PSP after allegedly stealing and driving a taxi vehicle from Ilha Verde to Taipa Island, the PSP spokesperson said yesterday during the regular joint police forces press conference.

The case occurred sometime between 00:00 and 6 a.m. of September 16, when the taxi driver noticed that his car had been stolen from a street in the Ilha Verde area.

According to the PSP, the driver, after reporting the theft to the police, managed to find the car parked in a street of Taipa Island. While he did not notice anything missing from the car, he saw that whoever took his car left a mobile phone inside the vehicle.

Making use of the footage from street surveillance cameras, the PSP identified the man who had taken the car, and on November 5 they requested he present himself to the authorities to testify.



RENATO MARQUES

The suspect admitted to the police that he had imbibed alcoholic drinks on the evening in question, and he could not remember the entire evening. However, he did admit that he remembered taking the car.

He has been presented to the Public Prosecutions Office to respond to the accusation of vehicle theft.

PHONE SCAM CONTINUES TO MAKE VICTIMS

In a separate report, the Judiciary Police (PJ) reported two se-

parate cases of a common phone scam in which people are led to believe that they had been implicated in money laundering and financial fraud schemes.

The victims then transfer money into a given bank account, allegedly managed by the judiciary authorities of the mainland, believing that they are cooperating with the investigation. Only subsequently do they learn that they have lost all those transferred assets.

In yesterday's press conference the PJ reported the cases of two

women from the mainland, both in their thirties, who fell victim to this scam.

One of them is a non-resident worker in Macau, originally from Shandong province, the other is a tourist from Fujian province.

They claim to have lost an accumulated amount of RMB420,200 from which RMB397,000 belonged to the second victim.

The first victim, the non-resident worker in Macau lost only RMB23,200 that she had borrowed from her brother as she did not have funds to pay the full

RMB268,000 requested by the alleged mainland authorities.

PART-TIME JOB WORKING FROM HOME SCAM

A third scam was also reported by the PJ. This one involves a local woman who is said to have been lured into an alleged part-time job she saw advertised the social media platform Facebook.

The advertisement called for people interested in working from home as an "online shopper," earning commissions from such jobs.

She initially joined the scheme and managed on the first day to earn RMB183 in commissions via a trial account. However, on the second day, she was asked to create a new account under her name and to load RMB4,580 in it to continue shopping.

She was also asked by an alleged website administrator to increase her deposit by more than RMB20,000. She felt that there was something suspicious about the scheme and reported to the PJ, claiming to have lost about RMB4,500.

Village of Our Lady in Ka Ho reopens with exhibition showcasing history of leprosarium

LYNZY VALLES

THE Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) is holding an exhibition to showcase to the public the achievements of the restoration, use and revitalisation of heritage buildings. The exhibition will be held at the Village of Our Lady in Ka Ho, the only existing leprosarium site in Macau.

Titled "Land of Hope – Historical Archives Exhibition on Leprosariums in Macao," the exhibition showcases nearly 100 selected archived and related materials from the collections of the Archives of Macao.

The exhibition presents a study of the development of Macau's leprosy treatment facilities, outlining the history of treatment for individuals afflicted with leprosy in the city. It also provides important documentation



for those who may wish to conduct future research on the history and development of leprosy treatments in the territory.

The exhibition also demonstrates how Macau was a pioneer in the field of leprosy relief and rehabilitation, as well as the spread of humanitarianism in Macau.

The government built a leprosarium for patients at the relevant site in 1885. The

original facility was composed of only one or two brick houses. In the 1930s, it was rebuilt and expanded into a complex with five residential houses and the Chapel of Our Lady of Sorrows.

A few more buildings were subsequently built to meet the demand.

In 1966, the new Church of Our Lady of Sorrows was built and the original chapel was converted into a recreation room. In 1963, the

Italian priest Gaetano Nicocosa of the Society of Saint Francis de Sales began his service in the leprosarium in Ka Ho.

The priest, together with the inmates decided to rename the facility Village of Our Lady, invoking the protection of the Virgin Mary. With the advancement of medical technology, the Social Welfare Bureau converted the houses of female patients into a nursing home for the older patients who had recovered in Ka Ho in 1992, and the Village of Our Lady in Ka Ho suspended its medical mission.

Before the restoration and revitalisation of the Village of Our Lady in Ka Ho, the five houses and the former recreation room had sustained various age-related damages, as the village had been left vacant and in a state of disrepair for many years.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE DIP 35% IN 2020

STAFF REPORTER

THERE were 15,996 wholesale and retail establishments, market stalls and fixed street stalls operating in 2020, an increase of 256 from the previous year, information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicates.

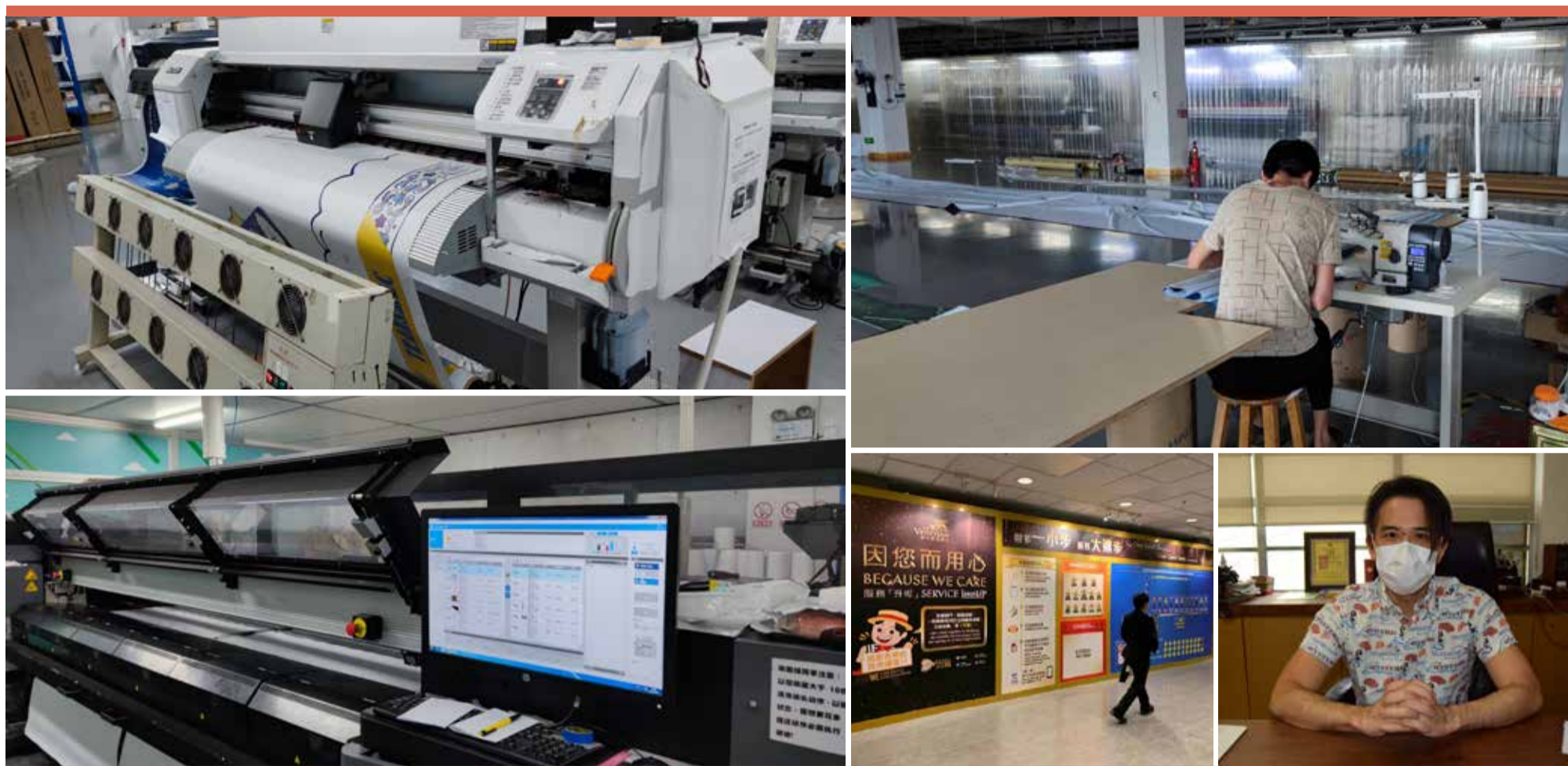
However, total number of people engaged in retail decreased by 436 to 71,575, with employees accounting for 80.7% of the total. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, receipts of the sector fell by 34.8% to MOP85.06 billion, and expenditure dropped by 32% to MOP81.27 billion. Gross surplus declined by 75.2%, to a total of MOP3.07 billion. Gross Value Added, which measures the sectoral contribution to the economy, dropped 44.5% to MOP13.36 billion, and Gross Fixed Capital For-

mation slipped 34.6% to MOP729 billion.

Wholesale establishments totaled 6,284, an increase of 370, and the number of persons engaged rose by 1,265 to 22,461. Receipts went down by 26.3% to MOP31.63 billion. Expenditure decreased by 23.7% to MOP29.87 billion. Gross surplus went down by 59.4%, amounting to MOP1.66 billion. Gross Value Added fell by 34.6% to MOP4.83 billion, and Gross Fixed Capital For-

mation dropped by 14% to MOP212 million. Retail establishments decreased by 74 to 7,245, with the number of persons engaged dropping by 1,295 to 42,296. Receipts went down by 39.9% to MOP47.64 billion. Expenditure fell by 39.9% to MOP47.64 billion. Gross surplus tumbled by 88.1% to MOP897 million.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



ADVERTISING remains an essential part of marketing campaigns for resorts. Sands China, the largest integrated resort operator in Macao, set a high standard when choosing its advertising service supplier.

Established in 1998, Zenith Advertising Company Ltd. began as a start-up with one or two employees. It provided printing and advertisement production services in its early days. Before Macao's gaming liberalization, Zenith's clients were mainly in the banking, telecommunications, real estate, and insurance sectors. With its client base established, forward-looking entrepreneur Dominic Lou, general manager of Zenith, set up a branch office in Zhuhai. At the time, Zenith was one of three Macao-funded advertising companies in Zhuhai. The decision to expand business into the mainland also paved the way for Zenith to grasp opportunities brought on by Macao's fast-paced development after the liberalization of the gaming industry.

The collaboration between Zenith and Sands China kicked off in 2004 upon Sands

Sands China's 17 years of strong ties with local SME

Macao's opening. The new resort provided a large number of roles for experienced workers with their own established networks. Some former employees of Zenith's client companies who had transferred to Sands Macao suggested to Zenith that it should bid for Sands' advertisement service contract. Sands China was impressed with the advertising veteran and their partnership has held fast for 17 years.

Although the SME has maintained a long relationship with Sands China, it has encountered challenges too. With the fast development of Macao's gaming industry, the advertising business has been pushed to meet higher standards. Lou has witnessed these changes first hand. "Gaming operators are [allocating] more of their budgets on advertising — meanwhile their standards have increased as well. Adver-

tising products have also evolved from 2D to 3D," he recalled. In response, his company has recruited talent from outside Macao to assist with producing 3D designs.

To meet Sands China's high standards, Zenith has invested a budget of over MOP 10 million to update its facilities. Nonetheless, Lou admits there are great business benefits brought by working with a resort of this size. "When new resorts open, such as The Venetian Macao, The Parisian Macao, Sands Cotai Central, and The Londoner Macao, the demand for advertising services surges."

During the peak period of 2014, Sands China invested more than MOP 10 million of its advertising budget into the SME, which boosted the company's development. In 2004, Sands China accounted for 20% to 30% of the company's

business, and now accounts for about 50%. The company had more than 100 employees in Zhuhai and Macau at the peak of its expansion.

Lou is also aware of changes in perception from clients outside Macau. Before the partnership with Sands China, the company participated in exhibitions outside Macau seeking business partners but was seldom taken seriously. After becoming a stable service provider to Sands China, it was obvious that foreign companies were paying more and more attention to their company, and showing interest in the Macau market. Lou found it easier to start dialogues with potential partners and secure partnerships.

From Sands China's perspective, Zenith does well at keeping pace with the industry's development. "Zenith has its factory, equipment and professional team, which facilitates them to quickly respond to client's requirement," said Candy Kan, senior manager of procurement and supply chain for Sands China, and senior officer, Sofia Chen. Zenith participates in exhibitions regularly and introduces new materials to improve the quality of advertising production. "Zenith will also give appropriate suggestions from the perspective of the user, briefing us [on] the characteristics and advantages

of each material, and helping us make the right choice," the two Sands China representatives added.

Lou said the support from Sands China is not merely about profits. Zenith was one of the exhibitors at the Sands Shopping Carnival this year, which inspired him to think about how to diversify his business.

Held for two consecutive years now, the Sands Shopping Carnival is the largest shopping event of its kind in Macau, and provides a free business platform for local SMEs and Sands retailers during the pandemic period, while creating a new weekend destination for residents and tourists.

During the pandemic period, the Sands Shopping Carnival reinforces the company's long-term commitment to promote the growth of local SMEs through Sands China's Local Small, Medium and Micro Suppliers Support Programme, and its F.I.T. initiative (Financial Support, Invitational Matching, and Training and Development).

TIPS FROM SANDS

SANDS CHINA invites the advertising industry to actively seek collaborations. Given the tight deadlines in advertising, quick responses and urgent revisions are often necessary. In terms of materials, Sands China prefers them to be environmentally friendly and hopes that suppliers' services will be competitive in price and quality. They also suggest that suppliers be as knowledgeable as possible about industry information.



SOUTH CHINA SEA

SATELLITE IMAGES SHOW BEIJING BUILT MOCK-UPS OF US WARSHIPS

SATELLITE images show China has built mock-ups of a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier and destroyer in its northwestern desert, possibly for practice for a future naval clash as tensions rise between the nations.

China has massively upgraded its military in recent years, and its capability and intentions are increasingly concerning to the United States as tensions rise over the South China Sea, Taiwan and military supremacy in the Indo-Pacific.

The images captured by Colorado-based satellite imagery company Maxar Technologies dated Sunday show the outlines of a U.S. aircraft carrier and at least one destroyer sitting on a railway track.

Maxar identified the location as Ruoqiang, a Taklamakan Desert county in the northwestern Xinjiang region.

The independent U.S. Naval Institute said on its website that the mock-ups of U.S. ships were part of a new target range developed by the People's Liberation Army.

It wasn't clear from the images how many details had been included in the apparent targets, although USNI said it had identified features on the destroyer including its funnels and weapons systems.

Chinese Foreign Ministry



This satellite image provided by Maxar Technologies shows a building on rail tracks in Ruoqiang county, Oct. 20

spokesperson Wang Wenbin said at a daily briefing yesterday that he had no information about the images, saying, "I'm not aware of the situation you mentioned."

China's massive military upgrade has emphasized countering the U.S. and other countries' naval forces.

That includes the development of land, sea and air-launched missiles to repel and possibly sink opposing vessels,

expressed most emphatically by the land-based DF-21D ballistic missile known as the "carrier killer."

Recent months have also seen a substantial increase in Chinese military flights just southwest of Taiwan, the self-governing island republic claimed by Beijing and which it threatens to annex by force. Washington provides Taiwan with much of its weaponry and U.S. law requires that

it ensures the island can defend itself and treats threats to it as matters of "grave concern."

The images released by Maxar come amid growing concerns over the possibility of military conflict between the world's two biggest economies, who are at odds over a litany of political and economic issues.

The Pentagon this month issued a report saying China is expanding its nuclear force much

faster than U.S. officials predicted just a year ago. That appears designed to enable Beijing to match or surpass U.S. global power by midcentury, the report said.

U.S. defense officials have said they are increasingly wary of China's intentions, largely with regard to the status of Taiwan.

"The PLA's evolving capabilities and concepts continue to strengthen (China's) ability to 'fight and win wars' against a 'strong enemy' — a likely euphemism for the United States," the report said.

China's navy and coast guard are also adding new vessels at a record pace, concentrating them in the South China Sea, the strategic waterway that China claims virtually in its entirety.

While the U.S. Navy remains predominant, its resources are divided between the Indo-Pacific, the Persian Gulf, the Mediterranean and other regions where American interests lie.

China's test of a hypersonic weapon capable of partially orbiting Earth before reentering the atmosphere and gliding on a maneuverable path to its target also surprised top U.S. military leaders. Beijing insisted it was testing a reusable space vehicle, not a missile, but the weapon system's design is meant to evade U.S. missile defenses.

Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the test was "very close" to being a "Sputnik moment," akin to the 1957 launching by the Soviet Union of the world's first space satellite, which fed fears the United States had fallen behind technologically. **MDT/AP**

Japan's SoftBank sinks into losses over China investments

SOFTBANK Group Corp. sank into red ink for the July-September period, dragged down by losses on its investments in China, the Japanese technology conglomerate said yesterday.

SoftBank reported a 397.9 billion yen (\$3.5 billion) loss for the fiscal second quarter, compared to a 627 billion yen profit recorded the same period the previous year.

Quarterly sales grew 11% to 1.5 trillion yen (\$13 billion).

Tokyo-based SoftBank said its investment portfolio called Vision Fund suffered losses, including the value of its stake in South Korean online retailer Coupang.

But it said it booked gains on its shares in DoorDash, an online food-ordering service based



in San Francisco.

SoftBank said the recent crackdown in China on the technology sector weighed on Chinese share prices.

SoftBank's Vision Fund was hit by a 1 trillion yen (\$9 billion) loss in the July-September quarter, according to its chief executive,

Masayoshi Son.

Son, who founded the company, acknowledged the latest losses were a big contrast to the booming re-

sults it reported for the previous fiscal year.

"We have headed straight into a blizzard in the middle of the winter," Son told reporters, adding he won't make excuses.

He said one big factor was a sharp drop in the share price of Chinese e-commerce company Alibaba, in which SoftBank is a shareholder.

But he stressed SoftBank's main business was shifting to the Vision Fund and becoming less dependent on Alibaba's performance. However, Vision Fund's Chinese investments also suffered.

Son said Vision Fund's investments overall were gaining value. Its portfolio has been constantly changing. It once owned U.S. mobile company Sprint, but Sprint has merged with T-Mobile, in which Sof-

tBank remains an investor.

SoftBank has a Japanese mobile carrier under its wing that was the first to offer the iPhone in the Japanese market.

It also has invested in U.S. office-sharing venture WeWork, a move that critics said was a mistake, but Son said its performance was recovering.

Investments in U.S. chip company Arm and ride-hailing service Uber are examples that are faring relatively well.

"I feel that Vision Fund is producing results," said Son.

He said he still saw promise, showing video of a tiny green seedling sprouting in the snow.

"While some of the eggs our goose has laid just died, the other golden eggs are shining in splendor," he said. **MDT/AP**

Xi lays way for third term in power at party meeting

CHINA'S leader Xi Jinping appears to be laying the foundation for a third term in power as top officials of the all-powerful Communist Party meet this week in Beijing.

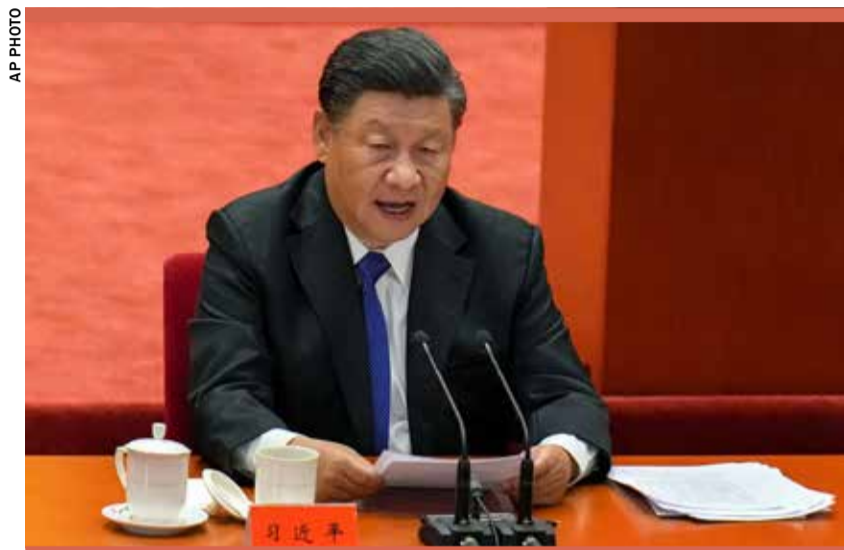
The official Xinhua News Agency said president and party General Secretary Xi issued a draft resolution on the party's "major achievements and historical experience" at the Central Committee's plenary session that opened yesterday.

Scholars say that will mark the party's third major statement on its 100-year history, shoring up Xi's status as an equal to founder of the Chinese People's Republic Mao Zedong and his successor Deng Xiaoping, who oversaw crucial economic reforms.

China removed term limits on the presidency in 2018, potentially keeping Xi at the apex of power for the rest of his life. He is expected to be reappointed party leader at next year's full party congress, an event held every five years.

This week's meeting of the roughly 200 members of the Central Committee is due to last through Thursday, with a communique to be issued following the final session.

Xi has already revealed his thinking through his public pronouncements and the statement on party history is not expected to produce any surprises, said Yang Yang, a professor at the School of Political Science and Public Administration under the China University of Political Science and Law.



The document will essentially summarize China's emergence from foreign domination, its economic climb and emergence as a world power, Yang said.

"It will emphasize a new era for the governance of the Communist Party under Xi's leadership and that will lay a foundation for Xi to match Mao and Deng and lay a foundation for Xi to continue to govern for the next term," Yang said.

The party issued two previous evaluations of its history: in 1945, as it was moving toward seizing power four years later from Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists, and in 1981 as Deng led an assessment of Mao's tumultuous 1966-76 Cultural Revolution.

In both cases, the party sought to smooth over schisms and restore unity within its ranks.

A decade after taking over the lea-

dership, Xi faces no apparent rivals within the party and has consolidated power by overseeing a stable economy, an assertive foreign policy, a major upgrading of the military and an ongoing crackdown on corruption that has ensnared both serving and retired high-level officials.

At the same time, religious groups and human rights activists have been harshly repressed, with more than a million members of Muslim minority groups subjected to mass detentions and political indoctrination.

Free speech and opposition politics have also been severely curtailed in the semi-autonomous southern city of Hong Kong and military threats stepped up against self-governing Taiwan.

China says the measures are necessary to safeguard stability and national sovereignty. **MDT/AP**

First Chinese woman to spacewalk works six hours outside station

WANG Yaping has become the first Chinese woman to conduct a spacewalk as part of a six-month mission to the country's space station.

Wang and fellow astronaut Zhai Zhigang left the station's main module on Sunday evening, spending more than six hours outside installing equipment and carrying out tests alongside the station's robotic service arm, according to the China Manned Space agency.

The third member of the crew, Ye Guangfu, assisted from inside the station, CMS said on its website.

Wang, 41, and Zhai, 55, had both traveled to China's now-retired experi-

mental space stations, and Zhai conducted China's first spacewalk 13 years ago.

The three are the second crew on the permanent station, and the mission that began with their arrival Oct. 16 is scheduled to be the longest stretch of time in space yet for Chinese astronauts.

The Tianhe module of the station will be connected next year to two more sections named Mengtian and Wentian. The completed station will weigh about 66 tons, much smaller than the International Space Station, which launched its first module in 1998 and weighs around 450 tons.

Three spacewalks are



Chinese astronauts Zhai Zhigang and Wang Yaping conducting extravehicular activities outside the space station's Tianhe core module

planned to install equipment in preparation for the station's expansion, while the crew will also assess living conditions in the Tianhe module and conduct experiments in space me-

dicine and other fields.

China's military-run space program plans to send multiple crews to the station over the next two years to make it fully functional. **MDT/AP**

ADVERTORIAL

GREAT TIMES

Savor the ultimate at Grill 58

SUNDAY late mornings are meant to be spent with family and friends over delicious food, fresh juices, cocktails and flutes of bubbly. Grill 58 has recently introduced a smorgasbord of special treats masterfully curated in a 3-course menu at MOP 480 per person, which promises to leave you more than satisfied with a selection of starters including Iberico Cold Cuts, House-cured Petuna Salmon Trout, Grill 58 Caesar Salad, and more. For main course, the menu features Australian M9 Wagyu Bavette, Lychee Wood Grilled Chicken Supreme, House-smoked Pastrami Benedict on Grilled Sourdough, and Pan-fried Japanese Sea Bream. Additional dishes include Seafood on Ice, Grilled Whole Boston Lobster, Snake River Farm M9 Wagyu Striploin and more can also be added, as well as free-flow selected red wine, white wine, and sparkling wine to raise your Sunday vibe.



A talk of town is Teppanyaki 58's very own pop-up feast – Teppanyaki Escapades, which features an 8-course menu paired with five selected Kamoshibito Kuheiji Sake, available at MOP 1,700 per person for two nights only on November 18 and 19. Kamoshibito Kuheiji is known for its unconventional use of wine-making method for its sake creation, giving the brand its name as a Western-style sake.



From now until November 30, enjoy special dining discounts offered at both MGM MACAU and MGM COTAI by presenting valid Macau resident identification cards. Bill settlement with ICBC ePay is entitled to up to 20% off, while 15% discount is offered with other electronic payment methods. Terms and conditions apply.

For more information, please visit mgm.mo or contact (853) 8806 2318.



AP PHOTO



ETHIOPIA

People fleeing country allege attacks, forced conscription

CARA ANNA, NAIROBI

A new round of deadly attacks and forced conscription has begun against ethnic Tigrayans in an area of Ethiopia now controlled by Amhara regional authorities in collaboration with soldiers from neighboring Eritrea, people fleeing over the border to Sudan tell The Associated Press as the yearlong war intensifies.

Three men who fled the western Tigray communities of Adebay and Humera in the past week described warnings from Amhara authorities against supporting the rival Tigray forces who are approaching Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa, to press Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed to step aside.

Their threat led Ethiopia's government to declare a state of emergency last week while the United States and other countries urged citizens to leave immediately. U.S. and African Union envoys have been holding urgent talks in Ethiopia in search of a cease-fire in a war that has killed thousands of people after political tensions with the Tigray forces who once dominated the national government turned deadly. The U.N. Security Council is expected to meet on Monday.

The new accounts confirm assertions by the U.S. and others that Eritrean soldiers remain in the Tigray region, and they indicate that pressure is growing on Tigrayans of mixed heritage who have tried to live quietly amid what the U.S. has alleged as ethnic cleansing in western Tigray.

As reports grew about the Tigray forces' momentum, Amhara authorities at a public meeting in Adebay on Oct. 29 warned residents against supporting them, two men who fled to Sudan said.

"There are people working for (the Tigray forces). You should give them to us or we will kill you all together," one who fled, 28-year-old Mawcha Asmelash, recalled authorities saying.

Five days later, he said, Amhara militia attacked. "I saw four people being killed on the run," he said.

He and other men hid in the bush for two days, gathering information from local women and trying to judge whether it was safe to return. But the women estimated scores of men had been killed and residents had been forbidden to bury their bodies. The women urged them to flee.

Another man who fled Adebay, 36-year-old Berha-

ne Gebremikael, confirmed the public meeting. He said he saw one man killed as he ran from Amhara militia and the Eritrean soldiers, who he said have a camp in the community.

"They called it revenge," he said. He described a perilous situation for Tigrayan residents of Adebay who had remained during the war, with many changing their identity, paying bribes or using mixed heritage for a measure of protection. Berhane, whose mother is Eritrean, now fears he can't return.

"Maybe the worst things will happen in the next days," he said. "The international community should intervene."

A man who fled to Sudan from the city of Humera, near the Eritrean border, told the AP he had stayed there because of his part-Tigrayan heritage, but last week Amhara authorities "started collecting people. Young men and boys are being forced to join the fighting."

Again, it started with a public warning, 28-year-old Alemu Abraha said. Then Amhara authorities, along with Eritrean soldiers, started visiting homes at night to take people away. His friends were taken, he said, and he believes the men are being

sent to the Amhara region, where most fighting has occurred in recent months.

Amhara regional spokesman Gizachew Muluneh did not respond to AP questions. Amhara regional officials have asserted that western Tigray is historically their land, and during the war witnesses and humanitarian workers have described scores of thousands of Tigrayans forced from communities there.

Meanwhile, reports of mass detentions of Tigrayans continue under the state of emergency. An Ethiopian Orthodox Church official in Addis Ababa, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of retribution, said dozens of priests, monks, deacons and others had been detained in the capital because of their ethnicity. Ethiopian authorities have said they are detaining people suspected of supporting the Tigray forces.

The government-created Ethiopian Human Rights Commission in a statement noted with concern that "arrests appeared to be based on ethnicity" and included the elderly and mothers with children.

As the war closes in, Ethiopia's government insists that life in the capital remains normal. On Sunday, scores of thousands of people rallied in Addis Ababa in a show of support, some carrying signs criticizing the international community, including foreign media.

There were also calls for peace amid the sometimes graphic calls to war. "Can they not discuss around a table?" said one demonstrator, Lemelem Selega, who also denounced those "who are spilling our soldiers' blood." MDT/AP

this day in history

1985 AMERICA WELCOMES CHARLES AND DIANA



Prince Charles and Princess Diana have ended the first day of their much-vaunted trip to the USA at a gala dinner in the Washington, hosted by President Reagan and his wife Nancy.

They mixed with movie stars, such as Clint Eastwood, John Travolta, Tom Selleck and the singer Neil Diamond as well as politicians and businessmen.

A small group of anti-British IRA supporters protested outside and there were a few slip-ups during the glamorous event.

For a moment President Reagan forgot the Princess of Wales' name during an after-dinner speech to guests.

"Permit me to add our congratulations to Prince Charles on his birthday just five days away," he said, "and express also our great happiness that... er... Princess David - Princess Diane (sic) here on her first trip to the United States."

And the princess herself, still suffering from jetlag, momentarily forgot to return the toast.

But all that was forgotten when she took to the dance floor with John Travolta in her midnight blue velvet dress and sapphire and diamond choker.

This is the royal couple's first visit together to the States and is to last four days.

Their Royal Highnesses had arrived at Andrews Air Force base in Washington this morning from Hawaii and emerged into the bright autumn sunshine to be greeted by hundreds of enthusiastic well-wishers.

After a welcome at the White House by the President and the First Lady, they were taken to the official home of the British Ambassador, Sir Oliver Wright, where they are staying.

Princess Diana visited a hospice while Prince Charles went to see the treaty that ended the war of 1812 between Britain and the United States.

Tomorrow, the couple will attend morning service at Washington Cathedral and then visit the National Gallery of Art to see "The Treasure Houses of Britain: five hundred years of private patronage and art collecting."

Thousands of enthusiastic Americans are expected to turn out to catch a glimpse of the royals.

The following day, Monday, there is a less highbrow event on the agenda - a visit to Springfield shopping mall in Virginia to see the "Best of Britain" promotion at the JC Penney department store.

Monday is also Veterans' Day in the USA, and Prince Charles will visit Arlington National Cemetery to lay wreaths to war heroes.

The trip to Washington ends on Tuesday when the royal couple will go to Palm Beach Florida. There, Prince Charles will play in a friendly polo match and the princess will present a trophy to the winners. They return home to London on Wednesday.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Charles and Diana's trip sparked off a serious case of "royal fever" in the USA.

But what seemed like a fairytale marriage was actually in serious trouble.

The couple separated in 1993.

Diana spoke publicly about her own infidelity and her husband's affair with long-term friend Camilla Parker-Bowles in a BBC Panorama documentary in November 1995.

They officially divorced in 1996. Diana was stripped of the title of Her Royal Highness but was never far from the front pages of the tabloid newspapers.

She became actively involved with charities for children, the homeless, the disabled and those with HIV and AIDS and campaigned for a ban on the use and manufacture of landmines.

Her death in a car crash in Paris on 31 August 1997 shocked the world.

The next time Prince Charles visited the United States as a married man was in 2005 - with his second wife, Camilla.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
 Mar. 21-Apr. 19
 Aim to be direct about what you're experiencing without flying off the handle. Elsewhere, the capable Capricorn moon's union with Pluto can highlight power-play issues on the career front.

TAURUS
 Apr. 20-May. 20
 Messenger Mercury merges with hot-headed Mars, bringing fierce conversations to the relationship front. Use this energy to clear the air around collaborative matters, romantic or platonic.

GEMINI
 May. 21-Jun. 21
 Avoid heavy, emotional encounters with other people. You may need to acknowledge that evasiveness and walk through the fire today as the heavy Capricorn merges with frustration-releasing Pluto.

CANCER
 Jun. 22-Jul. 22
 News-bringing Mercury merges with action-taking Mars, ushering in important conversations or revelations around creative projects, your sex life, or romantic interests.

LEO
 Jul. 23-Aug. 22
 Tuesday's skies heat things up in the cosmic atmosphere, Leo. Be prepared to deal with any tensions on the home front with a head-on approach as expressive Mercury merges with fiery Mars.

VIRGO
 Aug. 23-Sep. 22
 As a Virgo, you receive cosmic guidance from the silver-tongued, wing-footed planet, Mercury. Tuesday's skies find Mercury turning up the heat as it merges with self-assertive Mars.

LIBRA
 Sep. 23-Oct. 22
 Potent truths are emerging under Tuesday's skies, Libra. Prepare yourself to dial back the pleasantries as the melancholic Capricorn moon merges with frustration-releasing Pluto.

SCORPIO
 Oct. 23-Nov. 21
 The grounded Capricorn moon unites with truth-revealing Pluto, putting emotionally honest conversations on the top of your to-do list.

SAGITTARIUS
 Nov. 22-Dec. 21
 As a Sagittarius, you're something of an eternal optimist. Tuesday's skies may try to challenge this natural demeanor, as it puts a few emotionally-charged roadblocks in your path.

CAPRICORN
 Dec. 22-Jan. 19
 News-bringing Mercury unites with hot-headed Mars, bringing direct and potentially uncomfortable conversations into your community or network of friends.

AQUARIUS
 Jan. 20-Feb. 18
 News-bearing Mercury spends the day merged with action-taking Mars, bringing important revelations and conversations to the career front - some of which are likely to highlight frustrations and hot button issues.

PISCES
 Feb. 19-Mar. 20
 Brace yourself for some tough cosmic terrain. The goal-oriented Capricorn moon merges with tension-releasing Pluto today, prompting stormy moods and a new for renewal when it comes to your long-term ambitions.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

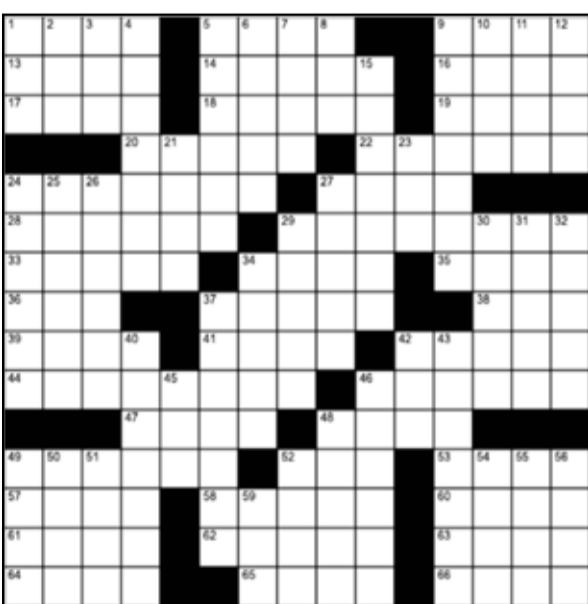
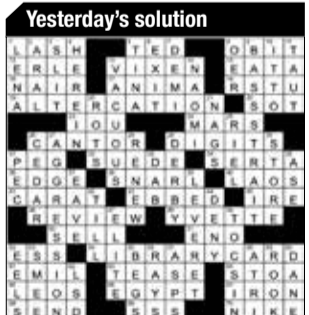
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-4	4	FINE
Harbin	-4	4	SNOW
Tianjin	6	13	FINE
Urumqi	4	14	FINE
Xi'an	8	13	FINE
Lhasa	0	5	SNOW
Chengdu	14	22	CLOUDY
Chongqing	10	19	FINE
Kunming	2	10	CLOUDY
Nanjing	18	24	CLOUDY
Shanghai	4	10	FINE
Wuhan	-5	0	RAIN
Hangzhou	1	9	FINE
Taipei	-10	-1	FINE
Guangzhou	12	19	RAIN
Hong Kong			
WORLD			
Moscow	0	7	rain
Frankfurt	4	10	overcast
Paris	3	12	overcast
London	9	12	overcast
New York	9	19	clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Type of market; 5- Steps down to an Indian river; 9- Precious stones; 13- Employ; 14- Actor's parts; 16- Kind of mitt; 17- Sisters; 18- Sister of Thalia; 19- Lady of Spain; 20- Sidestep, circumvent; 22- Concocted; 24- Sugar; 27- Long luxuriant hair; 28- Attractive; 29- Charm; 33- Humiliate; 34- Burt's ex; 35- Peeved; 36- Tafari (Haile Selassie); 37- 1972 Derek and the Dominos hit; 38- Actress Thurman; 39- Cabinet dept.; 41- deucey; 42- Shield; 44- Abandoned; 46- Diners; 47- Supermodel Sastry; 48- Patriot Nathan; 49- Crude; 52- Mayday; 53- Yes; 57- Wrinkle remover; 58- Maker of Pong; 60- Land in water; 61- Smooth sailing; 62- Pass into disuse; 63- Tubular pasta; 64- Dog-powered snow vehicle; 65- Consumer; 66- Collar type;

DOWN: 1- Amusement; 2- Baton Rouge sch.; 3- Bard's nightfall; 4- States; 5- Oily; 6- Multitude; 7- Wings; 8- Hanoi holiday; 9- Female deity; 10- Bacchanalian cry; 11- List from which to choose; 12- Pass the breaking point; 15- East African nation; 21- Cast a ballot; 23- Singer DiFranco; 24- Was merciful to; 25- Sophisticated; 26- Stops; 27- Virile; 29- Fiddled; 30- Small rodent; 31- Knight wear; 32- Approaches; 34- Shoe ties; 37- Situated on the side; 40- Ruled; 42- Actor Kilmer; 43- Put into a list or an inventory; 45- Cellular stuff; 46- Simpler; 48- Stallion, e.g.; 49- Contends; 50- Orenburg's river; 51- Get rid of; 52- Enervates; 54- Be that ___ may...; 55- Female choir voice; 56- Chow ___; 59- Kind of cross;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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EXPLAINER

HOW US RULES ON INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL ARE CHANGING

MORE than a year and a half after COVID-19 concerns prompted the U.S. to close its borders to international travelers from countries including Brazil, China, India, South Africa, the United Kingdom and much of Europe, restrictions are shifting to focus on vaccine status.

Beginning Monday, bans on travel from specific countries are over. The U.S. will allow in international travelers, but they must be vaccinated — with a few exceptions.

The U.S. is also reopening the land borders with Canada and Mexico for vaccinated people. Most trips from Canada and Mexico to the U.S. are by land rather than air.

Here are some questions and answers about the changes:

WHY ARE THESE CHANGES HAPPENING?

The goal is to restore more normal travel while limiting the spread of COVID-19, the government says. The travel industry and European allies have pushed for an end to country-specific bans.



Americans have been allowed to fly to Europe for months, and Europeans have been pushing the U.S. to change its policies.

In 2019, before the pandemic, about one-fifth of the roughly 79 million visitors to the U.S. came from Europe.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN REQUIREMENTS?

All adult foreign nationals traveling to the U.S. must be fully vaccinated before boarding their flight. Like before, travelers will still have to show proof of a nega-

tive COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of departure to the U.S.

EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE VACCINATED?

Yes, with some exceptions. Children under 18 don't need to be vaccinated but they do need to take a COVID test. Kids 2 and younger are exempt from testing requirements.

WHAT ABOUT ADULTS WHO AREN'T VACCINATED?

Since half the world remains unvaccinated, and vaccine dis-

tribution has been so skewed to rich countries, the Biden administration is leaving a loophole for people who live in countries where vaccines are scarce. That list includes about 50 countries where fewer than 10% of people have been vaccinated. Travelers from those countries will need permission from the U.S. government to come, and it can't be just for tourism or business travel.

The U.S. government says it will permit unvaccinated international visitors to enter the country if there is a humanitarian or emergency reason, such as an emergency medical evacuation. Those exceptions will be applied "extremely narrowly" and require approval from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. There could also be a medical exception, with documentation from a doctor.

WHO IS GOING TO ENFORCE THE VACCINE RULES?

That's up to airlines. They will have to verify vaccine records and match them against ID, and if they don't, they could face fines of up

to nearly \$35,000 per violation. Airlines will also collect information about passengers for contact tracing efforts. There will be CDC workers spot-checking travelers for compliance in the U.S.

HOW WILL THIS AFFECT TRAVEL?

While the administration is characterizing this as a reopening, some people who were technically allowed to fly to the U.S. earlier in the pandemic are now blocked because of their vaccination status. Other roadblocks to normal travel resuming are big delays in issuing U.S. visas, which people in most countries need to visit the U.S. for business and tourism, and restrictions in other countries that make travel difficult.

Even though people coming from China will now be allowed into the U.S., for example, not many are expected to travel because of restrictions at home. Before the pandemic, Chinese tourists were a lucrative market for the U.S. travel industry.

Industry experts do expect a big influx in people flying from Europe, and hope that a broader recovery in travel follows as more people globally get vaccinated, U.S. visa processing speeds up, other countries lift their own restrictions and people feel less scared about getting COVID because of travel. **MDT/AP**

AD

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SAILING

11th Hour Racing begins shakedown cruise in new 60-footer

BERNIE WILSON

THE U.S.-based 11th Hour Racing Team is using the Transat Jacques Vabre double-handed race across the Atlantic Ocean as the shakedown cruise for the new foiling 60-foot boat it will sail in a round-the-world race set to start late next year.

Team co-founder Charlie Enright of Bristol, Rhode Island, set sail Sunday from Le Havre, France, with co-skipper Pascal Bidégorry of France aboard Mlama, which was launched in late August. The biennial Transat Jacques Vabre covers 5,800 nautical miles from the Normandy coast to Martinique in the French Caribbean.

11th Hour Racing has also entered its older boat Alaka'i, which is being co-skippered by Justine Mettraux of Switzerland and Simon Fisher of Britain.

"As a team, it's a big day for us — a culmination of a whole year's work," Enright said. "I very much



The Transat Jacques Vabre starts from Le Havre, France

hope that Pascal and I can do the race, and the team, justice."

11th Hour Racing will sail Mlama in the 2022-23 Ocean Race, which was pushed back at least a year due to the pandemic. It will start in either late December 2022

or early January 2023.

Mlama is the newest boat in the IMOCA fleet. Enright said the team has been sailing it for just a few weeks but feels adequately prepared.

"Our percentage chance of

success has gone up a tremendous amount in the last two weeks, which is good, but we'll be learning on the fly for sure," Enright said.

Enright said he's spent only five nights aboard the new boat.

"We're just relying on the forecast. In my mind, we're just as likely to win as we are to not finish," he said. "I have no expectations, honestly."

"The boat's performance in what little we've seen has been on par if not exceeded our expectations, but we just don't have enough reps for it to be second nature, so we've got to work hard to keep it there. ... We've to work a little harder until we learn it."

Enright and Bidégorry finished fourth in the IMOCA class in the 2019 Transat Jacques Vabre.

Enright said this will be by far the longest race 11th Hour will sail in before the Ocean Race, which will cover roughly 32,000 nautical miles and include a stopover in Newport, Rhode Island. Organizers recently dropped stopovers in China and New Zealand, setting up an epic 12,750 nautical mile leg through the Southern Ocean from Cape Town, South Africa, to Itajaí, Brazil.

Enright and his 11th Hour Racing co-founder Mark Towill, a fellow Brown alum, finished fifth in the last two editions of the Ocean Race. Earlier this year, Towill moved to a non-sailing role as team CEO to oversee the boat build and because the new boat will need a crew of only four compared to the nine needed to sail the old class, which was a supplied one-design boat. **MDT/AP**

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OPINION

China Daily
 Editorial, China Daily

**REUNIFICATION WILL BE
 BY FORCE IF NECESSARY
 WHETHER US SUPPORTS
 SECESSIONISTS OR NOT**

The United States should be aware that no matter what threats it makes or forces it employs, the reunification of Taiwan with the motherland is inevitable. Trying to prevent it will only increase the chances of dragging itself into a military clash with the Chinese mainland.

A spokesperson for the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council said on Friday that the diehard secessionists of Taiwan that are on a blacklist drawn up by Beijing will be prosecuted and held accountable for criminal liabilities in accordance with the law.

This is the latest sign that Beijing is stepping up its efforts to curb pro-independence forces, after the vice minister of the office said at a forum on national reunification late last month that the fiscal revenue of the island would only be used to improve the livelihoods of residents on the island.

The spokesperson's remarks come hard on the heels of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Mark Milley comments on Wednesday, in which he said that the US military absolutely has the capability to defend Taipei, "no question about that". The Taiwan Affairs Office's issuance of the statement demonstrates the Chinese mainland's confidence that the national reunification can be realized no matter who is opposed to it. It also adds to the growing sense that it is now on Beijing's timetable.

For the time being, being blacklisted means organizations related to the individuals and their families will be restricted from cooperating with organizations and individuals on the mainland, and enterprises related to them and their financial backers are not allowed to make profits on the mainland.

After the island's reunification with the motherland, the punishments meted out will be more substantial and proportional to the damage these individuals are judged to have done to cross-Straits relations, peace and stability, and the common interests of compatriots on both sides of the Straits and the fundamental interests of the Chinese nation.

The office's statement should be taken as a warning to any seeking the secession of the island that they will be held accountable for life. Those trying to split the nation will not be able to escape a reckoning.

The remark by US Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro on Thursday that "China's intent to one day take over Taiwan, either peacefully or through military means, has a most serious impact on our economic security" exposes the hollowness of the US' reiterations of its commitment to the one-China principle. The US' real intention is to maintain its control over the "unsinkable aircraft carrier" so it can keep using it as a thorn in the mainland's side.

Taiwan compatriots should see through the collusion between the secessionists and Washington as it bodes ill for cross-Straits peace and stability.

Although the secessionists on the island are trying to figure out whether the US really will sacrifice lives for them. That is a moot point. Reunification will happen whether the US supports them or not. The question is if it needs to be done by force. That is something they should ask of their conscience.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson wants to talk about climate change. But his opponents want to focus on sleaze.

As a United Nations climate summit aimed at staving off catastrophic global warming enters its final week in Glasgow, Scotland, host leader Johnson is facing a barrage of criticism in London over his attempts to change the system that oversees lawmakers' standards.

Today, the House of Commons will hold an emergency debate on political ethics after the government tried to block the suspension of a Conservative lawmaker found guilty of breaching

lobbying rules.

Opposition parties say the episode has revealed a Conservative government that plays fast and loose with the rules, and the want a public inquiry into corruption allegations.

Labour Party leader Keir Starmer said Johnson should apologize to the nation and "clean out the filthy Augean stable he has created."

The lobbying episode is the latest to fuel allegations that Johnson and his Conservative government don't follow rules that apply to everyone else.

AP PHOTO



**JAPAN HAD NO
 COVID-19 DEATHS FIRST
 TIME IN 15 MONTHS**

**MARI YAMAGUCHI,
 TOKYO**

JAPAN reported no daily deaths from COVID-19 on Sunday for the first time in 15 months, as infections decline rapidly in the country.

Health officials yesterday said there were no deaths the previous day, giving Japan a total of 18,310 fatalities since the pandemic began.

Japan yesterday also eased entry restrictions for foreign students, workers and short-term business travelers who are fully vaccinated, have their activity plans guaranteed by sponsors and observe 10 days of self-isolation.

Self-quarantine for Japanese citizens and foreign

residents was also shortened to three days from the previous 10 days.

The last time Japan reported no new coronavirus deaths was on Aug. 2, 2020, according to the ministry.

Japan was then hit by several waves of infections, including one led by the delta variant last summer, when daily cases peaked at around 25,000. Health care systems came close to collapse and tens of thousands of patients who were unable to find hospital beds had to recover at home. In Tokyo, new daily cases rose to nearly 6,000.

Nationwide cases started falling in September. Experts have attributed the decline to vaccination progress as well as widespread

mask wearing and use of disinfectants, among other reasons.

Vaccinations in Japan, despite a slow start, accelerated in June, and now nearly 74% of the population is fully immunized. The government plans to begin booster shots in December and also secure newly developed COVID-19 medicines.

Japan is gradually expanding social and economic activities, though experts caution against easing restrictions too quickly.

Dr. Shigeru Omi, who heads a government coronavirus panel, stressed the need to catch early signs of any upsurge in cases and take necessary steps without delay. **MDT/AP**

Abu Dhabi has issued new rules governing divorce, inheritance and child custody for non-Muslims in the city, the country's state-run news agency reported. The report by the WAM news agency said Abu Dhabi would create a new court to handle these cases, which will be held in both Arabic and English to be better understood by the emirate's vast foreign worker population.

AP PHOTO



UN With pressure growing for decisive action out of this year's U.N. climate talks, Barack Obama is bringing his political weight to bear on negotiators for nearly 200 governments, urging them to greater ambition in cutting climate-wrecking emissions and dealing with the mounting damage. The U.N. climate summit in Glasgow, Scotland, is the former American president's first since he helped deliver the triumph of the 2015 Paris climate accord, when nations committed to cutting fossil fuel and agricultural emissions.

Poland is stepping up security at its border with Belarus, on the European Union's eastern border, following reports that a large group of migrants in Belarus is heading for a crossing point. Polish Defense Minister Mariusz Blaszczak said on Twitter that that more than 12,000 soldiers have been deployed on the border, up from the 10,000 soldiers that were there recently. He added that a volunteer Territorial Defense force was put on alert.

Czech Republic gained a new government yesterday after two party coalitions that garnered a sizeable chunk of votes in the country's parliamentary election last month signed a power-sharing deal. A three-party, liberal-conservative coalition dubbed Together, composed of the Civic Democratic Party, Christian Democrats and the TOP 09 party, led the election with a 27.8% share of the vote.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Francisco Canedo/Xinhua



Grim fandango. People in ghostly masks and costumes take part in the Day of the Dead Parade in downtown Mexico City, capital of Mexico.