

14
Y·E·A·R·S
A-CHANGIN'
Double Down!
ADVERTISE WITH US
+853 287 160 81

iPhone 13 Pro. Oh. So. Pro.
With CTM Super Network
Share Your Cinematic Video At Anytime



iPhone 13 Pro

Enjoy up to \$400 OFF
on Handset Bundle Price

© Detail
Note: CTM reserves the right to make the final decision in case of any dispute.



AIR POLLUTION IN KÁ HÓ DROPS 76% AFTER EMISSIONS REDUCTION SCHEMES, ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

POLICY ADDRESS: PANDEMIC PREVENTION TOPS GOV'T PRIORITY IN 2022

ALLOWING FOREIGN ARRIVALS, PARTICULARLY DOMESTIC WORKERS, 'VERY DIFFICULT DECISION' TO MAKE AS MOST HAIL FROM HIGH-RISK COUNTRIES: CE



Hong Kong authorities said yesterday that they had seized a total of over 4,000 pounds of live lobsters and sea cucumbers believed to be bound for mainland China, months after Beijing restricted imports of the crustaceans from Australia amid escalating tensions between the two countries. Customs said it had seized 890 kilograms of live lobsters and 930 kilograms of sea cucumbers, with a total estimated value of HKD10 million during the operation Monday. Two men aged 40 and 45 suspected to be connected to the case were also arrested, the statement added.



Australia's central bank governor says the nation's benchmark interest rate could remain at a record low until 2024 despite pandemic-induced inflation. The Reserve Bank of Australia board has said it won't lift the cash rate until inflation settles in a target range of 2%-to-3%. Governor Philip Lowe told a Sydney forum of economists. The "inflation outlook is more uncertain than it has been for some time, but our central scenario is that underlying inflation reaches the middle of the target by the end of 2023," Lowe said.

Afghanistan A coalition of organizations working to evacuate people who could be targeted by the Taliban rulers in Afghanistan appealed for more assistance from the U.S. government and other nations as conditions deteriorate in the country. Members of the AfghanEvac Coalition met in a video call with Secretary of State Antony Blinken to press the case for additional resources to help tens of thousands of people get out of Afghanistan, now faced with a deepening economic and humanitarian crisis in addition to a precarious security situation following the U.S. withdrawal.

More on backpage

EXTENSION ON THE TABLE

Gaming concessions likely to be extended beyond 2022 if law is not ready in time, Ho Iat Seng said in a press conference after delivering the Policy Address at the AL

P9



习近平主席同美国总统拜登视频会晤
Virtual Meeting between President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Joe Biden

**TAIWAN IN THE MIDDLE
XI-BIDEN TALKS
RAISE HOPE BUT
STRAINS REMAIN**

P10

REGISTRATIONS OPEN FOR NEW DSAL JOBS PROGRAM

Registration for a new round of the employment training program run by the Labor Affairs Bureau (DSAL) has begun, but some members of the community have voiced concerns about whether they will get a job through the program, or be able to pivot to another industry. This round of the training program offers 34 classes with a total of 914 seats available. Data from the bureau shows that 60% to 70% of applicants to the program are currently unemployed, with fresh graduates making up only a small percentage. As cited in a TDM report, a DSAL representative stated that the new round of employment training program is broader than previous rounds. It includes industries such as nursing, catering and property management. Wong Wai Ian, head of the bureau's Technical Training Division, said that engineering project management has been quite popular, and DSAL has been trying to add more classes for this course. However, some courses require specialised classroom equipment, such as electrical equipment for the electrician course, so there may be capacity constraints even if the demand arises for more classes. The bureau will try to add as many classes as possible if this occurs. Registrations are open until Friday, and eligible residents can apply online through the DSAL website.

AIR POLLUTION IN KÁ HÓ DROPS 76% AFTER EMISSIONS REDUCTION SCHEMES

The Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA) has announced that measures implemented to improve fixed sources of air pollution have "had a significant result." After analyzing and evaluating the implementation of various legal decrees, DSPA estimates that the volumes of particulate matter emitted by the cement factory and power plant in the Ká Hó zone of Coloane have been reduced by around 76%. The amount of volatile organic compounds emitted by gas stations and gas terminals is estimated to have been reduced by around 63%. The volumes of nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide emitted by power plants decreased by 52% and 70%, respectively. In recent years, the DSPA has been consecutively enforcing new standards for air pollutant emissions and inspection regulations covering the main industrial and commercial establishments. To comply with the gradual implementation of legal decrees, the entities covered by the regulations have implemented improvement measures to reduce their emissions of atmospheric pollutants. The emissions reduction measures by these establishments have made a positive difference to air quality. Data from air quality monitoring stations has shown that, after the implementation of the aforementioned legislation, concentrations of the majority of air pollutants have reduced considerably. DSPA says it will continue to improve its emissions control work with the aim of further protecting the quality of the environment and the health of the population.

CTM UPGRADES INFRASTRUCTURE TO ENHANCE CYBERSECURITY

INFRASTRUCTURE has been constantly upgraded in order to achieve a higher level of cybersecurity, telecom service provider CTM said in a statement.

"Before the implementation of Macau's Cybersecurity Law, both CTM Network Management Center (NMC) and Data Center had already obtained ISO international certification, demonstrating [that] CTM's network and information security capabilities have reached international level," the telecom service provider said in a statement.

According to CTM, after the enactment of the law, the company made consistent investments to upgrade its Network Management Center and Security Operation Center (SOC2). It aims to further enhance its capabilities in safeguarding information and network security, as well as to provide cybersecurity services for other enterprises to facilitate



their compliance with requirements of security standards and the Cybersecurity Law.

The new SOC2 complements CTM's Data Center, which is of international third-level standard, supporting SIEM and situation awareness technologies by the task force to provide 24-hour monitoring.

SOC2 also provides comprehensive solutions for cloud infrastructure, networks and security, enabling enterprises to comply with the relevant re-

quirements of the Cybersecurity Law and to meet the demand for high-level information and network security with limited investment in resources.

Additionally, the newly upgraded Network Management Center is equipped with a real-time network information display system and advanced network traffic monitoring equipment, enabling the team to see the real-time operational status of network systems.

The center is equipped with

network alarm facilities and Big Data application systems, enabling technicians to implement measures, such as network node traffic control, through precise prediction and evaluation at any time, so as to guarantee safe operation of the network.

Declan Leong, vice president of Network Services at CTM, said in the statement that enterprises have increased their attention to information, data and network security. **AL**

Lawmaker Ron Lam raises postgrad subsidy issues

In a recent written inquiry, lawmaker Ron Lam revealed that certain postgraduate applicants for the tertiary education subsidy have been denied funding due to their non-current student status.

For reasons not explained, the government has merged the Postgraduate Grant into the Tertiary Education Subsidy. Lam noted that he had received complaints about the government's failure to recognize the different natures of the two original grant schemes.

The original Postgraduate Grant welcomed "applicants who have registered for no less than

three years as students in the Macau Special Administrative Region during their secondary to tertiary education."

He interprets that as not barring non-current students.

The updated Tertiary Education Subsidy, however, requires applicants to be current secondary or tertiary education students, or those who have completed either of the education levels, having garnered distinctive academic results and having the desire to continue their education.

Lam highlighted the plight of a group of successful applicants who were stranded in Macau

due to travel restrictions and now do not qualify for the scheme when they need to re-apply for the subsidy. Legally speaking, they are required to repay the government if they do not immediately commence their education following the receipt of funding

He also slammed the government for shrinking the scale of the grants due to the merger. The original scheme categorized the subsidy amounts for respective post-graduate studies levels. The new grants do not have a similar stipulation. However, it distinguishes between the location of studies.



Lam see this mess as opposite to the government's core policy of prospering Macau through education and cultivating talents.

As such, the lawmaker asks the government for the figures for declined applications and the scale of downsizing of the gran-

ts. Moreover, he asks how the government will compensate the originally approved but later declined applicants due to its own administrative flaws. He also requests the government to explain its stand on education amid deduction in educational funding. **AL**

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

REACHING OUT!

+21,000

Like us on facebook.com/mdtimes



Times

DIRECTOR & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR Lynzy Valles
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Anthony Lam, Emilie Tran, Irene Sam, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Juliet Risdon, Linda Kennedy, Paulo Cordeiro de Sousa, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Viviana Segui
DESIGNERS Eva Bucho, Miguel Bandeira | **ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS** JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | **NEWS AGENCIES** Associated Press, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua
SECRETARY Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

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

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

ADMINISTRATOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com
OFFICE MANAGER Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com
ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR
Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84
Advertisement advertising@macaudailytimes.com
For subscription and general issues: general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

The Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region

(TRANSLATED VERSION)

Highlights of Policy Address for the Fiscal Year 2022 of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR)

Making Concerted Efforts to Open Up New Horizons

Prevent the pandemic, stabilise economic recovery, protect livelihoods, promote diversification, strengthen cooperation, explore development opportunities.

1 Establish and secure anti-pandemic mechanism, and promote stable economic recovery

- Normalise pandemic prevention and control
- Increase the overall COVID-19 vaccination rate among Macao residents
- Increase investments, cut taxes, support businesses, and stabilise employment
- Facilitate recovery of the integrated tourism industry
- Strengthen assistance for stable development of SMEs
- Continue optimising the business environment



2 Foster and develop various industries to expedite adequate economic diversification

- Facilitate lawful, orderly and healthy development of the gaming industry
- Deepen "Tourism+" crossover synergy
- Foster and develop the "Big Health Industry", with traditional Chinese medicine research and development as an entry point
- Pragmatically forge ahead with the development of the modern financial services industry
- Expedite development of the science and technology industry
- Facilitate professional and market-oriented development of the convention and exhibition industry
- Foster growth of the cultural and sport industry
- Assist with transforming and upgrading SMEs
- Facilitate industrial transformation and diversification



3 Mutual discussion, joint construction, joint administration, and shared benefits for the pragmatic development of Hengqin

- Jointly establish the new system for mutual discussion, joint construction, joint administration, and shared benefits
- Develop new industries that facilitate economic diversification in Macao
- Establish an international mechanism for attracting capital and investment
- Build a new home for Macao residents that is favourable for living and work



Major Welfare Measures for the Fiscal Year 2022

All Macao residents

Non-mandatory individual accounts of the Central Provident Fund

Start-up fund of 10,000 patacas (for eligible residents)

Wealth Partaking Scheme

10,000 patacas (permanent residents)
6,000 patacas (non-permanent residents)

Healthcare voucher

600 patacas per person (permanent residents)

Birth allowance

5,418 patacas (both parents may apply at the same time)

Continuing Education Programme (2020-2023)

Maximum 6,000 patacas (for eligible residents)

Electricity bill subsidy for residential units

200 patacas per month (each residential unit)

Ongoing water tariff subsidy

Water tariff subsidy for residential and general non-residential users

Bus fare concessions for members of the public

Fare concessions for people holding top-up cards, student cards, senior cards, disability cards approved by the Transport Bureau, or people using electronic payments approved by the Transport Bureau.

Real estate tax (all real estates)

Deduction of first 3,500 patacas of tax (Macao residents)

Waiver of real estate stamp duty

First three million patacas of a residential unit's value (Macao permanent residents purchasing residential property for the first time)

Incentive for the increase of supply in the real estate rental market

Reduction of the property tax rate for leased properties to eight percent; property tax rate for non-leased properties remains at six percent



Students

Textbook allowance for non-tertiary education

- 3,550 patacas per school year (each secondary school student)
- 3,000 patacas per school year (each primary school student)
- 2,400 patacas per school year (each kindergarten pupil)

Tuition fee subsidies, meal allowance and stationery allowance for students from families with financial difficulties

- **Tuition fee subsidies:**
Maximum 9,000 patacas per school year (each senior secondary school student)
Maximum 6,000 patacas per school year (each junior secondary school student)
Maximum 4,000 patacas per school year (each kindergarten pupil or primary school student)
- **Meal allowance:**
3,950 patacas per school year (for each kindergarten pupil or primary school student or secondary school student)
- **Stationery allowance:**
3,350 patacas per school year (each secondary school student)
2,600 patacas per school year (each kindergarten pupil or primary school student)

Tuition fee subsidies and stationery allowance for Macao students studying in Guangdong province

- **Tuition fee subsidies:**
Maximum 6,000 patacas per school year (each primary or secondary school student)
Maximum 8,000 patacas (each kindergarten pupil)
- **Stationery allowance:**
1,700 patacas per school year (each secondary school student)
1,450 patacas per school year (each primary school student)
1,150 patacas per school year (each kindergarten pupil)

Stationery allowance for tertiary students

3,300 patacas (Macao residents)



The Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region

(TRANSLATED VERSION)

Highlights of Policy Address for the Fiscal Year 2022 of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR)

The elderly

Old Age Allowance

9,000 patacas per year.

Pension

3,740 patacas per month (13-month disbursements per year).

Incentive for employment for senior citizens

The basic allowance for personal income tax is 198,000 patacas for elderly employees over 65 years of age.

Housing for senior citizens

Construction of the main structure of the senior housing complex; procurement of related equipment; and research on the system for housing management.

New measures:

Set up a new service centre for supporting carers, and implement a day respite service pilot scheme.



Employed or people in need of jobs

Personal income tax deduction and tax rebate

30 percent reduction in personal income tax, with the basic allowance for personal income tax at 144,000 patacas for general employees; 60 percent rebate of personal income tax payable by each Macao resident for the year 2020, subject to a ceiling of 14,000 patacas.

Subsidised training scheme

- Eligible unemployed local residents and qualified tertiary graduates enrolled in the employment-oriented training programmes offered by the Government are entitled to a subsidy of up to 6,656 patacas, and employment referral and matching services upon completion of the training.
- For eligible local employees enrolled in the career-oriented training programmes provided by the Government, the employees or their employers are entitled to a subsidy of 5,000 patacas.



People with disabilities

Disability gratuity

9,000 patacas per year (ordinary)

18,000 patacas per year (special)

Employees with disabilities

Subsidised to minimum wage level.

Employers hiring people with disabilities

A tax deduction of up to 5,000 patacas on profit tax or personal income tax per employee with disabilities.

Employment incentives

The personal income tax allowance for eligible employees with disabilities is 198,000 patacas.

Pilot Financial Support Scheme for the Acquisition of Assistive Equipment and Household Devices for the Disabled

Under the scheme, people with disabilities meeting the financial criteria may receive financial assistance of up to 30,000 patacas for acquiring assistive equipment or special household devices.

Caregivers Allowance Pilot Scheme

2,175 patacas per month.

Early treatment for children with development disorders

Provide early training services for children with development disorders and their families.

New measures:

Plan to set up an integrated services centre for the disabled, which will add places for residential care, day care and respite services for the mentally handicapped.



Disadvantaged families

Minimum subsistence index

4,350 patacas per one-person household

Financial assistance

- Continue disbursing 13 months of financial assistance per year
- Disburse an additional month of financial assistance to eligible families (Financial assistance amounting from 4,350 patacas for one-person household per month to 20,270 patacas for eight-person household per month)

Special subsidy for three categories of disadvantaged families

- Learning activity subsidies:** From 300 patacas to 750 patacas per month
- Medical subsidies:** From 1,000 patacas to 1,200 patacas per month
- Subsidies for the disabled:** From 750 patacas to 1,000 patacas per month

Special living allowance under the Social Inclusion Scheme

Two disbursements per year. Each disbursement ranging from 2,650 patacas for one-person households, to 10,100 patacas for eight-person households. The income ceiling of the eligible households is 1.8 times the minimum subsistence index (households of single parents, the disabled and patients with chronic illness).

Short-term Food Assistance Programme

For a maximum of 10 weeks. The income ceiling of the eligible households is 1.8 times the minimum subsistence index.

Public housing tenants

Tenants whose income does not exceed the income ceiling are eligible for a rent waiver of up to 2,000 patacas per month.

Temporary subsidies for families on the waiting of 2017 for public housing

Families with one or two persons: 1,650 patacas per month. Families of three or more persons: 2,500 patacas per month.

Positive Life Programme

If a benefit recipient is re-employed, when assessing the household income of the family receiving financial assistance, the household is entitled to an income exemption of up to 6,530 patacas per month, for up to 18 months.

Community Employment Assistance Scheme

Participants of this scheme will receive a monthly subsidy of up to 2,000 patacas, subject to individual work situations.

Business owners and related persons

- Profit tax allowance will remain at 600,000 patacas.
- Waivers of all business taxes, hawkler licence fees, wet market stall rents, inspection and quarantine fees for live food, stamp duty on life or non-life insurance, and bank service charges, and stamp duty for auctions.
- Waivers of signboard taxes for businesses and exemption from tourism tax for 2-star hotels, budget accommodation establishments, and restaurants and catering establishments.
- Waivers of stamp duty on entrance passes and tickets for performances, exhibitions and entertainment programmes.
- Waiver of profit tax on dividends and investment income from local bonds issued in Macao; and exemption of stamp duty for issuing, transaction or compensable transfer of such bonds.
- Profit tax waiver for Macao businesses for income or profits received in Portuguese-speaking countries.
- Enterprises can enjoy extra reduction in profit tax for eligible research and development expenditure.

New measures:

- Waiver of investment fund monitoring charge.
- Monetary donations to flood and disaster relief in mainland China by profit tax payers and Group 2 professional tax payers are regarded as operational costs or losses, entitling these taxpayers to profit tax and professional tax deductions.
- Waiver of property rent by the Institute for Tourism Studies for three months.
- Waiver of rental charges for Macao Cultural Centre facilities for six months by the Cultural Affairs Bureau.
- Waiver of all licence fees payable during 2022 for privately owned tuition centres by the Education and Youth Development Bureau.
- Waiver of all social facility licence fees payable in 2022 to the Social Welfare Bureau.
- Waiver of all licence fees for healthcare professionals and healthcare facilities payable in 2022 to the Health Bureau.
- One-year extension for repayment of interest-free loans to the Cultural Industry Fund covering 2022.

The Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region

(TRANSLATED VERSION)

Highlights of Policy Address for the Fiscal Year 2022 of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR)

4 Optimise social and livelihood-related work to enhance quality of social services

- Continue with the welfare measures for 2021, and launch new measures in accordance with new situations
- Implement the policy vision of "a five-rung housing ladder"
- Mitigate problems related to seeking medical consultations
- Increase public spaces for sports and leisure activities
- Strengthen social services and perfect social security
- Safeguard local employment and protect worker's rights



7 Enhance education, youth development, cultural and sport affairs, and perfect the system for importing talented people

- Promote comprehensive, coordinated development of education
- Facilitate innovative development of tertiary education
- Continue enhancing patriotic education
- Implement all work detailed in the Macao Youth Policy
- Expedite development of "One Base"
- Perfect the cultural heritage conservation system
- Properly organise all cultural and sports events
- Establish a methodical system for importing talented people



5 Safeguard and sustain national security and safety of Macao

- Consolidate the favourable conditions under the principle of "patriots governing Macao", and deepen promotion and education on the Constitution and the Basic Law of the MSAR
- Perfect legislation and strengthen law enforcement for safeguarding national security
- Strengthen and develop national security publicity and education
- Enhance the establishment of an urban security system, and strengthen the police force through technology



8 Perfect urban planning, to build a smart and liveable city

- Expedite construction of new infrastructural facilities
- Commence detailed urban planning
- Implement major urban infrastructural projects, perfect the transport network, and implement municipal development
- Enhance management and use of maritime areas
- Improve the disaster prevention and mitigation mechanism
- Implement all environmental protection projects and works



6 Deepen public administration reform, and strengthen legislation in major areas

- Review and improve the authorisation and accountability system
- Strengthen and improve the civil servant management system
- Continue promoting e-governance
- Enhance communication and synergy with the Legislative Assembly, and implement legislative planning
- Enhance regional and international legal and judicial cooperation
- Respect and safeguard judicial independence
- Continue optimising anti-corruption and auditing work
- Strengthen supervision of public corporations and autonomous funds



9 Actively promote regional cooperation to integrate Macao into the overall national development plan

- Leverage the functions of the Working Committee for Intergating into National Development, to better coordinate regional cooperation
- Focus on the establishment of Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, and actively and pragmatically cooperate with mainland China in various areas
- Participate in high-quality development projects in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and actively participate in cooperative projects of the technological innovation corridor
- Facilitate development of the "Belt and Road" initiative, and expand Macao's functions as a platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries



(TRANSLATED VERSION)

Major Policies on Various Areas

Administration and Justice

In 2022, we shall uphold the administration directions of the Second Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR) Government (2021–2025), to continue strengthening administration and justice.

We shall promote e-governance as an entry point for public administration reform, and launch the “My One-stop Public and Personal Services Account” to provide residents with smart and convenient e-services. We shall review and improve the authorisation and accountability system; optimise the management systems for transfer, recruitment and ranking; enhance civil servant capabilities and talent cultivation; and strive to build a team of efficient and people-oriented civil servants.

In terms of legal work, we shall continue enhancing the effectiveness of legislative coordination and progressively implement legislation. We shall comply with the Master Plan of the Development of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin; develop policies in tandem with Macao’s actual conditions; provide institutional protection for the long-term development of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone with Guangdong; and develop a stable, fair, transparent, and internationalised business environment with rule by law.

In terms of municipal services and construction, we shall optimise facilities for children in various parks, continue expediting construction of the Hac Sa Youth Activity Experimental Camp and leisure walkways on Coloane; construct additional rainwater pumping stations and step up efforts to combat illegal sewage discharges; optimise management of public wet markets, while ensuring they maintain orderly business operations and environmental hygiene; continue safeguarding the three anti-epidemic frontlines of cold chain food, workers and environments; and strengthen random sampling, disinfection, inspection and traceability, to safeguard anti-epidemic work.

Public administration

- Improve the authorisation and responsibility system, while better specifying the functions of administrative roles;
- Strengthen demand-oriented development of e-governance; and
- Continuously enhance civil servant management and training.



Leisure Area of Kun Iam Statue Waterfront opened to the public on 29 April 2021 and has become very popular.

Legal affairs

- Coordinate and expedite legislation in major areas;
- Continuously review existing laws and regulations;
- Deepen regional cooperation and international exchanges;
- Continue launching user-friendly registration and notarisation services; and
- Improve the effectiveness of law promotion, with concerted efforts by the Government and society.

Municipal services

- Strengthen supervision of dredging, to ensure sewers are unobstructed;
- Work in tandem with the enforcement of a new law, to optimise management of wet markets;
- Safeguard quarantine of refrigerated and frozen food, to enhance food safety;
- Optimise leisure facilities for better quality of life; and
- Continue expanding urban greenery and restoring forest areas.

Economy and Finance

Our goals for the economy and finance are to bolster the economy, stabilise employment, safeguard people’s livelihoods, open up new horizons, and plan for the long term. Our strategic policies are to support small and medium-sized enterprises in operational reform, step up efforts to support local residents’ employment while boosting economic growth in the community, ensure stable supplies of basic commodities and create favourable conditions for stable prices, and fully participate in the development of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin. We will take important steps in maintaining stable financial management, boosting post-pandemic economic recovery and adequate economic diversification, building “One Centre, One Platform”, and participating in the overall national development.

Post-pandemic economic recovery

- Continue implementing vigorous fiscal policies and increase public investment to expand domestic demand;
- Adjust austerity measures to control public expenditure while ensuring people’s livelihoods and social welfare remain unaffected;
- Ensure financial security and stability and optimise deployment of financial reserves in investments;
- Expand tourist sources through multiple channels, to accelerate recovery of the tourism industry;
- Continue implementing tax incentives to ensure stability of consumption and supply; and
- Implement diverse measures to safeguard employment and protect workers’ rights and interests in accordance with the law.

Adequate economic diversification

- Facilitate development of a modern financial services industry and strengthen infrastructure required for financial services;
- Intensify solicitation of businesses and investments and attract innovative technology companies;
- Promote development of the “Big Health Industry”, with research and development and, manufacture of traditional Chinese medicines;
- Build a convention and exhibitions platform for crossover cooperation, to broaden the horizons for development of various industries; and

- Develop diverse channels to enhance the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, and boost economic growth in the community.

Building “One Centre, One Platform”

- Deepen “Tourism+” crossover synergy, optimise the gaming industry regulatory system, and improve the establishment of “One Centre”; and
- Cultivate in-depth the development of the platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, and strengthen multi-faceted exchanges and cooperation with Portuguese-speaking countries in order to facilitate co-development.



The Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin promotes Macao’s adequate economic diversification.

Participation in overall national development

- With the four major industries as the core, facilitate the development of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin;
- Actively participate in the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area by leveraging cooperation in finance, tourism, vocational skills exchanges, and consumer rights protection; and
- Boost regional cooperation and participation in the “Belt and Road” initiative by focusing on tax cooperation and business activities.

Public Security

In line with the Government’s overall planning, the public security forces will further refine and optimise the legal system and mechanism for safeguarding national security; stay alert to various risks at all times; and formulate more specific strategies as well as forward-looking prognostics and enforcement planning through the application of technology; combat criminal activities through continuous effective cooperation with law enforcement units in surrounding areas; alleviate all types of security risks; and strive to protect the stability and harmony of Macao.

In accordance with the implementation of the Master Plan of the Development of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, the Government will actively facilitate border crossing clearance for people, vehicles and goods, to realise integrated development between Hengqin and Macao.

Safeguarding national security

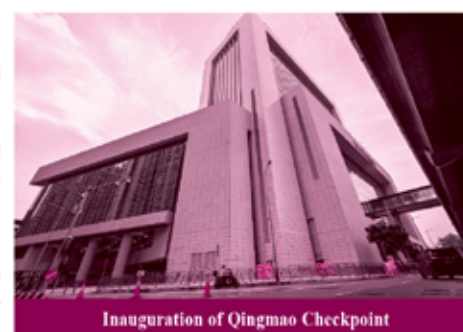
- Enhance the national security law system and optimise the operation of law enforcement units, to effectively safeguard overall national security; and
- Actively respond to multiple risks, introduce innovative national security publicity and education, and strengthen national security awareness among young people.

Law enforcement

- Optimise results of data analyses, deploy actions scientifically and accurately, and strictly control illegal activities; and
- Strengthen joint actions between regional police forces, jointly combat cross-regional crimes, and introduce innovations in community fire prevention and law enforcement.

Modern civil protection

- Fully implement civil protection laws and legal system, promote a voluntary joint defence system, and consolidate community power; and
- Optimise smart management of civil protection, strengthen civil protection publicity and drills, and enhance the effectiveness of collaboration during emergencies.



Inauguration of Qingmao Checkpoint

Police force management

- Strictly implement rigid discipline while promoting a flexible and caring culture, to foster a sense of teamwork and unity; and
- Implement a new system for personnel promotions, encourage police studies, and develop diversified professional training.

Strengthening the police force through technology

- Deepen the development of smart policing, expand the adoption of new smart applications, and optimise the distribution of “Sky Eye” CCTV system; and
- Strengthen cyber security management, expand smart maritime surveillance, and enhance maritime law enforcement capability.

Police-public cooperation

- Reach out to the community, optimise the community policing mechanism, and consolidate mutual trust between the police and the public; and
- Disseminate information on preventing and combating crimes, enhance police transparency, and ensure effective cooperation between the police and journalists.

Border-crossing management

- In line with the in-depth integration of the Greater Bay Area, improve customs clearance efficiency, and facilitate border crossing clearance for people, and goods; and
- Implement the new entry and exit system, ensure border checkpoints safety control, and continue launching measures to boost convenience for the public.

Correctional and rehabilitation services

- Expedite strengthening the correctional services team, strictly enforce disciplinary management of personnel, and enhance the efficiency of prison administration; and
- Commence the prison security project, forge ahead with prison construction, and adopt a multi-pronged approach to providing rehabilitation assistance.

Financial intelligence

- Optimise the data exchange mechanism, to prevent the risk of cross-border money laundering; and
- Expand public-private exchanges and cooperation, and jointly formulate preventive strategies.

(TRANSLATED VERSION)

Major Policies on Various Areas

Social Affairs and Culture

The Government will seize the opportunities arising from the Master Plan of the Development of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, actively promote development of the livelihood projects in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone, and foster alignment of related services and social security systems with Macao, in accordance with Macao's Second Five-Year Plan; continue optimising work for people's well-being in Macao, focusing on medical care, education, and measures for children, women, the elderly and people with disabilities, to safeguard people's well-being.

Deepening regional cooperation for integration with national development

- Facilitate the establishment of the Macao New Neighbourhood project in Hengqin;
- Participate in the establishment of the Base for China-Portuguese-speaking Countries Youth Cultural Exchanges and Cooperation in Nansha, Guangzhou; and
- Expand recognition of Macao Occupational Skills Recognition System (MORS) in the Greater Bay Area.

Safeguarding and enhancing health services

- Enhance the prevention and control of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic;
- Define the development positioning and operation mode of the Islands District Medical Complex; and
- Commence operation of the Seac Pai Van Health Centre.

Forging ahead with education and youth development work

- Explore the establishment of a "One Country, Two Systems" research base;
- Implement centralised management of education funding by designated departments;
- Implement the pilot project on Smart Teaching; and
- Rename Macao Polytechnic Institute as Macao Polytechnic University.

Improving social work and social security

- Ensure the basic quality of life of the underprivileged;
- Expedite work on the housing project for senior citizens; and
- Improve the double-tier social security system.

Developing culture and sports

- Commence compilation of Macao Local Records;
- Organise the First Macao International Cultural Forum;
- Enhance the degree of industrialisation in Macao's cultural and creative sectors;
- Actively participate in the 19th Asian Games, which will be held in 2022; and
- Participate in preparations for the 15th National Games.



A showroom for housing for senior citizens opens to public.

Transport and Public Works

Policy implementation regarding transport and public works will be guided by the principle of serving the public's needs. The Government will devote its greatest efforts to public housing, transport, environmental protection, urban planning, urban renewal and public infrastructure.

Urban planning

- Commence compiling detailed planning for all districts in Macao, starting with Eastern District-2 (i.e. New Urban Zone Area A);
- Implement land management in accordance with the Land Law; and
- Prepare drafts on marine zoning based on functions, and planning of maritime areas.

Public work investment

- Complete the reclamation for New Urban Zone Area C;
- Expedite construction of the fourth Macao-Taipa cross-harbour bridge;
- Proceed with construction of the LRT system, according to the schedule; and
- Expedite the expansion of the Macau International Airport.

Environmental protection

- Develop an electric vehicles promotion programme, and increase the number of electric vehicle charging facilities available in public car parks;
- Prohibit the import of non-degradable disposable plastic straws and beverage stirrers;
- Construct temporary facilities to resolve coastal sewage problems; and
- Complete the planning of reclaimed water facilities and related pipeline networks.

Housing

- Complete the Tamagnini Barbosa public housing project;
- Gradually commence construction of Home-Ownership Scheme lots in New Urban Zone Area A;
- Announce the queuing sequence of applications for the Home-Ownership Scheme 2021;
- Complete the draft of the Legal System for Housing for the Sandwich Class; and
- Commence superstructure construction of the senior citizens housing complex.

Transport

- Complete the Macao Road Traffic and Transport Planning Study (2021-2030);
- Monitor the effectiveness of bus services under the new contracts; and
- Continue expanding the walking route network, to encourage green commuting.

Public utilities management

- Ensure coordination between public service operators, to expand smart operations;
- Commence operation of the third Guangdong-Macao high-voltage electric power transmission channel; and
- Complete construction of the cross-harbour natural gas pipeline network connecting Taipa and Macao peninsula.



Inauguration of footbridge at Avenida de Gulmaraes, Taipa

Commission Against Corruption

In 2022, the Commission Against Corruption (Comissariado contra a Corrupção - CCAC) will operate in accordance with the national development direction and the policy goals of the MSAR Government, implement anti-corruption work as stated in the Second Five-Year Plan, and continue optimising operations with a pragmatic and innovative mindset, enabling the CCAC team to keep up-to-date.

Innovation and succession to build a corruption-free society

- Focus on the implementation of the Second Five-Year Plan, reshape the Corruption-free Management Programme, establish the Integrity Coordinator mechanism, and reorganise the Corruption-free Management Programme information platform in the spirit of innovation and succession; and
- Publicise probity concepts in all walks of life and promote integrity to society and targeted audiences.

Internal collaboration and case attachments

- Arrange joint attachments and patrols involving both Anti-Corruption Bureau and the Ombudsman Bureau, to strengthen supervisory effectiveness; and
- Optimise the "looking back" review mechanism, to leverage the supervisory power conferred by law.

Monitoring law enforcement in public and private sectors and optimising declaration of assets and interests

- Adhering to the original intention of "lawfully exercising authority for the people, with governing power according to the law and rule by law", and continue monitoring the public and private sectors; and
- Establish a cross-departmental information platform with an innovative mindset, and optimise the operational procedures for declaration of assets and interests from the policy and administrative perspectives.

Comprehensive reviews and coordinated advice

- Investigate in-depth and analyse the root causes and systemic problems leading to illegal or improper phenomena; and
- Pass eligible complaints to the Ombudsman in a centralised manner and provide coordinated advice, so that the MSAR Government can allocate public resources through a more efficient and targeted approach in order to solve related problems.

Strengthening organisation and personnel professionalism

- Continue closely communicating with mainland China, neighbouring regions and other parts of the world; and
- Strengthen personnel training, optimise the handling of complaints, and further improve the CCAC's organisational structure and functions through amendments to laws, in order to build an even stronger anti-corruption team for the MSAR.

Commission of Audit

Looking to the year ahead, the Commission of Audit (CA) will closely monitor the Government's policy vision, strive to enhance its position, deploy appropriate audit projects in response to the implementation of the Master Plan of the Development of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, and focus on the implementation of coordinated regional development, reforms of systems and mechanisms, and optimisation of economic structure.

Audit

- Review the effectiveness of the previous year's practice of separately handling different accounts in accordance with the nature of each account, and seek a faster, more reliable approach to improve quality in all aspects; and
- Strengthen data analytics to ensure efficient and reliable audit work.

Performance audit and special audit

- In accordance with the administrative principles and details of Macao's Second Five-Year Plan, accurately define the supervisory objectives and positioning; and
- Improve the normalised audit data collection mechanism, and strive to promote the CA's supervisory role in prevention of and providing alerts regarding improper allocations of resources.

Audit-related information technology infrastructure

- Deepen the application of the new version of the Auditor Office (Macao version); and
- Strengthen data acquisition skills.

Improve quality control mechanisms

- Ensure the quality of audit reports, and review the existing audit quality monitoring measures, as well as the workflow and specific guidelines of various audit approaches; and
- Strengthen internal audit and improve the audit quality control system.

Audit culture and frugality awareness

- Continue organising seminars on "Introduction to Audit Culture" for public departments, and maintain close contact with tertiary institutions and community organisations; and
- Ensure public confidence in the optimal use of public resources and related systems through publicity work.

Auditor training

- In response to developments in auditing, raise requirements for auditor quality and strengthen internal training; and
- Enhance the professionalism of the auditing team, along with the capability for analysing information technology and macro-level policies.

CRAFT MARKET KICKS OFF ON FRIDAY

The Tap Seac Craft Market will be held at Tap Seac Square for the next two weekends. It runs from Friday to Sunday each weekend, November 19 to 21 and November 26 to 28. The market features a total of 110 booths with cultural and creative practitioners from mainland China and Macau showcasing and selling a diverse range of original cultural and creative products. In addition, cultural food stalls will be available, as well as various singers from mainland China and Macau hosting 37 music performances. 36 creative handicraft workshops will also be held during the event.

INT'L ASSETS IN BANKS DECREASE

By the end of September, the share of international assets in total banking assets had decreased to 85.9% from 86.2% at the end of June 2021, while the share of international liabilities in total banking liabilities fell slightly to 83.8% from 83.9%. Data from the Monetary Authority of Macao shows that non-local currencies continued to be the dominant denomination in international banking transactions. At the end of September, the share of the pataca in total international assets and total international liabilities was 0.6% and 0.7% respectively. The Hong Kong dollar, the US dollar, the renminbi and other foreign currencies accounted for 33.6%, 44.8%, 16.2% and 4.9% respectively of total international assets.

CE: LIFTING ENTRY BAN FOR DOMESTIC WORKERS A 'VERY DIFFICULT DECISION'

LYNZY VALLES

ALLOWING foreign arrivals, particularly domestic workers, is a "very difficult decision" to make, as most of them hail from high-risk countries, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng said at a press conference yesterday.

Since March 25 2020, strict measures enacted to reduce the spread of Covid-19 have seen Macau's borders closed to foreign entrants, leaving several hundred blue-card holders stranded in their home-countries.

Many took annual leave in the first quarter of last year as the city started to feel the effects of the pandemic during the last week of January.

According to Ho, allowing arrivals from high-risk countries would put the city at risk. He pointed to outbreaks in August and September which followed the return of two residents from Xian and Turkey, respectively.

The outbreaks led to the closure of government and entertainment facilities, the cancellation of public events and another round of mass testing, leading to a downturn in tourist arrivals. Another ramification was a regulation imposed by Zhuhai that requires travelers entering the region from Ma-



Domestic workers in Hong Kong line up at a temporary testing center for Covid-19

cau to undergo 14 days of quarantine.

"Macau cannot bear another blow," said Ho, recalling that the previous outbreaks led to a slump in Golden Week arrivals. Just 8,159 visitors were recorded, a record low.

"There is a huge negative impact on the economy for each outbreak. Just a single [infected] person in a quarantine hotel spread the virus that caused the outbreak," the CE said.

"As a result, Golden Week was gone. We had high expectations for that week [as did SMEs]. [...] In every outbreak, SMEs suffered immense loss," he added.

Since the virus is airborne,

Ho said that "it is very difficult" to decide whether the government should allow foreign entrants, revealing that over 2,300 applications for entry have been received.

Last week, the government announced a string of new measures to strengthen the management of quarantine hotels, including the use of robots for providing contactless services to hotel guests in quarantine.

Notably, some security guards at a designated observation facility were infected with Covid-19 despite being vaccinated, as a returnee staying at the hotel was infected with the coronavirus.

Ho said that, despite the purchase of robots, there are still infection risks because some procedures require human interaction, such as conducting a nucleic acid test.

"We understand that quite a lot of residents are in need of domestic workers and they [have been] complaining. As the government, we need to seek balance," Ho explained.

For the CE, the three outbreaks in a year have put significant strain on the economy.

"It has been two years since the pandemic started. Can we go on for another year? We've done our best to combat the outbreak, but we still experience immense loss in terms of the economy," he reiterated.

Currently, the SAR government is paying close attention to Hong Kong's statistics as the city gradually lifts entry restrictions. The neighboring region is allowing the arrival of domestic workers as long as they are fully vaccinated and undergo 21 days of quarantine.

Hong Kong is adding nearly 100 more quarantine rooms specifically for these arrivals, bringing its total number of rooms to around 2,000.

According to Ho, Macau is not capable of building such facilities because of its dense population.

Gov't investment in Provident Fund depending on surplus

RENATO MARQUES

THE government investment share on the individual accounts from the Central Provident Fund can only resume after the government accounts are back to register surplus, Chief Executive (CE) Ho Iat Seng explained yesterday during a Q&A session with the media on the Policy Address for 2022 (LAG22).

Questioned on the topic, Ho explained that such injection of government funds (usually 7,000 patacas) in the individual accounts of all permanent residents is conditioned by the fact that the government accounts register a surplus that can account for such transference of funds.

"We cannot continue to transfer these amounts in



time while we are reporting a deficit and we are making [special] use of the financial reserves to face the economic challenges," Ho added, promising that such government contribution for residents' welfare will resume as soon as accounts register a surplus.

The last time that the government has made such transference of funds was back in 2019.

When met with the CE ahead of the LAG22, the lawmaker and president of the Macau Civil Servants Association, José Pereira Coutinho, said that one of the requests made by the association to the CE was the transference of such funds, in the equivalent of 21,000 patacas (referring to 2020, 2021 and 2022) to all residents and especially to the elderly and retired.

MOP10,000 SUBSIDY FOR ELIGIBLE RESIDENTS FROM NOV. 26

STAFF REPORTER

LOW-INCOME employees, the self-employed and business operators who are facing difficulties are eligible to receive a one-time subsidy of MOP10,000, according to a statement released by the Financial Services Bureau (DSF). Those who are eligible for the subsidy will receive the money directly by bank transfer starting November 26.

The subsidy will be available to local workers whose annual income last year was lower than MOP144,000. Those who resigned, were laid off, had their

hours reduced or were put on unpaid leave in 2020 will also benefit from the measure.

Applications can be submitted until December 15, along with proof of income and an employment contract.

The self-employed, such as taxi drivers and tour guides, are also eligible for the MOP10,000 subsidy.

Those who have declared their status as self-employed on their tax form and have reported zero profit, and business operators facing financial difficulties and have reported zero profit

are able to receive at least MOP10,000 per person, and up to MOP200,000 in certain circumstances.

The gaming, finance, and insurance industries, as well as public utilities, are not included in the subsidy scheme.

Beneficiaries will not need to register their bank details, as the government will transfer the funds directly to the same residents' bank accounts used for the annual cash handout.

The bureau has also launched an online consultation system for residents to easily confirm their eligibility status.

RENATO MARQUES

POLICY ADDRESS

MEASURES directly or indirectly related to Covid-19 pandemic prevention and control still top the government's policy priorities for 2022. This was acknowledged by the government in the Policy Address Report for the Fiscal Year 2022 (LAG22).

The policies within the report, delivered by Chief Executive (CE) Ho Iat Seng, yesterday, outline a need to continue enforcing several measures such as border restrictions, medical observation quarantine, and the imposition of severe limitations on the circulation of people, namely those who are not local residents.

At the press conference following the delivery of LAG22 at the Legislative Assembly (AL), Ho was asked about the reopening of borders. Ho said in response that decisions on the easing of border restrictions "are always [three-party] decisions between Hong Kong, Macau and the mainland. We will release more information as soon as we have it."

He added, "Of course we are going to open also to the [rest of] the world in the future but we have to pay attention to all these countries that are suffering from [infections] of Covid-19."

Although Ho hinted that negotiation is ongoing in an attempt to ease the current border restrictions even if only by a small amount, he also remarked that quarantine measures are not likely to see major changes anytime soon.

"At the moment I think quarantine is a must. In the next phase maybe we are going to have a new measure, I don't know," Ho said, noting that in

RENATO MARQUES



Europe, after a period of borders opening, several countries are returning to lockdown measures.

"There are a lot of uncertainties regarding Covid-19 and I think we need to evaluate the situation and discuss with health authorities to make sure we make the right decision," he concluded.

Earlier on, at the AL, Ho said that the government hopes travel restrictions can be gradually

eased during 2022 as long as vaccination rates continue to rise.

Ho hinted that negotiation is ongoing in an attempt to ease the current border restrictions

"We hope that in the year 2022, with the increase in vaccination

rates against Covid-19 and the continuous reinforcement of the prevention of infections, there will be an orderly relaxation of travel restrictions," the CE said, adding that this measure would contribute to a gradual recovery of the tourism industry and the economy in general.

Ho also acknowledged that although the government would like travel restrictions to ease, "there are still

Pandemic prevention still tops gov't priorities for next year

uncertainties in the economic recovery, which mainly depends on the situation of infection prevention and control in Macau, and the main places of origin of tourists."

CONTRADICTIONS ON QUARANTINE FACILITIES

In apparent contradiction to the LAG22 delivered only moments previously at the AL, the CE said in response to a question from the Times that the government has no intention of building specially dedicated facilities for quarantine in Macau.

"If we need to expand our quarantine facilities, we will cooperate with the hotel industry. Some hotels are willing to cooperate with us and we continue to gather support from the hotel sector. We have no intention to build quarantine facilities from scratch," Ho said.

Nonetheless, Ho said at the AL that the government did have such an intention, while referring to the chapter dedicated to the relevant points of government policy for the year 2022.

While referring to measures related to strengthening the infection prevention and control system and economic recovery promotion, he mentioned that government will "study the feasibility of building large quarantine facilities."

GAMING

Concessions likely to be extended again if law not ready

RENATO MARQUES

SET to expire in June 2022, the current gaming licenses could again be extended if the new gaming law that will set the rules for the new concession tender is not ready in time, Chief Executive (CE) Ho Iat Seng said yesterday.

Ho was speaking at a press conference organized to respond to media questions about the government's Policy Address for 2022.

In response to questions on the topic, the CE said, "after the [new] law is complete, we will gradually implement the relevant work. There is no need to worry about this [be-

cause] If the work [cannot] be completed on time, we can do an emergency extension of the contract. We already have a mechanism that allows this. If we don't have the [new] law ready in time, we can extend," he said.

Ho added, "everything needs to be done in a lawful fashion. We have nine major points to be revised and regulated [in the new law]. By the end of next year, we need to know our development orientation."

He hinted that the new gaming license tender would not be ready any time in 2022 and potentially will only take place in 2023 or even later.

The new legal regime draft

underwent a public consultation period that finished at the end of last month.

According to the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lei Wai Nong, there will now be a six month period for the compilation of all opinions collected and integration of some of these into the final bill. The final bill will then start the legislative process which is not likely to finish before the last quarter of 2022.

Only after the law is finally approved and enters into force can the government start the new public tender process, which has also to undergo several lengthy bureaucratic and legal procedures.

CRIME

MIDDLE COURT SENDS PEDOPHILE SEX OFFENDER TO JAIL

THE Court of Second Instance has denied a suspect's appeal and jailed him immediately for the crime of sexual assault against minors.

In October last year, the accused indecently assaulted four girls, aged between seven and eight years, at a private tuition center. The man was working at the center as a part-time tutor.

The case was opened when the victims reported the incidents to the director of the center.

Although issuing an imprisonment ruling, the Court of First Instance offered probation with conditions to the accused. The Public Prosecutions Office appealed the ruling on the

grounds that this was too light a sentence.

The middle court acknowledged that it was the offender's first criminal violation, and that he cooperated when confessing his crimes. However, the court found that the crimes were repugnant to society, and thus considered judicial condemnation and probationary imprisonment not sufficient as punishment.

The second court therefore sentenced the accused to a year and a half of imprisonment.

In the first court's ruling, the accused was also ordered to pay monetary compensation to the victims and undergo counseling. **AL**

KEN MORITSUGU & AAMER
MADHANI, BEIJING

China yesterday welcomed a virtual meeting between President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Joe Biden as raising hopes for better relations, while the U.S. was more muted on the talks as the world's two biggest powers sought to ratchet down more than a year of tensions.

The leaders appeared to put aside the language of acrimony in their first formal meeting since Biden took office. Xi greeted the U.S. leader as his "old friend," and Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said the exchange was candid and constructive.

"If China-U.S. relations cannot return to the past, they should face the future," Zhao said, calling the meeting "conducive to increasing positive expectations ... for U.S.-China relations."

However, both sides held firm to their positions on the issues that divide Washington and Beijing, with Xi warning that the U.S. and Taiwan are playing with fire over the self-governing island that China considers part of its territory.

The two nations were aiming to end a sharp deterioration in relations that accelerated under former U.S. President Donald Trump and had festered since Biden became president in January. The video conference, which lasted more than three hours, took place Tuesday morning in Beijing and Monday evening in Washington.

Both Biden and Xi seemed determined to lower the temperature in what for both sides is their most significant — and frequently turbulent — relationship on the global stage.

"As I've said before, it seems to me our responsibility as leaders of China and the United States is to ensure that the competition between our countries does not veer into conflict, whether intended or unintended," Biden told Xi at the start of the meeting.

The White House set low expectations for the meeting, and no major announcements were made. Still, White House officials said the two leaders had a substantive exchange.

Xi echoed Biden's cordial tone in his opening remarks, saying, "China and the United States need to increase communication and cooperation."

The positive tone sets an example for officials in both countries to try to identify common ground rather than find fault with each other, whether on trade, climate change, or geopolitical issues such as Afghanistan and North Korea, said Wang Huiyao, president of the Center for China and Globalization, a think tank in Beijing,

AP PHOTO



US President Joe Biden meets virtually with Chinese President Xi Jinping from the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington

CHINA-US

XI-BIDEN TALKS RAISE HOPE FOR BETTER TIES BUT STRAINS REMAIN

"I see this dialogue as a stabilizer of the bilateral relation," he said. "I don't expect this one summit to bring us back to the good old days, but certainly it stops the downward spiral."

TAIWAN IN THE MIDDLE

The two leaders had an extended discussion on Taiwan, the U.S. said. Tensions have heightened as China has recently dispatched a growing number of fighter jets toward the island, while the U.S. and its allies sail warships through the Taiwan Strait.

Xi blamed the tensions on Taiwan seeking U.S. support to achieve independence and some on the American side using Taiwan to contain China, a Chinese statement on the meeting said.

"Such moves are extremely dangerous, just like playing with fire. Whoever plays with fire will get burnt," the statement said.

Chinese military forces held exercises last week near Taiwan in response to a visit by a U.S. congressional delegation to the island.

The White House said Biden

reiterated the U.S. will abide by its longstanding "One China" policy, which recognizes Beijing as the government of China but allows informal relations and defense ties with Taipei. Biden also made clear the U.S. "strongly opposes unilateral efforts to change the status quo or undermine peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait," a White House statement said.

It said that Biden again raised concerns about China's human rights practices and made clear that he sought to "protect American workers and industries from (China's) unfair trade and economic practices." The two also spoke about regional challenges, including North Korea, Afghanistan and Iran.

The meeting could put ties on a more stable footing in the near term, but the two countries have yet to address the long-term structural challenges in their relationship, said Paul Haenle, a former U.S. official and China expert at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

"This really was just an opportunity for the two leaders

to make clear their intentions and priorities and concerns about their relationship and to begin really to set the terms of what is a new era in U.S.-China relations," he said.

ZOOM DIPLOMACY

The U.S. president was joined in the Roosevelt Room for the video call by Secretary of State Antony Blinken and a handful of aides. Xi, for his part, was accompanied in the grand East Hall of the Great Hall of the People by a number of advisers.

The high-level diplomacy had a touch of pandemic Zoom meeting informality as the two leaders waved to each other once they saw one another on the screen. Biden would have preferred to meet Xi in person, but the Chinese leader has not left his country since the start of the coronavirus pandemic.

Both leaders gave nods to their history with the other. Biden noted that the two have spent an "awful [...] lot of time" speaking to each other over the years, and have never walked away "wondering what the other man is thinking."

Xi, who referred to Biden as

his "old friend" when the then-vice president visited China in 2013, seemed interested in reviving the earlier days of their relationship, saying, "I am very happy to see my old friend."

But the public warmth has cooled now that both are heads of state. Biden bristled in June when asked by a reporter if he would press his old friend to cooperate with a World Health Organization investigation into the coronavirus origins.

Despite the tensions, there have been moments of progress in recent months.

Last week, the two countries pledged at U.N. climate talks in Glasgow, Scotland, to speed up action to rein in climate-damaging emissions.

The White House has said it views cooperation on climate change as something the two nations should cooperate on despite their differences on other issues.

"None of this is a favor to either of our countries — what we do for one another — but it's just responsible world leadership," Biden told Xi. "You're a major world leader, and so is the United States." **MDT/AP**

NORTH KOREA

Kim praises efforts to build 'model' city

KIM TONG-HYUNG, SEOUL

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un has returned from a month-long break from public view to inspect a major development project near the border with China, which he said epitomizes his country's "iron will" to achieve prosperity in the face of international isolation and pressure.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency said yesterday that Kim expressed satisfaction during his visit to Samjiyon city over the progress of construction in an area he called the "sacred place of the sun." Samjiyon is at the foot of Mount Paektu, the heart of North Korea's foundation myth revolving around the Kim family and is described by official narratives as the spiritual center of the country's revolution.

Building Samjiyon into a "model cultured city" was one of the main focuses of a nationwide construction campaign that North Korea had aimed to complete in time for the 75th anni-



In this undated photo provided on Nov. 16 by the North Korean government, Kim Jong Un inspects the construction site of Samjiyon city development project in Ryanggang province, North Korea

versary of its ruling party's founding in October last year. But construction was slowed amid pandemic border closures and international sanctions over Kim's nuclear weapon and missile programs.

Kim has been struggling to overcome what appears to be his toughest period as leader with the country's self-impo-

sed COVID-19 lockdown creating a further shock for an economy battered by sanctions and decades of mismanagement.

KCNA said the construction at Samjiyon could be finished by the end of this year, which could give Kim a badly needed trophy achievement as he reaches a decade in rule since taking power

following the death of his father in December 2011.

Kim praised workers for their "lofty loyalty, strong will and sweat" to push ahead with the project in the face of an "unfavorable environment" and said Samjiyon would become a guideline for rural development. He said the four years the country has spent developing Samjiyon, which involved the building of thousands of houses and buildings as well as new roads and a power grid, demonstrated its single-minded unity and "iron will" to "achieve prosperity our own way," KCNA said.

The visit was Kim's first public appearance reported in state media since he delivered a speech at an arms exhibition on Oct. 11.

"Claiming the success of Samjiyon's development is politically important at this time because the Mount Paektu region is central to North Korean mythology and the embellished story of the previous leader's birth," as Kim may soon commemorate 10 years since his father's death, said Leif-Eric Easley, a professor

at Ewha University in Seoul.

North Korea closely associates Paektu with Kim's state-founding grandfather, Kim Il Sung, who, according to official narratives, saved the Korean Peninsula with daring guerrilla raids against Japanese invaders from his base on the mountain's slopes before the end of World War II. North Korea also claims, probably incorrectly, that Kim Jong Un's father, Kim Jong Il, was born on Paektu.

Since becoming leader, Kim Jong Un has spent years consolidating his power by removing political rivals and family members while spurring the development of nuclear weapons and missiles he sees as his strongest guarantee of survival.

He initiated diplomacy with former U.S. President Donald Trump in 2018 while attempting to leverage his nuclear program for sanctions relief, but those talks derailed in 2019 because of disagreements over a proposed withdrawal of U.S.-led sanctions in exchange for partial denuclearization by North Korea. MDT/AP



KTRANZ
TRANSLATIONS LIMITED

ACCURATE, TIMELY & COMPETITIVE TRANSLATIONS

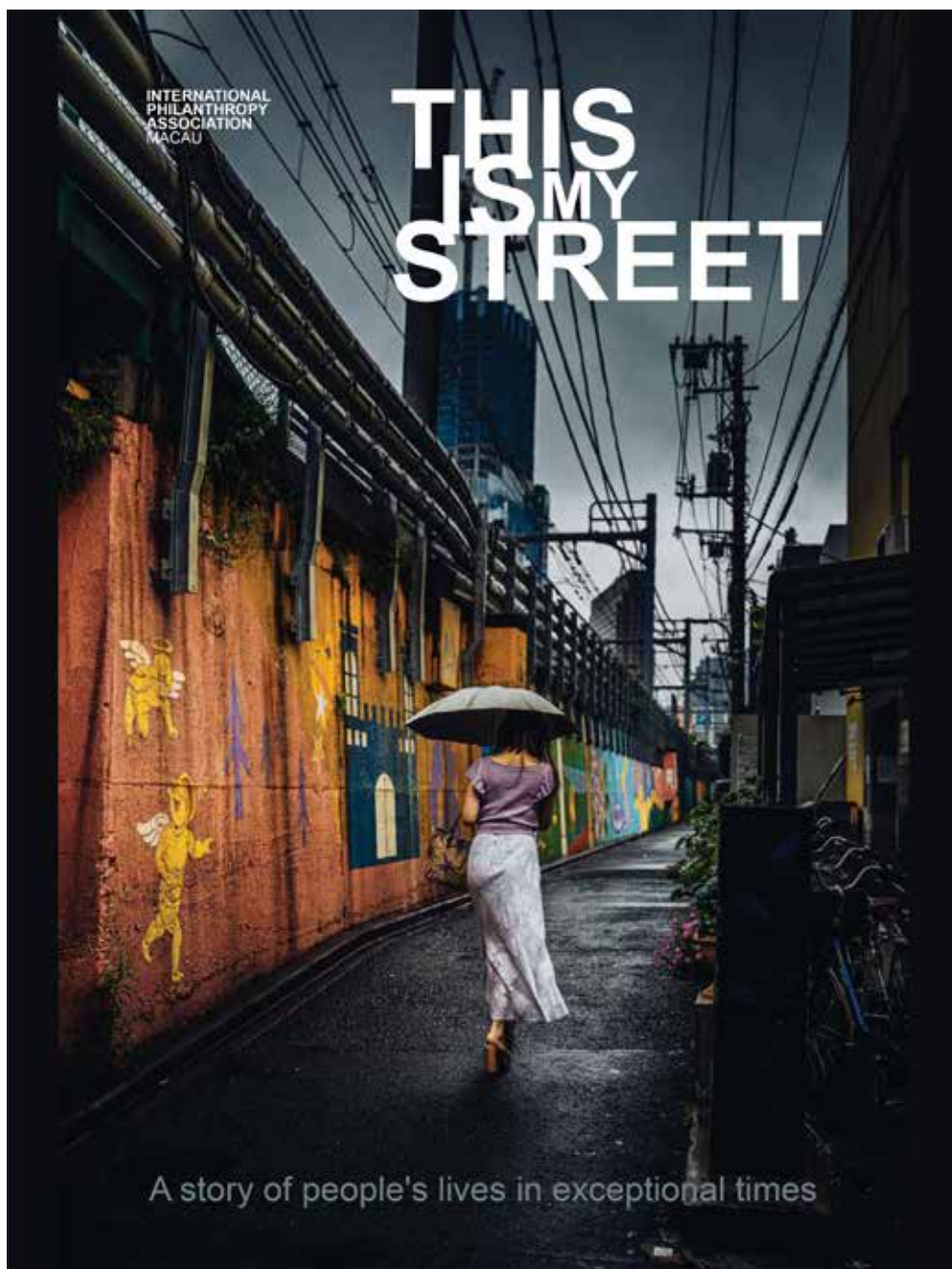
Languages:
ENGLISH, CHINESE,
PORTUGUESE, JAPANESE,
KOREAN, SPANISH,
FRENCH, ARABIC,
RUSSIAN

Services
TRANSLATIONS,
PROOFREADING, COPYWRITING,
DATA INPUT, NEWS MONITORING

We translate +10,000 words a day

Contact: Ms. Amy Yang
Email: amy@ktranz.com.mo
Tel: +853 2871 6081/2 Fax: +853 2871 6084

Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR



INTERNATIONAL PHILANTHROPY ASSOCIATION MACAU

THIS IS MY STREET

A story of people's lives in exceptional times

WORLD WAR II

US veterans recall flying aid to China

SAM MCNEIL, BEIJING

VETERANS and officials from China and the United States yesterday celebrated the 80th anniversary of the Flying Tigers, American pilots who flew for China in World War II, as a historic example of better relations and cooperation.

The online event came the day leaders of the two countries held a summit by video link at a time when ties have sunk to a multi-decade low due to conflict over trade, Taiwan, human rights and other issues.

"Our remembrance of the Flying Tigers today is to build a bridge of communication and friendship between China and the United States," said Zheng Jianbang, vice chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, an umbrella body for non-communist entities allowed by the government.

Relations face a "serious test," said the Chinese ambassador to Washington, Qin Gang. He pointed to the Flying Tigers as an example of cooperation for tackling global issues such as COVID-19 and climate change.

"Our two countries should carry forward the friendship forged in battle by our



Guarded by a Chinese soldier, a squadron of Curtiss P-40 fighter planes, decorated with the typical shark face of the famed Flying Tigers, are lined up at an unknown airbase in China in 1943

people, rather than falling into misunderstanding, miscalculation or even conflict and confrontation," Qin said yesterday, the day after the virtual meeting between Biden and Xi.

The Flying Tigers were sent by President Franklin Roosevelt before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December, 1941, drew the United States into the war.

The Americans helped to protect planes carrying supplies from British-ruled South Asia over the Himalayas into China.

"It was some of the most difficult flying in the wor-

ld," said Robin Moore, a veteran of the Flying Tigers. "You could fly on a clear day from Assam to China by following the shining planes that had gone down."

The clandestine effort was led by retired army officer Claire Lee Chennault, whose daughter Cynthia Chennault read during the meeting from a letter he wrote.

"When all well-known roads are blocked, a new path must be opened," she read.

Cynthia Chennault, an emeritus professor of Chinese literature at the University of Florida, expressed

hope that "Americans and Chinese will not be blocked by past failure, but together open new paths of collaboration for the world's well-being."

The Flying Tigers were credited with destroying 296 enemy aircraft. Fourteen of the American pilots were shot down.

One American fighter pilot survived a crash landing and was hidden by an elderly woman who refused to give him up despite torture by Japanese soldiers, said Zheng.

"The fascist thug cut off all 10 fingers of the elderly woman," said Zheng. "The old lady refused to disclose any information resolutely."

U.S. Reps Ted Liu and Judy Chu of California praised historic China-U.S. relations during the event.

Chu, whose father served in the U.S. military during World War II, said the lesson of Chinese and American cooperation against fascism should inspire new efforts to fight global warming.

"Just as the Flying Tigers showed us 80 years ago, protecting the world is all about accountability together," Chu said. "It is only when we cooperate that we can truly address the greatest challenges."

Flying Tiger tail gunner Bill Peterson, 95, spoke from Denver, Colorado, wearing his pilot's hat studded with medals.

"I just plain love the Chinese people," he said. "If you ever need us again, we will always be there to help you." MDT/AP

this day in history



1997 EGYPTIAN MILITANTS KILL TOURISTS AT LUXOR



More than 60 people have been killed after an attack on a group of foreign tourists visiting a temple in southern Egypt.

The tourists' bus was fired on as they visited the temple of Hatshepsut, one of the main attractions in the town of Luxor in southern Egypt.

An Egyptian police spokesman said most of the dead were Swiss and Japanese tourists.

The spokesman said the six gunmen were killed in an ensuing two-hour gun battle with police.

According to initial figures released by Egypt's interior ministry, 57 tourists, a local guide and two policemen died in the attack.

Other reports say the number of people who have been killed could rise to 75 with up to 85 people injured.

An Islamic extremist group, the outlawed al-Gamaa al-Islamiya, is reported to have said it carried out the attack.

It came as 65 alleged members of the Islamic group went on trial in Cairo accused of conspiracy to murder.

Islamic militants have targeted tourists since beginning a campaign in 1992 to topple the government of Hosni Mubarak and set up a strict Islamic state.

Two months ago, nine Germans and an Egyptian driver were killed when gunmen opened fire on a bus in Cairo.

Two men have since been sentenced to death for the shootings.

Luxor, about 310 miles (500 km) south of Cairo, is visited by about two million tourists a year.

It has not previously been attacked by militants who have strongholds in other parts of southern Egypt.

In the past five years, attacks by militants have seen 34 foreign tourists killed and cost a total of more than a thousand lives.

Courtesy BBC News

RUSSIAN officials yesterday rejected accusations that they endangered astronauts aboard the International Space Station (ISS) by conducting a weapons test that created more than 1,500 pieces of space junk.

U.S. officials on Monday accused Russia of destroying an old satellite with a missile in what they called a reckless and irresponsible strike. The debris could do major damage to the space station as it is orbiting at 17,500 mph.

Astronauts now face four times greater risk than normal, NASA Administrator Bill Nelson told The Associated Press.

The test clearly demonstrates that Russia, "despite its claims of

SPACE

Russia rejects accusations of endangering ISS astronauts

opposing the weaponization of outer space, is willing to ... imperil the exploration and use of outer space by all nations through its reckless and irresponsible behavior," U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement.

The Russian space agency Roscosmos wouldn't confirm or deny that the strike took place, saying only that "unconditional safety of the crew has been and remains our main priority" in a vague online state-



ment released yesterday. Russia's Defense Ministry confirmed carrying out a test and destroying a defunct satellite that has

been in orbit since 1982, but insisted that "the U.S. knows for certain that the resulting fragments, in terms of test time and

orbital parameters, did not and will not pose a threat to orbital stations, spacecraft and space activities" and called remarks by U.S. officials "hypocritical." Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said that the strike was carried out "with surgical precision" and posed no threat to the space station.

Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov also charged that it is "hypocrisy" to say that Russia creates risks for peaceful activities in space. MDT/AP

IN CONTEXT

The final number of people known to have died in the Luxor attack was 68. It devastated the tourism industry and the Egyptian economy. The Egyptian authorities said they believed it was carried out by members of the Egyptian Islamic extremist group al-Gamaa al-Islamiya and financed by Osama Bin Laden and his al-Qaeda network. Several people were arrested for the attack but none stood trial. Al-Gamaa al-Islamiya declared a ceasefire in 1999 after the government agreed a prisoner amnesty.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Wednesday's cosmic landscape is a highly-flammable one, Aries. Your ruling planet, self-motivated Mars, finds itself locked into a contentious opposition with freedom-seeking Uranus.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
Wednesday's tension-filled cosmic landscape makes it difficult to hold back, as action-taking Mars locks into an unsettled opposition with change-demanding Uranus.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
Work tensions are reaching a boil under Today's skies. Hotheaded Mars locks into a fiery opposition with electric Uranus, prompting you to seek freedom from constricting circumstances on the job front.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Use this energy to free up any pent-up feelings that need release. Protip: Partnership frustrations can be easily fixed with some time in the bedroom!

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
You're hungry for space and freedom, so give yourself room to move without plowing other people down. Aim to free up career tensions by acknowledging long-standing family issues.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
Tread lightly under Wednesday's cosmic landscape, Virgo. It's all too easy for you to snap at someone today as action-taking Mars forms a contentious opposition with explosive Uranus.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
You aim to cultivate an air of compromise over contest. Yet, Today's skies may test your ability to keep the peace, as hotheaded Mars forms a hostile opposition with change-demanding Uranus.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
This pairing can prompt anything from shake-ups, to break-ups and even wake-up calls. The important part is that you speak your truth and shake stagnation.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Use this freedom-seeking energy to free up space and embrace a change in routine. Pay attention to health flare-ups at this time as well, as they're likely connected to buried anger.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Hotheaded Mars finds itself locked into a fiery opposition with change-demanding Uranus, prompting you to examine long-standing issues around creative projects, romantic relations, and community concerns.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Feisty Mars finds itself locked into a hostile connection with change-demanding Uranus today, prompting you to face irritations bubbling between your public and private life.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Today's cosmic landscape is a fiery one. Brace yourself to speak your truth without lashing out others around you as self-concerned Mars locks into an opposition with change-demanding Uranus.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	2	13	fine
Harbin	-6	7	cloudy
Tianjin	5	14	fine
Urumqi	-3	5	fine
Xi'an	4	16	fine
Lhasa	0	18	fine
Chengdu	8	14	fine
Chongqing	10	15	overcast
Kunming	10	15	rain
Nanjing	9	17	overcast
Shanghai	12	18	overcast
Wuhan	13	19	fine
Hangzhou	11	18	rain
Taipei	21	24	cloudy
Guangzhou	16	26	cloudy
Hong Kong	22	27	fine
WORLD			
Moscow	-1	11	rain
Frankfurt	5	9	cloudy
Paris	6	9	rain
London	12	21	cloudy
New York	4	9	fine

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Biblical birthright seller; 5- Aegean island; 10- Addict; 14- Bungle; 15- Chosen; 16- "Peter Pan" pooch; 17- I did it!; 18- Conger catcher; 19- Old Fords; 20- Move to and fro; 22- Newspapers; 24- Deities; 27- Mont. neighbor; 28- Medieval church; 32- Establish; 35- Web address ending; 36- Piece of French bread?; 38- Dole out; 40- Dynamic beginning; 42- Walk; 44- Age unit; 45- Turn over; 47- Trims; 49- Faulkner's "___ Lay Dying"; 50- Forest makeup; 52- Defensive mounds; 54- Cereal grain; 56- A wedding cake may have three of these; 57- Until; 60- Anger; 64- So long!; 65- Farm layers; 68- Gen. Robert ___; 69- Org.; 70- Office notes; 71- Outstanding; 72- Spouse; 73- Upbeat, in music; 74- Comic Foxx;

DOWN 1- Newts; 2- Deli side; 3- Autobahn auto; 4- Congolese river; 5- Get the picture; 6- Pub drink; 7- Blend; 8- Current location; 9- Walk with long steps; 10- Improbable; 11- Gorge; 12- Winds up; 13- ___ Tafari (Haile Selassie); 21- Ball game; 23- Pasternak heroine; 25- Gossip; 26- Steep slope; 28- Bridges of Hollywood; 29- Crackerjack; 30- Less doubtful; 31- Lend ___; 33- Lucid; 34- Browned sliced bread; 37- 200 milligrams; 39- Speaker of Cooperstown; 41- Person-to-person; 43- Actress Moore; 46- Like a noted Norwegian Blue parrot?; 48- Gush forth; 51- Stain; 53- Debt that remains unpaid; 55- Scoff; 57- Galileo's birthplace; 58- 3:00; 59- Precious stones; 61- Drug-yielding plant; 62- Shepherd; 63- Attention; 64- Engine part; 66- ___-disant (self-styled); 67- Curvy letter;

Yesterday's solution

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

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	



SELL INVEST RENT

CALL US (853) 2835 2699

jml property 卓雅物業

hello@jmlproperty.com
www.jmlproperty.com

f jmlmacau @ jmlproperty

FOR SALE

NEW

Hellene Gardens **HKD 9,988,000**
Ref: 2111 6002 2,073 ft² 4 3

FOR SALE

NEW

Patio De Guia **HKD 3,600,000**
Ref: 2111 6003 1,200 ft² 3 2

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

Hellene Gardens **HKD 7,980,000**
Ref: 2109 6001 1,663 ft² 3 2 1

AD

AVIATION

EMIRATES SAYS IPO A POSSIBILITY FOR FAMED LONG-HAUL CARRIER

ISABEL DEBRE & JON GAMBRELL, DUBAI

THE president of long-haul carrier Emirates said yesterday that an initial public offering of stock in the Dubai-based airline could happen as the city-state tries to boost its local financial market, while promising that its fleet of iconic double-decker jumbo jets would soon ply the skies again.

European plane maker Airbus meanwhile raked in more orders on the third day of the Dubai Air Show, reaching an agreement valued over \$3.3 billion to sell 28 new aircraft to Kuwait's Jazeera Airways. Chicago-based manufacturer Boeing Co. has yet to announce a major sale at a show crucial for the Mideast's East-West travel hubs.

Tim Clark of state-owned Emirates told reporters at the aviation show that a proposal to sell shares of Emirates "is out there" after his boss, Emirates chairman Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, commented on the possibility.

The city-state this month announced plans to list its state-owned electricity company and other government-backed firms to raise liquidity and expand the local Dubai Financial Market so it can compete with bigger counterparts in the region. The market also has seen major players go private in recent months, as well as a fraud investigation target one major real estate developer listed in Dubai.

Clark described Emirates, long the jewel of the state-



-linked companies that make up what analysts call "Dubai Inc.," as attractive to future investors.

"The pandemic has set us back of course, but as you know the profitability of Emirates is a well-known fact," he said. "We will restore that in the next six, eight months. We're already on the path to do that."

Since the pandemic struck, Emirates grounded dozens of its iconic Airbus A380 double-decker jets, many visible from the tarmac at Dubai Air Show. The carrier burned through \$7.1 billion over the past year and half, forcing it to take nearly \$3.8 billion in cash aid from Dubai's government.

Returning its 120 A380s to

the skies is key to Emirates' recovery, and Clark said the airline must service the debt on them. He was blunt about the planes' value to Emirates, noting that 80% of the carrier's profitability came from the planes before the pandemic.

"To have a \$450 million aircraft sitting on the ground doing nothing for two years is a challenge," he said, adding, "When the borders are open to us again, there's absolutely no reason why we should not be expanding. ... Once we get back to where we were, we will then grow again."

The trade show in Dubai typically sees a frenzy of order and product announcements. But this year's exhibition, in

the shadow of the coronavirus pandemic that triggered the aviation industry's worst-ever crisis, has been more subdued. Most deals have involved small aircraft as opposed to the trademark wide-bodies that ply the long-haul routes of Gulf Arab carriers.

Airbus' biggest sale of the day included 20 single-aisle A320neos and eight A321neos, which competes directly with Boeing's 737 Max, along with an option to sell another five planes to Kuwait's low-cost, fast-growing airline.

While executives described the deal as a memorandum of understanding rather than a firm order, Rohit Ramachandran, CEO of Jazeera Airways,

said he considered the handshake "to far exceed any immediate formal collateral" behind the agreement.

"There's a great level of trust to which honestly one could ascribe a significant dollar value," Ramachandran said.

The Kuwait City-based Jazeera Airways, an upstart Middle East discount carrier, was founded in 2004 as one of the first non-government owned airlines in the Persian Gulf.

Airbus also said it received an order of 10 narrow-body A220 jets from Nigeria's Ibom Air, a new carrier owned by the oil-rich southeast state of Akwa Ibom. Based on the plane maker's pre-pandemic price list, the deal is valued at some \$810 million. Executives declined to say how much they were paying for the planes.

The announcements followed Airbus' other orders over the first two days of the show, with 111 new aircraft sold to the Air Lease Corporation and 255 new aircraft to Indigo Partners' various low cost carriers. The purchases signal executives see the ravaged industry recovering from the pandemic, with demand for travel set to surge in the coming years.

The trade show typically pits French Airbus and its American rival Boeing, the two manufacturers at the top of the supply chain, against each other in the crucial Mideast market filled with long-haul carriers connecting East and West.

Emirates meanwhile announced that late next year it would start retrofitting 105 of its wide-body planes, including Boeing 777 and the superjumbo A380s, with a new cabin class called Premium Economy, which offers much more space than coach but at a lower fare than business class. **MDT/AP**

CORPORATE BITS

Sands China launches new programme with MPI



A newly launched programme, "Art Talent Development Showcase x Sands China", is offering students and recent alumni of the Macao Polytechnic Institute's (MPI) School of Arts a

chance to work on projects for Sands China Ltd.

According to the gaming operator, the initiative provides real-life opportunities for its participants to apply what

they have learned in the classroom by completing projects for Sands China – such as creating videos and doing graphic design work for promotional materials for some of the company's internal events and promotions.

Sands China Ltd. president Wilfred Wong said: "We are very pleased that this new programme lets MPI students and recent alumni take advantage of the opportunities provided by Sands China's extensive integrated resort portfolio to showcase and sharpen their skills and carry out their creative visions."

Jin Chen becomes ambassador for Swiss watchmaker Rado



One of China's most popular actresses and models has landed a starring role as a brand ambassador for Swiss watchmaker

Rado: Jin Chen.

Jin Chen has played different roles in a broad range of film and television productions, inclu-

ding "Wu Xin the Monster Killer", a metaphysical period drama that was streamed in 20 episodes to a total audience of over 800 million.

She is seen on the covers of fashion magazines from Madame Figaro to Vogue, Elle, L'Officiel, Marie Claire, among others.

As the new brand ambassador, she has already chosen her favourite Rado watch: The True Square Open Heart. "It's a pleasure to wear, and a beautiful example of Rado's innovative spirit and pioneering design art," she says, "and I'm delighted to represent such a charming brand."

STEVE DOUGLAS

FOOTBALL

Italy stumbles into playoffs again, England cruises in WC qualifying

ITALY is facing another detour to get to a World Cup final.

The playoffs beckon for the Azzurri — just like four years ago — after stumbling to 0-0 at Northern Ireland yesterday [Macau time], plunging the recently crowned European champion to a second-place finish behind Switzerland in their qualifying group.

Switzerland leapfrogged Italy with a 4-0 win over Bulgaria.

Italy's soccer-mad fans might be starting to fear the worst. After all, their country also failed to secure automatic qualification for the 2018 World Cup and wound up losing to Sweden in a two-leg playoff, one of the darkest moments in Italy's soccer history.

This time, the Italians will need to get through two one-leg matchups to advance in a newly devised playoff system. The draw takes place on Nov. 26 and Italy will be at home for its first match because it will be a seeded team.

England, like Switzerland, is heading straight to Qatar.

On the next-to-last night of group play in Europe, England romped to its biggest competitive win — 10-0 over the part-timers of San Marino — to finish top of its group with more goals (39) than any other team in qualifying.

Harry Kane enjoyed himself, in particular, with four goals — all in

the first half — to move to 48 for England, five off Wayne Rooney's national record.

Scotland will be seeded, like Italy, in the playoffs after a 2-0 victory over Group F winner Denmark, whose perfect record in qualifying came to an end.

Poland finished second in England's group and closed with a 2-1 loss at home to Hungary, and will likely be away in its first match in the playoffs.

Italy and Switzerland went into their final qualifiers on 15 points each in Group C but with the Azzurri having a superior goal difference, the first tiebreaker if they ended tied on points.

That didn't come into play because while Switzerland swept to an easy win over already-eliminated Bulgaria thanks to goals by Noah Okafor, Ruben Vargas, Cedric Itten and Remo Freuler, Italy became the latest big team to struggle in an intense atmosphere at Windsor Park.

Without injured striker **Ciro**

AP PHOTO



Immobile and other regular starters, the Italians struggled to carve out opportunities despite dominating possession.

As Switzerland piled up the goals in Lucerne, Italy's task became even harder and Roberto Mancini's team nearly lost when

Conor Washington's late effort was cleared off the line.

Mancini has sparked a revival for the Azzurri, culminating in winning Euro 2020 in July, but they could miss out again on soccer's premier tournament for the second straight time.

"We need to rediscover what has set us apart until now," Mancini said, "and remain completely calm until March."

Not since 1964 and a 10-0 win over the United States have the English reached double figures in goals in a match. They'd never done so in a competitive match before yesterday.

Harry Maguire, Emile Smith Rowe, Tyrone Mings, Tammy Abraham and Bukayo Saka joined Kane in scoring for England, while there was also an own-goal by San Marino, the world's lowest-ranked team — a lineup filled with non-professionals who were using annual leave from their day jobs to play in the qualifier.

Getting near England's record win, 13-0 over Ireland in 1882, looked on when Saka made it 10-0 in the 79th, by which time the beleaguered hosts were down to 10 men. But there were no more goals.

England finished on 26 points, six clear of Poland. **MDT/AP**

AD

DUFFY'S IRISH PUB
where everyone gets lucky!

- A GREAT PLACE TO HANG OUT FOR FUN & HAVE GOOD TIMES WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS
- WITH OUTDOOR SEATING & A PRIVATE SNUG FOR INTIMATE GATHERINGS
- HAS A GREAT SELECTION OF WHISKEY, GIN, BEERS, ETC.

DUFFY'S IRISH PUB MACAU BROADWAY FOOD STREET AT GALAXY MACAU TEL.: 2875 2945 OR 63281245

仁德 CENTRO MEDICO PEDDER
◆ 仁德醫療中心 ◆

We bring high quality of medical service to Macau

General Surgery : Dr. Fok Manson, Dr. Lai Cheuck Seen Edward, Dr. Lau Wing Kee Peter, Dr. Kwong Man, Dr. Nie Fu Zhong, Dr. U Chong San, Dr. Lei Chin Chong

Breast Surgery : Dr. Leong Iat Lun

Urology : Dr. Lo Kwong Yin Richard, Dr. Zhao Yun Qiao

Paediatric Surgery : Dr. Yeung Chung Kwong

Paediatrics : Dr. Zhang Zhiqin

Obstetrics & Gynaecology : Dr. Fong Kuan lo

Plastic & Aesthetic Surgery : Dr. Lam U Lin

Orthopaedic Surgery & Sports Medicine : Dr. Lam Kun Kuan

ENT : Dr. Cheng Zheng Ang

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

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

Dietitian : Chan Lai U Joey

Avenida da Praia Grande No 599, Edifício Comercial Rodrigues 14 e 15 Andar, em Macau
T. 2832 2298 / 2832 2229 Website: www.peddermacau.com
Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 10:00 - 19:00 Sat 10:00 - 14:00 Sun & PH closed

OPINION

World Views

Eddie Pells, MDT/AP



TRAVEL TROUBLE: US OLYMPIANS FACE UNCERTAIN ROAD TO BEIJING

Making an Olympic team is hard enough. This winter, those who earn their spots on the U.S. squad might find it takes even more work to get to Beijing.

Among the slow trickle of information coming out of China in advance of February's Olympics was news that, with virtually no flights operating between North America and China, Olympians very well might have to get to Beijing through a still-undetermined set of connecting flights that could more than double their travel time.

As things stand this month, most of the 250 or so athletes who make the U.S. team will need to take a charter that connects them to Beijing-bound flights scheduled out of four cities, none of which are in North America.

The uncertainty has turned what is already a logistical challenge — getting all these Olympians and their thousands of pounds of equipment to China — into something even more complex. And it has turned what is already an event beset with unprecedented challenges — less freedom of movement, a vaccine mandate and the prospect of competing in a country that is poised to restrict negative coverage, including over widely documented human-rights abuses — into something even more difficult.

Difficult travel is nothing new for Olympic athletes, and their schedules have only become more jumbled in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic that reshuffled competition schedules and, with New Zealand mostly shut down, made it even harder to find snow during the offseason.

The U.S. Olympic team's sponsor, Delta Airlines, might still be able to arrange charter flights directly from the U.S. to Beijing, but with 11 weeks until the start of the Games, everything is still up in the air.

As of this week, approved flights into Beijing are expected to depart from Tokyo, Seoul, Hong Kong and Paris. The U.S. ski and snowboard team's tentative plan is to charter flights from Los Angeles to one of the points in Asia, then switch to Olympic charters. Further complicating the issue is that some of these athletes are in Europe for the World Cup season. Without normal commercial options available, the task of moving them around is more difficult.

The U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee is ultimately in charge of getting the ski team and the rest of the U.S. teams, outside of hockey, to Beijing. With an extra connection through Asia, or a stop in Europe, travel times could be around double what would normally be a 12-hour journey from the U.S. West Coast to Beijing.

Rick Adams, the USOPC's chief of sport performance, said everyone was aware that the quick turnaround after the Tokyo Olympics and the COVID-19 protocols "would make planning for Beijing very complex."

Athletes aren't the only group being impacted by China's rulemaking in advance of the Olympics.

The Foreign Correspondents Club of China put out a statement this month complaining of "lack of transparency" from the Beijing Organizing Committee and the IOC with regards to Olympic-related reporting in China.

Much of the travel confusion stems from U.S. and Chinese carriers' decisions to reduce the number of flights between the countries from more than 300 a week to single digits. The rollbacks started when demand dropped off sharply in the wake of early COVID-19 outbreaks. The reinstatement of the flights was slowed because of diplomatic wrangling between the countries, along with strict quarantine rules that makes travel to either place difficult. Just this week did the U.S. reopen travel to some foreign visitors who can show proof of vaccination.

The U.S. athletes are now collateral damage in this, as the USOPC negotiates with Delta for charter flights that are expected to cost well into six figures.

[Abridged]

Customers at Los Angeles restaurants will only get plastic utensils and napkins if they ask for them, under a new ordinance taking effect this week that aims to reduce waste.

The rule requires all restaurants with more than 26 employees to remove all single-use plastic utensil dispensers, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Businesses must also stop including plastic utensils and napkins with takeout orders or for dine-in meals unless a customer specifically asks for them.

Enforcement won't begin until January.

Over 32,000 mailers were sent out earlier this year to update restaurants on the new rules. The letters were printed in Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog and English.

The City Council passed the ordinance last April.

The city of Malibu set the plastic-ban standard in 2008 when it phased out plastic shopping bags, then a decade later cracked down on single-use plastics. The cities of Davis and San Luis Obispo have similar laws, according to the Times.



Lt. Fan Yang (left) formerly a tactical coordinator assigned to Patrol Squadron 5, demonstrates the systems onboard a P-8A Poseidon aircraft to members of the Royal Saudi Naval Forces in March, 2018

NAVY OFFICER GUILTY OF HIDING TIES TO CHINESE BUSINESSMAN

A Florida-based U.S. Navy flight officer has been convicted of buying guns for a Chinese businessman who was later convicted of export crimes. Lt. Fan Yang, 36, also lied about his relationship with the businessman on security forms, authorities said.

Yang was found guilty last week in Jacksonville federal court of conspiring to violate U.S. firearms laws, making false written statements to federally licensed firearms dealers during the purchase of two firearms and making false written statements as part of a security clearance background investigation, according to court records.

The Chinese-born American citizen faces up to 30 years in prison at a sentencing hearing scheduled for March 16.

Before becoming a commissioned naval officer, Yang formed a relationship online with Ge Songtao, a citizen of the People's Republic of China, according to an indictment. They eventually met in person in 2013, while Yang was in Navy flight training in Pensacola, prosecutors said.

In 2016, while Yang was

stationed in Jacksonville, Yang recommended that Ge Songtao hire Yang's wife, Yang Yang, at Ge Songtao's China-based company, Shanghai Breeze Technology Co. Ltd. That company purchased maritime equipment in the U.S. that was designed for law enforcement and military missions and exported it to China.

Yang Yang received more than \$300,000 in payments from Shanghai Breeze, its creditors and Ge Songtao's executive assistant and co-defendant, Zheng Yan, prosecutors said. The money was used to pay Yang Yang's salary, Shanghai Breeze's expenses in the U.S. and for goods that Ge Songtao ordered the Yangs to purchase. The funds were frequently routed through the Yangs' family business, BQ Tree LLC.

In 2017 and again in 2018, Fan Yang purchased two handguns for Ge Songtao, who later reimbursed the naval officer. In both cases, investigators said Fan Yang completed a Firearms Transactions Record where he falsely represented that he was purchasing the firearm for himself, rather than for Ge Songtao.

Although Ge Songtao

employed Yang's wife, had been to the Yangs' home and had paid for the Yangs to travel and visit him, prosecutors said Fan Yang consistently hid their relationship from the Navy.

While assigned as an instructor in 2019 at the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Weapons School in Jacksonville, Yang completed and signed a background questionnaire as part of the renewal of his top secret security clearance. That questionnaire required the disclosure of any close or continuing contact with foreign nationals. Investigators said Yang failed to disclose the extent of his contacts with Ge Songtao and hid that he had maintained a bank account in China and possessed an expired Chinese passport.

Ge Songtao pleaded guilty last year to several charges related to trying to buy and ship inflatable military boats from the U.S. to China. He was sentenced in July to three years and six months in U.S. federal prison. Zheng Yan and Yang Yang also pleaded guilty to charges related to the scheme and were sentenced to time served. **MDT/AP**



Israel Former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appeared in court for the first time in over half a year yesterday as a one-time confidant prepared to take the stand against him in a high-profile corruption case. But the long-awaited testimony was delayed until next week after a legal challenge from Netanyahu's lawyers. Nir Hefetz, a former Netanyahu aide, is a star prosecution witness in the case against Netanyahu, with his close proximity to the Netanyahu during several years in office a key part of the evidence.



Poland Polish order forces said they were attacked with stones by migrants yesterday at the border with Belarus and responded by using water cannons against them. Police said the migrants were given gas grenades and other weapons by Belarusian forces, who directed the entire violent operation with a drone. The situation marked an escalation in a tense migration and political crisis at the eastern border of the EU and NATO in which the lives of thousands of migrants are at stake.



Uganda Two explosions rocked Kampala yesterday, killing at least three civilians in what police described as a coordinated attack by extremists. Three suicide bombers also died in the blasts, police said. The explosions caused chaos in Kampala as terrified residents fled the city's center. The twin explosions occurred within three minutes of each other. Both were carried out by attackers carrying explosives.