



**HONG KONG COURT TO DECIDE HEADS OF STANLEY HO'S ESTATE**

P3

**85% OF CHINESE CITIZENS WILL USE MANDARIN BY 2025**

P6

**US SHOOTING: A 15-YEAR-OLD STUDENT OPENED FIRE AT HIS MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL KILLING THREE STUDENTS**

P8

AP PHOTO



**Singapore** When Singapore embarked upon its strategy of living with COVID-19, backed by one of the world's leading vaccine programs, the wealthy city-state saw a spike in its rate of infections, leading many to question whether the time was right. But with the numbers now dropping as rapidly as they rose, there's cautious optimism that the widely watched plan has helped Singapore turn the corner in the pandemic, even with the discovery of the new worrisome omicron variant, and provide a better understanding of what is effective, and what isn't.

**Japan** and Brazil joined the rapidly widening circle of countries to report cases of the omicron variant, while new findings indicate the mutant coronavirus was already in Europe close to a week before South Africa sounded the alarm. The Netherlands' RIVM health institute disclosed that patient samples dating from Nov. 19 and 23 were found to contain the variant. It was on Nov. 24 that South African authorities reported the existence of the highly mutated virus to the World Health Organization. *More on p8*

AP PHOTO



**Japan** Princess Aiko, the daughter of Emperor Naruhito, yesterday turned 20, ready for a debut as a new adult member to take a share of official duties for the royal family whose population continues to shrink under the male-only succession law. Aiko is the only child of Naruhito and Empress Masako, a Harvard-educated former diplomat. She is currently studying Japanese literature at Gakushuin University, and says she is willing to help her parents by participating in royal duties.

More on backpage



EVA BUCHO

# THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UGLY

Gaming revenue turns upwards in November to MOP6.7b, while industry faces headwinds after Alvin Chau's fall that can lead to the firing of thousands of workers from Suncity **P2-3,5**



POLICY ADDRESS

**SECRETARY AO IEONG HOPES ISLAND HOSPITAL OPERATOR HELPS TALENT CULTIVATION**

P4

# Suncity suspends stock trading to stem 'bleeding'

RENATO MARQUES

**H**ONG Kong Stock Exchange Registered Suncity Group Holdings Limited suspended stock trading in Hong Kong yesterday at 9 a.m. (opening time) to prevent its stock value from plummeting further.

This is the second time that the company suspended stock trading this week – the first being on Monday. Trading resumed on Tuesday, when the stock's value had already plummeted by 48%, its lowest point this year with a value of HKD0.132 per stock.

In March this year Suncity's stocks reached a trade value of HKD0.780 – almost 6 times the current value.

A company statement explained the suspension of trade as a temporary measure while they wait for a board decision concerning VIP business carried out in Macau by one of its parent companies.

On Tuesday evening, following the announcement of the closure of all the gaming-related operations, it was announced that the company would immediately cease salary payments for at least one-third of its staff, calculated to be about 3,000 people.

According to information collected by the Times yesterday from inside sources, the dismissal toll could be much higher than initially reported. Several operations from the group unrelated to gaming may also be targeted with closures, with staff having been informed that they would not return to work.

The Times' source added that a portion of these staff members had already been in an unpaid leave and/or temporary layoff situation for several weeks, following the lack of economic activity of the company.

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE arrest of the CEO of the largest junket operator in Macau, Suncity Group's Alvin Chau, for alleged involvement in illegal activities related to online gaming and money laundering late last week has put the city at maximum alert on the potential direct and indirect repercussions.

On Tuesday evening, news broke that the group was shutting down all its VIP room business, along with other operations. This has contributed to fears of a significant inhibition of the market, especially given that a very high number of employees from the group lost their jobs with immediate effect.

Several gaming analysts and legal experts have shared their opinions with the Times on the case and its potential aftereffects.

Macau-based gaming expert Ben Lee told the Times that, in his opinion, the Suncity case will prompt a full restructure of junket licensing, as well as for gaming concessions.

"[These licensing restructures

# The Suncity Case: Legal

gaming activities when its CEO is in preventive custody? I find it almost impossible to find a solution for this problem," Lobo said. He added that the case might be slightly different for other companies in the group that conduct other economic activities.

"Assuming that the junket license was the one that supported all the other activities, I don't see any other solution, except for the closure of all junket activity by Suncity," he stated.

For the gaming law expert, repercussions of this case on other junkets are also inevitable.

"We are at an extremely complex moment, [and] we will have to wait a while to understand the scale of the impact – but to me, this foreshadows the end of the junket system in Macau."

Lobo also recalled that Suncity group's junket license was set to expire at the end of this year, and that it would not be renewed by the government taking into ac-



MDT ARCHIVE/BLOOMBERG



**"Given the charges against Suncity, it is difficult to see how the junket operators will survive."**

BEN LEE

will] reflect this latest development, perhaps something along the lines of expressly prohibiting any form of promoting gaming amongst, or eliciting gamblers from, the mainland, or any other jurisdiction where such activities are forbidden," the managing partner of IGamiX Management & Consulting has said.

Asked how this would affect the other junkets still operating, Lee said that "given the charges against Suncity, it is difficult to see how the junket operators will survive. [And] not only them, but the casinos' direct marketing teams, who essentially perform a truncated version of the junket scope of activities."

A similar opinion was expressed by Carlos Lobo, a gaming law expert who believes that because Suncity's gaming promoter license is held in a sole proprietorship of which Chau is a partner and director, it will be difficult to keep any operation running.

"How can an entity operate

count the latest developments.

While acknowledging the potentially negative ramifications of the case, Steve Vickers, specialist in Political and Corporate Risk Consultancy and CEO of Steve Vickers and Associates (SVA) thinks that the case might help to "cleanse the market" of reckless activities – allowing it to function in a more regulated and just manner.

"I think it is important now to consider Macau through a different lens – not the 'everything goes-gaming hell' of previous years, but rather positioning it as an integrated part of the wider GBA [Greater Bay Area] vision," Vickers said. "This will [nonetheless] be a painful process given that 80% of Macau's gross domestic product is derived from the gaming business."

For the market analyst, the message from the Chief Execu-

tive Ho Iat Seng in the latest Policy Address, which emphasized this new era of "healthy development" for Macau, indicates that this "healthy development" comes from wider political changes on the mainland.

"The Macau government, under direction from Beijing, seems determined to diversify away from total reliance on gaming; the imminent end of the current concessions affords the government

"The junket sector has been simultaneously squeezed by Covid-19, new regulations and severe pressure on capital controls – an almost fatal combination. The days of wholesale capital control abuse and movement of funds under unlawful circumstances are ending."

For Vickers, these forthcoming regulatory shifts signaled an end to some or all of the junket business, which has "led to an escalation of efforts by certain junket operators to raise gaming revenues directly on the mainland and to engage in unlawful gaming; both on the mainland and via proxy gaming operations in South East Asia."

Vickers said that other contributing factors to these schemes were "the Macau unofficial clearance system and some underground banks. All of these activities are, in the final analysis, detrimental to the mainland and Macau."



**"This foreshadows the end of the junket system in Macau."**

CARLOS LOBO

great leverage to make whatever changes they consider necessary, [and] consistent with current parity policy," Vickers said.

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

**REACHING OUT!**

+21,000

Like us on facebook.com/mdtimes



MacauDaily 澳門每日時報  
**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\_Albanjo 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 Telephone: +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

# and market implications



The analyst notes, while that the cooperation with junkets among casinos is “technically legal, the harsh reality is that they have been very dependent on junkets.”

Refusing to comment specifically on the Suncity case, Vickers did say that “clearly this is a watershed moment”, but that he believes “there will be a new future” that will take advantage of it.

This future will likely rise to meet the new gaming regulations that the government is preparing, which enforce chan-

ges to shareholding regulations for foreign operators, and regulations regarding the repatriation of dividends by foreign firms.



**“All of these activities are, in the final analysis, detrimental to the mainland and Macau.”**

STEVE VICKERS

“The game has certainly changed, [but] this is not doomsday - as long as Macau is the only place in

China where you can place a bet, and as long as Chinese people love to bet, then Macau will always do well. It just won't be the only game in town.”

#### ACTIONS OF POLICE QUESTIONABLE

The detention of Chau has also been the basis of several opinions from the legal community.

Local lawyer Jorge Menezes expressed to the Times his disapproval of both the actions and the statements made by the police on the

case.

“The police's actions and declarations were illegal and another

show of clumsy incompetence,” Menezes said.

“First, since there is no fugitive surrender agreement with China, Macau police could not have detained Alvin Chau based on a Mainland arrest warrant. Second, China did not request his extradition - [what they did was] ask Chau to surrender himself. Third, it is shocking to see Macau authorities' unbelievably ill-informed statement [proposing] that Macau citizens must also obey Chinese laws. This is a blatant violation of the principles of autonomy of the MSAR [Macau Special Administrative Region] and of 'one country, two systems', the Basic Law, the People's Republic of China Cons-

“How can DICJ and the Macau authorities explain that the largest gaming promoter has been acting unlawfully for [the past] 15 years under their [nose]? What does it have to say about the (sub) concessionaires' alarming lack of internal compliance? Did no one ever notice anything wrong until a Mainland arrest warrant arrived on Macau's lap? This may ring some alarm bells, including regulatory and Foreign Corrupt Practices Act bells in the US.”

By contrast, the Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak came to the defense of the actions taken by local authorities, justifying the swift arrest of Chau and another 10 people allegedly involved in the



**“How can DICJ and the Macau authorities explain that the largest gaming promoter has been acting unlawfully for [the past] 15 years under their [nose]?”**

JORGE MENEZES

titution, and the [Sino-Portuguese] Joint Declaration.”

For Menezes, the case began badly and attempts to correct it have further complicated the process.

“Faced with these embarrassing mistakes, the Macau authorities then contradicted themselves, rushing to say that he was detained based on a local investigation for crimes allegedly committed in Macau (not China), and that they did not know the content of the Wenzhou investigation [...] This is another blunder because cross-border criminal activities call for judiciary cooperation with China, which is legal and expected in a case of this nature,” Menezes explained.

For the lawyer, there is a lot of explaining to do by the local authorities. These authorities include the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) because, from the information provided by the Judiciary Police (PJ), the crimes now attributed to Chau and his team go as far back as 2007.

case with the need to “protect the evidence.”

“After the mainland authorities made the announcement [that Chau was wanted in the mainland for suspicions of criminal activities], local police had to take quick action to prevent some of the evidence from disappearing,” Wong outlined in statements to the press at the Legislative Assembly on Monday.

The Secretary also noted that local authorities were investigating this case for over a year before detaining Chau and other suspects for questioning. He claimed that the police decided to act at “the right time” and took into account the necessity of preserving all available evidence.

The case was initially made public last Friday (November 26), when news broke that the People's prosecution office in Wenzhou, Zhejiang, had issued a warrant for the arrest of Chau under allegations of illegal gaming activities in the mainland.

## HONG KONG COURT TO DECIDE ON STANLEY HO'S ESTATE HEADS

A Hong Kong court was tasked to decide on the administrators of the late gaming mogul Stanley Ho's multibillion dollar estate, as his children and grandchildren were divided on the appointments of those expected to determine the size of Ho's estate, among other tasks.

The late magnate's children currently await a court decision on whether two people should be brought

on to manage Ho's estate.

According to a report issued by the South China Morning Post, Paul Shieh Wing-tai SC, representing Pansy Ho, said it had not been easy for her to coordinate all of the family members to agree on a proposal and reach consensus on the appropriate candidates.

This comes after a proposal suggested the appointment of KPMG's Global Head of Restructuring Patrick

Cowley and Partner Rosalie Lui Yee-man. These appointments were agreed on by the second, third and fourth branches of the family, with three members of the first family raising no objections.

The other proposal was to further engage Tiffany Wong Wing-sze and Edward Simon Middleton, both managing directors of consulting firm Alvarez & Marsal Asia.

The latter plan was tab-

led by Angela Ho, the moguls' eldest daughter.

The discussion brought to the court follows Stanley Ho's passing on May 26 this year, without a will.

The 98-year-old tycoon fathered 16 recognized children with four wives.

Pansy Ho has estimated that their father's estate is worth at least HKD1.72 billion - far less than Angela Ho estimate of HKD11 billion. LV



POLICY ADDRESS

# SECRETARY AO IEONG HOPES ISLAND HOSPITAL OPERATOR HELPS TALENT CULTIVATION

ANTHONY LAM

AS the government previously designated the Peking Union Medical College Hospital (PUMCH) as the operating entity of the future Island Hospital Complex, medical specialists from the Beijing hospital will be invited to educate local medical professionals, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Elsie Ao Ieong said yesterday.

Despite this designation and “hope”, the PUMCH has not been notified regarding talent cultivation.

In her Policy Address yesterday Ao Ieong said that meetings will be held with the teams at the PUMCH to determine and clarify details of the appointment.

Prior to the opening of the Island Hospital Complex, local medical doctors will be trained at the Beijing facility to ease their transition into the future local hospital complex.

A specialist team at the PUMCH will help train specialist doctors, which Ao Ieong emphasized the city is lacking the most in.

Ao Ieong disclosed that the city has 2.6 doctors per 1,000 residents, which is not low compared to levels in neighboring regions. However, the city has been lacking specialist doctors, and she hopes that, with the introduction of the PUMCH teams and services in Macau, this gap can be filled.

She added that, apart from the PUMCH teams, in the future local specialist doctors could also be trained locally by foreign professionals.

With the PUMCH selected as the operating entity of the future medical facility in Cotai, Ao Ieong said that the medical team at the hospital complex will not be comprised of civil servants, in contrast to most workers at public Conde



de São Januário Hospital (CHCS), who are within the public service structure.

She disclosed that the government will make new laws and regulations, as well as a new management entity to handle administration of the new Cotai medical facility.

In the early phase, the new facility will have an oncology center, a cardiology center and a brain center, among other specialist centers.

Also on talent cultivation, lawmaker Pang Chuan expressed his concern with working visa for visiting professors. He pointed out that it could be difficult to introduce such professors to work in Macau due to procedural matters.

On this, Lou recapped the legal requirements and procedures for such introduction. He added that the education bureau last year expressed relevant requests to the Labour Affairs Bureau and the Public Security Police Force, which Lou said have the discretion to issue special arrangements.

Ao Ieong added that local higher education institutions are

offering or will offer programs or courses that appeal to the city's need and direction to diversify its economy and nurture future pillars of the society.

For example, she said, the future Macau Polytechnic University is offering AI courses and the Macao Institute for Tourism Studies will offer post-graduate courses co-operated with the UN.

## AI TO HELP HOMEWORK PLACEMENT, GRADING

The Secretary announced that, in the coming year, some Macau schools will introduce an increasingly popular Artificial Intelligence (AI) platform developed in mainland China to help teachers.

The program will help teachers formulate test papers and homework. Surprisingly, the platform will also be able to help teachers grade English compositions. “Last time, when I was here to discuss the platform, it could not yet grade compositions,” she said.

The platform, which is part of the government's “smart campus” initiative, will be available in 10 schools during the early phase. It

will later be rolled out across all schools.

Ao Ieong also used this announcement to clarify that the definition of small classroom in Macau is a class sized between 25 and 35 students. The 10-student buffer zone is set to avoid insufficient enrolment because the birthrate of Macau fluctuates each year. For example, the indicator has been falling in recent years.

“Kindergarten teachers will become jobless if there is a year with only 3,000 newborns,” she said, framing the buffer zone as legitimate that will help preserve subsidies for nurseries and kindergartens.

“Otherwise, we may need to close schools.”

Lawmaker Lam also asked about the rise in higher education tuition fees. He sought clarification from the government about why it could not raise the fees for non-local students to compensate for rising costs.

Lou Pak Sang, director of the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ), said in response that there are differences in

the tuition fees for local and non-local students. He did not explain why Lam's suggestion was not feasible.

Several lawmakers asked the officials about education issues. When asked why school construction was moved from the original Canidrome land plot, Lou said that the replacement land plot in the New Urban Zone A is much larger than the Canidrome area.

He disclosed that a mixed education school would only have a campus measuring 2,500 square meters at the former Canidrome site, and that it would double by being moved to Zone A.

## MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT PROVIDED ON 24/7 BASIS

Questions regarding mental healthcare were raised by several lawmakers, concerning the number of suicides that have occurred in the past two years.

As the cases have happened in nearly all age groups, Chui Sai Peng asked: “What have, or have we not done to prevent or improve the scenario?” Kou Kam Fai inquired into policies to improve mental support to younger generations.

Ao Ieong emphasized that work has always been done to provide good mental healthcare in the city, regardless of age. Cooperation with non-government entities has also been utilized.

She asserted that the provision of assistance occurs “24/7”, highlighting the healthcare systems lack of off time. “If we see problems, we provide help regardless of time and channels,” she said, adding that the channels include phone calls, online chatting and personal meetings.

Ao Ieong disclosed that, as of November 15, 87 cases have been handled, of which about 50 were of a severe nature.

WELFARE

# IAS launches family life education website for ‘healthier homes’

STAFF REPORTER

AIMING to promote a healthy home life, the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) and six social service organizations have jointly launched a five-year plan and a family life education website.

The five-year plan primarily seeks to promote the development of family life education and professional services, strengthening

community and education, and deepening community collaboration services. The plan will prioritize newlyweds and families with infants. It will focus on enhancing and developing family life education programs, parental education, and family financial management, as well as sex education for families.

The official website, launched yesterday, allows families in the city to learn

more about family life and activities, discover how to actively create a positive family life, and establish good relationships within the family unit, the officials said.

Speaking at the Macau Science Centre during Tuesday's press conference, the vice-president of the IAS, Tang Yuk Wa, said that the plan will be gradually implemented over five years (2021 to 2025) focusing on different areas

every year. He hopes the launch of the family life education website will help families learn more about and prevent family problems. Through systematic work, the site will provide different support and information to families in need.

More information on other topics will soon be added, including on pre-marriage preparation and married life, information

for new parents, childhood development, parenting and sex education.

Within the scope of promoting harmonious family life, the IAS has been developing family and community services of a preventive, caring and corrective nature via their three-level prevention model. To create a network of family services and prevent family problems, the bureau has collaborated with social

facilities for community and family services in over 30 meetings. The IAS also created a specialized entity to treat family cases at risk, and increase the level of intervention and support for these.

More information on family life education can be found at the newly launched IAS website, macau-familylife.com. The site is available in Chinese language only.

# November gaming revenue at MOP6.7b; industry faces headwinds after Chau's arrest

LYNZY VALLES

**M**ACAU'S gross gaming revenue (GGR) stood at MOP6.7 billion, a decent rise of 55% compared to the prior month's gains, which were the year's second lowest revenue from the gaming sector amid the rise of Covid-19 cases and strict entry regulations.

Data from the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau shows that, despite the increase, December revenue was still down 70% from the pre-pandemic in 2019.

Last month, the city recorded an uptrend in tourist arrivals following the September cases, reaching up to 35,525 on a single day. Now, the industry is facing further headwinds after the arrest of the head of the city's biggest junket, Alvin Chau.

The arrest of the Suncity Group CEO marks the first time a high-profile figure in the gaming sector has been targeted.



On Sunday, the Judiciary Police said that Chau confessed to establishing overseas gambling platforms and carrying out illegal virtual betting activities.

As part of their regular activities, junkets service high-rollers and extend credit to them.

JPMorgan Chase & Co. analysts, including DS Kim, wrote in a note on November 27 that revenue from Macau's junket-driven VIP market -

which accounts for one-third of the Macau's gaming revenue - could shrink by half in the coming weeks. JP Morgan Securities (Asia-Pacific) Ltd, by contrast, said in a memo that it was "probably reasonable to assume" that VIP gambling from junkets in the Macau market would "go to near-zero levels ultimately."

Previously, the brokerage said that it "wouldn't be surprised to see junket VIP revenues

[in Macau] immediately contract in the coming weeks."

This amount could lead to "perhaps by 30% to 50% from current run-rates." The reason that the arrest may negatively affect the sector is, according to JP Morgan, because it may inhibit investor confidence amid the relicensing of local gambling concessions.

Another looming force for the sector is the concessionai-

re renewal, which up to now are not set yet on whether the renewals will push through in June 2022.

Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng has not rule out the possibility of extending the concessions.

Total revenues of casinos for the first 11 months of this year has been MOP78.90 billion, — MOP51 billion short of the government's forecast from the first months of the year.

## MONTHLY GROSS GAMING REVENUE

	2021	2020	Variance
Jan	8,024	22,126	-63.7%
Feb	7,312	3,104	+135.6%
Mar	8,306	5,257	+58.0%
Apr	8,401	754	+1014.4%
May	10,445	1,764	+492.2%
Jun	6,535	716	+812.5%
Jul	8,444	1,344	+528.1%
Aug	4,442	1,330	+234.0%
Sept	5,879	2,211	+165.9%
Oct	4,365	7,270	-40.0%
Nov	6,749	6,748	+0.01

\*Units: MOP million

**ambiente**  
奧比安物業

**承業主命**  
**全幢物業公開招標出售**  
(不排除隨時停止標售)  
**By Order of the Owner**  
**Entire Building for Sale by**  
**Public Tender**  
(unless previously withdrawn)

**MACAU - AVENIDA**  
**HORTA E COSTA**  
**澳門高士德大馬路122號**

**截標日期: 2021年12月15日 (星期三) 中午12時**  
**Tender Closing Date: 12:00 noon, 15 December 2021 (Wednesday)**

物業登記局標示編號: 19175 • Property reference: 19175  
鄰近地標紅街市 • Located near the Red Market in Macau  
單一業權 • Single ownership  
7層物業, 附設電梯 • 7-storey building, with an elevator

招標文件由即日起至2021年12月14日(星期二)下午12點前, 於辦公時間(早上10時至下午6時)到 Ambiente (奧比安)寫字樓索取。如有任何問題, 歡迎查詢或有關物業的法定資訊可以聯絡致電 +853 2871-5713。

Tender document is available for collection at the office of Ambiente Properties during business hours (10am to 6pm) from now until 12 noon on 14 December 2021 (Tuesday). Please contact Ambiente on +853-2871-5713 for further details or statutory information on this property.

**鄭永豪 Alex Cheng** (+853) 6673-8001 alex@ambiente.mo  
房地產經紀准照 Agency License: AI-10001546-7

**Suzanne Watkinson** (+853) 6622-8541 suzanne@ambiente.mo  
房地產經紀准照 Agency License: AI-10001371-7

獨家代理: Ambiente 物業有限公司 - 房地產中介准照: MI-10002087-0  
Exclusive Agent: Ambiente Properties Limited - Company License: MI-10002087-0

奧比安地址: 澳門, 羅保博士街17A號, 皇子商業中心2B  
AMBIENTE ADDRESS: 2B, EDIFÍCIO COMERCIAL INFANTE, 17A RUA DO DR. PEDRO JOSE LOBIO, MACAU

免費詳閱: 無論是 Ambiente Properties 或其聯屬公司均不對本文所載的資料的準確性作出任何保證或主張。這些資料可能會誤導, 亦不構成一項合約或其中一部分, 有與讀者應向其律師或建築師尋求獨立專業意見, 不應將陳述或表達視為事實, 而必須通過檢查或其他方式對其準確性進行核實。Disclaimer: Neither Ambiente Properties nor its affiliated companies make any warranties or claims on the implied accuracy of the information contained herein. The information is subject to change and these particulars do not constitute, nor constitute part of, an offer or contract, interested parties should seek independent professional advice from their lawyer or architect and should not rely on the statements or representations as fact but must satisfy themselves by inspection or otherwise as to the accuracy.

**MFE** 澳門國際品牌連鎖加盟展  
Exposição da Franquia de Macau  
Macao Franchise Expo

**MIF** 第二十六屆澳門國際貿易投資展覽會  
26ª FEIRA INTERNACIONAL DE MACAU  
26th MACAU INTERNATIONAL TRADE & INVESTMENT FAIR

**PLPEX** 2021 葡語國家產品及服務展 (澳門)  
EXPOSIÇÃO DE PRODUTOS E SERVIÇOS DOS PAÍSES DE LÍNGUA PORTUGUESA (MACAU)  
Portuguese Speaking Countries Products and Services Exhibition (Macau)

**Free Admission**  
**Free Parking**

**FRI 10/12** Open to trade visitor 13:00-19:00

**SAT 11/12** Open to all 10:00-19:00

**SUN 12/12** Open to all 10:00-18:00

**Exhibition Highlights**

- Empower and upgrade industry through science and technology
- Focus on traditional Chinese medicine and "big health"
- Gather franchise brands from around the world
- Explore business opportunities in the IP industry
- Provide "exhibition representative service" for exhibitors from Portuguese-speaking countries
- Release the recommended wine list of Portuguese-speaking countries
- Assist small and medium-sized enterprises expanding their business
- Foster regional cooperation with diverse contents

**THE VENETIAN MACAO**

**Online Exhibitions Open All Day**

Public Shuttle Buses  
IPM Website  
WeChat: MICE\_IPM

Organiser: 澳門國際貿易投資展覽會  
Instituto de Promoção do Comércio e do Investimento de Macau  
Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Authority

# CHINA CALLS ON CITIZENS TO LEAVE EASTERN CONGO AFTER ATTACKS

CHINA yesterday urged its citizens to leave three provinces in eastern Congo as violence intensifies in the mineral-rich region.

A posting from the Chinese Embassy in Kinshasa on the WeChat online messaging said a number of Chinese citizens had been attacked and kidnapped over the past month in the provinces of South Kivu, North Kivu and Ituri, where several anti-government rebel groups have a presence.

It said Chinese residing in the three provinces should provide their personal details by Dec. 10 and make plans to leave for safer parts of Congo. Those in the districts of Bunia, Djugu, Beni, Rutshuru, Fizi, Uvira and Mwenga should leave immediately, it said, adding that any who do not do so "will have to bear the consequences themselves."

"We ask that all Chinese citizens and Chinese-invested businesses in Congo please pay close attention to local conditions, in-



President Xi Jinping stands in front of national flags of China and Republic of Congo

crease their safety awareness and emergency preparedness, and avoid unnecessary outside travel," the embassy said.

No details of the incidents were given, although the embassy last month reported five Chinese citizens were abducted from a mining operation in South Kivu, which borders Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania.

It warned at the time that the security situation in the area was "extremely complex and grim" and that there was little possibility

of sending help in the event of an attack or kidnapping.

No details were given about those kidnapped, who they worked for or who was suspected of taking them.

Several armed groups including the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, known by its French acronym FDLR, the Mai-Mai and the M23 regularly vie for control of eastern Congo's natural resources.

Despite the danger, Chinese businesses have moved into Con-

go and other unstable African states in a quest for cobalt and other rare minerals and resources. Chinese workers have also been subject to kidnappings and attacks in Pakistan and other countries with active insurgencies.

Security was a key topic at a meeting Monday in Dakar, the capital of Senegal, on Monday, between Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and his Congolese counterpart Christophe Lutundula, according to China's Xinhua News Agency.

China's government and ruling Communist Party "attach great importance to the safety and security of Chinese enterprises and Chinese nationals overseas and the Chinese side has been extremely concerned with the recent serious crimes of kidnappings and killings of its citizens in the DRC," Wang said, using the acronym for the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Wang urged Congo to secure the release of those kidnapped

and create a "safe, secure and stable environment for bilateral cooperation."

Xinhua quoted Lutundula as saying Congo would take "forceful measures" to investigate the crimes, free the hostages, punish the culprits severely and safeguard national security and restore stability to the country's east.

Earlier this week, Uganda said it launched joint air and artillery strikes with Congolese forces against camps of the extremist Allied Democratic Forces rebel group in eastern Congo.

The ADF was established in the early 1990s in Uganda and later driven out by the Ugandan military into eastern Congo, where many rebel groups are able to operate because the central government has limited control there.

At least four civilians were killed less than two weeks ago in Uganda's capital when suicide bombers detonated their explosives at two locations.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility, saying the attacks were carried out by Ugandans. Ugandan authorities blamed the ADF, which has been allied with the Islamic State group since 2019. **MDT/AP**



Students attending a Chinese language class at a public boarding school in Lhasa

## STATE COUNCIL

# 85% of citizens will use Mandarin by 2025

CHINA is launching an aggressive campaign to promote Mandarin, saying 85% of its citizens will use the national language by 2025.

The move appears to put threatened Chinese regional dialects such as Cantonese and Hokkien under even greater pressure, along with minority languages such as Tibetan, Mongolian and Uyghur.

The order issued Tuesday by the State Council, China's Cabinet, said use of Mandarin, known in Chinese as "putonghua" or the "common tongue," remains "unbalanced and inadequate" and needs to be improved to meet

the demands of the modern economy.

Critics have sporadically protested changes to the education system and employment requirements that have steadily eroded the role of minority languages, calling it a campaign to eradicate cultures that don't conform with the dominant Han ethnic group.

Along with the 2025 goal, the policy aims to make Mandarin virtually universal by 2035, including in rural areas and among ethnic minorities.

The promotion of Mandarin over other languages has sparked occasional protes-

ts, including last year in the Inner Mongolia region when the Mongolian language was replaced by standard Mandarin as the language of instruction.

China's ruling Communist Party has denounced all such movements as a form of separatism and repressed them ruthlessly. It says language conformity is necessary for the sake of the economy and national unity.

The policy is backed up by legal requirements and the document issued yesterday demanded strengthened supervision to "ensure that the national common spoken and written language is used as the official language of government agencies and used as the basic language of schools, news and publications, radio, film and television, public services and other fields."

It calls also on officials to "vigorously enhance the international status and influence of Chinese" in academia, international organizations and at global gatherings.

Government attempts to promote Mandarin through its worldwide network of Confucius Institutes have been controversial, with critics denouncing them as an attempt to promote the party's agenda and quash discussion of topics such as its human rights record. **MDT/AP**

# BEIJING LASHES OUT AT ABE OVER FORMER LEADER'S TAIWAN WARNING

CHINA lashed out at Shinzo Abe yesterday after the former Japanese prime minister warned of the serious security and economic consequences of any Chinese military action against the self-ruled island.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said Abe had "talked nonsense, pointed fingers at Taiwan issues and made irresponsible remarks on China internal affairs."

He said China "strongly opposes and deplores this" and had protested to Japan through diplomatic channels.

"No one should underestimate the resolve determination, firm will and strong ability of the Chinese people to defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity," Wen told reporters at a daily briefing. "Anyone who dares to repeat militarism and



challenge the bottom line of the Chinese people will surely be shattered in the face."

That came after Abe delivered remarks against a miscalculation over Taiwan by China's ruling Communist Party.

China claims self-governing Taiwan as its own territory to be annexed by force if necessary and has been upping its military threat by holding military exercises near the island and frequently sending warplanes into its air defense identification zone.

"I think that Japan, Taiwan and all the

democratic countries need to keep urging President Xi Jinping and the leaders of the Chinese Communist Party not to step onto a wrong path," Abe said in a virtual speech on Taiwan-Japan relations to a Taipei-based think tank.

"Military adventure would lead to economic suicide," Abe said.

Taiwan was a Japanese colony for 50 years until the end of World War II and relations between the two remain close, shored up by the U.S.-Japan defense alliance and Washington's strong, if unofficial, support for the island. **MDT/AP**

MARI YAMAGUCHI &  
FOSTER KLUG, TOKYO

# Japan suspends new reservations on all incoming flights

**J**APAN continued its aggressive stance against a new coronavirus variant yesterday, asking international airlines to stop taking new reservations for all flights arriving in the country until the end of December in a further tightening of already strict border controls.

The transportation ministry said the request is an emergency precaution amid growing worry over the spread of the new omicron variant. The move by the world's third largest economy, coupled with its recent return to a ban on foreign visitors, is among the most stringent anywhere, and more in line with cloistered neighbor China than with some other democracies in the region. It comes as scientists work frantically to determine just how threatening omicron is.

Those who have already made reservations are not affected, although flights may be canceled if there are insufficient passengers, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism said. Japan is a major transit hub for flights to and from Asia, and its huge importance economically means that its actions could have a wider influence. Transit flights won't be affected.

The decision comes as Japan confirmed a second case of the omicron variant in a person who arrived from Peru, one day after it reported its first case in a Namibian diplomat.

Much remains unknown about the new variant, including whether it is more contagious, as some health authorities suspect, whether it makes people more seriously ill, and whether it can thwart the vaccine.

Japan banned all foreign visitors starting Tuesday as an emergency precaution against the new variant. The ban tentatively extends through the end of the year. The government is also requiring Japanese citizens arriving in the



country to quarantine for up to 14 days.

The World Health Organization warned Monday that the global risk from the omicron variant is "very high" based on early evidence, saying it could lead to surges with "severe consequences."

Recent findings indicate the mutant coronavirus was already in Europe close to a week before South Africa sounded the alarm.

The Netherlands' RIVM health institute disclosed that patient samples dating from Nov. 19 and 23 were found to contain the variant. It was on Nov. 24 that South African authorities reported the existence of the highly mutated virus to the World Health Organization.

That indicates omicron had a bigger head start in the Netherlands than previously believed.

The finding illustrates the difficulty in containing the virus in an age of jet travel and economic globalization. And it left the world once again whipsawed between hopes of returning to normal and

fears that the worst is yet to come.

The pandemic has shown repeatedly that the virus "travels quickly because of our globalized, interconnected world," said Dr. Albert Ko, an infectious disease specialist at the Yale School of Public Health. Until the vaccination drive reaches every country, "we're going to be in this situation again and again."

Brazil, which has recorded a staggering total of more than 600,000 COVID-19 deaths, reported finding the variant in two travelers returning from South Africa — the first known omicron cases in Latin America. The travelers were tested on Nov. 25, authorities said.

France recorded its first case, in the far-flung island territory of Reunion in the Indian Ocean. Authorities said the patient was a man who had returned to Reunion from South Africa and Mozambique on Nov. 20.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the United States' top infectious disease expert, said much more will be known about omicron in the next

several weeks, and "we'll have a much better picture of what the challenge is ahead of us."

In the meantime, a WHO official warned that given the growing number of omicron cases in South Africa and neighboring Botswana, parts of southern Africa could soon see infections skyrocket.

"There is a possibility that really we're going to be seeing a serious doubling or tripling of the cases as we move along or as the week unfolds," said Dr. Nicky Gumele-Moeletsi, a WHO regional virologist.

Cases began to increase rapidly in mid-November in South Africa, which is now seeing nearly 3,000 confirmed new infections per day.

Among the other countries with cases confirmed are Britain, 11 European Union nations, Australia, Canada and Israel. American disease trackers said omicron could already be in the United States, too, and probably will be detected soon.

"I am expecting it any day now," said Scott Becker of the Association of Public Health Laboratories. "We expect it is here."

While the variant was first identified by South African researchers, it is unclear where and when it originated, information that could help shed light on how fast it spreads.

The announcement from the Dutch on Tuesday could shape that timeline.

Previously, the Netherlands said it found the variant among passengers who came from South Africa on Friday, the same day the Dutch and other EU members began imposing flight bans and other restrictions on southern Africa. But the newly

identified cases predate that.

NOS, the Netherlands' public broadcaster, said that one of the two omicron samples came from a person who had been in southern Africa.

Many health officials tried to calm fears, insisting that vaccines remain the best defense and that the world must redouble its efforts to get the shots to every part of the globe.

After COVID-19 led to a one-year postponement of the Summer Games, Olympic organizers began to worry about the February Winter Games in Beijing. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said omicron would "certainly bring some challenges in terms of prevention and control."

World markets seesawed on every piece of medical news, whether worrisome or reassuring. Stocks fell on Wall Street over virus fears as well as concerns about the Federal Reserve's continued efforts to shore up the markets.

Some analysts think a serious economic downturn will probably be averted because many people have been vaccinated. But they also think a return to pre-pandemic levels of economic activity, especially in tourism, has been dramatically delayed.

Japan yesterday started offering coronavirus vaccine booster shots to health care workers amid growing concerns over the new variant.

Japan's vaccination rollout got off to a slow start but surged from late May, and now about 77% of the population has been fully vaccinated — a main reason experts cite for Japan's steady slowing of infections since September. MDT/AP

# New Zealand to send military, police to Solomon Islands

**N**EW Zealand will send up to 65 military and police personnel to the Solomon Islands in the coming days after rioting and looting broke out there last week over several issues, including concerns about the country's increasing links with China.

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said yesterday she was "deeply concerned" by the civil unrest that unfolded in the capital, Honiara, and wanted to help restore peace and stability. The New Zealand deployment

follows similar actions from Australia, Papua New Guinea and Fiji after the Solomon Islands government requested international help.

Solomon Islands police found three bodies in a burned-out building and arrested more than 100 people amid the violence.

The latest deployment of foreign personnel comes ahead of a push by Solomon Islands opposition leader Matthew Wale to hold a no-confidence vote next week on Prime Minister

Manasseh Sogavare.

"This is a short-term, immediate response and we will continue to monitor the situation," said New Zealand's Foreign Affairs Minister Nanaia Mahuta.

New Zealand plans to send 15 military personnel today followed by up to 50 more military and police personnel over the weekend.

The unrest was sparked by underlying grievances between the two main islands in a rivalry that dates back decades. Part of

the concern relates to the country's increasing links with China. Sogavare has been widely criticized by leaders of the island of Malaita for a 2019 decision to drop diplomatic ties with Taiwan in favor of mainland China.

Sogavare's government, meanwhile, has been upset over millions in U.S. aid promised directly to Malaita, rather than through the central government on the largest island of Guadalcanal, where Honiara is located. MDT/AP



Australian Federal Police inspect burnt out areas of Chinatown in Honiara, Solomon Islands



AP PHOTO

USA

# Student kills three, wounds eight at Michigan school

MIKE HOUSEHOLDER & RYAN KRYSKA, OXFORD TOWNSHIP (MICH.)

A 15-year-old sophomore opened fire at his Michigan high school Tuesday [yesterday, Macau time], killing three students, including a 16-year-old boy who died in a deputy's patrol car on the way to a hospital, authorities said. Eight other people were wounded, some critically.

Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard said later that investigators were still trying to determine a motive for the shooting at Oxford High School in Oxford Township, a community of about 22,000 people roughly 30 miles north of Detroit.

"The person that's got the most insight and the motive is not talking," Bouchard said at a news conference.

The suspect's father had bought the 9 mm Sig Sauer used in the shooting on Friday, Bouchard said, adding that he did not know why the man bought the gun. Bouchard said the suspect had practiced shooting with the gun and "posted pictures of the target and the weapon."

The three students who were killed were 16-year-old Tate Myre, 14-year-old Hana St. Juliana, and 17-year-old Madisyn Baldwin. Bouchard said Myre died in a patrol car as a deputy tried to get him to a hospital.

Bouchard said authorities

were made aware of allegations circulating on social media that there had been threats of a shooting at the roughly 1,700-student school, but he said they didn't know about the rumors until after the attack. Bouchard stressed how crucial it is for tips of the kind to be sent to authorities, while also cautioning against spreading social media rumors about the attack before a full investigation.

Undersheriff Mike McCabe downplayed the significance of an incident in early November when a deer head was thrown off the school roof, which he said was "absolutely unrelated" to the shooting. The vandalism prompted school administrators to post two letters to parents on the school's website earlier in November, saying they were responding to rumors of a threat against the school but had found none.

Authorities didn't immediately release the shooting suspect's name, but Bouchard said deputies arrested him within minutes of arriving at the school in response to a flood of 911 calls about the attack, which happened shortly before 1 p.m. He said the deputies arrested him after he emerged from a bathroom with the gun, which he said had seven rounds of ammunition still in it.

"I believe they literally saved lives having taken down the suspect with a loaded firearm while still in the building," Bouchard said.

McCabe said the suspect's parents visited their son where he's being held and advised him not to talk to investigators, as is his right. Police must seek permission from a juvenile suspect's parents or guardian to speak with them, he added.

Oakland County Prosecutor Karen McDonald issued a statement saying her office expects to issue charges quickly and that an update would be given Wednesday.

Bouchard said the suspect had no prior run-ins with his department and he wasn't aware of any disciplinary history at school.

"That's part of our investigation to determine what happened prior to this event and if some signs were missed how were they missed and why," he said.

President Joe Biden, before delivering remarks at a community college in Rosemount, Minnesota, said: "As we learn the full details, my heart goes out to the families enduring the unimaginable grief of losing a loved one."

The school was placed on lockdown after the attack, with some children sheltering in locked classrooms while officers searched the premises. They were later taken to a nearby Meijer grocery store to be picked up by their parents.

The district said in a statement that all of its schools would be closed for the rest of the week.

Isabel Flores, a 15-year-old

ninth grader, told WJBK-TV that she and other students heard gunshots and saw another student bleeding from the face. They then ran from the area through the rear of the school, she said.

Authorities said they were searching the suspect's cellphone, school video footage and social media posts for any evidence of a possible motive.

School administrators had posted two letters to parents on the school's website in November, saying they were responding to rumors of a threat against the school following a bizarre vandalism incident.

According to a Nov. 4 letter written by Principal Steve Wolf, someone threw a deer head into a courtyard from the school's roof, painted several windows on the roof with red acrylic paint and used the same paint on concrete near the school building during the early morning hours. Without specifically referencing that incident, a second post on Nov. 12 assured "there has been no threat to our building nor our students."

Both the sheriff and undersheriff emphasized that the shooting was unrelated to the deer head or any earlier investigation by their office.

"That was a different incident, different student," McCabe said.

A concerned parent, Robin Redding, said her son, Treshan Bryant, is a 12th grader at the school but stayed home Tuesday. Redding said her son had heard threats that there could be a shooting.

"This couldn't be just random," she said.

Bryant said he texted several younger cousins in the morning and they said they didn't want to go to school, and he got a bad feeling. He asked his mom if he could do his assignments online.

Bryant said he had heard vague threats "for a long time now" about plans for a shooting.

At a vigil at Lakepoint Community Church yesterday, Leann Dersa choked back tears as she hugged friends and neighbors. Dersa has lived nearly all of her 73 years in Oxford and her grandchildren attended the high school.

"Scared us all something terrible. It's awful," Dersa said of the shooting.

Pastor Jesse Holt said news of the shooting flooded in to him and his wife, including texts from some of the 20 to 25 students who are among the 400-member congregation.

"Some were very scared, hiding under their desks and texting us, 'We're safe, we're OK. We heard gunshots, but we're OK.' They were trying to calm us, at least that's how it felt," he said. **MDT/AP**

## this day in history



### 1995 ROGUE TRADER JAILED FOR SIX YEARS



Former futures trader Nick Leeson has been jailed for six-and-a-half years for his part in the collapse of Britain's oldest merchant bank.

The 28-year-old admitted to a judge in Singapore two charges of fraud connected with Barings Bank's £860m ruin.

Judge Richard Magnus said Leeson had "spun a web of deceit" and created "a superficial reality designed to beguile" both Barings and the Singapore futures exchange.

He said Leeson, from Watford, Hertfordshire, had used his position as general manager of Barings future tradings operations in Singapore to "trade his honesty and integrity".

"The facts speak of the criminal enterprise of the accused," Judge Magnus said.

The court heard Leeson, whose wife Lisa was not in court, had bet Japan's stock market would rise.

When it slumped after the Kobe earthquake he doubled his bets hoping to recoup his losses.

Every loss was hidden in a secret "error account" so his office would always appear in profit.

As the losses grew Leeson acquired extra funds by various means to continue trading.

His actions led Simex, Singapore International Monetary Exchange, to release money to Barings it should not have.

But by February, Barings' bosses uncovered the losses as its cash reserves had been cleared out.

Leeson's defence lawyer, John Koh, blamed London bosses for not curbing his client's activities and said Leeson did not personally profit from the episode.

He was sentenced to six years for misreporting the status of around £300m in Barings contracts on 1 February.

He received another six months on forgery charge.

The sentence was backdated to March when Leeson was detained in Germany awaiting extradition to Singapore after he fled the country.

The authorities dropped nine other charges but they were considered during sentencing.

Leeson will pay £70,000 prosecution costs.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Nick Leeson is said to have exercised vigorously in prison and "found God". He served less than four years of his sentence and he wrote a book, *Rogue Trader*, which later became a film.

His wife Lisa took a job as an air stewardess to travel to him in jail but the couple later divorced.

Mr Leeson, who was treated for cancer after his release, studied for a degree in psychology at Middlesex University after his time in prison.

He is an occasional guest speaker at events.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

## YOUR STARS



### ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Today's cosmic landscape works to invigorate you and incite you into action, Aries. The moon wades through sharp-minded Scorpio and forms an enlivening conjunction with your ruling planet, soldiering Mars.



### TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Today's emotionally-charged Scorpio moon spends the day united with feisty Mars, encouraging you to take action on behalf of nagging partnership narratives.



### GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

As a Gemini, it's all too easy for you to get swept up into your mental world. Thursday's skies encourage you to ground back down and reconnect with your body through exercise and healthy eating.



### CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Don't be surprised if you find yourself needing to call the shots today, Cancer. Today's skies push you into action as the moon prowls through sharp-focused Scorpio and unites with hot-headed Mars.



### LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Just be mindful of using too much force with this energy! Fortunately, Luna's sweet connection with heartfelt Venus makes it easy to smooth things over once more.



### VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Be mindful with your tongue today, Virgo! It's easy for you to go from 0 to 100 today when it comes to your temper, and you may accidentally lash out at someone without a second thought.



### LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

This pairing is also likely to rile up frustrations around money, so be mindful with impulse spending. Luna enjoys a supportive connection with heartfelt Venus, helping soften and slow down the atmosphere.



### SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

It's easy to get worked up today, Scorpio. The moon spends the day in your sign, meeting up with hot-headed Mars on her path. This pairing works to invigorate you into action while also increasing your temper and irritability.



### SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

The new moon solar eclipse arrives in your sign this afternoon, bringing with it an exciting burst of energy and new stories to be developed around your identity and individuality in the month ahead.



### CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

The moon plows through highly-focused Scorpio and on its path merges with action-taking Mars, imbuing the day with a strong need to make decisive choices.



### AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

It's "go" time on the career front for you. Nothing can stall your desire to move forward with your plans and ambitions today, as the sharp focused Scorpio moon unites with action-taking Mars.



### PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

You're ready to pull the trigger on some big plans. Just make sure you know which of your visions you're looking to bring into fruition, as the brooding Scorpio moon unites with action-taking Mars.

## The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



## SUDOKU

### EASY

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

### EASY+

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

### MEDIUM

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

### HARD

2	7	3						
					5		1	
		4						
		7			4			
5	1							
6								
	3		8		6			
			5		2			
	8							

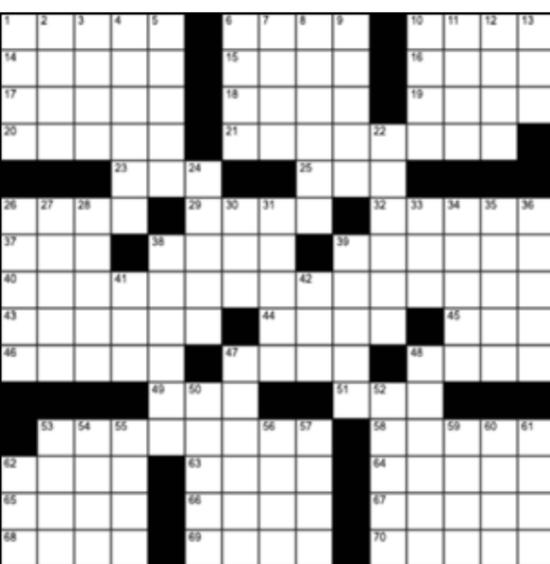
## WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	-5	7	fine
Harbin	-14	-7	fine
Tianjin	-2	8	fine
Urumqi	-10	-2	fine
Xi'an	-2	9	fine
Lhasa	-4	16	fine
Chengdu	7	14	fine
Chongqing	7	15	overcast
Kunming	5	15	cloudy
Nanjing	-1	9	fine
Shanghai	4	9	cloudy
Wuhan	0	12	fine
Hangzhou	3	8	fine
Taipei	13	16	rain
Guangzhou	8	19	fine
Hong Kong	14	20	fine
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	-5	-7	snow
Frankfurt	6	10	drizzle
Paris	2	8	drizzle
London	8	11	cloudy
New York	2	6	rain

## CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- "\_\_\_\_\_ by any other name..."; 6- Voice of America org.; 10- Pet name; 14- \_\_\_\_ Rica; 15- Grave; 16- Garden site; 17- Stories; 18- lams alternative; 19- Author Jaffe; 20- O. Henry device; 21- Blissful; 23- Bumbler; 25- Bandleader Brown; 26- Charts; 29- She played Carla on "Cheers"; 32- Bay city; 37- Land in la mer; 38- Bucket; 39- Givers; 40- Boundary; 43- Fly; 44- Alpo alternative; 45- Compass pt.; 46- Aids; 47- Periphery; 48- Roman road; 49- Runner Sebastian; 51- Capitol Hill abbr.; 53- Excommunicate; 58- Role for Clark; 62- Unwritten; 63- Air-filled rubber hoop, become fatigued; 64- Spokes; 65- Domesticated; 66- Be a mother to; 67- Say "y'all," say; 68- Bread spread; 69- Energy units; 70- Inhibit;

DOWN: 1- Broadway opening; 2- Din; 3- 1952 Winter Olympics setting; 4- Shorthand pros; 5- Gut course; 6- Mormon state of western USA; 7- Flat-fish; 8- Classic Chevy; 9- Overhead; 10- Frond plant; 11- Golden calf, e.g.; 12- Repudiate; 13- \_\_\_\_ roll; 22- Bars legally; 24- Picture border; 26- Book after Jonah; 27- Still in the game; 28- Danger; 30- "\_\_\_\_ and hers"; 31- 1961 Heston role; 33- Hill dweller; 34- Damp; 35- Plain writing; 36- Grant portrayer; 38- Political revolt; 39- Small change; 41- Upper limit; 42- Joplin tune; 47- More spine-tingling; 48- Breathe in; 50- Unconventional; 52- Made a mistake; 53- Orenburg's river; 54- Driver's license datum; 55- Jazz singer Laine; 56- Jutting rock; 57- Towel word; 59- Prepare a book or film for release; 60- It may turn; 61- Stadium section; 62- Oklahoma First Nation;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



**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**

Wa Bao HKD 7,888,000  
Ref: 2106 6003 1,131 ft<sup>2</sup> 2 2 2

**FOR SALE**

**REDUCED**

Nam Long HKD 7,980,000  
Ref: 1909 6006 1,404 ft<sup>2</sup> 4 2 2

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

Hellene Gardens HKD 7,980,000  
Ref: 2109 6001 1,663 ft<sup>2</sup> 3 2 1

AD

INVESTMENT FRAUD

# ELIZABETH HOLMES GETS EMOTIONAL UNDER FIRE BY PROSECUTORS

MICHAEL LIEDTKE, SAN JOSE

**ONE-TIME** entrepreneur Elizabeth Holmes, under questioning by prosecutors, struggled yesterday [Macau time] to recall key events that led to her facing criminal fraud charges for allegedly fleecing investors and customers of her failed blood-testing startup Theranos.

Her cross-examination began the day after she shared painfully vivid memories of alleged abuse by her ex-lover and business partner, Sunny Balwani.

In between bouts of hazy recollection, Holmes wept on the witness stand after the federal prosecutor interrogating her asked to read aloud some of the amorous texts that she and Balwani exchanged during a five-year period while they were running Theranos and living together in a stealth romantic relationship.

"U are God's tigress and warrior. You are extraordinary," Balwani cooed to Holmes in a 2015 document displayed in court. Holmes quickly responded with this text: "Coming from my tiger means the whole universe to me."

While poring over the old texts, Holmes occasionally dabbed away tears and wiped her nose with a tissue. The jury watched and listened along with a packed courtroom that included one person who trained a pair of binoculars on Holmes from a back row.

The drama unfolded the day after Holmes cast herself as a victim of Balwani's abusive and controlling behavior while they were romantically involved from 2005 to 2016. Balwani, 56, also served as Theranos' chief operating officer from 2009 to 2016 while Hol-

AP PHOTO



Elizabeth Holmes, founder and CEO of Theranos

mes, 37, was the CEO and controlling shareholder.

As part of her testimony, Holmes said she was raped at Stanford — a traumatic experience that she asserted Balwani exploited to control everything from her diet to her friendships.

Both Holmes and Balwani are now fighting criminal charges of duping investors and patients into believing that Theranos has invented a device that could scan for hundreds of potential health problems with a few drops of blood. After raising nearly \$1 billion, Theranos collapsed amid revelations that the purportedly revolutionary technology she was peddling was horribly flawed.

Holmes' trial, which began in early September, is now heading toward its climax. Holmes will return to the stand on Dec. 7. Her testimony could wrap up that day, raising the possibility that jury deliberations could begin by the end of next week.

Balwani, who is being tried separately, is expected to face the court early next year. His attorney, Jeffrey Coopersmith, has denied Holmes' allegations of "intimate partner abuse." Coopersmith yesterday also told U.S. District Judge Edward Davila that Balwani would assert his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination if he were called to testify in Holmes' trial.

Although Holmes has been on the stand since Nov. 19, Tuesday marked the first opportunity for federal prosecutors to grill her under oath.

Robert Leach, the government lawyer confronting Holmes, didn't touch upon Holmes' alleged rape nor her testimony about Balwani berating her, sometimes in profane terms. Instead, he used roughly 12,000 texts sent between Holmes and Balwani to counter her contention that they had a relationship that was more toxic than romantic.

At one point, Leach asked Holmes if she would be surprised if the word "love" appeared 594 times in the texts obtained by the government and the word "loving" was used 105 times. "No," Holmes said with a slight smile.

But Holmes spent much of the time responding "I don't remember" and "I don't know" to Leach's questions about key incidents in the startup's history. She claimed forgetfulness so frequently that Leach made the phrase "let's see if I can refresh your memory" a common refrain as he presented her with document after document related to the fraud charges.

Leach seemed intent on proving that Holmes knew she was making false statements to investors and Walgreens, which briefly used Theranos' blood tests in its pharmacies.

Holmes' apparent forgetfulness contrasted sharply with her clear recall of her interactions

with Balwani — some of them dating back more than a decade.

But she also seemed to have reflected on her behavior at Theranos. She expressed remorse for the way she responded to the concerns of two former employees and her attempts to stop the 2015 publication of a Wall Street Journal expose that helped lead to Theranos' collapse.

"I could not say more strongly the way that we handled the Wall Street Journal process was a total disaster. We really messed up," Holmes said.

John Carreyrou, the reporter who wrote the Wall Street Journal story and a book about Theranos' rise and fall, sat in the back of the courtroom during Holmes' moment of contrition while taking notes for a podcast he has been doing about the trial.

Holmes also acknowledged she was too quick to dismiss warnings from the two former employees, Erika Cheung and Tyler Shultz, who reported that Theranos' blood-testing device — dubbed Edison — was delivering inaccurate results that could endanger patients' health.

"I sure as hell wished we treated her differently and listened to her," said Holmes of Cheung, who quit Theranos in exasperation after concluding her complaints were being ignored.

Shultz, the grandson of former U.S. Secretary of State and Theranos board member George Shultz, who died earlier this year, also resigned from Theranos in 2015 under similar circumstances.

Holmes could face prison time of up to 20 years if convicted. **MDT/AP**

## CORPORATE BITS

### Sands China to pay bonus to non-management employees



Sands China Ltd. is distributing a discretionary allowance equivalent of one month's salary to more than 25,000 eligible non-senior management full-time team members on January 17, 2022, the gaming operator announced yesterday.

A total of 99% of the company's total employment is benefiting from either the discretionary allowance or other incentive schemes in appreciation of their dedication and contributions in 2021.

Wilfred Wong, president of

Sands China Ltd., said: "This year was another challenging one, not just for Macau, but for the whole world. Despite its challenges, our team members came together to successfully launch The Londoner Macao against the backdrop of an ongoing pandemic.

"And since the start of the pandemic, our team members have demonstrated their care for the community by taking the initiative to get vaccinated, by volunteering to support our 24-hour Nucleic Acid Testing station during two community-wide mandatory testing drives, and by providing hotel services for medical observation, among so much more," he added.

### Technology Resources Center celebrates second anniversary



The Macau Assistive Technology Resources Center celebrated its second anniversary on November 27 with a celebration ceremony and an open-house event.

The activity provided the public an opportunity to learn more about the center's

auxiliary tools services, so that the community can get more acquainted with related resources.

The center is operated by the General Union of Neighbor Association of Macao (UGAMM) and sponsored by MGM and support-

ted by Social Welfare Bureau.

The center serves the local community with a diverse range of auxiliary tools services, including assessment service and auxiliary tools rental service, as well as educational programs to promote the use of auxiliary tools.

It is to echo with the initiative of improve independence and social involvement to bettering life quality of people with disabilities from the SAR government's "10-year Plan for Rehabilitation Services."

As the sponsor of the center, MGM has also been conducting an array of supporting campaigns and activities, on top of funding the operations of the Center

JOHN PYE

**BASKETBALL**

**O**NE is the so-called Golden Boy of the Philippines. Another is the first 100 million-yen-a-season basketball player in Japan.

The East Asia Super League is set to launch next October featuring some of the region's biggest domestic clubs. It's banking on Asia's home-grown talent to grow from an invitational event to the world's third-biggest basketball league.

Anything is possible — Asia offers a vast audience.

Players like Terrence Romeo (aka Golden Boy) and the 1.67-meter point guard Yuki Togashi, the Japanese league's first million-dollar man and reigning finals MVP for Chiba Jets, already have big and growing followings.

The 2022-2023 season will start out with the winners and runners-up from each of the Japan, South Korea and Philippines leagues, plus the P. League champion from Taiwan and a Hong Kong-based club called the Bay Area Chun Yu Phoenixes, featuring free-agent players from across the region including mainland China, as the Greater China representatives.

Ex-NBA stars Metta World Peace, Baron Davis and Shane Battier are on board as brand ambassadors. And each club will be allowed two

# East Asia Super League aims high, from startup to Big 3



Japan's Yuki Togashi (center) and his teammates greet after their FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023 Asian Qualifiers Group B match against China

foreign imports plus an extra Asian import in 12-man rosters for each EASL game.

But there'll be a big emphasis on tapping local talent.

The debut season will feature eight clubs playing home and away and run concurrently with the domestic leagues.

There are plans for expansion to a 16-team competition in season

three. And the Chinese Basketball Association is in close proximity.

"To date, we've never seen a regional club to club league, such as EASL," the league's CEO, Matt Beyer, told The Associated Press. "And so, we believe that this is really the start of exposing a larger amount of players to this type of a larger platform.

"Our mission is to be East Asia's

premier basketball league, with a vision to be one of the top three leagues globally by 2025 in terms of fan base and commercial revenue."

Hong Kong-based Beyer said "Asian fans go crazy over competition with their regional rivals," which was the inspiration in 2017 to launch a single site event at Macau. By the 2019 edition, he said, the event had 117 million viewers on 36 broadcast and digital networks.

With the transition to a home-and-away format, there's greater expectations.

For the first season, the clubs will be split into two pools of four for the home-and-away section, with two from each group advancing to elimination Final Four playoffs. The championship game is set for March 2023.

The FIBA-backed regional club competition is being promoted as an extra prong of the sport's development.

The CBA has long been considered the strongest league in the east,

producing high-profile Chinese players including the now-retired NBA All-Star Yao Ming, formerly of the Houston Rockets.

For Shinji Shimada, chairman of the Japan's top-flight B.League, the inaugural EASL season is a chance for other leagues to showcase their talent.

"China has been one of the top powerhouses in Asia for a long time. Chinese players are taller and physically better than Japanese players, but in terms of the ability of individual players, I feel that (Japanese players) are as good as Chinese players," Shimada said.

"We believe that participating in the EASL is the first step to becoming one of the top basketball nations in Asia."

For Korean Basketball League commissioner Kim Heeok, the benefits of the higher level of basketball for the players could be matched by the extra exposure to international markets for the domestic leagues. **MDT/AP**

AD



## HOLIDAY RENTAL HOUSES

Lugar das Letras  Casa de Gouvães 

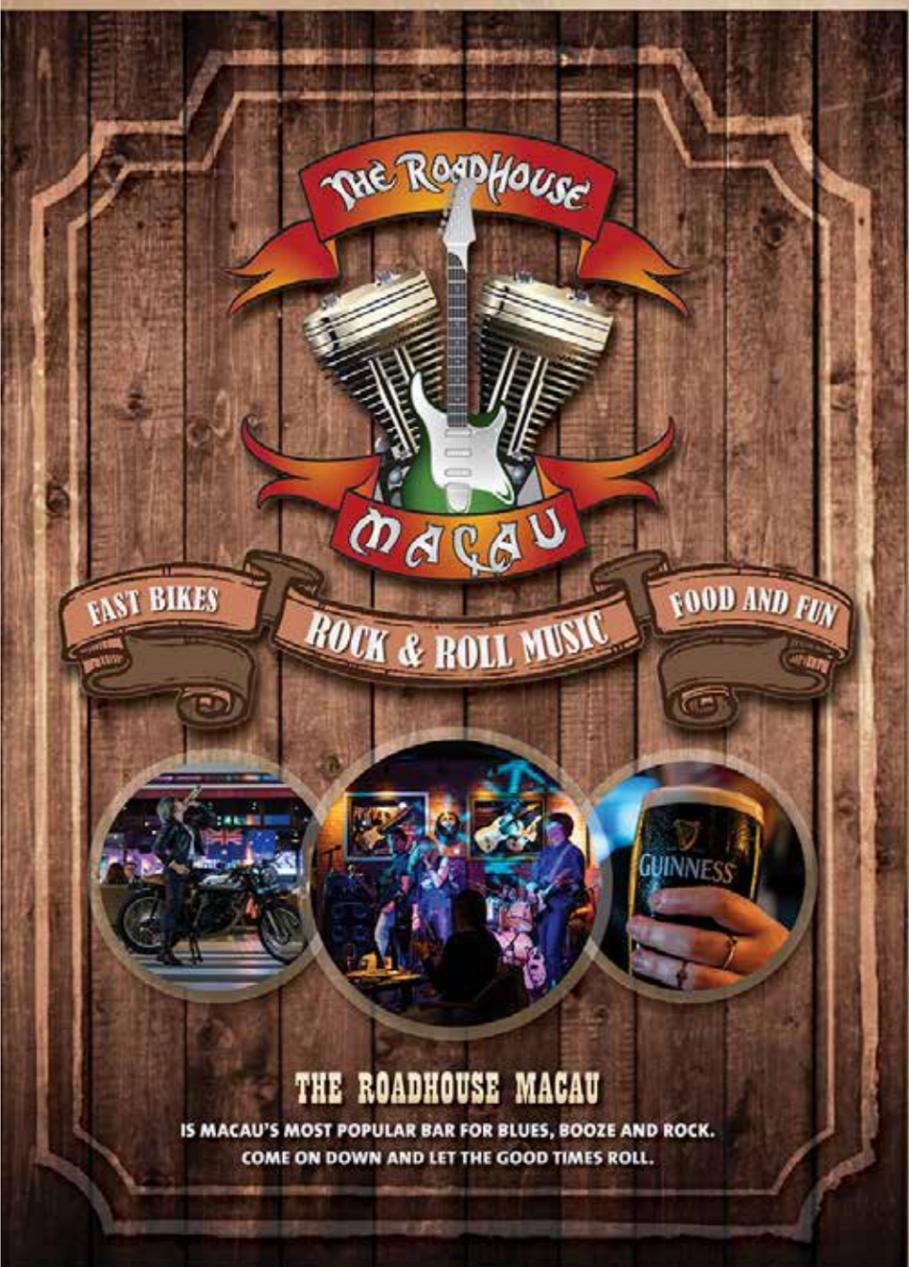
The houses are set in the heart of the World Heritage Site of the Douro Valley and its famous winery landscape where the world's Ports are produced. Both restored relics overlooking the Rio Douro, these eight rooms houses have been blessed with gorgeous wooden floors, plush queen beds and marble baths; the best have dazzling river views. But it is the welcome that makes this place stand out from the crowd.



visit us at [www.lugardasletras.com](http://www.lugardasletras.com) visit us at [www.casadegouveas.com](http://www.casadegouveas.com)

**BOOK NOW!**  
info@lugardasletras.com  
Mobile: +351 917921 320  
Praça de Gouvães, apartamento 20,  
5085-242 Gouvães do Douro, Sabrosa  
CASA DE GOVÃES • DOURO • PORTUGAL  
TURISMO NO ESPAÇO RURAL

**BOOK NOW!**  
info@casadegouveas.com  
Mobile: +351 917921 320  
Praça de Gouvães, apartamento 20,  
5085-242 Gouvães do Douro, Sabrosa  
CASA DE GOVÃES • DOURO • PORTUGAL  
TURISMO NO ESPAÇO RURAL



**THE ROADHOUSE**  
**MACAU**

FAST BIKES  
ROCK & ROLL MUSIC  
FOOD AND FUN



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

OPINION

China Daily  
Editorial, China Daily

**COLD WAR MENTALITY  
MOTIVATES MOVING OF  
US MILITARY NEEDLE**

The US military announced on Monday that it is planning to reinforce deployments and bases directed at China and Russia as a result of the “global posture review” commissioned early this year by the Joe Biden administration.

Details of the review remain classified, supposedly so as to not give away secrets or reveal confidential plans. But essentially the US military is “moving the needle a bit” to the Indo-Pacific, Mara Karlin, a top Pentagon policy official said.

Force adjustments in the Asia-Pacific are reportedly in the works but require further consultation with foreign governments, presumably to reach agreements on where they are to be stationed.

The review “directs additional cooperation with allies and partners across the region to advance initiatives that contribute to regional stability and deter potential military aggression from China and threats from North Korea,” Karlin told reporters.

Given that the US has been making no secret about that, and it is not feasible to develop a major strategic-level change of posture in the first year of a new administration, the review seems intended to be another means to rally the US allies for another Cold War.

The US administration, legislature, including individual lawmakers, and think tanks have never stopped milling various kinds of reports and reviews on the threats the US faces in trade, security, technology, cyberspace and space.

None of them is based on facts. Instead, conjecture and speculation provide the excuse for military spending and increased subsidies to big corporations, as well as justifying the US’ long-arm distorting of global supply chains.

It is no exception this time, as what has been revealed about the review indicates that having identified its major rivals, Washington is forcing the rest of the world, including its allies, to draw a demarcation line with them or at least show their neutrality.

Although Washington has reiterated to Beijing and Moscow that it does not seek to start a new Cold War, what it is doing belies those assurances.

The review is the first of several assessments being made by the administration of the US’ defense priorities and policies. They include a reassessment of nuclear forces, as well as the policies associated with their potential use, and a revised National Defense Strategy reinforcing the importance of the US alliance network.

Yet, be it in Europe where the Biden administration is still not sure whether the Europeans have bought his declaration that “America is back”, or in Southeast Asia and Africa, where it is trying to reassure countries that they have not been forgotten, the US is struggling to sell the attractions of a new Cold War.

Countries are well aware of what the US is up to. That it hypes up threats just to maintain its hegemony, as most of the countries it identifies as threats to the rules-based order are simply those that follow an independent line rather than falling in behind it.

Instead of remedying the damage the Donald Trump administration did to the US’ relations with other countries, the review has simply reminded them that whatever the US does, it is always self-serving and damns the consequences to others.

Fiji welcomed back its first tourists in more than 600 days yesterday after pushing ahead with reopening plans despite the threat posed by the newly detected omicron variant of the coronavirus.

The Pacific nation is famed for its idyllic white-sand beaches and relaxed, welcoming attitude. And it depends on the tourist dollars those features attract. Fiji’s economy took one of the biggest pandemic-related hits in the world last year, declining by 19% and prompting the government to offer jobless people tools

and cash to become farmers.

So it was with a sense of relief that officials greeted the first tourist flight from Sydney. More flights from Australia and the U.S. are scheduled in the coming days.

Fiji Airways Chief Executive Andre Viljoen told media that the resumption of tourism would help reignite the economy.

“Welcome to this very momentous day,” he said. “We have been waiting for this day for the past 20 months.”

**UN MIGRATION AGENCY:  
COVID HAS ‘RADICALLY  
ALTERED’ MOBILITY**

THE U.N. migration agency says the coronavirus pandemic has “radically altered” mobility around the world, projecting in a new report that the growth in the number of international migrants is likely to remain weaker as long as travel and other restrictions remain.

The International Organization for Migration released yesterday its World Migration Report 2022, a vast compendium of the latest trends in human movement of all types — from people fleeing war and conflict to workers seeking jobs abroad — and a recap of the last two years of mobility.

IOM points to a “dramatic increase” in internal displacement — movement within countries — caused by natural disasters, conflict and violence just as COVID-19 restrictions have sporadically shut borders across the globe since the pandemic emerged and spread over the last two years.

“We are witnessing a paradox not seen before in human history,” IOM Director-General Antonio Vitorino said. “While billions of people have been effectively ground-



ded by COVID-19, tens of millions of others have been displaced within their own countries.”

The report tallied about 281 million international migrants around the world by its latest complete count in 2020, amounting to just 3.6% of the global

population. That was up from 272 million in 2019. About 60% of those migrants last year were migrant workers, it said.

International remittances — people sending money back home — dropped to \$702 billion in 2020, compared to \$719 billion a year earlier. About 3,900 people died while on the move last year, down from 5,400 in 2019, IOM said.

The report highlighted “major migration and displacement events,” including conflicts in places like Syria, Yemen, Congo, Central African Republic and South Sudan, as well as political and economic instability like Venezuela and Afghanistan in the period. It also cited climate and weather related displacement in places like China, the Philippines, Bangladesh, India, Haiti and the United States over the last two years. MDT/AP

“We are witnessing a paradox not seen before in human history.”

ANTONIO VITORINO  
IOM DIRECTOR-GENERAL

International remittances — people sending money back home — dropped to \$702 billion in 2020, compared to \$719 billion a year earlier.

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**

Anand Prakash Chouksey via AP



For love. An Indian businessman, Anand Prakash, has built a one-third sized replica of the historic Taj Mahal for his wife, but unlike the original, it’s their residence, not a mausoleum.



Honduras’ ruling party conceded defeat Tuesday in presidential elections held two days earlier, giving victory to leftist opposition candidate Xiomara Castro and easing fears of another contested vote and violent protests. Tegucigalpa Mayor Nasry Asfura, presidential candidate of the National Party, said in that he had personally congratulated Castro, despite only about half the voting tallies being counted from Sunday’s election. The former first lady had 53% of the votes and Asfura 34%, with 52% of the tallies counted.



USA The Biden administration is moving to toughen testing requirements for international travelers to the U.S., including both vaccinated and unvaccinated people, amid the spread of the new omicron variant of the coronavirus. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said in statement that it was working toward requiring that all air travelers to the U.S. be tested for COVID-19 within a day before boarding their flight. Currently those who are fully vaccinated may present a test taken within three days of boarding.



Space NASA called off a spacewalk yesterday [Macau time] because of menacing space junk that could puncture an astronaut’s suit or damage the International Space Station. Two U.S. astronauts were set to replace a bad antenna outside of the space station. But late Monday night, Mission Control learned that a piece of orbiting debris might come dangerously close. There wasn’t enough time to assess the threat so station managers delayed the spacewalk until Thursday. It’s the first time a spacewalk has been canceled because of threat from space junk.