



THE EDUCATION BUREAU SAID GRANT RECIPIENTS WHO WERE RETAINED IN MACAU DUE TO BORDER RESTRICTIONS CAN APPLY FOR DEFERMENT

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SURVEY: LARGE PROPORTION OF DOMESTIC WORKERS REQUIRE HEALTH LITERACY

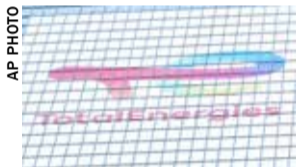
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CHINA'S ZERO-TOLERANCE STRATEGY MAY, PARADOXICALLY, MAKE IT HARDER FOR THE COUNTRY TO EXIT THE PANDEMIC: SCHOLAR

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China People in a Beijing district with some 2 million residents were ordered yesterday to undergo mass coronavirus testing following a series of infections as China tightened anti-disease controls ahead of the Winter Olympics. The government told people in areas of the capital deemed at high risk for infection not to leave the city after 25 cases were found in the Fengtai district and 14 elsewhere.



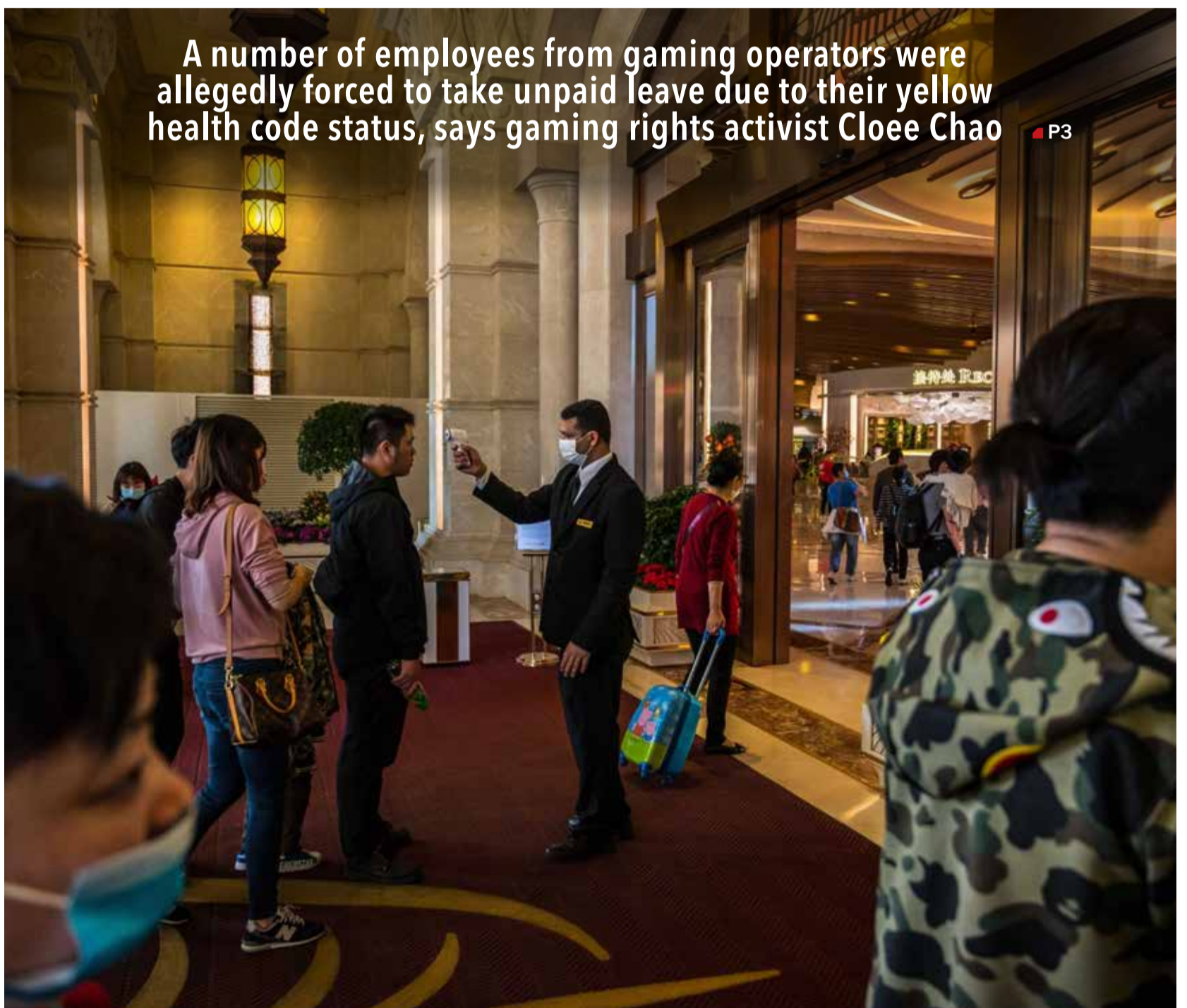
Myanmar Total Energies and Chevron, two of the world's largest energy companies, said they were exiting Myanmar, citing rampant human rights abuses and deteriorating rule of law since the country's military overthrew the elected government in February. The announcement came just a day after the French company called for international sanctions targeting the oil and gas sector, which remains one of the military government's primary sources of funding.



Iran. Russia and China last week began a joint naval drill in the Indian Ocean aimed at boosting security at sea, Iranian state media reported. State TV said 11 of the country's vessels were joined by three Russian ships, including a destroyer, and two Chinese vessels. Iran's Revolutionary Guard was also participating with smaller ships and helicopters. The report said the maneuvers would cover some 17,000 square kilometers in the northern part of the Indian Ocean, and include night fighting, rescue operations and firefighting drills.

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FORCED TIME OFF



A number of employees from gaming operators were allegedly forced to take unpaid leave due to their yellow health code status, says gaming rights activist Cloee Chao

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Statement

Liu Xianfa*



TOGETHER FOR BEIJING WINTER OLYMPICS, TOGETHER FOR A SHARED FUTURE

In his 2022 New Year Address, President Xi Jinping stressed that "We will spare no effort to present a great Games to the world. The world is turning its eyes to China, and China is ready." The opening ceremony for the much-anticipated Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games will be unveiled on February 4, the day of "Beginning of Spring" in Chinese lunar calendar, indicating that the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games will surely penetrate the cold winter of the COVID-19 pandemic that shrouds the world, and illuminate a bright future for mankind with shining Olympic spirit.

The Beijing Winter Olympic Games will present the world a simple, safe and wonderful gala. China is committed to hosting a "simple, safe and wonderful" Olympics in 2022 with a "green, inclusive, open and clean" approach, setting new benchmarks for the Olympic Games standards. China carries out all-round preparations in a smooth and orderly manner against the spreading pandemic. China makes full use of the legacy of the Beijing 2008 Summer Olympics, upgrading multiple sports venues to "Dual Olympic Stadiums". All the stadiums of the Beijing Winter Olympic Games will be powered in an entirely green way, the first time ever in the history of the Olympic Games. Having published two Beijing 2022 Playbooks on COVID-19 countermeasures for the Games, China puts the participants' health and safety in the first place and adheres to precise and closed-loop epidemic management. Thanks to China's unremitting efforts, the Beijing Winter Olympics will be held as scheduled, demonstrating the Chinese spirit of promise-keeping, self-confidence and openness.

The Beijing Winter Olympic Games has engaged over 300 million Chinese people in winter sports and thus effectively promoted the Olympic culture and the exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations. In the past 6 years since Beijing won the bid to host the 2022 winter Olympics, winter sports in China have continued to heat up in the southern, western and eastern regions, giving strong impetus to China's objective of building a leading sporting nation and a Healthy China, and strikingly expanding the global winter sports market. China, taking the Beijing Winter Olympics as an opportunity, adopts new practices for improving ecological environment, builds new models for development of regions and cities, and creates new environment for the progress of human society. The Beijing Winter Olympics will coincide with Chinese Lunar New Year. China will show the world an oriental civilization ancient yet vigorous, the morale of a major-country featuring openness and inclusiveness, and rally the will and strength of people to build a bright future together.

The Beijing Winter Olympic Games has won broad support from the international community. Politicizing sports and disrupting the Beijing Winter Olympics goes against people's shared aspiration. As major changes of the times combine with the once-in-a-century pandemic, the call for strengthening solidarity and cooperation to tackle common challenges is growing stronger than ever. The slogan of the Beijing Winter Olympics "Together for a Shared Future" is in line with the Olympic motto "Faster, Higher, Stronger-Together", the trend of times featuring peace, development and win-win cooperation, as well as the expectations of the world. The 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly adopted by consensus the resolution on Olympic Truce for the Beijing Winter Games that was co-sponsored by 173 countries. The 10th Olympic Summit held by the IOC again voiced the call from the international sports community for supporting the Beijing Winter Olympics and opposing the politicization of sports. Multilateral mechanisms including the G20, the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, the China-CELAC Forum and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization have all expressed firm support for the Beijing Winter Olympics. This fully reflects where international justice lies and what the international community aspires for. Even US media said that only 9 countries including UK, Canada, Australia, Lithuania followed US' stand on the Beijing Winter Olympics, demonstrating the US government's failure to politicize the event.

Sports is the common language of mankind that transcends national borders and civilizations. The Olympic spirit is the best portrayal of mankind's continuous progress and self-transcendence. The Beijing Winter Olympic Games will inject strong momentum into repairing the wounds of the epidemic, boosting confidence in development, consolidating solidarity and friendship in the world, and promoting the building of a community with a shared future for mankind. Indeed, let's join hands with full confidence, and work together for a shared future.

*Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PRC in the Macao SAR



CE MEETS WITH YAO MING ALONGSIDE CBA DELEGATES

OVER the weekend, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng received a delegation from the Chinese Basketball Association (CBA) at the government headquarters, led by CBA Presi-

dent Yao Ming.

Known for his astonishing height of 2.26m, Yao is a former professional basketball player in the NBA.

According to a government statement, the

topics of discussion included the promotion of sport in Macau and the city's co-hosting of the 15th National Games of China. During the discussion, the CE sent his regards as the

2021 Men's 3x3 Basketball Super League was held at the Macau East Asian Games Dome.

The CE also informed the CBA delegation that the government is seeking further economic development through sporting events, with particular reference to the organization of the National Games. "Athletes will have wonderful experiences in this world tourism and leisure center when they play matches in Macau," Ho said.

In response, Yao pledged that the CBA will aim to host more events in Macau. He also thanked the local government for offering assistance with the CBA's event calendar this year, stating that he trusted that Macau would be able to host the upcoming National Games.

The Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Elsie Ao Ieong, invited the CBA to join further collaborations in future. **AL**

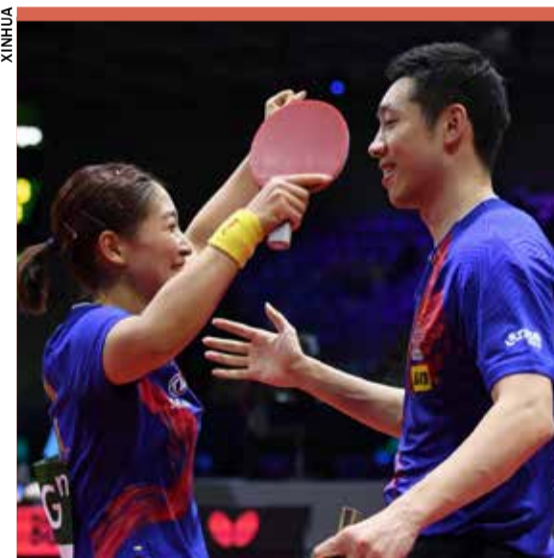
Chinese paddlers dominate at WTT Champions Macao 2021

CHINA'S Wang Chuqin and Wang Manyu took the men's and women's singles titles respectively yesterday at the World Table Tennis (WTT) Champions Macao 2021 China Stars.

Wang Chuqin defeated Lin Gaoyuan 11-8, 9-11, 11-9, 10-12, 9-11, 14-12, 11-9, while Wang Manyu bested Liu Shiwen 11-6, 11-7, 11-7, 12-10.

In the women's semifinals held on the same day, Liu defeated Sun Yingsha, while Wang Manyu beat Chen Meng. In the men's semifinals, Xu Xin lost to Wang Chuqin and Xu Yingbin was defeated by Lin Gaoyuan.

China dispatched a



File photo: Liu Shiwen and Xu Xin

star-studded roster for the five-day tournament, including seven Tokyo 2020 athletes. Xu and Liu were crowned in the mixed doubles final on Saturday.

Xu and Liu beat fellow Chinese Fan Zhendong/Kuai Man 11-6, 11-6, 11-5 in the mixed doubles final.

Also on Saturday, Wang Chuqin upset

Ma Long 11-7, 11-7, 8-11, 11-8 in the men's singles quarterfinals, joining teammates Xu Xin, Xu Yingbin, and Lin Gaoyuan in the last four.

The five-day tournament featured 16 players, divided into male and female divisions, as well as a mixed doubles competition.

Galaxy Entertainment Group is the title sponsor, having contributed MOP16 million to the event.

Organizers previously announced that, due to Covid-19-related restrictions, the number of spectators able to watch live at Tap Seac Multisport Pavilion will be limited to just 1,500. **MDT/XINHUA**

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Cloee Chao: Yellow health code casino staff forced to take unpaid leave

JING WU

A number of employees of gaming operators were allegedly forced to take unpaid leave due to their yellow health code status.

Yesterday, the president of the New Gaming Staff Rights Association, Cloee Chao submitted a letter to the Chief Executive requesting that the gaming enterprises take the initiative to shoulder their corporate social responsibility.

Speaking to the press, the gaming rights activist said that the association had received complaints on the matter from employees of SJM and Galaxy Entertainment Group.

"Those with red and yellow health code statuses and close contacts, as well as those who are unable to work normally due to quarantine arrangements prescribed by the authorities, should be given 'half-pay leave,'" Chao suggested.

She explained that the company should be using "half-pay leave" on days when employees are unable to work due to a red or yellow health code or when the employee must quarantine.



JING WU

"The employee will be given two days off and only one day of labor will be deducted," she explained.

"The majority of employees in the gaming industry understand that the employer and the employee are each responsible for half of the incident, but employees were being given unpaid

leave by company heads for various reasons," she said.

The health authorities revealed that in Macau, 19,044 individuals had a yellow health code status, not including residents in Zhuhai and Zhongshan who are unable to return to Macau.

According to the New Gaming Staff Rights Association, more

than 20,000 Macau residents have been affected by the outbreak in Zhuhai and Zhongshan and are now in quarantine or have red or yellow codes.

Chao also explained that casino staff are not able to afford accommodation in Macau due to financial reasons, and as such have chosen to live in Zhuhai or Zhongshan.

Following the 2/2004 law for the prevention, control and treatment of communicable diseases, in order to achieve the legislative objectives, individuals and public or private entities are obliged by law to work closely with governing entities and to comply with the orders and guidelines issued by them.

Chao recalled that local authorities have provided guidance stating that people with yellow codes are not suitable for frontline or public reception work. Therefore, the gaming enterprises have explicitly stipulated that only those with green codes can enter hotels and casinos.

In addition, she also requests that the government consider giving out more than MOP8,000 in consumption cards, given that "the latest outbreak in Zhongshan and Zhuhai near the peak season of the Chinese New Year has greatly affected the income of Macau people and SMEs."

In response to the concern that the bill to amend the gaming law might affect the future survival of "satellite casinos," Chao said she had received a small number of enquiries from employees who were worried about the closure of their casinos and were adopting a wait-and-see approach.



LOCAL TOURS SCHEME EXTENDED TO AUGUST

The Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) announced that the local tour scheme, "Stay, Dine and See Macao," will be extended to the end of August and retain its 14 itineraries. However, the extremely popular helicopter rides will be withdrawn from the itinerary from January to March. The option of tailored itineraries will also become available. Tours lasting at least five hours in duration will receive government subsidies. Residents who accessed a subsidy last year may access another subsidy this year.

13 JOB-MATCHING SESSIONS HELD FOR JUNKET WORKERS, TWO MORE TO COME

Since December, the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) has organized 13 job-matching sessions targeting junket workers. More than 100 participants have been employed, with 259 participants awaiting a second interview. The six gambling concessionaires will together offer 705 vacancies in frontline and supporting departments, including roles in catering, hotel operations and front desk. Meanwhile, on January 20, the DFS Group Limited held an online job-matching session for 33 vacancies, employing 11 candidates on-site. The retailers also offered roles in managerial positions, requiring follow-up interviews for certain candidates.

OVER MOP130 MILLION IN TRAFFIC FINES LEVIED IN 2021

The Public Security Police charged MOP133 million in fines in 2021, an increase of 12.6% over last year, according to data from the Public Security Police Force (CPSP) released last week. This figure corresponds to 585,284 traffic law infractions recorded in 2021, an increase of 6.2% compared to 2020, the CPSP indicated. The CPSP had to deregister 2,138 vehicles on public roads (including 1,822 cars and 316 motorcycles), a 76% year-on-year increase, while more than 13,000 vehicles (10,891 cars and 2,658 motorcycles) were deregistered in charged/metered parking spaces, a 7.3% rise.

Melinda Chan to strive for a concession

ANTHONY LAM

ON the sidelines of a business event, Macau Fisherman's Wharf executive Melinda Chan said that the company would do its best to bid for a gambling concession.

Chan is the executive director of Macau Legend Development Limited and CEO of the Macau Fisherman's Wharf.

As the bill on the review of the gambling law reaches parliament, discussion of the details has been prompted. Chan expressed her trust that the bidding process would be fair, and that her company would definitely participate "if the government allows local enterprises to compete."

Meanwhile, the proposal to ban all satellite casinos



RENATO MARQUES

has raised public concerns. Satellite casinos are located in hotels or resorts and not owned by the gaming concessionaires.

Chan pointed out that the ban will impact the livelihoods of many, hinting that these casinos will shut down if the proposal

passes parliament.

However, she expressed her trust in the government "caring about the lives of local residents," citing history to support the presence of satellite casinos. According to Chan, such casinos existed even before the market became an oligopoly.

A former lawmaker, Chan called for incumbent lawmakers to be mindful of the impact of the proposal on local residents. "They are elected by local residents," she said, referring to their responsibility to protect the interests of those who elected them.

She also pointed out that closing satellite casinos may cause collateral damage to shops nearby.

On January 14, Macau authorities revealed the

amendments to the Macau SAR's Gaming Law No. 16/2001 that stipulate a maximum of six concessions and a concession duration capped at 10 years with three years for exceptional extensions.

The amendment ruled that no sub concessions will be allowed.

These revelations from the government imply that all six gaming operators would be able to keep their license, alleviating concerns among executives about reports and forecasts that the renewals would only be given to casinos that are "Chinese."

"The longer grant period in the past took into account the time required for the construction of casinos and complexes by the companies that had been awarded gambling licenses in those years," explained the Executive Council spokesperson, André Cheong.

FURTHER HEALTH EDUCATION FOR FILIPINO DOMESTIC WORKERS REQUIRED: SURVEY

ANTHONY LAM

A recent survey has revealed that slightly over 60% of Filipino domestic workers in Macau require more education on how to stay healthy, otherwise known as “health literacy.”

Led by the Kiang Wu Nursing College of Macau, and in collaboration with Caritas Macau and several religious organizations, the survey gathered 379 valid questionnaire responses between November 2020 and March 2021. The questionnaire was distributed online in Tagalog.

Respondents' health literacy was graded after they gave self-evaluated answers to questions asked in the questionnaire.

On its website, the US Health Resources and Services Administration defines health literacy as “the degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process, and understand basic health information needed to make appropriate health decisions.”

According to the government agency, low health literacy is more prevalent among: older adults, minority populations,



LYNZY VALLES

those who have low socio-economic status and medically underserved people.

Of the respondents, 97% are women. About half of the respondents hold at least a university degree. They have been resident in Macau for 6.1 years on average. Their average age was 43.7 years.

The survey calculated the

average grade of health literacy of respondents at 38.4. A grade below 33 implies limited health literacy. The college pointed out that Macau has the lowest health literacy grade of seven Asian jurisdictions, namely Macau, Myanmar, Vietnam, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia and Taiwan.

Low health literacy implies that the respondents have less access to, as well as less understanding of, poorer judgment about and make less use of local health information. Those respondents who evaluated their own knowledge of English as poorer received lower grades in health literacy. The survey also discovered that

younger respondents generally have more limited knowledge of how to live a healthy lifestyle.

The greatest concerns affecting respondents were emotional stress, sleep problems and chronic pain, complaints mentioned in between 60% and 90% of responses.

The respondents rely mostly on Philippine official channels in obtaining health-related information, ahead of Macau official channels and social media platforms. It may be concluded that health authorities in Macau could do more to educate Filipinos in Macau on health.

Public health doctor Leong Iek Hou from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention has previously pointed out that local authorities rely heavily on the English media in disseminating knowledge and information on health to non-Chinese-speaking communities.

The survey team stressed that, since a large number of Filipino workers work in household settings in the city, their health literacy is critical to the families they serve.

DSEDJ SAYS SCHOLARSHIP AND GRANT RECIPIENTS SUPPORTED AMID PANDEMIC

THE Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) has said that scholarship or grant recipients who were forced to remain in Macau due to border restrictions can apply for deferment of study.

The comment was made in a recent reply to a written inquiry by lawmaker Ron Lam back in November.

Lam highlighted the plight of a group of successful applicants who were stranded in Macau due to travel restrictions and no longer qualify for the scheme and must re-apply for the subsidy. Under the terms of the funding, successful applicants are obligated to repay the government if they do not immediately commence their education following the receipt of funding.

The DSEDJ director, Lou Pak Sang, said that the authority was aware of students who were required to stay in Macau due to travel restrictions and could not attend physical lectures at foreign universities.

“[Students] can apply for deferment of study, pursuant to the regulations governing scholarships and grants, and receive their funds when they return to school,” Lou explained. Therefore, “the relevant students will



not be required to reapply for scholarships or grants due to the Covid-19 pandemic.”

In the same inquiry, Lam also criticized the government for reducing the scale of the grants. The original scheme categorized the subsidy amounts by post-graduate study levels, however the new grants do not have a similar stipulation. They do, however, distinguish between course locations.

Lou responded that the monthly amount for scholarships or grants this academic year ranged between MOP4,230 and MOP7,668. He added that recipients have the option to apply for accommodation loans according to their needs, up to a cap of MOP2,350 per month. Travel loans are also available for applicants, capped at MOP6,500 for outbound and inbound. **AL**

INFLATION RATE AT 0.03% IN 2021

THE inflation rate stood at 0.03% in 2021, down by 0.78 percentage points from 0.81% in 2020, according to Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) data released Friday.

The price indices of transport (+3.58%) and household furnishings and services (+3.52%) showed notable growth, as indicated in the press release by DSEC.

There were increases in the prices of plane tickets, liquefied petroleum gas, gasoline and meals purchased away from home, as well as the wages of domestic servants in 2021, the authority added.

By contrast, the biggest decreases were registered in recreation

and culture (-6.23%) and communications (-5.36%).

Moreover, the authority explained that the rise was partly offset by lower rents for dwellings, falling pork prices and hotel room rates, as well as reduced charges for package tours and telecommunications services.

The Composite CPI reflects the impact of price changes on the general households in Macau. The CPI-A relates to about 50% of households, which have an average monthly expenditure of MOP12,000 to MOP35,999. The CPI-B relates to about 30% of households, which have an average monthly expenditure of MOP36,000 to MOP62,999. **JW**



ANTHONY LAM



HAO VS LVS

Asian American establishes final compensation amount claim

RENATO MARQUES

ASIAN American Entertainment Corporation (AAEC) has reduced its compensation amount claimed in the court case against Las Vegas Sands Corporation (LVS). The legal representative of AAEC, Jorge Menezes, told this to the court on Friday during his final allegations in the case.

According to Menezes, the plaintiff is now relying on two financial reports from two different experts in the field who recalculated the amount of potential loss for AAEC. The losses are attributable to the fact that LVS, through three subsidiaries in Macau, decided to replace AAEC with the Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) at the last minute in the gaming licensing tender held by the government back in 2002.

Initially, the AAEC filed the case with the courts seeking compensation in excess of MOP96 billion (USD12 billion). This amount was based on the American company's stated profits after amortizations and tax over the past 20 years and until the expiry of the license.

Menezes told the court that AAEC has now taken into consideration two independent reports by Dino Mauricio from Ducker Research and Consulting Inc. and a local economist and university Professor José Isaac Duarte. Both reports recalculated the amount in the claim and have been submitted to the court.

According to those reports, the AAEC should be awarded compensation ranging between MOP57.9 billion and MOP62.2 billion (USD7.4 billion to 7.8 billion).

During his closing arguments, Menezes noted that the changed amount reflects the AAEC's decision to move from a maximum ceiling to a minimum ceiling as the basis of the claimed amount.

"In the beginning, we were calling for compensation of USD12 billion, which was based on a maximum amount. After the experts' reports, which take a conservative approach, we decided to use these as a basis for a minimum ceiling instead. We are asking the court to decide how much we are entitled to from the expert reports as well as whatever [profits] come until the end of the license," the lawyer said, adding "plus damages mentioned but not calculated by the experts to be awarded by the courts on fairness and discretion grounds."

Menezes heavily criticized the report – signed by Lucy Allan – presented during the witness hearing stage by NERA Economic Consulting Inc., which he described to the court "as a mere stunt."

According to Menezes, the report had no credibility given that the staff member of the company who testified in court, surnamed Wang, could not even explain what financial analysis criteria were used to calculate the AAEC's losses and, further, that the report

disregarded the accounting methods used in Macau and internationally.

At that time, the NERA report tried to establish a compensation value based on the amount that AAEC stated it was willing to invest in the first stage (USD1.1 billion). According to Wang, that amount was 14 times lower than what LVS actually invested over 20 years and so the profits would arguably have to follow this ratio too. However, both Menezes and the financial experts quoted by him stated that this approach did not follow an approved methodology.

"The court is not here to judge on intentions. Intentions do not matter," Menezes said. Instead, the role of the experts such as Mauricio and Duarte was to analyze facts, and that was also the job of the court. "Facts, not intentions," Menezes added.

Among many other flaws, Menezes said that the NERA report confused "expenses" with "costs," an "elementary mistake that a serious financial analyst would never commit," he remarked. He recalled that the law provides that the calculation of damages and losses are always made in order to restore the parties to the position they would have been had the breach or event causing the loss not occurred. In this case, the relevant breach was the agreement between LVS and AAEC on the consortium formed to apply for a gaming license in Macau.

AGREEMENT BREACH WAS A MALICIOUS ACT

Attempting to convince the judges of the AAEC's rights in this case, Menezes devoted the most time in the closing submissions to presenting the plaintiff's argument that there was an indisputable agreement between AAEC and LVS, and furthermore, that even before this agreement was officially terminated by LVS representatives, it had been breached through the actions of legal representatives of LVS's subsidiaries by acting on their behalf to initiate negotiations with GEG to replace AAEC in the consortium. In doing so, they disclosed confidential information to them that they then used to submit the winning proposal to the tender.

Menezes noted that several documents, emails, letters and faxes proved that the AAEC was running for the licensing tender and that they did not know until one day before the tender closed that LVS was planning to replace them and had submitted a new bid in partnership with GEG.

In an emotional speech, Menezes described the act as "malicious," "intentional," "lacking any human values," and one which could only be explained by pure greed.

The AAEC lawyer emphasized that the partnership between AAEC and LVS was valid and undeniable, as a proposal was submitted by the consortium to the

Gaming Committee along with many other documents, and forms of communication proved the ongoing involvement between the parties.

Terms like "partners," "engage," "have agreed" and "it is agreed between partners" were widely used in the AAEC-LVS' tender submission, as well as in many other documents submitted by the LVS to the committee in preparation for the tender.

Menezes noted that a clause of the letter of intent provided that the agreement between the parties was valid until expiration at end of the tender, or until one of the parties notified the other of this intention in written form.

The lawyer noted the LVS lawyers only did so on February 6, less than 24 hours before the tender closed and via a fax sent to an office in Taiwan and not the head office of AAEC in Macau. These facts, he claimed, constituted sufficient proof of a premeditated intention to harm AAEC and stop them from negotiating another proposal with a different partner.

While Menezes did not know for sure, a letter found and submitted as part of the process suggested that the same lawyers had submitted evidence of an alleged termination of the deal with AAEC to the Gaming Committee, in order to be able to submit a new bid with GEG on February 1 (that is, five days before they fulfilled that intention). If the committee did receive and take that document into consideration, the content within it constitutes false declarations to the Macau government that allowed LVS to win a license in the tender, and is a very serious matter.

BID SUBMITTED BY LVS-GEG IS A COPY OF AAEC-LVS ONE

The AAEC lawyer's theory that the letter of intent's terms were breached long before the agreement was terminated was supported by the fact that the proposal submitted by the new consortium formed by LVS with GEG was "almost a complete copy" of the one between LVS and AAEC, the lawyer said in the courtroom.

The lawyer explained that with the exception of a few words, the proposal was the same, even regarding the investment amounts and the percentages of ownership to attribute to LVS in the consortium, which also remained unchanged from the original proposal.

Since closing remarks by the plaintiff took a full day of the court on Friday, the judge presiding the trial rescheduled the defense's closing remarks.

On January 26 (Wednesday) the court will resume, hearing the closing remarks from Luís Cavaleiro de Ferreira, the lawyer representing LVS in the case.

COVID-19

CHINA'S SUCCESS TAMING VIRUS COULD MAKE EXIT STRATEGY HARDER

ANIRUDDHA GHOSAL &
HUIZHONG WU, TAIPEI

THE sweeping "zero-tolerance" strategy that China has used to keep COVID-19 case numbers low and its economy functioning may, paradoxically, make it harder for the country to exit the pandemic.

Most experts say the coronavirus around the world isn't going away and believe it could eventually become, like the flu, a persistent but generally manageable threat if enough people gain immunity through infections and vaccines.

In countries like Britain and the U.S., which have had comparatively light restrictions against the omicron wave, there is a glimmer of hope that the process might be underway. Cases skyrocketed in recent weeks but have since dropped in Britain and may have leveled off in the U.S., perhaps because the extremely contagious variant is running out of people to infect. Some places already are talking about easing COVID-19 precautions.

China, which will be in the international spotlight when the Beijing Winter Olympics begin in two weeks, is not seeing the same dynamic.

The communist government's practice throughout the pandemic of trying to find and isolate every infected person has largely protected hospitals from becoming overwhelmed and staved off the deaths that have engulfed most of the world.

But the uncompromising approach also means most people in China have never been exposed to the virus. At the same time, the effectiveness of China's most widely used vaccines has been called into question. New studies suggest they offer signifi-



A resident holds up a tube and swab to get tested at a nucleic test station in Beijing, Friday

cantly less protection against infection from omicron, even after three doses, than people get after booster shots of the leading Western vaccines.

Together, those factors could complicate China's effort to get past the pandemic. Experts say if the country of 1.4 billion people were to relax restrictions, it could face a surge similar to what Singapore or Australia experienced, despite a highly vaccinated population.

"China's susceptibility to outbreaks is likely to be more because most people have not been exposed to the virus due to the stringent measures that were put in place, thus lacking hybrid immunity, which is supposed to prove better protection than vac-

cination alone," said Dr. Vineeta Bal, an immunologist at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research.

With the Communist Party gearing up for a major meeting this fall, [...] China is unlikely to relax its policies in a major way any time soon

"It is risky for China to reopen right now because omicron is spreading globally, and even if the variant doesn't cause major illness, it'll spread like wildfire," she added.

Dali Yang, a professor who

studies Chinese politics at the University of Chicago, said, "It's a big challenge, for leaders, especially their rhetoric on saving lives. How do you justify opening up and then having tens of thousands of people dying in the process?"

Chinese President Xi Jinping has cited China's approach as a "major strategic success" and evidence of the "significant advantages" of its political system over Western liberal democracies.

The world's most populous nation was the only major economy to grow in 2020, and it accounted for a fraction of global deaths and infections.

As part of the country's tough-minded strategy for keeping the virus at bay, residents in Chi-

nese cities must display their infection status on a government-monitored app to enter supermarkets, offices or even the capital.

But weeks ahead of the Olympics, omicron is testing this approach with outbreaks in the southern province of Guangdong, as well as Beijing.

Organizers of the Olympics announced they will not sell tickets locally and will allow only select spectators in. Foreign fans are not allowed.

Authorities have also asked people to not visit their hometowns around the Lunar New Year at the start of February, a move that will dampen spending during China's most important family holiday. And the major city of Xi'an in the west and parts of Ningbo, a busy port south of Shanghai, are under lockdown.

With the Communist Party gearing up for a major meeting this fall, at which Xi is expected to be appointed to a third term as party leader, China is unlikely to relax its policies in a major way any time soon.

"If the numbers from COVID start to skyrocket to big levels, then this will reflect badly on his leadership," said Willy Lam, an expert on Chinese political leadership at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

China relies heavily on its own Sinovac and Sinopharm vaccines, along with several others made domestically. It has not approved the Pfizer shot, even though a Chinese company bought distribution rights in 2020.

Instead, the focus is on developing China's own mRNA vaccines, like the Pfizer and Moderna formulas. One such vaccine is in late trials.

Another option for China may be to track how the virus is evolving and put off opening its borders until it becomes even milder. But it's anyone's guess when or if that might happen.

"What will the next variant be? How serious will it be? You can't tell," Bal said. **MDT/AP**

First flights leave Xi'an as travel curbs ease

THE first commercial airline flights in one month took off Saturday from Xi'an in western China as the government eased travel curbs imposed after a coronavirus outbreak ahead of next month's Winter Olympics in Beijing.

Seven planes took off, according to the website of Xi'an Xianyang International Airport. It said four were due to arrive Sunday.

Access to Xi'an, a city of

13 million people about 1,000 kilometers southwest of Beijing, was suspended Dec. 22 following an outbreak attributed to the coronavirus's delta variant.

The ruling Communist Party has stepped up enforcement of its "zero tolerance" strategy that aims to keep the virus out of China by finding and isolating every infected person. It suspended access to Xi'an and other cities after ou-

tbreaks were found.

Nationwide, China reported 63 new confirmed infections in the 24 hours through midnight Friday. That included 10 in Beijing and six in the neighboring port city of Tianjin.

China's official death toll stands at 4,636 out of 105,547 confirmed cases.

Xi'an has reported 2,053 cases since Dec. 9. None were reported Friday.

MDT/AP



AP PHOTO



Biden, Kishida talk China, nuclear weapons in first meeting

MARI YAMAGUCHI & AAMER MADHANI, WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Joe Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Friday used their first formal meeting to discuss concerns about China's growing military assertiveness that's causing increasing disquiet in the Pacific.

Kishida said the two leaders spent a "significant amount" of their 80-minute call on issues surrounding China, including shared concerns about China's increasing aggression toward Taiwan. China claims self-governing Taiwan as its own territory,

to be annexed by force if necessary. In recent months, China has stepped up military exercises near Taiwan, frequently sending warplanes near the island's airspace.

Biden and Kishida also discussed the situations in Hong Kong and China's Xinjiang province.

"President Biden and I were able to exchange views frankly, in a very calm and quiet manner, about how Japan and the United States together cooperate and lead the international society, which I believe will lead to further strengthening of the Japan-U.S. alliance," Kishida said after the meeting.

The White House said the leaders also spoke about opportunities to enhance economic ties between the two nations, launching a new "2 plus 2" dialogue focused on addressing economic issues, ranging from supply chain challenges and investment in key technologies to further cooperation on trade issues. Japan also expressed support for the Biden administration's proposed Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, and pledged to work to build support for the initiative in the region.

Biden accepted Kishida's invitation to visit Japan later this spring for an official visit and to

attend this year's Quad Summit, the meeting held between the leaders of Japan, the United States, Australia and India.

Japan remains concerned about China's intentions in the South China Sea, where it has stepped up its military presence in recent years, and the East China Sea, where there is a long-running dispute about a group of uninhabited islets administered by Tokyo but claimed by Beijing.

Kishida said after the meeting that he expressed his determination to drastically strengthen Japan's defense power while Biden spoke of the U.S. commitment to abiding by the 1960 Japan-U.S.

security treaty and made it clear it covers the Japanese-controlled disputed islands of Senkaku, which China refers to as Diaoyu.

Later, Japanese Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiichi Kihara said Kishida explained his commitment to strengthening Japan's military capability, saying the prime minister would consider "all options including acquiring preemptive strike capability."

The virtual meeting came after North Korea this week suggested it might resume nuclear and long-range missile testing, which has been paused for more than three years.

North Korea's Kim Jong Un on Thursday presided over a Politburo meeting of the ruling Workers' Party at which officials set policy goals for "immediately bolstering" military capabilities to counter what were described as the Americans' "hostile moves," according to the Korean Central News Agency.

The White House said Biden made clear to Kishida that the U.S. would work closely with South Korea and Japan on next steps to discourage North Korea from further provocation. The Biden administration expects to announce further steps to address North Korea in the coming days, according to a senior administration official who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The two leaders discussed ongoing efforts in the COVID-19 pandemic and the brewing crisis in eastern Europe, where Russia has massed some 100,000 troops near its border with Ukraine. Biden earlier this week said he believed Russian President Vladimir Putin is likely to order a further invasion of Ukrainian territory but he did not think Putin wanted an all-out war. **MDT/AP**

New Zealand adds new Covid restrictions as omicron spreads

NEW Zealanders are set to face new COVID-19 restrictions after nine cases of the omicron variant were detected in a single family that flew to Auckland for a wedding earlier this month, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced yesterday.

The so-called "red setting" of the country's pandemic response includes heightened measures such as required mask wearing and limits on gatherings, and the restrictions will go into effect on Monday.

Ardern stressed that "red is not lockdown," noting that businesses can remain open and people can still visit family and friends and move freely around the country.

"Our plan for managing omicron cases in the early



stage remains the same as delta, where we will rapidly test, contact trace and isolate cases and contacts in order to slow the spread," Ardern told reporters in Wellington on Sunday.

New Zealand had been among the few remaining countries to have avoided any outbreaks of the omicron variant, but Ardern acknowledged last week that an outbreak was inevi-

table given the high transmissibility of the variant.

The country has managed to contain the spread of the delta variant, with an average of about 20 new cases each day. But it has

seen an increasing number of people arriving into the country and going into mandatory quarantine who are infected with omicron.

That has put strain on the quarantine system and prompted the government to limit access for returning citizens while it decides what to do about reopening its borders, angering many people who want to return to New Zealand.

About 93% of New Zealanders aged 12 and over are fully vaccinated and 52% have had a booster shot. The country has just begun vaccinating children aged between 5 and 11.

The family from the Nelson-Marlborough region attended a wedding and other events while in

Auckland, with estimates suggesting they came into contact with "well over 100 people at these events," Ardern said.

"That means that omicron is now circulating in Auckland and possibly the Nelson-Marlborough region if not elsewhere," she added.

The move to the red setting also impacts Ardern personally. The prime minister was planning to get married next weekend, but as a result of the new restrictions the celebration will be postponed.

"I just join many other New Zealanders who have had an experience like that as a result of the pandemic and to anyone who's caught up in that scenario, I am so sorry," she said. **MDT/AP**

Russia toughens its posture amid Ukraine tensions

VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV,
MOSCOW

WITH tens of thousands of Russian troops positioned near Ukraine, the Kremlin has kept the U.S. and its allies guessing about its next moves in the worst security crisis to emerge between Moscow and the West since the Cold War.

Amid fears of an imminent attack on Ukraine, Russia has further upped the ante by announcing more military drills in the region. It also has refused to rule out the possibility of military deployments to the Caribbean, and President Vladimir Putin has reached out to leaders opposed to the West.

The military muscle-flexing reflects a bold attempt by the Kremlin to halt decades of NATO expansion after the end of the Cold War. In talks with the United States, Russia demands legally binding guarantees that the alliance will not embrace Ukraine and other former Soviet nations, or place weapons there. It also wants NATO to pull back its forces from countries in Central and Eastern Europe that joined the alliance since the 1990s.

Putin has described NATO membership for Ukraine and the others as



AP PHOTO

well as the alliance's weapons deployments there as a red line for Moscow, warning that he would order unspecified "military-technical measures" if the demands aren't met.

Putin pointed to NATO drills with the Ukrainian military, increasingly frequent visits of the alliance warships in the Black Sea and the flights of U.S. bombers near Crimea to emphasize the urgency of Russia's security demands. He argued that by creating training centers in Ukraine, Western powers can establish a military foothold there even without its joining NATO.

"We have nowhere to retreat," Putin said. "They have taken it to the point where we simply must tell

them: 'Stop!'"

Russia, which annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in 2014, has denied it intends to attack its neighbor. Last year, however, Putin issued a stark warning that an attempt by Ukraine to reclaim control of the areas in the east controlled by Russia-backed separatists would have "grave consequences for Ukrainian statehood."

While Ukrainian authorities denied planning such offensive, U.S. intelligence officials concluded that Russia had already deployed operatives to carry out acts of sabotage in the rebel east and blame them on Ukraine in a "false-flag operation" to create a pretext for possible invasion. Russia has rejected the claim as "total disinforma-

tion."

Putin has repeatedly asserted that Russians and Ukrainians are "one people," and says large chunks of Ukrainian territory are historic parts of Russia — arbitrarily granted to Ukraine by Communist leaders during Soviet times.

Over 14,000 people have been killed in nearly eight years of fighting in Ukraine's industrial heartland called the Donbas, where the Moscow-supported insurgency erupted shortly after the annexation of Crimea. A 2015 peace deal brokered by France and Germany helped end large-scale battles, but a political settlement has stalled, and frequent skirmishes have continued along the tense line of contact. **MDT/AP**

US blocks flights by Chinese airlines in escalating dispute

THE United States moved Friday to block 44 flights to the U.S. by Chinese airlines in retaliation for China forcing the cancellation of flights by U.S. airlines.

The Transportation Department order affecting four Chinese airlines is the latest development in a long-running dispute over COVID-19 restrictions.

China previously barred some inbound flights by Delta Air Lines, United Airlines and American Airlines after passengers on earlier flights tested positive for the virus. The U.S. maintains that China's actions violated a treaty over access to each country



AP PHOTO

by the other country's airlines.

The Transportation Department said that China's move to block 44 flights by U.S. carriers was "adverse to the public interest and war-

rant proportionate remedial action by the department."

The department said that China's regulations are unfair because passengers who test negative for the virus before their flight but positive up to

seven days later can result in future flights being canceled.

The U.S. order limits flights between Jan. 30 and March 29 by Air China, China Eastern Airlines, China Southern Airlines and Xiamen Airlines.

The dispute over flights goes back to 2020 and the early days of the pandemic. In 2020, the Trump administration backed down from a threat to block four Chinese airlines after China agreed to let United and Delta operate a limited number of flights.

The spat flared again in August 2021, when the U.S. Transportation Department limited the number of passengers on some Chinese flights to the U.S. after China imposed similar limits on United. In December, Delta blamed new Chinese restrictions when a plane bound for Shanghai returned to Seattle. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1965 WINSTON CHURCHILL DIES



Sir Winston Churchill has died at the age of 90 with his wife Lady Clementine Churchill and other members of the family at his bedside.

He suffered a stroke 15 days ago and gradually slipped into a deep sleep from which he never awakened.

Sir Winston died in his London home at Hyde Park Gate.

Earlier in his illness, there had been crowds anxiously waiting for news at the top of the quiet Kensington cul-de-sac - but when the announcement finally came there was only a handful of journalists in the street.

News of his death was announced on the BBC shortly after 0800 GMT. Within half-an-hour, crowds began to gather near his home to pay homage to Britain's greatest wartime leader.

When Sir Winston fell ill, he was visited by one of the country's leading neurologists, Lord Brain, who advised on his treatment.

Since then, regular medical bulletins have been issued by Sir Winston's own doctor, Lord Moran.

Sir Winston has spent the past few days lying in the downstairs room he converted to a bedroom after a fall four years ago in which he injured his back.

Members of the family were summoned to his bedside at 0700 GMT. Lady Churchill and the couple's eldest surviving daughter, Mary Soames, have been with him throughout his illness.

Their son, Randolph Churchill was seen arriving with his son, Winston. Soon after, Sir Winston's actress daughter, Lady Sarah Audley, looking pale and drawn, arrived with her daughter, Celia Sandys.

Many television and radio programmes have been cancelled or re-scheduled to make way for tributes to Sir Winston.

Sir Winston will lie in state in Westminster Hall - an honour not accorded any English statesman since Gladstone in 1898. His body will remain there for three days, before the funeral at St Paul's cathedral on Saturday.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Sir Winston Churchill was laid to rest in the Oxfordshire parish churchyard of Bladon, with only family members present at the private burial.

The church lies just outside the Blenheim estate, where he was born. During the three days lying-in-state, a total of 321,360 people filed past the catafalque. Huge silent crowds lined the route to St Paul's for the funeral. His political career began as a Conservative MP for Oldham in 1900 - but he became disaffected and joined the Liberals in 1906.

He was First Lord of the Admiralty during World War I - but shortly afterwards switched sides again, to rejoin the Conservatives in 1924. Much to his own surprise, he was made Chancellor of the Exchequer in Stanley Baldwin's government.

He came into his own during World War II. He became prime minister in May 1940. His ceaseless energy, unflinching determination to beat the enemy and an ability to make great speeches, inspired the entire nation and eventually helped win the war.

He lost power in 1945 after a general election brought Labour to government - but returned for a final stint as prime minister at the age of 77 in 1951. Failing health forced him to step down in 1955, but he continued as a backbencher until 1964.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
 Mar. 21-Apr. 19
 Put aside any decisions concerning your position at work. You will have original ideas for ways to make extra money. You can meet interesting new friends if you join worthwhile groups.

TAURUS
 Apr. 20-May. 20
 Use your quick wit to win points and friends. If you take on too much, you will find yourself in martyrdom. Your input into their activities will help bring you closer together.

GEMINI
 May. 21-Jun. 21
 Don't get involved in uncertain financial ventures. Outings with relatives or good friends will provide you with stimulating conversation. Someone you work with could have a personal interest in you.

CANCER
 Jun. 22-Jul. 22
 You will have a tendency to exaggerate, which will lead to major confrontations with loved ones. You will find the excitement gratifying. Be cautious handling tools, machinery, or dangerous objects.

LEO
 Jul. 23-Aug. 22
 The stamina you possess will be apparent in your approach to your hobbies and creative projects. Don't let domestic problems interfere with your objectives.

VIRGO
 Aug. 23-Sep. 22
 Do a little extra work at home. If they don't want to get involved, work by yourself. You may want to stay in the background today. Opportunities for travel and communication are evident.

LIBRA
 Sep. 23-Oct. 22
 Be precise in your communications to avoid any misunderstandings and arguments. Financial investments that deal with joint money can be extremely prosperous.

SCORPIO
 Oct. 23-Nov. 21
 Travel will turn out to be far more exciting than you imagined. Your boss may be on the rampage and you certainly don't want to be the one to take the brunt of a bad situation.

SAGITTARIUS
 Nov. 22-Dec. 21
 You will not be pleased with family members who try to put demands on you when you just don't have the time. You will be erratic and quite likely to make personal mistakes.

CAPRICORN
 Dec. 22-Jan. 19
 When the work is done, they may serve you for a change. You can make money if you put your mind to it. You can finish projects early, which will bring you praise from superiors.

AQUARIUS
 Jan. 20-Feb. 18
 You'll have great insight. Your home environment appears to be a little shaky. Don't deny yourself today. You need to be inspired and have your spirits lifted.

PISCES
 Feb. 19-Mar. 20
 You may be admired by colleagues and employers for your diplomatic way of handling your work and those you work with. Try to spend time with those having similar interests.

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-5	-1	snow
Harbin	-21	-8	cloudy
Tianjin	4	12	rain
Urumqi	8	9	overcast
Xi'an	10	11	rain
Lhasa	-11	-1	fine
Chengdu	11	14	overcast
Chongqing	10	14	rain
Kunming	7	12	overcast
Nanjing	14	24	cloudy
Shanghai	4	10	overcast
Wuhan	-26	-13	fine
Hangzhou	0	7	rain
Taipei	4	8	overcast
Guangzhou	10	20	cloudy
Hong Kong	18	21	overcast
WORLD			
Moscow	-6	-2	snow
Frankfurt	2	4	overcast
Paris	-1	7	overcast
London	1	7	overcast
New York	-11	-5	overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Play chords; 6- Raccoon-like carnivore; 11- Cooling units, for short; 14- Feudal vassal; 15- President Garfield's middle name; 16- Hee ___; 17- Cruising vessel; 18- Doctor's replacement; 19- Man-mouse connector; 20- All-night parties; 22- Biblical brother; 24- Former; 28- Historical records; 29- Threaten; 30- Sleep issue; 32- Simians; 33- Beastly; 35- Catalog; 39- Mature male European red deer; 40- RR stop; 41- Comply; 42- Burn soother; 43- Thorax; 45- Score; 46- Lobby of a theater; 48- New World songbird; 50- Soil; 53- Dollar; 54- Viscounts' superiors; 55- Swedish imports; 57- Actress Peeples; 58- Chosen; 60- Ministers to; 65- Queue after Q; 66- Weeping; 67- Vinegary prefix; 68- Shoebox letters; 69- More tender; 70- Horizontal;

DOWN 1- Crafty; 2- Carrere of "Wayne's World"; 3- VCR button; 4- That's awful; 5- Like grams and liters; 6- Have a cow?; 7- It's blown among the reeds; 8- Parentheses, essentially; 9- 19th letter of the Greek alphabet; 10- Inhumanly cruel; 11- Now, in Nogales; 12- Christmas song; 13- Graceful birds; 21- Mass utterance; 23- Involving Plato's cave, e.g.?; 24- City on the Missouri; 25- Sherpa's home; 26- Dicembre follower; 27- Esthetic; 28- Some; 30- Fall flower; 31- School orgs.; 34- Tennis great Arthur; 36- Apple product; 37- Bobby of the Black Panthers; 38- President before Polk; 43- Dancer Charisse; 44- Grave; 47- Beginnings; 49- Mischievous person; 50- Category; 51- Worker's reward; 52- Pontificate; 53- Lustful deity; 55- Scorch; 56- Farm measure; 59- Summer sign; 61- King topper; 62- Increase, with "up"; 63- Hot time in Paris; 64- Impresario Hurok;

Friday's solution

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

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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	
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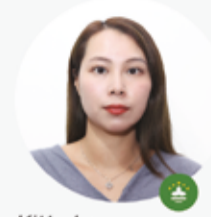
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Property of the Week



Hellene Gardens
HKD 9,900,000 2,073 ft² 2 🛏 2 🚿 1 🚗

With a generous sea-facing balcony to the front and a large mountain-facing window to the back, this property will never lack natural light. It has been renovated to a high standard in a minimalistic, modern style. Two large suites have been created from the original layout, both benefitting from en-suite bathrooms. However, the buyer could turn the apartment back into a 3 or 4-bedroom unit without much difficulty. The living space is both comfortable and inviting for the residents of the apartment to spend time together. With an open kitchen and an adjacent laundry area, this apartment comes with no wasted space.

Find out more on www.jmlproperty.com



SCAN ME
Ref: 2107 6005

Property Hotlist



Triumph Court
HKD 11,180,000
1,756 ft²
4 🛏
2 🚿



SCAN ME
Ref: 2104 6002



Taipa Village
HKD 11,500/mth
900 ft²
2 🛏
1 🚿



SCAN ME
Ref: 2012 1001



Old Taipa studio
HKD 7,200/mth
376 ft²
1 🚿



SCAN ME
Ref: 2110 1002

More Listings

For Sale

- [Taipa] Taipa Village 4 🛏 2 🚿 1,404 ft² **HKD 7,980,000** Ref: 1909 6006
- [Macau] Lakeview Tower 3 🛏 2 🚿 1,344 ft² **HKD 11,680,000** Ref: 1912 6001
- [Taipa] Chun U Villa 4 🛏 3 🚿 1,979 ft² **HKD 12,380,000** Ref: 2104 6001
- [Taipa] Manhattan 3 🛏 2 🚿 1,720 ft² **HKD 12,980,000** Ref: 1909 6006
- [Taipa] Manhattan 4 🛏 2 🚿 2,305 ft² **HKD 17,980,000** Ref: 1807 5558

For Rent

- [Coloane] One Oasis 2 🛏 2 🚿 1,112 ft² **HKD 14,200/mth** Ref: 2102 1004
- [Taipa] Kingsville 3 🛏 2 🚿 1,510 ft² **HKD 14,900/mth** Ref: 2108 1002
- [Macau] One Central 2 🛏 2 🚿 1,269 ft² **HKD 16,500/mth** Ref: 2005 1002
- [Taipa] Chun U Villa 4 🛏 3 🚿 1,979 ft² **HKD 16,500/mth** Ref: 2104 1001
- [Cotai] One Grantai 3 🛏 3 🚿 2,158 ft² **HKD 20,000/mth** Ref: 2105 1002

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Hellene Gardens
HKD 7,680,000
1,663 ft²
3 🛏
2 🚿
1 🚗



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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

TENNIS

Nadal reaches Australian Open quarterfinals for 14th time

JOHN PYE, MELBOURNE

RAFAEL Nadal finally got the better of a crazy, long tiebreaker and knew he'd won half the battle.

After saving four set points and missing with the first six of his own, Nadal finally clinched a tiebreaker that lasted 28 minutes and 40 seconds to set himself on course to secure a spot in the Australian Open quarterfinals for a 14th time.

After his 7-6 (14), 6-2, 6-2 fourth-round victory over fellow left-hander Adrian Mannarino on Sunday, Nadal is potentially just three wins away from a men's record 21st Grand Slam singles title.

He later reflected on a tiebreaker where momentum swung wildly; where chants of "Let's go Rafa, Let's go!" rang out; where a point was decided on a 25-shot rally with both players scrambling at full stretch; and that ended only when Nadal volleyed from deep in the court and Mannarino's reflex reply skewed wide.

"Well, you know, I played a

AP PHOTO



couple," he said, smiling, in reference to long tiebreakers. "But, yeah, (it was) a crazy one, chances for both. And, yeah, lucky to win that tiebreak at the end, no?"

"Half of the match in the tiebreak, without a doubt."

Nadal will next play Denis Shapovalov, the 22-year-old Canadian who finished off a 6-3, 7-6 (5), 6-3 win over Olympic gold medalist Alexander Zverev on Margaret

Court Arena less than an hour later to reach the last eight in Australia for the first time.

Women's No. 1 Ash Barty advanced to the quarterfinals for the fourth straight year when she beat 20-year-old American Amanda Anisimova 6-4, 6-3.

Barty is aiming to be the first Australian woman to win her home Grand Slam title since 1978 and has gone through the first four

rounds without dropping a set.

Anisimova, coming off a third-round upset over defending champion Naomi Osaka, broke Barty's opening service game of the second set — a first for the tournament — but the two-time major winner responded by taking six of the last seven games.

Barty beat Anisimova in the semifinals of the French Open in 2019 on the way to winning her

first Grand Slam title and won her second at Wimbledon last year.

She'll next play No. 21-seeded Jessica Pegula, who beat fifth-seeded Maria Sakkari 7-6 (0), 6-3.

French Open champion Barbora Krejčíková breezed to a 6-2, 6-2 win over two-time Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka and is into the last eight for the third time in four Grand Slam events.

Nadal is now tied with John Newcombe in second spot on the all-time list for most quarterfinals in Australia, one behind Roger Federer's 15.

It's also the Spaniard's 45th time into the last eight at a Grand Slam tournament, which is third on the all-time list behind Federer (58) and Novak Djokovic (51).

He shares the men's record of 20 major titles with Federer and Djokovic. But he's the only one of the trio playing in this tournament. Nine-time Australian Open champion Djokovic was deported on the eve of the tournament because he didn't meet Australia's strict COVID-19 vaccination rules. Federer is recovering from injury.

Mannarino, who didn't finish his 4-hour, 38-minute four-set, third-round win over No. 18 Aslan Karatsev until after 2 a.m. on Saturday and appeared to be hampered by an abdominal or upper leg injury, threw everything at Nadal in the opening set on Rod Laver Arena, where temperatures approached 33 degrees Celsius. **MDT/AP**

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OPINION

China Daily
 Editorial, China Daily

**HELPING HANDS
 REACHING OUT TO
 TONGA SHOW THAT
 COUNTRIES CAN ACT
 TOGETHER**

NASA researchers have estimated that the force of the volcanic eruption that took place on Saturday near the island nation of Tonga was equivalent to 10 megatons of TNT, which means it was more than 500 times as powerful as the nuclear bomb the United States dropped on Hiroshima, Japan.

Three of Tonga's smaller islands suffered serious damage from tsunami waves up to 15 meters high and according to United Nations humanitarian officials about 84,000 people, more than 80 percent of Tonga's population, have been impacted by the volcano's eruption. On Wednesday, the prime minister declared a state of emergency.

In a message to King of Tonga Tupou VI the same day, President Xi Jinping said he was shocked to learn of the natural disaster. Extending sincere sympathies to the Tongan government and people on behalf of the Chinese government and people, and in his own name, he promised that China will do its best to help. That help is already materializing. On Monday, the Red Cross Society of China provided \$100,000 in emergency assistance to Tonga. On Tuesday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that China had prepared disaster-relief materials such as drinking water, food, personal protective equipment, as well as rescue devices, and the materials will be arriving now that Tonga's airport is operational again.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, citing Tongan authorities, has said that the most pressing humanitarian needs are safe water, food and non-food items, and the top priorities are reestablishing communication services including the internet.

China and Tonga are comprehensive strategic partners, and Xi said that China stands ready to provide as much support as possible to help the Tongan people prevail over the disaster.

Besides China, the international community has been rallying to provide assistance to Tonga, proving once again that when it comes to natural disasters, at least, there are no barriers of race, language or ideology. There is only unity and the joining of hands.

Volcanic eruptions are only one type of natural disaster, of course, and climate change is increasing the frequency and severity of others. The rising temperatures are driving up sea levels, worsening the impacts of tsunamis and storm surges on low-lying islands and coastal areas.

China is doing its best to help developing countries build capacity against climate change through various forms of results-oriented South-South cooperation, and this cooperation has yielded tangible results. But more concerted efforts are needed to curb the rise in global temperatures, as the world's actions so far fall well short of what is needed.

As Xi said in his speech at the Leaders Summit on Climate in April last year, "When people pull together, nothing is too heavy to be lifted". Although climate change is a pressing, formidable and long-term challenge, it can be overcome with the same kind of solidarity and mutual assistance being demonstrated in the helping hands reaching out to assist the people of Tonga in their time of need.

**SEVERAL RETURN TO LIVE IN
 FUKUSHIMA'S LAST DESERTED TOWN**

**THE
 BUZZ**

Several former residents of Futaba, the only remaining uninhabited town in Japan still recovering from effects of radiation from nuclear plant meltdowns in 2011, have returned to live for the first time since the massive earthquake and tsunami forced them out.

Authorities have declared most other areas safe and reopened them following extensive decontamination efforts over the past decade.

In Futaba, only 15 of 7,000 residents living there before the tragedy struck expressed their desire to return this week on a trial

basis. A fully-fledged reopening of the town on Japan's northeastern coast is set for June.

Futaba Mayor Shiro Izawa said the return on a trial basis "is a first step toward Futaba town's reconstruction. I'm sure many town residents have long been waiting for this day."

There are no medical services or enough shops. For now, the residents must go out of town to find a hospital or shop for food and other daily necessities.

Izawa promised to provide ample support ahead of the formal lifting of part of the town's no-go zones in June.



COVID-19

**VACCINE PASSPORT
 PROTESTS IN EUROPE DRAW
 THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE**

THOUSANDS of people gathered in European capitals Saturday to protest vaccine passports and other requirements governments have imposed in hopes of ending the coronavirus pandemic.

Demonstrations took place in Athens, Helsinki, London, Paris and Stockholm.

Marches in Paris drew hundreds of demonstrators protesting the introduction from Monday of a new COVID-19 pass. It will severely restrict the lives of those who refuse to get vaccinated by banning them from domestic flights, sports events, bars, cinemas and other leisure venues. French media reported that demonstrators also marched by the hundreds in other cities.

In Sweden, where vaccine certificates are required to attend indoor events with more than 50 people, some 3,000 demonstrators

marched through central Stockholm and assembled in a main square for a protest organized by the Frihetsrorelsen - or Freedom Movement.

Swedish media reported that representatives from the neo-Nazi Nordic Resistance Movement attended the action with a banner. Police closely monitor the group, which has been associated with violent behavior at demonstrations.

**In Sweden, some
 3,000 demonstrators
 marched through
 central Stockholm and
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 Freedom Movement**

Swedish security police had warned that right-wing extremists might take part in Saturday's protest. No major incidents or clashes were reported by late afternoon.

A similar demonstration with some 1,000 participants was held also in Goteborg, Sweden's second-largest city.

The Finnish government authorized local and regional authorities just before Christmas to introduce "extensive and full measures" in response to rising virus cases involving the omicron variant.

The restrictions included limiting or prohibiting events, moving university classes online, limiting restaurant service and closing venues where people have a higher risk of exposure. Restaurants and events are allowed to require vaccine passports.

Police said some 4,000 people marched Saturday through the streets of central Helsinki to protest. A group called World Wide Demonstration organized the demonstration. No unrest or violence was reported to police. **MDT/AP**



Tonga Aid flights from Australia, Japan and New Zealand carrying food, water, medical supplies and telecommunications equipment landed in Tonga over the weekend, as the Pacific nation grapples with the aftermath of an underwater volcanic eruption and tsunami. The main airport runway has been cleared of ash spewed when the nearby Hunga Tonga Hunga Ha'apai volcano erupted a week ago.

Yemen Workers have recovered five more bodies from the rubble of a prison facility hit by a Saudi-led coalition airstrike, bringing the death toll to at least 87, an international aid group said yesterday. Internet access, meanwhile, remained largely down after another Saudi-led coalition airstrike hit a telecommunications center Friday at the Red Sea port city of Hodeida, according to advocacy group NetBlocks.

Norway A Taliban delegation plans to travel to Norway next week for talks with the Norwegian government and several allied countries, as well as meetings with civil society activists and human rights defenders from Afghanistan. The Norwegian Foreign Ministry said that it has invited representatives of the Taliban to Oslo from Jan. 23 to Jan. 25. Norwegian newspaper VG said special representatives from the United States, Germany, Britain, France, Italy and the European Union were expected to take part.



Italy Former premier Silvio Berlusconi has bowed out of Italy's presidential election set for next week, claiming he had the votes to win but the country could ill-afford political divisions during the pandemic. Berlusconi also announced that he is opposing, along with his allies in a center-right bloc, any bid for the presidency by Premier Mario Draghi. Draghi, the former head of Europe's central bank, is now leading a pandemic-unity government with wide political support.