

**Macao Health Code (App)**

Please scan QR code or visit the link



<https://eservice.ssm.gov.mo/covidapps/>

Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre

**NEW SME Fiber Broadband Offer**  
Price Reduction Up to

Check QR



**70% OFF**

No need to apply for current users & **ENJOY automatically**

CTM

Note: The average reduction rate is 40%. The offer is bound by the related terms and conditions.

**MUST HOSTS OVER 130 COMPANIES FROM MAINLAND AND MACAU FOR CAREER DAY OFFERING 4,000 JOBS AND INTERNSHIPS**

P2

**GAMING LAW: GOV'T TO ASSUME FULL-TIME CONTROL OVER TABLES NUMBER, FIRM ON REGULATING 'SATELLITE CASINOS'**

P4

**CHINA CALLS RUSSIA ITS CHIEF 'STRATEGIC PARTNER' DESPITE WAR**

P6



AP PHOTO



**New Zealand's** government said yesterday it plans to rush through a new law that will allow it to impose economic sanctions against Russia over its invasion of Ukraine. Unlike many countries that have already introduced sanctions, New Zealand's existing laws don't allow it to apply meaningful measures unless they're part of a broader United Nations effort. Because Russia has U.N. Security Council veto power, that has left New Zealand hamstrung.

AP PHOTO



**Pakistan** Rafiq Tarar, a former Pakistani judge who served as the country's President from 1997 to 2001, died yesterday in the eastern city of Lahore after a prolonged illness at the age of 92. Pakistan's President Arif Ali, Prime Minister Imran Khan and prominent politicians expressed their grief, along with the country's military chief, Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa.

AP PHOTO



**Iran** A top official said yesterday that his country is seeking "creative ways" to restore its nuclear deal with world powers after Russia's foreign minister linked sanctions on Moscow over its war on Ukraine to the ongoing negotiations. The tweet by Ali Shamkhani, the secretary of Iran's powerful Supreme National Security Council, offers the first high-level acknowledgment of the demands of Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

More on backpage

# TREASURE GAMBLE

With a MOP4.7 billion price tag, the Treasure Island hotel-shopping center by Nam Van lake will debut select brands in Macau, but no gaming facilities

P2



**DEMOGRAPHICS**  
**NON-RESIDENT WORKER NUMBERS DIP 6,500**

P3



TREASURE ISLAND RESORT WORLD HOTEL

# NEW NAM VAN PROJECT TO DEBUT SELECT BRANDS IN MACAU, NO GAMING

ANTHONY LAM

A tourism-commercial project being constructed opposite the Bank of China Building will house some of the first establishments of renowned brands in Macau, but no gaming area.

Covering a total area of 8,100 square meters, with a construction cost of MOP4.7 billion, the Treasure Island Resort World Hotel and Shopping Centre, will have a total of 600 rooms and a building height of over 70 metres, it was announced yesterday at a contract-signing ceremony.

International realtor JLL, commissioned to handle the leasing and commercialization of the project said that from the transfer of ownership, gambling is not on the table for this project, despite the multitude of casinos within its proximity.

"The project is targeting a family clientele," Oliver Tong, general manager at JLL Macau explained.

It was announced at the ceremony that the prestigious Parisian department store, Galleries Lafayette, will debut in Macau, opening its fourth store in China. Currently, the brand has two stores in Beijing and Shanghai. Another is set to open in Shenzhen next year.

Its Macau store is expected to be open by the end of this year.

Besides the French department store, the five-story shopping center will also see Macau's first Five Guys, an American burger chain famous for its massive portions of fries. The chain is undergoing recruitment procedure now.



UFC Gym, the world's top high-end fitness center; POP MART, a leading lifestyle toy retailer; Under Armour, a leading global sports brand; and Beebeeland, a large comprehensive game entertainment center, will also have stores in the shopping center.

The shopping center will also collaborate with China's Bona Film Group to use approximately 30,000 square feet of space for the operation of a seven-screen modern movie theater.

The developer is confident that the theater will become the most high-tech and diverse cinema in Macau upon its opening, invigorating the market and offering a new experience to audiences.

Furthermore, the general manager at JLL Macau, highlighted that the theater, aligning with the positioning of the shopping center, will provide a wider spectrum of options to family customers.

Another highlight of Treasure

Island Resort World Hotel Macau is Macau's first large-scale open-air Japanese-style hot springs

on the third floor, equipped with outdoor temperature controls, heated swimming pools and children's pools, turning the development into an exquisite shopping and entertainment complex.

It will also be an excellent one-stop dining and leisure destination for young people, couples and families, providing tourists and Macau residents alike with the best choices for sightseeing, shopping, partying, playing and vacationing.

When asked about the competitiveness of the new project, Tong said: "With a gross floor area of 400,000 sq. ft., the shopping center will be the Peninsula's largest of its kind. Besides, there will be a lot of unseen attractive elements in Macau."

Tong said that the expected arrival of such brands is a representation of the city's attractiveness to international brands and investors. He added that the mode of impromptu, stimulation shopping will become a thing of the past.

Pointing out that less popular brands should also be introduced to Macau, Tong was asking about his views towards brands such as Vivienne Westwood withdrawing from the Macau market.

"I think it's because casino operators have been too focused on the tourist market in the past decade or so, neglecting the needs of the local clientele," Tong said, adding that customers from the Greater Bay Area are also within the scope of the project.

He also highlighted that in terms of floor area ratio, the new project should have the largest children's facilities in Macau.

"Of course, I can't compare the absolute area with similar facilities in Cotai, but I can assure you that it will be relatively the largest," Tong said.

## YOHU GROUP CLARIFIES DELIVERY OF COTAI REAL ESTATE ONGOING

DELIVERY of residential units in its property project located around the Pousada Marina Infante is in progress, a spokesperson of the Yoho Group clarified yesterday.

Information has previously come to light that the Yoho: Co-Tai Marina Bay integrated property development project faced certain difficulties in delivering its now-completed residential units.

At a press event yesterday, a spokesperson of the developer explained that there are some governmental procedures the project must undergo before being officially registered as a completed development.

The spokesperson stressed it is a regular procedure that all property developments must go through, adding that if there were problems, local banks would not have been confident in issuing mortgage plans.

Although the developer has not publicly responded to the matter of its previous troubles, explanatory notes have been sent to property buyers and owners.

Speaking at the retail space of the project, the spokesperson said that the company is offering incentives to tenants. If they can start operating their businesses before October 1 this year, they will enjoy two years of rental subsidy.

Highlighting the project as the only development on Cotai that can be individually registered, the spokesperson is confident in the attractiveness of the project, remarking that there will be tens of thousands of staff working in the area, in addition to the large number of tourists interested in travelling to Macau.

The spokesperson foresees that the project will offer even wider choices to tourists in Macau. AL

# MUST holds career day with over 130 firms

THE Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) is hosting over 130 companies from the mainland and Macau to offer nearly 4,000 job vacancies and internship opportunities.

The MUST Career Day 2022 features major business organizations looking to foster talent, provide quality internship envi-

ronments and plenty of employment opportunities for students.

In his opening speech yesterday, MUST president Joseph Hun-wei Lee pledged that the university will "consolidate the existing resources, improve the structure of academic disciplines, and integrate the former Faculty of Information Technology

into the Faculty of Innovation Engineering, with new programs to be established."

These new programs include the Program of Engineering Science, Program of Materials Science and Engineering, and Program of Environmental Science and Engineering.

This year, over 3,600 students will graduate

from MUST.

The MUST president expressed his hope that graduates will "make good use of the knowledge and skills they have acquired at MUST to serve society and employers well, whether they choose to pursue further education, seek employment, or start their own business in the future." LV



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\_Alex Torrao, Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Anthony Lam, Emilie Tran, Irene Sam, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, Jing Wu, 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

DEMOGRAPHICS

# Non-resident worker numbers dip over 6,500 in 2021

LYNZY VALLES

**T**HE Macau SAR saw a plunge of 6,565 year-on-year to 171,098 non-resident workers at end-2021, according to data from the the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).

Recently, the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) noted that gaming operators have seen a decrease in the number of their non-resident workers as of the end of 2021, with 11,434 such workers recorded in the industry.

DSAL was cited showing that the figure is a 32% decrease compared to the 23,676 bluecard holders recorded before the pandemic started.

Meanwhile, those engaged in Domestic work went down by 3,372 to 26,033 while those engaged in the Construction sector increased by 3,378 to 30,362.

Macau's total population in 2021 was 683,200, representing a quarter-to-quarter increase of 900.

The proportion of senior citizens (aged 65 and above) grew by 0.5 percentage points year-on-year to 12.2%, whereas that of the adult population (aged 15-64) dropped by 0.9 percentage points to 73.3%. The population of Macau continued to age, with



the ageing ratio rising to 83.7%.

Local population, excluding non-resident workers and non-local students living in the SAR, increased by 1.1% year-on-year to 570,100, and 53.1% of them were female.

In 2021, the number of new arrivals from mainland China with a one-way permit reduced by 346 year-on-year to 2,627, with those coming from Guangdong Province falling by 405 to 1,705; females comprised 65.9% of the total. Meanwhile, the number of individuals newly granted a right

of abode decreased by 262 year-on-year to 468 in 2021.

## BIRTH RATE AT RECORD LOW

For the whole year of 2021, a total of 5,026 live births were delivered, down by 519 year-on-year; the birth rate was 7.4‰, the lowest level recorded since 2005. In the fourth quarter of 2021, the number of live births rose by 30 quarter-to-quarter to 1,292, and mortality increased by 51 to 608. Meanwhile, mortality went up by 90 year-on-year to 2,320 last year.

LABOR

# Gaming sector records decline in employees

LYNZY VALLES

**T**HE gaming sector has seen a decrease in the number of employees, recording a downturn of 1,774 year-on-year at the end of the fourth quarter of 2021.

Data from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) shows that there were 54,839 full-time employees in the sector by the end of 2021. Of this total, there were 22,406 dealers, a plunge of 758 from the same time the previous year.

In addition, the number of service and sales workers went down by 410 to 4,899.

Average earnings (excluding bonuses) of the full-time employees in the sector were MOP23,700, up by 1.1% year-on-year. Average earnings of dealers rose by 1.1% to MOP20,020.

By the end of last year there were only 58 vacancies in the sector, an increase of 32 year-on-year, although it should be remembered that this is from a lower

base of employment.

In terms of recruitment prerequisites, 41.4% of the vacancies required work experience, 27.6% required tertiary education. The requirement for knowledge of Mandarin and English stood at 98.3% and 81.0% respectively.

In the fourth quarter of 2021, the number of new recruits and employees leaving employment totalled 128 and 521 respectively. The employee recruitment rate (0.2%) and the employee turnover

rate (0.9%) both dropped by 0.1 percentage points year-on-year, while the job vacancy rate was only 0.1%. These indicators reflected that the demand for manpower in the gaming sector remained relatively low.

The DSEC survey coverage excludes junket promoters and junket associates.

With regard to vocational training, the Gaming Sector had 309,803 participants attending training courses provided by the enterprise (including courses organised by the enterprise or in conjunction with other institutions, and those sponsored by the enterprise), representing a year-on-year increase of 57.3%.



# PSP SERGEANT SUSPECTED OF ABUSE OF POWER AND PASSIVE BRIBERY

LYNZY VALLES

**A** deputy sergeant of the Traffic Department of the Public Security Police Force was found to have allegedly received a bribe for leaking information about the police to a gaming room owner, the anti-corruption bureau discovered.

According to the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC), an investigation discovered that the deputy sergeant had close personal relationships to some individuals associated with VIP gaming rooms, and also visited VIP gaming rooms several times, in violation of law.

During these visits, he allegedly leaked information about the police to the owner and received money and free hotel accommodation in luxury suites, amongst other things, in return.

During the CCAC's investiga-

tive action against the involved deputy sergeant and people associated with the gaming rooms, a large quantity of cash as well as some communication equipment and documents were seized at the home of the deputy sergeant.

In addition, mobile phones, documents and computers related to the case were seized at the targeted premises. The deputy sergeant is suspected of committing abuse of power and passive bribery to perform illicit acts listed in the Penal Code. The VIP gaming room owner is suspected of committing active bribery.

The case has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) for follow-up. Following the suggestion of the MP, the judge of the Court of Criminal Instruction approved the use of coercive measures against the aforementioned persons, including provision of guarantee and periodic presentation.

GBA

# HENGQIN BACKS MACAU DEVELOPMENT WITH UPCOMING POLICIES

**P**REFERENTIAL policies benefiting Macau residents living and working in the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin will be released in the first half of 2022, according to the zone's Economic Development Bureau.

As cited in a statement, subsidies will be given to Macau businesspeople investing in Hengqin, while young employees from Macau working full-time in the zone will receive financial rewards according to their academic qualifications. Hengqin companies hiring personnel from Macau are also eligible for financial support.

Convention and exhibition is one of the four major industries that Hengqin has prioritized for future development. Incentives will be offered for the construction

of a large-scale platform with global influence to address the lack of convention and exhibition venues in Hengqin, handle cross-border convention and exhibition events, and bolster development of the industry.

In addition, the upcoming policies will further facilitate the entry and exit of Macau single-plate vehicles in Hengqin. The quota has been increased to 10,000, and new policies will be promoted to allow more Macau private vehicles access in the cooperation zone.

Hengqin will also consider formulating policies for approving Macau-operated motor vehicles to engage in cross-border transportation on the island, according to Lin Yanjie, a section chief at the zone's Economic Development Bureau. **MDT**

## SSM TO HOLD SESSION ON COVID-19 VACCINE

The Health Bureau (SSM) will hold a clarification session on Covid-19 vaccines and medical consultation on March 11 in a bid to encourage residents to take the vaccine. In this session, medical experts will be available to clarify the latest medical information on vaccination against the virus for interested parties. Those present can ask all the questions they deem necessary to clarify doubts. The session will be held on March 11 at 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Areia Preta Health Center.

## CITY REGISTERS TWO MORE ASYMPTOMATIC CASES

Two Macau residents from Hong Kong tested positive for Covid-19 and were classified as imported cases of asymptomatic infection. The first case, aged 4 years old, is unvaccinated, while the 36-year-old mother had been given three doses of the inactivated Sinopharm vaccine in April, May and December 2021. On March 4, they arrived Macau via the Golden Bus and had certificates of a negative result for the nucleic acid test for Covid-19 taken within 24 hours of their departure for the MSAR. The two returnees have not presented symptoms of the infection. So far, 82 confirmed cases of Covid-19 and 43 cases of asymptomatic infection have been registered in Macau.

## PARA CLUB TO OFFICIALLY OPEN MAR. 11

Para Club will officially open at City of Dreams on March 11, the group announced in a statement. The club has approximately 30,000 square feet across two levels of live entertainment, including five VIP rooms on the upper level. Back in October, the operator of Club Cubic Macau said that it has failed in its attempt to seek rent reductions for its space with City of Dreams, causing it to halt its operations.

# GOV'T TO ASSUME FULL-TIME CONTROL OVER GAMING TABLES NUMBER, FIRM ON REGULATING 'SATELLITE CASINOS'

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE government has firmly reaffirmed its intention to be able to reduce the number of gaming tables and slot machines available at local casinos at any point in time, representatives said yesterday during a meeting with the members of the Second Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly.

The same representatives reaffirmed the intention of the government to enforce the regulations over the so-called "satellite casinos," to ensure that they operate according to the laws concerning the ownership of the venues where they are installed and operating.

This was the third meeting between the committee members and representatives of the government to discuss the specialty of the provisions in the new gaming law before its final version goes to the plenary for final voting.

According to the president of the committee, lawmaker Chan Chak Mo, during yesterday's two and a half-hour meeting the only item in discussion was Article 5 of the law that concerns the venues where gambling activities can take place.

Chan noted that while some voices among the lawmakers say that it would be best if the government amends this article, which allows casinos to operate in privately owned properties or buildings located on land plots with a commercial purpose other than gaming, the government does not agree in taking any step backward. He instead reaffirmed that all gaming operating venues must be under the direct ownership of the gaming concessionaires which operate them, and that in case of the revocation, cancellation, or expiration of the concession, these assets would revert to the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR).

According to Chan, the government only conceded in allowing a transition period of three years for the full enforcement of this rule with the purpose "of reducing the impact and the potential consequences of the forced closure of [satellite] casinos not operating in concessionaires venues."

He added that this transition period was chosen to allow enough time for owners to solve problems such as loans for the investment they might have contracted, as well as staff-related issues.

Avoiding the use of the term "satellite casino," which the government claims had never been defined, Chan said that neither the government nor the committee has a



clear figure for how many of these casinos exist and are currently in operation in Macau.

Chan said that initially, it was "suspected that they were around 20 but now we think some of them already closed so we think might be a little less, for sure not more than 22 or 23."

Information aired in a previous meeting noted that there might be currently 18 satellite casinos operating in Macau, most of them (14) under a license from Sociedade de Jogos de Macau, three via a license from Galaxy Entertainment Group, and one with a license from Melco, a figure that the committee president refused to confirm.

Although there were several lawmakers who voiced opposition, Chan said the government is not going to give in and so, "if they disagree, all they can do is to vote against this article during the plenary [final] voting. Because even if the members do not agree they cannot force the government to change it. They can only vote against."

## CALL FOR BETTER USE OF ALLOCATED TABLES

Another of the topics over which the government wants to exercise absolute control is the allocation of gaming table resources.

Chan said he believes the concessions over the years might have been calling for more gaming tables than they needed.

The new law will give powers to the Chief Executive (CE), Ho Iat Seng, to define the maximum ceiling of the total number of gaming tables and slot machines to be authorized in Macau, while the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lei Wai Nong, will have the power to reduce individual concession table numbers based on

their usage as well as the revenue in gaming taxes coming from each table.

Questioned on the topic, Chan explained that the government has already established clear criteria that will play a role in the potential reduction on the number of gaming tables that includes factors such as global and local situation, economic performance, general conditions in society, as well as many other factors.

"Usage also can be taken into account to understand if the number [of tables] is enough or not. For example, if a concession has an allocation of 100 tables but in the end, the government sees those profits only coming from 50 of them, they can reduce accordingly," Chan said.

Chan was less clear on the question of whether table allocation reduction from one concession could or could not revert in favor of a competitor, with Chan claiming that such a point has not been yet fully clarified.

Still, he thinks that the government would not wish to touch the number of tables "too often, as the government revenue comes directly from each one of them."

He explained that the govern-

ment is establishing a minimum ceiling for the profitability of each table, making concessions pay the remaining amount if their tables are not profitable enough.

"In cases where gross gaming revenue does not reach a ceiling of earnings that will be defined by the CE, the concessionaire must pay for the difference," Chan said, noting that the same applies when slot machines and gaming tables are not used "without justification."

"I don't think the CE will review the number of gaming tables and machines too often. Each of them has a 40% of profit sharing to the government's purse so I don't think there will be constant changes on this," the president of the committee added, saying that the review "won't be annual" as by law, the rule for rationalization of the gaming tables number will apply if the revenue does not reach the minimum ceiling for two consecutive years.

The next meetings for the committee to continue its detailed analysis of the gaming law are scheduled for this Thursday and Friday. Both meetings will include the presence of members of the government.

## GOV'T UNAWARE OF EMPLOYMENT CONSEQUENCES TO REDUCING TABLES

**QUESTIONED** by the media on the topic, the president of the Second Standing Committee of the AL, Chan Chak Mo, said that the government had not presented any figures or aired any potential concerns over a potential growth of the local unemployment rate concerning the reduction of the number of

tables in the casinos. In response to the question, Chan said, "We have not discussed that. We had no feedback from the government on such a topic. The government has said before that the problem of the employees of the casinos is an internal matter as they are employed by the concessionaire."

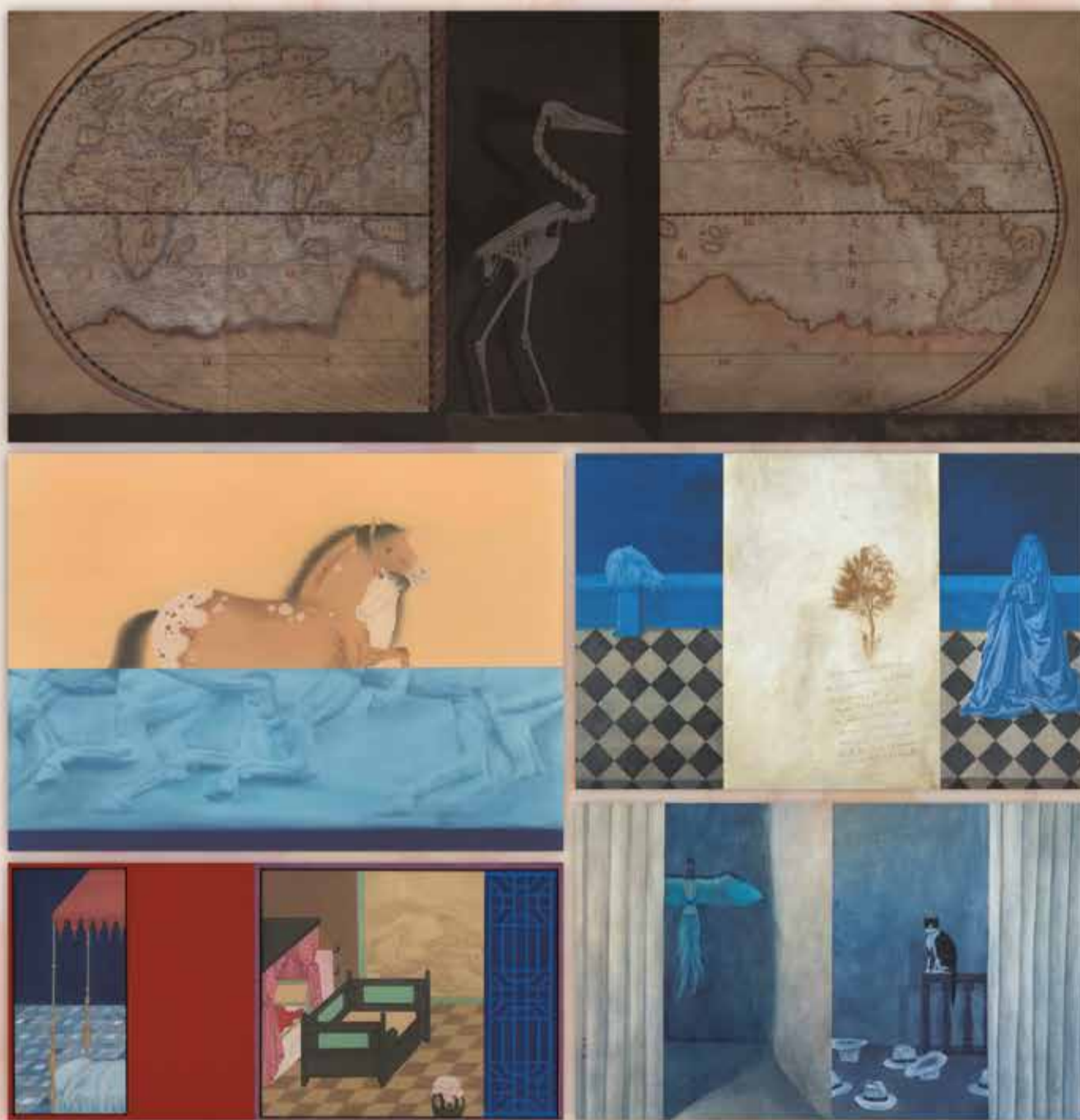
# 金沙藝廊 開幕首展 Sands Gallery Inaugural Exhibition

《惟墨維新 - 新東方審美的重塑》  
王冬齡 & 徐累 藝術展



THE INNOVATION OF INK: TRANSFORMATION AND REINVENTION OF ORIENTAL AESTHETICS - FEATURED EXHIBITION OF WANG DONGLING & XU LEI

2.24 - 3.20, 2022



策展 Curated by: 安雅蘭 Julia F. Andrews

澳門四季名薈6樓金沙藝廊  
Level 6, Sands Gallery, The Grand Suites at Four Seasons



金沙藝廊網站  
Sands Gallery Official Website



The Grand Suites  
at  
Four Seasons



# BEIJING CALLS RUSSIA ITS CHIEF 'STRATEGIC PARTNER' DESPITE WAR

**T**HE Chinese Foreign Minister yesterday called Russia Beijing's "most important strategic partner" amid China's continued refusal to condemn the invasion of Ukraine.

Wang Yi said ties with Moscow constituted "one of the most crucial bilateral relationships in the world."

China has broken with the U.S., Europe and others that have imposed sanctions on Russia after its invasion of Ukraine. Beijing has said sanctions create new issues and threaten a political settlement of the conflict.

"No matter how perilous the international landscape, we will maintain our strategic focus and promote the development of a comprehensive China-Russia partnership in the new era," Wang told reporters at a news conference on the sidelines of the annual meeting of China's ceremonial parliament.

"The friendship between the two peoples is iron clad," he added.

Much attention has been paid to a meeting between Chinese leader Xi Jinping and President Vladimir Putin in Beijing on Feb. 4, after which a joint statement was issued affirming "strong mutual support for the protection of their core interests."

Russia endorsed China's view of self-governing Taiwan as an "inalienable part of China, and opposes any forms of independence of Taiwan," while China backed Russia in opposing the further enlargement of NATO.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has drawn comparisons to China's own



Foreign Minister Wang Yi speaks during a remote video press conference held on the sidelines of the annual meeting of China's National People's Congress

threat to invade Taiwan in order to bring what it considers a wayward province under its control.

However, Wang said Taiwan was a "fundamentally different" issue from Ukraine because the island is "an inalienable part of China's territory."

"Some people, while being vocal about the principle of sovereignty on the Ukraine issue, have kept undermining China's sovereignty and territorial integrity on the Taiwan question. This is a blatant double standards," Wang said in a less-than-subtle dig at Taiwan's ally, the U.S.

China and Russia have increasingly aligned their foreign policies against the liberal Western order and their militaries have carried out exercises together and flown joint air patrols, as their relationship has taken on the trappings of an informal alliance.

Xi's government has refused to criticize the Russian invasion but tried to distance itself from Putin's war by calling for dialogue and the respect of national sovereignty. That prompted suggestions Putin failed to tell the Chinese leader his plans before their February statement.

Along with denouncing trade and financial sanctions on Moscow, Beijing says Washington is to blame for the conflict for failing to take Russia's security concerns into consideration.

During an hour-long phone conversation with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Saturday, Wang said China opposes any moves that "add fuel to the flames" in Ukraine.

Wang called for negotiations to resolve the immediate crisis, as well as talks on creating a balanced European security mechanism. He

said the U.S. and Europe should pay attention to the negative impact of NATO's eastward expansion on Russia's security.

On a visit to the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius yesterday, Blinken said China's actions were at odds with its avowed support for stability and "respecting sovereignty."

Blinken was speaking at a joint news conference with his Lithuanian counterpart, whose country has come under severe economic pressure from Beijing after it agreed to allow Taiwan to open a de-facto embassy in Vilnius.

"From its coercion of Vilnius to its failure thus far to condemn Moscow's flagrant violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine today and in 2014, Beijing's actions are speaking much louder than its words," he said, referring to Russia's earlier annexation of Crimea.

Yesterday, Australia's prime minister has described Russia and China's closer relationship as opportunistic rather than strategic.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison labeled the alliance an "Arc of Autocracy" and said Russia and China would prefer a new world order to the one that has been in place since World War II.

Australia last week promised Ukraine \$50 million in missiles, ammunition and other military hardware to fight Russian invaders. "Our missiles are on the ground now," Morrison said.

On Friday, a translation by state TV of remarks by the head of the International Paralympic Committee during the opening ceremony of the Beijing Winter Paralympics skipped portions that expressed horror about the war in Ukraine and called for peace.

Online and in Chinese social media, expressions of sympathy for Ukraine and support for Russia appear but not criticism of Moscow.

The state-run newspaper Capital News appeared to support Putin's demand that Ukraine become a neutral buffer between Russia and Europe and give up the possibility of NATO membership.

"Ukraine should be a bridge between East and West, rather than a frontier of confrontation between major powers," Capital News said.

The most senior Chinese leaders have avoided mentioning the war in public.

On Saturday, Premier Li Keqiang, the No. 2 leader, indirectly acknowledged its impact, saying prices of oil, wheat and other commodities are high and "prone to fluctuation," but gave no indication why.

Global conditions, Li said, were "increasingly volatile." **MDT/AP**

## Wang lashes Washington over Quad, North Korea

**C**HINA'S top diplomat yesterday accused Washington of trying to create an Asian version of the U.S.-European NATO military alliance and said it is up to the Biden administration to improve relations with North Korea.

U.S. policy toward East Asia and the Indian Ocean and efforts to strengthen military ties with Japan, Australia and India are a "disaster that disrupts regional peace and stability," Wang Yi said at a news conference.

The comments reflected the ruling Communist Party's ambitions to be Asia's undisputed power and its frustration with resistance from neighbors to its terri-

torial claims in the South China Sea and the Himalayas.

They also reflect Beijing's stance toward Russia's invasion of Ukraine. China has sought to distance itself from the war by calling for dialogue and respect for national sovereignty. It also has said Washington is to blame for the conflict for failing to take Russia's security concerns into consideration.

"The United States is playing geopolitical games under the pretext of promoting regional cooperation," Wang said. He said this "runs counter" to regional desires for cooperation and "is doomed to have no future."

Wang complained Washington is organizing U.S. allies to "suppress China."

Beijing is irritated by growing military ties among the Quad nations of the United States, Japan, Australia and India. China criticized a U.S. decision last year to supply technology for Australia to field its first nuclear-powered submarines.

"The real purpose of the 'Indo-Pacific strategy' is to create an Indo-Pacific version of NATO," he said. The Western alliance's expansion was cited by Russian President Vladimir Putin as one reason behind his invasion of Ukraine.

Beijing's assertive fo-

reign policy and claims to disputed territories in the South China Sea and the Himalayas have antagonized Japan, India and other neighbors.

Wang called on the Biden administration to revive the spirit of the 1970s agreements that opened U.S. relations with the communist Beijing government.

"The United States still spares no effort to carry out intense competition with China, constantly attacking and provoking trouble on issues regarding China's core interests," Wang said.

Washington should "return to the right track of rationality and pragmatism," he said.

Wang called on Washing-

ton take initiative to improve relations with North Korea. He accused the Biden administration of failing to respond to "positive measures" by leader Kim Jong Un's government "aimed at promoting dialogue."

"Where to go next depends largely on what the American side does: will it really take concrete actions to solve the problem, or will it continue to use the (Korean) peninsula issue as a strategic bargaining chip?" Wang said.

Wang called on Washington to take steps to address the North's "legitimate security concerns" and establish trust but gave no details.

"China is willing to con-

tinue to play a constructive role and make efforts to this end," he said.

Turning to the disputed South China Sea, Wang complained outsiders were interfering with efforts to develop a "code of conduct" and said Beijing and Southeast Asian governments should be left alone to negotiate.

The United States and other governments have sent warships through sections of the sea claimed by Beijing to assert the right of vessels from all countries to use the waters.

Outsiders "do not want the South China Sea to be calm, because this will make them lose the pretext to intervene for personal gain," Wang said. "External interference cannot stop the pace of regional cooperation." **MDT/AP**

PUTIN'S WAR

# Ukraine says Russia steps up shelling of residential areas

YURAS KARMANAU, LVIV

**R**USSIAN forces intensified shelling of cities in Ukraine's center, north and south, a Ukrainian official said, upending attempts to evacuate besieged civilians. With the Ukrainian leader urging his people to fight in the streets, Russian President Vladimir Putin shifted blame for the invasion, saying Moscow's attacks could be halted "only if Kyiv ceases hostilities."

The outskirts of Kyiv, Chernihiv in the north, Mykolaiv in the south, and Kharkiv, the country's second-largest city, faced stepped-up shelling late Sunday, presidential adviser Oleksiy Arestovich said. Heavy artillery hit residential areas in Kharkiv and shelling damaged a television tower, according to local officials.

"This is likely to represent an effort to break Ukrainian morale," the U.K. Ministry of Defense said of Russian tactics as the war entered its 12th day Monday. Fighting has caused 1.5 million people to flee the country, which the head of the U.N. refugee agency called "the fastest-growing refugee crisis in Europe since World War II."

The most recent attacks dashed hopes that more people could escape the fighting in Ukraine, where Russia's plan to quickly overrun the country has been stymied by fierce resistance. Russia has made significant advances in southern Ukraine and along the coast, but many of its efforts have become stalled, including an immense military convoy that has been almost motionless for days north of Kyiv.

Food, water, medicine and almost all other supplies were in desperately short supply in the southern port city of Mariupol, where Russian and Ukrainian forces had agreed to an 11-hour cease-fire that would allow civilians and the wounded to be evacuated. But Russian attacks quickly closed the humanitarian corridor, Ukrainian officials said.

"There can be no 'green corridors' because only the sick brain of the Russians decides when to start shooting and at whom," Interior Ministry adviser Anton Geraschenko said on Telegram.

A third round of talks between Russian and Ukrainian leaders is planned for today [Macau time].

## REMAIN DEFIANT, ZELENSKY TELLS PEOPLE

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy rallied his people to remain defiant, especially those in cities occupied by Russians.

AP PHOTO



"You should take to the streets! You should fight!" he said Saturday on Ukrainian television. "It is necessary to go out and drive this evil out of our cities, from our land."

Zelenskyy also asked the United States and NATO countries to send more warplanes to Ukraine. But that idea is complicated by questions about how to provide aircraft to Ukrainian pilots.

He later urged the West to tighten its sanctions on Russia, saying that "the audacity of the aggressor is a clear signal" that existing sanctions are not enough.

A senior US defense official said yesterday [Macau time] that the U.S. assesses that about 95% of the Russian forces that had been arrayed around Ukraine are now inside the country. The official said Russian forces continue to advance in an attempt to isolate Kyiv, Kharkiv and Chernihiv, but are being met with strong Ukrainian resistance.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss military assessments, said the convoy outside Kyiv continues to be stalled.

As he has often done, Putin blamed Ukraine for the war, telling Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Sunday that Kyiv needed to stop all hostilities and fulfill "the well-known demands of Russia."

Putin launched his invasion with a string of false accusations against Kyiv, including that it is led by neo-Nazis intent on undermining Russia with the development of nuclear weapons.

The Russian Defense Ministry on Sunday announced that its forces intend to strike Ukraine's military-industrial complex with what it said were precision weapons. A ministry spokesman, Igor

Konashenkov, claimed in a statement carried by the state news agency Tass that Ukrainian personnel were being forced to repair damaged military equipment so that it could be sent back into action.

Zelenskyy criticized Western leaders for not responding to Russia's latest threat.

"I didn't hear even a single world leader react to this," Zelenskyy said yesterday [Macau time].

The Russian Defense Ministry also alleged, without providing evidence, that Ukrainian forces are plotting to blow up an experimental nuclear reactor in Kharkiv and to blame it on a Russian missile strike.

Putin and French President Emmanuel Macron spoke Sunday about the nuclear situation in Ukraine, which has 15 nuclear reactors at four power plants and was the scene of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

The men agreed in principle to a "dialogue" involving Russia, Ukraine and the U.N.'s atomic watchdog, according to a French official who spoke on condition of anonymity, in line with the presidency's practices. Potential talks on the issue are to be organized in the coming days, he said.

Putin also blamed the fire last week at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant, which Ukrainian officials said was caused by Russian attackers, on a "provocation organized by Ukrainian radicals."

International leaders, as well as Pope Francis, appealed to Putin to negotiate.

In a highly unusual move, the pope said he had dispatched two cardinals to Ukraine to try to end the conflict.

"In Ukraine, rivers of blood and tears are flowing," the pontiff said in his traditional Sunday blessing.

## DEAD TOLL UNCLEAR

The death toll remains unclear. The U.N. says it has confirmed just a few hundred civilian deaths but also warned that the number is a vast undercount.

About eight civilians were killed by Russian shelling in the town of Irpin, on the northwest outskirts of Kyiv, according to Mayor Oleksander Markyshin. The dead included a family.

Video footage showed a shell slamming into a city street, not far from a bridge used by people fleeing the fighting. A group of fighters could be seen trying to help the family.

The handful of residents who managed to flee Mariupol before the humanitarian corridor closed said the city of 430,000 had been devastated.

"We saw everything: houses burning, all the people sitting in basements," said Yelena Zamay, who fled to one of the self-proclaimed republics in eastern Ukraine held by pro-Russian separatists. "No communication, no water, no gas, no light, no water. There was nothing."

British military officials compared Russia's tactics to those Moscow used in Chechnya and Syria, where surrounded cities were pulverized by airstrikes and artillery.

Zelenskyy reiterated a request for foreign protectors to impose a no-fly zone over Ukraine, which NATO so far has ruled out because of concerns such an action would lead to a far wider war.

"The world is strong enough to close our skies," Zelenskyy said Sunday in a video address.

Ukraine's military is greatly outmatched by Russia's, but its professional and volunteer forces have fought back with fier-

ce tenacity. In Kyiv, volunteers lined up Saturday to join the military.

The West has broadly backed Ukraine, offering aid and weapon shipments and slapping Russia with vast sanctions. But no NATO troops have been sent to Ukraine.

Ukraine is planning to create an international legion of volunteer fighters from dozens of countries. More than 20,000 people have volunteered, according to Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, though it was not clear how many were in Ukraine.

"The whole world today is on Ukraine's side, not only in words but in deeds," he said on Ukrainian television Sunday night.

Russia has made significant advances in southern Ukraine as it seeks to block access to the Sea of Azov. Capturing Mariupol could allow Moscow to establish a land corridor to Crimea, which Russia annexed from Ukraine in 2014 in a move that most other countries considered illegal.

## RUSSIA MORE ISOLATED

Russia has become increasingly isolated in the days since the invasion began, closing itself off to outside sources of information as sanctions bite deeply into its economy. The ruble has plunged in value, and dozens of multinational companies ended or dramatically scaled back their work in the country.

On Sunday, American Express announced it would suspend operations in Russia, as well as in Russian-allied Belarus. Also, two of the so-called Big Four accounting firms, KPMG and PricewaterhouseCoopers, said Sunday they would end their relationships with their Russia-based member firms.

TikTok announced Sunday Russian users would not be able to post new videos or see videos shared from elsewhere in the world. The company blamed Moscow's new "fake news" law, which makes it illegal, among other things, to describe the fighting as an invasion. Netflix also cut its service to Russia but provided no details.

Facebook and Twitter have already been blocked in Russia, along with access to the websites of a number of major international media outlets. TikTok is part of the Chinese tech company ByteDance.

U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Congress is exploring how to further isolate Russia from the global economy, including banning the import of its oil and energy products into the United States. Pelosi said Sunday that the legislation under consideration would also repeal normal trade relations with Russia and Belarus and begin the process of denying Russia access to the World Trade Organization. **MDT/AP**

PUTIN'S WAR

# Blinken assures nervous Baltics of NATO protection against Russia

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken yesterday assured Lithuania of NATO protection and American support as he began a lightning visit to the three Baltic states that are increasingly on edge as Russia presses ahead with its invasion of Ukraine.

The former Soviet republics of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia are all NATO members and Blinken is aiming to reassure them of their security in the event Russia chooses to expand its military operations.

"We are bolstering our shared defense so that we and our allies are prepared," Blinken said, stressing that the U.S. commitment to NATO's mutual defense pact is "sacrosanct."

"We will defend every inch of NATO territory if it comes under attack," he said. "No one should doubt our readiness, no one should doubt our resolve."

Memories of Soviet rule are still fresh in the Baltics and since the invasion of Ukraine last month, NATO has moved quickly to boost its troop presence in its eastern flank allies while the U.S. has pledged additional support.

Blinken's opened his Baltic tour in Vilnius, where Lithuanian support for Ukraine's resistance to the Russian invasion is palpable as signs of solidarity with Ukrainians are evident in many businesses and on public buildings



and buses.

"Unfortunately, the worsening security situation in the Baltic region is of great concern for all of us and around the world," Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda told Blinken. "Russia's reckless aggression against Ukraine once again proves that it is a long-term threat to European security, the security of our alliance."

Nausėda said that a policy of deterrence was no longer enough and that "forward defense" was now needed. He predicted that "Putin will not stop in Ukraine if he will not be stopped."

"It is our collective duty as a nation to help all Ukrainians with all means available," said Nausėda. "By saying all, I mean, indeed all means all, if we want to avoid the Third World War. The choice is in our hands."

Lithuanian Foreign Minister Gabrielius Landsbergis called for a surge in assistance to Ukraine, noting that the NATO allies "are doing a lot, but we cannot stop." He also called for an immediate halt to imports of Russian energy. "We cannot pay for oil and gas with Ukrainian blood," he said.

Lithuania is also dealing with pressure from another large power — China — for its relationship with Taiwan, the island China regards as a renegade province. China has taken actions, including halting imports of certain products, against Lithuania for allowing Taiwan to open a de facto embassy in Vilnius.

Blinken said the Ukraine situation was relevant to Lithuania's Taiwan situation as all countries should have the right to pursue their own foreign policies. "Every nation is

free to associate with whom it chooses," he said. The United States continues to stand by Lithuania and every nation to choose its own path."

Blinken arrived in the Baltics late Sunday from non-aligned Moldova, which is also warily watching the war on its doorstep, and Poland, where he visited the Polish-Ukrainian border and met with refugees from Ukraine.

Today [Macau time], Blinken will travel to Riga, where he will meet senior Latvian officials and Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid, before visiting Tallinn, Estonia and then going on to Paris for talks with French President Emmanuel Macron today.

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett met with Russian President Vladimir Putin over the weekend and Macron has been in frequent contact with the Russian leader. **MDT/AP**

A decision on Ukraine's request is expected within days.

If the court were to order a halt to fighting as Ukraine requested, "I think the chance of that happening is zero," said Terry Gill, a professor of military law at the University of Amsterdam. He noted that if a nation does not abide by the court's order, judges could seek action from the United Nations Security Council, where Russia holds a veto.

The court's president, American judge Joan E. Donoghue, said Russia's ambassador to the Netherlands, Alexander Shulgin, informed judges that "his government did not intend to participate in the oral proceedings." **MDT/AP**

## RUSSIA SNUBS UN COURT HEARINGS IN CASE BROUGHT BY UKRAINE

UKRAINE pleaded with the United Nations' top court yesterday to order Russia to halt its devastating invasion, saying Moscow is already committing widespread war crimes and "resorting to tactics reminiscent of medieval siege warfare" in its 12-day-old military onslaught.

Russia snubbed the International Court of Justice hearings and its seats in the Great Hall of Justice remained empty.

On a lawn outside the court's headquarters, the Pea-

ce Palace in The Hague, a protester placed colored candles spelling out the words: "Putin Come out."

Ukrainian representative Anton Korynevych told judges at the International Court of Justice: "Russia must be stopped and the court has a role to play in stopping it."

Ukraine has asked the court to order Russia to "immediately suspend the military operations" launched Feb. 24 "that have as their stated purpose and objective the prevention and punishment of a claimed genocide" in the

separatist eastern regions of Luhansk and Donetsk.

Lawyers for Kyiv dismissed the Russian claim.

"Ukraine comes to this court because of a grotesque lie and to seek protection from the devastating consequences of that lie," David Zions told the court. "The lie is the Russian Federation's claim of genocide in Ukraine. The consequences are unprovoked aggression, cities under siege, civilians under fire, humanitarian catastrophe and refugees fleeing for their lives."

## this day in history

### 1972 TWA JET EXPLODES AT LAS VEGAS AIRPORT



A bomb has exploded aboard a Trans World Airlines Boeing 707 at Las Vegas airport.

No-one was injured in the blast which destroyed the cockpit of the aircraft as it stood empty on the tarmac.

The explosion happened hours after an anonymous phone caller threatened TWA with a series of bomb attacks unless £760,000 was handed over.

The caller instructed airport officials at Kennedy Airport in New York to go to a locker where they found a note, which said there would be explosions at six hourly intervals on four of the company's aircraft.

Sniffer dogs found a bomb, which consisted of 3lb (1.36kg) of plastic explosives and a timing device, aboard a TWA aircraft at the airport in New York, 12 minutes before it was timed to explode.

It was found in a case labelled "crew" in the cockpit.

A few hours later police boarded a second TWA jet at the airport but nothing was found.

The aircraft which exploded in Las Vegas was thoroughly searched and left New York after the first bomb was discovered.

It flew to Las Vegas with only 10 passengers and was searched again once it landed.

The aircraft was then put under armed guard before the plane exploded seven hours later.

Debris was blown more than 100 feet (30 metres) away but two security guards escaped uninjured.

One of them said: "It sounded like dynamite. I could see pieces of the plane flying through the air."

The security department at the International Air Transport Association suspects that five people, who each hold Middle Eastern passports, may have been involved in the plot.

TWA has ordered worldwide checks on all 240 of its aircraft following the initial bomb threat.

US President Richard Nixon said that the government would mobilise all resources "until the current threat is crushed."

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

TWA never handed over the ransom money demanded by the anonymous phone caller.


Following the threats, the Nixon Administration talked about introducing proposals to ban airlines from agreeing to pay ransoms to hijackers and extortionists.

Two more bomb threats were made to TWA in Europe in April 1972 but nothing happened. No further threats were made to the airline. TWA went bankrupt in 2001 and was taken over by American Airlines.

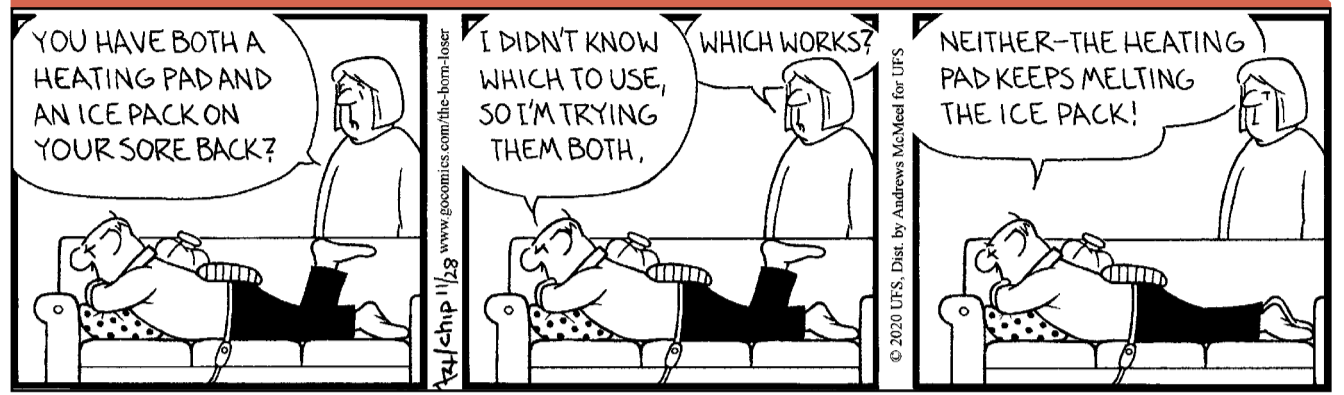


MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

 <b>ARIES</b> Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Try to be honest when dealing with your mate. Romance can develop; however, it will most probably be short-lived. Your energetic personality will make you the center of attention at social gatherings.	 <b>TAURUS</b> Apr. 20-May. 20 You need to focus on yourself, not on others. Be careful not to lead someone on if you truly have no interest. Don't divulge secret information.
 <b>GEMINI</b> May. 21-Jun. 21 You'll need to exercise control. You may have more people on your domestic scene than anticipated. You will be inclined to make unwise investment choices.	 <b>CANCER</b> Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Emotional upset may prevail on the domestic scene if you have neglected your duties or your mate. Find out all the facts before you jump to conclusions.
 <b>LEO</b> Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Romance will unfold through business trips. You will get bored quickly, so make sure that you have scheduled enough activity to hold your interest. Don't second guess yourself, just go to it.	 <b>VIRGO</b> Aug. 23-Sep. 22 Be honest with yourself before getting involved with someone who is likely to lead you on. Don't push your luck with authority figures. Don't press your luck with your loved ones.
 <b>LIBRA</b> Sep. 23-Oct. 22 You should be putting your cash into long-term investments like real estate. You can mix business with pleasure to get favorable results. Keep an open mind when dealing with youngsters.	 <b>SCORPIO</b> Oct. 23-Nov. 21 You can learn a great deal more if you listen rather than rant and rave. Losses are likely if you have left your financial affairs in other people's hands. Don't rely on others to handle the workload.
 <b>SAGITTARIUS</b> Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Don't be too confident that coworkers are on your side. You might have a problem hanging on to your money today. It's time to reevaluate your motives.	 <b>CAPRICORN</b> Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Try to keep to yourself; work diligently on domestic chores and responsibilities. Being unappreciated by your boss could make it hard to do your work effectively.
 <b>AQUARIUS</b> Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Too many opportunities and too many changes going on. You will be a bit of a spendthrift today. Your ability to put things together will be appreciated by your comrades.	 <b>PISCES</b> Feb. 19-Mar. 20 The battle continues. Changes in your domestic scene are apparent. You are best to listen for the time being. Your temper could get the better of you if you confront personal situations.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sansom**



**SUDOKU**

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

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

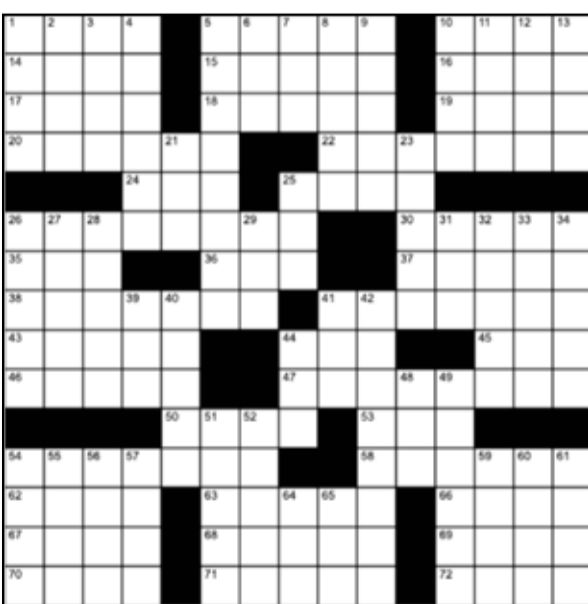
**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	-1	16	fine
Changchun	-7	5	cloudy
Chengdu	11	21	fine
Chongqing	9	23	fine
Fuzhou	10	12	rain
Guangzhou	14	22	cloudy
Guiyang	6	21	fine
Haikou	19	24	rain
Hangzhou	5	11	rain
Harbin	-12	2	fine
Hefei	5	16	fine
Nanjing	7	15	cloudy
Shanghai	6	13	cloudy
Taipei	13	19	rain
Wuhan	4	18	fine
Hong Kong	13	17	fine
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	-14	-3	snow
Frankfurt	-3	9	clear
Paris	3	13	clear
London	6	12	overcast
New York	2	10	overcast

**CROSSWORDS**

ACROSS 1- 43,560 square feet; 5- Ease up; 10- Let's just leave \_\_\_ that; 14- Vaporize; 15- Sticker; 16- Voodoo amulet; 17- Thunder unit; 18- Swerves; 19- Somewhat; 20- Italian sausage; 22- It opens your parachute; 24- Bro's counterpart; 25- Turns red, say; 26- Extol; 30- Accord maker; 35- X, to Xanthippe; 36- Refusals; 37- Rap sheet info; 38- Back pain; 41- Like talc or volcanic ash; 43- Disney mermaid; 44- Swiss river; 45- Bee follower; 46- All, musically; 47- Most lucid; 50- Rhythm; 53- Pronoun for a ship; 54- Ice river; 58- Instructed; 62- The life of Riley; 63- Sierra \_\_\_; 66- Ale, e.g.; 67- Natural blue dye; 68- Boredom; 69- French 101 infinitive; 70- Sincere; 71- Dreadlocks wearer; 72- Apprehends;

DOWN 1- Basics; 2- Soft drink; 3- Unit of currency in Iran and Yemen; 4- Sun Bowl site; 5- Notifying; 6- Spelling contest; 7- Good hole card; 8- Dawdle; 9- Beast of Borden; 10- Apple product; 11- Dorothy's dog; 12- Partly open; 13- Sweeney \_\_\_; 21- Russian fighter; 23- Nonsense; 25- \_\_\_ Moines; 26- Dazzling display; 27- Swahili for "freedom"; 28- Boundary; 29- Animal park; 31- Time-honored; 32- One who cries "uncle"; 33- Challenges; 34- Until now; 39- Wager; 40- Cover story; 41- Friend; 42- Aeschylus trilogy; 44- Perform in a play; 48- Just as I thought!; 49- Large sandwich; 51- Conger catcher; 52- Sports venue; 54- Stuff; 55- Alley; 56- Bhutan's continent; 57- Red or white, in the blood; 59- "\_\_\_ grip!"; 60- Aromatic plant; 61- Very, in Versailles; 64- Switch settings; 65- Kernel;



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



**PROPERTY OF THE MONTH**

*for sale*  
 HKD 9,788,000

**NEW PRICE!**  
 Spacious living between the sea and the hills.

4

SALE RENT

*Beach Retreat*

**FOR SALE**  
 HKD 14,500,000

This stylish designer apartment in Hac Sa is the ultimate family home. A rare find!

FOLLOW US!

jmlproperty.com

@jmlproperty

jmlmacau

(853) 2835 2699

**jml** 卓雅物業  
 since 1994

LICENSE NO. MI-10001398-6  
 有關樓宇廣告法定資訊資料請向職員查

ECONOMY

# CHINA'S TRADE UP IN JAN-FEB, BEFORE RUSSIA INVADED UKRAINE

JOE MCDONALD

CHINA'S exports rose by double digits in January and February before Russia's attack on Ukraine roiled the global economy.

Exports grew by 16.3% over a year earlier to \$544.7 billion in a sign global demand was recovering before President Vladimir Putin's Feb. 24 invasion, customs data showed yesterday. Imports advanced 15.5% to \$428.7 billion despite a Chinese economic slowdown that the war threatens to worsen.

Forecasters say China and other oil importers will be hurt by surging prices due to Putin's war. China's No. 2 leader, Premier Li Keqiang, warned Saturday global conditions that are "volatile, grave and uncertain" and achieving Beijing's economic goals will require "arduous efforts."

Chinese authorities combine trade data for the first two months to screen out fluctuations due to the Lunar New Year holiday, which falls at different times each year in January or February. Factories shut down for up to two



AP PHOTO

weeks, then restock after they reopen.

Import volumes are "likely to soften" as China's vast construction industry cools under government pressure to reduce real estate developers' debt, said Julian

Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics. He said demand abroad for Chinese exports will be dampened by rising inflation.

"There isn't much room for a further rise in export volumes given that ports are already stret-

ched to capacity," said Evans-Pritchard. "Instead, the risks are to the downside."

Exports to the United States rose 13.8% over a year earlier to \$91.5 billion despite higher U.S. tariffs in a lingering trade war

with Beijing.

President Joe Biden has yet to say what he will do about the tariffs imposed starting in 2018 by his predecessor, Donald Trump, in a feud with Beijing over Chinese technology ambitions. Trade envoys have spoken by phone since Biden took office in January 2021 but haven't announced plans for face-to-face negotiations.

Imports of American goods gained 8.3% to \$31.7 billion in the first two months of the year.

That was despite an abrupt slide in Chinese economic activity to 4% over a year earlier in the final quarter of 2021, compared with 8.1% for the full year, due to the debt crackdown, which triggered a slump in construction.

Business and consumer activity also have been hurt by power shortages, disruptions in supplies of processor chips and anti-coronavirus curbs that suspended access to major cities.

Li, the country's top economic official, on Saturday announced an economic growth target of 5.5% this year, the lowest since the 1990s.

The politically volatile trade surplus with the United States, one of the factors behind Trump's decision to hike tariffs on Chinese goods in 2018, widened by 16.7% to \$59.8 billion.

China's global trade surplus rose 12.3% to \$115.9 billion. MDT/AP

AD

- 合夥人 PARTNERS:**  
 官樂怡 Rui José da Cunha °  
 山度士 Álvaro Rodrigues °  
 馬天龍 Nuno Sardinha da Mata °  
 趙魯 Zhao Lu °\*  
 馬傑安 João Nogueira Marques
- 大律師 ASSOCIATES:**  
 高文軒 Adelino Correia °  
 羅善齡 Zelina Rodrigues \*  
 白秀蘭 Susana Batalha  
 馬潔冰 Maria João Marques  
 陶義德 António Isóo de Azeredo  
 白穎怡 Iclia Berenguel  
 冼玲鳳 Mariana Afonso Esteves  
 馬秀文 Sofia Mendes Martins  
 飛嘉華 Carlos dos Santos Ferreira °  
 杜力信 Nelson de Azevedo  
 宋哲言 João Gonçalves Assunção  
 吳永誠 Rui Velez de Moura  
 安東尼 António Manuel dos Santos  
 巴慧雅 Vera Bastos  
 歐文傑 Miguel Evaristo  
 陳芷喬 Joana Chan  
 顏曉容 Teresa Xiaorong Yan  
 諾瑪莉 Maria Noras  
 康靜雅 Viviana Hong  
 梁淑嵐 Ana Leon  
 黃瀚賢 Frederico Vong
- 實習律師 TRAINEE LAWYERS:**  
 張偉鴻 Cheong Wai Hong  
 陳健雄 Eurico Chan  
 吳靈鋒 Ng Teng Fong  
 戴博晴 Tai Pok Cheng  
 吳韻愉 Ng Pui U
- 法律專家 JURISTS:**  
 羅成軒 José J. Rodrigues  
 麥彥德 Gonçalo Figueiredo  
 潘卡莉 Candice Pun  
 陳子健 Kimi Chan  
 伍福賢 Domingos Ng  
 劉慧敏 Amanda Liu  
 楊詩婷 Si Teng leong



To protect the health and safety of our Clients and Staff, we continue implementing prevention measures at the office entrance, as recommended by the local Authorities.

為了保護客戶和員工的健康和安全，我們將繼續按照本地政府的建議在辦公室入口處實施預防措施。

A: Av. da Praia Grande 759, 3-5 Floors Macau SAR, China  
 地址:澳門南灣大馬路759號3-5樓  
 Tel: (853) 2837 2642 / 2837 2623  
 Office hours: Mon-Thu: 9:30-13:00, 14:30-18:30  
 Fri: 9:30-13:00, 14:30-18:00  
 Sat: 9:00-13:00

WWW.CCADVOG.COM



**FOOTBALL**

# Man City doubles down on United's anguish for derby glory

**MAN CITY 4, MAN UNITED 1**

A double from Kevin De Bruyne. A double from Riyad Mahrez. The double completed by City over United in this season's Manchester derbies.

Just further confirmation of the divergent paths these one-time rivals are on in the Premier League.

The 4-1 victory on Sunday restored City's six-point lead over Liverpool in its quest to defend the title and pick up the trophy for a sixth time in a decade.

And where is United? Languishing 22 points behind City and now no longer even in the fourth and final Champions League place.

"They showed what kind of top quality team they have," United interim manager Ralf Rangnick said.

It was being outclassed at home and losing 2-0 to City in the derby in November that precipitated the firing of Ole Gunnar Solskjær. The final blow was losing to Watford — the team that



Manchester City's Kevin De Bruyne (left) scores his side's second goal during the English Premier League soccer match against Manchester United

was beaten 3-2 in Sunday's other game that allowed Arsenal to dislodge United from fourth.

But United has been a work in progress since Alex Ferguson retired back in 2013 after the last Premier League title win.

Sunday's game produced only City's second home derby win in the league in seven attempts. But while United and City both have a net spend of around \$1 billion on transfers in the last decade, the blue half of Manchester is the team re-

gularly collecting trophies. United is enduring a five-year title drought since the 2017 Europa League triumph that can only be ended by winning the Champions League this season.

The European Cup is the priority trophy for City after losing the final last season to Chelsea, however sweet it will be to win the Premier League again.

United did have to cope without Cristiano Ronaldo, Edinson Cavani, Raphael Varane and Luke Shaw

through injury or illness on Sunday. That doesn't fully account for how ineffective United was or how susceptible Harry Maguire was in defense.

It took City only five minutes to go in front. De Bruyne connected with the cutback from Bernardo Silva and shot through Maguire's legs and past goalkeeper David De Gea.

There was a glimmer of hope when Paul Pogba released Jadon Sancho and the former City player took on Kyle Walker before bending the ball into the net in the 22nd minute.

City took only six minutes to regain the lead. The move began with a moment of dazzling individual brilliance by Phil Foden flicking the ball over Victor Lindelof. While the shot was parried by De Gea, Bernardo Silva's follow-up shot was only partly blocked by Maguire before United defender Alex Telles managed to knock the ball for De Bruyne to net again.

It was Mahrez's turn to contribute the goals in the second half at the

Etiihad Stadium — starting with an assist from De Bruyne.

Mahrez connected with a corner from the Belgium playmaker with a half-volley that slightly deflected off Maguire before landing in the net in the 68th.

There was initially an offside reprieve for United in the 90th but then the VAR review did allow Mahrez's strike to count, compounding the misery for United.

"If the second half is not our best I don't know what we have to do, honestly," City manager Pep Guardiola said. "I'm such a demanding man, but I know my limits and I know the players' limits and the second half in all terms (was excellent)."

### ARSENAL ASCENDANCY

United took to the field knowing Arsenal had already won at Vicarage Road and gone fourth.

A cut-back from Bukayo Saka set up Martin Odegaard to slot in the opener in the fifth minute. Although Watford leveled though Cucho Hernandez's acrobatic volley, Saka restored the lead in the 30th after a one-two with Alexandre Lacazette. Gabriel Martinelli's curling shot at the start of the second half extended the lead for Arsenal, which endured a nervy end after Moussa Sissoko's goal in the 87th but Watford couldn't muster a comeback and remains next-from-last in the standings. **MDT/AP**

**The Roadhouse Macau WELCOMES YOU!**

**FREE** Limo Service from SPM (Tues-Sun)

**WE DELIVER!**

**FOOD / DRINKS / LIVE MUSIC**

THE ROADHOUSE MACAU, R/C, SHOP E-G016-G019, BROADWAY HOTEL, ROTUNDA DO DIQUE OESTE, TAIPA

@theroadhousemacau PLEASE CALL US AT: 2875 2945 FOR RESERVATIONS

**KTRANZ TRANSLATIONS LIMITED**

**ACCURATE, TIMELY & COMPETITIVE TRANSLATIONS**

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

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

**We translate +10,000 words a day**

Contact: Ms. Amy Yang  
Email: amy@ktranz.com.mo  
Tel: +853 2871 6081/2 Fax: +853 2871 6084  
Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR

OPINION

World Views

Fred L. Pincus, University of Maryland  
 MDT/The Conversation



**BATTLES OVER BOOK BANS REFLECT CONFLICTS FROM THE 1980S**

A conservative leader found fault with how "respect for our nation's heritage" had been mostly stripped from the textbooks of public schools.

"From kindergarten right through the total school system, it almost seems as if classroom textbooks are designed to negate what philosophies previously had been taught," the conservative leader lamented. "[M]any textbooks are actually perverting the minds of literally millions of students."

A teachers organization shot back, saying the underlying motive for some attacks against books has "unquestionably been racial."

This might sound like a back-and-forth from recent debates over removing books from school classrooms and libraries. Often, critical race theory – an academic framework for understanding racism – has been at the center of these debates. But in reality, both quotes are more than 40 years old.

The first quote came from a 1981 book by the Rev. Jerry Falwell titled "Listen, America!" Falwell, founder of the Moral Majority, was one of the leaders of the book-banning efforts of the 1980s. It was during this period – with Ronald Reagan in the White House – that Christian fundamentalists became a growing influence in conservative American politics.

The second quote comes from a 1981 publication of the National Council of Teachers of English, "The Students' Right to Read." The council was one of the major groups opposing Falwell and other conservatives.

The attacks on books in the 1980s bear similarities to the current attacks. Both object to the critical teaching about race and racism, historical as well as contemporary. Both accuse schools of tearing down America and weakening patriotism. Both object to teaching about gender roles, sexual orientation and alternative models of the family. Conservative institutions like the Heritage Foundation have been involved in both periods.

There are also important differences between the two periods. The 1980s bogeyman was secular humanism, because it argued that human beings can define their own morality without the use of religion. Falwell and others claimed that public schools were anti-Christian because they taught students that they didn't have to use the Bible as a standard for right and wrong. Chaos would result, the Christian fundamentalists asserted, if everyone had to determine their own morality.

In 2022, of course, the bogeyman is critical race theory. Emerging from critical legal theory taught in law schools, critical race theory argues that white supremacy has been embedded in American legal and educational institutions since the time of slavery.

Critical race theorists took these and other concepts, reinterpreted them and applied them to the American legal system. Scholars in education have done the same in trying to understand education as an institution. After 40-plus years of teaching and writing about race and diversity, I know that it is impossible to accurately discuss American racial conflict without using these concepts. But that's what many lawmakers would have American educators do.

According to a Pen America report, a nonprofit that advocates for freedom of expression in literature, 156 "educational gag order" bills in 39 states have been introduced since January 2021. Twelve have become law in 10 states, and 113 are pending in 35 states. As of March 2022, at least seven states specifically ban the teaching of critical race theory. "Cumulatively," says the Pen report, "they represent a national assault on our education system, censoring both what teachers can say and what students may learn."

Of course, some white students – and other students, too, for that matter – will feel uncomfortable upon learning not only about the history of American racism but also its present manifestations. Reality is sometimes uncomfortable.

That's where good teaching comes in. Good teaching means taking the students' age into account. It also means being supportive of students who may feel uncomfortable or guilty about certain events in American history.

I always tell students: "You are not responsible for what happened in the past. You are responsible to decide what you plan to do in the present and the future."

[Abridged]

China is seeing a new surge in COVID-19 cases across the vast country, despite its draconian "zero tolerance" approach to dealing with outbreaks.

The mainland yesterday reported 214 new cases of infection over the previous 24 hours, with the most, 69, in the southern province of Guangdong bordering on Hong Kong, which has been recording tens of thousands of cases per day.

Another 54 cases were reported in the Jilin province, more than 2,000 kilometers to the north, and 46 in the eastern province Shandong.

In his annual report to the national legislature Saturday,

Premier Li Keqiang said China needs to "constantly refine epidemic containment" but gave no indication Beijing might ease the highly touted "zero tolerance" strategy.

"Zero tolerance" requires quarantines and lockdowns on entire communities and sometimes even cities when as few as a handful of cases have been detected. Chinese officials credit the approach – along with a vaccination rate of more than 80% – with helping prevent a major nationwide outbreak, but critics say it is taking a major toll on the economy and preventing the population from building up natural immunity.



**'SQUID GAME ELECTION': SOUTH KOREAN CAMPAIGN GETS UGLY**

HYUNG-JIN KIM, SEOUL

**T**he race between South Korea's two leading presidential candidates has seen unprecedented levels of toxic rhetoric, mudslinging and lawsuits. How bad is it? "Hitler," "beast," and "parasite" are some of the choicer insults leveled by both camps. Some are even calling it "The Squid Game Election," in reference to Netflix's megahit survival drama where people are killed if they lose children's games.

And the stakes? There's widespread speculation that the loser will be arrested.

"It's a dreadful presidential election when the losing contender faces prison. Please survive this dogfight in the mire!" senior opposition politician Hong Joon-pyo wrote on Facebook.

Just days before Wednesday's election, Lee Jae-myung from the liberal governing Democratic Party and Yoon Suk Yeol from the main conservative opposition People Power Party are locked in an extremely tight race.

Their negative campaigns are aggravating South Korea's already severe political divide at a time when it faces a battered, pandemic-hit economy, a balancing act over competition between its main ally, Washington, and its top trading partner, China, and a raft of threats and weapons tests from rival North Korea.

Opinion surveys show

that both candidates have more critics than supporters.

"Isn't our national future too bleak with an unpleasant and bitter presidential election that calls for choosing the lesser of two evils?" the mass-circulation Dong-A Ilbo newspaper said in an editorial.

Yoon has slammed Lee over his possible ties to an allegedly corrupt land development scandal. Lee has denied any connection, and in turn has tried to link Yoon to the same scandal, while separately criticizing him for his reported ties to shamanism – an ancient, indigenous religious belief.

There have also been attacks on the candidates' wives, both of whom have been forced to apologize over separate scandals.

Yoon described Lee's party as "Hitler" and "Mussolini" while an associate called Lee's purported aides "parasites." Lee's allies called Yoon "a beast," "dictator" and "an empty can" and derided his wife's alleged plastic surgery.

Their campaign teams and supporters have filed dozens of lawsuits charging libel and the spread of false information, among other issues.

"This year's presidential election has been more overwhelmed by negative campaigning than any other previous election, and the mutual hatred won't easily die down after the election," said Choi Jin, director of the Seoul-based Institute of Presidential Leadership.

Among the fault lines in the electorate are South Korean regional rivalries, views on North Korea, a conflict between generations, economic inequality and women's rights issues.

Yoon is more popular with older voters and those in the southeastern region of Gyeongsang, where past conservative and authoritarian leaders came from. His supporters typically advocate a stronger military alliance with the United States and a tougher line on North Korea, and they credit past authoritarian rulers for quickly developing the economy after the Korean War.

Lee enjoys greater support from younger people and those from Jeolla province, Gyeongsang's rival region in the southwest. His supporters generally want an equal footing in relations with the United States and rapprochement with North Korea while being extremely critical of past authoritarian rulers' human rights records.

In a notable development, many surveys showed Yoon has received greater approval ratings than Lee from voters aged 18 and 29, most of whom were born after South Korea became a developed country.

"They didn't experience poverty and dictatorships. ... They are very critical of China and North Korea, and they have rather friendly feelings toward the U.S. and Japan," said Park Sung-min, head of Seoul-based MIN Consulting, a political consulting firm. **MDT/AP**

**Israel** fired several missiles toward Syrian military positions near the capital Damascus yesterday, killing two civilians and causing material damage, Syria's defense ministry said. It was the first Israeli attack inside Syria since Russia, a key backer of President Bashar Assad, invaded Ukraine. The defense ministry said in a statement that Israeli warplanes flying over neighboring Lebanon fired the missiles toward Syria, adding that Syrian air defenses shot down most of the missiles.

**Libya's** national oil company said yesterday that an armed group has shut down two crucial oil fields, causing the country's daily production of oil to drop by 330,000 barrels. The state-run National Oil Corporation said the group closed pump valves at the Sharara field, Libya's largest, and el-Feel, effectively stopping production in both areas. Before the shutdown, Libya's production of oil was at around 1.2 billion barrels per day.

**Yemen's** Houthi rebels launched at least one missile into the busy waters of Red Sea over the weekend, the U.S. Navy said yesterday, raising the risk of their fire striking one of the many commercial vessels using a waterway crucial to global shipping. The Red Sea connects into the Suez Canal, which sends cargo and energy shipments from the wider Mideast onto Europe.



**France** While most of the world is shunning President Vladimir Putin over Russia's invasion of Ukraine, one of the few leaders keeping an open line of communication is French President Emmanuel Macron. Macron's diplomatic efforts to prevent the war failed, but he's not giving up: the two men have spoken four times since Russian forces attacked Ukraine on Feb. 24, and 11 times over the past month.