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**South Korea** Whoever wins South Korea's presidential election today will face a host of major issues, including skyrocketing housing prices, threats from nuclear-armed North Korea and a debate about how to heal a nation sharply split along ideological, generational and gender lines. The winner will take office on May 10 for a single five-year term. The candidate who receives the most votes is declared the winner, even if that person fails to achieve majority support. Current liberal President Moon Jae-in is barred by law from seeking reelection.



**Japan-Ukraine** Japanese automaker Nissan is planning to halt production at its plant in Russia because of "logistical challenges." Nissan Motor Co. did not provide a specific date but said yesterday production will stop "soon." Its plant in St. Petersburg produced 45,000 vehicles last year, including the X-Trail sport utility vehicle. The Yokohama-based manufacturer said the safety of its employees is its top priority. Nissan earlier stopped exports to Russia.

**UK-Ukraine** Britain's defense secretary said the invasion of Ukraine will be Vladimir Putin's downfall as the Russian leader struggles to defeat and occupy a country that has put up unexpectedly staunch resistance to his armies. Ben Wallace said Russian forces are already "exhausted" after facing logistical problems and suffering thousands of losses in the first 13 days of fighting. He added it's "an impossible task" to occupy a country of 44 million people that is bigger than France and Germany combined.

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# INTERNAL EMPOWERMENT IS KEY TO GENDER EQUALITY: LOCAL BUSINESS EXECUTIVE

ANTHONY LAM

**T**RUE support within a sisterhood circle is key to achieving gender equality, Renee Chisolm, vice president of operations at DFS Macau, said at a seminar yesterday.

From personal experience, Chisolm suggested that females are harsher in their self-evaluation and that men may have greater egos in that respect.

Her experience was that when women were told to rate their own achievements, they tended to be conservative and underrate themselves. In contrast, men were usually bolder and rated themselves to be more successful, regardless of their actual achievements.

As such, instead of saying that women should be bolder – like what people usually say – Chisolm encouraged women to support fellow women in empowering each other to strive to achieve higher goals.

Also at the seminar, Eddie McDougall, group CEO of The Flying Winemaker, highlighted that women had been underrated in the eight millennia of wine making, noting the wide array of male icons used to represent the industry.



Women, however, were essential to wine making during World War I, when all the men were on battlefields fighting. Women were “instructed” to take good care of vineyards and produce.

However, he pointed out that the industry has become different now, with more women immersing in wine making. McDougall stressed that the first clear champagne in history was

made by a woman.

Another speaker, Luisa Bragança, vice president at Sands China Ltd., revealed that her daughter was asked by her school to obtain parental consent on the commencement of sex education. She found this requirement bizarre.

Later, her daughter told her that she was not satisfied with the curriculum, as it was heterosexually-oriented. Bragança stressed

that in the fight for gender equality, the equality of other sexualities should not be neglected.

Yesterday's seminar was co-organized by the British and Australian Chambers of Commerce in Macau. It was the second edition of its kind in two years.

Panel facilitator and multi-property vice president of Sheraton Grand Macao and The St. Regis Macao, Janet McNab, said it was a

great honor to be part of a celebration that recognizes the successes of women while acknowledging the many challenges women face around the world.

“Collectively everyone can strive for women's equality and continue to make positive gains towards a world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination,” chairman of the British Chamber of Commerce in Macao, Keith Buckley, said.

Meanwhile, Patrick Liu, chairman of the Australian Chamber of Commerce in Macau, said: “Celebrating International Women's Day and the achievements of women is especially important today as we reflect on why gender equality is good for everyone.”

The origins of International Women's Day date back to 1917 when women working as textile workers in Russia protested to demand voting rights. International Women's Day is now a globally recognized day of celebrations, first acknowledged by the United Nations in 1975.

The proceeds of the International Women's Day event of 130,000 patacas will be donated to Good Shepherd Sisters, to support their work uplifting the welfare of women and girls, especially those marginalized by society.

## IC2 joins Women's Day through painting workshop

**T**HE Macau IC2 (I Can Too) Association has joined the International Women's Day campaign this year with painting activities that encouraged members to promote this year's theme, #BreakTheBias.

At their 'Happy House' yesterday, several members of the non-profit organization - founded by people with disabilities - participated at the first session of a painting workshop led by architect Catarina Monteiro da Costa, who used instant coffee as a medium for the painting.

The activity kickstarts the World Earth Day community campaign the IC2 members will host on



April 22.

To celebrate Women's Day, the 'Happy House' was visited by a community of women who supported the IC2 members during the painting workshop.

As the main mission and vision of the association is to promote equality and inclusion, Ruby Lo, member of the association's Parent Council remarked, “[The association] wants to exchange information

and promote people with intellectual disabilities. They want to be included in society.”

“We're happy that they can be included in society to learn more [about this event]. The workshop is to know more about the society, environment, [...] and ways to recycle,” she added.

Meanwhile, Ada Lo, a long-time volunteer at the association and advocate for the rights of people with disabilities, said that the works of the IC2 members will be showcased during World Earth Day with the aim of promoting low-carbon development.

Speaking to the Times, Ada Lo said that next April

will be the second year that the association will hold such an event.

“The theme of today is breaking bias. We want to create inclusion, as opposed to describing the minority or the majority,” the advocate added.

Ada Lo has previously expressed that people with intellectual disabilities are often stereotyped and underestimated. Hence, events such as this are an opportunity to prove their capabilities. Last year, the IC2 association held a tree planting activity to promote environmental protection awareness on World Earth Day and fundraise for disaster relief to help with

the severe floods in Henan, Zhengzhou.

IC2 currently has 165 members, providing training and leisure activities for members. These include activities involving the use of an abacus and mental arithmetic, painting, handicrafts, knitting, mandala soul painting, storytelling and event planning training courses.

The association reports a growing number of members when compared to pre-pandemic times in 2019, when it only had 100 members. The majority of members have autism or intellectual disability.

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

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GAMING

# March revenues to fall 32%: Bernstein

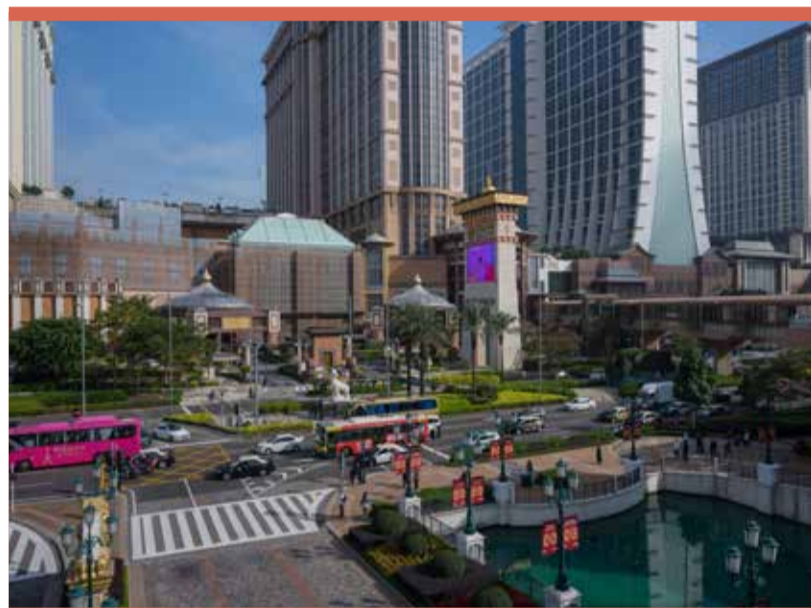
LYNZY VALLES

**T**HE city will see a downturn of up to 32% in gross gaming revenues (GGR) this month when compared year-on-year, according to brokerage firm Sanford C. Bernstein.

Channel checks of the firm showed that in the first six days of March, casino revenues totaled MOP1.1 billion, with an average income of MOP183 million per day.

The figure shows a 32% decrease compared to last year, and 75% plunge when compared to pre-pandemic figures, as cited in a TDM report.

Bernstein noted that the reason for the drop is due to the lower travel demand motivated by the growing number of Covid-19 cases in Hong Kong, where the fast-spreading Omicron variant is overwhelming the city and prompting mass testing, quarantines, panic-buying



at supermarkets and a shortage of hospital beds.

Yesterday alone, Hong Kong saw more than 43,100 new cases, following the launch of an online platform for people to

record infections.

Other factors that are considered to be reasons for the GGR decline include the cases in Guangdong province, which led to the mass testing of targeted groups in Macau, as

well as the start of the fifth session of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) and the fifth session of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) on Monday.

Although it is forecasted that gaming sector will remain under pressure in the short term, the firm expresses optimism for recovery in the long term.

One significant factor for a negative forecast is the uncertainty surrounding the timing of when China will resume group tour visas. Currently, China is championing a zero-Covid strategy which includes strict mitigation measures as opposed to other countries, particularly in the West, which are seeking to normalize living with Covid-19.

Growth in gross gaming revenue has been recorded for February, with casino operators generating MOP7.7 billion in total compared to the MOP6.34 billion amassed in January.

Data from the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau showed that, even if the figures represent a 69% decline from pre-pandemic levels, the 22.3% month-on-month surge is a strong indication of the sector rebounding with the help of Lunar New Year visitors.

## MGTO LAUNCHES MACANESE-CUISINE VIDEO SERIES

The Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) is launching a series of videos on the Macao gastronomy website from March to June to manifest the cultural heritage and culinary artistry of Macanese cuisine. In collaboration with the Macao Institute for Tourism Studies (IFTM) and the International Institute of Macau (IIM), the Macanese-cuisine series consists of four videos, each of which will be released successively on the Macao gastronomy website video gallery, on the eighth day of each month from March to June 2022. The first video was released yesterday.

## RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY PRICE INDEX RECORDS SLIGHT DECREASE

The overall residential property price index for November 2021 to January 2022 decreased by 1.0% over the previous period (October - December 2021) to 264.8, according to the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). The indices for the Macau Peninsula (264.2) and Taipa & Coloane (267.3) fell by 1.1% and 0.8% respectively. The index for existing residential units (283.0) decreased by 1.1% from the previous period, with the indices for those in the Macau Peninsula (274.3) and Taipa & Coloane (317.1) dropping by 1.3% and 0.8% respectively. In terms of high- and low-rise buildings, both the indices for residential units of buildings with seven storeys or fewer and for those with more than seven storeys fell by 1.1%.

LAI KEI

# TOP COURT RULES IN FAVOR OF ICE CREAM BRAND IN TRADEMARK DISPUTE

**T**HE Court of Final Appeal has ruled that registering trademarks using similar designs or elements should not be approved.

In a recent case, a bakery owner who owns the Lai Kei Bakery brand - and its name in Chinese characters - wanted to register the brand as trademarks in November 2018. The trademark would include two Chinese characters depicting the name of the bakery, as well as its Romanized form, Lai Kei.

In March 2020, the then Economic Bureau decli-



ned the application. The bakery put the matter to the court, challenging the

decision.

During the procedure, the court summoned the

brand holder of Lai Kei Ice Cream - officially Estabelecimento de Bebidas Lai Kei - the logo of which is a painted girl. Despite the trademark registration of the ice cream vendor being valid until May 2026, the Court of First Instance ruled in favor of the bakery.

The ice cream shop brought the case to the appeal court, which ruled in favor of the appellant, citing the reputation and fame of the brand in support of the judgment. This decision triggered the bakery to take the case to the top court.

The Court of Final Appeal upheld the decision of the second court, in addition to explaining that the "legal function" of a registered trademark is to differentiate the registered brand from others. Trademarks should be understood as a unique symbol among competitors, the court noted. Two registered trademarks should not be similar to a degree that could cause confusion.

The court even mentioned that the ice cream shop was identified as a "Macao Specialty Brand" by the Economic and Technological Development Bureau, in support of its reputation and history.

As such, the court upheld the judgment of the second court. **AL**

TWO SESSIONS

# PARLIAMENT HEAD PROPOSES NATIONAL LAW TO BETTER CODIFY HENGQIN COLLABORATIONS

**K**OU Hoi In, a Macau representative in the National Congress, proposed to the Standing Committee on the legislation of Hengqin Law to more clearly codify the area's development.

Kou is also the president of the local Legislative Assembly.

Citing the provision on dedicated legislation in the master plan on the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone, Kou

explained that the proposed legislation is crucial as it will build the foundation for the management of the zone.

A law is also needed to provide legality for the use of public power in the

zone, as it is co-administered by Macau and Guangdong.

Although provincial legislation is possible, national legislation is better because it can address the condition of the 'One

country, two systems' principle, Kou pointed out.

Meanwhile, Macau civil servants working in the zone will need a national law to provide them with "legality and effectiveness." He hinted that this problem cannot be solely resolved by provincial legislation.

He also pointed out several other problems without the law. For example, law conversion and judicial cooperation in the zone are

out of the authority of the Executive branch. Executive Regulations will not be able to solve certain problems, which he did not explain.

National legislation to solving these problems is feasible, he said, citing the fact that the Standing Committee passed the Hainan Free Trade Port Law. The same tactic can be used to eliminate a lack of clarity in relation to the zone. **AL**

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

# COVID-19 VACCINATION SHOULD NOT DELAY OTHER VACCINES

RENATO MARQUES

RENATO MARQUES

**A**LTHOUGH the Covid-19 vaccination plan is one of the priorities established by the government, it does not have higher importance than the vaccination plans for other diseases, health authorities told the Times.

Replying to a question from the Times on whether people should prioritize vaccination with a Covid-19 vaccine or follow other regular vaccination plans first, Dr. Leong Iek Hou, coordinator at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, said, "We don't want the Covid-19 vaccination plan to cause people to delay other vaccination plans," adding that people should adhere to their regular plans and ensure they receive any necessary vaccines on time, even if this means that they need to postpone one of the Covid-19 doses for a couple of weeks.

The question was raised due to information received by the Times regarding a citizen who wished to receive an anti-tetanus vaccine being informed at the counter of a private hospital in Macau that he should first be vaccinated against Covid-19.

In response, Leong reaffirmed

that there is no Health Bureau (SSM) policy on this matter and that the position of the health authorities is that regular vaccination plans should not be delayed.

The same official explained that what the SSM is doing is promoting the Covid-19 vaccine to citizens seeking medical services who are not yet vaccinated.

"We are just promoting and advising people who have not received the vaccine yet to do so," Leong said. "That is all we can do, explaining to them that the vaccine can help them to protect themselves, their families, and the community in general."

## NO PLANS FOR A COVID-19 FIELD HOSPITAL IN SEAC PAI VAN

At the same opportunity in response to a question, health authorities also denied having plans for a field hospital dedicated to Covid-19 isolation and treatment to be built around the Seac Pai Van area.

"There are no such plans yet and there is no location defined. We are only studying potential spaces that could be suitable for such a facility, in the case if ever needed," Leong said, adding, "It needs to be a place big enough to contain all the facilities and allow for closed-loop ma-

nagement as well being far from densely populated areas such as residential areas," she concluded.

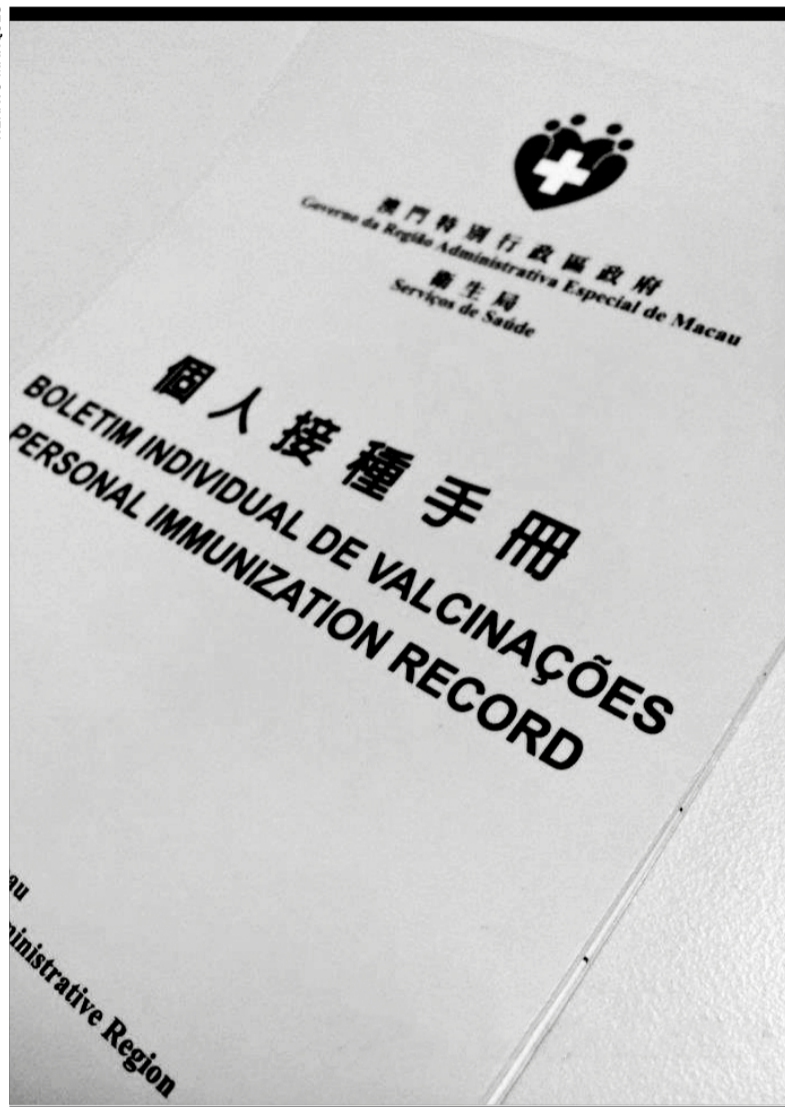
The idea of building a large-size quarantine facility in Macau is part of the Policy Address from the government for 2022 (LAG22) and was mentioned when the Chief Executive (CE), Ho Iat Seng, delivered the main points of the LAG22 at the Legislative Assembly (AL) last November.

Nonetheless, in a session dedicated to a Q&A with the press on the LAG22 held the same day, Ho said in a reply to the Times that the government had no intention of building a dedicated quarantine facility in Macau.

The response came in apparent contradiction to the LAG22 document and Ho's address at the AL, and was never cleared by the authorities.

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

In the chapter dedicated to strengthening the infection prevention and control system and promoting economic recovery, the LAG22 document states that the government will "study the feasibility of building large quarantine facilities."



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# Lawmaker finds gov't EVs promotion policies contradictory

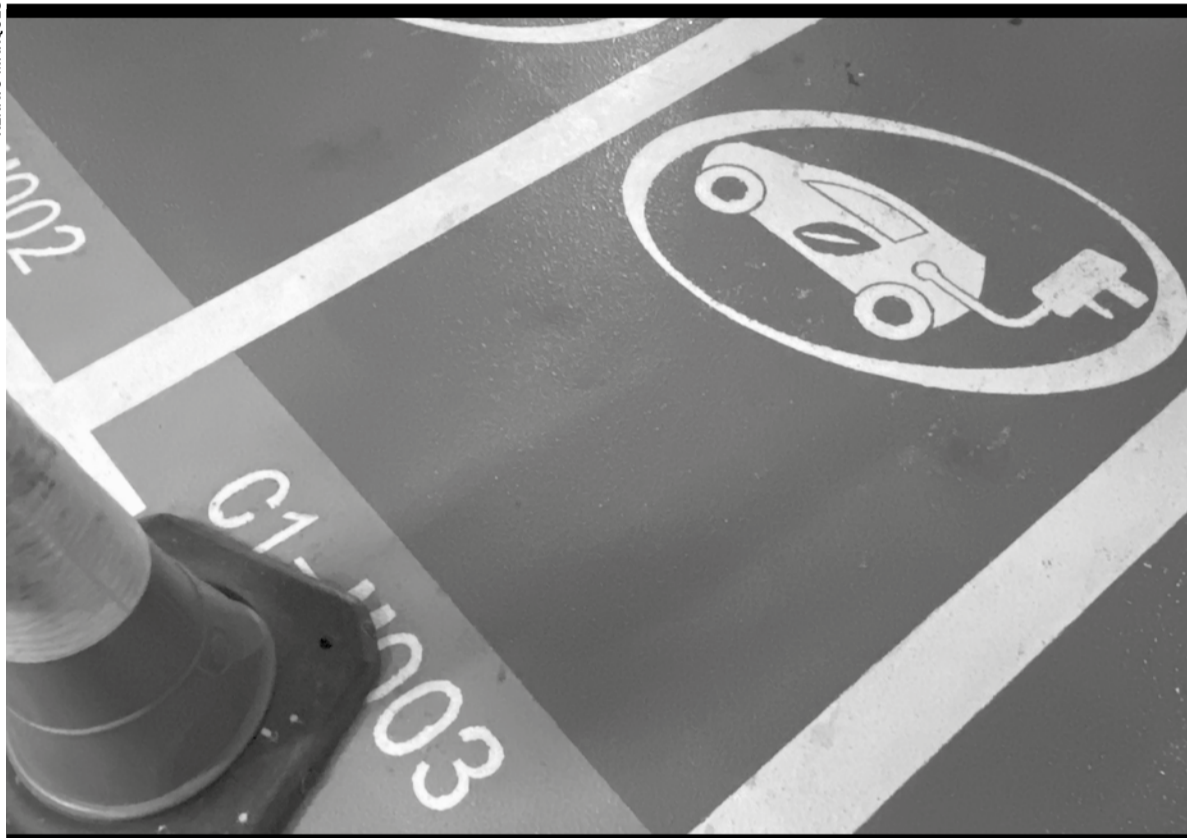
RENATO MARQUES

**L**AWMAKER Che Sai Wang has noted contradictions in the government's measures that aim to promote the use of Electric Vehicles (EVs) in Macau.

In a spoken inquiry delivered at the Legislative Assembly (AL), the lawmaker referenced recent measures by the Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA) that aim to replace small scooters with two-stroke engines with electric versions, and called for more coordinated measures between government departments to ensure that the promotion of EVs is effective.

Che said that while the government is offering several benefits, including a subsidy of MOP3,500 for each vehicle successfully replaced by an EV, there are no visible signs of progress regarding the number of charging stations. In addition, the lawmaker considers the subsidy amount too low to attract the interest of many users.

RENATO MARQUES



"Electric motorcycles are expensive, ranging from tens to hundreds of thousands of patacas, and the amount of the sub-

sidy is not enough to encourage owners to replace their motorcycles," the lawmaker said.

"In addition, according to the

data of the 'Plan for the installation of equipment for charging electric vehicles in public car parks,' there are only two free

charging stations for motorcycles located on the Macau Peninsula, which is quite inconvenient for motorcyclists from other areas of Macau," he added.

Adding to the problem, the lawmaker hinted that even if the subsidy offered by the government would interest a large number of old motorcycle owners, this would also be a problem as according to the DSPA's figures, the measure targets up to 7,650 motorcycles that would be required to share a very small number of charging stations.

Citing statistics from the Statistics and Census Bureau from December 31, 2021, Che said that the 326 electric motorcycles in Macau already experience problems with the limited number of charging stations. This problem is likely to be aggravated by the exponential growth of this EVs under the DSPA's measures.

For the lawmaker, successful implementation of such a measure can only be done through the significant improvement of complementary facilities for both electric-powered cars and motorcycles.

Additionally, it should be complemented with an increase in the benefits and subsidies to be granted to the vehicle owners on acquisition of an EV, especially if it involves the trading-in of a fossil-fuel-powered vehicle.

GBA

## Guangdong per capita GDP exceeded USD15,000 in 2021

**T**HE per capita GDP for the residents of south China's Guangdong Province exceeded USD15,000 for the first time in 2021, according to a recent statistical bulletin.

Guangdong's Statistical Bulletin of National Economic and Social Development 2021 shows that the per capita GDP in Guangdong reached USD15,234 (98,285 yuan) last year, up by 7.1%. That is calculated on an annual average exchange rates basis.

### POPULATION BONUS

Despite the pandemic, the number of permanent residents in Guangdong swelled by 600,000 last year to 127 million, even higher than the nation's total population growth, which is 480,000.

A more populous province means a larger labor force, a bigger and increasingly growing consumption market as well as great potential to enhance human capital. And Guangdong is no exception.

Over the past year, the province raised the dispo-

sable residential income per capita to 45,000 yuan, an annual increase of 9.7% year-on-year, and the residential consumption expenditure per capita to 331,589 yuan, up by 10.9% year-on-year.

The advantage of a large population also reflects in the number of patents annually. By the end of 2021, the number of patents per 10,000 people in Guangdong was 34.89 with the total number of valid invention patents being 439,600, ranking first in the country.

"Guangdong has very strong R&D capabilities with a relatively high patent number. It should further increase the share of invention patents, support the application of international patents under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), and strengthen patent cooperation with Hong Kong and Macao to build a global high land for patents", said Xie Laifeng, deputy director of Hong Kong, Macao and Regional Development Institute of China (Shenzhen) Comprehensive Development Research Institute.

### ECONOMIC DYNAMISM

In 2021, Guangdong's GDP reached 12.4 trillion yuan, an increase of 8% year-on-year.

The total value of import and export in Guangdong exceeded eight trillion yuan, up by 16.7%. And the foreign investment in actual use registered 184 billion yuan and hit its latest high with an increase of 13.6%.

Furthermore, there were 1.42 million of various market entities newly registered across the province, making the total amount exceeding 15 million.

"This year Guangdong will accelerate fiscal spending and properly advance infrastructure investment to achieve steady and reasonable economic growth. It will make targeted investment with a high efficiency and allocate 900 billion yuan for key provincial projects in 2022", said Zheng Renhao, director of the Guangdong Provincial Development & Reform Commission.

New business forms like cross-border e-commer-

LOENG LIG



ce and market purchasing have greatly lowered the threshold for SMEs to conduct international trade and spurred foreign businesses to expand overseas market in the post-pandemic era.

Till February 8, all

Guangdong's 21 cities have set up cross-border e-commerce comprehensive pilot areas.

"Based on the mature physical production and sale, cross-border e-commerce is gradually becoming less dependent on

the off-line transaction. It is crucial to bolster foreign trade in Guangdong, maintain the stability of China's foreign trade and sustain its economic growth," said Li Zhiyuan, professor of Economics at Fudan University. **MDT/NEWSGD**



## XI WARNS AGAINST SANCTIONS' GLOBAL IMPACT

**C**HINESE state sources said President Xi Jinping has criticized sanctions imposed on Russia over its war against Ukraine as "harmful to all sides," in a video summit with French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz. China has largely backed Russia in blaming the U.S. and its allies for provoking the conflict and has abstained in votes at the United Nations over whether to condemn Moscow for its actions. According to Xinhua, the Chinese President urged

his counterparts to join support for the peace talks between Russia and Ukraine, and stressed the need to encourage the two sides to keep the momentum of negotiations, overcome difficulties, keep the talks going and bring about peaceful outcomes. In its readout of yesterday's conversation, Chinese state broadcaster CCTV said Xi expressed "anxiety and deep pain" over the fighting, and urged the sides to pursue peace talks in which he said China was

willing to play a role. Xi gave no indication on what sort of resolution China was looking for and the only details he gave concerned the impact of sanctions. "We want to strive together to reduce the negative effects of the crisis," Xi was quoted as saying. "Regarding the impact of sanctions on global finance, energy resources, transport and supply chain stability, in terms of a world economy already burdened by the pandemic, it is harmful to all sides." **MDT/AGENCIES**

## RUSSIAN BANKS MULL CHINA UNIONPAY AS VISA, MASTERCARD EXIT

**L**EADING Russian banks are looking into using a Chinese payment rival after Visa and Mastercard suspended operations, while all the big global accounting firms said they would pull out of Russia in the latest corporate fallout over the invasion of Ukraine.

Ernst & Young and Deloitte cut ties yesterday [Macau time] with their operations in Russia, both saying they would work to support thousands of colleagues who will be affected. Ernst & Young cited what it called the "shocking and abhorrent war in Ukraine," and Deloitte also said it would exit Moscow-allied Belarus.

KPMG and PricewaterhouseCoopers, the other so-called Big Four accounting firms, announced their exits from Russia a day earlier.

A host of foreign companies have suspended financial services in Russia — as well as major brands from Apple to Shell and Ikea — as part of a larger move by the West to isolate Russia and cut it off from the global financial system. Visa, Mastercard and American Express withdrew their services over the weekend.

That has left Russian banks scrambling to find new ways to facili-



tate cross-border payments.

Sberbank and Tinkoff Bank said Sunday that they are considering the possibility of payment cards powered by China's UnionPay system. Sberbank, Russia's largest bank, said it would announce the launch date later.

Sberbank and Tinkoff told users that they will be able to use Visa and Mastercard for transactions within Russia but they will stop working for payments outside of the country after today.

The Russian central bank has warned that all cards using the Visa or Mastercard systems will stop working for both purchases on foreign websites and transactions abroad.

As Western companies pull out of Russia, China has emerged

as a critical connection. Beijing reaffirmed its ties Monday, with the foreign minister describing Russia as China's "most important strategic partner."

China has refused to criticize the invasion of Ukraine but tried to distance itself by calling for dialogue and respect of national sovereignty.

The Chinese payment processor UnionPay benefits from its position as a payment monopoly bolstered by the large Chinese population and the world's second-largest economy, helping it to grow into a serious rival to Visa and Mastercard.

UnionPay cards are accepted at physical stores in 180 countries and regions and at online stores in 200 countries and regions, according to its website. **MDT/AP**

### HONG KONG

## IMF report recognizes SAR's strong economic recovery

**T**HE International Monetary Fund (IMF) has reinforced its assessment of Hong Kong's economic and financial positions, recognizing that Hong Kong's financial sector has continued expanding robustly even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In its Staff Report released yesterday, the IMF reaffirmed Hong Kong's position as a major global financial center with a resilient financial system, sound macroprudential policies, and robust regulatory and supervisory frameworks.

The IMF also welcomed that a large fiscal stimulus has helped mitigate the impact of economic shocks and speed up economic recovery. It supports the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government's three-pronged approach to containing housing market risks and increasing housing affordability.

Paul Chan, financial secretary of the HKSAR government, said, "I welcome the IMF's recognition of our strong economic recovery supported by swift and bold policy responses."

The HKSAR government will continue to closely monitor the local epidemic situation, take necessary and effective fiscal measures and further strengthen Hong Kong's already robust institutional frameworks with a view to fostering economic recovery after the pandemic and safeguarding financial stability, he said.

Eddie Yue, chief executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, said, "I welcome the IMF's reaffirmation of the robustness and resilience of our banking and financial system. The

well-functioning Linked Exchange Rate System will continue to be an anchor of economic and financial stability for Hong Kong."

The IMF Mission held virtual discussions with government officials, regulators, and private sector representatives in Hong Kong on Dec. 1-15, 2021. The Concluding Statement of the Mission's assessment was published on Jan. 20, 2022. The Staff Report, substantiated by a more detailed analysis, was endorsed by the IMF Executive Board last Feb. 2022. **XINHUA**



Paul Chan, Financial Secretary of Hong Kong



People cross an improvised path under a destroyed bridge while fleeing the town of Irpin close to Kyiv

## PUTIN'S WAR

# Civilians flee Ukrainian city as one safe corridor opens

YURAS KARMANAU, LVIV

**B**USES packed with people fleeing the Russian invasion in Ukraine began a procession along a snowy road out of one city yesterday, as a new effort to evacuate civilians along safe corridors finally got underway.

The Russian onslaught has forced 2 million people to flee Ukraine, U.N. officials said, but has trapped others inside besieged cities that are running low on food, water and medicine amid the biggest ground war in Europe since World War II.

Previous attempts to lead civilians to safety have crumbled with renewed attacks. The route people took yesterday out of the eastern city of Sumy was one of five promised by the Russians to offer civilians a way to escape the fighting.

Video posted by the Ukrainian state communications agency showed people with bags boarding buses, but it was not clear how long the effort would last.

"The Ukrainian city of Sumy was given a green corridor, the first stage of evacuation began," the agency tweeted. Sumy is just 50 kilometers from the Russian border.

With the invasion well into its second week, Russian troops have made significant advances in southern Ukraine but stalled in some other regions. Ukrainian soldiers and volunteers fortified the capital, Kyiv, with hundreds of checkpoints and barricades designed to thwart a takeover. A steady rain of shells and rockets fell on other population centers, including the

Kyiv suburb of Bucha, where the mayor reported heavy artillery fire.

"We can't even gather up the bodies because the shelling from heavy weapons doesn't stop day or night," Mayor Anatol Fedoruk said. "Dogs are pulling apart the bodies on the city streets. It's a nightmare."

In one of the most desperate cities, the encircled southern port of Mariupol, an estimated 200,000 people — nearly half the population of 430,000 — were hoping to flee, and Red Cross officials waited to hear when a corridor would be established.

Russia's coordination center for humanitarian efforts in Ukraine and Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk both said a cease-fire was agreed to start yesterday morning to allow some civilians to evacuate, but the two sides differed on where they said the corridors would be.

Russia's coordination center suggested there would be more than one corridor, but that most would lead to Russia, either directly or through Belarus. At the U.N., however, the Russian ambassador suggested corridors from several cities could be opened and people could choose for themselves which direction they would take.

Vereshchuk, meanwhile, only said that the two sides had agreed to an evacuation of civilians from the eastern city of Sumy, toward the Ukrainian city of Poltava. Those to be evacuated include foreign students from India and China, she said.

She reiterated that proposals to evacuate civilians to Russia and its

ally Belarus, which was a launch pad for the invasion, were unacceptable.

Demands for effective passageways have surged amid intensifying shelling by Russian forces. The steady bombardments, including in some of Ukraine's most populated regions, have yielded a humanitarian crisis of diminishing food, water and medical supplies.

Through it all, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Ukrainian forces were showing unprecedented courage.

"The problem is that for one soldier of Ukraine, we have 10 Russian soldiers, and for one Ukrainian tank, we have 50 Russian tanks," Zelenskyy told ABC News in an interview that aired Monday night. But he noted that the gap in strength was closing and that even if Russian forces "come into all our cities," they will be met with an insurgency.

A top U.S. official said multiple countries were discussing whether to provide the warplanes that Zelenskyy has been pleading for.

## THE SIEGE OF MARIUPOL AND KHARKIV

The besieged city of Mariupol was short on water, food and power, and cellphone networks are down. Stores have been looted as residents search for essential goods. Police moved through the city, advising people to remain in shelters until they heard official messages broadcast over loudspeakers to evacuate.

Hospitals in Mariupol are facing severe shortages of antibiotics and painkillers, and doctors performed some emergency pro-

cedures without them.

The lack of phone service left anxious citizens approaching strangers to ask if they knew relatives living in other parts of the city and whether they were safe.

The battle for Mariupol is crucial because its capture could allow Moscow to establish a land corridor to Crimea, which Russia seized from Ukraine in 2014.

Several hundred kilometers west of Mariupol, Russian forces continued their offensive in Mykolaiv, opening fire on the Black Sea shipbuilding center of a half-million people, according to Ukraine's military. Rescuers said they were putting out fires caused by rocket attacks in residential areas.

Ukraine's general staff of the armed forces said in a statement yesterday that Ukrainian forces are continuing defense operations in the suburbs of the city.

The general staff said "demoralized" Russian forces are engaging in looting in places they have occupied, commandeering civilian buildings like farm hangars for military equipment, and are setting up firing positions in populated areas. The claims could not be independently verified.

Ukrainian defense forces were also involved in operations in the northern city of Chernihiv and the outskirts of Kyiv, the general staff said.

In Kyiv, soldiers and volunteers have built hundreds of checkpoints to protect the city of nearly 4 million, often using sandbags, stacked tires and spiked cables. Some barricades looked significant, with heavy concrete slabs and sandbags piled more

than two stories high, while others appeared more haphazard, with hundreds of books used to weigh down stacks of tires.

"Every house, every street, every checkpoint, we will fight to the death if necessary," said Mayor Vitali Klitschko.

In Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, with 1.4 million people, heavy shelling slammed into apartment buildings.

"I think it struck the fourth floor under us," Dmitry Sedorenko said from his Kharkiv hospital bed. "Immediately, everything started burning and falling apart." When the floor collapsed beneath him, he crawled out through the third story, past the bodies of some of his neighbors.

In the small town of Horenka, where shelling reduced one area to ashes and shards of glass, rescuers and residents picked through the ruins as chickens pecked around them.

"What are they doing?" rescue worker Vasyl Oksak asked of the Russian attackers. "There were two little kids and two elderly people living here. Come in and see what they have done."

## UKRAINE'S BATTLE AT COURT OF JUSTICE

At The Hague, Ukraine pleaded with the International Court of Justice to order a halt to Russia's invasion, saying Moscow is committing widespread war crimes.

Russia "is resorting to tactics reminiscent of medieval siege warfare, encircling cities, cutting off escape routes and pounding the civilian population with heavy ordnance," said Jonathan Gimblett, a member of Ukraine's legal team.

The fighting has sent energy prices surging worldwide and stocks plummeting, and threatens the food supply and livelihoods of people around the globe who rely on crops farmed in the fertile Black Sea region.

The U.N. human rights office reported 406 confirmed civilian deaths but said the real number is much higher.

Yesterday [Macau time], Moscow again announced a series of demands to stop the invasion, including that Ukraine recognize Crimea as part of Russia and recognize the eastern regions controlled by Moscow-supported separatist fighters as independent. It also insisted that Ukraine change its constitution to guarantee it won't join international bodies like NATO and the EU. Ukraine has already rejected those demands.

Zelenskyy has called for more punitive measures against Russia, including a global boycott of its oil exports, which are key to its economy.

"If (Russia) doesn't want to abide by civilized rules, then they shouldn't receive goods and services from civilization," he said in a video address. **MDT/AP**

USA

# Climate change is like war, former California governor says

KATHLEEN RONAYNE, WILLIAMS (CALIF.)

**F**ORMER California Gov. Jerry Brown is living off the grid in retirement, but he's still deeply connected on two issues that captivated him while in office and now are center stage globally: climate change and the threat of nuclear war.

The 83-year-old Brown, who left office in 2019, serves as executive chairman of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, which sets the Doomsday Clock measuring how close humanity is to self-destruction. He's also on the board of the Nuclear Threat Initiative.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Brown commended President Joe Biden for not raising the U.S. nuclear threat level after Russian President Vladimir Putin made veiled threats to use his country's nuclear arsenal amid its war in Ukraine. Brown also urged Biden to resist Republican calls to increase oil production as gasoline prices soar.

"It's true that the Russians are earning money from oil and gas, but to compound that problem by accelerating oil and gas in America would go against the climate goals, and climate is like war: If we don't handle it, people are going to die and they're going to be suffering. Not immediately, but over time," said Brown, a Democrat.

Brown spoke to the AP last week from his home in rural Colusa County, about 60 miles northwest of Sacramento. The land in California's inner coastal mountain range has been in Brown's family since the 1860s, when his great-grandfather emigrated from Germany and built a stagecoach stop known as the Mountain House.

The home Brown and his wife, Anne Gust Brown, finished building in 2019 is called Mountain House III. The home is powered entirely by solar panels and is not connected to any local utility.

Though Brown is retired from electoral politics after serving a record four terms



Former California Gov. Jerry Brown and his wife, Anne Gust Brown take their dogs for a walk at their ranch near Williams, California

as California's governor — from 1975 to 1983 and 2011 to 2019 — he is hardly absent from public life.

Brown has organized conversations with John Kerry, Biden's special presidential envoy for climate; Xie Zhenhua, China's climate envoy; and former U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. He created and chairs the California-China Climate Institute at the University of California, Berkeley, which aims to boost collaboration on climate-related research and technology.

"No matter how antagonistic things get, cooperation is still the imperative to deal with climate and nuclear proliferation," he said.

At the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, he brings an important political perspective as its scientists consider how to get their message out, said Rachel Bronson, the group's president. Last week, he joined the organization's science and security board as they formulated a statement on Putin's nuclear threats.

The scientists decided to not update the Doomsday Clock, which in 2020 was moved ahead 20 seconds to be set at 100 seconds to midnight, the metaphorical time representing global catastrophe. They did, however, warn Russia's invasion has brought to life the "nightmare scenario" that nuclear weapons could be used to escalate a "conventional conflict."

Bronson pursued Brown

for a leadership role as his governorship ended because of the deep interest he'd shown on its nuclear work and his capacity to understand big threats.

"He thinks about existential risk," Bronson said.

Indeed, Brown is a deep thinker on any number of issues, from hummingbirds to the very meaning of life and death. He trained to be a Jesuit priest but eventually abandoned those ambitions to follow his father into politics. Edmund "Pat" Brown was California governor from 1959-1967.

Jerry Brown brings a philosophical approach to life and work, often ready with a Latin phrase or motto to summarize his views. He has long lamented that the buildup of nuclear weapons and climate change fail to capture enough attention in the face of more immediate concerns — these days the coronavirus and inflation.

"We have to have enough bandwidth to look at the big issues, because if they get away from us we won't have the little issues to worry about," Brown said.

He warned a Republican takeover of the U.S. House after this fall's midterms, coupled with the possibility of the Supreme Court limiting the federal government's power to regulate greenhouse gas emissions, would make a climate "catastrophe all the more likely."

Though Brown has long contemplated the fate of the planet, he's perhaps

more connected to it than ever before. He gets his power from the sun and water from a well. Fueled by climate change, California's wildfires have become hotter, more unpredictable and more destructive in recent years and the location of Brown's 2,500-acre ranch has him living closer to the threat than ever.

He zips around the property on his ATV studying the trees and flowers, determined to learn their names, and in the fall he hosts friends to help harvest olives, which he has pressed into oil.

He's offered his property as a meeting space for the California Native Plant Society, entomologists, and forestry and fire experts. Last fall the forest experts put together a declaration calling for the state to focus on better forest management to decrease the severity of wildfires. Many of their suggestions mirrored those being pursued by Gov. Gavin Newsom's administration.

The entomologists, meanwhile, spent two days on the ranch for a planning retreat about how to protect California's insects. Brown allowed them to survey his land and two researchers found new species — an ant and a beetle, said Dan Gluesenkamp, executive director of the California Institute for Biodiversity and organizer of the retreat.

Brown joined the scientists for meals to grill them on their research. **MDT/AP**

## this day in history



### 1967 STALIN'S DAUGHTER DEFECTS TO THE WEST



The daughter of the Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin has requested political asylum at the United States Embassy in India.

The American Mutual Radio network broke the news but the American State Department has so far refused to comment.

Since her father's death in 1953, little has been heard of 42-year-old Svetlana Alliluyeva - who prefers to be known by her mother's maiden name.

She has been living in a flat in Moscow near the British Embassy working as a researcher and translator.

Svetlana is the only daughter of Joseph Stalin by his second wife Nadezhda Alliluyeva who committed suicide in 1932 when Svetlana was nine years old.

When she was just 18, Svetlana, married a Jewish fellow student at Moscow University against her father's wishes.

She had a son by him but the marriage was dissolved and her ex-husband sent to his death in a Siberian labour camp.

Her second husband was Yuri Zhdanov, the son of Andrei, a close ally of Stalin.

This marriage was also dissolved.

In 1964 she married Brajesh Singh, an Indian communist.

He died last November and Svetlana came to India on 20 December last year to bury his ashes.

She is believed to be planning to go to Geneva, Switzerland, after the Indian authorities refused her permission to stay in the country for fear of marring relations with the Soviet Union.

She leaves behind a grown-up son and daughter in Moscow.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Svetlana Alliluyeva was allowed to stay in Switzerland for three months.

She went to the United States in April 1967.

On arrival at New York, she held a press conference and astonished the world by denouncing her father's regime - much to the irritation of the Soviet leader of the time, Alexei Kosygin, who said she was a "sick person". Later that year, she published her memoirs, *Twenty Letters to a Friend*, and another autobiography in 1969 called *Only One Year*.

Svetlana became a US citizen and changed her name to Lana Peters when she married American architect, William Peters in 1970. But they separated after their daughter, Olga, was born.


She returned to the Soviet Union in 1984 and settled in Tbilisi, Georgia - her father's homeland.

In 1986 she left the USSR for the second time to live in the US and then during the 1990s settled in England.

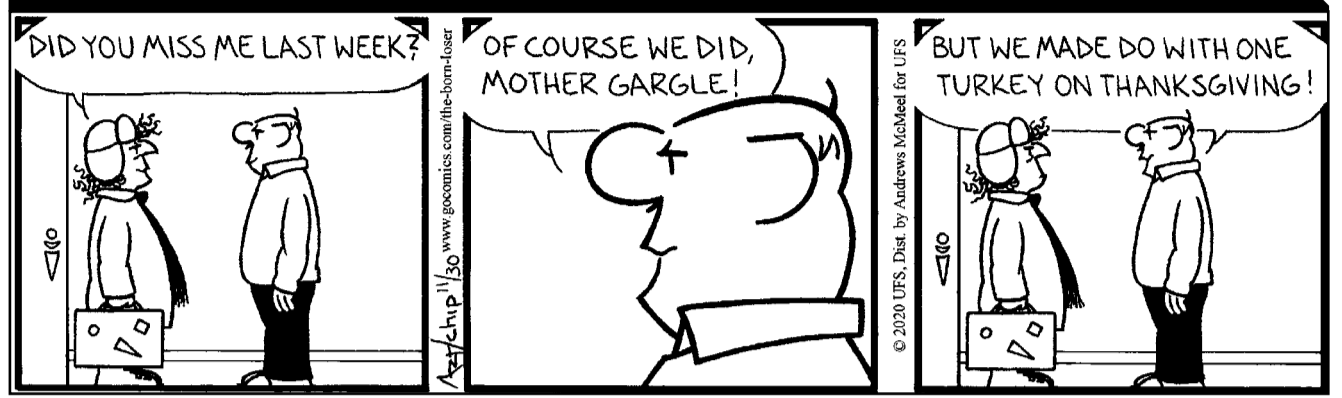


MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

 <b>ARIES</b> <b>Mar. 21-Apr. 19</b> Don't let yourself get rundown. Try to address the real issues in order to turn things around. Realize that you don't have to do everything yourself. Expect temper tantrums on the home front.	 <b>TAURUS</b> <b>Apr. 20-May. 20</b> Offer consolation, but don't give them any direction. Organize your house and be sure to include the whole family in the projects you have set out to do. Expect your workload to be heavy.
 <b>GEMINI</b> <b>May. 21-Jun. 21</b> You may enjoy doing something musical for entertainment. Be careful to avoid wrong doings. You should be doing something special with children.	 <b>CANCER</b> <b>Jun. 22-Jul. 22</b> Your mate may be distressed if you refuse to make a commitment. You can enhance your cash flow if you pick up additional skills. Be careful if a friend asks you for advice.
 <b>LEO</b> <b>Jul. 23-Aug. 22</b> You can make excellent purchases today. You need time to put your house in order and sort out what you are going to do about your personal direction.	 <b>VIRGO</b> <b>Aug. 23-Sep. 22</b> You will attract members of the opposite sex readily. You can get the attention of important individuals but it might not be the time to get them to help or to back your ideas.
 <b>LIBRA</b> <b>Sep. 23-Oct. 22</b> Ideas may sound good, but be careful if people are just looking for handouts. If you are in the midst of a financial deal, this is your lucky day. Catch up on correspondence.	 <b>SCORPIO</b> <b>Oct. 23-Nov. 21</b> Romance may be likely if you travel. You can have an enjoyable time if you socialize with friends. Take your time and try not to overload yourself.
 <b>SAGITTARIUS</b> <b>Nov. 22-Dec. 21</b> Residential moves are evident. Use your quick wit to win points with friends. Purchases will be well worth it and they will last a long time. Children may be difficult to handle.	 <b>CAPRICORN</b> <b>Dec. 22-Jan. 19</b> You may want to sign up for lectures or courses that will bring you mental stimulation. Hassles with female colleagues may lead to problems with your boss. Unstable relationships are likely.
 <b>AQUARIUS</b> <b>Jan. 20-Feb. 18</b> You can stabilize your financial situation if you make property investments. You can work in conjunction with those in the know in order to get to the bottom of any pending issue.	 <b>PISCES</b> <b>Feb. 19-Mar. 20</b> Get involved in philosophic groups that will enlighten you. Take care of any medical problems if they've been troubling you. Make a point of working on yourself.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sanson**



**SUDOKU**

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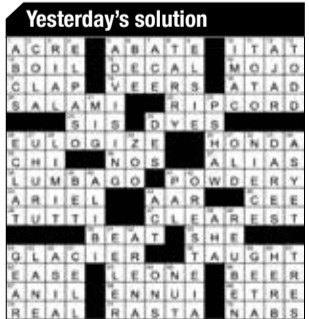
**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	2	18	fine
Changchun	-6	10	cloudy
Chengdu	12	21	fine
Chongqing	11	25	fine
Fuzhou	7	19	fine
Guangzhou	12	23	fine
Guiyang	9	23	fine
Haikou	17	22	cloudy
Hangzhou	4	19	fine
Harbin	-9	4	fine
Hefei	4	20	fine
Nanjing	7	22	fine
Shanghai	7	19	cloudy
Taipei	13	19	cloudy
Wuhan	5	20	fine
Hong Kong	18	21	fine
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	-16	-6	overcast
Frankfurt	-2	12	fine
Paris	6	16	overcast
London	9	13	overcast
New York	1	4	rain

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS** 1- Composer Khachaturian; 5- Jest; 9- Hound's trail; 14- \_\_\_ Ha'; 15- Met highlight; 16- Now; 17- Antiquing agent; 18- Covers; 19- Author of fables; 20- Bugbear; 22- Radical; 24- \_\_\_ Crunch; 25- Greek geometrician; 26- For sure?; 29- The house of a parson; 31- Cordillera of South America; 32- Pianist Peter; 33- Health haven; 36- Digit of the foot; 37- Polish remover; 40- Chop off; 41- Nine-digit ID; 42- All over; 43- Employ again; 45- More tender; 47- Armed guard; 48- Pull out; 51- Poses; 52- Noblewoman; 54- Set apart; 58- Exhausted; 59- Songbird; 61- Hanging to one side; 62- Strikes out; 63- Of course!; 64- Urn; 65- Uneven; 66- Repair; 67- Limerick language;

**DOWN** 1- Simple rhyme scheme; 2- Prego competitor; 3- Shake \_\_\_ (hurry); 4- Extraordinary occurrence; 5- Decrepit automobile; 6- The Hunter; 7- Josh; 8- Effortlessness; 9- Prestige; 10- Compel by intimidation; 11- Ford flop; 12- Model Campbell; 13- Keyed in; 21- Light wood; 23- Chemically inactive gas; 26- Phooey!; 27- Seth's son; 28- Mideast gulf; 29- Unit just above a yard; 30- Get one's ducks in \_\_\_; 32- Branta sandvicensis; 33- Garden pest; 34- Prepare to be shot; 35- Copycat; 38- Ministers to; 39- Muse with a lyre; 44- Shackle; 45- One thing after another; 46- Hans Christian Andersen's birthplace; 47- Dared; 48- One in a black suit; 49- Conger catcher; 50- Yo Yo's instrument; 51- Seductively beautiful woman; 53- Meager; 55- Chemical used on trees; 56- Throw; 57- Piece of fencing?; 60- Enzyme ending;



**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**

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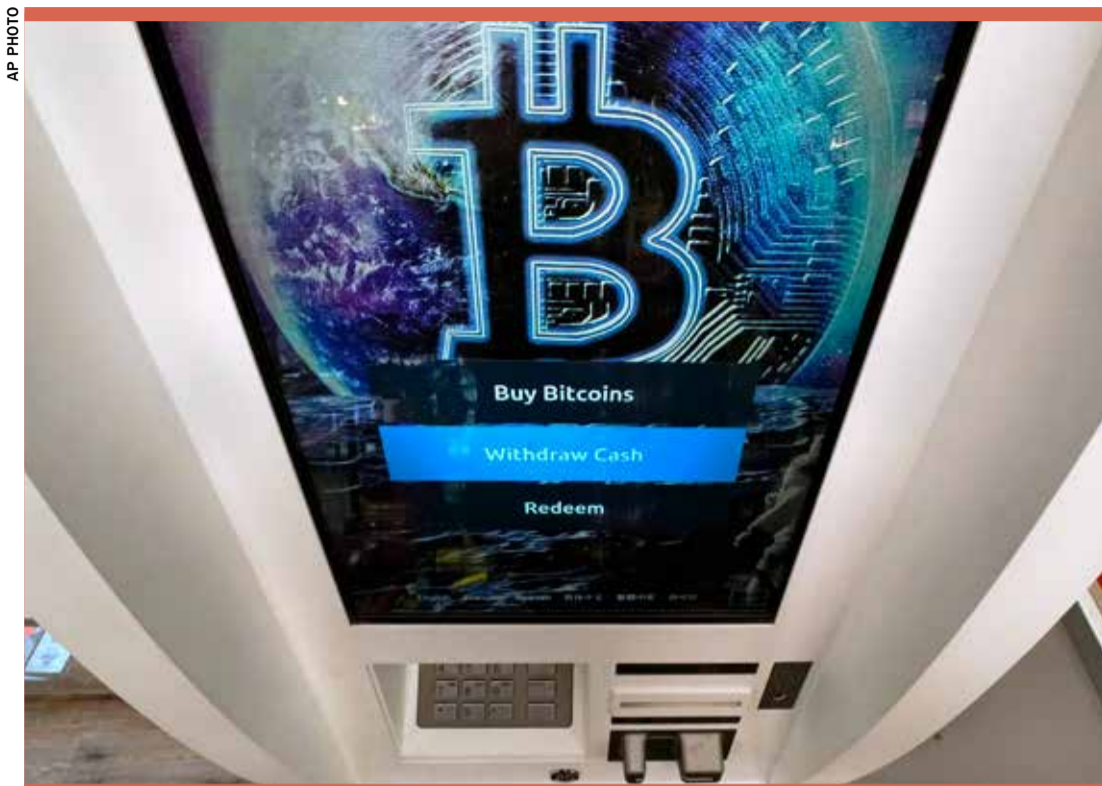
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FINANCIAL MARKETS

# AP SOURCES: BIDEN TO ISSUE EXECUTIVE ORDER ON CRYPTOCURRENCY

**P**RESIDENT Joe Biden is expected to sign an executive order on cryptocurrency this week that will mark the first step toward regulating how digital currency is traded.

The move comes as administration officials have raised concerns in recent weeks about Russia's use of cryptocurrency to evade the impact of crushing sanctions in response to its invasion of Ukraine. The sanctions have sent the ruble to historic lows and have closed the country's stock market.

Two people familiar with the process said the executive order on cryptocurren-

cy was expected to be issued this week and it had been in the works long before the war. Both people spoke on condition of anonymity to preview the order.

The order is expected to describe what government agencies, including the Treasury Department, need to do to develop policies and regulations on digital currencies. It is expected to include a request for the State Department to ensure that American cryptocurrency laws are aligned with those of U.S. allies and will ask the Financial Stability Oversight Council — which monitors the stability of the U.S. finan-

cial system — to study illicit finance concerns.

Additionally, the order will explore the possibility of a new central bank digital currency. The Federal Reserve issued a paper on the topic in January that explores the risks and benefits of U.S.-backed digital currency.

Implicit in the order will be that cryptocurrency will remain a part of the U.S. economy for years to come. The White House's plans to move forward with the executive order were first reported by Bloomberg News.

While U.S. officials have played down the significance

of cryptocurrency to Russia's ability to evade sanctions, it remains a concern.

"We will continue to look at how the sanctions work and evaluate whether or not there are liquid leakages and we have the possibility to address them. I often hear cryptocurrency mentioned and that is a channel to be watched," Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said last week.

A senior administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity said the president's national security team has already been on the lookout for the use and creation of front companies and alternative financial institutions that Moscow might try to employ to get around sanctions.

Crypto is one of several spaces that the Biden administration is looking to shore up as it tries to make certain that sanctions on Russia have maximum impact. The official said past experiences in Iran and Venezuela with sanctions evasion are informing the administration's efforts. Additional export controls and new sanction targets are also expected to be unveiled in the days and weeks ahead to counter Russian sanction evasion efforts, the official said.

Yesterday [Macau time], Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network issued an alert advising financial institutions to be "vigilant" against any efforts to evade sanctions in connection with Russia's war in Ukraine.

"Although we have not seen widespread evasion of our sanctions using methods such as cryptocurrency, prompt reporting of suspicious activity contributes to our national security and our efforts to support Ukraine and its people," acting Director Him Das said in a statement. **MDT/AP**

ENERGY

## SHELL SAYS IT WILL STOP BUYING RUSSIAN OIL, NATURAL GAS

**E**NERGY giant Shell said yesterday that it will stop buying Russian oil and natural gas and shut down its service stations, aviation fuels and other operations in the country amid international pressure for companies to sever ties over the invasion of Ukraine.

The company said in a statement that it would withdraw from all Russian hydrocarbons, including crude oil, petroleum products, natural gas and liquefied natural gas, "in a phased manner."

The decision comes just days after Ukraine's foreign minister criticized Shell for continuing to buy Russian oil, lashing out at the company for continuing to do business with President Vladimir Putin's government.

"We are acutely aware that our decision last week to purchase a cargo of Russian crude oil to be refined into products like petrol and diesel — despite being made with security of supplies at the forefront of our thinking — was not the right one and we are sorry," CEO Ben van Beurden said. "As we have already said, we will commit profits from the limited, remaining amounts of Russian oil we will process to a dedicated fund."

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said he had been told Shell "discretely" bought the oil Friday and appealed to the public to pressure the company and other international firms to halt such purchases.

"One question to Shell: doesn't Russian oil smell (like) Ukrainian blood for you?" Kuleba said on Twitter. "I call on all conscious people around the globe to demand multinational companies to cut all business ties with Russia."

Last week, Shell said it was "shocked by the loss of life in Ukraine" and would end its joint ventures with Gazprom, the massive oil and gas company controlled by the Russian government. **MDT/AP**

## CORPORATE BITS

### Studio City to host 'Pawsome Picnic Paw-ty'



Created in the classic French style of a famous chateaux, the French Garden at Studio City is an open yet secluded venue for outdoor activities. On March 20, dog owners and

animal lovers shouldn't miss the "Pawsome Picnic Paw-ty." Admission fee includes a picnic lunch and participants will find bouncy castle and live band performance on

stage from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

According to a statement, dogs will also be given complimentary treats upon arrival and dog birthday cakes are available for pre-orders. All dogs must be either carried, or muzzled and on a leash to enter the property and outside the French Garden area, and must be registered with the Municipal Affairs Bureau.

Also, the Golden Reel High Tea Set is to return every weekend between March 19 and April 30 with a new peach blossom theme; while Japanese restaurant Hide Yamamoto will launch a limited-time 'A Taste of Sakura' Set Menu from March 18 to April 30.

### MGM launches Spring gastronomy offers



MGM invites all gastronomy enthusiast to embark on the "Taste of Reminiscence" journey and indulge the true flavors of Chinese cuisines.

The two Cantonese res-

taurants, Imperial Court at MGM Macau and Chún at MGM Cotai, each launches a special menu featuring a lineup of Cantonese cuisine. These dishes are thoughtfully crafted to present the

specialties of Cantonese cuisine, to pay homage to Lingnan gastronomic culture.

Five Foot Road at MGM Cotai is keen to bring the 24 flavors in Sichuanese cuisine to all gastronomy enthusiasts in Macau. The restaurant is serving Chengdu traditional Poached rice with seasonal vegetable and pig intestine in bean soup, a creamy soup made of white peas, which is one of the local's favorite comfort foods that is not to be missed.

Pastry Bar and Rossio at MGM Macau, as well as Anytime at MGM Cotai are at the same time serving a lineup of spring-themed pastries and tea sets.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

## FOOTBALL | CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

# PSG and Madrid wait on Mbappé and Kroos for decisive second leg

TALES AZZONI, MADRID

Thursday, 04:00  
Real Madrid v PSG  
H 2.54, D3.8, A 2.8

**W**ITH some star power likely missing, Carlo Ancelotti and Mauricio Pochettino will have tinkering to do for the decisive encounter between their Real Madrid and Paris Saint-Germain sides in the Champions League round of 16 on Wednesday [Thursday, 04:00]. Kylian Mbappé is doubtful for PSG because of a left-foot injury, while Madrid is likely to be without Toni Kroos because of a muscle problem.

Madrid, which lost the first leg 1-0 thanks to Mbappé's stoppage-time winner in Paris, is certain to be without Casemiro because of a suspension and may not also count on a fully fit Federico Valverde after a bout with the flu.

Setting up the midfield will be no easy task for Ancelotti, as Ca-



AP PHOTO

semiro plays a key role in keeping the Spanish team balanced. The absence of Kroos would hurt the team more offensively than defensively, as the German veteran helps the team transition into attack. Kroos returned to training

but a decision on whether he will play likely won't be made until Wednesday.

Young Frenchman Eduardo Camavinga will likely go into the midfield alongside Luka Modric and possibly Valverde, who

missed the Liga game against Real Sociedad last weekend. The 19-year-old Camavinga played well in that match, scoring a superb opening goal in the 4-1 victory that increased Madrid's lead in the league. He had Casemiro by his side, though, which will not be the case against PSG.

Madrid's midfield issues will likely make it easier for Lionel Messi, who gets another good chance to finally come through with a big performance for PSG and live up to his status after joining from Barcelona. He will take over most of the spotlight if Mbappé can't play after getting hurt in Monday's training session.

Initial medical exams showed the injury wasn't serious, but PSG said he was undergoing treatment and his fitness would be reassessed closer to the match.

Mbappé, who has been linked with a move to Madrid when his contract expires at the end of the season, has been in stellar form with 24 goals and 17 assists in all

competitions.

He was suspended at the weekend when PSG lost at Nice 1-0 in the French league. Pochettino used former Madrid forward Ángel Di María along with Neymar in attack, and Di María is likely to play again if Mbappé can't make it. The Argentine played under Ancelotti in the coach's first stint with Madrid.

Pochettino is set to be without former Madrid defender Sergio Ramos and Spaniard Ander Herrera because of injuries, and Achraf Hakimi, another former Madrid player, was listed as doubtful. Ramos will make the trip to the Spanish capital despite not being available.

Ancelotti can't count on suspended left back Ferland Mendy, with veteran Marcelo likely taking over for him.

Madrid eliminated PSG at this stage in 2018 en route to winning the title for the third year in a row, although the French club came out on top in the two previous knockout encounters between the teams.

Madrid is the record 13-time European champion, while PSG is seeking its first Champions League trophy.

A crowd of 60,000 — the biggest since the coronavirus pandemic started — is expected at Santiago Bernabéu Stadium, which remains below its full capacity because of renovation work. **MDT/AP**

AD

**Macao Bond Market**

Presented by:  
Calvin Tinlop Chui  
Partner at Rato, Ling, Lei & Cortés - Lawyers and Notaries  
LEKTOU

**britcham Business Lunch - Wednesday 16 March 2022**

Join Calvin Tinlop Chui as he shares information on the development of the Bond Market in Macao; the recent trends of Macao's financial institutions, bond issuance and listing activities under the current legal framework, and case studies on RMB/HKD/USD denominated bonds.

Calvin is qualified to practice law in Macao and New York State. He focuses on capital markets (IPO and bond issue & listing), banking and finance, commercial and corporate matters. Calvin is President of the Board of Directors of Macao Financial Law Association, member of the supervisory committee of a local bank, and member of the bond specialist committee of a local trading platform. Calvin regularly teaches law subjects at universities and co-authors publications, including Chambers Global Practice Guide Banking & Finance 2021: Macao Chapter, Thomson Reuters Practical Law: Establishing a business in Macao, etc.

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**OPINION**

**World Views**

Stanislav Markus, University of South Carolina, MDT/The Conversation



**MEET RUSSIA'S OLIGARCHS - WHO WON'T BE TOPPLING PUTIN ANYTIME SOON**

U.S. President Joe Biden and other world leaders are setting their sights on Russia's oligarchs as they seek new ways to punish Vladimir Putin – and those who have enabled him and profited from his reign – for waging war in Ukraine.

Biden singled out wealthy oligarchs in his State of the Union address, promising to “seize your yachts, your luxury apartments, your private jets.” “We are coming for your ill-begotten gains,” he said. And in the U.K., two more rich Russians were added to the nine other oligarchs who have been personally sanctioned over the invasion.

Yet who are these oligarchs, and what is their relationship with Putin? And more importantly, will eroding their wealth do anything to end the war in Ukraine?

As a scholar of emerging markets, corporate strategy and the post-Soviet political economy, I have studied the oligarchs in depth.

Oligarchs, in the Russian context, are the ultrawealthy business elites with disproportionate political power. They emerged in two distinct waves.

The first group emerged out of the privatization of the 1990s, particularly the all-cash sales of the largest state-owned enterprises after 1995. This process was marred by significant corruption, culminating in the infamous “loans for shares” scheme, which transferred stakes in 12 large natural resource companies from the government to select tycoons in exchange for loans intended to shore up the federal budget.

The government intentionally defaulted on its loans, allowing its creditors – the oligarchs-to-be – to auction off the stakes in giant companies such as Yukos, Lukoil and Norilsk Nickel, typically to themselves. In essence, then-President Boris Yeltsin's administration appeared to enrich a small group of tycoons by selling off the most valuable parts of the Soviet economy at a hefty discount.

After Putin came to power in 2000, he facilitated the second wave of oligarchs via state contracts. Private suppliers in many sectors such as infrastructure, defense and health care would overcharge the government at prices many times the market rate, offering kickbacks to the state officials involved. Thus, Putin enriched a new legion of oligarchs who owed their enormous fortunes to him.

In the 1990s, the oligarchs had the upper hand with the Kremlin and could even dictate policy at times. Under Yeltsin, multiple oligarchs assumed formal positions in the government, and anecdotes abounded describing coffers of cash being carried into the Kremlin in exchange for political favors.

But since the 2000s Putin has been calling the shots. Essentially, Putin proposed a deal: The oligarchs would stay out of politics, and the Kremlin would stay out of their businesses and leave their often-illegitimate gains alone.

Furthermore, popular disappointment with the privatization of the 1990s facilitated its partial rollback in the 2000s. Putin's Kremlin applied political pressure on oligarchs in strategic industries like media and natural resources to sell controlling stakes back to the state. Putin also passed laws that gave preferential treatment to the so-called state corporations. These moves secured the Kremlin's control over the economy – and over the oligarchs. [...]

This brings us to the most important question on many people's minds: As the sanctions decimate oligarchs' wealth, could that prompt them to abandon Putin or change the course of the war?

Some oligarchs are already speaking out against the war, such as Alfa Group Chairman Mikhail Fridman and metals magnate Oleg Deripaska – both of whom have been sanctioned by the West. Lukoil also called for the war's end.

The generals are more likely to sway Putin than the oligarchs – and an economic collapse may be even more convincing still.

[Abridged]

**FREE UKRAINE: WORLD BANK APPROVES MAJOR EMERGENCY SUPPORT FOR COUNTRY UNDER SIEGE** **THE BUZZ**

The World Bank says it has approved more than \$700 in emergency support for Ukraine.

Dubbed FREE Ukraine, it includes nearly \$500 million in loans and guarantees and \$134 million in grants, with Japan promising another \$100 million in financing.

The aid is meant to help the Ukrainian government pay wages of hospital workers, pensions and other social programs. Bundling the aid into a package is intended to streamline and speed

the provision of the funding, the World Bank said in a statement. “The World Bank Group stands with the people of Ukraine and the region,” World Bank President David Malpass said. “This is the first of many steps we are taking to help address the far-reaching human and economic impacts of this crisis.”

The World Bank also said it is preparing a \$3 billion package of support for Ukraine and the region to help it cope with the flood of displaced people fleeing the fighting.



**EU PLEDGES TO FIGHT RUSSIA'S 'INFORMATION WAR' IN EUROPE**

EUROPEAN Union officials yesterday defended the 27-nation bloc's decision to ban Russian state-controlled media outlets from broadcasting in the region as decisive steps to check a Kremlin-led “information war.”

Speaking at the European Parliament during a debate on foreign interference and disinformation, the EU's top diplomat Josep Borrell brushed off critics who say the EU is threatening freedom of information with the ban on Sputnik and RT/Russia Today.

“They are not independent media, they are assets, they are weapons, in the Kremlin's manipulation ecosystem,” Borrell told lawmakers. “We are not trying to decide what is true and what is false. We don't have ministers of the Truth. But we have to focus on foreign actors who intentionally, in a coordinated manner, try to manipulate our information environment.”

The EU has decided to suspend the broadcasting activities of Sputnik and RT/Russia Today in the bloc until Russia ends its war in Ukraine and stop disinformation campaigns in member states.

Borrell said Moscow-controlled outlets are part of a well-oiled propaganda machine providing biased news about Vladimir Putin's true intentions.

“If the information is bad, democracy is bad,” he

said, adding that information should be a protected good. “If the information is systematically contaminated by lies and twisted, citizens can't have a clear understanding of reality and their political judgment is similarly twisted.”

Borrell insisted that Sputnik was created by a presidential decree with the aim of reporting on Russia's state policies abroad, and said that Russia Today is capable of conducting an “information war” against the western world.

Borrell said he will soon propose a new mechanism that will allow the EU to sanction disinformation actors. Lawmakers from the special committee on foreign interference and disinformation are also proposing to establish a sanctions regime to deal with foreign meddling.

MEP Sandra Kalniete, the author of the report, said it's crucial for the EU to counter foreign threats in a bid to prevent third countries damaging democracies.

“Let's call a spade a spade.” Russia and other authoritarian regimes “have funneled more than \$300 million into 33 countries to interfere in democratic processes,” she said. “Putin's propaganda machinery wasn't just switched on on 24 February. It has already been working in Europe for decades, attempting to poison and divide our societies.”

Kalniete said online plat-

forms and tech companies need to suspend all social accounts engaged in “denying, glorifying and justifying Putin's aggression, war crimes and crimes against humanity.”

She also proposed to reinforce content in Russian and Ukrainian to resist the pressure from Russia's disinformation.

“In short, any tech platform giving space to Putin's propaganda or complying with his censorship request is an accomplice to Putin's aggression,” she said.

European Commission Vera Jourova said Putin wants his people to be “apathetic” and praised streaming platform Netflix's decision to suspend its Russian services.

“Because president Putin wants the people to be entertained, not to pay attention to what is happening,” she said. “It would not be right to see Russians being entertained, and next door Ukrainians being killed.”

Both Borrell and Jourova expressed deep concerns about the imposed censorship in Russia that threatens independent journalists with jail terms and deprives citizens access to verified information about what their government is doing in Ukraine.

“It is more important than ever to reach the Russian people, and provide them with information,” Jourova said. “Every possible channel should be used.”

MDT/AP



**Australia-Ukraine**  
 The Australian government says it is placing sanctions on Moscow's “propagandists and purveyors of disinformation” who legitimize Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Foreign Minister Marise Payne (pictured) said in a statement yesterday her government was sanctioning 10 “people of strategic interest to Russia” for their role in encouraging hostility toward Ukraine.

Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard launched a second reconnaissance satellite into space, state media reported yesterday, just as world powers awaited Tehran's decision in negotiations over the country's tattered nuclear deal. State television identified the launch as taking place in its northeastern Shahroud Desert, without specifying when. However, it came as Iran's top diplomat at the monthslong talks suddenly flew home earlier for consultations, a sign of the growing pressure on Tehran as the negotiations appear to be nearing their end.



**Afghanistan** The Taliban halted a blood donation drive by women activists to mark International Women's Day yesterday, activists said. Speaking outside a Kabul hospital with seven other activists, Monesa Mubarez, the head of a women's rights movement, said the group had intended to stage a protest. Because of the Taliban's brutal crackdown on women's rights protesters, they decided to donate blood instead. The campaign had been thwarted by the Taliban-appointed hospital director at Jumhuriat Hospital in Kabul when hospital staff learned it was to mark women's day, she said.