



NEW SME Fiber Broadband Offer
Price Reduction Up to
70% OFF
No need to apply for current users &
ENJOY automatically
CTM

CRIME: PROBE ON WOMAN LOSING A PAIR OF EXPENSIVE EARRINGS UNEXPECTEDLY DISCOVERED THAT SHE HAD BEEN SEXUALLY ASSAULTED

P5

QUESTIONS ARISE ON POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS TRAFFIC DETOUR IN COTAI

P2

UKRAINE: SUFFERING GOES ON IN ENCIRCLED MARIUPOL AS EVACUATION FAILS

P7



Malaysia will reopen its borders on April 1 after two years and lift remaining coronavirus restrictions on businesses as it moves to restore normal life. Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob announced this week. Ismail said the decision was a result of the country's high vaccination rate, low hospital bed usage by COVID-19 patients and small percentage of serious cases.

AP PHOTO



South Korea's military yesterday returned a North Korean boat and its seven crew members across the countries' disputed western sea boundary a day after they drifted into waters near a South Korean border island. South Korea's navy fired warning shots on Tuesday to chase away a North Korean patrol vessel that temporarily crossed the so-called Northern Limit Line while pursuing the boat near Baekryeong island.

AP PHOTO



Australia's prime minister yesterday said he would declare a national emergency following floods across large swathes of the east coast that have claimed 22 lives. Prime Minister Scott Morrison made the announcement during a visit to flood-devastated Lismore in northern New South Wales state, where four people died last week.

Venezuelan government has freed two jailed Americans, including an oil executive imprisoned alongside colleagues for more than four years, the White House announced. Gustavo Cardenas was released following a secret weekend visit to Venezuela by senior Biden administration officials, the first White House trip to the country in more than two decades. Also freed was Jorge Fernandez, who was arrested last year on as "spurious charges."

More on backpage

PEAK TO PEAK

AP PHOTO



Hong Kong has no fixed time frame for mass testing as the city records close to 60k new infections, its peak so far

P6

GAMING RISK

VICKERS POINTS TO VLADIVOSTOK PITFALL AMID CHINA-US TENSIONS

P3

DETOUR SIMILAR TO SITE OF BROADWAY'S FATAL MOTOR-CYCLE ACCIDENT NEAR GALAXY

ANTHONY LAM

At least two egress points have been made to allow future motor traffic to cross three lanes on Cotai and enter Galaxy Macau's new convention center, the Times has learnt.

The two openings are located between The Venetian Macao's expo hall complex and the Galaxy Macau, and between the nature reserve on Cotai and the Galaxy Macau, respectively.

As no traffic lights were seen at the junctions, it is unclear if bollards will be laid to minimize the risk of fatal car accidents similar to that which occurred between the Broadway Macau and the Galaxy Macau.

The condition of the road on the Broadway side of Galaxy Macau is nearly identical to this new road, including the purpose of the opening – which is to offer access to a resort – and the need to cross three lanes before detouring traffic can reach the entrance of the resort.

At about 1 p.m., June 20, 2015, a motor cyclist was driving along Avenida Marginal Flor de Lotus, when he crashed into a seven-seater vehicle that was moving out from a road opening and crossing three lanes at a relatively low speed. The seven-seater was traveling toward the entrance of



the Broadway Macau parking lot.

The crash took the life of the 57-year-old local motor cyclist.

After the fatal crash, the government placed plastic blocks to close off the road opening, as well as at another such facility nearby in the opposite direction.

The need for the new points of egress is questionable due to the location of a roundabout further down the road, which allows traffic to undertake a U-turn to access the two new

entrances of Galaxy Macau.

An enquiry was sent to the Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) on whether it had proactively applied for the establishment of the facility and if so, why GEG had chosen openings similar to that which had been partially the cause of a fatal accident in between two of its properties, the Galaxy Macau and the Broadway Macau.

A spokesperson from the gaming concessionaire replied that

the company “will review [the] email and get back to [the Times] if there [are] any updates.”

Meanwhile, the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) was also questioned on the matter. In a phone reply to the Times, a spokesperson from the bureau suggested an enquiry be sent to the Transport Bureau (DSAT) as the matter is not within the DSSOPT's authority.

The spokesperson was then questioned where the application

should be sent, given the current case as an example. He said that if detours are to be constructed on existing public roads, applications should be made to the DSAT, because it is authorized to handle these scenarios.

When emailing the DSSOPT, a similar enquiry was also sent to the DSAT, asking the grounds on which the DSAT allowed the facility. As of press time yesterday, no reply has been received from the latter bureau.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

‘CHINA-AUSTRALIA RELATIONS TERRIBLY DISAPPOINTING’

Dear Editor,

I write as an Australian private citizen who first visited Macau in 2005 and has been an active business owner in the SAR since 2009.

When I first started visiting Macau I was immediately drawn to the unique east-meets-west culture, urban geography and people. I also saw great business opportunity and decided to invest heavily in Macau both emotionally and financially.

Some come to Macau for employment which may last a few years, but I immediately adopted Macau in my heart as a new and permanent

home. I quickly realised the importance of trying to learn a little bit of Chinese, immersing in local culture as much as possible, and making an authentic contribution to the community. When others ask me when I am going to “go home,” I reply, “Macau is my home.”

Historically, there has been a very active community of Australians in Macau, many of whom passed on their knowledge and skills to local employees who have risen through the ranks. Australians have created jobs and made a significant contribution to the healthy and sustainable development of Ma-

cau. Many Australians love to explore the world and I think it is the Australian culture of “mateship,” along with being a young society which eschews class differences that sees Australians assimilating into cultures in a deeper way than some other foreigners. Australians think nothing of a doctor and a bricklayer being friends, going to the football or sharing a weekend BBQ together with their families.

Like all fair-minded people, I fervently hope that all nations can co-exist peacefully and co-operatively, doing trade together for the common good, respecting each other's sovereignty, and developing

economies and societies across the globe in a positive way. Being friends doesn't mean always agreeing, but it does mean understanding and respecting that your friend might do things differently to the way you do, and they have every right to do so. Live and let live.

It is with this in mind that I have become terribly disappointed in the current posture of the Australian government towards China. The many examples have been well documented in the media. In recent years the Australian Prime Minister and other senior government ministers have made statements

which are doing extreme harm to Australians living in Macau, Hong Kong and the rest of China.

This rhetoric, which is continuing to worsen and to damage Australia's reputation abroad, eventually led to my resignation - on principal - as Vice Chairman of the Australian Chamber of Commerce Macau. But Australians in Macau are necessarily ambassadors for our country of citizenship, so I will always strive in my own way to help the relationship between the Chinese and Australian people to be one of friendship, cooperation and mutual benefit.

I find the current relationship between China and Australia hugely disappointing and totally counter-productive for Australia. China has been Australia's number one trading partner and the mining, education and food industries, just to name three, have enjoyed the benefit of doing enormous business with China in recent decades. I can only hope that somehow in years to come relations between the two countries might return to the friendly state they once were.

Yours sincerely,
Andrew W Scott
9 March 2022

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
Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84
Advertisement advertising@macaudailytimes.com
For subscription and general issues: general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

Macau gaming firms' involvement in Vladivostok casinos a risk factor: Vickers

LYNZY VALLES

IN the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and amid Beijing's refusal to condemn the invasion, the state of China and U.S. relations remains in a "parlous state," however, recent events are probably neutral for Macau – unless things suddenly deteriorate even more between China and the U.S., according to political and corporate risk expert Steve Vickers.

Recently, China's foreign minister Wang Yi called Russia its "most important strategic partner" following China's refusal to condemn the war, despite growing pressure from the U.S. and the European Union.

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

Previous reports have indicated that the U.S. has urged Chinese officials to help avert war in Ukraine, with the U.S. presenting China with intelligence on Russia's troop build up, hoping that President Xi Jinping would step in.

Rather, China has broken with the U.S., Europe and others that have imposed sanctions on Russia.

Questioned by the Times whether the deteriorating China-U.S. relations could affect – at some point – the existing American operators in the city, and whether the concession licenses of these operators are at risk, Vickers said that a risk may rise in regard to the involvement in Vladivostok casinos.

Just recently, hotel and gaming operator NagaCorp halted its plans of building an integrated resort in Russia despite already starting the construction of its development in the city of Vladivostok.

"A real risk might relate to revelations of involvement in Vladivostok (Russia) casinos by Hong Kong or



Macau gaming entities or concealed investments by Russian interests in such businesses," Vickers, CEO of Steve Vickers and Associates (SVA), told the Times.

"The national security situation is very clear in Macau and has been well telegraphed. A national security violation can result in loss of a licence. It's that simple," he added.

Vickers had already warned that the amendment on the gaming law places an emphasis on national security, therefore posing heightened political risk to foreign investors.

The risk expert had previously suggested the primary factor which the Chinese and Macau authorities consider when evaluating concession renewals and new regulations is clearly the national security criteria.

An example would be whether the capital flight can be contained – particularly when linked to U.S. operators seeking to repatriate dividends.

STABLE UNTIL BLACK-SWAN EVENT SURFACES

As crackdown on junkets is now sweeping the world's largest gaming hub, Vickers said that junkets and associated triad societies have swum in "very murky waters" and

many are under investigation, with the Macau police recently naming some of them as "triads."

However, "American casinos denied for years that triads were involved with junkets," said Vickers.

It can be recalled that last month, Local 501, a U.S.-based union, called a coordinated U.S. federal investigation into the gambling junket operator Suncity Group and its historical relationships with U.S. gaming companies.

The group noted that the government had flagged an incident in which local casino officials discovered USD5.6 million in cash stored in a Suncity high-roller room – an event that "set money-laundering

alarms ringing" at the casino.

Amid the ongoing uncertainty in the city's gaming sector and the turmoil in the junket business, the city's industry will remain stable "if no additional black-swan event surfaces," said Vickers.

In a former statement, Vickers warned firms to monitor in real time the developments in relation to sanctions as well as to be mindful of disguised ownership. The use of proxies, front companies or trusts to disguise ownership is widespread across Asia and in Russian funds.

He also warned to increase the "clout" compliance of representatives at board level.

DEEP TROUBLE WITHOUT CHINA

THE invasion of Ukraine has irrevocably changed the geopolitical framework, which is now posing major threats to international business – no matter how far away from the firing line they may be.

For Vickers, who is also a specialist in international asset tracing work, the recent deeper alignment between China and Russia is of concern to the U.S. and western allies.

Without China's agreement, or at least acquiescence to cooperate with Russia economically, the expert said that Russia would be in deep trouble. "From China's point of view, whilst the Ukraine situation is deeply unsettling, it is not without opportunity for China to pick up energy and related resources at bargain-basement prices, as well as to send a message to the western world," Vickers explained.

STUDENT RESCUED AFTER FALLING INTO SEA

A female student fell into the sea from the Taipa Coastal Promenade and was rescued on Tuesday, in a suspected suicide attempt. As the girl reacted emotionally upon being saved, the police were unable to obtain a testimonial from her. She was then sent to the public Conde de São Januário Hospital for treatment. She was seen wearing a sports suit and white sneakers. The matter was also reported to the education and social welfare bureaus. Those in need of emotional support can contact Caritas Macau on 28525222 or the Social Welfare Bureau on 28261126.

CATERER ACCUSED OF COOKING CATS

A caterer was mistakenly accused of cooking cats for sale as cats were found at the eatery. However, after investigation, he was instructed by officials to remove the felines from the eatery. The Municipal Affairs Bureau, following reports, inspected the eatery in question, and was told that due to household refurbishment, the pets had been relocated temporarily to the eatery. A mid-height partition was installed to separate the three cats from the kitchen. Officials did not find any meat that resembled cat in the eatery. However, they deemed the cats risky to food hygiene and safety, so instructed the caterer to relocate the pets to a more appropriate venue.

TWO SESSIONS

NPC committee deliberates draft amendment to law on local legislatures, governments

THE Constitution and Law Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) earlier this week deliberated a draft amendment to the Organic Law of the Local People's Congresses and Local

People's Governments.

The committee also reviewed a draft decision on the quota and election of deputies to the 14th NPC, as well as draft methods for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

(SAR) and the Macau SAR to elect their deputies to the 14th NPC.

The documents are being deliberated at the ongoing fifth session of the 13th NPC.

A statement issued af-

ter Monday's committee meeting said the draft amendment to the law on local legislatures and governments is relatively mature and the committee submitted a deliberation result report and a

draft decision on revisions to the law to the session's presidium, which will decide on submitting the draft decision on revisions to NPC delegations for further deliberation.

Members of the NPC

Constitution and Law Committee said the content of the drafts on election of deputies to the 14th NPC is necessary, feasible and relatively mature, according to the statement.

The committee put forward a deliberation result report and the drafts' revised versions. The session's presidium will decide on submitting the revised versions to NPC delegations for further deliberation. XINHUA

GOLDEN SNUB-NOSED MONKEY FAMILY WELCOMES NEW MEMBER

The female golden snub-nosed monkey living in Seac Pai Van Park recently gave birth to a male golden snub-nosed monkey, the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) announced in a statement. Currently, there are four golden snub-nosed monkeys in Seac Pai Van Park. Among them, a pair of adult golden snub-nosed monkeys were sent to Macau from the mainland after IAM signed a cooperation agreement with Qinhuangdao Wildlife Rescue Centre in 2017. According to the relevant agreement, IAM will return the four golden monkeys to the mainland so that they can continue to be part of the conservation and breeding program.



MAN APPREHENDED FOR TRYING TO BREAK INTO CAMPUS

A man was apprehended by the Judiciary Police on allegations of drug consumption. The case was revealed as he tried to pretend to be a parent of unrelated children and entered a school in the Northern District. Officers at the campus stopped him and he turned away from the scene. Later, he denied taking drugs as police questioned him. Inspectors found two injection needles and a wet cap in a trash can. Following a urine test, the man was found to have consumed sleeping pills and Methadone. Besides the incident being raised to the Public Prosecutions Office, the Social Welfare Bureau was also notified.

FAOM LAWMAKERS HOPE FOR BETTER RIGHTS FOR FEMALE WORKERS

ANTHONY LAM

FOUR lawmakers with the Macao Federation of Trade Unions (FAOM) expressed their hopes to see further improved rights for female workers.

The four are directly elected Ella Lei and Leong Sun Iok, as well as indirectly elected Lei Chan U and Lam Lon Wai.

Unhappy with the current duration of maternity leave, the four have requested the government increase the leave to 14 weeks, so that it meets the provision in the Maternity Protection Convention.

Currently, as they pointed out, the legal duration of such leave is 70 days. Civil servants, however, can enjoy 90 days. Even so, both are still shorter than that stipulated in the convention.



Adding to that is the establishment of codified lactation breaks. They pointed out that although current laws offer extra protection to pregnant and postpartum workers, the stipulations pragmatically have room for improvement.

They also hope the government can provide greater support to women who are unable to take up jobs due to the need to care for family members.

They also recapped that the World Employment and Social Outlook Trends 2022 report, compiled by the International Labour Organization, calls for the promotion of people-oriented policies that prioritize full employment and decent work.

It pointed out that the disproportionate impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on women's employment is expected to continue in

the next few years, and it is hoped that the government will continue to pay attention to women's employment issues.

Despite these suggestions, the four lawmakers praised the government for its efforts in the past 20 years in safeguarding and refining the rights of women. They highlighted that policies had helped improve the status of women in Macau.

AD

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

K **KTRANZ**
TRANSLATIONS LIMITED

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

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

CRIME

Loss of earrings led to sexual abuse finding

RENATO MARQUES

A local 40-year-old woman losing a pair of expensive earrings prompted an investigation that unexpectedly discovered that she had been sexually assaulted, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) revealed yesterday at the regular joint press conference of the police forces.

The strange case was discovered when the woman went to a police station on January 6 to report the loss of a pair of diamond earrings worth over 7,000 patacas. The woman told the police that on the previous evening (January 5), she was having a meal and drinks with some friends at a restaurant and she had drunk too much and did not remember much of what happened. Still, she remembered taking a taxi home that night, suspecting that the earrings might have fallen off while she was in the taxi.

Following these leads, the PSP initiated investigations and identified the taxi, calling for the sur-

veillance recording of the vehicle to investigate if the earrings were lost in the car.

Unexpectedly while reviewing the taxi surveillance footage, the PSP found the woman had been accompanied by a man in the taxi who, on several occasions during the trip, kissed her and fondled her breasts. The PSP then called the victim to inform her of this finding.

She recognized the man in the footage and said that he was one of the people with whom she had been eating and drinking that evening. She said he was a friend of a friend and that was the first time they had met.

Further investigation also revealed that this suspect offered to catch a taxi with the woman as she was not in a condition to get home by herself. They had shared the taxi as they were going in the same direction.

The police managed to identify the suspect as a 44-year-old man, a resident of Macau who works as a security agent at a hotel.

On March 8, he was detained



for investigation at home in Taipa. During questioning, he admitted to the crime.

The man has been presented

to the Public Prosecutions Office and will be charged with sexual abuse of a person incapable of resisting, under the provision of

Article 159 of the Penal Code. For such a crime, he can face a penalty that ranges from one to eight years of imprisonment.

CRIME

Trading company manager misappropriates MOP1.8m in products

A 41-year-old local woman is being accused by the owner of a trading company where she worked for misappropriating the company's products valued at MOP1,761,500, the Judiciary Police (PJ) revealed yesterday.

The case dates back to early January when the company owner, after staying in the mainland for a long period, returned to Macau to find that the woman, a general manager at the company, had taken a large quantity of make-up and beauty products without authorization from the owner.

Questioned by the PJ, the woman admitted to taking the products and selling them online at much cheaper prices.

According to her testimony, the unlawful sales earned her over MOP1 million which the suspect is said to have alrea-



dy spent on casino games as well as other daily expenditure.

Upon finding out about the swindle, the owner confronted her. The accused woman told him that she would refund him the money. However, he did not be-

lieve that it would be possible for her to return the money and decided to press charges against her.

The case was forwarded to the Public Prosecutions Office on March 8 and the woman will be charged for breach of trust. **RM**

SURGE IN CROSS-BORDER SMUGGLED GOODS

LYNZY VALLES

THE Macao Customs Service has seized a total of MOP12.25 million in smuggled goods in a span of two months following the unearthing of 75 cases, 20% of which involved Macau residents.

Since the beginning of this year, a total of 109 individuals were accused of committing crimes related to smuggling.

Speaking to TDM Radio, the deputy head of the bureau José Pou, said the figures recorded so far represent an increase compared to last year, when a total of MOP28 million was seized, involving 249 individuals.

"As of February, we have already carried out a total of 14 actions to combat parallel trade, including two cross-border joint actions and in cooperation with Gongbei Customs, Public Security Police Force, Municipal Affairs Bureau and the Health Bureau," said Pou.

The official explained that the smuggled items included household and electronic products, used cell phones and computers as well as their components. Branded clothing, food, medicines, tobacco and plants were also detected. Parallel trading or smuggling has been a problem at the Macau-Gongbei Border.

The Gongbei Customs' attention was drawn to the fact that some syndicate members make false claims to coopted travelers, attesting that they will not be held criminally responsible if they are caught.

The Gongbei Customs authority reiterated to travelers that parallel trade is considered smuggling, which is a criminal offense in mainland China.

Recently, a Covid-19 positive case who traveled back and forth between Zhuhai and Macau has admitted to carrying out parallel trade. She was on a travel endorsement on the basis that she was visiting relatives. As a consequence of carrying out parallel trade, the woman is banned from entering Macau for a year.





COVID-19

HONG KONG LEADER SAYS NO FIXED TIME FRAME FOR MASS TESTING

HONG Kong leader Carrie Lam said yesterday that reducing the skyrocketing number of deaths in the latest coronavirus surge is the city's priority, putting a plan to test the entire population on hold in the latest flip-flop in the government's pandemic response.

Lam said there is "no specific time frame" for a citywide testing, two weeks after she announced it would happen this month. Her earlier announce-

ment, coupled with rumors of an accompanying lockdown of the city, left store shelves bare as residents stockpiled daily necessities.

The city of 7.4 million people is in the grip of a spiraling omicron outbreak that has swamped hospitals and morgues and reduced hours or shut restaurants and other shops in the normally bustling financial hub. More than 500,000 infections and over 2,000 deaths have been recorded

since the fifth wave began at the end of December, with many of the victims among the unvaccinated elderly.

The government is focusing on reducing the number of deaths and critical cases, as well as the rapid spread of the virus, Lam said at a news conference with other senior officials and the slogan "Combating the Epidemic with Staunch National Support" in the background.

Any citywide test would de-

pend on the trend of the epidemic, she said. "If we are going to do it [...] we will certainly announce as early as possible so that the public can participate and can anticipate what's going to happen during the period."

To reduce the number of deaths, infected patients will be treated centrally, with the city's Queen Elizabeth Hospital becoming a dedicated hospital for COVID-19, she said. Some 1,500 beds will be set aside.

Some general wards in other hospitals will also be converted into COVID-19 beds, and an emergency hospital will be built by mainland authorities for the city that will be supported by medical staff from elsewhere in China.

Mainland China is also grappling with a surge in new cases, though much smaller than in Hong Kong. Another 233 cases of domestic transmission were reported yesterday, bringing the total to 899 since the daily count leaped back into the triple digits last Friday — the highest figures since 2020, soon after the original outbreak in the central city of Wuhan was detected.

The bulk of the most recent cases have been found in the northeastern province of Jilin, more than 2,000 kilometers north of Hong Kong, along with the east coast province of Shandong. Beijing itself recorded six new cases.

China has instituted mass testing and lockdowns of specific neighborhoods, but there have been no reports that entire cities have been sealed off, which happened in the runup to the recently completed Winter Olympics in Beijing.

In Hong Kong, Lam called for the support and cooperation of private hospitals to assist with the volume of patients. She said some private hospitals had agreed to provide beds for COVID-19 patients.

The surge in cases over the past two months has put a strain on the health care system, with many of the public hospitals reaching capacity. Officials have deployed refrigerated containers to store bodies as public mortuaries ran out of space. MDT/AP

UN rights chief to visit Xinjiang as groups press for report

THE U.N. human rights chief said this week that her office and China's government have reached an agreement for her to visit in May the western region of Xinjiang, where human rights groups and Western governments have alleged that crimes are being carried out against the predominantly Muslim minority group known as Uyghurs.

Michelle Bachelet, the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, told the Human Rights Council by video message that she was pleased to announce the visit and that concrete preparations have begun.

She said the Chinese government has also accepted the visit of an advance team from her office next month "to prepare my stay in China, including on-site

visits to Xinjiang and other places."

Bachelet has talked about hoping to visit Xinjiang nearly since she took office in 2018. Her office has also been compiling a long-awaited — and much-delayed — report into alleged human rights abuses in the region.

Separately, Human Rights Watch said a total of 195 human rights groups in an open letter released Tuesday are calling on Bachelet to "urgently" release the report on "Chinese government rights violations targeting Uyghurs and other Turkic communities."

Diplomats in Geneva have said the report has been ready — or very close to it — for months. Speaking to the rights council last week, German

Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock called on Bachelet's office to release the report.

Human rights groups and others have focused much of their criticism on what they call detention centers set up by the Chinese government for Uyghurs and others in the region.

Beijing says the sites are vocational training centers aimed at helping improve economic fortunes and counteract bouts of extremist violence in Xinjiang.

"Human rights groups have become increasingly concerned that the U.N. human rights office has still not published its long-awaited report on Xinjiang," said Kenneth Roth, executive director of Human Rights Watch. MDT/AP



UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet

AP PHOTO



The dead body of a person lies covered in the street in Mariupol, Ukraine

PUTIN'S WAR

Suffering goes on in encircled Mariupol as evacuation fails

TWO million people — half of them children — have fled Ukraine in the less than two weeks since Russia invaded the country, officials said yesterday [Macau time], as Europe's worst refugee crisis since World War II grows by the day.

The humanitarian situation in the country's besieged cities grew more dire, including in Mariupol, where bodies lay uncollected in the streets and hopes for a mass evacuation of civilians were dashed again.

A Ukrainian military official said the country needs air-defense systems most of all.

Satellite photos from Planet Labs PBC show a buildup of Belarussian and suspected Russian helicopters at Machulishchy Air Base outside Minsk, Belarus. And analysts believe flooding north of Kyiv seen in satellite photos likely comes from Ukrainian forces trying to stop the Russian advance.

Women and children in Mariupol gathered in a basement shelter as outgoing artillery fire blazed in the distance. One of the women, Goma Janna, lamented, "Why shouldn't I cry? I want my home, I want my job. I'm so sad about people and about the city, the children."

Civilians in Mariupol, a city of roughly 430,000 people, have

been without water, heat, sanitary systems and phone service for several days, and many have turned to breaking into shops. A video showed a Ukrainian soldier telling people, "People, please be united. You don't need to panic. Please don't steal everything. You will live here together."

Videos showed people boarding buses in Sumy on Tuesday and buses marked with a red cross driving along a snowy road as they headed out of the city. Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk said both sides agreed to a cease-fire from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. for the evacuation of Sumy civilians, who were headed southwest to the Ukrainian city of Poltava.

EVACUATIONS FROM MARIUPOL FAILED

Vereshchuk said 5,000 people were evacuated from Sumy. The Russian military gave a different number, saying 723 people were evacuated from the city and identifying them as mostly citizens of India, with the rest from China, Jordan and Tunisia. It made no mention of Ukrainians among the evacuees.

But the planned evacuation of civilians from Mariupol failed because Russian troops fired on a Ukrainian convoy carrying humanitarian cargo to the city that was later going to ferry people out, Vereshchuk said.

Natalia Mudrenko, an official with Ukraine's U.N. mission, accused Russia of effectively holding civilians "hostage" and said "the critical situation" in Mariupol and other cities demands immediate action by world leaders and humanitarian and medical organizations.

She told a U.N. Security Council meeting Tuesday afternoon that civilians, mostly women and children, "are not allowed to leave and the humanitarian aid is not let in."

The Russian military has denied firing on convoys and accused Ukraine of blocking the evacuation effort.

Repeated attempts to create safe evacuation corridors have failed since last weekend amid continuing fighting and objections to the proposed routes.

THOUSANDS CIVILIANS AND SOLDIERS KILLED

Thousands of people are thought to have been killed, both civilians and soldiers, though the actual number is unknown.

The U.S. believes Russia underestimated the strength of Ukraine's resistance before launching its invasion and has suffered thousands of casualties, Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines told lawmakers Tuesday in Washington.

Russian aircraft yesterday [Ma-

cau time] bombed residential areas around Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, and Zhytomyr, to the west of Kyiv, and its military also stepped up its shelling of Kyiv's suburbs, the Ukrainian emergency services said.

In Malyn, a town of 25,000 near Zhytomyr, the bombing killed at least five people, including two children, and destroyed a textile factory and seven homes, the agency said. Two people died, including a 7-year-old, in the bombing in Chuhuiv, near Kharkiv.

Ukrainian officials also reported dire conditions in the Kyiv suburbs of Bucha, Hostomel, Irpen, Vyshhorod and Borodianka, including bodies of the dead that couldn't be buried.

The mayor of Lviv said the city in far western Ukraine was struggling to feed and house the more than 200,000 people who have fled there. The displaced are being housed in the city's sport halls, schools and other buildings.

In the nearly two weeks since Russian President Vladimir Putin launched the invasion, his forces have captured a swath of southern and coastal Ukraine but have seen their advances stopped in many areas, including around Kyiv.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy vowed that his country would fight Russia's invasion in its cities, fields and riverbanks.

"We will not give up and we will not lose," he told Britain's House of Commons via video, evoking the "never surrender" speech that Winston Churchill gave during World War II.

CRUCIAL AID TO UKRAINE ON THE WAY

Additional air-defense capabilities are the No. 1 priority for Ukraine, Maj. Gen. Borys Kremenetskyi, the defense attaché with the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington, said this week after visiting the Pentagon.

"It can be ground-based air-defense systems. It can be fighter jets, whatever possible," Kremenetskyi told The Associated Press.

He said there are countries around the world that have Soviet-produced air-defense systems that the Ukrainians know how to operate.

"The U.S. government can also motivate those countries to provide us this equipment," he said.

Poland said that it would give all of its MiG-29 fighter jets to the U.S., which Ukrainian pilots are trained to fly. But the Pentagon responded that Poland's offer to give the jets to the U.S. so they can be passed to Ukraine is not tenable and raises serious concerns for the NATO alliance.

Vice President Kamala Harris' trip to Warsaw to thank Poland for taking in hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians fleeing Russia's invasion took an unexpected turn before she even left Washington. She'll be parachuting into the middle of unexpected diplomatic turbulence over fighter jets.

SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA RATCHETED UP

U.S. President Joe Biden said the U.S. would ban all Russian oil imports, even if it will mean rising costs for Americans, particularly at the gas pump. Energy exports have kept a steady stream of cash flowing to Russia despite otherwise severe restrictions it faces.

Russia's Central Bank sharply tightened currency restrictions in ways not seen since Soviet times. It ordered the country's commercial banks to cap the amount clients can withdraw from their hard currency deposits at \$10,000 in U.S. dollars. Any withdrawals above that amount would be converted to rubles at the current exchange rates.

Surging prices for oil and other vital commodities, such as wheat used in government-subsidized bread and noodles, are rattling global markets.

McDonald's, Starbucks, Coca-Cola, PepsiCo and General Electric all announced yesterday they're temporarily suspending business in Russia. Shell said Tuesday it will stop buying Russian oil after Ukrainian officials criticized the energy giant for buying a shipment of crude from Moscow. **MDT/AP**

USA

Top lawmakers reach deal on Ukraine aid, USD1.5t spending

ALAN FRAM,
WASHINGTON

CONGRESSIONAL leaders reached a bipartisan deal yesterday providing \$13.6 billion to help Ukraine and European allies plus billions more to battle the pandemic as part of an overdue \$1.5 trillion measure financing federal agencies for the rest of this year.

Though a tiny fraction of the massive bill, the money countering a Russian blitzkrieg that's devastated parts of Ukraine and prompted Europe's worst refugee crisis since World War II ensured the measure would pass with robust bipartisan support. President Joe Biden requested \$10 billion for military, humanitarian and economic aid last week, and Democratic and Republican backing was so staunch that the figure grew to \$12 billion Monday and \$13.6 billion just a day later.

"We're going to support them against tyranny, oppression, violent acts of subjugation," Biden said at the White House.

Party leaders planned to whip the 2,741-page measure through the House today [Macau time] and the Senate by week's end, though that chamber's exact timing was unclear. Lawmakers were spurred by the urgency of helping Ukraine before Russia's military might makes it too late.

They also faced a Friday deadline to approve the government-wide spending measure or face a weekend election-year federal shutdown. As a backstop against delays, the House planned to pass a bill keeping agencies afloat through March 15.

Over \$4 billion of the Ukraine aid was to help the country and Eastern European nations cope with the 2 million refugees who've already fled the fighting. Another \$6.7 billion was for the deployment of U.S. troops and equipment to the region and to transfer American military items to Ukraine and U.S. allies, and there was economic aid and money to enforce economic sanctions against Russia as well.



Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer

"War in Europe has focused the energies of Congress to getting something done and getting it done fast," said Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said the measure would provide loan guarantees to Poland to help it replace aircraft it is sending Ukraine. "It's been like pulling teeth" to get Democrats to agree to some of the defense spending, he said. But he added, "It's an important step. It needs to be passed. It needs to be passed quickly."

The bipartisan rallying behind the Ukraine aid was just one manifestation of Congress' eagerness to help the beleaguered country, though not all of it has been harmonious.

Republicans accused Biden of moving too slowly to help Ukraine and NATO allies and to impose sanctions against Russia and its president, Vladimir Putin. Democrats countered that time was needed to bring along European allies that rely heavily on Russian energy sources. And a bipartisan push to ban Russian oil imports had become nearly unstoppable before Biden announced Tuesday that he would do that on his own.

The huge overall bill was stocked with victories for both parties.

For Democrats, it provides \$730 billion for domes-

tic programs, 6.7% more than last year, the biggest boost in four years. Republicans won \$782 billion for defense, 5.6% over last year's levels.

In contrast, Biden's 2022 budget last spring proposed a 16% increase for domestic programs and less than 2% more for defense — numbers that were doomed from the start thanks to Democrats' slender congressional majorities.

The bill was also fueled by large numbers of hometown projects for both parties' lawmakers, which Congress had banned since 2011 but were revived this year. The spending — once called earmarks, now dubbed community projects — includes money for courthouses in Connecticut and Tennessee and repairs to a post office in West Virginia. And it names a federal building in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, after Sen. Richard Shelby, the state's senior GOP senator, a chief author of the bill who's retiring after six terms.

Democrats won \$15.6 billion for a fresh round of spending for vaccines, testing and treatments for COVID-19, including \$5 billion for fighting the pandemic around the world. That was below Biden's \$22.5 billion request.

Republicans said they'd forced Democrats to pay for the entire amount by pulling back money from COVID-19

relief bills enacted previously. Much of the money was to go to help states and businesses cope with the toll of the pandemic.

There's added money for child care, job training, economic development in poorer communities and more generous Pell grants for low-income undergraduates. Public health and biomedical research would get increases, including \$194 million for Biden's "Cancer Moonshot" effort to cure the disease.

Citizenship and Immigration Services would get funds to reduce huge backlogs of people trying to enter the U.S. There would be fresh efforts to bolster renewable energy and curb pollution, with some of that aimed specifically at communities of color.

There is added funding to build affordable housing. And the measure distributes billions of dollars initially provided by the bipartisan infrastructure bill enacted last year for road, rail and airport projects.

The bill "delivers transformative federal investments to help lower the cost of living for working families, create American jobs, and provide a lifeline for the vulnerable," said House Appropriations Committee Chair Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn.

The bill renews programs protecting women against domestic violence and requires many infrastructure operators to report significant cyber attacks and ransomware demands to federal authorities. The Defense Department would have to report on extremist ideologies within the ranks.

The measure retains strict decades-old curbs against using federal money for nearly all abortions. It has \$300 million in military assistance for Ukraine and \$300 million to help nearby countries like the Baltic nations and Poland. Service members would get 2.7% pay raises, and Navy shipbuilding would get a boost in a counter to China.

It "rejects liberal policies and effectively addresses Republican priorities," said Shelby, top Republican on the Senate Appropriations Committee. **MDT/AP**

this day in history



1956 RIOTS ERUPT IN CYPRUS OVER ARCHBISHOP



Rioting and demonstrations have broken out in the crown colony of Cyprus after yesterday's deportation by the British authorities of the head of the island's Greek Orthodox Church, Archbishop Makarios.

Reports say two British soldiers have been seriously injured when a bomb was thrown at their patrol, and a bomb was hurled at the police station in Ktima.

In Limassol, where two bombs were thrown at British-occupied houses, tear gas was used to break up a demonstration and troops baton-charged several hundred people who threw stones at the security forces.

No-one was injured in the bomb attack.

The secretary-general of the trade union movement in Cyprus, Michael Pissas, has been arrested.

Archbishop Makarios, the leader of the "enosis" campaign to unify Cyprus with Greece, was arrested for "actively fostering terrorism" and has been deported to the Seychelles.

British security forces have searched the archbishop's residence and say they have found one petrol bomb and ten similar bombs.

Greek anger

Demonstrations have taken place in towns and villages all over the island.

In Greece, the British consulate in Heraklion, Crete, was ransacked and 60 students were injured during protests in Athens and Salonika.

And in Athens, the windows of the offices belonging to British European Airways were smashed by rioters

The Greek government has recalled its British ambassador, Vassilios Mostras, and has protested to the United Nations over the deportation of Archbishop Makarios and three other Cypriot-Greek nationalists.

The Greek Cypriot guerrilla group, EOKA - the National Organisation for Cypriot Combatants - threatened to carry out a massive bombing campaign on the island following the decision to deport Archbishop Makarios.

The organisation has been at the forefront of a campaign to end British rule and achieve "enosis" with Greece.

Since last year, EOKA has carried out a number of bomb attacks on the island.

There have also been a series of confrontations with British troops, resulting in casualties on both sides.

Last November, following anti-British riots, the Governor of Cyprus, Sir John Harding, declared a state of emergency on the island.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Violence continued for the next three years until, in February 1959, an agreement between the UK, Greece and Turkey was signed giving Cyprus independence.

The following month Archbishop Makarios returned to the island and was elected president. In 1960 Cyprus gained independence after Greek and Turkish communities reached agreement on a shared constitution.

But the conflict between the Greek and Turkish communities has continued to be a problem.

In 1974, fearing for the rights of the minority Turkish population following a Greece-backed military coup, Turkey invaded northern Cyprus. Tens of thousands of Greeks subsequently fled or were expelled from the north.

The island was officially divided and the buffer zone between the two sectors is still patrolled by the United Nations.

The Turkish-occupied sector declared itself the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus in 1975. The name was changed to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in 1983. Both declarations were recognised only by Turkey.

In April 2004, the Greek Cypriots rejected a UN plan which had the backing of Turkish Cypriots to reunite the island.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You can expect opposition from family as well as colleagues. Minor accidents are likely if you take risks. Take time to visit someone who has been confined due to illness.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Your boss may be pushy. Don't let your partner put you down. You will meet some interesting people if you attend promotional functions.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Female members of your family may be difficult to deal with. Get out and enjoy some entertainment. Self-improvement projects will payoff in more ways than one.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Help elders get their personal papers in order. This is a great day for a trip. You may need a physical outlet that will help you relieve your tension.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Your ability to work with detail could help you achieve your goals. You can help sort out problems that friends are facing. Take time to look at any outdated papers or possible investments.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

You will have a tendency to exaggerate, which will lead to major confrontations with loved ones. You can come up with ways of earning extra cash. You need some help today.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

The great outdoors will allow you to teach youngsters some of the things you learned when growing up. You're apt to make a move or experience changes at home.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

You can make new friends if you get involved in group activities. Problems with in-laws may cause friction in your personal relationship. Make sure that you take time to remember those you love.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Travel will enhance romance and adventure. Try to curb your habits, or you could find yourself in an awkward financial position. You will find the excitement gratifying.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Go on business trips if at all possible. Use discrimination and play hard to get. Your charm will attract someone special. It might be time to make a fresh start.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Do your own research and be prepared. Relationships will be erratic today. Minor health problems will cause setbacks if you haven't taken proper care of yourself.

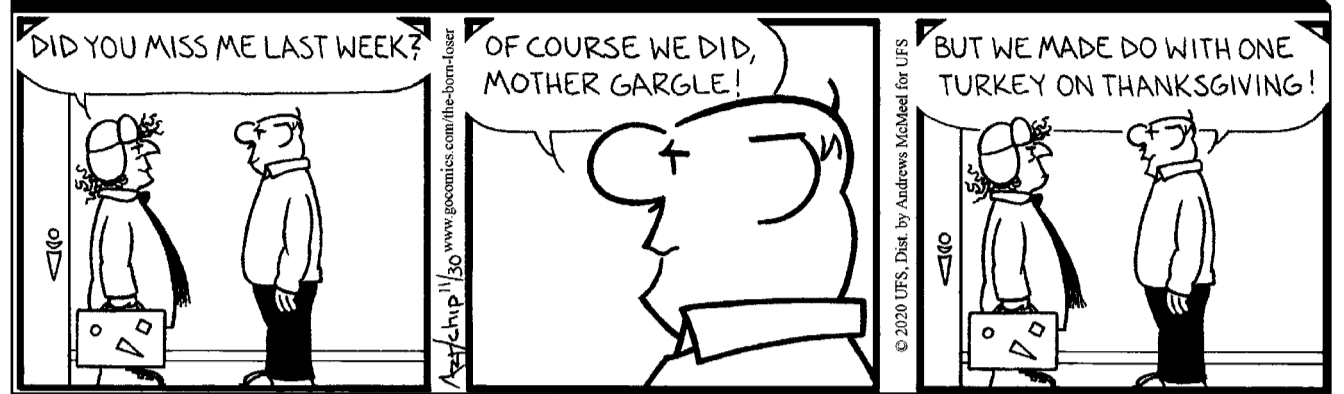


PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Concentrate on work and on making money. Make sure that you get legal matters checked out thoroughly. Take care of the needs or responsibilities of elders.

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

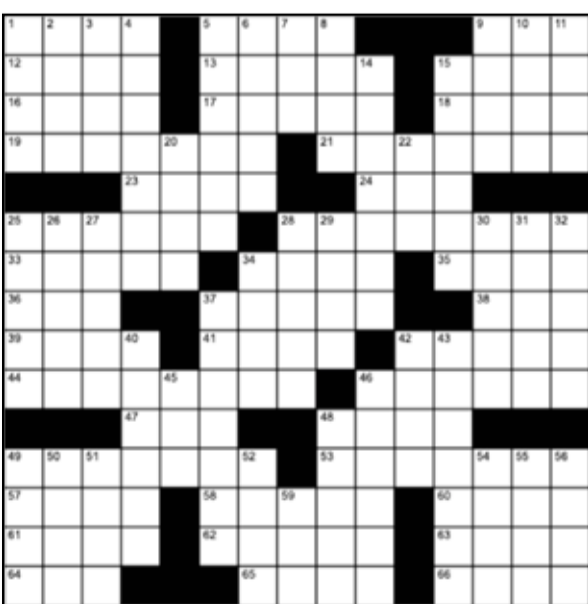
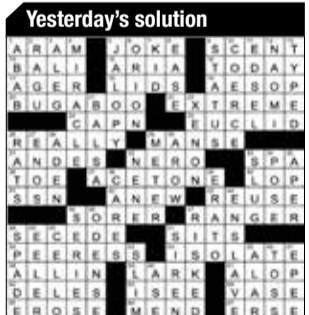
WEATHER

| | MIN | MAX | CONDITION |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----------|
| CHINA | | | |
| Beijing | 4 | 20 | fine |
| Changchun | 1 | 13 | cloudy |
| Chengdu | 14 | 24 | fine |
| Chongqing | 14 | 27 | fine |
| Fuzhou | 11 | 23 | cloudy |
| Guangzhou | 12 | 26 | cloudy |
| Guiyang | 11 | 19 | overcast |
| Haikou | 16 | 24 | cloudy |
| Hangzhou | 9 | 22 | cloudy |
| Harbin | -1 | 10 | cloudy |
| Hefei | 8 | 24 | fine |
| Nanjing | 10 | 26 | cloudy |
| Shanghai | 11 | 20 | cloudy |
| Taipei | 16 | 22 | cloudy |
| Wuhan | 10 | 25 | fine |
| Hong Kong | 19 | 22 | fine |
| WORLD | | | |
| Moscow | -14 | -4 | fine |
| Frankfurt | -1 | 14 | fine |
| Paris | 8 | 17 | overcast |
| London | 9 | 14 | overcast |
| New York | 2 | 10 | overcast |

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Kind of prof.; 5- Growl; 9- Do damage to; 12- Noble; 13- Drive back; 15- Cast a ballot; 16- Gen. Robert ___; 17- Bandleader Shaw; 18- Monogram ltr.; 19- Article of clothing; 21- River pollutant; 23- Cricket equipment; 24- Lose firmness; 25- Grownups; 28- Pertaining to ships; 33- Melts together; 34- Den; 35- Devices for fishing; 36- Tina's ex; 37- Grocery lane; 38- Narc's org.; 39- Enlist again; 41- Ladies of Sp.; 42- Quality; 44- Marriage ceremony; 46- Pines; 47- Rage; 48- Give eats; 49- Final course; 53- Japanese musical instrument; 57- Caen's river; 58- ___ Amore; 60- Give it ___; 61- Pleased; 62- Wooden shoe; 63- Baseball team; 64- Equinox mo.; 65- Culp-Cosby series; 66- Horse's gait;

DOWN 1- Take down ___; 2- Actress Ward; 3- Prophet; 4- Quiver; 5- Bestows; 6- Drat!; 7- Appropriate; 8- Bridle strap; 9- ___ Lisa; 10- Fighting; 11- Network of nerves; 14- Unhurried ease; 15- The ___ Mary; 20- Vittles; 22- Sylvester, to Tweety; 25- Flaming; 26- Noblemen; 27- Deplete; 28- Like Fran Drescher's voice; 29- Has a bug; 30- Symbol of Lebanon; 31- Had dinner at home; 32- Atty.-to-be exams; 34- Old Italian money; 37- States; 40- Self-assured; 42- Overflow; 43- Shining; 45- Suffix with fail; 46- Like bread dough; 48- Camera setting; 49- Canines; 50- Author ___ Stanley Gardner; 51- Crack; 52- Baht spender; 54- Be up and about; 55- Cube creator Rubik; 56- Russian no; 59- Bodybuilder's pride;



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
property since 1994

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

INTERNET

BEEFING UP ITS CYBERSECURITY, GOOGLE BUYS MANDIANT FOR USD5.4B

MATT OTT,
SILVER SPRING (MD.)

GOOGLE is fortifying its cloud services with a \$5.4 billion acquisition of the cyber security firm Mandiant, the companies announced yesterday [Macau time].

The acquisition is the first of many that analysts foresee in the cyber security sector following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Analysts and government officials have said they expect a wave of cyberattacks from Russia and others as geopolitical tensions rise.

"In a massive growth backdrop for cyber security and further tailwinds seen during this Ukraine invasion from Russia bad actors/nation state attacks, we believe today's deal is the tip of the iceberg to a massive phase of consolidation potentially ahead for the cloud space," Wedbush analyst Dan Ives wrote.

Google, a subsidiary of Mountain View, California-based Alphabet Inc., will pay \$23 per Mandiant share in all-cash deal expected to close this year. The price



AP PHOTO

represents a 57% premium on Mandiant's share price in early February, when speculation about a deal between the companies first surfaced.

Mandiant, based in Reston, Virginia, and its 5,300 employees will join Google Cloud as soon as the transaction closes.

"The Mandiant brand is synonymous with unmatched insights for organizations seeking to keep themselves secure in a constantly changing environment,"

said Google Cloud CEO Thomas Kurian. "This is an opportunity to deliver an end-to-end security operations suite and extend one of the best consulting organizations in the world."

Yesterday, Mandiant reported that hackers working on behalf of the Chinese government broke into the computer networks of at least six state governments in the United States in the last year. Mandiant's report does not identify the compromised states or offer

a motive for the intrusions, which began last May and continued through last month. But the Chinese group believed responsible for the breaches, APT41, is known to launch hacking operations both for old-fashioned espionage purposes and for financial gain.

Technology research and advisory firm Gartner estimates that total spending for worldwide information security and risk management reached \$155 billion last year and is forecast to grow another 10% this year, to more than \$170 billion.

Even before the war, stock analysts have been predicting growth of as much as 20% in the cyber security sector.

Russia has long been accused of disrupting other governments and businesses via online attacks and Western officials have warned that Russia could launch more cyberattacks against Ukraine and its allies.

Just one week before last month's invasion, the U.S. blamed Russia for a series of cyberattacks that knocked the websites of the Ukrainian army, the defense mi-

nistry and major banks offline.

Anne Neuberger, the Biden administration's deputy national security adviser for cyber and emerging technologies, said there was no intelligence indicating that the U.S. would be targeted by a cyberattack, but that remained a concern, giving that the banking system does not have the "cyber resilience" that it should.

Last fall, Microsoft said the same Russia-backed hackers responsible for the 2020 SolarWinds breach continue to attack the global technology supply chain and have been relentlessly targeting cloud service companies and others since summer.

However, the bid to acquire Mandiant will likely get a thorough review from antitrust regulators.

Groups that advocate for stronger antitrust regulation have already said the deal should be stopped.

"The security arguments Google is using to justify its second largest acquisition in history are the very same reasons why antitrust enforcers must block this deal," said Krista Brown of the American Economic Liberties Project. "Regulators must investigate the cybersecurity space more broadly to understand the unknown and dangerous costs of consolidation in such an essential sector." MDT/AP

AD

HOLIDAY RENTAL HOUSES

Lugar das Letras Casa de Gouvães

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

visit us at www.lugardasletras.com visit us at www.casadegouveas.com

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

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

DUFFY'S
IRISH PUB
MACAU

DUFFY'S IRISH PUB
where everyone gets lucky!

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

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

FOOTBALL

Rowdy fans barred, 14 arrested in Mexico match brawl

MEXICO'S soccer federation said yesterday [Macau time] it will ban clubs of rowdy fans known as "barras" from attending away matches after a mass weekend brawl among soccer fans that left over two dozen people injured, three of them critically.

The federation and top-division league owners announced that the host team in Saturday's match, Queretaro, will have to play home matches without fans for one year after stadium security was shown to be inadequate.

The Queretaro team's fan club, or "barra," will be banned from attending even local games for three years. The team's owner will be required to sell his stake in it and the current team management will be banned from the league for five years.

The federation also levied a fine of about \$70,000, and ruled the Saturday match — which had been tied 1-1 when the fighting broke out — to be a 3-0 win for the opposing team, Atlas from the city of Guadalajara.

The club owners said they would institute measures to identify fans entering stadiums.

Authorities in north-central state of Queretaro said earlier Tuesday they had arrested 13 suspects in the brawl. A 14th suspect was



Fans clash during a Mexican soccer league match between the host Queretaro and Atlas from Guadalajara, at the Corregidora stadium, in Queretaro, Saturday

turned in by his mother to police. Officials said that raids and searches are continuing in several cities to find the others.

Guadalupe Murguía, the interior secretary of Queretaro state, said a total of 26 people had been identified as participating in the brawl.

The arrests were based on a review of videos and other evidence from the Saturday confrontation.

The state has suspended five officials after security forces at the stadium were unable to control the violence. They include police and civil defense employees, and three people responsible for planning and preparations.

The private company partly responsible for security at the soccer stadium also had its contracts cancelled.

Police were also at the ve-

nue when the brawl occurred Saturday at a match between Queretaro and Atlas, the reigning league champion.

All matches in Mexico's top division were cancelled Sunday.

Saturday's match was suspended in the 62nd minute after multiple fights broke out in the stands. Security personnel opened the gates to the field so that fans, including women and children, could escape the clashes.

Only three or four of the injured men remained hospitalized. They may have been the three who were seen unconscious or badly beaten on the ground, being repeatedly kicked and pummeled in videos posted on social media.

After several minutes, some of the fights moved to

the field, where some people were armed with chairs and metal bars.

One fan could be seen pulling a knife to cut the nets of one goal. Others destroyed one side's bench and some fought in the tunnel to the field.

Enrique Alfaro, the governor of Jalisco state, whose capital is Guadalajara, was asked Monday about local press reports that the brawl may have involved local criminal gangs fighting visitors who purportedly belonged to the Jalisco drug cartel.

"What it seems to me is that what we saw was not a normal dispute between fans," Alfaro said. "What happened there was something that looked different."

Alfaro, however, refused to comment on whether drug gangs were involved. **MDT/AP**

Stander first drew national notice with a fifth-round knockout of Earnie Shavers in 1970, and he was 23-1-1 when he got his opportunity against Frazier on May 25, 1972.

The Frazier fight was at the Civic Auditorium in Omaha, across the Missouri River from Council Bluffs, and Stander went right at the champion from the opening bell. The two fought on even terms early, but Frazier was able to impose his will and bloodied Stander's face, and the fight was stopped after four rounds.

Stander also fought, and lost to, heavyweights Scott LeDoux, Ken Norton and Gerrie Coetzee in the 1970s, and remained a popular figure in boxing circles the rest of his life. **MDT/AP**

BOXING

RON STANDER, 'BLUFFS BUTCHER,' DIES; FOUGHT FRAZIER IN 1972



Heavyweight champion Joe Frazier ducks to miss a right by challenger Ron Stander during their boxing bout May 25, 1972, in Omaha, Nebraska

RON Stander, whose fight against unbeaten world heavyweight champion Joe Frazier in 1972 was the highlight of his 13-year career, has died. He was 77.

Toddy Stander said her husband died Tuesday from complications of diabetes at their home in the Omaha, Nebraska, suburb of Ralston.

Stander was known as the "Bluffs Butcher," a nod to both his hometown of Council Bluffs, Iowa, and his aggressive, brawling style. He was 38-21-3 in a professional career that spanned the years 1969-82.

FOOTBALL

Liverpool reaches CL quarterfinals despite loss to Inter

LIVERPOOL 0, INTER 1

LIVERPOOL could cope with its first Anfield loss in a year to still overcome Inter Milan and reach the quarterfinals of the Champions League.

Leading 2-0 from the last-16 first leg in Italy, Lautaro Martinez's swerving shot that reduced the deficit in the 61st minute gave the Italian champions a hope of a comeback.

But within two minutes, Inter's task was made more difficult when Alexis Sanchez was sent off after his follow-through on Fabinho earned him a second booking.

Liverpool held on to lose 1-0 and advance 2-1 on aggregate. The 2019 Champions League winners are in the quarterfinals for the fourth time in five years despite its first loss in the competition this season.

Liverpool had chances to level. Mohamed Salah volleyed against the post and Luis Diaz's close-range shot was deflected over by Arturo Vidal.

"We struggled in the beginning," Salah said. "We managed to hold the ball up more in the second half. The most important thing is we qualified. Hopefully we'll be better in the next game."

Inter went out with only the consolation of being the first team to win at Anfield since Fulham 366 days earlier.

"The difficulties we had were pretty close to what I expected," Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp told broadcaster BT Sport. "Inter are a really good side and set up for these kind of games. They are really fighters and I'm happy we don't play this type of team every week."

Liverpool is still in contention for a quadruple after winning the League Cup last month, then reaching the quarterfinals of the FA Cup and closing Manchester City's lead at the top of the Premier League to six points with a game in hand.

Inter's focus now returns to trying to catch AC Milan in Serie A, with two points to make up and a game in hand.

"We did our best at Anfield," Inter coach Simone Inzaghi said. "And we come out of these two games as a better side, strengthened." **MDT/AP**



OPINION

China Daily
Editorial, China Daily

TAIWAN AND UKRAINE NOT COMPARABLE SITUATIONS

By interfering in the Taiwan question, some Western countries seek to disrupt the nation's reunification and the country's development. Their provocative acts in support of the secessionists on the island have increased tensions and posed a severe threat to peace and stability across the Taiwan Straits.

With conflict erupting in Ukraine, these ill-intentioned people are deliberately trying to draw a parallel between Taiwan and what is happening in Ukraine. But as State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said at a news conference held on the sidelines of the ongoing annual sessions of the country's top legislature and top political advisory body on Monday, the two situations are "not at all comparable", as Taiwan is a domestic matter for China, while the Ukraine conflict is a dispute between two countries.

"We have seen that some people emphasize the principle of sovereignty on the Ukraine issue, but continue to undermine China's sovereignty and territorial integrity on the Taiwan question. This is a naked double standard," he said.

Taiwan's "mainland affairs council", in trying to conflate the Taiwan question with the Ukraine crisis, claimed that it is the Chinese mainland's military threats, diplomatic pressure and attempts to "assault" the island that are the cause of tensions.

Yet that belies the reality.

The tensions, as Wang made clear, are caused by the Tsai Ing-wen administration's refusal to accept that the island is part of China.

In resisting reunification by instigating confrontation and working hand-in-glove with foreign forces led by the United States that seek to exploit the cross-Straits frictions in their attempts to contain China's development, the Tsai administration is ruining the island's future and endangering national rejuvenation.

Apart from frequently sending warships to sail through the Taiwan Straits, the US has repeatedly sold arms to the island and staged one political farce after another to covertly or overtly support "Taiwan independence" in open defiance to the one-China principle. For the US, the Taiwan question is a means to rally regional allies in its bid to create a NATO-like mechanism that can reinforce its hegemony in the Asia-Pacific.

Contrary to the claims of bullying, the Chinese mainland has constantly promoted cross-Straits exchanges and sought to share its development opportunities with Taiwan compatriots and enterprises in its efforts to promote peaceful reunification.

It is the connivance between the authorities on the island and the US that is hindering the efforts to promote peaceful reunification of the island with the motherland.

Yet their bid to create the false impression that the island has a sovereign identity has only reinforced Beijing's commitment to "resolve the Taiwan question in the new era", as stated in this year's Government Work Report, which was issued on Saturday.

No one should doubt the nation's capability to act on that resolve.

CONFIRMED: BIDEN SIGNING ORDER ON CRYPTOCURRENCY AS ITS USE EXPLODES

THE BUZZ

President Joe Biden is signing an executive order on government oversight of cryptocurrency that urges the Federal Reserve to explore whether the central bank should jump in and create its own digital currency.

The Biden administration views the explosive popularity of cryptocurrency as a call for acting with urgency to look at the risks and benefits of digital assets, said a senior administration official who previewed the order on the condition of anonymity.

As part of the order being signed today [Macau time], the Treasury Department and other federal agencies are to study the

impact of cryptocurrency on financial stability and national security.

The action comes as lawmakers and administration officials are increasingly voicing concern that Russia may be using cryptocurrency to avoid the impact of sanctions imposed on its banks, oligarchs and oil industry due to the invasion of Ukraine.

Last week, Democratic Sens. Elizabeth Warren, Mark Warner, and Jack Reed asked the Treasury Department to provide information on how it intends to inhibit cryptocurrency use for sanctions evasion.



FAQ

FORECASTERS SAY GASOLINE PRICES LIKELY TO REMAIN HIGH

GASOLINE prices have smashed a 2008 record and are likely to head even higher, further fueling inflation and hitting consumers and businesses that are still coming to grips with the pandemic.

The national average topped \$4.17 a gallon on Tuesday, according to auto club AAA, and several states on each coast could soon join California in the \$5-and-up club.

Prices at the pump have been rising for more than a year, and analysts expect further increases after President Joe Biden announced that the United States will ban imports of Russian oil to punish Russia more severely for invading Ukraine.

As painful as this week's prices are, they are still not the highest that Americans have paid when you consider inflation. In today's dollars, that 2008 record of \$4.10 a gallon would be equal to about \$5.24.

WHEN DID PRICES START RISING?

After averaging \$2.69 a gallon in 2019, U.S. gasoline prices collapsed as COVID-19 forced offices and businesses to close in early 2020. By late April 2020, a gallon sold for under \$1.90. Prices have mostly risen

since then, as demand for energy rebounded, global production failed to keep pace, and inventories shrank.

WHY ARE PRICES SO HIGH?

It boils down to supply and demand. The world consumes nearly 100 million barrels of oil a day on average. Producers cut spending on exploration and production during the pandemic, and they have been slow to ramp back up. Some producers say they face labor and parts shortages.

The benchmark price for U.S. oil was around \$125 a barrel in afternoon trading Tuesday, while the international standard, Brent crude, was above \$130. Of course, consumers didn't mind when crude was below \$20 at the start of the pandemic.

"Oil companies don't set the market prices; people do, by filling up their tanks," says Patrick De Haan, petroleum analyst for GasBuddy, which tracks gasoline prices around the U.S.

HOW MUCH IS DUE TO RUSSIA'S WAR?

Analysts say that nearly the entire rise of the last

week — about 55 cents a gallon nationwide, on average — can be linked to anticipation that eventually western countries would ban Russian crude, further shrinking their already tight supplies.

"The U.S. doesn't need Russian oil per se, but the world and particularly Europe are dependent on it," says Tom Kloza, an analyst for the Oil Price Information Service.

According to government figures, the U.S. imported 245 million barrels of oil from Russia last year, or 8% of all U.S. oil imports. That is less than the United States imported from Canada or Mexico but more than it took from Saudi Arabia.

WHEN WILL PRICES EASE?

Normally fuel prices rise in spring and summer, as Americans drive and fly more. Demand could also get a boost as countries continue to shed their COVID-19 restrictions. Those trends suggest that pump prices are heading higher, with demand continuing to outstrip supply.

"It's not going to be a good summer for motorists," De Haan says. **MDT/AP**



USA A Texas man was convicted of storming the U.S. Capitol with a holstered handgun, a milestone victory for federal prosecutors in the first trial among hundreds of cases arising from last year's riot. A jury also convicted Guy Wesley Reffitt (drawing, left) of obstructing Congress' joint session to certify the Electoral College vote on Jan. 6, 2021, of interfering with police officers guarding the Capitol and of threatening his two teenage children if they reported him to law enforcement. The verdict could be a bellwether for many other Capitol riot cases.



USA A judge dismissed the sex abuse lawsuit against Britain's Prince Andrew yesterday [Macau time], three weeks after lawyers for the American woman who filed it reached a deal calling for the prince to make a substantial donation to his accuser's charity and declare he never meant to malign her character. U.S. District Judge Lewis A. Kaplan signed court papers dismissing the August lawsuit after lawyers on both sides asked him to do so earlier in the day.



France The dancers are torn between body and mind — physically on stage in Paris but in spirit back home in Kyiv. In other circumstances, the Kyiv City Ballet's residency at the Théâtre du Chatelet would be a dream come true, but the stranded company of young dancers feels little but heartbreak. "We are both physically and emotionally exhausted," Ekaterina Kozlova, the company's deputy director, told The Associated Press. "Everyone in the ballet is worried about their families, loved ones, friends, colleagues at home. It's been very difficult."