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CHINA CALLS FOR PROBE INTO BUCHA KILLINGS, ASSIGNS NO BLAME

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AP PHOTO



Indonesia A former human rights lawyer who joined an Islamic hard-line group was sentenced to three years in prison yesterday on charges of incitement with the aim to establish a caliphate in a secular country. The three-judge panel court found Munarman guilty of hiding information from authorities about militants pledging allegiance to the Islamic State group in January 2015 in Makassar, the capital of South Sulawesi province, and instead "giving a speech inciting people to carry out terrorism acts."

AP PHOTO



Myanmar An order by Myanmar's central bank that all foreign currency in bank accounts must be converted into the local currency has many in the military-ruled country worried over potential losses. Businesses and individuals were told in a notice issued Sunday that as of Monday they must convert dollars and other foreign currency into kyats within one day or face legal consequences. Foreign currency can only be sent overseas with government approval, it said.

India and Australia's trade ministers say a shared security partnership with the United States and Japan has helped them strike a trade deal that Australia hopes will reduce its dependence on exports to China. Indian Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal is heading a business mission to the Australian cities of Melbourne, Sydney and Perth to explore new opportunities created by the interim deal signed virtually on Saturday.

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CLIMATE CHANGE

REVOLUTIONARY CHANGES IN TRANSPORTATION, FROM ELECTRIC VEHICLES TO RIDE SHARING, COULD SLOW GLOBAL WARMING

ALAN JENN

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS

AROUND the world, revolutionary changes are under way in transportation. More electric vehicles are on the road, people are taking advantage of sharing mobility services such as Uber and Lyft, and the rise in telework during the COVID-19 pandemic has shifted the way people think about commuting.

Transportation is a growing source of the global greenhouse gas emissions that are driving climate change, accounting for 23% of energy-related carbon dioxide emissions worldwide in 2019 and 29% of all greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S.

The systemic changes under way in the transportation sector could begin lowering that emissions footprint. But will they reduce emissions enough?

In a new report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released April 4, 2022, scientists examined the latest research on efforts to mitigate climate change. The report concludes that falling costs for renewable energy and electric vehicle batteries, in addition to policy changes, have slowed the growth of climate change in the past decade, but that deep, immediate cuts are necessary. Emissions will have to peak by 2025 to keep global warming under 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 F), a Paris Agreement goal, the report says.

The transportation chapter, which I contributed to, homed in on transportation transformations – some just starting and others expanding – that in the most aggressive scenarios could reduce global greenhouse gas emissions from transportation by 80% to 90% of current levels by 2050. That sort of drastic reduction would require a major, rapid rethinking of how people get around globally.

THE FUTURE OF EVS

All-electric vehicles have grown dramatically since the Tesla Roadster and Nissan Leaf arrived on the market a little over a decade



ago, following the popularity of hybrids.

In 2021 alone, the sales of electric passenger vehicles, including plug-in hybrids, doubled worldwide to 6.6 million, about 9% of all car sales that year.

Strong regulatory policies have encouraged the production of electric vehicles, including California's Zero Emission Vehicle regulation, which requires automakers to produce a certain number of zero-emission vehicles based on their total vehicles sold in California; the European Union's CO2 emissions standards for new vehicles; and China's New Energy Vehicle policy, all of which have helped push EV adoption to where we are today.

Beyond passenger vehicles, many micro-mobility options – such as autorickshaws, scooters and bikes – as well as buses, have been electrified. As the cost of lithium-ion batteries decreases, these transportation options will become increasingly affordable and further boost sales of battery-powered vehicles that traditionally have run on fossil fuels.

An important aspect to re-

member about electrifying the transportation system is that its ability to cut greenhouse gas emissions ultimately depends on how clean the electricity grid is. China, for example, is aiming for 20% of its vehicles to be electric by 2025, but its electric grid is still heavily reliant on coal.

With the global trends toward more renewable generation, these vehicles will be connected with fewer carbon emissions over time. There are also many developing and potentially promising co-benefits of electromobility when coupled with the power system. The batteries within electric vehicles have the potential to act as storage devices for the grid, which can assist in stabilizing the intermittency of renewable resources in the power sector, among many other benefits.

Other areas of transportation are more challenging to electrify. Larger and heavier vehicles generally aren't as conducive to electrification because the size and weight of the batteries needed rapidly becomes untenable.

For some heavy-duty trucks,

ships and airplanes, alternative fuels such as hydrogen, advanced biofuels and synthetic fuels are being explored as replacements for fossil fuels. Most aren't economically feasible yet, and substantial advances in the technology are still needed to ensure they are either low- or zero-carbon.

OTHER WAYS TO CUT EMISSIONS FROM TRANSPORTATION

While new fuel and vehicle technologies are often highlighted as decarbonization solutions, behavioral and other systemic changes will also be needed to meet to cut greenhouse gas emissions dramatically from this sector. We are already in the midst of these changes.

Telecommuting: During the COVID-19 pandemic, the explosion of teleworking and video conferencing reduced travel, and, with it, emissions associated with commuting. While some of that will rebound, telework is likely to continue for many sectors of the economy.

Shared mobility: Some shared mobility options, like bike and

scooter sharing programs, can get more people out of vehicles entirely.

Car-sharing and on-demand services such as Uber and Lyft also have the potential to reduce emissions if they use high-efficiency or zero-emission vehicles, or if their services lean more toward car pooling, with each driver picking up multiple passengers. Unfortunately, there is substantial uncertainty about the impact of these services. They might also increase vehicle use and, with it, greenhouse gas emissions.

New policies such as the California Clean Miles Standard are helping to push companies like Uber and Lyft to use cleaner vehicles and increase their passenger loads, though it remains to be seen whether other regions will adopt similar policies.

Public transit-friendly cities: Another systemic change involves urban planning and design. Transportation in urban areas is responsible for approximately 8% of global carbon dioxide emissions.

Efficient city planning and land use can reduce travel demand and shift transportation modes, from cars to public transit, through strategies that avoid urban sprawl and disincentivize personal cars. These improvements not only decrease greenhouse gas emissions, but can decrease congestion, air pollution and noise, while improving the safety of transportation systems.

HOW DO THESE ADVANCES TRANSLATE TO LOWER EMISSIONS?

Much of the uncertainty in how much technological change and other systemic shifts in transportation affects global warming is related to the speed of transition.

The new IPCC report includes several potential scenarios for how much improvements in transportation will be able to cut emissions. On average, the scenarios indicate that the carbon intensity of the transportation sector would need to decrease by about 50% by 2050 and as much as 91% by 2100 when combined with a cleaner electricity grid to stay within the 1.5-degree Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) target for global warming.

These decreases would require a complete reversal of current trends of increasing emissions in the transportation sector, but the recent advances in transportation provide many opportunities to meet this challenge.

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TRAFFIC

Transport Bureau drops plans to submerge Amaral bus stops

ANTHONY LAM

THE Transport Bureau (DSAT) replied briefly to three questions raised by lawmaker Ho Ion Sang, stating that its plan to locate some bus stops at Ferreira do Amaral Plaza has been dropped.

The official answer confirming this measured only 48 Chinese characters. The DSAT emphasized that it had conducted "review and comprehensive assessment" on the details of the project before making the decision.

The key turning point on the project, according to the DSAT's reply, is the heavy rainstorm in June 2021 that flooded most of the city. Districts normally not prone to flooding saw water as deep as knee-high.

Given its proximity to major hotels and casinos on the Macau Peninsula, as well as the old cross-sea bridge, the Nobre de Carvalho Bridge, the transport hub is popular among commu-



ters and tourists.

Years ago, the government announced its plan to move the bus stops for not more than three bus routes on the transport hub underground, so as to improve the neighborhood and ease crowding.

In order to do so, the government will need to shrink the size of the underground parking lot at the plaza.

The lawmaker recalled that, in the Policy Address 2021, the government pledged to open tenders for the restructuring and commence the project. However, in 2022, the project has yet to begin.

Meanwhile, the lawmaker also pointed out that putting bus stops underground may bring about ventilation, flooding and fire concerns. The city has the

Border Gate Bus Terminus as a precedent, which was entirely flooded under Typhoon Hato.

The lawmaker asked the bureau about the progress of the project, with particular emphasis on introducing the project to the Transport Advisory Committee. His last question was about how the DSAT can ensure a satisfactory underground environment.

GUIA HILL PEDESTRIAN TUNNEL EXPECTED BY END-2022

At an open event, Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo do Rosário announced that the conclusion of the Guia Hill Pedestrian Tunnel and the subsequent opening for public use should be expected between October and December this year. The construction of the infrastructure, however, is currently 25% behind schedule. The senior official, meanwhile, disclosed that he has already tried the tunnel out. Walking from one end of the tunnel to the other took him only three minutes, which he jokingly described as "a fortune", because it will shorten the distance between two districts as well as linking to Guia's mid-hill.

CIVIL SERVICE CAPPED AT 35,000 STAFF

Secretary for Administration and Justice André Cheong said recently that the size of the civil service will be capped at 35,000 people, in contrast to the government's earlier estimate of 38,000 people. The senior official explained that the teams at higher education institutions might ultimately be separated from the civil servant team. Cheong stressed that this could result in more flexibility and benefits to the institutions' recruitment of high-caliber academic staff. The senior official also emphasized that the government has rigid restrictions on hiring extra staff. A scenario for additional recruitment is necessity.

AD

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SAVE THE DATE



MGTO CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF THIS MONTH WITH 'SPRING INTO ARTS'

THE Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) will launch the "Experience Macao, Unlimited" campaign this month with the theme "Spring into Arts," with artistic and cultural events, including the 32nd Macao Arts Festival, to be unveiled in late April.

MGTO will partner with different organizations to display the monthly city highlights, featuring a series of promotional themes tailored for events and activities each month.

The bureau has compiled a broad list of monthly activity plans from governmental entities, private enterprises and community organizations, to set different monthly themes weaving together events and

festivals with a unique character.

Meanwhile, in May, "May there be FUN" will highlight the kaleidoscope of travel experiences in town, such as Light up Macao Drone Gala 2022 and 2022 Macao International Dragon Boat Races.

In June, "Tasty June" will reflect a diversity of gastronomic activities including celebrations for the United Nations' Sustainable Gastronomy Day on 18 June, putting Macau's position as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy on center stage.

MGTO promises a fun-filled summer in July and August, with "Summer Heat is On," while it invites travelers to "Autumn

Delights" in September.

In October, festivities will be rolled out under the theme "Festive October" to celebrate the National Day, while November will feature "November Formula," which takes visitors on a motorsport journey around the circuit of the Macao Grand Prix.

The theme to end the year will be "Dazzling Winter."

Further details regarding the monthly themes are yet to be announced.

MGTO pledged that it will keep partnering with different platforms to maximize the on-line-offline promotions branding Macao as a safe and quality destination through various channels, in a bid to expand the visitor base and revive Macau's

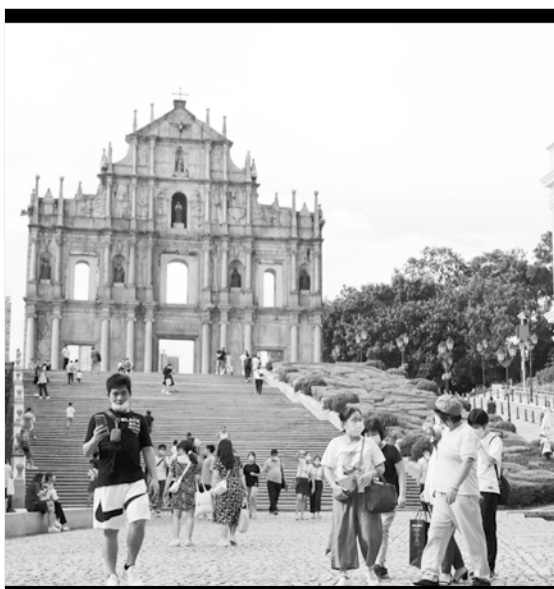
Ching Ming tourist arrivals only at 48,500

LYNZY VALLES

THE Macau SAR recorded only 48,536 tourist arrivals during the three days of the Ching Ming holiday, the traditional Tomb-Sweeping Festival.

Provisional data from the Public Security Police Force (PSP) shows a nearly 50% fall compared to the nearly 99,600 arrivals reported last year.

China's Ministry of Culture and Tourism said Tuesday that an estimated 75 million domestic trips were made during the Ching Ming



holiday, down by 26.2% from last year.

Prior to the holiday,

China's transport ministry anticipated a 20% drop in road traffic and

a 55% fall in flights amid the flare-up of Covid-19 cases in the country.

On April 2, China recorded a total of 13,287 new daily cases, the highest level since February 2020.

Therefore, the Ministry of Transport forecasted that the number of planned flights would plummet to 55% of last year's figure, while air travelers will fall to only 20% of the 2021 level.

Authorities across China have been implementing anti-pandemic measures at entertainment sites during the Ching Ming holiday, according to reports.

This includes limiting the number of tourists and requesting negative nucleic testing results from inter-provincial travellers.

IFTM COMES 23RD IN QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS, UP SEVEN PLACES

THE Macao Institute for Tourism Studies (IFTM) was ranked 23rd in the world among higher education institutions working in hospitality and leisure management according to the QS World University Rankings by Subject in 2022, seven places ahead of last year's rankings.

The institute is ranked first in Macau and third in Asia.

IFTM received its highest scores in the metrics related to academic reputation and citations per academic paper.

The QS World University Rankings by Subject aim to help prospective students identify the world's leading higher education institutions in their chosen field of study.

The rankings take into consideration factors such as academic reputation, reputation among employers, citations per academic paper, and via a measurement of the productivity of each institution's team of scholars and researchers and the impact of their work.

The rankings' publisher Quacquarelli Symonds Ltd (QS) assessed a total of 2,182 institutions around the globe, including 22% more institutions in the fields of hospitality and leisure management in this year's rankings. An aggregate of 150 institutions ultimately received a ranking, compared to 100 in 2021.

The QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022 covered a total of 51 academic subjects. LV

GBA

CONTACTLESS SELF DECLARATION OF INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX SERVICE CATERS TO EXPATS IN HENGQIN

WITH video link and mobile application, expats working in Hengqin, Guangdong's Zhuhai city, now have a simple and seamless self declaration of individual income tax process that is entirely contactless and safe during the pandemic.

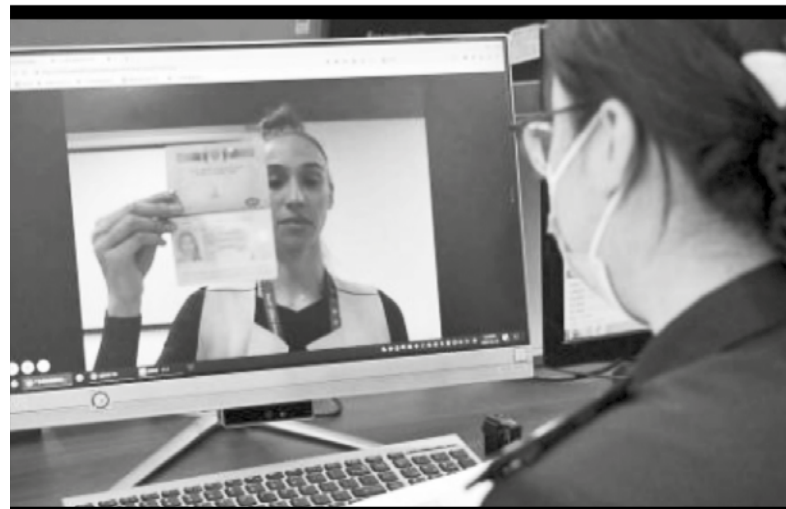
Antropova Anastasia is a dancer from Russia who works at Chimelong Ocean Kingdom in Hengqin. Because of the pandemic, she had resided in China over 183 days in 2021, which requires her to declare her individual income tax for the past year, according to Chinese law on taxation.

On March 30, after her identity was verified by staff from tax department of Hengqin via a video link, Antropova received her registration code which she needs to login the official individual income tax application for filing self declaration.

Normally, an expat holding a foreign passport has to go to the local tax service hall in person to obtain his/her registration code. Knowing that there are more than 300 foreign employees at Chimelong Ocean Kingdom, the tax department of Hengqin decided to conduct online verification after contacting with the theme park.

In addition to registration codes, these foreign taxpayers also received guidance in English on how to use the tax application and quick response to their individual needs and the problems they come across while self-declaring income tax.

With more Hong Kong and Macao residents and expats working in Hengqin, the tax department of Hengqin is optimizing its services to cater to taxpayers with all backgrounds. NEWSGD



PRIVACY

Lawmaker, lawyer call for independent supervisor for call monitoring

ANTHONY LAM

LAWMAKER Ron Lam and lawyer Leong Weng Pun agree that the future communication interception apparatus requires more refinements to ensure public confidence.

The duo told local Chinese paper Macao Daily News that the system, which is now being discussed in a parliamentary committee as a draft law or bill, should include a third-party monitoring body considered for better protection of personal privacy.

Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak highlighted several times the necessity for the bill, saying that technological progress has made existing laws on communication interception inadequate to adapt to current circumstances.

He reiterated that it will be a requirement for law-enforcement bodies to obtain court warrants to facilitate interceptions. However, the bill has left grey areas: in certain scenarios, investigators will be authorized to conduct interceptions before notifying a judge, provided they submit that notification immediately afterwards.



The grey area lies in Article 10 of the bill, which proposes allowing law-enforcement bodies to request the data in question from telecom service providers, prior to notifying the court and obtaining a warrant.

Lam pointed out that this is a real example of executive approval.

Although understanding the need for an update to the existing law, Lam insisted on the need for a third-party monitoring body to refine the system constantly. As far as he could see, nobody could give an answer as to whether the proposed system was flawless.

While respecting the independence and liberty of the court and

judges, the lawmaker was concerned that a judge may only have the chance to scrutinize a particular piece of puzzle. The worst scenario is that a judge may not have the opportunity to observe the full picture.

On the proposed provision of Article 10 of the bill, the lawmaker considers a specific monitoring mechanism crucial to building public confidence, as communication records are considered matters of personal privacy in many places.

Lam thinks that disclosure of numbers of intercepted communications, and publically monitoring the investigative bodies is logical

if the security branch is satisfied with its own performance.

The bill bans intercepting communications between suspects and their lawyers, with the exception of when a judge believes the communications involve criminal interactions. Lam finds this worthy of further discussion as the judge may not have access to all relevant evidence.

On the same matter, Leong suggests the government consider the practice in Hong Kong, where an independent body was established to monitor such practices and store equipment needed for the interceptions.

MACAU-SHEKOU FERRY ROUTE RESUMES TODAY

Ferry services connecting Outer Harbor Ferry Terminal and Taipa Maritime Terminal with Shenzhen's Shekou Ferry Terminal will resume today, following a suspension in mid-March to the COVID-19 outbreak in the neighboring region. The Maritime and Water Affairs called on the public to reduce cross-border activities and to heighten the cleaning of vessels due to the pandemic. China locked down Shenzhen in mid-March as virus cases doubled nationwide and undertook three rounds of mass testing.

IC TO CO-ORGANIZE 2022 SCRIPTS IN FOCUS

The Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau will jointly launch the Film Scriptwriting Advanced Program. The Cultural Affairs Bureau will hold sharing session regarding further details of the event in late April. The "2022 Scripts in Focus — Film Scriptwriting Advanced Program" aims to cultivate more filmmaking talent and reserve a batch of excellent film scripts. Co-organizer the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) will host a sharing session on April 22 at 3 p.m. at the Multi-function Room of the Macao Grand Prix Museum, introducing the details of the program. A total of four Macau film projects were shortlisted in the program last year, of which the Macau production My Driver Father and Me by Niko Ho won the prize.

CRIME

Lawyer arrested for alleged verbal assault on police officers

THE 46-year-old local lawyer is alleged to have insulted police officers and sexually harassed an underage girl, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) said yesterday.

According to the police,

the male lawyer allegedly committed a sexual offense on a 14-year-old secondary school student at a club in the Macau Fisherman's Wharf, before verbally abusing police officers called to the scene.

April 3 morning, the lawyer was waiting for a taxi after enjoying a night out at the club in question. It is believed that after seeing the girl the lawyer approached her for a chat, and then proceeded to caress her back,

the girl claimed.

Her friends, aged about 18 and 19 years, intervened and had an altercation with the lawyer. The police were then called to the scene to handle the situation.

During the incident, the

lawyer reportedly used foul language against the officers. After giving several warnings he was committing a criminal offence, the police officers arrested the man, as he showed no sign of breaking off the alleged verbal assault.

During the interrogation, the lawyer denied committing any sexual offence on the girl, using loss of memory as a defense. However, the lawyer remembered he had a fight with the girl's friends. **AL**

GAMING

INQUIRY QUESTIONS THE STAR ON RELATIONSHIP WITH CHAU DESPITE 'UNSAVORY BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS'

AUSTRALIAN casino The Star is continuing its partnership with the troubled Suncity despite a 2019 Hong Kong report that Alvin Chau had "very unsavory business associations" linked to the drug trade, money laundering and organized crime, according to an inquiry held earlier this week.

The casino's chief financial crime officer Skye Ar-

nott acknowledged the relationship.

According to the Hong Kong Jockey Club report, Suncity laundered about AUD2 million per day in cash from 2013 to 2015, noting that Chau was a "threat" and would pose "tangible criminal [and] reputational risks" for the club.

This includes proceeds of drug trafficking, according to the report.

"Alvin Chau is alleged to be a member of the Macau faction of the 14K triad society and a follower of former 14K leader Wan Kuok Koi (known as Broken Tooth Koi)," the report said.

It was only in 2020 that The Star increased its customer due diligence on Suncity and on the "unusual transactions" in Salon 95.

According to a report by The Sydney Morning He-

rald, junket mogul Chau has apparently enjoyed an AUD80 million check cashing facility at The Star, and has maintained his business with the casino despite warnings of his links to triads.

Speaking at the inquiry, Arnott conceded it was within her control to cease dealing with Suncity and Chau, also noting that she did not consider the source

matter, which was an entertainment magazine, to be "relevant or helpful."

The inquiry is ongoing as part of a regular review of The Star's casino license. The inquiry is determining Star's suitability to run its flagship casino in Sydney.

Last month, the inquiry heard that operator Star Entertainment Group disguised AUD900 million worth of Chinese debit card gam-

bling transactions as hotel expenses, and then misled banks in an attempt to conceal the massive fraud, according to the Australian report.

Wealthy Chinese gamblers have allegedly been encouraged to deposit millions of dollars into a junket operator's Macau bank account, a red flag in respect of money laundering controls.

Suncity has operated as a third party at Australian casino, The Star, via a "Suncity cage" because the operator lacked regulatory approval. **LV**

JOHN LEE

HONG KONG'S CHIEF SECRETARY RESIGNS, ANNOUNCES LEADERSHIP BID

HONG Kong's No. 2 official, a staunch supporter of a Beijing-backed crackdown on pro-democracy activists, tendered his resignation yesterday to pave the way for his run in the city's upcoming leadership race.

John Lee, who is the city's chief secretary for administration, submitted his resignation to Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam, according to a government statement.

"If my resignation is approved by the Central People's Government, I shall plan to stand for the upcoming chief executive election," said Lee at a news conference. "Having been in the government for over 40 years, to serve the people of Hong Kong is a glory."

He said he would elaborate on his "next move" if the Chinese government approves his resignation.

Lee, who is seen as Beijing's favored candidate for the chief executive position, is a staunch advocate of the city's national security law, which has been used since 2020 to target pro-democracy activists, supporters and media, diminishing freedoms promised to Hong Kong at Britain's handover to China in 1997.

His potential leadership of Hong Kong could signal a further tightening of Beijing's grip on the



Hong Kong's Chief Secretary John Lee (right) and Finance Minister Paul Chan attend a variety show to mark the China's National Day, in Hong Kong, last October

semi-autonomous Chinese city.

Lam said Monday she would not seek a second term, following a rocky five years punctuated by the COVID-19 pandemic, a crackdown on political freedoms and Beijing's growing influence over the territory.

Local media, including the

leading South China Morning Post newspaper, reported that Lee will be the sole candidate to be endorsed by the Chinese government.

Other candidates tipped by local media as likely contenders include the city's finance minister, Paul Chan, although he has yet to

express an intention to run.

The city's next leader will be selected on May 8 by an election committee of about 1,500 people, a majority of whom are pro-Beijing.

Hong Kong's leader is chosen every five years.

The four chief executives selected since Hong Kong's han-

dover to mainland China in 1997 have all been candidates seen as favored by Beijing.

Lee, 64, a former career police officer who rose steadily through the ranks, was named Hong Kong's chief secretary in June and previously served as Lam's secretary for security.

He was a key figure in proposing contentious legislation in 2019 that would have allowed suspects in Hong Kong to be extradited to mainland China. He dismissed calls from critics to write safeguards into the bill.

The proposed bill led to massive protests in the city before it was withdrawn, and Lee oversaw a police crackdown on demonstrators during several months of massive anti-government protests in 2019.

After the protests were snuffed out, Lee threw his backing behind the sweeping security law, which was used as justification for the arrests of more than 150 people. It outlaws subversion, secession, terrorism and collusion with foreign forces in the city's affairs.

Lee, Lam and other Hong Kong and mainland Chinese government officials were sanctioned by the U.S. in 2020 for "undermining Hong Kong's autonomy and restricting the freedom of expression or assembly."

Nominations for the leadership race began Sunday and continue until April 16, with the committee vote scheduled for May 8.

The new leader takes office on July 1, the day Hong Kong was handed over to China by the British in 1997. **MDT/AP**

HONG KONG

Police arrest six accused of sedition

HONG Kong's national security police used a colonial-era sedition law to arrest six people yesterday on suspicion of causing a nuisance at court hearings in December and January.

The suspects — four men and two women aged between 32 and 67 years old — were arrested on suspicion of committing an "act or acts with seditious intent," an offense under the Crimes Ordinance.

The acts "severely affected jurisdictional dignity and court operations," a government statement said.

Police did not say what the suspects had allegedly done. They also did not name the suspects, following customary practice.

The colonial-era law had remained dormant until re-

cent years, when it has been used to arrest and prosecute a string of pro-democracy supporters and activists. In March, a radio DJ and outspoken pro-democracy activist became the first person in the city convicted of sedition since the 1997 handover.

The arrests yesterday were the latest in a sweeping crackdown on political dissent in Hong Kong after months of anti-government protests in 2019. Most of the city's most outspoken pro-democracy activists have been prosecuted, and many are behind bars while others have fled the city.

If charged and convicted of sedition, the six people arrested yesterday could face up to two years in prison. The suspects were being held for questioning. **MDT/AP**

MU5735

BLACK BOXES FROM CHINA EASTERN CRASH SENT TO US FOR ANALYSIS

BOTH black boxes from a passenger plane crash in southern China last month that killed 132 people are being analyzed by U.S. experts at a government lab in Washington, D.C.

The National Transportation Safety Board said yesterday [Macau time] it is helping its Chinese counterparts download information from the flight data recorder. The American agency said last week it was doing the same for the cockpit voice recorder.

Both may have been damaged by the impact of the crash. If the information on them can be recovered, it could shed light on why the China Eastern Boeing 737-800 went into a sudden no-



sedive and slammed into the ground in a mountainous area on March 21.

The crash left a 20-meter deep crater in a mountainside, shattered the plane and set off

a fire in the surrounding forest. More than 49,000 pieces of plane debris were found. It took two days to find the cockpit voice recorder and six days for the flight data

recorder, which was buried 1.5 meters underground.

U.S. accident investigators arrived in China last weekend to assist the investigation by the Civil Aviation Administration of China. The NTSB team is taking part because the plane was manufactured in the United States.

Chinese officials have said a preliminary investigation report would be completed within 30 days of the crash.

Flight MU5735 with 123 passengers and nine crew members was headed from the city of Kunming in southwestern China to Guangzhou, a provincial capital and export manufacturing hub near Hong Kong in the southeast. **MDT/AP**

DIPLOMACY

China calls for probe into Bucha killings, assigns no blame

CHINA yesterday said images of civilian deaths in the Ukrainian town of Bucha are “deeply disturbing” but that no blame should be apportioned until all facts are known.

Emerging evidence of what appeared to be widespread civilian massacres in the wake of Russian withdrawals from the Kyiv areas may complicate Beijing’s attempts to guide public opinion over the conflict, in which China has refused to criticize Moscow.

China supports all initiatives and measures “conducive to alleviating the humanitarian crisis” in the country, and is “ready to continue to work together with the international community to prevent any harm to civilians,” Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian told reporters at a daily briefing.

“The truth and the cause of the incident must be verified,” Zhao said. “All parties should exercise restraint and avoid unfounded accusations before a conclusion of the investigation is drawn.”

Zhao’s remarks echo those of China’s ambassador to the United Nations, Zhang Jun, who earlier called for an investigation, also describing the reports and images of civilian deaths in Bucha as “deeply disturbing.”

“The relevant circumstances and specific causes of the incident should be verified and esta-



Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian during a media briefing at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs office yesterday in Beijing

blished,” Zhang said in remarks to the Security Council on Tuesday, adding that, “before the full picture is clear, all sides should exercise restraint and avoid unfounded accusations.”

China has called for talks while refusing to criticize Russia. It opposes economic sanctions on Moscow and blames Washington and NATO for provoking the war and fueling the conflict by sending arms to Ukraine.

The official Chinese media have largely stuck to a pro-Moscow narrative, including repeating Russian disinformation and

unfounded conspiracy theories about issues such as alleged American-Ukrainian bioweapons production.

Zhao repeated China’s objections to sanctions, while accusing the U.S. of having manipulated the situation to “profit from the chaos and make a lot of money.”

“History and reality have proven that sanctions do not bring peace and security, but only bring lose-lose or multiple losses, adding to the already difficult world economy and impacting the existing world economic system,” Zhao said.

The hashtag “China expresses Bucha death incident must be thoroughly investigated” was a trending topic on Weibo, the Chinese version of Twitter, with nearly 30 million views and more than 500 discussions by afternoon yesterday.

Despite the pro-Russian stance of authorities who regularly censor postings, opinions were divided between support for Moscow, demands Russia be held accountable, accusations of untrustworthiness against the West and Ukraine, and calls for an impartial investigation.

“This is merely a play acted out by the Americans and Ukrainian Nazis in an attempt to divert public opinion, but people of the world with eyes and hearts won’t ignore the facts of the U.S. and Ukraine researching bio weapons,” read one posting signed “Understands the Cold War Better Than America.”

The Russian Embassy in Beijing also made use of the platform to reject the accusations, while its Ukrainian counterpart drew attention to “Russian war crimes against civilians in Irpin,” another town where atrocities allegedly occurred.

Prior to the Feb. 24 war, China had dismissed talk of a Russian invasion and U.S. fearmongering. Since then, it has claimed to be holding to an independent stance, asserting the sanctity of borders and national sovereignty while refusing to condemn Russian aggression or even use the words “war” and “invasion,” in apparent deference to Moscow.

The Global Times, a nationalistic tabloid published by the Communist Party mouthpiece People’s Daily, sought to balance the competing messages with an editorial yesterday headlined “Bucha Incident’ not to be used as pretext for inflaming situation.”

“As long as Russia and Ukraine cannot achieve a cease-fire, humanitarian tragedies will not end,” the paper said.

“However, it is regrettable that after the exposure of the ‘Bucha incident,’ the U.S., the initiator of the Ukraine crisis, has not shown any signs of urging peace and promoting talks, but is ready to exacerbate the Russia-Ukraine tensions and create obstacles to the peace talks between the two sides,” it said. **MDT/AP**

COVID-19

Shanghai to allow parents to stay with infected kids

FOLLOWING a public uproar, Shanghai is allowing at least some parents to stay with children infected with COVID-19, making an exception to a policy of isolating anyone who tests positive.

The announcement came as China’s largest city remained in lockdown and conducted more mass testing yesterday following another jump in new cases.

A top city health official said at a news conference that parents can apply to stay with children with “special needs” and accompany them if they fully comprehend the health risks and sign an agreement.

The parents must wear



masks, dine at a different time than their children, avoid sharing items with them and strictly follow all regulations, said Wu Qianyu of the Shanghai

Municipal Health Commission. She did not define what qualifies as “special needs.”

Her announcement followed Chinese state

media reports a day earlier that an isolation site set up at the Shanghai New International Expo Center was accepting children with parents. The city has opened sprawling isolation centers for tens of thousands of people to isolate the growing number of positive cases.

Reports that parents were being separated from their infected children had sparked a wave of protest online last weekend, fueled by photos showing several children in each cot with no parents in sight.

Shanghai reported 17,077 new cases detected over the previous day, all but 311 of them in people who showed no symptoms.

Under China’s zero-COVID approach, the city requires all those who test positive to be held in designated locations for observation, along with their close contacts.

The latest cases bring Shanghai’s total to around 90,000 in an outbreak that began last month. No deaths have been ascribed to the outbreak driven by the omicron BA.2 variant, which is much more infectious but also less lethal than the previous delta strain. Two deaths have been reported in another ongoing outbreak in Jilin province in China’s northeast.

An official from the EU Chamber of Commerce in China joined a growing

chorus of criticism of the Shanghai lockdown, which has disrupted daily life and commerce in a major financial and business center.

“We see a severe shortage of living necessities, particularly fresh vegetables, and citizens are unable to get their deliveries via their apps,” said Bettina Schoen-Behanzin, chair of the chamber’s Shanghai chapter.

While some residents are receiving food supplies from their district government, she said that “a kind of black market” has developed charging “rocket-high prices” for fruits and vegetables.

“Another really big fear is ending up in one of those mass central quarantine sites,” Schoen-Behanzin said in an online event for member companies and journalists. **MDT/AP**

PUTIN'S WAR

Ukraine leader to UN Security Council: No more Russia veto

EDITH M. LEDERER,
UNITED NATIONS

THE war in Ukraine has put a spotlight on the U.N. Security Council's failure to stop Russia's aggression and carry out its mandate to ensure international peace and security. Yesterday [Macau time], that paralysis produced a demand from Ukraine's president: Radically reform global security.

At the heart of the Security Council's inaction is its structure, established at the end of World War II, which gave veto rights on its actions to five powers — the United States, the Soviet Union (and its successor, Russia), China, Britain and France.

Since Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24, the threat of a Russian veto has thwarted the adoption of any legally binding council resolution or statement mentioning its aggression. By contrast, the 193-nation General Assembly — which doesn't have vetoes — has adopted two resolutions that are not legally binding but reflect world opinion. They demand an immediate cease-fire in Ukraine, withdrawal of all Russian forces and protection for civilians.

While the Security Council has been hamstrung in making demands, it has played an important role along with the General Assembly and the Geneva-based Human Rights Council in being the only global forums where Russia, Ukraine, the United States and European nations sit in the same rooms and spar over the war.

That happened at the United Nations yesterday.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, addressing the council for the first time via video, drew applause from many supporters on the 15-member council.

Zelenskyy was sharply critical of the failure of the Security Council to take any action to end Russia's aggression.

He said the council can do two things: "Either remove Russia as an aggressor



AP PHOTO

and a source of war so it cannot block decisions about its own aggression, its own war, and then do everything that we can do to establish peace. Or the other option is, please show how we can reform or change, dissolve yourself and work for peace."

"Ukraine needs peace, Europe needs peace, and the world needs peace," Zelenskyy said.

He said Ukraine is ready to host a global conference in a peaceful Kyiv "to determine how we are going to reform the world security system" because the goals set in 1945 that created the United Nations "have not been achieved, and it is impossible to achieve them without reforms."

He said Ukraine is ready to host a main office for a "newly updated security system" that can specialize in preventive measures to maintain peace.

The 40-year effort to reform the 15-member Security Council to reflect the world today rather than the global power structure after World War II has been plagued by national and regional rivalries that show no sign of abating. Deep divisions forced the General Assembly to shelve three rival resolutions to expand the council in 2005, and since then, there have been many discussions but no serious attempts.

Britain's U.N. ambassa-

dor, Barbara Woodward, who is this month's council president, was asked after the meeting about Zelenskyy's call to remove Russia from the council or reform it — and, if not, dissolve the United Nations.

"We do need to make sure that now, and in the future, the Security Council and the U.N. as a whole is able to respond to these sorts of challenges," Woodward said.

Russian Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia said he wanted to use the council meeting to address Zelenskyy directly. He again denied that Russian troops committed any atrocities against civilians and blamed the bodies found on Ukrainian radicals and neo-Nazis who "act with unrivaled cruelty when dealing with civilians."

Nebenzia claimed Western countries supporting Ukraine "don't care in the slightest" about the country, which he said they see as "just a pawn in their geopolitical ploy against Russia, which they will easily sacrifice."

He said Russia didn't come for Ukrainian land, but to bring lasting peace to the eastern Donbas region of the country.

"To do so, it is necessary to root out the cruelty ... and remove the Nazi malignant tumor that is devouring Ukraine and wou-

ld have eventually begun to devour Russia," Nebenzia said. "We will achieve this goal, hopefully sooner rather than later."

U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield reiterated that in light of Russia's human rights violations, the United States — in concert with Ukraine and many other U.N. members — is seeking to suspend Russia from the U.N.'s premier rights body, the Geneva-based Human Rights Council. She has called for a vote this week.

Thomas-Greenfield accused Russia of using the Geneva council "as a platform for propaganda to suggest Russia has a legitimate concern for human rights."

She said she shares the Ukrainian president's view "that this moment requires responsible world powers and global leaders to show some backbone and stand up to Russia's dangerous and unprovoked threat against Ukraine and the world."

"Russia's participation on the Human Rights Council hurts the council's credibility," Thomas-Greenfield said. "It undermines the entire U.N., and it is just plain wrong."

Nebenzia responded: "I hope that our colleagues from the United Nations will not allow themselves to be manipulated and play up to Washington." MDT/AP

this day in history

1986 SINCLAIR SELLS COMPUTER BUSINESS



Home-computing pioneer Sir Clive Sinclair has sold the marketing and merchandising rights to his inventions for £5m to computing rival Amstrad.

The sale means the withdrawal of Sir Clive from the market in home computers which his products played so great a role in creating.

However, the Amstrad deal allows him to keep control of Sinclair Research which has recently been making losses of about £1m per month.

The £5m will be paid to Sinclair Research's creditors who are owed a total of £7m.

Sir Clive is widely acknowledged as a brilliant inventor who introduced miniature televisions, pocket calculators and digital watches to Britain in the 1960s and 1970s.

His big breakthrough came in 1980 with the launch of the ZX80, a computer priced at less than £100.

His most famous and successful product, the ZX Spectrum, earned him a fortune — and a knighthood for "services to British industry".

It created a new market in home computing as ordinary people could afford the machines for the first time.

However, his products were not always reliable and he is believed to have lost millions of pounds after his latest invention, the C5 electric tricycle, failed to find a market.

Over-ordering of home computers by retailers and more competition meant that last year the prices of the machines were slashed drastically.

The price cuts forced Sir Clive to postpone floating his company on the Stock Exchange.

However, in spite of the downturn, Sinclair computers are still the market leaders with a 40% share.

Amstrad which has bought the rights to them has gone from strength to strength in recent years and in 1985 made a profit of £20m.

The takeover will result in a large number of redundancies among the 100 staff at Sinclair Research.

The first Sinclair computer to be launched under Amstrad ownership is expected in time for Christmas.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Amstrad continued to produce the ZX Spectrum for two more years.

The company, owned and run by Alan Sugar, revolutionised the home computer market in the UK by producing affordable "no-frills" machines.

When Amstrad's share price fell in the 1990s recession, Mr Sugar reorganised the company and launched a new generation of consumer products, such as the e-mail enabled phone.

He was knighted in 1999 and a year later his company was the first to have full approval from TV satellite company BSkyB for the Amstrad digital set-top box.

He became chairman of London's Tottenham Hotspur football club in 1991 until 2001.

Sir Clive Sinclair still controls Sinclair Research.

His recent inventions include a device which propels bicycles without the need for pedalling and a radio the size of a 10p coin, designed to fit in the ear.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You will have to be careful not to fall into traps set by jealous colleagues. You will expand your circle of friends if you join groups. If they're really interested, they'll wait.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Your doubt could lead to insecurity. Listen and formulate your course of action. You will be indecisive. Sit tight. Things aren't as bad as they appear.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Small business ventures can earn you extra cash. Family outings or a quiet stroll through the park will lead to stimulating conversation and a closer bond.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Someone you least expect may not have your best interests at heart. Have some fun, but draw the line if someone tries to fast talk their way into your heart.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

You should socialize with clients or upper echelons of your industry if possible. Dead end projects could plague you. Invite friends or relatives into your home.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Don't be angry, but be on your guard. Don't push your luck with authority. Don't make unreasonable promises. Try not to use emotional blackmail; it will only make matters worse.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Try to be patient and understanding. Wait and get all the information before consulting your boss. Your financial situation may be draining and it's time to make some serious changes.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

You may find yourself in the limelight for the wrong reasons. This day was meant for love. Make creative changes to your residence. Dead end projects could plague you.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Your passionate nature may make you jealous if your mate has been too busy to take care of your needs. Try to be tolerant of the moods of those around you.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Lovers may prove unworthy of your affection. Take time to visit someone who has been confined due to illness. You will easily capture the interest of those you talk to.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Set the ball in motion and be relentless until you complete the project. You'd be wise to control your spending so your debts don't get out of hand.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

You may want to plan physical activities that will help burn off some of their excess energy. Don't play on your partner's emotions.

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

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

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

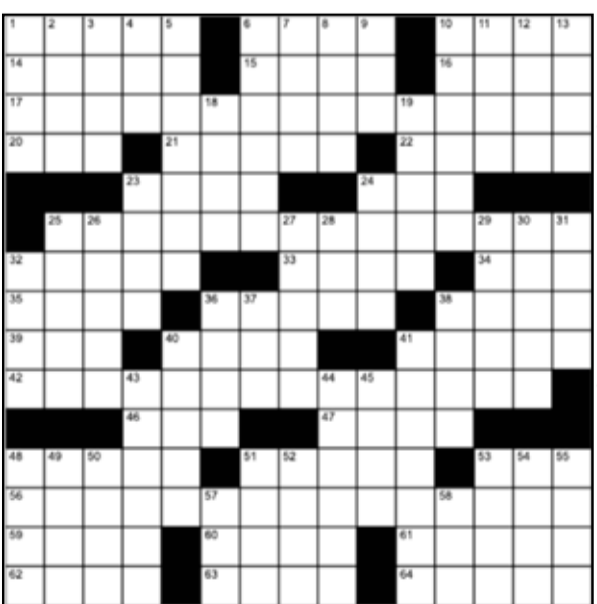
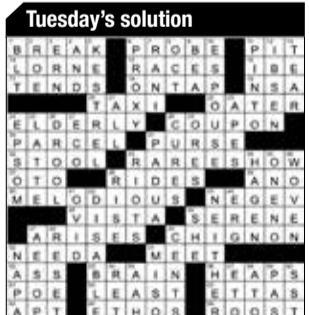
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	6	15	cloudy
Changchun	-3	8	cloudy
Chengdu	12	22	cloudy
Chongqing	12	22	overcast
Fuzhou	14	23	cloudy
Guangzhou	15	29	cloudy
Guiyang	10	17	overcast
Haikou	18	25	cloudy
Hangzhou	10	23	overcast
Harbin	-6	5	fine
Hefei	10	25	fine
Nanjing	9	25	cloudy
Shanghai	11	23	overcast
Taipei	18	23	rain
Wuhan	11	26	fine
Hong Kong	18	22	overcast
WORLD			
Moscow	6	9	rain
Frankfurt	6	12	rain
Paris	7	14	rain
London	3	12	showers
New York	9	11	rain

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Old French expression meaning "goodbye"; 6- Leaf tool; 10- Ran away; 14- Fabric woven from flax yarns; 15- First name in stunts; 16- Distinctive quality; 17- Informally; 20- ___ culpa; 21- Acid type; 22- Pains; 23- Budget rival; 24- Scratch (out); 25- Extremely tender; 32- Ward off; 33- Prescribed amount; 34- Condensed moisture; 35- Declare; 36- Words to live by; 38- Able was ___; 39- ___-X; 40- Froth; 41- Does' beaus; 42- Comprehensible; 46- Destiny; 47- River to the Ubangi; 48- Atomize; 51- Israeli desert region; 53- ___-mo; 56- One recording the past; 59- Kitchen addition; 60- Actress Heche; 61- Farm bird; 62- Extol; 63- Resting place; 64- Sporting blades;

DOWN 1- Homecoming guest; 2- Sup; 3- Member of a great Peruvian people; 4- Extra-wide shoe size; 5- Disentangle; 6- Negligent; 7- Shakespeare's river; 8- Vegas game; 9- Ivy Leaguer; 10- Tap; 11- Succulent; 12- Della's creator; 13- 24 hour periods; 18- Chieftain, usually in Africa; 19- Jack of "The Great Dictator"; 23- Parrot; 24- Canadian gas brand; 25- Early evening; 26- Turn over; 27- Plant problem; 28- Silent bid; 29- Utopian; 30- Margin; 31- Farm females; 32- Prego competitor; 36- Amount to; 37- Long-tailed rodent; 38- Let ___; 40- Ice cream substitute; 41- Recover; 43- Overjoyed; 44- Gold lump; 45- Antlered animal; 48- Author Silverstein; 49- Gyro bread; 50- Queue after Q; 51- Mudville complement; 52- Seemingly forever; 53- Foot covering; 54- ___-majesty; 55- Raw materials; 57- Managed; 58- Explosive sound;



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



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Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley arrives for a House Armed Services Committee hearing on the fiscal year 2023 defense budget

DEFENSE

AUSTRALIA, UK, US ALLIANCE TO DEVELOP HYPERSONIC MISSILES

AAMER MADHANI,
WASHINGTON

THE United States, United Kingdom and Australia announced this week they will work together via the recently created security alliance known as AUKUS to develop hypersonic missiles.

The move comes amid growing concern by the U.S. and allies about China's growing military assertiveness in the Pacific. U.S. President Joe Biden, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced the plan after holding a check-in on

the progress of AUKUS, the Indo-Pacific alliance that was launched by the three countries in September.

The leaders said in a joint statement they are "committed today to commence new trilateral cooperation on hypersonics and counter-hypersonics, and electronic warfare capabilities, as well as to expand information sharing and to deepen cooperation on defense innovation."

The U.S., Russia and China have all looked to further develop hypersonic missiles — a system so fast that it cannot be intercepted by any current missile defense system.

In October, Gen. Mark Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, confirmed that China had conducted a test of a hypersonic weapon system as part of its aggressive effort to advance in space and military technologies.

Milley described the Chinese test as a "very significant event of a test of a hypersonic weapon system, and it is very concerning," in a Bloomberg Television interview.

Russia has used hypersonic missiles "multiple" times in Ukraine, according to the top U.S. commander in Europe.

Last fall, as U.S. intelligence

officials had become increasingly concerned about the massing of Russian forces on the Ukraine border, Russian President Vladimir Putin urged the country's arms manufacturers to develop even more advanced hypersonic missiles to maintain the country's edge in military technologies.

The Russian military has said that its Avangard system is capable of flying 27 times faster than the speed of sound and making sharp maneuvers on its way to a target to dodge the enemy's missile shield. It has been fitted to the existing Soviet-built intercontinental ballistic missiles

instead of older type warheads, and the first unit armed with the Avangard entered duty in December 2019.

The Kinzhal, carried by MiG-31 fighter jets, has a range of up to 2,000 kilometers and flies at 10 times the speed of sound, according to Russian officials.

The Pentagon's 2023 budget request already includes \$4.7 billion for research and development of hypersonic weapons. It includes planning that would have a hypersonic missile battery fielded by next year, a sea-based missile by 2025 and an air-based cruise missile by 2027.

Biden, Johnson and Morrison have billed the creation of AUKUS as a chance to build greater sharing of defense capabilities. As their first major action, the alliance said it would help equip Australia with nuclear-powered submarines.

Morrison said the development of hypersonic missiles fit with Australia's strategic plan released two years ago to enhance its military's long-range strike capabilities.

"The paramount goal is to ensure we get that capability as soon as we can and it's in the best form that can be working with our partners," Morrison told reporters.

Australia's Defense Minister Peter Dutton had earlier announced plans to spend \$2.6 billion to acquire long-range strike missiles for fighter jets and warships years ahead of schedule because of growing threats posed by Russia and China.

A draft security pact between the Solomon Islands and China has prompted concerns about a possible Chinese naval presence 1,200 miles off the northeast Australian coast. The Solomon Islands government said it won't allow China to build a military base there and China has denied seeking a military foothold in the islands. **MDT/AP**

CORPORATE BITS

Studio City Water Park to reopen Apr. 29



Studio City Water Park will reopen on April 29 to welcome adventurers of all ages to splash around.

From April 29 to June 30, there is a limited time exclusive offer available for Melco Style WeChat members with options of buy-2-get-1-free on standard tickets. Tickets are on sale from April 8.

The integrated resort is also offering the Sun-sational Party Package, which features

a Fiesta Birthday Party Combo for 30, Pizza Fun Party Combo for 10, Ultimate Fun Party Combo for 10 and a Cabana Splash Party Combo for 6.

Splashing Summer Fun Hotel Packages are also offered to guests with various hotel options at the Studio City Celebrity Tower, Morpheus, NÜWA and Grand Hyatt Macau towers at City of Dreams and Altira Macau.

CTM lowers prices for landline phone service



Following the enhanced speeds and price reduction offer effective in February for Internet services that cover ordinary business,

residential fiber broadband and DIA services, CTM has announced the launch of a landline phone offer from April onwards.

The new pricing for the landline phone service takes effect from April 1. The 20% discount will apply to the ordinary business category and a discount of up to 54% will be offered for residential landlines in Social Housing. The new pricing will be effective automatically and no application is needed.

As pandemic prevention measures become the norm in Macau, through launching speed enhancement and price reduction offers, CTM envisages facilitating SMEs to accelerate smart transformation with more affordable prices.

FOOTBALL | CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Diaz stars on return to Portugal in Liverpool's win against Benfica

BENFICA 1, LIVERPOOL 3

IT just had to be Luis Diaz. The Colombia winger was the last player Benfica supporters inside the atmospheric Estádio da Luz wanted to see race onto a through-ball and produce an emphatic finish to complete a 3-1 win for Liverpool in the first leg of the Champions League quarter-finals yesterday [Macau time].

After all, Diaz was playing for Porto, Benfica's big rival in Portugal, until he was signed by Liverpool in January. No wonder he was whistled by home fans — and even targeted with objects thrown from the stands — as he wheeled away in celebration following his crucial third goal in the 87th minute.

It was a brilliantly taken goal, too, as Diaz latched onto Naby Keita's deflected pass that split Benfica's defense before rounding the goalkeeper and slotting his finish into the unguarded net from a tight angle.

"He got a nice reception, didn't he?" Liverpool defender Andrew



Liverpool's Luis Diaz (right) scores his side's third goal

Robertson said, smiling. "It was a good finish for him and a really important goal for us. It gives us a two-goal cushion, which makes a difference."

Diaz, who was jeered whenever he touched the ball, played a big part in Liverpool's second goal, too, when he nodded down a pinpoint long pass by Trent Alexander-Arnold to allow Sadio

Mane to tap home from close range in the 34th. That built on Liverpool's opener scored by Ibrahima Konaté — the center back's first for the club — off an outswinging corner from Robertson in the 17th minute.

Benfica, playing in the quarter-finals for the first time since 2016 after eliminating Ajax in the last 16, could easily have been further

behind by halftime as Liverpool pressed high and was much sharper with its passing. But the hosts took the game more to the six-time European champions in the second half and Uruguay striker Darwin Núñez capitalized on a mistake by Konaté to pull a goal back in the 49th.

Konaté blotted what was otherwise a strong defensive dis-

play by failing to clear Rafa Silva's cross from the right. The ball went through his legs and landed at the feet of Núñez, who took a couple of touches and delivered a composed, sidefooted finish beyond the sprawling Konaté and into the bottom corner.

There were a few more rocky moments for Liverpool — in one of them, goalkeeper Alisson Becker was almost dispossessed on the edge of his area by Silva — before Diaz's strike ensured Jurgen Klopp's team would clinch a fifth straight win in all competitions.

"Coming here and winning an away game in the Champions League is tough," Klopp said. "Benfica fought for their lives. We gave them a little bit too much but they deserved the goal as well."

Still, the Reds passed the latest test in their bid for an unprecedented quadruple of trophies, with the semifinals now in sight. They have already won the English League Cup, and are one point behind leader Manchester City in the Premier League.

Klopp even took the option of bringing off star attackers Mane and Mohamed Salah in the 61st minute, perhaps with the league showdown against City on Sunday in mind.

City also will go into that game on the back of a win in Tuesday's other quarterfinal, 1-0 over Atletico Madrid. **MDT/AP**

AD

虎年運程預測
Predictions for the Year of the Tiger

PHOTOGRAPHER - PEDRO ANDRÉ SANTOS @LUCKY13PHOTOGRAPHY

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OPINION

China Daily
Editorial, China Daily

AGGRESSIVE ACTION
IMPERATIVE TO CUT
EMISSIONS

Reports by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change are considered the most authoritative, thus the most widely trusted, source of information and wisdom regarding climate change.

Its reports have repeatedly warned that a further rise in the global temperature will multiply the risks of floods, drought and heat waves worldwide.

In its most recent report, released on Monday, it again presented some stark findings, and conveyed an acute sense of urgency.

To meet the Paris Agreement's targets — holding warming to "well below" 2 degrees Celsius, while working to limit it to 1.5 above preindustrial levels — global carbon dioxide emissions will have to peak by 2025, and be cut by at least 30 percent by 2030, according to the report.

That's not a bright picture and very tight deadlines. But, as the report suggests, the situation is still manageable. But there is a caveat: the world has to appreciate the severity of the matter, and act now. Which perhaps isn't a clear and present obligation in some eyes. Political and corporate interests have no doubt got in the way of global responses to climate change and are responsible for the flip-flops in some countries' climate policies and the lackluster nature of others.

In part due to its vulnerability to extreme weather events, the harm of global warming has been felt keenly in China. Heavy losses in both lives and property caused by increasingly frequent drastic weather conditions, many in unlikely places at unlikely times — such as the fatal flooding in the Central China city of Zhengzhou last July — has been unanimously attributed to climate change. Disasters such as that have helped drive home the urgency for action.

Yet the efforts needed to get global warming under control won't be painless, which is why progress on individual countries' emissions cutting goals have been so difficult.

China made the pledge that it will peak carbon dioxide emissions before 2030, and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060. And strenuous endeavors are underway across the country to meet those goals.

Yet according to the UN climate report, we have only three years left to peak emissions, and eight to get emissions under proper control to meet the Paris Agreement targets. It will prove extremely challenging for a country like China to peak carbon dioxide emissions five years ahead of schedule, considering its historical reliance on fossil fuels.

The country has moved aggressively to transition from traditional energy sources such as coal, but to realize such a dramatic cut in such a short time will inevitably mean some pain will have to be endured.

US TO SANCTION PUTIN'S
TWO ADULT DAUGHTERS

The U.S. yesterday announced that it is sanctioning Russian President Vladimir Putin's two adult daughters as part of a new batch of penalties on the country's political and economic system in retaliation for its "war crimes" in Ukraine.

The U.S. is also imposing toughened "full blocking sanctions" on Russia's Sberbank and Alfa Bank, two of its largest financial institutions, as well as some Russian state-owned enterprises. President Joe Biden is also signing an executive order to ban new U.S. investment in Russia.

In addition to Putin's adult daughters, the new sanctions also

target the family of Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin.

The U.S. actions are set to be imposed in concert with toughened sanctions by its European allies.

European Union and NATO member Poland supports neighboring Ukraine's fight against Russia's military invasion and is calling for European imports of Russian energy sources to stop. The tough stance has raised concerns among some ordinary Poles.

THE
BUZZ

WHO: COVID CASES
AND DEATHS CONTINUE
TO FALL GLOBALLY

THE number of coronavirus cases reported globally has dropped for a second consecutive week and confirmed COVID-19 deaths also fell last week, according to a World Health Organization report issued yesterday.

In its latest pandemic report, WHO said 9 million cases were reported, a 16% weekly decline, and more than 26,000 new deaths from COVID-19. The U.N. health agency said confirmed coronavirus infections were down in all regions of the world.

However, it warned that the reported numbers carry considerable uncertainty because many countries have stopped widespread testing for the coronavirus, meaning that many cases are likely going undetected.

WHO said it was also tracking an omicron variant that is a recombination of two versions: BA.1 and BA.2, which was first detected in Britain in January. WHO said early estimates suggest the recombined omicron could be about 10% more transmissible than previous mutations, but further evidence is needed.

The agency has continued to warn countries not to drop their COVID-19



protocols too quickly and predicted that future variants could spread easily if surveillance and testing systems are shelved.

Last week, the U.K. said COVID-19 had hit record levels across the country, with government statistics estimating that about 1 in 13 people were infected. Those figures came on the same day the British government abandoned its free testing program.

Meanwhile, Chinese authorities conducted more mass testing this week across Shanghai, which remains in lockdown following another jump in infections; the

city has recorded more than 90,000 cases but no deaths during the pandemic.

Despite growing public frustration and concerns about economic effects, China says it is sticking to its hard-line "zero-tolerance" approach mandating lockdowns, mass testing and the compulsory isolation of all suspected cases and close contacts. Following a public uproar, Shanghai authorities said yesterday they would allow at least some parents to stay with children infected with COVID-19, making an exception to a policy of isolating anyone who tests positive. MDT/AP



Sri Lanka's president will not step down and instead will face the country's political and economic crisis, a key government minister said yesterday despite continuing large protests that are demanding his resignation. Sri Lanka has endured months of shortages of fuel and other essentials, and the protests over the economic troubles have spread nationwide and expanded to criticism of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and his politically powerful family.



USA The U.S. Postal Service relied on false assumptions as it evaluated purchases of a new generation of delivery vehicles, a government watchdog said. The Government Accountability Office told a House hearing that a Postal Service analysis used to justify a mix of gas and electric vehicles overstated maintenance costs of electric vehicles and relied on gas prices that don't reflect current price spikes. While the Postal Service estimated in 2020 that gas would cost \$2.21 to \$2.36 per gallon, the national average in March was \$4.24 per gallon.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Fernando Vergara



BFFs. A drug-sniffing dog stands with its handler during a ceremony marking the 35th anniversary of the anti-narcotics police force in Bogota, Colombia.



Costa Rica As future president Rodrigo Chaves (pictured) cast his ballot at a school in the capital, a young woman stood on the sidewalk outside shouting, "Harasser!" She was surrounded and drowned out by Chaves' supporters, but stood her ground, a purple handkerchief that read, "For our right to decide" tied around her neck. Chaves ignored her if he noticed at all. The heckling was a public display of concerns held by some Costa Rican women about the conservative economist who won Sunday's election and will take office May 8.