



PEOPLE ENTERING MACAU FROM ABROAD WILL HAVE TO PAY MOP2,000 FOR EIGHT NATS TO BE DONE DURING THE QUARANTINE PERIOD FROM MAY 8 P2

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AP PHOTO



China is promoting coal-fired power as the ruling Communist Party tries to revive a sluggish economy, prompting warnings Beijing is setting back efforts to cut climate-changing carbon emissions from the biggest global source. Official plans call for boosting coal production capacity by 300 million tons this year, according to news reports. That is equal to 7% of last year's output of 4.1 billion tons, which was an increase of 5.7% over 2020. More on p6

AP PHOTO



Japan's guard says 10 of the 26 people aboard a tour boat that sank in the frigid waters of a northern national park have been confirmed dead. The search for the others is still ongoing a day after the boat sent a distress call saying it was sinking. The coast guard said yesterday that the bodies of the 10 victims included seven men and three women. There were two crew and 24 passengers, including two children, on the tour boat when it ran into troubles on Saturday afternoon near the tip of Shiretoko Peninsula.

Afghanistan militants fired heavy weapons across the border into a Pakistani military outpost overnight, killing three personnel, the army said, in the latest violence to rattle the volatile region. A firefight ensued with the militants firing toward the army post in Pakistan's rugged North Waziristan region, and several were killed, the statement said. There was no immediate way to independently confirm details of the attack.

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LOOKING GOLDEN

The MGTO is expecting May Golden Week daily arrivals to reach 25,000 as Guangdong relaxes NAT validity to 48 hours P3

XINHUA



SURVEY 50% FEWER BLACK-FACED SPOONBILLS DUE TO LIGHT POLLUTION P3

XINHUA



MDT ARCHIVE



FIRST TIME IN TWO YEARS HONG KONG BORDER REOPENS P6

MACAU'S FIRST SUP OPEN AWARDS A DOZEN ATHLETES

The city saw its first Stand-up Paddle Open Championship concluded recently, yielding about a dozen awardees, the Macao China Stand-up Paddle Board Sport General Association announced, as the host of the event. The inaugural event attracted over 40 athletes into 12 competitions, which were all timed two-lap races on an M-shaped circuit off Hac-Sa Beach. According to the association, the sport highlights the athletes' ability to remain stable, balanced and in control while on the boards, especially on the event day, when the water off Hac-Sa was relatively rough.

ELECTRICITY TARIFF INCREASES SLIGHTLY IN Q2

Companhia de Electricidade de Macau (CEM) announced on Friday that the Tariff Clause Adjustment (TCA) in the second quarter (Q2) of 2022 will be at 40 cents per kWh, an increase of MOP0.5 cents per kWh compared to the previous quarter. The adjustment applies to the CEM's Tariff Group A, B, and C customers. The rate adjustment factor for Group A customers, residential and SMEs, was the highest since 2014. CEM said that this increase is due to the changes in the Chinese Yuan (CNY) and fuel prices, and is in accordance with the method of calculation stated in the concession contract.

COMPOSITE CPI RISES TO 1.07%

The Composite Consumer Price Index (CPI) for March 2022 (103.39) rose by 1.07% year-on-year. The increment was attributed to higher wages of domestic helpers, higher costs for eating out and electricity tariffs, as well as increasing gasoline prices and airfares. However, the rise was partially offset by reduced residential rentals, falling charges for telecommunication services and lower prices of pork. Among the various sections of goods and services, the price indices of Household Furnishings, and Services and Transport grew by 9.67% and 7.37% year-on-year respectively, whereas the Communication index fell by 10.32%.

MACAU IC2 COMMEMORATES EARTH DAY WITH ACTIVITIES FOCUSED ON SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

LYNZY VALLES

THE Macau IC2 (I Can Too) Association has again partnered with Artyzen Grand Lapa Macau to celebrate World Earth Day for the second consecutive year – this time, with a particular focus on low carbon living and sustainable practices.

The World Earth Day 2022 celebration kicked off Friday with a Green Walk to the resort lawn of Artyzen Grand Lapa Macau and a series of talks promoting a sustainable lifestyle.

On the hotel's lawn, the IC2 members showcased repurposed products they created, along with a feature of electric-powered motorbikes and bicycles to illustrate how the future of mobility would minimize greenhouse gas emissions and the overall carbon footprint in the city.

The occasion was also highlighted by its signature tree-planting ceremony.

"We are thrilled to play a key role in this [year's] World Earth Day event to celebrate nature, [as well as] inspire discussion and action towards a sustainable future," said Rutger Verschuren, Area vice president, Macau Operations



for Artyzen Hospitality Group and general manager of Artyzen Grand Lapa Macau. "At Artyzen, we pride ourselves on sharing emotional wisdom with our guests, covering various bold initiatives. While we know the world is on a journey to a low carbon future, it is encouraging to see the hotel, culinary and resort teams combine their passion for hospitality with the hotel's eco-friendly practices, and as a result, add a level of environmental responsibility," he added.

To the Times, the top execu-

tive has remarked that the IC2 event is most probably one of the most important events in the city this year, adding, "I think it's important that we give [them] the chance to organize something by themselves."

The recent event was organized by members of the IC2, who either have autism or intellectual disabilities, alongside Ada Lo, a longtime volunteer for the association and a prominent figure in the MICE arena, helmed the event.

With her long-time advocacy

for the rights of people with disabilities, Lo has been coaching some 13 IC2 members with a 30-hour hands-on event organizing course, from which eight graduated Friday.

"I have seen them improved a lot from last year. The biggest difference was seen in Antonio [president of IC2] who controlled himself to avoid jumping when he was interrupted by someone's cough," Lo shared, adding that another student named Chloe has also enhanced her confidence, even being the emcee for the Green Walk.

"I am so proud of them and we will continue to practice their independence, and maybe one day they may be able to organize events for others to raise funds for IC2," she added.

IC2 is the only NGO in Macau run by people with intellectual disabilities and autism.

Friday's event was the association's finale event for this year's World Earth Day 2022 celebration, following from a series of art workshops and environmental talks since March.

Macau Daily Times is the principal media partner of the event.

COVID-19

NAT under quarantine period to cost MOP250/each

RENATO MARQUES

BEGINNING May 8, a fee will be charged for the mandatory nucleic acid tests (NATs) to be performed on people arriving in Macau from high-risk areas and on those who need to undergo quarantine, the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center announced.

From midnight May 8, people entering Macau from abroad will have to pay an additional amount of 2,000 patacas, equiva-



lent to the eight NATs to be done during the quarantine period.

At the same time, those arriving from high-risk

areas from the Mainland, Hong Kong or Taiwan will have to spend some 1,250 patacas for the five mandatory NATs.

The new measure was justified by the health authorities in a bid to "make rational use of the public purse."

On the topic, the same authorities advanced, "currently, sampling services for nucleic acid tests in medical observation hotels are provided by non-governmental sampling entities that are appointed by the Health Bureau. As on-site sampling requires more human resources and the samples have to be tested

individually, the expenses [for such procedure] are 250 patacas per person per hour."

The center also explained that since those expenses result from the "travel abroad by the individuals concerned, to make good use of the public purse, payment must be made by the users of the services themselves."

From midnight May 8, when people board a plane, boat, or vehicle bound for Macau, in addition to pre-booking a medical observation hotel, they also need to pay in advance the fees for the NAT package online, and submit the SMS confirming the purchase prior to commencing the trip to Macau.

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MENTAL HEALTH

Gov't raises awareness following increase in suicide rate

JING WU

SOCIAL Welfare Bureau (IAS) called on the public to pay more attention to the mental health of their friends and family and take on a protector role.

This comes after a series of suicide cases have been recently reported.

"IAS is very concerned about the recent troubling incidents, and expresses its sorrow and regret for the deceased, as well as its condolences to the families concerned," the bureau said.

"If you find upsetting posts from friends and relatives on social media platforms, you should not leave hurtful or reproachful messages to avoid irreversibly harmful effects on people facing low periods in their lives. Messages of care, comfort, un-



derstanding, support, encouragement, and cheer can help people in adversity to turn their lives around and overcome their difficulties," IAS added.

The Judiciary Police (PJ) issued an alert Friday that a number of harmful posts have appeared on social media platforms recently, creating the

illusion of suicide attempts and encouraging others to follow or join in, thus increasing the likelihood of people in emotional distress taking their own lives.

PJ said that such posts are an offence under Article 295 of the Penal Code, "misuse and falsification of danger signals."

Anyone who misuses the signal or call of an alarm, or the signal or call for help, or creates a false impression that someone is in need of help due to a disaster, danger or collective distress is liable to imprisonment of up to one year or a fine of up to 120 days, PJ explained.

PJ responded to the Times recently stating that between January and March 2022, there had been 28 cases of suicide, while the number of deaths due to individuals falling from

heights was 11.

In 2021, covering the same period, authorities recorded a total of eight cases of suicide, along with three deaths due to falling, reaching an alarming increase of over 300%.

Caritas Macau Suicide Prevention Services' Director Ng Lai Ieng revealed that last year the institute received about 12,000 calls, of which more than 300 were related to attempted suicide, which involved various reasons such as family circumstances and emotional states.

This year, the institute received more than 3,000 calls from January to March, of which more than 70 were related to attempted suicide, which is similar to last year's figures.

She said that the suicide prevention services are mainly for people under emotional distress, and aim to serve as the front line of defense and protection against suicide.

According to IAS' vice president Hon Wai, authorities following up on attempted suicides found that most cases involved mental and emotional distress and interpersonal difficulties, and were rarely due to environmental factors.

50% FEWER BLACK-FACED SPOONBILLS IN MACAU

ANTHONY LAM

AN international survey showed that despite significantly more Black-faced spoonbills spending the past winter in nearby regions, Macau has seen a 50% drop in the same period.

Besides a larger number of the bird species being recorded in nearby regions this past winter, the number has also risen in terms of global counts.

This species has the most restricted distribution of the six spoonbill species, and it is the only one regarded as endangered. It is confined to the coastal areas of eastern Asia and has four wintering sites in Macau, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Vietnam.

Macau's government leverages this fact in its marketing efforts. The city developed the mascot for the Asian Indoor Games 2007, which was held in Macau, based on the bird species.

Eleven years later, in 2018, the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) picked a design by local resident Tou Chon



Wai as the city's tourism mascot. The mascot, once again, was developed based on the bird that habitually winters in Macau.

Commenting on the plunge in the number of Black-faced spoonbills, Joe Chan, president of the Macau Green Student Union (MGSU), blames the city's light pollution, particularly in Cotai. He added that institutionalized control is a long-term target.

On the verge of casino relicensing, Chan suggests the government include environmental protection as a requirement in the tender. He accuses casino

operators of "privatizing the nocturnal sky."

MGSU recently submitted a petition letter to the Chief Executive to call his attention to the matter. The group managed to gather over 500 signatures on the letter.

The group stressed that impact of light pollution on lives of organisms had been scientifically proven.

Environmental topics have not stood high on the city's agenda. Recently, the government's public works department wanted 10 century-old trees removed to make way for a new road in Taipa.

TOURISM

VISITOR ARRIVALS EXPECTED TO EXCEED 25,000 DURING GOLDEN WEEK

JING WU

ARRIVALS to Macau reached an average of 22,000 on the first Friday and Saturday that Guangdong Province relaxed the validity of nucleic acid tests (NAT) to 48 hours, according to the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO).

MGTO director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes described the situation as encouraging and expects the number of visitors coming into Macau to exceed 25,000 on individual days of the May Golden Week holiday.

Fernandes expects that visitors during the May Golden Week will mainly come from the Greater Bay Area and Guangdong Province, and that the authorities will focus their promotional efforts on Guangdong in the short term.

As for the earlier plan to promote Macau in the Greater Bay Area by caravan on a weekly basis, she said that the autho-

rities had started to contact the relevant cities in Guangdong Province again and discussions were underway.

"As for the large-scale MacauWeek event, some provinces and cities have also contacted the Macau authorities and both sides are now discussing it," she revealed.

Forecasts for Macau's visitor arrivals, economy and the gaming sector remain bleak – still due to the Covid-19 pandemic and strict border requirements.

However, the tourism bureau has said that it continues to strive to promote the city again in the mainland in the second half of the year.

VISITOR ARRIVALS FELL BY 30% Y-O-Y IN MARCH

The number of visitor arrivals fell by 30.2% year-on-year and 19.6% month-on-month in March 2022 due to the resurgence of Covid-19 cases in neighboring regions, the Statistics and Census Service

(DSEC) announced Friday.

Last month, a total of 526,912 visitors arrived in Macau, with same-day visitors (369,661) growing by 5.7% year-on-year, whereas overnight visitors (157,251) declined by 61.2%.

Regarding the source of visitors, the number of visitors from mainland China went down by 31.9% year-on-year to 468,995, with 91,099 of them travelling under the Individual Visit Scheme. Visitors from the nine cities in the Pearl River Delta located in the Greater Bay Area totaled 314,517, of which 70.2% came from Zhuhai. There were 52,862 visitors from Hong Kong and 4,867 from Taiwan.

In the first quarter of 2022, the number of visitor arrivals increased by 8.0% year-on-year to 1,876,847. Same-day visitors (1,196,122) rose by 46.0% year-on-year, while overnight visitors (680,725) fell by 25.9%.

RENATO MARQUES

CRYSTAL FISH 2022 PUTS DISASTER RESPONSE MECHANISM TO TEST

THE civil protection structure for disaster response was once again put to the test Saturday.

Crystal Fish 2022, the code name for civil protection drills of this kind, tested for the first time the participation of civil protection volunteers and members of the Civil Protection Community Liaison Mechanism.

As in previous trials, the aim of the drill was to test and reinforce the coordination capacity under multiple scenarios of a severe typhoon, including several situations such as the evacuation plan for low-lying areas in storm surges during typhoons.

According to the civil protection authorities, the drill "greatly contributed to strengthening the community's awareness of disaster prevention and collaboration with the authorities in civil protection work."

The drill involved all members of the civil protection structure and was also attended by the deputy chief of staff of the Macau Garrison of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, Lieutenant Colonel Wang Hui.

During the drill, several incident scenarios that could occur during the passage of typhoons were simulated to test the response.



Situations included evacuation plans ahead of severe flooding, negotiation in cases of refusal to evacuate, handling of rumors, rescue of residents stranded by flood, collisions between moored vessels caused by strong wind, and road accidents on the lower deck of the Sai Van Bridge, among others.

In addition, a tabletop exercise

was carried out for the response to a power outage that occurred in a medical observation hotel. There was also an on-site drill where personnel were sent to a medical observation hotel to deal with incidents resulting from the passage of the typhoon, a new scenario created by ongoing Covid-19 pandemic prevention and control measures.

The drill also included a simulation to remove obstacles blocking roads. The authorities used heavy machinery for the drill which was provided by professional associations and volunteers.

Another mechanism tested was the dissemination of notices and information through several channels.

The drill which lasted about

four and half hours had a participation of 2,170 people, which included those from civic associations and volunteers.

Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak said that the drill was a success and it delivered the expected results in the several situations tested including the new scenarios relating to Covid-19 pandemic prevention.

AD

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32nd Macao Arts Festival 第三十二屆澳門藝術節 32nd Festival De Artes De Macau 32nd Festival De Artes De Macau

DEIGNAN AWARD

New SME accolade to promote sustainability, CSR

A new award for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) was recently launched, aiming to encourage the continuous pursuit of sustainability, corporate social responsibility (CSR), business ethics, and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) considerations and implementation by SMEs in both Hong Kong and Macau.

Jointly organised by Macao Ricci Institute at the University of Saint Joseph, Macao, and Wofoo Social Enterprise, the Deignan Award for Responsible Entrepreneurship, in memory of Dr Alfred Deignan (1927-2018), the Deignan Award was officially launched Friday.

Carried out in both online and offline formats, the physical event will be held at Ilha Verde Campus of University of Saint Joseph.

The entry period of the



award is until August 31, 2022, with no charge for application. SMEs in both Hong Kong and Macau that employ fewer than 100 people and meet the entry criteria are eligible. A panel of esteemed judges will shortlist three finalists from among SMEs from Hong Kong and Macau respectively, and the winner of the Deignan Award will be unveiled at the award ceremony on March 25, 2023.

Joseph Lee, vice-chairman

of Deignan Award for Responsible Entrepreneurship and president of Wofoo Social Enterprises, said that "The Award will be a platform for all who believe in social harmony for sustainable development. Across geographic boundaries, Hong Kong and Macau, we can build shared knowledge, promote good values, seek meaningful relationships, and build strong connections."

The judging panel of the awards will represent a broad range of sectors including public authorities, social service organisations, academia and industry players. Eligible SMEs will be judged on several criteria in relation to "respecting human dignity, respecting business ethics, respecting fairness, respecting the disadvantaged, respecting the environment, and entrepreneurial spirit," the organizers said. LV

SUN ENTERTAINMENT GROUP CHANGES NAME

SUN Entertainment Group announced Friday that the Board of Directors has proposed to change the English name of the company to Yeah Yeah Group Holdings Limited.

Moreover, the group will also discard the existing Chinese name, which is subject to the approval of a special resolution at the Annual General Meeting.

According to the announcement, the board is of the view that the proposed change of the company's name will better reflect the business of the company and its future direction and believes that the new English name will "enhance the image and status of the company."

"Therefore, the board is of the view that the proposed change of the company's name will be in the interests of the company and its shareholders as a whole," added Sun Entertainment Group.

The founder of Sun Entertainment Group, Alvin Chau, who was detained November last year for allegedly committing casino crimes in China, is still being held in custody pending trial before the courts.

Following his arrest, the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) ordered all notaries in the city to immediately suspend undertaking any notary acts or services involving the assets of Chau and related companies, the Times has learned. JW

AD

2022 翱遊澳門無人機表演盛會

GALA DE DRONES BRILHA SOBRE MACAU 2022



地點 | Local | Location

南灣湖 | Lago Nam Van | Nam Van Lake

時間 | Horas | Time

20:00, 21:30

1,2,7,8/5/2022

主辦單位
Organizador
Organizer



澳門特別行政區政府旅遊局
DIRECÇÃO DOS SERVIÇOS DE TURISMO
MACAO GOVERNMENT TOURISM OFFICE

協辦單位
Co-organizadores
Co-organizers



澳門特別行政區政府體育局
Instituto do Desporto do Governo de Macau
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GOV'T PROMOTES COAL IN SETBACK FOR EFFORTS TO CUT EMISSIONS

JOE MCDONALD, BEIJING

CHINA is promoting coal-fired power as the ruling Communist Party tries to revive a sluggish economy, prompting warnings Beijing is setting back efforts to cut climate-changing carbon emissions from the biggest global source.

Official plans call for boosting coal production capacity by 300 million tons this year, according to news reports. That is equal to 7% of last year's output of 4.1 billion tons, which was an increase of 5.7% over 2020.

China is one of the biggest investors in wind and solar, but jittery leaders called for more coal-fired power after economic growth plunged last year and shortages caused blackouts and factory shutdowns. Russia's attack on Ukraine added to anxiety that foreign oil and coal supplies might be disrupted.

"This mentality of ensuring energy security has become dominant, trumping carbon neutrality," said Li Shuo, a senior global policy adviser for Greenpeace. "We are moving into a relatively unfavorable time period for climate action in China."

Officials face political pressure to ensure stability as President Xi Jinping prepares to try to break with tradition and award himself a third five-year term as ruling party leader in the autumn.

Coal is important for "energy security," Cabinet officials said at an April 20 meeting that approved plans to expand production capa-



Smoke and steam rise from towers at the coal-fired Urumqi Thermal Power Plant as seen from a plane in Urumqi, April 21, 2021

city, according to Caixin, a business news magazine.

The ruling party also is building power plants to inject money into the economy and revive growth that sank to 4% over a year earlier in the final quarter of 2021, down from the full year's 8.1% expansion.

Governments have pledged to try to limit warming of the atmosphere to 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) above the level of pre-industrial times. Leaders say what they really want is a limit of 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

Scientists say even if the world hits the 2-degree goal in the 2015 Paris climate pact and the 2021 Glasgow follow-up agreement, that still will lead to higher seas, stronger storms, extinctions of plants and animals and more peo-

ple dying from heat, smog and infectious diseases.

China is the top producer and consumer of coal. Global trends hinge on what Beijing does.

The Communist Party has rejected binding emissions commitments, citing its economic development needs. Beijing has avoided joining governments that promised to phase out use of coal-fired power.

In a 2020 speech to the United Nations, Xi said carbon emissions will peak by 2030, but he announced no target for the amount. Xi said China aims for carbon neutrality, or removing as much from the atmosphere by planting trees and other tactics as is emitted by industry and households, by 2060.

China accounts for 26.1% of global emissions, more than double the U.S. share of 12.8%, ac-

ording to the World Resources Institute. Rhodium Group, a research firm, says China emits more than all developed economies combined.

Per person, China's 1.4 billion people on average emit the equivalent of 8.4 tons of carbon dioxide annually, according to WRI. That is less than half the U.S. average of 17.7 tons but more than the European Union's 7.5 tons.

China has abundant supplies of coal and produced more than 90% of the 4.4 billion tons it burned last year. More than half of its oil and gas is imported and leaders see that as a strategic risk.

China's goal of carbon neutrality by 2060 appears to be on track, but using more coal "could jeopardize this, or at least slow it down and make it more costly," Clare Perry of the Environmental In-

vestigations Agency said in an email.

Promoting coal will make emissions "much higher than they need to be" by the 2030 peak year, said Perry.

"This move runs entirely counter to the science," she said.

Beijing has spent tens of billions of dollars on building solar and wind farms to reduce reliance on imported oil and gas and clean up its smog-choked cities. China accounted for about half of global investment in wind and solar in 2020.

Still, coal is expected to supply 60% of its power in the near future.

Beijing is cutting millions of jobs to shrink its bloated, state-owned coal mining industry, but output and consumption still are rising.

Authorities say they are shrinking carbon emissions per unit of economic output. The government reported a reduction of 3.8% last year, better than 2020's 1% but down from a 5.1% cut in 2017.

Last year's total energy use increased 5.2% over 2020 after a revival of global demand for Chinese exports propelled a manufacturing boom, according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

Stimulus spending also might raise carbon output if it pays for building more bridges, train stations and other public works. That would encourage carbon-intensive steel and cement production.

China's coal-fired power plants operate at about half their capacity on average, but building more creates jobs and economic activity, said Greenpeace's Li. He said even if the power isn't needed now, local leaders face pressure to make them pay for themselves.

"That locks China into a more high-carbon path," Li said. "It's very difficult to fix." **MDT/AP**

HONG Kong government said non-residents who are vaccinated and have a negative virus test will be allowed to fly in again starting May 1. That eases one of the world's most stringent travel bans, imposed in March 2020.

According to a statement, Hong Kong said the decision was made in view of the latest development of the COVID-19 epidemic situation, taking into account the recent volume of inbound passenger flow, the number of imported cases, the city's capacity in tackling the local epidemic as well as overall socio-economic needs.

The government's Inter-departmental Steering Committee & Command Centre pointed out that there has been an increase in the daily number of inbound travellers since the lifting of the place-specific flight

COVID-19

Hong Kong to allow intl'l travelers from May

suspension for nine overseas places on April 1, the statement read.

The daily average number of arrivals rose from fewer than 300 between January and March to about 1,200 since April.

Nevertheless, the proportion of imported cases has dropped from about 3% in the January-March period to about 1% since April.

From May 1, non-Hong Kong residents who have stayed in overseas places in the past 14 days will be allowed to enter Hong Kong and be subject to the same boarding, quarantine and testing arrangements as Hong Kong residents.

They must comply with

all stringent inbound testing and quarantine requirements, including being fully vaccinated, undergoing a pre-departure nucleic acid test with a negative result and the booking of designated quarantine hotels (DQHs).

Upon arrival, they will be subject to the test-and-hold arrangement at the airport and then transferred to DQHs by designated transport to undergo compulsory quarantine and multiple testings.

Meanwhile, the triggering thresholds for the route-specific flight suspension mechanism will also be adjusted with effect from May.

MDT/AP



AP PHOTO



Shanghai erects metal barriers in fight against Covid-19

VOLUNTEERS and government workers in Shanghai erected metal barriers in multiple districts to block off small streets and entrances to apartment complexes, as China hardens its strict “zero-COVID” approach in its largest city despite growing complaints from residents.

In the city’s financial district, Pudong, the barriers — thin metal sheets or mesh fences — were put up in several neighborhoods under a local government directive, according to Caixin, a Chinese business media outlet. Buildings where cases have been found sealed up their main entrances, with a small opening for pandemic prevention workers to pass through.

In Beijing, authorities announced a mass testing starting today of Chaoyang district, home to more than 3 million people in the Chinese capital.

The announcement set off panic buying Sunday evening, with vegetables, eggs, soy sauce and other items wiped off grocery shelves.

A fresh outbreak has infected at least 41

people, including 26 in Chaoyang district, state broadcaster CGTN reported.

China reported 21,796 new community transmitted COVID-19 infections yesterday, with the vast majority being asymptomatic cases in Shanghai. Across the country, many cities and provinces have enforced some version of a lockdown in an attempt to slow the spread of the virus.

The latest outbreak, driven by the highly contagious omicron variant, has spread nationwide, but has been particularly large in Shanghai. The city, a financial hub with 25 million residents, has counted hundreds of thousands of cases but fewer than 100 deaths since the outbreak began nearly two months ago.

An Associated Press examination of the death toll found that despite a history of narrow criteria for linking deaths to particular diseases, especially COVID-19, authorities have changed how they count positive cases, leading to wiggle room in how they arrive at a final death count. The result is almost certainly an undercount of

the true death toll.

On social media, people posted videos of the new barriers being put up Saturday, with some expressing anger over the measures. The barriers are meant to leave main roads unblocked, Caixin reported.

In one video, verified by the AP, residents leaving a building in Shanghai’s Xuhui district broke down the mesh fence barricade at their front entrance and went looking for the security guard they believed to be responsible for putting it up.

Shanghai is using a tiered system in which neighborhoods are divided into three categories based on the risk of transmission. Those in the first category face the strictest COVID-19 controls and were the main target of the new heightened measures. In the third category, some buildings allow people to leave their homes and visit public areas.

In Shanghai, authorities reported 39 new COVID-19 deaths, raising the official death toll to 4,725 as of the end of Saturday, the National Health Commission said Sunday.

The city’s lockdown

has drawn global attention for its strict approach and sometimes dangerous consequences. Many residents in the city have had difficulties getting groceries, resorting to bartering and bulk buying. Others have been unable get adequate medical attention in time, owing to the strict controls on movement.

On Friday, Chinese internet users shared a six-minute video called “Voices of April” that documents some of the most challenging public moments the city has experienced in the nearly month-long lockdown. One part features audio of residents in one Shanghai community who protested on April 8, screaming: “Send us food! Send us food! Send us food!” in unison.

The video blanketed WeChat timelines before it was abruptly removed by censors Saturday.

Chinese authorities have continued to say that the “zero-COVID” strategy is the best way forward given low vaccination rates in people over age 60, and that omicron would result in many deaths and severe illnesses if the country ended its strict approach. **MDT/AP**

ADVERTORIAL

GREAT TIMES

Make it Grand for Mother’s Day

THERE are plenty of occasions to celebrate with mommy in a year, but there probably isn’t a day that salutes her universally for the unconditional love like Mother’s Day. Have plans been put in place to make her feel extra special on May 8, 2022, yet?



Every mother has her own preferences; be it fashion style, beauty regime or gourmet delights. At MGM, we are beyond thrilled to showcase a kaleidoscope of offerings for all likings. **MGM MACAU**, conveniently located to one of Macau’s most loved luxury retail mall One Central, has much to offer for family gatherings and sumptuous dining. Why not take mommy to an exquisite lunch at **Imperial Court**, or have a taste of the restaurant’s prix fixe menu with nutritious ingredients including *Braised winter melon soup with snow gum and crab meat*, which is known for its detox benefits? Alternatively, you can nestle at **Aux Beaux Arts** for a cozy semi-buffet Sunday brunch with modern recipes of French classic comfort food.

Over at **MGM COTAI**, our chef’s team at **Grill 58** has prepared a Mediterranean-themed Sunday Brunch, bringing together food from south of France to Morocco, and a special dessert. For mothers who love a kick in terms of flavors, the set menu at **Five Foot Road** is sure to impress, featuring dishes that reflect Chengdu-Sichuan cuisine culture with 24 flavor types, far more than spicy and aromatic. Take in the stunning alfresco settings at the **Spectacle** and enjoy an eight-course set menu at **Chún**, while **Coast** and **Rossio** are serving curated set menus with *Grilled Seafood Platter*, and other Portuguese classics. For sweet bites, **Pastry Bar** and **Anytime** offers a colorful assortment including themed pastries and more. Feel like being creative? Join our **Coast Pizza Workshop** on May 8, or **Anytime Cupcake Decorating Workshop** on May 7 & 8, to create your own treat for mom and enjoy quality family time.

Lastly, don’t forget to pamper mom with the “Biodroga- Oxygen Brightening Facial” at our award-winning spa - **Tria**. The treatment brightens fatigue and dull skin, leaving a glowing and revitalized complexion. For more information, please visit mgm.mo



Ukraine leader pushes for more arms; US officials to visit

DAVID KEYTON, KYIV

UKRAINE'S leader petitioned for more powerful Western weapons as he prepared to meet with top U.S. officials in the war-torn country's capital yesterday and Russian forces concentrated their attacks on the east, including trying to dislodge the last Ukrainian troops holding out in the battered port city of Mariupol.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced the planned visit by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin during a lengthy Saturday night news conference held in a Kyiv subway station. The White House has not commented.

Zelenskyy said he was looking for the Americans to produce results, both in terms of arms and security guarantees. "You can't come to us empty-handed today, and we are expecting not just presents or some kind of cakes, we are expecting specific things and specific weapons," he said.

The visit would be the first by senior U.S. officials since Russia invaded Ukraine 60 days ago. Blinken stepped briefly onto Ukrainian soil in March to meet with the country's foreign minister during a visit to Poland. Zelenskyy's last face-to-face meeting with a U.S. leader was Feb. 19 in Munich with Vice President Kamala Harris.

The meeting was set to take place as Ukrainians and Russians observed Orthodox Easter, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ and considered the most joyful holiday on the Christian calendar.

Speaking yesterday from the ancient St. Sophia Cathedral, Zelenskyy, who is Jewish, highlighted the allegorical significance of the occasion to a nation wracked by nearly two months of war.

"The great holiday today gives us great hope and unwavering faith that light will overcome darkness, good will overcome evil, life will overcome death, and therefore Ukraine will surely win!" he said.

Earlier, during his ni-



Ukrainian military medics move an injured Ukrainian serviceman to a hospital in Donetsk region, eastern Ukraine, Saturday

ghtly address to the nation, Zelenskyy claimed that intercepted communications recorded Russian troops discussing "how they conceal the traces of their crimes" in Mariupol. The president also highlighted the death of a 3-month old girl in a Russian missile strike Saturday on the Black Sea port of Odesa.

Zelenskyy said that equipment from Western supporters had been a big help so far, but he also has stressed that Ukraine needs more heavy weapons, including long-range air defense systems, as well as warplanes to fend off the Russian attacks.

The Russian military reported that it hit 423 Ukrainian targets overnight, including fortified positions and troops concentrations, while Russian warplanes destroyed 26 Ukrainian military sites, including an explosives factory and several artillery depots.

Most of the fighting yesterday focused on the eastern Donbas region, where Ukrainian forces are concentrated and where Moscow-backed separatists controlled some territory before the war. Since failing to capture Kyiv, the Russians are aiming to gain full control over Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland.

Russian forces launched fresh airstrikes on a Mariupol steel plant where an estimated 1,000 civilians are sheltering along with about 2,000 Ukrainian fighters.

The Azovstal steel mill where the defenders are holed up is the last corner of resistance in the city, which the Russians have otherwise occupied.

Mykhailo Podolyak, a Ukrainian presidential adviser, called for a localized Easter truce. He urged Russia to allow civilians to leave the plant and suggested talks to negotiate an exit for the Ukrainian soldiers.

Podolyak tweeted that the Russian military was attacking the plant with heavy bombs and artillery while accumulating forces and equipment for a direct assault.

Mariupol has been the focus of fierce fighting since the start of the war due to its location on the Sea of Azov. Its capture would deprive Ukraine of a vital port, free up Russian troops to fight elsewhere, and allow Moscow to establish a land corridor to the Crimean Peninsula, which it seized from Ukraine in 2014.

More than 100,000 people — down from a prewar population of about 430,000 — are believed to remain in Mariupol with scant food, water or heat. Ukrainian authorities estimate that over 20,000 civilians have been killed.

Satellite images released this week showed what appeared to be mass graves dug in towns to the west and east of Mariupol.

Zelenskyy accused the Russians of committing war

crimes by killing civilians, as well as of setting up "filtration camps" near Mariupol for people caught trying to leave the city. From there, he said, Ukrainians are sent to areas under Russian occupation or to Russia itself, often as far as Siberia or the Far East. Many of them, he said, are children.

The claims could not be independently verified.

In attacks on the eve of Orthodox Easter, Russian forces pounded cities and towns in southern and eastern Ukraine. The 3-month-old baby was among eight people killed when Russia fired cruise missiles at Odesa, Ukrainian officials said.

Ukrainian news agency UNIAN, citing social media posts, reported that the infant's mother, Valeria Glodan, and grandmother also died when a missile hit a residential area. Zelenskyy promised to find and punish those responsible for the strike.

"The war started when this baby was one month old," he said. Can you imagine what is happening? "They are filthy scum, there are no other words for it."

For the Donbas offensive, Russia has reassembled troops who fought around Kyiv and in northern Ukraine earlier. The British Ministry of Defense said yesterday that Ukrainian forces had repelled numerous assaults in the past week and "inflicted significant cost on Russian forces." MDT/AP

this day in history

1974 REBELS SEIZE CONTROL OF PORTUGAL

Army rebels are in control of Portugal tonight after an almost bloodless dawn coup ended nearly 50 years of dictatorship.

Shortly after midnight, tanks rolled into the centre of Lisbon. The Salazar Bridge over the River Tagus was seized and the airport, radio and television centres were taken.

Troops armed with machineguns stormed the barracks where the Prime Minister, Dr Marcello Caetano, and several of his ministers had taken refuge.

The former deputy armed forces minister, General Antonio de Spínola, received the surrender of the prime minister, who has now fled into exile to the Portuguese island of Madeira.

By sunrise the Movement of the Armed Forces, or MFA, was in control. It issued an immediate proclamation appealing for calm and patriotism.

After almost five decades of dictatorship, it promised to restore civil liberties and hold general elections to a national assembly as soon as possible.

The MFA condemned Portugal's foreign policy. After 13 years of fighting, it said, Portugal had been unable to achieve peace "between Portuguese of all races and creeds".

It also called for a clean-up of state-run institutions which had legitimised the abuse of power.

A seven-man junta, led by General Spínola, would oversee the transition period until democracy could be established.

General Spínola and his troops received a hero's welcome from crowds, who gave them cigarettes, food, newspapers and carnations which were in full bloom at the time.

In one violent outburst, up to six civilians were killed after shots were fired from the headquarters of the police station - and troops responded by storming the building.

The Democratic Elections Commission group, which contested last year's parliamentary elections against the Government, issued a statement today saying that the group considered as positive "an act which could lead to the overthrow of a regime which for 50 years has oppressed the people of Portugal."

The majority of Portuguese troops, nearly 140,000 out of 204,000, are posted overseas, propping up Portugal's tottering colonial empire in Angola, Guinea and Mozambique.

General Spínola was sacked from his job as deputy armed forces minister last month after writing a book, Portugal and the Future, in which he argued that the Portuguese could not win its African wars by military means alone.

He was Governor and Commander in Chief of Portuguese Guinea between 1968 and 1972 and was widely respected for trying to win over the hearts and minds of the local population.

His book was regarded as heretical by the country's right-wing establishment - in particular his stated claim that Portugal was not defending the West and its civilization by colonising African states.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The 25 April coup became known as the Carnation Revolution. It ended the longest dictatorship in Europe, the Estado Novo.

The new regime pushed through a rapid and hasty programme of decolonisation. Over the next few years Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Cape Verde Islands, Sao Tome and Principe, and Angola all became independent.

General Spínola served briefly as interim president and was succeeded by General Francisco da Costa Gomes. Between them they nationalised about 60% of the economy and carried out a major redistribution of land.

Hundreds of political prisoners were released. Over the course of the next decade a stable two party system was established.

Caetano spent the rest of his life in exile in Brazil. Freedom Day is now celebrated as a national holiday on 25 April.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
 Mar. 21-Apr. 19
 Children's needs could be more costly than you anticipated. Don't rely on others to handle the workload. Stop those bad habits. You can bet that someone in a higher position is watching to see how busy you are.

TAURUS
 Apr. 20-May. 20
 Business partnerships should turn out to be quite lucrative. If you're feeling uncertain, spend some time alone and reevaluate your motives as well as your needs.

GEMINI
 May. 21-Jun. 21
 Go to the top if you're being harassed or held back. Don't get involved in other people's problems. Don't let others try to create unwarranted guilt if you can't meet their demands.

CANCER
 Jun. 22-Jul. 22
 Romantic opportunities will develop through friends or relatives. Your irritability will lead to family squabbles. Sudden changes regarding your circle of friends could prove interesting and stimulating.

LEO
 Jul. 23-Aug. 22
 You may become rundown if you take on too much. Older members of your family may try to take advantage of you. Don't make any drastic changes or begin new projects today.

VIRGO
 Aug. 23-Sep. 22
 You can make headway in the workforce if you put your mind to it. You can make adjustments in your domestic scene today. Moneymaking ventures may just turn your life around.

LIBRA
 Sep. 23-Oct. 22
 Stick to your work and avoid emotional confrontations. Social events should be the highlight of your day. Your emotional partner will push all the right buttons today.

SCORPIO
 Oct. 23-Nov. 21
 Problems with your partner could be reaching a high level of concern. Don't let jealous friends put you down, making you insecure about your capabilities. Changes in your domestic scene are apparent.

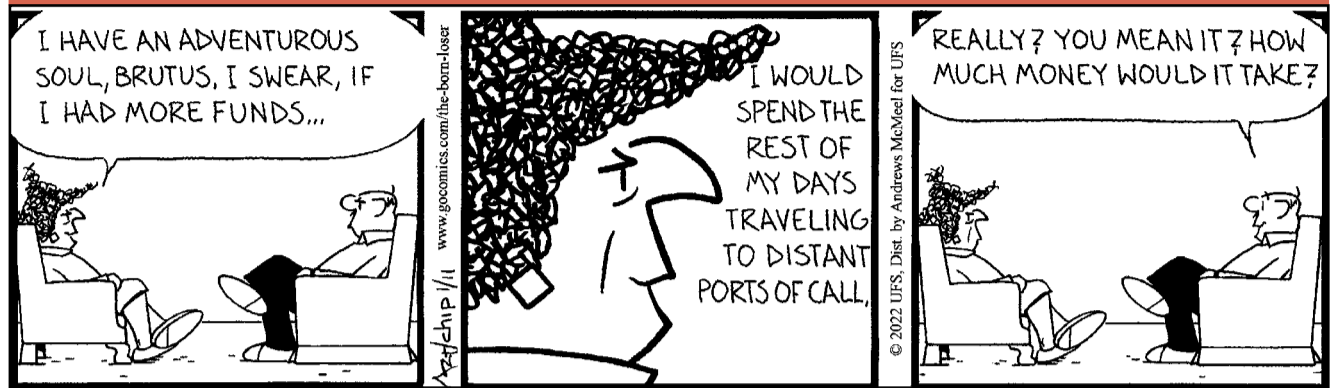
SAGITTARIUS
 Nov. 22-Dec. 21
 Don't lend or borrow. Focus on what's important rather than spreading yourself too thin and accomplishing little. You're likely to encounter new partners if you take short trips.

CAPRICORN
 Dec. 22-Jan. 19
 Look into alternatives that would better suit both your needs. You could make extra cash through creative hobbies. You will find good buys and you will lift your spirits.

AQUARIUS
 Jan. 20-Feb. 18
 Dead end projects could plague you. Older relatives may be a burden. Rid yourself of that which is old and no longer of use. Don't evade important issues; you may find yourself backed into a corner.

PISCES
 Feb. 19-Mar. 20
 Take care of yourself or you can expect to suffer from minor illness. Close deals that have been up in the air and move on to new ones that appear to be profitable.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	15	27	cloudy
Changchun	7	18	cloudy
Chengdu	18	26	rain
Chongqing	20	29	rain
Fuzhou	20	30	rain
Guangzhou	23	29	thunderstorms
Guiyang	18	26	rain
Haikou	25	34	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	17	27	cloudy
Harbin	4	16	fine
Hefei	16	27	overcast
Nanjing	15	28	cloudy
Shanghai	16	25	cloudy
Taipei	22	27	cloudy
Wuhan	18	29	rain
Hong Kong	26	29	overcast
WORLD			
Moscow	10	17	rain
Frankfurt	7	17	rain
Paris	7	18	overcast
London	4	15	overcast
New York	11	15	overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Merrily; 6- Capital of Calvados, in NW France; 10- Boiling; 13- Go along (with); 14- Opposed; 15- Hamlet, for one; 16- Swedish imports; 17- Cool!; 18- Stares at; 19- Gyro bread; 20- Licentious; 22- Sea nymph; 24- Nasal; 28- Flower; 31- Wear down, physically or emotionally; 32- Russian revolutionary leader; 34- Hail, to Caesar; 36- Raines of film; 37- Rocky peak; 38- Most strange; 41- Thrive, in prescriptions; 42- Put ___ on (limit); 44- Process leather; 45- Apple juice; 47- Melody; 49- One engraving; 51- First name in aviation; 53- Religious dissent; 56- Cat's front foot; 59- Footfall; 61- Yorkshire river; 64- Ollie's partner; 65- In unison; 66- Yonder; 67- Auricular; 68- Oscar de la ___; 69- Nile viper; 70- Panamanian baby; 71- Utopian;

DOWN 1- Breathe convulsively; 2- Once more; 3- Beside oneself; 4- Bygone Chrysler; 5- Affirmative answer; 6- Alberta's home; 7- Once more; 8- Bibliography abbr.; 9- Fertilizer ingredient; 10- Cut and dried grass; 11- Half and half; 12- French possessive; 15- Long for; 20- House finch; 21- Female pronoun; 23- Ashtabula's lake; 25- Nick of "Cape Fear"; 26- Freud contemporary; 27- Cordelia's father; 29- Spoil; 30- 12/24 or 12/31; 32- Doctor's replacement; 33- Rub out or remove from memory; 35- Shun; 37- Writer Janowitz; 39- Dawn Chong; 40- Wedding cake feature; 43- Steal; 46- Clad; 48- AFL partner; 50- An opportunity; 52- Burning desire?; 54- Rock; 55- Gossipmonger; 57- Novel ending; 58- Physical suffering; 60- Ring out; 61- Battery size; 62- Contingencies; 63- Music style performed by Dr Dre and Eminem; 65- Onassis, to pals;

Friday's solution

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

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- 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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HKD 9,588,000

Hac Sa Living

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Large terraces wide living spaces 4

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HKD 10,500,000 GREEN VIEWS

4

FOR RENT HKD 8,500
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1

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TAIPA | Nova Park | 2 | HKD 10,800,000
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MACAU | San On | 2 | HKD 10,500
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MACAU | S. Lazaro | 2 | HKD 6,900
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BASKETBALL

Raptors' Barnes wins NBA Rookie of the Year, edging Mobley

TORONTO forward Scottie Barnes was voted NBA Rookie of the Year on Saturday, edging Cleveland's Evan Mobley.

"That's a big award, that's one of the biggies," Raptors coach Nick Nurse said.

Barnes got 48 first-place votes and 378 points from a global panel of 100 writers and broadcasters. Mobley received 43 first-place votes and finished with 363 points.

"Of course it was a goal of mine all year to try to win it, but I didn't really try to overthink it or try to do so much," Barnes said. "I just did my role, did what I had to do. Winning helps with it as well."

Barnes helped engineer a turnaround in Toronto, where the Raptors went 48-34 after finishing 27-45 and missing the playoffs last season.

The difference of 15 points was the smallest margin in the rookie category under the current voting format that began with the 2002-



Scottie Barnes

03 season. Players receive five points for a first-place vote, three points for a second-place vote and one point for third.

The award was announced shortly before the Raptors hosted Philadelphia in Game 4 of their first-round series, trailing 3-0.

Coming off the bench, Barnes returned after missing the previous two games with a sprained left ankle. He finished with six points and 11 rebounds in 25 minutes as Toronto won 110-102 to stave off elimination.

"We got a great boost off the bench from Scottie with his rebounding and just his presence," Nurse said

Barnes averaged 15.3 points, 7.5 rebounds and 3.5 assists in 35.4 minutes per game, starting all of the 74 games he played. He led all rookies in minutes and was third in points and rebounds.

"He's going to continue to get better, continue to grow, but it was a great moment," Raptors guard Gary Trent Jr. said. "I'm ecstatic for him, and it's a great thing."

The No. 4 draft pick after one season at Florida State joined Vince Carter (1999) and Damon Stoudamire (1995-96) as Toronto players to be voted Rookie of the Year. Barnes was informed he

had won by Carter during a video appearance at Friday's practice.

"I was wondering what he was talking to us about," Barnes said. "He was just going on and I was starting to realize."

Nurse said Barnes' award was a welcome change after Toronto lost in overtime Wednesday, falling behind 3-0 to the 76ers.

"It was a good moment to share as a team because, like all of us here, being down 3-0, there wasn't a lot of great moments to think about," Nurse said. "So that was a good boost."

Barnes was the only rookie to rank in the top five in points, rebounds, assists, steals and blocks.

"What you see on the court is exactly who Scottie is: enthusiastic. Joyful. Athletic. Skilled, and a winner," Raptors President Masai Ujiri said in a statement. "We — and our fans — loved seeing his development through this season, and we can't wait to see what the future brings."

Mobley, taken one pick before Barnes, helped spark a similar turnaround in Cleveland. The forward averaged 15 points, 8.3 rebounds and 1.7 blocks as the Cavaliers fell just shy of returning to the postseason for the first time since LeBron James left in 2018.

Detroit's Cade Cunningham, the No. 1 pick in the draft, finished third. **MDT/AP**

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OPINION

Multipolar World

Jorge Costa Oliveira



GLOBALIZATION, CHINA AND THE WAR IN UKRAINE

Since implementing economic reforms in 1979, with the opening to foreign trade and investment, China experienced annual GDP growth of 9.5% to 2018, and has lifted about 800 million people out of poverty. China's foreign trade has also increased significantly. China's exports have risen from 2% of the world total in 1990 to 13% in 2017.

One of the factors contributing to this growth is globalization. Chinese companies have taken advantage of multilateralism and the reduction of tariffs and non-tariff barriers to increase their exports. Chinese authorities have been able to set the conditions to gradually relocate a significant part of production value chains from developed countries to China. Yet, the Chinese economy remains heavily dependent on access to foreign markets, particularly the American and European markets, although to a lesser degree since 2006.

In 2021, the main destinations for China's exports were EU and UK (19.5%), US and Canada (18.3%), Hong Kong (9.9%), Japan (5.7%), South Korea (4.1%), and Vietnam (3.9%). About half (probably more, considering that Hong Kong is a Chinese trading hub) of China's exports go to rich OECD countries. This flow is even stronger for foreign investment into China.

The situation stemming from the war created by Russia's invasion of Ukraine will have consequences for globalization. The most important is the dismantling of the idea of economic interdependence being a sufficient factor for maintaining peace. The total lack of European trust in the Russian leadership is catalyzing mistrust of other emerging powers with whom European economies were progressively integrating (e.g., China and India). Security concerns increase the sentiment in Europe that interdependence with economies that do not share its liberal values, and that actively work against freedom, democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law, is not desirable.

In Western countries, the public perception of China has reached its lowest point in the last two decades. This sentiment may lead the EU to follow in the footsteps of the US in restricting access by Chinese companies to R&D, advanced technologies, and innovation. Despite the Comprehensive Agreement on Investment between China and the EU, the EU has already adopted legislation that allows it to limit the entry of Chinese companies (and those of other emerging countries) into strategic sectors. In China, on the other hand, the financial sanctions imposed by Western countries on Russia seem to be viewed with apprehension, and consideration is being given to reducing interdependence, starting with the USA.

China, as the biggest beneficiary of globalization, has much to lose from the economic instability ushered in by the war and a rapid erosion of globalization. It is still very dependent on US and European markets for its exports and even more dependent on foreign investment from the US and EU. Until such dependence diminishes, it is doubtful that collaborative neutrality with Russia is the posture that best serves China's interests.

TWITTER BANS ADS THAT CONTRADICT SCIENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

THE BUZZ

Twitter says it will no longer allow advertisers on its site who deny the scientific consensus on climate change, echoing a policy already in place at Google.

"Ads shouldn't detract from important conversations about the climate crisis," the company said in a statement outlining its new policy Friday.

There was no indication that the change would affect what users post on the social media site, which along with Facebook has been targeted by groups seeking to promote misleading claims about climate change.

The announcement coinciding with Earth Day came hours before the European Union agreed upon a deal requiring big tech companies to vet their sites more closely for hate speech, disinformation and other harmful content.

Twitter said it would provide more information in the coming months on how it plans to provide "reliable, authoritative context to the climate conversations" its users engage in, including from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The U.N.-backed science panel's reports on the causes and effects of climate change provide the basis for international negotiations to curb climate change.



Worshippers light candles at the Saint Volodymyr's Cathedral during Orthodox Easter celebrations in Kyiv, Ukraine, yesterday

UKRAINE MARKS ORTHODOX EASTER WITH PRAYERS FOR THOSE TRAPPED

CARA ANNA & INNA VARENYTSIA, KYIV

THE sun came out as Ukrainians marked Orthodox Easter in the capital, Kyiv, yesterday with prayers for those fighting on the front lines and others trapped beyond them in places like Mariupol.

St. Volodymyr's Cathedral in Kyiv was ringed by hundreds of worshippers with baskets to be blessed. Inside, a woman clutched the arm of a soldier, turning briefly to kiss his elbow. Other soldiers prayed, holding handfuls of candles, then crossed themselves. An older woman slowly made her way through the crowd and stands of flickering candles. One young woman held daffodils.

Outside the cathedral, a soldier who gave only his first name, Mykhailo, used his helmet as an Easter basket. He said he didn't have another.

"I hope I'll only have to use the helmet for this," he said.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at a service elsewhere in Kyiv urged Ukrainians not to let anger at the war overwhelm them.

"All of us believe our sunrise will come soon,"

he said.

The spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox Christians called for the opening of humanitarian corridors in Ukraine, saying a "human tragedy" was unfolding in the country.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I spoke Saturday night in Istanbul during midnight Mass. He is considered first among equals among Eastern Orthodox patriarchs, which gives him prominence but not the power of a Catholic pope.

With the Orthodox church split by the tensions between Russia and Ukraine, some worshippers hoped the holy day could inspire gestures of peacemaking. "The church can help," said one man who gave only his first name, Serhii, as he came to a church in Kyiv under the Moscow Patriarchate.

He and others brought baskets to be blessed by priests for Easter, with flicks of a brush sprinkling holy water over offerings of home-dyed eggs, lighted candles and even bottles of Jack Daniel's.

Residents of rural villages battered by the war approached the holiday with some defiance.

"We'll celebrate Easter no matter what, no ma-

tter much horror," said Kateryna Lazarenko, 68, in the northern village of Ivanivka outside Chernihiv, where ruined Russian tanks still littered the roads.

"How do I feel? Very nervous, everyone is nervous," said another resident, Olena Koptyl, as she prepared her Easter bread. "The Easter holiday doesn't bring any joy. I'm crying a lot. We cannot forget how we lived." She and 12 others spent a month sheltering from Russian soldiers in the basement of her home before the soldiers withdrew.

Ukraine yesterday prepared for the first high-level U.S. trip to Kyiv since before the war began on Feb. 24 after Zelenskyy announced he would meet with Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin.

Zelenskyy in a news conference Saturday night gave few details but said he expected results — "not just presents or some kind of cakes, we are expecting specific things and specific weapons."

Pope Francis renewed his call for an Easter truce. Without naming the aggressors, Francis urged them to "stop the attack to help the suffering of the exhausted people." MDT/AP

Israel has lifted an indoor mask mandate in place for nearly a year as the country's new cases of coronavirus continue to drop. The end of the masking requirement took effect this weekend. Masks remain mandatory in hospitals, elderly care facilities and on international flights. Israel has seen new cases of Covid-19 drop since the peak of the latest wave of infections in January.



Germany Thousands of people protested this weekend against plans to bulldoze a village in western Germany to expand a coal mine that environmental activists say should be shut down, not enlarged. The German news agency dpa quoted police in the afternoon as saying that the demonstration in Luetzerath, about 40 kilometers west of Cologne, passed by peacefully. About 2,000 people took part, dpa reported.



France began voting in a presidential runoff election yesterday with repercussions for Europe's future, with centrist incumbent Emmanuel Macron the front-runner but fighting a tough challenge from far-right rival Marine Le Pen. The centrist Macron is asking voters to trust him for a second five-year term despite a presidency troubled by protests, the pandemic and the war in Ukraine. A Macron victory in this vote would make him the first French president in 20 years to win a second term.

Congo A new Ebola case has been confirmed in Congo's northwest Equateur Province in the city of Mbandaka. Congo health authorities said, declaring an outbreak nearly four months after the last one ended in the central African nation. The one case was confirmed in a 31-year-old man who began experiencing symptoms on April 5 and sought treatment at a health facility after more than a week of being taken care of at home.