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**CRIME: A MALE MAINLAND TOURIST WAS ARRESTED FOR DISTURBANCE WHILE TAKING PICTURES AND VIDEOS OF FOUR WOMEN, PSP HAS REPORTED**

P4

**NO PLAN FOR HEALTH CENTERS, DRY MARKET, EXTRA PUBLIC CARPARK IN ZAPE**

P2

**ZELENSKY URGES 'MAXIMUM' SANCTIONS ON RUSSIA IN DAVOS TALK**

P10



**China** Beijing extended orders for workers and students to stay home and ordered additional mass testing yesterday as cases of Covid-19 rose in the Chinese capital. Numerous residential compounds in the city have restricted movement in and out, although conditions remain far less severe than in Shanghai, where millions of citizens have been under varying degrees of lockdown for two months.



**Philippines** A ferry carrying more than 130 people caught fire in the northeastern Philippines yesterday, killing seven passengers and forcing many survivors to jump into the sea where they were rescued by other vessels. The fire rapidly spread from the engine room to the upper passenger deck of the M/V Mercraft 2 while it was approaching a port in Real, town administrator Filomena Portales said. It had been en route to the town in Quezon province from Polillo Island.



**Sri Lanka** received a first consignment of a \$16 million humanitarian aid package from neighboring India to help mitigate severe shortages caused by the country's worst economic crisis in recent memory. Gopal Baglay, the Indian envoy to Sri Lanka, delivered the donation from the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu to Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Gamini Peiris late Sunday. The goods, worth \$5.6 million, include rice, milk powder and essential medicines.

More on backpage

# CHONGQING EXPRESS

**10-year transport plan has lessons learned from Chongqing, public works chief said while unveiling details on the crucial LRT West line and a surprising proposal to build a cable car over the peninsula**

P3



**COVID-19**

**BEIJING CONSIDERING 7+7 QUARANTINE POLICY**

P5





### IPIM PRESIDENT TO STEP DOWN

The president of the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), Lau Wai Meng, will step down from his position after his term ends in May, according to TDM Radio. This comes following his filing for retirement. Lau Wai Meng was appointed president in May 2020, succeeding Irene Va Kaun Lau in the role. Irene Lau held the role since October 2018, following the arrest of her predecessor, Jackson Chang. Lau Wai Meng was the deputy director of the Economic Bureau, and has been in the public service since 1990. During his tenure, he has worked for departments which include the Labour Affairs Bureau, the Human Resources Office, and the Commission of Audit.

### LRT ACCEPTS MACAU PASS FROM TODAY

Passengers will be able to use Macau Pass for payment for the Taipa Light Rapid Transit (LRT) line from today, the company announced yesterday. The Macao Light Rapid Transit Corporation, hopes that this measure can make the movement of passengers "easier and more flexible." Passengers who use Macau Pass will also be able to enjoy the discount equivalent to when purchasing tokens for the LRT. Fares per trip vary between 1.5 to MOP2.5, while students, seniors and people with disabilities are exempted from paying fees.

### COMPOSITE CPI SLIGHTLY RISES IN APRIL

The Composite CPI for April (103.56) rose by 1.06% year-on-year, which was attributed to higher wages of domestic helpers, dearer charges for eating out and electricity, as well as increasing gasoline prices and airfares. The rise, however, was partially offset by lower rentals for housing, reduced charges for telecommunication services and falling prices of pork, according to the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). Price indices of Household Furnishings & Services and Transport in April grew by 11.02% and 7.64% year-on-year respectively, whereas the index of Communication fell by 10.34%.

# NO PLAN FOR HEALTH CENTERS, DRY MARKET, EXTRA PUBLIC CARPARK IN ZAPE: GOV'T

ANTHONY LAM

**T**HE government revealed that no health centers, dry markets, or extra public carparks are planned for the ZAPE district, amid the construction of new government buildings.

The information was given in a reply to lawmaker Ron Lam's inquiry, signed by Lai Weng Leong, director of the Land and Urban Construction Bureau (DSSCU).

In his inquiry, Lam pointed out that ZAPE residents had told him about the need for more facilities in the district. Lam expressed agreement with the residents, noting that the district has developed into a mature work and residential area in the past two to three decades.

ZAPE residents, for the time being, are assigned to receive basic medical services at the decades-old and relatively small Tap Seac Health Center. Lam feels that an extra health center is needed, as the Tap Seac facility is serving residents in the Central and Sou-



theast parts of the Macau Peninsula, a large population it was not designed to service.

In response to this, the DSSCU director cited the approved planning permit issued, which does not have the aforementioned facilities planned.

"The use of land plots No. 12 and 25 [...] is government facilities (office). Hence, health center,

public carpark and dry market or grocery supermarket are not within the approved scope of use," Lai pointed out in the reply. As for a government service center, relevant departments will make that decision.

Furthermore, citing the Health Bureau, Lai pointed out that there will be a health center in the New Urban Zone A. This zone, per per-

vious government expectations, will accommodate nearly 100,000 people.

It is unclear whether the government is hinting that ZAPE residents will receive medical services at the New Urban Zone A.

On the other hand, the lawmaker suggests that the government make better use of its retrieved land. He recommends that the government adopt the Singaporean model of letting the public use these pieces of land while acknowledging their national ownership.

In response to this, the DSSCU chief pointed to relevant bureaus, saying that they can file applications to use these plots of land for leisure and cultural purposes. He also pointed to the Master Urban Plan, which spans the years 2020 to 2040, for designation of leisure and cultural facilities.

Lam also asked why 33 out of 84 designated pieces of land had not been retrieved. Lai said the delays were mainly caused by legal disputes and resulting lawsuits.

# Macau Legend: No irregularity between Levo Chan and companies

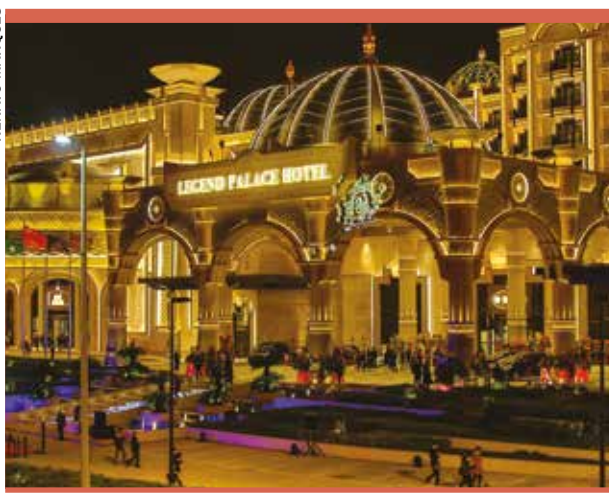
LYNZY VALLES

**A**N independent consultant of Macau Legend Development did not find any irregularity in the dealings between the company and Levo Chan or his related entities.

According to an announcement made by the firm, "having considered the findings of the independent consultant on the review, [...] the incident has no significant impact and does not affect the business operations of the company."

This comes after Macau Legend's board established a special committee on February 11, 2022 which appointed the in-

RENATO MARQUES



dependent consultant on March 5, 2022 to conduct a review, following the arrest of major shareholder and co-chairman Levo Chan in January this year.

The independent consultant has completed

the review covering the period from September 1, 2021 to January 31, 2022 and issued a report on its findings on May 19.

"Based on the findings of the independent consultant on the review,

while there were recurring and non-recurring business dealings between the company and Levo Chan, a controlling shareholder of the company and his related companies, the independent consultant did not note any irregularity in these dealings between the company and Mr. Chan or his related entities," Macau Legend stated in the announcement.

In January, Chan was arrested on suspicion of operating illegal online gambling and side-betting activities.

The police disclosed that in the follow-up investigation for a similar case last November, the

Suncity case, the authority discovered that the two suspects, Chan and Choi Wai Chan, president of Ying Hai Group, allegedly conducted illegal activities.

Following his arrest, Melinda Chan has been reappointed as the chief executive officer of Macau Legend.

Melinda Chan has been the executive director since March 26, 2020 and served as the company's chief executive officer between March 26, 2020 and December 29, 2020.

Macau Legend currently operates their casinos under a service agreement scheme, using the license owned by the concessionaire SJM Holdings Ltd.

In a statement following the arrest of Levo Chan, the company said that its daily operations would not be affected.

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# 10-year transport plan has lessons learned from Chongqing

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE new 10-year plan (2021-2030) for transport in Macau is a result of the government's learning from Hong Kong, Singapore, and mostly, Chongqing city in Sichuan Province, the director of the Transport Bureau (DSAT), Kelvin Lam Hin San said yesterday during a session dedicated to present the plan to the local legislators.

"Macau is going to learn from Chongqing," Lam said, adding that lessons observed from Singapore and Hong Kong were also taken into consideration in the drafting of the plan. The bottom line that determined the points of comparison between the cities is the fact that they have a public transport network grounded on railway transportation and interlinks to other public transportation, a path the government wants Macau to follow in the near future.

As Lam noted, the government wants to continue building a system in which public transport has a predominance over private transport, and in which the Light Rapid Transit (LRT) system, as well as a pedestrian network, take the main roles.

According to Lam who cited the document of public consultation that will be only officially revealed to the public today, "we predict that until 2030, the efficiency of the size of the LRT network will reveal itself," He additionally revealed that by 2030, the government expects the number

RENATO MARQUES



of passengers to grow from 2,880 per day in 2020 to 137,000 per day.

The plan forecasts that by 2030 the urban population of Macau will be around 791,000 people, which will make the total volume of commutes in Macau reach on average around 3.02 million per day.

To account for this forecast's findings, the government says that the only solution is to expand the LRT lines to become the main transportation method in Macau and complement it with a network of pedestrian flyovers and corridors that will interlink with major locations and other exist-

ing transport systems, namely public buses.

Lam said the conclusion of the link of the LRT from Taipa to Barra, via the Sai Van Bridge in 2024 and the conclusion of the Seac Pai Van and Hengqin lines in 2025, will contribute to the government's vision. When the two aforementioned link ups are complete, the LRT is projected to see a major leap forward in terms of use and transportation capacity.

## LAWMAKERS INTEREST STILL TO ROAD WORKS

In a session dedicated to hearing and responding to lawmakers' questions on the dra-

ft plan, the majority continued to express long-held concerns such

as the quantity and duration of roadworks that affect vehicle circulation across the city.

On the topic, the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário said that most of the ongoing works have to do with major structural developments that are strictly necessary for the development of Macau.

Rosário also added that while the government has been trying to ensure that all the commodity concessionaires do the necessary works simultaneously, sometimes this is not possible. "There are many concessionaires and some of these road works involve urgent matters so it is difficult to have them all [the concessionaires] at one time," he said. He offered the example of the electric power supplier CEM, saying, "If they don't solve an urgent matter immediately this might mean that people will have their power supply down."

To the many inquiries on the matter, Rosário noted, "The only way to better coordinate the roadworks is to reduce the pace of development, but in the end, we are all pushing [for] this to be done. Only if [we] drastically reduce the pace of the ongoing constructions will we be able to reduce the number of roadworks happening."

## LRT'S WEST LINE TO MOVE FORWARD

**ANOTHER** confirmation made yesterday in the presentation of the 10-year plan for transport 2021-2030 is that the so-called West line of the Light Rapid Transit (LRT) system linking Barra to the Border Gate through the inner harbor is moving forward.

The government stated that this project will have a major future impact on the use of the system. According to Lam, the line will

have a total length of six kilometers and stations every 500 meters, potentially being accountable for the transportation of some 250,000 people. However, he noted that for the time being this is only a preliminary plan. Lam later added that the priority is building the link between the Border Gate and the Lam Mau Docks, a section that will have a length of around two kilometers: one-third of the whole line.

## TRANSPORT PLAN

# Cable car to link Peninsula to Zone A draws surprise

RENATO MARQUES

**O**NE of the projects unveiled yesterday as part of the government's 10-year plan for transport 2021-2030 was the proposal to build a cable car that, according to director of the Transport Bureau (DSAT) Kelvin Lam Hin San, would link the Peninsula in the surroundings of the Macao Science Center to Zone A of the new landfills.

According to Lam, the idea is to create a system that goes beyond a mass transportation system and can be used for both commuting and as a tourist attraction. He noted that the

idea is inspired by the cable cars of the city of Chongqing which are mostly used to link the two banks of the river Yangtze.

Questioned on the matter by one of the lawmakers who expressed concern over the safety of the project, especially given wind gusts that often are felt in that area of Macau during monsoons and tropical storms, Lam said that this project does not replace the land link to the Zone A which was initially planned to be done as an underwater tunnel however, yesterday, the director of DSAT said that the government has not yet arrived at a

final decision on the matter.

"This is not an essential connection, the idea is to use the cable car as a tourist attraction but this is not a replacement for the road link between those pieces of land," Lam said.

More details on the 10-year transport plan will be known today when the public consultation on the plan will be officially launched.

As the government revealed yesterday, the public consultation will last for a period of 60 days, and all major developments in it are planned to be completed by 2030.



A cable car in Chongqing linking the two banks of Yangtze river



CRIME

# MAN ARRESTED FOR TAKING PICTURES AND DISTURBING FOUR WOMEN



ANTHONY LAM

A male mainland tourist has been arrested by the Public Security Police Force (PSP) following reports of his causing a disturbance amid covertly photographing and videoing four women.

At yesterday's regular press conference, a PSP spokesperson announced the case, and that the charge of illicit photography or videography had been pressed against him.

According to the police spokesperson, at about 6 p.m. on May 19, the PSP received a report regarding the case. Upon arrival, officers were told by four women that a male tourist from mainland China, Yang, aged in his 30s, had been following them and had allegedly taken pictures or videos of them.

The women, aged in their 20s, explained that at about 4:30 p.m. on May 19, two of them were waiting for their friends under the Eiffel Tower of the Parisian Hotel. There, they noticed the man reportedly aiming his phone camera at them.

After moving to the garden opposite the hotel, the four women realized that the man was still following them. As the man remained at a close distance, they arrived at the conclusion that it was likely he was photographing or videoing them.

After checking the man's phone, police officers found over 40 pictures and over 60 videos of the women, all of which were taken on May 19.

Moreover, the man confessed to the police, saying that because he found the four women attractive, he took pictures and videos of them.

### MAN SCAMS RMB35,000

In another case, the Judiciary Police (PJ) announced the arrest of a 33-year-old local man for scamming 35,000 Chinese yuan (approximately 43,000 patacas) from a man who was looking to apply for eight non-resident worker permits, colloquially referred to as "blue cards."

The case was first reported to

the PSP but referred to the PJ on May 5 due to its criminal nature. The suspect, Wong, was arrested May 19 in the Porto Exterior or NAPE District.

Upon reporting the case to the police, the victim, a mainland man whose identity and information was not disclosed by the PJ, recalled that he came across Wong in May 2019. Wong reportedly claimed to the victim that he had to necessary capability or network to obtain blue cards – thus the legality to work in Macau – on behalf of job seekers outside of Macau.

Nonetheless, in order to facilitate the procedure, Wong said that he would need 3,800 Chinese yuan (approximately 4,620 patacas) as a deposit, according to police disclosure.

Believing the man, the victim relayed the information to his friends and returned to Wong with 35,000 Chinese yuan (approximately 42,600 patacas) as down payments.

With the sum paid, the victim consistently requested Wong provide the promised blue cards, or at least updates on the applications. Wong, however, kept putting the victim off with a variety of excuses until eventually vanishing.

After his arrest, Wong confessed to committing the crime and that the money had been used to repay his own debts.

## FOOD SUPPLIER TAKES OWN LIFE AT COTAI RESORT LOADING DOCK

RENATO MARQUES

A supplier of food to an integrated resort located in Cotai was found dead on Saturday afternoon at the resort's loading dock, the Judiciary Police (PJ) announced.

According to the information released by the PJ, the police received a call around 4:15 p.m. on Saturday noting that a man's body was found at the loading dock.

In the preliminary investigation that followed, the PJ found that the body was discovered by a resort staff member who spotted the body and called authorities.

According to the staff member, the deceased man was familiar with the resort as the owner of one of the resort's food suppliers.

The employee told the PJ that he had arrived at the resort around 11 a.m. on the day to make a delivery.

He said that no one had noticed anything unusual about the man's behavior at that time, and that everything went smoothly and without problems.

No suspicious wounds or



signs of fighting or struggle were found on the deceased, apart from marks around his neck consistent with suicide.

The PJ said that no signs of crime were present at the scene, nor was there a suicide note.

The owner of the food supply company was a 69-year-old Macau resident.

The PJ statement said that the cause of death will be confirmed via forensic examination.

According to a message from the Public Security Police Force, received earlier on Saturday, the man was found in the loading dock of the Venetian Macao resort.

The Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) encourages residents to be aware of their psychological and emotional state as well as that of their relatives' and friends'. For support, residents can call Caritas' Life Hope hotline (28525777) or IAS' counseling hotline (28261126).

## MARCH AVERAGE PAY IN FINANCIAL INDUSTRY NEARS MOP30,000

According to a recent government survey, the average monthly earnings in March in the financial industry amounted to MOP29,890, excluding bonuses.

The survey gathered data from the industry, which covered the banking sector, other financial intermediation, insurance, and activities auxiliary to financial intermediation. Freelance intermediaries were not included in this survey.

At the end of the first quarter, there were 8,292 full-time employees in the industry.

As for sector-specific figures, the survey found that there were 7,055 employees in the banking sector, a year-on-year 1% rise. Workers in the sector earned MOP30,480 monthly on average, a year-on-year 2.9% rise. Two hundred forty-six people work in the other financial intermediation sector, with a 9.2% year-on-year fall in salary to MOP25,230 on average.

The insurance sector recorded a one-tenth



growth in the number of full-time workers. The sector had 740 such workers, who earned MOP30,780 on average, which equates to a 1.9% year-on-year increase.

Around 250 people worked in the activities auxiliary to financial intermediation sector, a drop of 14.9% year-on-year. With significantly reduced tourist arrivals compared to the pre-Covid period, currency exchange outlets in Macau

saw a labor force one-fifth smaller than the same period last year. However, remaining workers earned 0.8% more salary on average.

The industry reported to the government that it was in search of candidates with knowledge of Putschua and English, in addition to higher education degrees. Working experience is crucial for about half of the vacancies in the banking sector. **AL**



COVID-19

# Beijing considering 7+7 quarantine policy; HK, Macau yet to announce

LYNZY VALLES

**B**EIJING is reportedly considering implementing a 7+7 quarantine policy, which would allow overseas arrivals to stay at a designated medical observation facility for seven days, then stay at home for another seven days.

The easing of requirements comes in response to appeals from foreign investors and select multinational companies who have been briefed on the policy, according to sources, as cited in a report issued by South China Morning Post.

According to one of the Hong Kong media outlet's sources, the easing of border restrictions will reduce challenges for foreign businesses which have been hampered by difficulties in sending expats to China, due to the quarantine in place.

Earlier this month, Beijing cut the time that international arrivals are required to stay in qua-

XINHUA



rantine facilities to 10 days, with another seven days' mandatory isolation at home.

Beijing's quarantine policy for international arrivals was jointly announced by the city's offices for Hong Kong and Macau affairs and international affairs. No updates have been made regarding the reportedly upcoming policy as of press time. As cited in its latest adjustment dated May 7, the reduction to 10 days was made "in response to the Omicron variant, which is found to have a shorter incubation period and appears to

cause milder clinical symptoms."

The country has been implementing the zero-Covid policy since the early stages of the Covid-19 pandemic through various tactics, with the current strategy being a dynamic zero-Covid policy.

For Macau, authorities have said that zero-Covid policy is the "best option and should be continued."

### BEIJING'S WORK-FROM-HOME ORDER EXTENDED

Beijing extended orders for workers and students to stay

home and ordered additional mass testing yesterday as cases of Covid-19 again rose in the Chinese capital.

Numerous residential compounds in the city have restricted movement in and out, although conditions remain far less severe than in Shanghai, where millions of citizens have been under varying degrees of lockdown for two months, as cited in a report issued by the Associated Press.

Beijing yesterday reported an uptick in cases to 99, rising from

a previous daily average of around 50.

In total, China reported 802 new cases yesterday, marking a steady decline interrupted only by small-scale localized outbreaks. Despite that, the government has hewed to strict quarantine, lockdown and testing measures under its "zero-Covid" approach, even while the outside world is opening up.

Shanghai reported 480,000 people were still confined to their homes, while 1.59 million were permitted to move around their neighborhoods and 21.2 million were under lighter restrictions.

The reopening of transport links out of Shanghai created an exodus of migrant workers and foreigners, desperate to escape shortages of food, medicine and daily necessities. Among those who remain, many were still restricted to one hour of shopping time, entrusted with bringing home supplies for their entire building.

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STRAIT TENSIONS

# BIDEN SAYS US WOULD ACT MILITARILY TO DEFEND TAIWAN, BEIJING SLAMS COMMENTS

JOSH BOAK, AAMER MADHANI & ZEKE MILLER, TOKYO

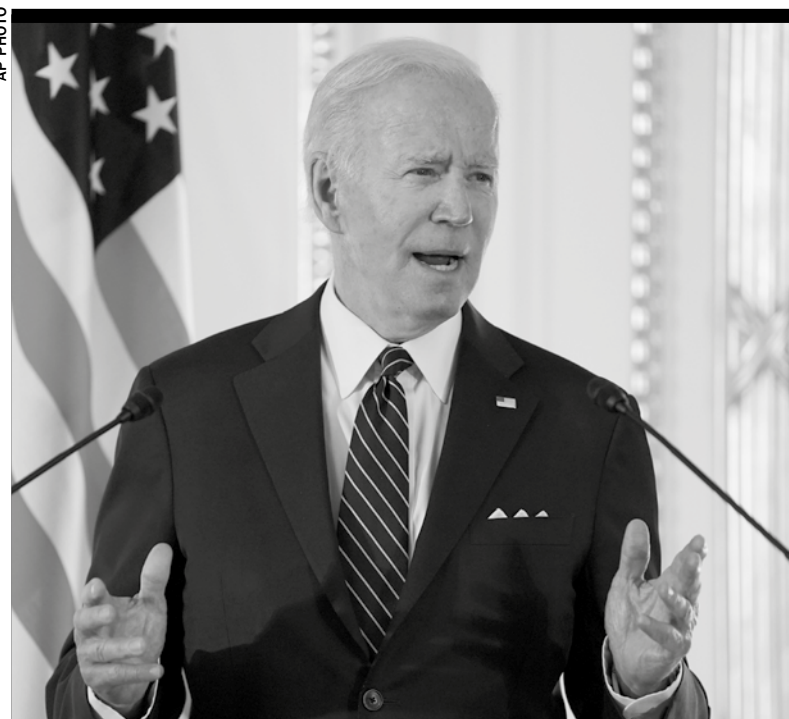
**P**RESIDENT Joe Biden said yesterday that the U.S. would intervene militarily if China were to invade Taiwan, saying the burden to protect Taiwan is "even stronger" after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. It was one of the most forceful presidential statements in support of self-governing in decades.

Biden, at a news conference in Tokyo, said "yes" when asked if he was willing to get involved militarily to defend Taiwan if China invaded. "That's the commitment we made," he added.

The U.S. traditionally has avoided making such an explicit security guarantee to Taiwan, with which it no longer has a mutual defense treaty, instead maintaining a policy of "strategic ambiguity" about how far it would be willing to go if China invaded. The 1979 Taiwan Relations Act, which has governed U.S. relations with the island, does not require the U.S. to step in militarily to defend Taiwan if China invades, but makes it American policy to ensure Taiwan has the resources to defend itself and to prevent any unilateral change of status in Taiwan by Beijing.

Biden's comments drew a sharp response from the mainland, which has claimed Taiwan to be a rogue province.

Chinese Foreign Ministry



U.S. President Joe Biden speaks during a press conference at Akasaka Palace

spokesperson Wang Wenbin expressed "strong dissatisfaction and resolute opposition" to Biden's comments. "China has no room for compromise or concessions on issues involving China's core interests such as sovereignty and territorial integrity."

He added, "China will take firm action to safeguard its sovereignty and security interests, and we will do what we say."

A White House official said Biden's comments did not reflect a policy shift.

Speaking alongside Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida,

Biden said any effort by China to use force against Taiwan would "just not be appropriate," adding that it "will dislocate the entire region and be another action similar to what happened in Ukraine."

China has stepped up its military provocations against democratic Taiwan in recent years aimed at intimidating it into accepting Beijing's demands to unify with the communist mainland.

"They're already flirting with danger right now by flying so close and all the maneuvers that are undertaken," Biden said of China.

Under the "one China" policy,

the U.S. recognizes Beijing as the government of China and doesn't have diplomatic relations with Taiwan. However, the U.S. maintains unofficial contacts including a de facto embassy in Taipei and supplies military equipment for the island's defense.

Biden said it is his "expectation" that China would not try to seize Taiwan by force, but he said that assessment "depends upon just how strong the world makes clear that that kind of action is going to result in long-term disapprobation by the rest of the community."

He added that deterring China from attacking Taiwan was one reason why it's important that Russian President Vladimir Putin "pay a dear price for his barbarism in Ukraine," lest China and other nations get the idea that such action is acceptable.

Fearing escalation with nuclear-armed Russia, Biden quickly ruled out putting U.S. forces into direct conflict with Russia, but he has shipped billions of dollars in U.S. military assistance that has helped Ukraine put up a stiffer-than-expected resistance to Russia's onslaught.

Taipei cheered Biden's remarks, with government spokesperson Joanne Ou expressing "sincere welcome and gratitude" for the comments.

"The challenge posed by China to the security of the Taiwan Strait has drawn great concern in the

international community," said Ou. "Taiwan will continue to improve its self-defense capabilities, and deepen cooperation with the United States and Japan and other like-minded countries to jointly defend the security of the Taiwan Strait and the rules-based international order, while promoting peace, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region."

It's not the first time Biden has pledged to defend Taiwan against a Chinese attack, only for administration officials to later claim there had been no change to American policy. In a CNN town hall in October, Biden was asked about using the U.S. military to defend Taiwan and replied, "Yes, we have a commitment to do that."

Biden's comments came just before he formally launched a long-anticipated Indo-Pacific trade pact that excludes Taiwan.

White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan confirmed Sunday that Taiwan isn't among the governments signed up for the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, which is meant to allow the U.S. to work more closely with key Asian economies on issues like supply chains, digital trade, clean energy and anticorruption.

Inclusion of Taiwan would have irked China.

Sullivan said the U.S. wants to deepen its economic partnership with Taiwan on a one-to-one basis. **MDT/AP**

'NOTHING TO HIDE'

# Xinjiang in focus as UN rights chief arrives for China visit

**A**LLEGATIONS of human rights abuses in northwestern China's Xinjiang region will dominate a visit by the United Nations' top rights official that began yesterday.

Michelle Bachelet's trip is the first to China by a U.N. high commissioner for human rights since 2005, and rights groups warn it threatens to whitewash abuses by the ruling Communist Party in Xinjiang.

Allegedly, China locked up an estimated million or more members of Uyghur, Kazakh and other Muslim minorities in what critics describe as a campaign to obliterate their distinct cultural identities. China says it has nothing to hide and



welcomes all those without political bias to visit Xinjiang and view what it describes as a successful campaign to restore order and ethnic cohesion.

Bachelet began her si-

x-day visit in the southern city of Guangzhou and will travel to the Xinjiang cities of Kashgar, once a stop on the Silk Road, and Urumqi, the region's capital. Details have been tightly held and

China's Communist Party-controlled media have not reported on her visit.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin confirmed Bachelet's arrival and said she would have "extensive exchanges with all sectors." No journalists will travel with her in China, but Bachelet will "brief the media on her visit in due course," Wang said at a daily briefing yesterday.

"I hope that this visit will further promote exchanges and cooperation between the two sides and play an active role in advancing the international human rights cause," he said.

A key question is whether Bachelet will be allowed to visit the former internment

camp that China called vocational training and education centers and meet with people imprisoned over calls for greater religious, political and cultural freedoms, such as Ilham Tohti, an economist and winner of the Sakharov Prize.

China has also been accused of using forced labor, coercive birth control and separating children from their incarcerated parents. The monitoring group The Dui Hua Foundation says fasting for Ramadan or selling Islamic books has also been targeted.

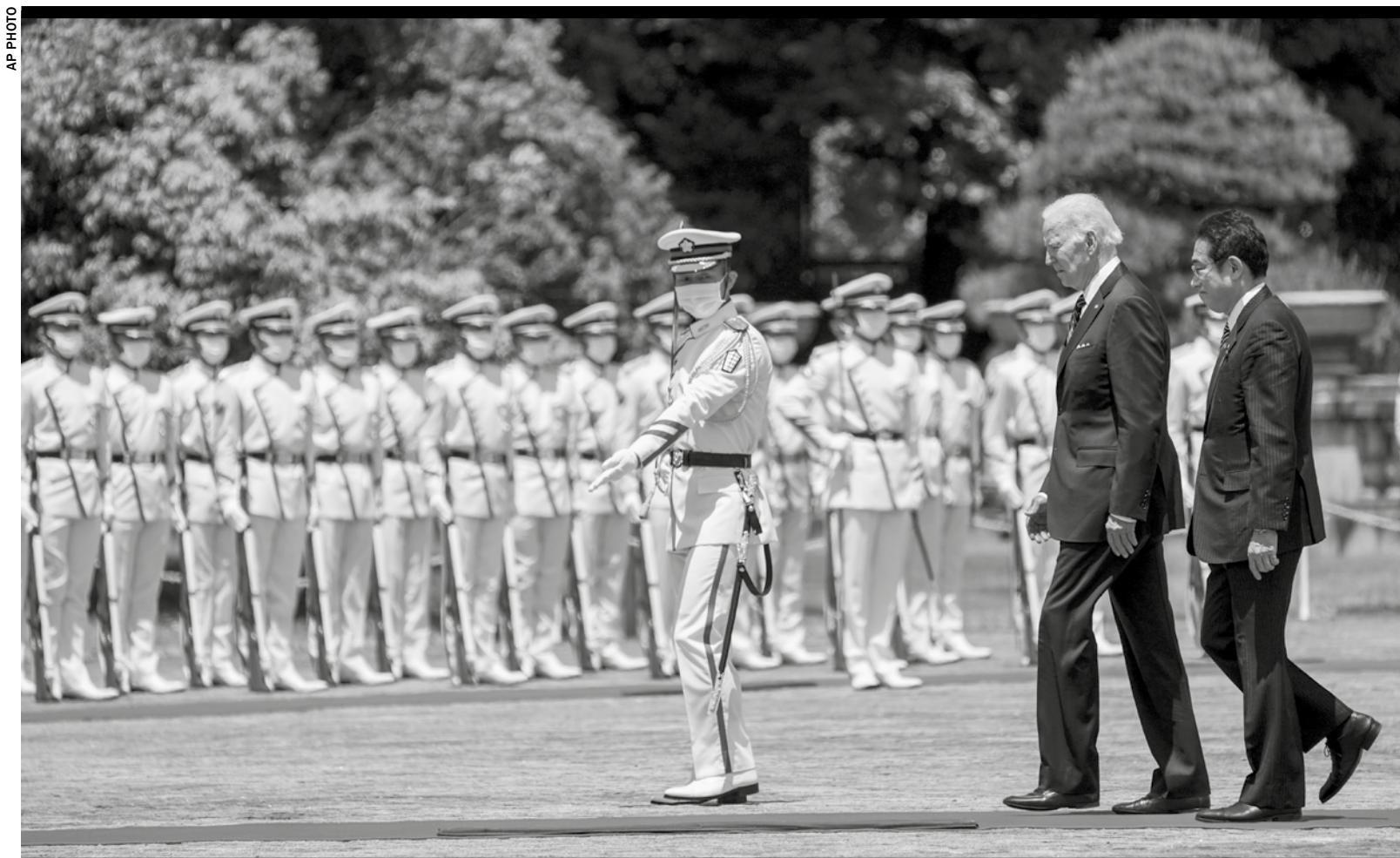
It's not clear whether Bachelet will be able to meet with officials who led the crackdown in Xinjiang, including former regional

party secretary Chen Quanguo, now an official in Beijing.

Bachelet, a former president of Chile, plans to speak with high-level national and local officials, civil society organizations, business representatives and academics, and deliver a lecture to students at Guangzhou University, her office said.

"Michelle Bachelet's long-delayed visit to Xinjiang is a critical opportunity to address human rights violations in the region, but it will also be a running battle against Chinese government efforts to cover up the truth," Amnesty International Secretary General Agnes Callamard said in a statement. **MDT/AP**





THE PACIFIC 13

# Biden launches Indo-Pacific trade deal, warns over inflation

JOSH BOAK & AAMER MADHANI, TOKYO

**P**RESIDENT Joe Biden launched a new trade deal with 12 Indo-Pacific nations yesterday aimed at strengthening their economies as he warned Americans worried about high inflation that it is “going to be a haul” before they feel relief. The president said he does not believe an economic recession is inevitable in the U.S.

Biden, speaking at a news conference after holding talks with Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, acknowledged the U.S. economy has “problems” but said they were “less consequential than the rest of the world has.”

He added: “This is going to be a haul. This is going to take some time.” In answer to a question, he rejected the idea a recession in the U.S. is inevitable.

His comments came just before Biden's launch of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework. His administration says the trade deal is designed to signal U.S. dedication to the contested economic sphere and to address the need for stability in commerce after disruptions caused by the pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Nations joining the U.S. in the pact are: Australia, Brunei, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and

Vietnam. Along with the United States, they represent 40% of world GDP.

The countries said in a joint statement that the pact will help them collectively “prepare our economies for the future” after the fallout from the pandemic and the war in Ukraine.

Biden and Kishida were joined for the launch event by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while representatives from the other countries appeared by video. Modi was in Tokyo for Tuesday's meeting of the Quad, a four-country security group that also includes the U.S., Japan and Australia.

The White House said the framework will help the United States and Asian economies work more closely on issues including supply chains, digital trade, clean energy, worker protections and anticorruption efforts. The details still need to be negotiated among the member countries, making it difficult for the administration

to say how this agreement would fulfill the promise of helping U.S. workers and businesses while also meeting global needs.

Critics say the framework has gaping shortcomings. It doesn't offer incentives to prospective partners by lowering tariffs or provide signatories with greater access to U.S. markets. Those limitations may not make the U.S. framework an attractive alternative to the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which moved forward without the U.S. after former President Donald Trump pulled out. China, the largest trading partner for many in the region, is also seeking to join TPP.

“I think a lot of partners are going to look at that list and say: ‘That's a good list of issues. I'm happy to be involved,’” said Matthew Goodman, a former director for international economics on the National Security Council during President Barack Obama's administration. But he said they

also may ask, “Are we going to get any tangible benefits out of participating in this framework?”

Kishida hosted a formal state welcome for Biden at Akasaka Palace, including a white-clad military honor guard and band in the front plaza. Reviewing the assembled troops, Biden placed his hand over his heart as he passed the American flag and bowed slightly as he passed the Japanese standard.

The Japanese premier took office last fall and is looking to strengthen ties with the U.S. and build a personal relationship with Biden. The two leaders ended their day with dinner at Kochuan, an iconic Tokyo restaurant on the grounds of a Japanese garden.

Kishida said at their meeting that he was “absolutely delighted” to welcome Biden to Tokyo on the first Asia trip of his presidency. Along with Biden, he drove a tough line against Russia over its invasion of Ukraine, saying the aggression “undermines the foundation of global order.”

Biden, who is in the midst of a five-day visit to South Korea and Japan, called the U.S.-Japanese alliance a “cornerstone of peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific” and thanked Japan for its “strong leadership” in standing up to Russia.

Kishida welcomed the new Biden trade pact but said he still hoped the president would recon-

sider the United States' position and return it to the Trans-Pacific pact that Trump withdrew from.

“We think it's desirable for the United States to return to the TPP,” he said.

The new pact comes at a moment when the administration believes it has the edge in its competition with Beijing. Bloomberg Economics published a report last week projecting U.S. GDP growth at about 2.8% in 2022 compared to 2% for China, which has been trying to contain the coronavirus through strict lockdowns while also dealing with a property bust. The slowdown has undermined assumptions that China would automatically supplant the U.S. as the world's leading economy.

“The fact that the United States will grow faster than China this year, for the first time since 1976, is a quite striking example of how countries in this region should be looking at the question of trends and trajectories,” said White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan.

The two leaders also met with families of Japanese citizens abducted by North Korea decades ago. The White House said Biden “expressed his deepest condolences for their suffering, and called on North Korea to right this historic wrong and provide a full accounting of the 12 Japanese nationals who remain missing.”

The launch of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, also known as IPEF, has been billed by the White House as one of the bigger moments of Biden's Asia trip and of his ongoing effort to bolster ties with Pacific allies. Through it all, administration officials have kept a close eye on China's growing economic and military might in the region.

In September the U.S. announced a new partnership with Australia and Britain called AUKUS that is aimed at deepening security, diplomatic and defense cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

The U.S. president has also devoted great attention to the informal alliance known as the Quad, formed during the response to the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami that killed some 230,000 people. Biden and fellow leaders from the alliance are set to gather Tuesday in Tokyo for their second in-person meeting in less than a year.

And earlier this month, Biden gathered representatives from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Washington for a summit.

Taiwan — which had sought membership in the IPEF framework — isn't among the governments that will be included. Sullivan said the U.S. wants to deepen its economic partnership with Taiwan, including on high technology issues and semiconductor supply on a one-to-one basis. MDT/AP



PUTIN'S WAR

# Russia presses Donbas attacks as Polish leader praises Kyiv

ELENA BECATOROS,  
OLEKSANDR STASHEVSKYI  
& RICARDO MAZALAN, KYIV

AP PHOTO



Volunteers from Belarus practice at a shooting range near Warsaw, Poland

**R**USSIA pressed its offensive in eastern Ukraine on Sunday as Poland's president traveled to Kyiv to support the country's European Union aspirations, becoming the first foreign leader to address the Ukrainian parliament since the start of the war.

Lawmakers gave a standing ovation to President Andrzej Duda, who thanked them for the honor of speaking where "the heart of a free, independent and democratic Ukraine beats." Duda said that to end the conflict, Ukraine did not need to submit to conditions given by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"Unfortunately, in Europe there have also been disturbing voices in recent times demanding that Ukraine yield to Putin's demands," he said. "I want to say clearly: Only Ukraine has the right to decide about its future. Only Ukraine has the right to decide for itself."

Duda's visit, his second to Kyiv since April, came as Russian and Ukrainian forces battled along a 551-kilometer (342-mile) wedge of the country's eastern industrial heartland.

After declaring full control of a sprawling seaside steel plant that was the last defensive holdout in the port city of Mariupol, Russia launched artillery and missile attacks to expand the territory that Moscow-backed separatists have held since 2014 in the region known as the Donbas.

To bolster its defenses, Ukraine's parliament voted Sunday to extend martial law and the mobilization of armed forces for a third time, until Aug. 23.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has stressed that the 27-member EU should expedite his country's request to join the bloc. Ukraine's potential candidacy is set to be discussed at a Brussels summit in late June.

France's European Affairs minister Clement Beaune on Sunday told Radio J it would be a "long time" before Ukraine gains EU membership, perhaps up to two decades.

"We have to be honest," he said. "If you say Ukraine is going to join the EU in six

months, or a year or two, you're lying."

But Poland is ramping up efforts to win over EU members who are more hesitant about accepting Ukraine into the bloc. Zelenskyy said Duda's visit represented a "historic union" between Ukraine, which declared independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, and Poland, which ended communist rule two years earlier.

"This is really a historic opportunity not to lose such strong relations, built through blood, through Russian aggression," Zelenskyy said. "All this not to lose our state, not to lose our people."

Poland has welcomed millions of Ukrainian refugees and become a gateway for Western humanitarian aid and weapons into Ukraine. It is also a transit point for some foreign fighters who have volunteered to fight the Russian forces.

Duda credited the U.S. and President Joe Biden for unifying the West in supporting Ukraine and imposing sanctions against Moscow.

"Kyiv is the place from which one clearly sees that we need more America in Europe, both in the military and in this economic dimension," said Duda, a right-wing populist leader who clearly preferred former President Donald Trump over Biden in the 2020 election.

On the battlefield, Russia appeared to have made slow, grinding advances in the Donbas in recent days. It intensified efforts to capture Sievierodonetsk, the main city under Ukrainian control in Luhansk province, which together with Donetsk province makes up the Donbas. The Ukrainian

military said Sunday that Russian forces had mounted an unsuccessful attack on Oleksandrivka, a village outside of Sievierodonetsk.

Sieverodonetsk came under heavy shelling, and Luhansk Gov. Serhii Haidai said the Russians were "simply intentionally trying to destroy the city... engaging in a scorched-earth approach."

Haidai said Moscow was concentrating forces and weaponry there to try to win control of Luhansk, bringing in forces from Kharkiv to the northwest, Mariupol to the south, and from inside Russia.

The conflict was not confined to Ukraine's east. Powerful explosions were heard yesterday, for example, in Korosten, about 160 kilometers west of Kyiv, the town's deputy mayor said. It was the third straight day of apparent attacks in the Zhytomyr District, Ukrainian news agencies reported.

In Enerhodar, a Russian-held city 281 kilometers northwest of Mariupol, an explosion Sunday injured the Moscow-appointed mayor at his residence, Ukrainian and Russian news agencies reported. Ukraine's Unian news agency said a bomb planted by "local partisans" wounded 48-year-old Andrei Shevchuk, who lives near the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, Europe's largest.

With Russia claiming to have taken prisoner nearly 2,500 Ukrainian fighters from the Mariupol steel plant, concerns grew about their fate and that of the remaining residents of the city, now in ruins with more than 20,000 feared dead.

Relatives of the fighters have pleaded for them to be given

rights as prisoners of war and eventually returned to Ukraine. Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk said Ukraine "will fight for the return" of every one of them.

Denis Pushilin, the pro-Kremlin head of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic, vowed that the Ukrainian fighters from the plant would face tribunals.

The complete seizure of the Azovstal steel plant, a symbol of Ukrainian tenacity, gave Putin a badly wanted victory in the war he began nearly three months ago, on Feb. 24. Ukraine's military had told the fighters their mission was complete and they could come out. It described their extraction as an evacuation, not a mass surrender.

Mariupol Mayor Vadim Boychenko warned that the city faces a health and sanitation "catastrophe" from mass burials in shallow pits and the breakdown of sewage systems. An estimated 100,000 of the 450,000 people who lived in Mariupol before the war remain.

Ukrainian authorities have alleged Russian atrocities there, including the bombings of a maternity hospital and a theater where hundreds of civilians had taken cover.

Meanwhile, A Ukrainian court sentenced a 21-year-old Russian soldier to life in prison yesterday for killing a civilian, sealing the first conviction for war crimes since Moscow's invasion three months ago.

Sgt. Vadim Shishimarin pleaded guilty to shooting a 62-year-old man in the head in a village in the northeastern Sumy region in the early days of the war. MDT/AP

## this day in history

### 1989 YORKSHIRE RIPPER'S WIFE WINS DAMAGES



A jury at the High Court in London has awarded £600,000 damages to Sonia Sutcliffe, wife of the Yorkshire Ripper Peter Sutcliffe, against the satirical magazine Private Eye.

The award is £100,000 more than the previous record British libel sum.

Mrs Sutcliffe, who is legally separated from her husband, made no comment. She left the court shrouded in a blanket.

She will get £25,000 of the award immediately and the rest pending the appeal which will be lodged straightaway by Private Eye.

Its editor, Ian Hislop, said the magazine may go out of business and will be appealing to the magazine's readers for financial assistance.

He pointed out the award was 100 times larger than that awarded to three of Sutcliffe's victims.

On the steps of the court he said: "If that's justice, then I'm a banana."

In 1981 Sutcliffe was jailed for life for killing 13 women. When he was first arrested and charged, Private Eye accused Mrs Sutcliffe of doing a deal with the Daily Mail worth £250,000.

They said there had been a squalid race to buy her story and claimed she had negotiated with the press to profit from her fame as the wife of a serial killer.

Mrs Sutcliffe's defence lawyers said she had done no such deal because she did not want to capitalise on what her husband had done.

She had been plunged into a living nightmare of media attention but had rejected all financial offers even though they could have given her a new life.

Famous libel lawyer Peter Carter-Ruck said the award was disproportionate and called for the libel laws to be changed. He said juries should be guided by the judge on the sums they award.

Two years ago the former Conservative MP Jeffrey Archer was awarded £500,000 from the Daily Star over allegations that he slept with a prostitute.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The damages were later reduced to £60,000 on appeal.

As for Jeffrey - now Lord - Archer, he was jailed for four years in July 2001 after being found guilty of perverting the course of justice and lying in his 1987 libel trial against the Daily Star and News of the World newspapers.

He has agreed to pay more than £1.8m in damages, costs and interest.

Huge awards granted to libel defendants were common in the late 1980s. Although libel law has not been reformed on paper, in practice, damages awarded these days are much more realistic. Those that are regarded as excessive are usually reduced on appeal.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

 <b>ARIES</b> Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Don't overspend on children or on large purchases. Your lover will be extremely sensitive and now will not be a good time to make changes that they won't like.	 <b>TAURUS</b> Apr. 20-May. 20 Travel will be most enticing. Consider a cruise. Your best efforts will come through investments concerning your home. Uncertainty regarding your mate may emerge; reevaluate what you see in each other.
 <b>GEMINI</b> May. 21-Jun. 21 You need time to put your house in order and sort out what you are going to do about your personal direction. Romance is likely if you can bring yourself to go out with friends.	 <b>CANCER</b> Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Be prepared to have relatives introduce you to new and exciting individuals. Travel opportunities must be taken advantage of. You can make headway in the workforce if you put your mind to it.
 <b>LEO</b> Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Extend an invitation to clients you enjoy spending time with. Hard work will not go unnoticed. Go out with friends who are positive and supportive.	 <b>VIRGO</b> Aug. 23-Sep. 22 Relatives may play an important role in your personal life. You must look into your options. You may be overly emotional when dealing with your mate.
 <b>LIBRA</b> Sep. 23-Oct. 22 You need to spend some time pampering yourself. You may want to get involved in financial investments presented to you. Read between the lines before you sign your name.	 <b>SCORPIO</b> Oct. 23-Nov. 21 Offer good conversation and a nice soothing lunch. Make those phone calls and pay your bills. Heart to heart talks will clear up vague issues.
 <b>SAGITTARIUS</b> Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Don't overlook that fact that someone you care about may be hiding something. You can make some money if you get involved in a conservative financial prospect that is presented to you.	 <b>CAPRICORN</b> Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Finish up any correspondence by early afternoon. Offers of joint ventures are likely. Things will be hectic and family members will be erratic.
 <b>AQUARIUS</b> Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Deception in your home is evident. Don't beat around the bush. Don't be too quick to judge those you live with. Your hard work will payoff; advancement looks positive.	 <b>PISCES</b> Feb. 19-Mar. 20 Romance will unfold through business trips. This will not be the day to lend money to friends or family. If you can put some work into home improvements, you should.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sanson**



**SUDOKU**

<b>EASY</b>					<b>EASY+</b>							
5	2		4		7		8	5	4	7		
		7	1	8	2	7			1	9		
8		3	2		4	5	9	3	4			
			6	5	4	3	2		8		1	
	9	8	3		6	1		2		9		
3	1	6		4			8			5	2	
		3	8	1		9			7	6	3	9
	5		9	3	7			2	4			6
9		2				7	1	3	6		1	2

<b>MEDIUM</b>					<b>HARD</b>						
9		4		6		7				2	
	1				5			8	4		
				2		7			5		
4		2	7						2	6	4
3	9				7	8		8		5	
				5	3	4	1				
8		5					6		3		
		3				5	2				5
		9		1		6			1		8

**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	20	33	cloudy
Changchun	14	31	cloudy
Chengdu	17	25	overcast
Chongqing	18	28	cloudy
Fuzhou	19	23	rain
Guangzhou	24	28	rain
Guiyang	13	19	rain
Haikou	25	32	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	19	25	overcast
Harbin	15	30	fine
Hefei	16	30	cloudy
Nanjing	21	28	overcast
Shanghai	19	24	cloudy
Taipei	22	26	rain
Wuhan	19	29	cloudy
Hong Kong	23	26	rain
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	2	8	cloudy
Frankfurt	8	20	rain
Paris	9	19	rain
London	9	17	showers
New York	13	19	cloudy

**CROSSWORDS**

ACROSS 1- Quartz grains; 5- Like chain saws; 10- Humble; 14- Away from the wind; 15- Aquarium buildup; 16- Garden site; 17- Fall faller; 18- Orchestra string; 19- Actress Singer; 20- Outside; 22- Elevated; 24- Society page word; 25- French cleric; 26- Topeka's state; 29- Casual shoes; 33- Bendable twig, usually of a willow tree; 34- Langston Hughes poem; 36- Kareem, once; 37- "\_\_\_ Ventura" was played by Jim Carrey; 38- Trick; 39- U.S. law enforcement agency; 40- Fond du \_\_\_\_, Wis.; 41- Commedia dell' \_\_\_\_, 42- \_\_\_ Irish Rose; 44- Anthropoid; 47- Soak; 48- Not a dup.; 49- Disencumber; 50- Operatic soprano; 53- Submissive to authority; 58- Earth Day subj.; 59- Former Russian rulers; 61- Glimpse; 62- Estimator's phrase; 63- Tapestry; 64- "You are \_\_\_"; 65- Ooze; 66- Beastly; 67- Counterfeiter catcher;


DOWN 1- Ad word; 2- "Family Ties" character; 3- Cool!; 4- Protection; 5- Fleets; 6- Assortment; 7- Aviation pioneer Sikorsky; 8- Gal of song; 9- High school memento; 10- Conviction; 11- Hullabaloo; 12- Parched; 13- The wife of Geraint in Arthurian lore; 21- The back end of something; 23- Attorney's org.; 25- Home \_\_\_\_; Culkin movie; 26- Eucalyptus eater; 27- Tin Pan Alley org.; 28- One who cries "uncle?"; 30- Pixyish; 31- Renaissance fiddle; 32- Rustle, as silk; 34- Like some vbs.; 35- Tasteless items, junk; 38- Republic in S Asia; 42- Desertlike; 43- Array; 45- Move with a bounding motion; 46- A Gershwin; 47- Stylish; 50- Corp. bigwigs; 51- Plot unit; 52- Shake; 53- Long objects used to row a boat; 54- \_\_\_ Pack; young 1980s actors; 55- K-6; 56- "A Doll's House" heroine; 57- Revenuers, for short; 60- Madrid Mrs.;

**Yesterday's solution**

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

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Fire department 28 572 222	Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993	Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775	Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333	Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
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	



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WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

# ZELENSKY URGES 'MAXIMUM' SANCTIONS ON RUSSIA IN DAVOS TALK

JAMEY KEATEN, DAVOS

**U**KRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called for "maximum" sanctions against Russia during a virtual speech yesterday to corporate executives, government officials and other elites on the first day of the World Economic Forum gathering in Davos.

He said sanctions need to go further to stop Russia's aggression, including an oil embargo, blocking all of its banks and cutting off trade with Russia completely. He said that it's a precedent that would work for decades to come.

"This is what sanctions should be: They should be maximum, so that Russia and every other potential aggressor that wants to wage a brutal war against its neighbor would clearly know the immediate consequences of their actions," Zelenskyy said through a translator.

He also pushed for the complete withdrawal of foreign companies from Russia to prevent supporting its war and said Ukraine needs at least \$5 billion in funding per month.

"The amount of work is enormous: we have more than half a trillion of dollars in losses, tens of thousands of facilities were destroyed. We need to rebuild entire cities and industries," Zelenskyy said, coming days after the Group of Seven leading economies agreed to provide \$19.8 billion in economic aid.

He said that if Ukraine had "received 100% of our needs at once, back in February" in terms of weapons, funding, political support and sanctions against Russia, "the



result would be tens of thousands of lives saved."

Zelenskyy's speech is a key focus at Davos, the village in the Swiss Alps that has been transformed into a glitzy venue for the four-day confab ostensibly dedicated to making the world a better place. The event is resuming in person after a two-year hiatus because of the COVID-19 pandemic, which also delayed this year's meeting from its usual winter slot.

For the attendees, there's much to tackle amid soaring food and fuel prices, Russia's war in Ukraine, climate change, inequality and persistent health crises. But it's hard to predict if the high-minded discussions will yield substantial announcements that make headway on the world's most pressing challenges.

"This war is really a turning point of history, and it will reshape our political and our economic landscape in the coming years," said the event's founder, Klaus Schwab.

Zelenskyy, who received a standing ovation after this remarks, reiterated that Russia was blocking critical food supplies, such as wheat and sunflower oil, from leaving its ports.

Ukraine, along with Russia, is a major exporter of wheat, barley and sunflower oil, and the interruption of those supplies is threatening food insecurity in countries in Africa, the Middle East and parts of Asia that rely on those affordable supplies.

The head of the U.N.'s World Food Program said in a panel that "the failure to open the ports is a

declaration of war on global food systems." He told The Associated Press that the region's farmers "grow enough food to feed 400 million people."

If such supplies remain off the market, the world could face a food availability problem in the next 10 to 12 months, and "that is going to be hell on earth," WFP Executive Director David Beasley told the AP in an interview.

He warned that there are "49 million (people) knocking on famine's door right now in 43 countries," including Yemen, Lebanon, Mali, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Congo, Guatemala and El Salvador.

Beasley called on the world's top mega-billionaires to aid efforts to prevent hunger: "The world is in real serious trouble. This is not rhetoric and B.S. Step up now,

because the world needs you."

Besides Zelenskyy's speech, a sizable Ukrainian government delegation is attending in person, making their case for more Western support in the country's fight against Russia.

Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko pointed to the audience during a panel with his brother, Wladimir, and said, "We are defending you personally."

"We are fighting, first of all, for values" and to be part of the democratic world, Vitali Klitschko said. "And right now everyone has to be proactive because we pay for that — the biggest prize, human lives every day."

Russian officials have not been invited to Davos this year, with what was dubbed the "Russia House" having been transformed by critics — including Ukrainian tycoon Victor Pinchuk and the country's Foreign Ministry — into what they call the "Russia War Crimes House." The venue features photos of crimes and cruelties that Russian forces are accused of perpetuating.

Meanwhile, the head of the International Energy Agency urged countries and investors not to see energy shocks from the war as a reason to increase fossil fuel investments — connecting the invasion to another major theme at Davos, climate and environmental issues.

"We should not try to justify a new wave of long-term fossil fuel investments on the basis of what (Russian President Vladimir) Putin did," Fatih Birol said on an energy panel.

Instead, efficiencies, such as reducing leaked methane and even lowering thermostats by a few degrees this winter in Europe would help ensure adequate energy supply.

Russia is a major supplier of oil and natural gas, with the invasion sending European countries scrambling to reduce their reliance on Moscow's supplies. **MDT/AP**

## CORPORATE BITS

### IKEA launches summer campaign with shopping rewards



IKEA Hong Kong and Macau stores have launched its "Chill Summer with a Twist" campaign, which includes shopping rewards.

Until June 12, those who take photos at the cam-

aign's designated "Fun Photo Corners" in Macau IKEA stores, upload the photos to their Instagram with the location tag, and use one of the campaign hashtags will have a chance to

win an IKEA gift card worth MOP1,000.

The campaign hashtags include #IKEASingleFUN for portraits, #IKEADoubleFUN for couple photos, and #IKEATripleFUN for group photos of three people or more.

A total of six winners for the most creative photo in each category from both Hong Kong and Macau will be announced on June 13.

The campaign also includes shopping offers where, until June 12, by presenting a receipt on the same day of a single purchase of MOP100 or more, shoppers can receive the "Chill Summer with a Twist" stickers and a MOP20 coupon.

### MGM holds blessing ceremony for dragon boat team



MGM held the annual blessing ceremony for its Dragon Boat Team at the Nam Van Lake Nautical Center, extending best wishes to 56 MGM

team members.

Comprised of over 85% of local employees, the Dragon Boat Team will compete across three categories.

MGM Dragon Boat Team achieved extraordinary results at the Macao International Dragon Boat Races 2021. With its exceptional capability and perseverance, the Golden Lion Team won two first runner's-up in the Macao Standard Dragon Boat Race – Women Category (500m) and Macau Small Dragon Boat Race – Women Category (200m).

Fong Wai Bing, one of the members of the women's team, said, "With the undivided support of our company, we devoted ourselves to months of intensive training, striving to carry out our best performance and attain good results in the coming races."



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

FOOTBALL

# Man City wins sixth EPL title in 11 seasons in dramatic finale

ROB HARRIS, MANCHESTER

MAN CITY 3, ASTON VILLA 2

Manchester City scored three goals in five minutes to turn around a tense and dramatic season finale and clinch a sixth Premier League title in 11 seasons, rallying to beat Aston Villa 3-2 and hold off Liverpool's challenge late Sunday.

After starting the day in first place, City was at risk of a historic choke when it conceded twice to trail 2-0 at home to Villa.

Ilkay Gündoan's header began the comeback in the 76th minute and Rodri equalized two minutes later by placing the ball through a tight gap into the bottom corner. The Etihad Stadium erupted in celebrations in the 81st when Gündoan tapped in Kevin De Bruyne's cross.

"It was an unbelievable game," Gündoan said. "We are human beings and, after going 2-0 down, the chances were just very, very

AP PHOTO



small. But we had to do the simple things and scoring two goals quickly and then having 10 minutes to score the third one gave us the right lift."

The importance of that goal became clearer moments later. Liverpool had been locked at 1-1 against Wolverhampton but

Mohamed Salah then put the second-place team 2-1 in front in the 84th minute. That scoreline would have taken Liverpool into first place had City not just mounted its fightback to take the lead.

The jeopardy was still there — with Andy Robertson sealing Liverpool's 3-1 win — while City

would have conceded the title had it conceded a late equalizer.

City got itself into jeopardy — against a lowly team with little to play for — when Matty Cash headed Villa in front in the 37th and former Liverpool star Philippe Coutinho extended the lead in the 69th to the shock of City's players.

Gündoan had arrived from the bench a minute earlier, among Pep Guardiola's second-half substitutions that would transform the game in City's favor.

"He came on and changed the whole game," City midfielder Phil Foden said. "He always knows where the ball is going to be in and around the box. He's such a clever player."

City retained the trophy by a single point after the 38th and final game in a manner that was more jittery than expected considering City briefly had a 14-point lead in January.

"We are legends," Guardiola said. "When you win four in five then it's because these guys are so special. We will be remembered."

This was the first time since Guardiola took charge in 2016 that City has sealed the title in front of its own fans who spilled onto the field in their thousands at the final whistle against Villa.

Although it went down to the wire, it wasn't as agonizingly late as 10 years ago when City's first Premier League title was only clinched with stoppage-time goals at the end of the season at the Etihad.

"This is the Man City spirit," departing captain Fernandinho said. "You never give up. You always go to the end. It happened 10 years ago and it's happened again." MDT/AP

AD

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**OPINION**

**China Daily**

Timothy Kerswell, China Daily



**THE SAME BUT DIFFERENT:  
 AUSTRALIA ELECTS A NEW  
 GOVERNMENT**

Australia's election returned the result of the Australian Labor Party coming to power. At this point it's unsure whether the Labor Party will be able to secure a majority government, or whether it will need to negotiate on matters of policy with independents or smaller parties.

The election was a thorough rejection of the values of the Liberal/National coalition in many areas of policy such as environmental policy and gender equality policy. It saw the defeat of many high-profile Liberal Party members of parliament.

Anthony Albanese will become the new prime minister of Australia with the cabinet to be announced on May 25. The new government has promised a new style of politics eschewing cynicism in favor of consensus and unity based approaches. The former Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating was famous for saying, "Change the Government, Change the Country," but what will really change about Australia with the change of government?

Aside from trying to form a majority in parliament, the new government will immediately face a number of difficulties. From a political standpoint, less than one in three people voted for the Australian Labor Party as their first preference and the party actually lost vote share compared to 2019, becoming the government only because the Liberal/National coalition lost even worse. [...]

As an opposition party, it was easy for the Australian Labor Party to use [the current economic instability] as a stick with which to beat the Liberal/National government. But these pressures will remain when the new government takes office.

After deciding to "live with the virus" and liberalize any systems of control, Australia is now the most infected country in the world per capita and that's before heading into its winter cold and influenza season. Lost work days caused by widespread illness are likely to plague Australia's attempts at economic recovery.

With the Russia-Ukraine conflict likely to define 2022, Australia's fuel and fertilizer dependent economy will continue to be hard hit by the soaring prices of these commodities and the knock on effect they have on cost of living pressures.

It's possible that a Labor government will be less enthusiastic about the Morrison government's ill-fated military support of Ukraine. It may confine itself to rhetorical virtue signalling rather than converting public money into easy targets for the armed forces of the Russian Federation. None of this will alter the self-defeating impact that Western sanctions are having on the global economy right now as the world edges into a food crisis.

Could the new Labor government try to improve relations with China as a road out of its economic instability? It could, but I wouldn't be too optimistic. The Australian Labor Party has normally echoed the former government's hawkish rhetoric on China.

The first foreign policy act of the new prime minister will be attending the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) meeting in Tokyo. Not great symbolism due to its obvious anti-China orientation. Observers will be watching for any changes in the behavior of the new prime minister and likely Foreign Minister Penny Wong compared to their predecessors.

China is likely to show patience with the new government as it did with the incoming Biden administration in the United States and hope that it isn't similarly disappointed by a continuation of aggression from the Australian side. But most of the key drivers of Australia's policy negativity toward China have not been affected by this election result.

Anti-China slogans were widespread across the political spectrum during the recent election campaign, with Australian politics seeming to have trapped itself into a position where no candidate can afford to be seen as anything other than aggressive.

It would be a bold move for the new government to adopt a more pragmatic and balancing approach to China in contrast to the confrontation that defined the former Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's and then the Morrison coalition governments, leading the electorate to a better thought space. [Abridged]

A veteran Russian diplomat to the U.N. Office at Geneva says he handed in his resignation before sending out a scathing letter to foreign colleagues inveighing against the "aggressive war unleashed" by President Vladimir Putin in Ukraine.

Boris Bondarev, 41, confirmed his resignation in a letter delivered yesterday at the Russian diplomatic mission after a diplomatic official passed on his English-language statement to The Associated Press.

"For twenty years of my diplomatic career I have seen different turns of our foreign policy, but never have I been so ashamed of my country

as on Feb. 24 of this year," he wrote, alluding to the date of Russia's invasion.

Reached by phone, Bondarev – a diplomatic counselor who has focused on Russia's role in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva after postings in places like Cambodia and Mongolia – confirmed he handed in his resignation in a letter addressed to Ambassador Genady Gatilov.

A spokesman for the mission didn't immediately respond to calls and a text message from the AP seeking comment.



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz

**GERMAN CHANCELLOR  
 SCHOLZ KICKS OFF  
 AFRICA TRIP IN SENEGAL**

**BABACAR DIONE &  
 FRANK JORDANS,  
 DAKAR**

**G**ERMAN Chancellor Olaf Scholz said his country is interested in a major gas exploitation project in Senegal as he began a three-nation visit to Africa on Sunday that also is focused on the geopolitical consequences of the war in Ukraine.

Senegal is believed to have significant deposits of natural gas along its border with Mauritania at a time when Germany and other European countries are trying to reduce their dependence on importing Russian gas.

"We have begun exchanges and we will continue our efforts at the level of experts because it is our wish to achieve progress," Scholz said at a joint news briefing with Senegalese President Macky Sall.

The gas project off the coast of Senegal is being led by BP, and the first barrels are not expected until next year.

This week's trip marks

Scholz's first to Africa since becoming chancellor nearly six months ago. Two of the countries he is visiting — Senegal and South Africa — have been invited to attend the Group of 7 summit in Germany at the end of June.

Participants there will try to find a common position toward Russia, which was kicked out of the then-Group of Eight following its 2014 seizure of Crimea from Ukraine.

Leaders at the G-7 summit also will be addressing the threat of climate change. Several G-7 countries, including Germany and the United States, signed a 'just energy transition partnership' with South Africa last year to help the country wean itself off heavily polluting coal.

A similar agreement is in the works with Senegal, where Germany has supported the construction of a solar farm.

German officials also said Scholz will make a stop in Niger, a country that like its neighbors has long been battling Islamic extremists.

Earlier this month, the German government backed a plan to move hundreds of its soldiers to Niger from neighboring Mali. The development comes amid a deepening political crisis in Mali that prompted former colonial power France to announce it was withdrawing its troops after nine years of helping Mali battle insurgents.

Germany officials say their decision also was motivated by concerns that Malian forces receiving EU training could cooperate with Russian mercenaries now operating in the country.

Germany, though, will increase its participation in a U.N. peacekeeping mission in Mali, providing up to 1,400 soldiers. The Cabinet's decisions still need to be approved by parliament.

Niger is also a major transit hub for illegal migration to Europe. People from across West Africa connect with smugglers there to make the journey northward to attempt the dangerous trip across the Mediterranean Sea. **MDT/AP**



**India** Pre-monsoon deluges have flooded parts of India and Bangladesh, killing at least 24 people in recent weeks and sending 90,000 people into shelters, authorities said yesterday. Both heavily populated nations in South Asia are prone to frequent floods and are considered major victims of climate change. The deaths have been reported since April 6 in India's northeastern region, with Assam state continuing to experience floods. Those who have left their homes due to the floods are staying in 269 camps set up by authorities.



**Pakistan** launched a new anti-polio drive yesterday, more than a week after officials detected the third case so far this year in the country's northwestern region bordering Afghanistan. The campaign — the third one this year — is to last for five days, aiming to inoculate 40 million children under the age of 5 across the country. Pakistan has previously carried out two anti-polio campaigns this year, in January and March, after discovering only one case of the disease last year, which raised hopes the country was close to eliminating polio.



**France** There will be "zero tolerance" for sexual misconduct by members of French President Emmanuel Macron's new government, but the judiciary, not the press, will decide the truth, a government spokeswoman said after press coverage of yesterday's first Cabinet meeting focused on a minister who has been accused of rape. Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne, met Sunday evening with Damien Abad (pictured), who is in charge of French policies for the disabled, to discuss allegations by two women who claimed that he assaulted them over a decade ago. He has firmly denied the accusations.