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**THE BODY OF A MAN HAS BEEN FOUND FLOATING IN THE SEA OFF AVENIDA MARGINAL FLOR DE LOTUS IN TAIPA, POLICE REPORT**

**HARD TO DETERMINE IF SPECIAL SALARY SCHEMES ARE TRULY VOLUNTARY: TRADE UNION**

**CHINA LAUNCHES MISSION TO COMPLETE SPACE STATION ASSEMBLY**



AP PHOTO



**Philippines** A volcano southeast of the Philippine capital spewed ash and steam about a kilometer into the sky on Sunday, scattering ash on nearby villages and alarming residents, officials said. The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology raised the alert level at Mount Bulusan in Sorsogon province following the 17-minute blast but added there was no sign of an impending major eruption.

AP PHOTO



**India** is facing major diplomatic outrage from Muslim-majority countries after top officials in the governing Hindu nationalist party made derogatory references to Islam and the Prophet Muhammad, drawing accusations of blasphemy across some Arab nations that have left New Delhi struggling to contain the damaging fallout. At least five Arab nations have lodged official protests against India, and Pakistan and Afghanistan also reacted strongly to the comments made by two prominent spokespeople from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party.

AP PHOTO



**Australian** Prime Minister Anthony Albanese (pictured, right) yesterday looked to move beyond regional issues that have been key in his trips abroad by promoting the importance of building stronger economic ties with neighboring Indonesia. Albanese said the two countries' trade and investment relationship is a "priority," highlighting their ambition to better utilize the Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. They also discussed Australia's proposed \$200 million climate and infrastructure fund with Indonesia.

More on backpage

# HO DISCUSSES **SOFT** **OPENING** WITH BEIJING

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AP PHOTO



**GAMING**  
**GOV'T TO REVIEW GGR FORECAST IN BUDGET AMENDMENT**

**THE QUEEN'S CHAMBERS UNITED**

P2

P3

# Discussing '10+7' days of quarantine with

ANTHONY LAM

**Y**ESTERDAY morning, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng revealed that his government is in discussion with Chinese agencies on the possible further shortening of quarantine-upon-arrival.

On the sidelines of the opening ceremony of the Seac Pai Van Health Centre, the head of the government was asked whether there would be good news on the further relaxation of quarantine or other disease control measures.

Several countries around the world, such as the UK, Thailand, Japan and Korea, have lifted entry ban and relaxed quarantine requirements. For example, regardless of vaccination condition, no travelers entering the UK need to present Covid-19 test results or be quarantined.

Currently, foreign citizens - except Portuguese citizens who have visited no country other than Macau, Portugal, Hong Kong or mainland China in the 21 preceding days - are barred from entering Macau.

Answering reporters' questions, Ho pointed to the fact that four mainland cities adopted the pilot

program of "10+7" mode of quarantine last month, involving 10 days of hotel quarantine and seven at home.

Emphasizing that the mainland is reviewing the practicality and risks of the policy, he said he believes it would become a trend. He also pledged that Macau will strive to obtain permission to adopt the model after mainland China concludes its review. He did not even rule out the probability of adopting a more progressive "7+7" model of quarantine.

"I hope it can be achieved during the summer holidays," Ho said.

Meanwhile, some Chinese You-Tuber has claimed that immigration normalization between Macau and Hong Kong will occur in August.

Commenting on the matter, Ho said he was aware of the rumors but added that "[I] don't even know about that." He said the matter will be handled by the health and security agencies if it is approved.

## JAPAN'S REQUEST FOR RECIPROCITY 'UNFAIR'

He also commented on the fact that Tokyo has implemented tight-



entry restrictions on Macau residents in its foreign tourist entry scheme, compared to the policies of Taiwan, Hong Kong and mainland China.

Japan will resume accepting foreign tourists from this Friday.

Macau was assigned to the

yellow group under the scheme, signaling that its residents are required to have received three doses of the vaccine in order to get quarantine waiver upon entering in Japan. In contrast, those from the other three Chinese-speaking jurisdictions do not have the same

requirement.

Ho said that Tokyo and Macau have always been in discussion over the matter. He was made aware that Tokyo wants Macau to lift the entry ban and quarantine requirement on Japanese citizens trying to enter Macau. He added

## GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

# COMMONWEALTH CHAMBERS CELEBRATE ELISABETH II'S PLATINUM JUBILEE AT THE LONDONER MACAO

**T**HE Australian, British and Canadian Chambers of Commerce in Macau joined forces at The Londoner Macao to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elisabeth II. Last Thursday the Queen became the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee after 70 years of service.

More than 100 guests were welcomed by AustCham Chairman Janet McNab, BritCham Chairman Keith Buckley and CanCham Chairman Howard Stribbell. In a joint press release yesterday, the hosts said they were "thrilled to host the joint Chamber event and celebration together."

According to the organizers, the programme for the evening was filled with BBC live streaming from London, a cocktail menu, free-flow beverages and speeches by the chairmen of each chamber.

McNab said, "We are proud to be part of this momentous celebration. It is only appropriate that this unique milestone in history is marked with great food and beverages, people and music. Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee will be a truly historic moment and one that deserves a celebration to remember."

"We are honored to be part of this special event in Macau, celebrating

Her Majesty the Queen's 70th year as Monarch on her Platinum Jubilee, and I hope people will enjoy this event throughout the evening. It will bring the entire nation and the commonwealth together," Buckley added.

Stribbell on his part stressed that, "as members of the commonwealth, the Canadian Chamber is pleased to be able to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee along with all of our friends. In these tumultuous times, we look to all of our government leaders to make sound decisions and inspire us all to be a better society and better individuals." STAFF REPORTER



From left: AustCham Chairman Janet McNab, BritCham Chairman Keith Buckley and CanCham Chairman Howard Stribbell

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DIRECTOR & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF\_Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com  
ASSISTANT EDITOR\_Lynzy Valles  
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS\_Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS\_Alex Torrão, Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Anthony Lam, Emilie Tran, Grace Yu, Irene Sam, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Jorge Costa Oliveira, Joseph Cheung, Juliet Risdon, Linda Kennedy, Paulo Cordeiro de Sousa, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Sérgio de Almeida Correia, Viviana Seguí DESIGNER\_Miguel Bandeira | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS\_JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES\_Associated Press, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua SECRETARY\_Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

SEND NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND PRESS RELEASES TO: NEWSROOM@MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM WEBSITE: WWW.MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM.MO

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ADMINISTRATOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

OFFICE MANAGER Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

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# Beijing: CE



that Tokyo did not make the categorization with reference to disease control measures and their effectiveness.

Ho believes that Tokyo's request is unfair.

He added that for the time being, Portuguese citizens who have not travelled to locations other than Ma-

cau, Hong Kong, mainland China or Portugal are allowed to enter Macau without need for any prior application.

In contrast to Japan, however, Portuguese entrants will be quarantined for two weeks upon arrival in Macau, with another week following the two

during which they must conduct self-management of their state of health. In addition, during the week they are not permitted to travel to mainland China. The arrangement is colloquially referred to as the "14+7" model of quarantine.

Ho pledged that his government will further evaluate the probability of accepting entrants from more places as the pandemic subsides.

## NEW HEALTHCARE FACILITY OPENS IN COLOANE

The Seac Pai Van Health Centre was officially opened yesterday morning by Ho and Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Elsie Ao Ieong. The new facility will replace the Health Service Post at the same district.

Measuring 5,600 square meters in total floor area, the new facility has been designed to serve between 30,000 and 40,000 residents. It will mainly provide healthcare services, diabetic out-patient services and special out-patient services, among other medical services.

In future, traditional Chinese medicine and dental services will also be available.

With the new facility in Seac Pai Van, the city will have a total of nine health centers and two health service posts, equating to a service point in three square kilometers. Pulmonologist Alvis Lo, director of Health Bureau, described this as "achieving health coverage of the total population."

# PUBLIC OPINION KEY TO DETERMINE FEASIBILITY OF PROPOSED CABLE CAR: HO

**T**HE transport and public work sector of the government has proposed the construction of a sightseeing cable car system to connect New Urban Zone A with the Macao Science Center.

The proposal has caused some public confusion, with questions being raised as to the practicality, safety and the need for the project.

Located on a subtropical coastal area, Macau is often faced with strong winds. The Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) has warned of more frequent extreme weather conditions under the impact of global warming and climate change.

A similar system in Hong Kong, the Ngong Ping 360

cable car, is regularly suspended from service due to bad weather.

When asked to comment on the project, the head of the local government pledged that if public opinion finds the project worthwhile, it will go ahead. If not, the proposal will be dropped.

In general, opinions need to be given through official public consultation channels for them to be considered, the head of the government added.

Normally, in public consultation for major policies, the government generally considers opinions delivered through various channels, such as social media platforms, newspaper reports and radio shows. **AL**

## GAMING

# Gov't to lower GGR forecast

**C**HIEF Executive Ho Iat Seng revealed yesterday that a revised budget will be presented to the parliament because the government estimate of the city's gross gambling revenue (GGR) has fallen.

Ho said, on the sidelines of yesterday's opening ceremony for the new health service center in Seac Pai Van, that his government will lower its forecast for this year's figure. The cause of the drop is attributed to the precarious Covid-19 conditions across mainland China for the year so far.

This year has not been easy for the country's infection containment. Outbreaks, and therefore lockdowns, have been seen in several places on the mainland, with major cities such as Guangzhou, Beijing and Shanghai being affected.

As such, the GGR estimate will be lowered from the previous expectation at MOP130 billion. A reviewed budget will be delivered to the parliament to be legislated.

For the time being, Ho does not expect that the validity period for nucleic acid tests (NAT) for border-crossing purposes could be extended further. "Seven days is already the longest validity period in China," he explained.

On the other hand, he was also asked about speculations that Beijing may further restrict its issuing of Macau travel endorsements to mainland residents. Ho clarified that the restrictions were not only levied on tourists to Macau, but also on cross-province tourists. However, he believes that restrictions will be loosened after the Covid-19 condition stabilizes.

While speaking on "Satellite Casinos" – those that are not located within properties of conces-

sionaires – Ho said that the current review on the Gaming Law (No.16/2001) attempts to make room for the government to assess cooperative agreements made between concessionaires and Satellite Casino owners.

In the current version of the law, there is no attempt to define the concept of a satellite casino. Ho said that in the present review, the government is not trying to systemize details of the cooperative agreements but to propose a legal position for the type of casino.

Ho also denied that the government had made any legislative U-turn. It was originally proposed that the concessionaires must acquire the ownership of its satellite casinos within three years following the promulgation of the new law.

Last month, it was suddenly revealed that the government reversed its position, allowing concessionaires to operate casinos not under their ownerships on rent. The new proposal has not made any reference to the level of rental.

The government's revised model is understood generally as the incumbent mode of operation.

Following the first announcement on the tighter regulation on satellite casinos, several such establishments announced that they would shut down, with the Grand Emperor Casino being the first. It will cease operations on June 26.

It was also reported by local Chinese media Exmoo, citing the head of a local junket association, that between six and eight satellite casinos would soon cease operations. However, the cause of the closure was not attributed to the government's proposal in the law review, but to the plunge of tourist arrivals. **AL**



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LABOR

# HARD TO DETERMINE IF SPECIAL SALARY SCHEMES ARE TRULY VOLUNTARY: MGESA

ANTHONY LAM

**T**HE Macau Gaming Enterprises Staff Association (MGESA) has no position in salary-share partial swap schemes presented by local casino operators, Choi Kam Fu, director-general of the union, has said.

The association is a subsidiary of the Macao Federation of Trade Unions, the city's largest worker group. The association was founded in 2007.

It was revealed a week ago by local Chinese newspaper Macao Daily News that casino operator Wynn Resorts Macau S.A. has been presenting a salary-share partial swap scheme to their "management level."

It was said that the adoption

of the scheme is at the discretion of affected employees, implying that the scheme is voluntary. Under the scheme, affected employees will see 10% of their salary replaced with company stocks, which are subject to market fluctuations.

In a reply to the Times, a spokesperson from the casino operator confirmed the existence of the scheme, which is internally referred to as Voluntary Stock Program.

Choi was questioned by the press on the sidelines of a recent event on the matter. In response, the trade union head said that the association is "neither for nor against" the scheme.

He further said that he believes such schemes were pre-

sented "with the employers considering their own needs," but added that the association has spoken to certain employees about the scheme.

Choi also emphasized that it is difficult to determine if employees are participating voluntarily in the scheme.

He is confident that local laws will be able to manage the situation. He even compared pre-Covid share-bonus exchange schemes with the current scheme, saying that companies have "incentive plans in different forms."

In contrast to Choi's view, employees have been voicing their concerns on various platforms. Being in weak and vulnerable positions, employees fear that if they refuse to adopt the scheme, they may have

their unpaid leaves extended or suffer other sanctions as de-facto punishments.

Furthermore, it has been revealed that the definition of "management" went as low as the level of assistant manager. The casino operator did not verify the information in an earlier enquiry.

The Times has learnt that Wynn is not the only casino presenting a similar scheme to its employees, although our source wouldn't name other gaming operators.

Lawmaker Ron Lam has also commented upon the matter, saying that "employees of some casino operators were not allowed to leave the meeting room unless they agreed to participate in the salary-share partial swap scheme".

## GAS EMISSIONS SLIGHTLY DECLINE IN 2021: REPORT

The estimated amount of greenhouse gas emissions in Macau decreased slightly in 2021, according to a report issued over the weekend by the Environmental Protection Bureau. The emissions last year mainly came from land transport, power generation, businesses, households, the service industry as well as waste incineration, the report said, noting that the local emissions in the past decade showed a downward trend. In 2021, six monitoring stations in the city recorded 93% of the days as having "Good" or "Normal" air quality, about the same as in 2020. Due to the recovery of social and economic activities, the average concentrations of pollutants except fine suspended particulates (PM2.5) showed growth in 2021. Water and electricity consumption as well as urban solid waste volumes also rose last year.

## EMPEROR REPORTS LOSSES BETWEEN HKD550M AND HKD750M

The Emperor Entertainment Hotel Limited (Emperor), the company operating the satellite casino of the Grand Emperor Hotel, has reported that it expects losses ranging between HKD550 million and HKD750 million for the fiscal year ending March 31. The result means that the company's losses have doubled or possibly even tripled from the previous year when the company reported a net loss of HKD224 million. In a filing late last week to the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong, Emperor said that the widening of the losses is related to the cessation of the casino operations which is also reflected in the value of the property.

## E-DRIVING LICENSE IN ONE ACCOUNT FROM MID-OCTOBER

From October 15, an electronic version of the Macau driving license will also be available through the Macao One Account (a government electronic platform). This was announced by the president of the First Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly, lawmaker Ella Lei. The bill, which will be finally voted on this week at an already scheduled plenary session, is proposed to come into force from October 15, when drivers will also be able to present the electronic version of their driving licenses, when requested by police. This is one effort towards what has been called the "electronization of the government" with the provision of several services to citizens through an online mobile application platform.

CRIME

# Male body found in the sea off Taipa

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE body of a man estimated to be between 30 and 40 years old has been found floating in the sea off the Avenida Marginal Flor de Lotus in Taipa, Judiciary Police (PJ) report.

The body was initially spotted by a Customs of Macao

(SA) sea patrol at around midday yesterday. The SA then towed the body ashore near the Broadway Hotel and called the PJ to investigate.

According to a statement from the PJ, a preliminary examination of the body revealed no suspicious or criminally-inflicted wounds.

The deceased was an Asian

male about 1.70 meters tall.

When it was found the body had no documentation that could lead authorities to his identity.

The body was found wearing black pants and white sneakers and naked from the waist up.

According to the PJ, the body already showed signs of

some decomposition, a circumstance which leads the PJ to believe that he must have been in the water for some time.

The case has been temporarily classified as one of a discovered corpse, with the cause of death to be determined by a forensic medical examination.



# WANDER IN ART AROUND THE CLOCK

MGM brings you the most exciting and creative artwork of an internationally acclaimed cross-media artist Jennifer Wen Ma – *"A Landscape of Metamorphosis: No End to End"*. This extraordinary piece makes its appearance at the Spectacle of MGM COTAI, known as a public space of architectural wonder with infinite possibilities that offer a one-of-a-kind art viewing experience not found in any other.

The large-scale inter-disciplinary sculptural art installation takes you through multiple artistic fields. Ma fuses her honeycomb-construction paper-sculpture technique with cutting-edge contemporary technology while combining laser cutting with Chinese traditional art forms, philosophies, aesthetic theories, and practices, such as Literati landscape painting, classical garden design, and the Book of Rites. The art installation is embedded with LED panels that reflect the change of time in their color and rhythm. In addition, there are three Digital Ponds for you to experience animated images that reflect the changes in nature. You are invited to roam between multiple artistic fields as if wandering through the Lingnan landscapes of the region. The sculptural garden takes the form of three islands, inspired by the shape of the Macau peninsula and its surrounding changing landscape and waterscape. No matter day or night, you can stroll through the landscape and experience the ever-changing nature around the clock.

Apart from the floor garden installation, there are three metamorphic butterfly-shaped creatures, taking flight from the gardens. With Rorschach image-making and Chinese characters "nothingness" (無), "exhaustion" (窮) and "limit" (盡), "無窮盡" reflects the enduring innovation of Chinese culture through a never-ending source of metamorphic content.

The *"Landscape of Metamorphosis: No End to End"* exhibition at MGM COTAI interweaves with the Spectacle's architectural aesthetics and offers you a multicultural experience of arts and culture with a touch of the Lingnan garden-scape, presented in a state-of-the-art manner. For more information, please visit [mgm.mo](http://mgm.mo)

# BEIJING REJECTS CANADIAN, AUSTRALIAN CHARGES IN AIR ENCOUNTERS

KEN MORITSUGU, BEIJING

CHINA defended its military pilots yesterday, saying they acted properly and were protecting its sovereignty, following recent complaints by Canada and Australia that Chinese planes engaged in risky maneuvers with their aircraft over the Pacific.

Defense Ministry spokesperson Wu Qian said China "swiftly took reasonable, forceful and professional measures in response to Canada's provocative acts and unfriendly and unprofessional operations."

Last week, the Canadian military accused Chinese planes of not following international safety norms on several occasions and putting a Canadian crew at risk. A June 1 statement said the Chinese planes tried to divert a Canadian long-range patrol aircraft from its path, and that the crew had to change direction quickly to avoid a potential collision.

"Such interactions ... are of concern and of increasing frequency," the statement said.

The Canadian plane was deployed from April 26 to May 26 to join other countries in watching for fuel transfers between ships at sea that could be helping North Korea evade U.N. sanctions over its missile and nuclear tests. The U.S. and Japan have also participated in the surveillance.

Wu said in a statement that Canada has stepped up close reconnaissance of China under the

AP FILE PHOTO



A Chinese PLA J-16 fighter jet flies in an undisclosed location

pretext of implementing U.N. sanctions. He said Canada would bear responsibility for any serious consequences from what he called its risky and provocative acts.

A 2001 collision between a U.S. surveillance plane and a Chinese air force jet resulted in the death of the Chinese pilot and the 10-day detention of the U.S. air crew by China.

In a separate incident, newly elected Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, on a visit to Indonesia yesterday, called the May 26 actions of a Chinese fighter jet

"a dangerous act of aggression" against an Australian air force plane conducting aerial surveillance in the South China Sea.

The Chinese J-16 accelerated and cut in front of the Australian plane, releasing chaff with small bits of aluminum that was sucked into the latter's engine, Australian Defense Minister Richard Marles said Sunday.

China's Defense Ministry has not commented on the incident.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said the Chinese military always conducts operations

based on international law and practice and in a safe and professional manner.

"We urge Australia to respect China's national security interests and major concerns, and to be cautious with its words and deeds so as to avoid a miscalculation that could cause serious consequences," he said.

China claims numerous small islands and reefs in the South China Sea, and says the area around these outcroppings are its territorial waters and air space. The waters are an important shipping

lane for all countries in the region, including Australia, which along with the United States says it wants to ensure freedom of navigation through them.

Zhao said China would not allow any country to violate its sovereignty in the name of freedom of navigation.

He also accused Canada of spreading disinformation and said it should adopt a moderate and pragmatic policy toward China and take concrete steps to improve relations between the two. **MDT/AP**

# China launches mission to complete space station assembly

CHINA on Sunday launched a new three-person mission to complete assembly work on its permanent orbiting space station.

The Shenzhou 14 crew will spend six months on the Tiangong station, during which they will oversee the addition of two laboratory modules to join the main Tianhe living space that was launched in April 2021.

Their spaceship blasted off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center on the edge of the Gobi Desert at 10:44 a.m. (0244 GMT) atop the crewed space flight program's workhorse Long March 2F rocket. Fifteen minutes later, it reached low Earth orbit and opened its solar panels, drawing applause from ground controllers in Jiu-

quan and Beijing.

The launch was broadcast live on state television, indicating a rising level of confidence in the capabilities of the space program, which has been promoted as a sign of China's technological progress and global influence.

Commander Chen Dong and fellow astronauts Liu Yang and Cai Xuzhe will assemble the three-module structure joining the existing Tianhe with Wentian and Mengtian, due to arrive in July and October. Another cargo craft, the Tianzhou-3, remains docked with the station.

The arrival of the new modules will "provide more stability, more powerful functions, more complete equipment," said Chen, 43, who was a member of the

Shenzhou 11 mission in 2016, at a press conference Saturday.

Liu, 43, is also a space veteran and was China's first female astronaut to reach space aboard the Shenzhou 9 mission in 2012. Cai, 46, is making his first space trip.

China's space program launched its first astronaut into orbit in 2003, making it only the third country to do so on its own after the former Soviet Union and the U.S.

It has landed robot rovers on the moon and placed one on Mars last year. China has also returned lunar samples and officials have discussed a possible crewed mission to the moon.

China's space program is run by the ruling Communist Party's military wing,

XINHUA



The Long March-2F carrier rocket carrying China's Shenzhou 14 spacecraft blasts off from the launch pad at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in Jiuquan, Gansu Province, Sunday

the People's Liberation Army, prompting the U.S. to exclude it from the International Space Station.

Chen, Liu and Cai will be joined at the end of their mission for three to five days by the crew of the

upcoming Shenzhou 15, marking the first time the station will have had six people aboard. **MDT/AP**

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

AP PHOTO



COVID-19

# Beijing reopens restaurants as new cases drop

**D**INERS returned to restaurants in most of Beijing for the first time in more than a month yesterday as authorities further eased pandemic-related restrictions after largely eradicating a small COVID-19 outbreak in the capital under China's strict "zero-COVID" approach.

Museums, cinemas and gyms were allowed to operate at up to 75% of capacity and delivery drivers could once again bring packages to a customer's door, rather than leave them to be picked up at the entrances to apartment compounds.

The return to near-normal applied everywhere in Beijing except for one district and part of another, where the outbreak lingered. Schools, which partially reopened earlier, will fully do so on June 13, followed by kindergartens on June 20.

Authorities conducted multiple rounds of mass testing and locked down buildings and complexes when infections were discovered to stamp out an outbreak that infected about 1,800 people over six weeks in a city of 22 million. The number of new cases dropped to six on Sunday.

The ruling Communist Party remains wedded to a "zero-COVID" strategy that exacts an economic cost and inconveniences millions of people, even as many other countries adopt a more relaxed approach as vaccination

rates rise and treatments become more widely available.

In Shanghai, a population of 25 million people endured a citywide lockdown that kept most confined to their apartments or neighborhoods for two months. The city reopened last week, but restaurants remain closed except for delivery and takeout. One neighborhood conducted more mass testing yesterday after finding new cases in a residential compound, which is now locked down for 14 days.

In both Beijing and Shanghai, anyone entering the subway or an office building, shopping mall or other public place must show a negative test result within the past 72 hours. People lined up at testing stations that have been set up around the cities to meet the requirement.

All ferries in Shanghai, which is bisected by the Huangpu river, resumed normal operation yesterday. But organizers postponed the Shanghai International Film Festival, which was scheduled to be held this month, until next year.

Elsewhere, the government responded to outbreaks in China's Inner Mongolia region, where 39 new cases were recorded on Sunday and in the northeast city of Dandong, which has had about 130 cases in the past two weeks. Dandong is on the border with North Korea, which acknowledged an outbreak for the first time last month. MDT/AP

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## MGM Spreads Patriotic Spirit with Over 7,000 Locals via "Macao: Back to Common Roots Narrative Film"



MGM and Macau's acclaimed artist Lok Hei collaborate to present the "Macao: Back to Common Roots Narrative Film" (Film) at MGM Theater. Following the launch of the documentary "Back to Common Roots" made for the 15th anniversary of the establishment of Macau SAR and "Back to Common Roots Orchestra Concert" in 2019, the production team remodeled the majestic 100-meter-long scroll painting — Lok's magnum opus featuring his artistic trademark using fiber pens — into an innovative, digitalized version screened at MGM Theater.

Chronicling the transformation of Macau over the past centuries, the Film is a potent tool of patriotic education that deepens the understanding of history for residents, especially the youths — that is, it has been selected to be part of various patriotic celebrations and community events throughout the past months and has received over 7,000 local audiences from 227 organizations since its premiere in January 2022.

### May Fourth Youth Day Celebration

MGM joined hands with Macau Development Strategy Research Centre and Macau Youth Federation to organize a celebratory series of events for May Fourth Youth Day. The event saw outstanding local business representatives sharing their insights and experience over the development of the Greater Bay Area with more than 200 members from over 20 local youth groups and MGM team members, followed by a session of the Film to strengthen participant's historical knowledge of Macau and the nation. Artist Lok Hei also shared his creative philosophy for the film as well as his feelings of loving the Nation with the participants.



### World Down Syndrome Day Celebration

With the aim of raising public awareness on social inclusion and in celebration of the World Down Syndrome Day, MGM invited a group of 80 down syndrome patients and their family members from Macau Down Syndrome Association, as well as 20 members of Rotary Club of Amizade Macau to spend a fun day at MGM COTAL. Accompanied by MGM volunteers, the group learnt about Macau's historical events through watching the Narrative Film and enjoyed seeing the flying dolphins at the Sea Odyssey show in the Spectacle.

### Macau Tung Sin Tong Charitable Society's 130th Anniversary Celebration with Elderlies

In celebration of the 130th anniversary of Macau Tung Sin Tong Charitable Society, MGM has organized a special "Golden Lion Tour" for over 100 elderlies from two of their elderly care centers. This fun-packed and also enlightening one-day tour brought elderlies to tour around MGM COTAL and across Macau, where they watched the Narrative Film and visited various museums in the city with 50 Golden Lion Volunteer team members. Many participants said they were delighted to see Macau from different perspectives, which refreshes their memories and knowledge of living in this city they call home.



The Film is now on view at MGM Theater till the end of this year, currently open to education institutions, government departments and community associations.

MGM  
Avenida Dr. Sun Yat Sen, NAPE, Macau  
T 853 8802 2888 F 853 8802 3333  
E sustainability@mgm-macau.com  
W http://www.mgm.mo/



WAR GAMES

# US, S. Korea fire missiles to sea, matching North's launches

KIM TONG-HYUNG, SEOUL

**T**HE U.S. and South Korean militaries launched eight ballistic missiles into the sea yesterday in a show of force matching a North Korean missile display a day earlier that extended a provocative streak in weapons demonstrations.

The allies' live-fire exercise involved eight Army Tactical Missile System missiles — one American and seven South Korean — that were fired into South Korea's eastern waters across 10 minutes following notifications for air and maritime safety, according to South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff and U.S. Forces Korea.

The tit-for-tat missile launches were aimed at demonstrating the ability to respond swiftly and accurately to North Korean attacks, the South Korean military said.

The South's military on Sunday detected North Korea firing eight short-range missiles over 35 minutes from at least four different locations, including from western and eastern coastal areas and two inland areas north of and near the capital, Pyongyang, in what appeared to be a single-day record for the country's ballistic launches.

It was North Korea's 18th round of missile tests in 2022 alone — a streak that included the country's first launches of intercontinental ballistic missiles in nearly five years. South Korean and U.S. officials also say North Korea is preparing to conduct its first nuclear test since September 2017 as leader Kim Jong Un pushes a brinkmanship aimed at cementing the North's status as a nuclear power and negotiating economic and security concessions from a position of strength.

U.S. and South Korean forces conducted a similar live-fire exercise following North Korea's previous ballistic launches on May 25, which South Korea's military said involved an ICBM flown on medium-range trajectory and two short-range weapons. Those tests came as Biden wrapped



A missile is fired during a joint training between U.S. and South Korea at an undisclosed location in South Korea, yesterday

up his trip to South Korea and Japan, where he reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to defend both allies.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol during a speech marking the country's Memorial Day yesterday said his government would pursue "fundamental and practical security capabilities" to counter North Korea's growing nuclear weapons and missile threat.

"North Korea's nuclear weapons and missile programs have grown to a point where they are not only a threat to the Korean Peninsula, but to Northeast Asia and world peace," Yoon said at the National Cemetery in Seoul, saying his government would "sternly respond to any kind of North Korean provocation."

Yoon, a conservative who took office in May, has vowed to strengthen the South's defense in conjunction with its alliance with the United States. His goals include enhancing missile strike and interception capabilities and resuming large-scale military exercises with the United States, which were suspended or downsized in recent years to create space for diplomacy with Pyongyang or because of COVID-19.

Yoon's dovish predecessor, Moon Jae-in, who had staked his five-year term on inter-Korean engage-

ment, refrained from missile counter-drills after North Korea resumed ballistic missile tests in 2019 as its diplomacy with the United States fizzled.

North Korean state media have yet to comment on Sunday's launches. They came after the U.S. aircraft carrier Ronald Reagan concluded a three-day naval drill with South Korea in the Philippine Sea on Saturday, apparently their first joint drill involving a carrier since November 2017, as the countries move to upgrade their defense exercises in the face of North Korean threats.

North Korea has long condemned the allies' combined military exercises as invasion rehearsals and often countered with its own missile drills, including short-range launches in 2016 and 2017 that simulated nuclear attacks on South Korean ports and U.S. military facilities in Japan.

Hours after the North Korean launches, Japan and the United States conducted a joint ballistic missile exercise aimed at showing their "rapid response capability" and "strong determination" to counter threats, Japan's Defense Ministry said.

The United States has vowed to push for additional international sanctions if North Korea conducts a nuclear test, but the pros-

pects for meaningful new punitive measures are dim with the U.N. Security Council's permanent members divided.

Russia and China vetoed a U.S.-sponsored resolution that would have imposed additional sanctions on North Korea over its latest ballistic tests on May 25, insisting that Washington should instead focus on reviving negotiations with Pyongyang.

Addressing the brewing animosity, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian called for related nations to "maintain calm and exercise restraint, and avoid any actions that may aggravate tensions."

Nuclear talks between Washington and Pyongyang have stalled since 2019 over disagreements in exchanging the release of crippling U.S.-led sanctions for the North's disarmament steps.

Despite facing harsh challenges at home, including a decaying economy and a COVID-19 outbreak, Kim has shown no willingness to fully surrender an arsenal he sees as his strongest guarantee of survival.

His government has so far rejected the Biden administration's offers for open-ended talks and is clearly intent on converting the dormant denuclearization negotiations into a mutual arms-reduction process, experts say. **MDT/AP**

## this day in history

### 1942 JAPANESE BEATEN IN BATTLE OF MIDWAY



The United States has routed the Japanese Navy in a major three-day battle over a remote US naval and air base at Midway Island in the Pacific Ocean.

The victory has dealt a severe blow to Japan's ambitions to advance right across the Pacific towards the US coast.

The tiny island, 1,000 miles north-west of Hawaii, was targeted as a potential launching pad for the Japanese advance.

The Japanese attacked in the early hours of 4 June with heavy air raids on the military base.

The US responded with a decisive counter-attack, using the US Pacific Fleet, army bombers and the marines. The Japanese were clearly taken by surprise by the scale of the American defence.

The battle was fought almost exclusively from aircraft carriers - only the second time this kind of fighting has been attempted.

The first was just a month ago, in the Battle of the Coral Sea, when the United States thwarted Japanese plans to invade Australia.

In that battle, the victory was not so decisive, and the United States lost one of its aircraft carriers, the USS Lexington.

Reporting on the end of the battle for Midway Island, the Commander-in Chief of the US Pacific Fleet, Admiral Chester Nimitz, said at least two enemy aircraft carriers had been completely destroyed, with all their aircraft, and at least two more seriously damaged.

Ten Japanese warships were also sunk or damaged.

By contrast, on the American side losses were relatively small. One American carrier was hit and some aeroplanes were lost.

Fighting is still continuing in the area, but although Admiral Nimitz stopped short of claiming the Japanese were defeated, he said, "a momentous victory is in the making."

He went on, "Pearl Harbor has now been partially avenged. Vengeance will not be complete until Japanese sea-power has been reduced to impotence. We have made substantial progress in that direction."

Meanwhile, fighting is continuing around the US naval base of Dutch Harbor, in Alaska. The Japanese are known to have landed on some of the westernmost Aleutian Islands, and bombed the harbour on 3 June.

No news has been received from the area since then.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The Japanese had invaded two Aleutian islands, Attu and Kiska, and attacked Dutch Harbor as a diversionary ploy to draw US forces away from the key battle at Midway. But the US had broken Japanese military codes, and knew about the secret strategy - thus denying Japan an easy victory at Midway.

The loss of four aircraft carriers was more than the Japanese Navy could endure, and the battle proved a turning point in the Pacific War.

Six months to the day since the Japanese bombed the US Naval base at Pearl Harbor, they were placed on the defensive for the first time.

Slowly, the Americans drove them back, and eventually US forces occupied the major Japanese-held islands of Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

The Japanese were finally forced to surrender on 15 August 1945 after the United States dropped two atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Japan remained under US occupation for seven years, and there is a large and controversial US military base on Okinawa to this day.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

**ARIES**  
 Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
 Update and review your personal investments. If you go shopping, only take what you can afford to part with. You will attract new love interests.

**TAURUS**  
 Apr. 20-May. 20  
 Your boss may be pushy. You will find that you can work progressively at improving yourself today. Try to have patience and refrain from being judgmental.

**GEMINI**  
 May. 21-Jun. 21  
 Secret intrigues could get you into trouble. You will reap the rewards for your kind actions. Pamper yourself; you deserve it.

**CANCER**  
 Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
 Communication will be your strong point and you should be able to persuade others to see things your way. Your best efforts will come through investments concerning your home.

**LEO**  
 Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
 You should get out and meet some of those clients that you only speak to on the phone. Financial affairs do not look too favorable today.

**VIRGO**  
 Aug. 23-Sep. 22  
 Entertainment should include the whole family or a lot of your friends. You need to be careful not to make promises that you can't fulfill. Talk to others about your plans.

**LIBRA**  
 Sep. 23-Oct. 22  
 Do your chores and get on with the things you enjoy doing. You must refrain from overspending on entertainment. A little overtime may help you reduce the workload.

**SCORPIO**  
 Oct. 23-Nov. 21  
 The stamina you possess will be apparent in your approach to your hobbies and creative projects. Talk to someone you trust if you need advice about broaching the subject.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
 Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
 Sudden romantic encounters are quite likely, but discretion will be a must. Take time to deal with legal documents and the affairs of people who you may be indebted to.

**CAPRICORN**  
 Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
 Losses could occur if you haven't been careful when dealing with joint financial ventures. Your ability to communicate with ease will win the hearts of those you are in touch with today.

**AQUARIUS**  
 Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
 Someone left a real mess for you to sift through. Emotional matters may not be easy for you to handle. The stamina you possess will be apparent in your approach to your hobbies and creative projects.

**PISCES**  
 Feb. 19-Mar. 20  
 Uncertainties regarding relatives will make situations uncomfortable if you attend a family function. In-laws may cause difficulties. Travel should be considered.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sansom**



**SUDOKU**

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

  

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

**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	19	35	fine
Changchun	12	25	cloudy
Chengdu	22	30	cloudy
Chongqing	23	32	rain
Fuzhou	23	29	rain
Guangzhou	26	33	thunderstorms
Guiyang	19	27	rain
Haikou	26	34	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	22	29	rain
Harbin	9	23	cloudy
Hefei	19	33	fine
Nanjing	21	33	cloudy
Shanghai	21	30	fine
Taipei	25	28	rain
Wuhan	23	30	rain
Hong Kong	28	30	rain
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	16	22	thunderstorm
Frankfurt	12	23	overcast
Paris	14	25	overcast
London	12	22	overcast
New York	18	28	rain

**CROSSWORDS**

ACROSS 1- Snare; 6- Leash; 11- RR stop; 14- Last letter of the Greek alphabet; 15- Golden Horde member; 16- Yes, in Yokohama; 17- Short literary composition; 18- You \_\_\_ right!; 19- Bruins great Bobby; 20- Othello villain; 22- Former Russian rulers; 24- Wiry; 28- Payroll frequency; 30- Monetary unit of Tonga; 31- Marshal; 32- Wrong; 33- Inhabitant of the grassland; 37- Hanoi holiday; 38- Heavy footwear; 39- Give \_\_\_ rest; 40- Institute; 43- Japanese beer brand; 45- Crucifix; 46- "I, Robot" author; 47- Writer; 49- Repeat; 50- Leg joints; 51- Actress Singer; 52- Conger; 53- Chirp; 56- Sonata movement; 61- Toothpaste type; 62- Cowboy's tool; 63- Do \_\_\_ a Waltz?; 64- Hit sign; 65- Oil of wintergreen, e.g.; 66- Very much;

DOWN 1- Water tester; 2- Apt. divisions; 3- Loser to DDE; 4- Links org.; 5- Maxims; 6- Histrionic; 7- Poi source; 8- Road with a no.; 9- Small batteries; 10- Extremely variable; 11- Shallow water; 12- Dawdle; 13- Melodies; 21- Turkish title; 23- The \_\_\_ the limit!; 24- Sudden outpouring; 25- Gets under control; 26- Singer Bonnie; 27- Social connections; 28- Anger; 29- Greek goddess of strife; 31- At \_\_\_ for words; 33- Composure; 34- Heat home; 35- Dumas dueler; 36- Born yesterday, so to speak; 38- Amoeba-like alien; The \_\_\_; 41- Farm measure; 42- Stiff coarse hair; 43- It's a relief; 44- Highly respectful way of addressing a man; 46- \_\_\_ Lingus; 47- Scoff; 48- Big fiddle?; 49- Helicopter part; 50- Frat party purchases; 51- \_\_\_-majesté; 54- Has been; 55- Part of i.e.; 57- What have we here?!; 58- Miss-named?; 59- Rockers Steely \_\_\_; 60- Old California fort;

**Friday's solution**

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

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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	
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CENTRAL MACAU 1 BED	HKD 2,850,000
MACAU PARKING VA LONG	HKD 1,600,000

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windy@jmlproperty.com  
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João Lam  
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joao@jmlproperty.com  
AI-10010563-6

FOOTBALL

# Wales beats Ukraine to end 64-year wait for World Cup return

ROB HARRIS, CARDIFF

WALES 1, UKRAINE 0

**W**EEKS of back spasms were not going to stop Gareth Bale's mission to lead Wales back to the World Cup.

Try stopping the captain taking to the field when there is a 64-year drought to end.

Try stopping a free kick from a forward who was once the world's costliest footballer. Ukraine winger Andriy Yarmolenko could only divert it into his own net with a header.

The 1-0 win over war-disrupted Ukraine yesterday (Macau time), secured in the 34th minute in the Cardiff downpour, was enough to send Wales back to the World Cup as the country with the longest gap between qualifications for the FIFA showpiece.

"It's the greatest result in the history of Welsh football," Bale said. "I'm just delighted we are going to a World Cup. It means everything, it's what dreams are



made of. I'm speechless. I'm so glad we've done it for these amazing fans."

Bale was one of those spectators for the remaining 10 minutes or so after being substituted

when his body could offer no more.

"It was difficult," Bale said. "I haven't played too much football these last three or four weeks because of my back spasm, but

the most important thing was to get through. I give my all. I was running on empty."

The trip to Qatar gives Bale — British soccer's most decorated foreign export at Real Madrid — a chance to finally play on the sport's biggest stage. But the five-time Champions League winner is without a club for next season after being released by Madrid. While saying he has "loads" of offers, the 32-year-old free agent had been coy about his playing future.

Now there is a new club to find to stay match fit for the Nov. 21 World Cup opener against the United States. Then there is Iran and England to play in Group B. The Welsh also played their neighbors at the 2016 European Championship when they lost to England in the group stage.

But Wales did go further than England at Euro 2016 in France, reaching the semifinals where Cristiano Ronaldo led Portugal to victory and then the title. Another soccer great knocked out Wales at the 1958 World Cup,

with Pele netting the only goal in eventual champion Brazil's quarterfinal win.

Wales did contest a third tournament last year, returning to the European Championship and losing to Denmark in the round of 16.

Now Doha is the destination for Wales, which is more accustomed to featuring at Rugby World Cups, having qualified for all nine editions.

"It's unbelievable — little old Wales at the World Cup," midfielder Aaron Ramsey said. "It's amazing."

Thanks most of all to goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey who thwarted nine shots on target to prevent Ukraine scoring.

"It's absolutely incredible — not just for me, everybody who's been on this pitch tonight," Hennessey said. "Gareth, unbelievably free kick again, so I'm absolutely buzzing. It's unexplainable. He's so dangerous at free kicks. When he's on the field stuff happens and for me he's an amazing talent and a joy to watch."

This qualification has been achieved with coaching uncertainty. Robert Page stepped up to lead the team on a temporary basis in early 2021 with Ryan Giggs still out of the management job while awaiting trial on charges of domestic violence.

Now Page is set to lead the team in Qatar. **MDT/AP**

AD

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**OPINION**

**Multipolar World**

Jorge Costa Oliveira



**LOCKDOWNS AND THE  
 SLOWDOWN OF THE  
 CHINESE ECONOMY**

In the face of China's worst outbreaks of Covid-19, authorities are continuing to pursue a zero-Covid policy, having imposed indefinite lockdowns on approximately 373 million people in at least 45 cities between March and May. These lockdowns, especially the one in Shanghai, lasted longer than expected (Xian has been confined since December 2021) and are causing serious economic disruption and damage in the logistics sector, leading to reduced road freight transport, difficulties in delivering parcels, and the closure of some of China's ports.

Retail trade is being hit hard, falling -3.5% year-on-year in March, after a +6.7% rise in January-February, as are financial services, and manufacturing.

The government and the central bank (PBoC) have announced measures to bolster economic growth. One of the measures taken so far has been the PBoC's reduction of the reserve requirement ratio on foreign currency deposits, increasing banks' credit capacity. And on the 20th of May the PBoC lowered its five-year lending prime rate (LPR) by 15 basis points (to 4.45%). The PBoC also said it would ease restrictions on the platform economy that provide online sales of goods and financial technology services. The Chinese government has adopted a set of policies to stimulate consumption (consumer spending accounted for almost 70% of China's GDP in Q1).

Another measure promised by the Chinese government is the undertaking of infrastructure projects. As in 2021, also in 2022 local governments were allowed to issue special project bonds (SPBs), focused on infrastructure approved by the central government. This additional borrowing triggered in 2021 the first growth in Gross Fixed Capital Formation in a decade. By January 2022, local governments had issued bonds worth 93% more than the same period in 2021. By January 2022, local governments had issued bonds worth 93% more than in the same period in 2021.

But according to Allianz Trade and several analysts, the economic cost of China's zero-Covid policy is worsening and public compensation policies are not enough to offset the drop in spending and credit in the real estate sector and are apparently insufficient to prevent the slowdown of the economy.

This stems in part from the need to maintain controls and measures to regenerate the real estate sector. However, it also stems from the Chinese leadership's political stance, for whom economic work in the current year "should prioritize stability, [...] safeguard macroeconomic stability, keep key economic indicators within an appropriate range, and ensure social stability in preparation for the upcoming 20th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party."

China's 2022 GDP growth estimates continued to fall as the lockdowns persisted. On May 16th, Citi trimmed its forecast for China's GDP growth from 5.1% to 4.2%. On May 18th, Goldman Sachs analysts lowered their forecast from 4.5% to 4% following weak data in April.

The gradual slowdown of the Chinese economy caused by the endless lockdowns resulting from the zero-Covid policy, as well as the harmful effects on the global economy and foreign trade, does not seem to be enough to make the Chinese leadership change course. Unless social instability ensues...

[linkedin.com/in/jorgecostaoliveira](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jorgecostaoliveira)

Russia took aim yesterday (Macau time) at Western military supplies for Ukraine, launching airstrikes on Kyiv that it claimed destroyed tanks donated from abroad, as Vladimir Putin warned that any Western deliveries of longer-range rocket systems would prompt Moscow to hit "objects that we haven't yet struck."

The Russian leader's cryptic threat of military escalation did not specify what the new targets might be. It came days after the United States announced plans to deliver \$700 million of

security assistance for Ukraine that includes four precision-guided, medium-range rocket systems, as well as helicopters, Javelin anti-tank systems, radars, tactical vehicles and more.

Military analysts say Russia hopes to overrun Ukraine's embattled eastern industrial Donbas region, where Russia-backed separatists have fought the Ukrainian government since 2014, before the arrival of any U.S. weapons that might turn the tide. The Pentagon said last week that it will take at least three weeks to get the U.S. weapons onto the battlefield.



SJM Golden Jubilee was the big winner of the 2022 Macao International Dragon Boat Races

**FESTIVAL: RACING DRAGON BOATS, SERVING ZONGZI**

WITH thousands of dragon boat racers competing on Macau's picturesque Nam Van Lake and the festive delicacy of Zongzi, a locally popular glutinous rice dumpling wrapped in reed leaves, the traditions of Dragon Boat Festival have been well-preserved in the Macau Special Administrative Region.

Last Friday, different groups of dragon boat racers from across Macau gathered to test one another's physical prowess, skills and team spirit as the annual Macau International Dragon Boat Races reverberated above the lake.

The races, lasting throughout the day, attracted many visitors sitting in temporarily set-up chairs or standing by the lake, despite intermittent rain.

Pun Weng Kun, president of the Sports Bureau, said the races embrace the cultural heritage of the Dragon Boat Festival and have developed into an annual large-scale sporting event in Macau.

"We hope to raise the standards of local dragon

boat competition, enrich the leisure life of residents and give tourists an experience of Macau's unique 'sports + tourism' ambience, particularly against the backdrop of regular epidemic control," Pun said.

Yeung Ging Wing, one of the racers, said he really enjoyed the bustling atmosphere of dragon boat racing. "Besides, racing can help us stay healthy while promoting the traditional Chinese culture."

The Dragon Boat Festival is traditionally celebrated on the fifth day of the fifth month on the Chinese lunar calendar. This year, the festival fell on Friday, June 3.

In the lineup to the festival, Macau residents have kept the tradition of eating Zongzi. Each year around this time, Lan Heong Kuok, a typical Cantonese tea house located in the old town area of the peninsula, turns its first floor into a workshop. Employees make Zongzi on site with fillings of pork, beans and salted egg yolk, and put them on rows of iron racks for display, making it quite a sight.

"Our Zongzi sell very well every year," said Chan Zi Wai, whose father founded the restaurant 59 years ago. "We have retained the traditional method of making Zongzi by hand. Customers like the way it is. We sell mostly to local residents, but tourists come here too."

A resident surnamed Choi said she had recently come to the restaurant to buy Zongzi more than once. "They offer different varieties of Zongzi here," Choi said. "I bought Zongzi not only for my own family, but also for friends as gifts."

The Macau Polytechnic University organized a Zongzi workshop, inviting experienced chefs to teach students from Portuguese-speaking countries, including Brazil and Cape Verde, how to make the festive food.

Jociney, one of the students, said the experience of learning to make Zongzi helped him better understand traditional Chinese culture, and also facilitated cultural exchanges between students of different countries. XINHUA



**Australia** A court yesterday ordered Google to pay a former politician 715,000 Australian dollars over two defamatory YouTube videos. John Barilaro (pictured, left), the former New South Wales state deputy premier, had sued Google and comedian Jordan Shanks, also known as friendlyjordies, in the Federal Court over the videos. Justice Steven Rares found Barilaro had been the "subject of a relentless, racist, abusive and defamatory campaign conducted on YouTube," a platform owned by Google.



**NATO** kicked off nearly a two-week U.S.-led naval exercise on the Baltic Sea on Sunday with more than 7,000 sailors, airmen and marines from 16 nations, including two aspiring to join the military alliance, Finland and Sweden. The annual BALTOPS naval exercise, initiated in 1972, is not held in response to any specific threat. But the military alliance said that "with both Sweden and Finland participating, NATO is seizing the chance in an unpredictable world to enhance its joint force resilience and strength" together with two Nordic aspirant nations.



**Greek** firefighters yesterday (Macau time) were battling a wildfire for a second day near two Athens suburbs. Local media reported some damage to houses as well as vehicles, with 65 fire engines and 283 firefighters still operating in the area. Authorities said that while the blaze has abated, it's still ongoing. No official damage estimate was available and would be done once the fire is over, officials said.