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AP PHOTO



Indonesia Authorities on the southern tip of Indonesia's Sumatra island arrested a Japanese fugitive accused of fraud in Japan in connection with the receipt of a massive amount of Covid-19 subsidies for small businesses in distress, police said yesterday. Mitsuhiro Taniguchi, 47, was arrested late Tuesday night in Kalirejo village of Central Lampung district, by immigration officers and backed by local police, said National Police spokesperson Dedi Prasetyo.

AP PHOTO



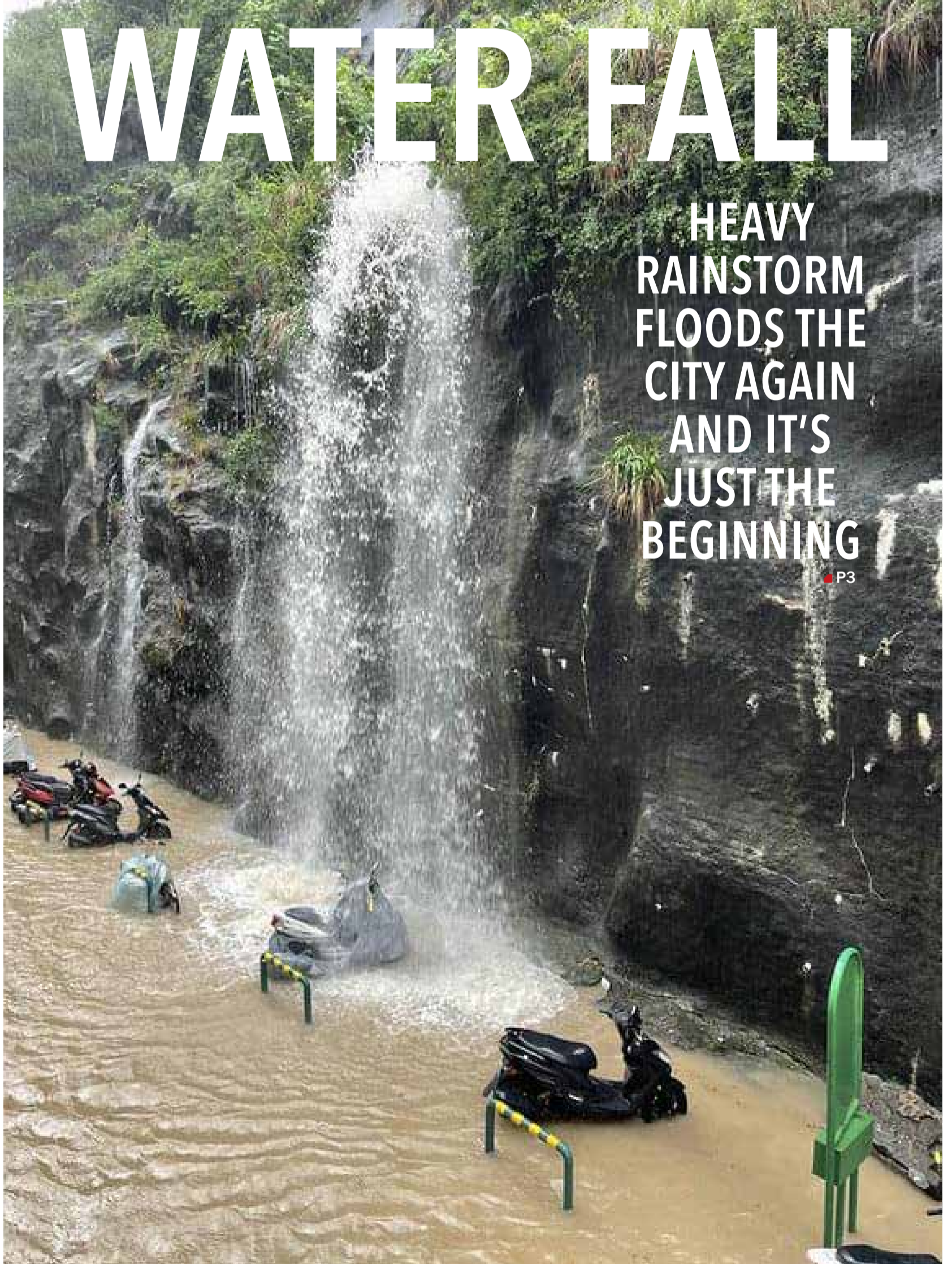
Vietnam's health minister and the mayor of the capital Hanoi have been arrested as part of an expanding investigation into massive price gouging of Covid-19 tests, state media reported. Nguyen Thanh Long was dismissed from his ministry post and Chu Ngoc Anh, who previously was the science minister, was fired as Hanoi mayor, Tuoi Tre online news outlet reported. They are being investigated for abuse of power, according to the Ministry of Public Security, and have been expelled from the ruling Communist Party.

AP PHOTO



Australia NASA will launch a research rocket from remote northern Australia this month in the agency's first blast off from a commercial space port outside the United States. Three suborbital sounding rockets will be launched from the Arnhem Space Center on Indigenous-owned land near the mining town of Nhulunbuy in the Northern Territory on June 26, July 4 and 12, said NASA and the launch pad's owner, Equatorial Launch Australia. The launch site was chosen because it is in the Southern Hemisphere and close to the equator.

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JOBS GOV'T INTERNSHIP SCHEME REGISTRATIONS ONLY ACCEPTED IN CHINESE

ANTHONY LAM

THE registration platform for an internship program co-hosted by the government and local employers is only available in Chinese, despite the program having operated for some years.

At a press conference held to announce the launch of this year's program, the panel of officials was asked by the Times if the registration platform for the program was available in both Chinese and Portuguese.

In response, Chan Un Tong, deputy director of the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL), said that the registration platform for the program is only in Chinese. However, he added, interested participants can email the bureau to request assistance in signing up for the program.

Registration is already open, with a deadline of July 8. Macau residents who graduated from a higher education institution between 2019 and 2022 – regardless of its location – are eligible to register for a place in the program.

During registration, applicants will be required to provide certificates of education or academic transcripts, as well as their resu-

ANTHONY LAM



mes. Each applicant can sign up for up to two positions.

Positions will have different quotas and are offered on a first come, first served basis.

This year, 57 companies are offering a total of 1,780 internship vacancies. The number of participating companies has increased by 15 compared with last year.

Participating companies this

year represent a variety of industries, such as resorts and hospitality, public utilities, banking and insurance, civil construction, medical care, air transport, retail sales and technology.

A total of 1,030 vacancies will be launched in the first phase, with the remaining vacancies launched later, as they become available.

Each internship will last for three months. The period will not be considered formal employment, although each intern is expected to work eight hours per working day, pursuant to the Labor Relations Law.

The companies will offer each trainee an internship allowance of MOP8,000 per month or MOP50 per hour with an insuran-

ce policy.

According to the DSAL, the same program last year saw participating companies offer full-time jobs to 599 interns. However, only 385 of the interns accepted these offers.

Registrations for the program will be accepted only on the government's One Account platform.

JOBS Gov't kicks off contest to test local resort workers' skills

SOME workers in local integrated resorts will see their skills tested in a competition that kicked off yesterday morning.

Officially referred to as the Fourth Macao Integrated Tourism and Leisure Enterprises Vocational Skills Competition 2022, the event is co-organized by the Labor Affairs Bureau (DSAL) and the Macao Federation of Trade Unions (FAOM).

Taking place yesterday and today at MGM Cotai, the contest features three competitions in five different modules.

According to the government, the competition aims to promote the cultivation of

vocational qualities and skills in employees which are in demand by both the government and local enterprises.

It also aims at improving overall vocational abilities, so as to make contributions to the city's development in general, with particular emphasis on service standards.

The competition will test contestants' skills and knowledge in areas such as casino gaming, the make-up and thematic design of hotel rooms and gastronomic knowledge.

In his speech, DSAL director Wong Chi Hong stated that the Macau government has always been committed to promoting sufficient di-

versification of the economy and creating conditions for the advancement of citizens' careers. DSAL encourages citizens to participate actively in vocational training and obtain professional qualification certificates from mainland China.

FAOM President Ho Sut Heng said in her speech that the continuing unstable situation of the coronavirus pandemic and the increasingly complex international situation are both great challenges for Macau's society and economy.

The competition's prize-awarding ceremony will be held today at 3 p.m. at the MGM Cotai. AL



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ANTHONY LAM

FLOODS were recorded in many locations across Macau yesterday as heavy rainfall hit the city from early morning until the evening.

Videos and pictures posted by social media users showed floods and waterfalls occurring in various parts of the city. For example, a strong waterfall was captured behind the Ocean Gardens Health Centre.

At the bottom of the waterfall, a puddle of unknown depth could be seen.

In another video taken on a bus, water was seen flowing into the bus near the Lisboaeta Resort in Cotai, and the roundabout was also flooded.

The heavy rainfall necessitated issuance of the Yellow Rainstorm Warning at 8:50 a.m. yesterday and the Red Rainstorm Warning 25 minutes later, at 9:15 a.m.

However, eyewitness reports differed slightly from the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) statement.

The Times was told that rainfall started to become heavy at around 8:30 a.m.

"It was pure luck that children were all at school by then," one parent said. The parent said that traffic conditions were not as congested as on normal days, probably because parents were well-prepared when they woke up to downpours yesterday.

Another reader of the Times reported a situation that matched the time of the yellow warning issuance. This reader lives on the Macau Peninsula

Heavy rainstorm puts city underwater again

RENATO MARQUES



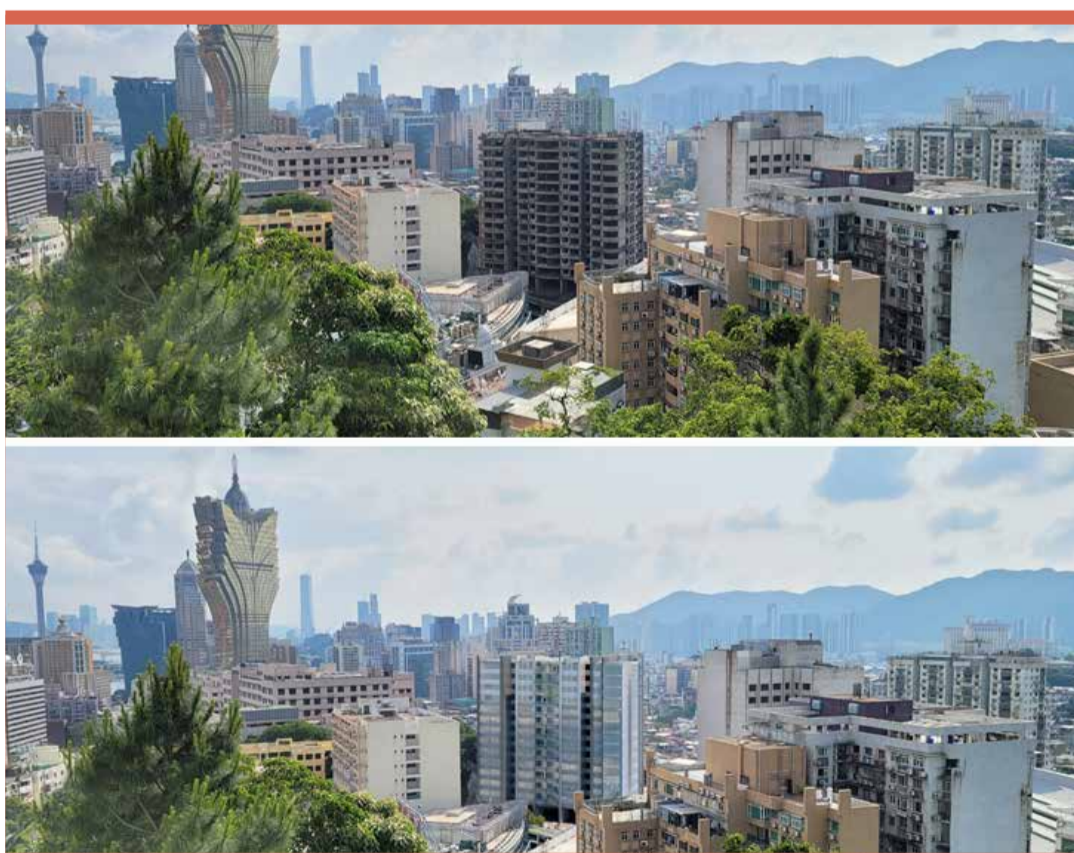
and goes to work in Taipa, and reported rain starting to become heavy when he arrived at work around 8:30 a.m. yesterday.

Pursuant to SMG guidelines on the issuance of the yellow warning, the signal is issued when "heavy rain has fallen or is expected to fall over extensive areas, exceeding 20 millimeters in an hour, and is likely to continue."

FIVE UNDERPASSES WILL SEE FLOOD WARNING SIGNS

THE Municipal Affairs Bureau and the Transport Bureau have jointly announced that warning lines will be drawn on the ground and walls of five of the city's road underpasses. The relevant underpasses are located at the Border Gate, Praça do Lago Sai Van, Avenida dos Jogos da Ásia Oriental, Tap Seac Square

and Estrada do Istmo. Flooding indicator lines will be painted on the ground of the underpasses, while rulers will be installed on the walls to indicate the depth of water flooding the underpasses. Water level warning lines will also be drawn on the walls.



Local NGO disagrees with IC on Guia Hill building

THE Concern Group for the Protection of the Guia Lighthouse has issued a statement condemning the latest decision on the building pro-

ject located at Calçada do Gaio. The group suggested that "the best solution should be to reduce the height of the building to 52.5 meters."

As reported yesterday, IC officials said that the current height proposed by the developer doesn't have a "foundational impact" on the heritage-listed

Guia Lighthouse.

After years of debate, the builder agreed to lower the height to 81 meters and reduce the number of floors from 36 to 19. The builder has also agreed to eliminate unnecessary structures on the rooftop so as to further reduce the height of the building.

The IC also recommended that the peripheral structures – originally concrete – be replaced by transparent glass panels and silver aluminum panels so as to achieve "refined design." It was also proposed that the curved design of the façade be replaced by "down-to-earth" straight lines to further simplify visual impact, fitting UNESCO's requirements.

However, the Concern Group for the Protection of the Guia Lighthouse responded that they "don't see how the present design can fulfill UNESCO's directives such as that 'the design of the upper floors of this building be revised to be more transparent and less bulky to lessen their visual impact.'"

The group suggested that demolishing the upper floors would be the best solution. Otherwise, the area of each upper floor should be reduced. **STAFF REPORTER**

468 NEW GRADUATES FROM TOURISM PROGRAMS THIS YEAR

A total of 468 graduating students from Master of Science (MSc), postgraduate, undergraduate, and diploma programs at the Macao Institute for Tourism Studies (IFTM) received their degrees yesterday, in a ceremony featuring an address from Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Elsie Ao Ieong. In her speech, Ao Ieong highlighted the institute's achievements in curriculum reform, teaching facility development and professional training. She also spoke of the government's intention for local higher education institutions to align more closely with Macau's positioning and to build a more competitive higher education system in the region, making use of the latest technologies.

PSP SPECIAL OPERATION NABS JUST FOUR SUSPECTED CRIMINALS

The Public Security Police Force (PSP) has again carried out its regular special anti-crime operation codenamed "Thunder 2022." In the operation, which took place from the morning of June 7 until the morning of June 8, the police said that 132 people were intercepted and investigated. Of these, four people were taken to the police station for further investigation under suspicion of illegal activities. Three people are suspected of carrying out illegal currency exchanges and a fourth person is suspected of engaging in prostitution activities. The PSP also inspected a total of 30 vehicles on the roads, finding just one driver who was disobeying the law by not wearing a seatbelt while driving.

ECONOMY CHIEF SAYS CLOSURE OF SATELLITE CASINOS NOT RELATED TO LAW REVIEW

SECRETARY for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong insisted yesterday that the Gaming Law review had nothing to do with the claimed serial closures of satellite casinos across the city.

He was asked to comment on the matter on the sidelines of a government event yesterday morning.

A satellite casino is a concept not defined in law but which is indeed a reality. The term refers to casinos that are operated in locations not owned by a gaming concessionaire.

Previously, the government proposed in the law review that each satellite casino be acquired by a gaming concessionaire within three years after the review is passed in parliament.

Recently, the government made a U-turn on the proposal and suggested allowing gaming concessionaires to rent locations from non-licensees.

This has been understood by the public as a move to retain satellite casinos amid a massive economic downturn during the Covid-19 pandemic.



Lei reiterated that the closure of satellite casinos was a business decision made by the respective casino owners, based on the pandemic situation and subsequent assessment of future prospects.

He did not think it was related to the law review.

Commenting on the about-face, the senior official emphasized that it was not a compromise.

He reiterated that the government would not interfere with satellite casinos' business decisions. However, in general, the government hoped to

see them retained, so as to maintain the city's economic wealth and ease unemployment.

Speaking on the adjustment of the budget due to actual gross gaming revenue (GGR) compared with previous estimates, Lei explained that GGR in the first five months of the year differed from the government's initial estimates.

He hoped that revenue would recover in the second half of the year, considering that this is normally a peak tourism period in mainland China. **AL**

PJ HOLDS SCHOOL SAFETY NETWORK EXCHANGE MEETINGS

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) held two "School Safety Network Meetings" with representatives from the education department and youth groups in Macau to discuss and optimize the existing police-school liaison program, continue to improve strategies for crime prevention education, promote cooperation, and protect the safety and health of teens.

Two exchange meetings were held on Tuesday at the PJ headquarters. The morning session was for higher education, and the afternoon session for other education. More than 91 guests were welcomed by Sit Chong Meng, director of the Judiciary Police, deputy director Tou Sok Sam and Luis Leong, acting deputy director.

Sit stated that the authorities have always attached importance to cooperation between the police and educational institutions, and therefore hold the crime prevention dialogues every year.

The police discussed juvenile delinquency of students with educational officials, to strengthen cooperation between home, school and police, as well as optimizing youth crime prevention education and policing strategies.

Most of the representatives were concerned about the mental health of teenagers, and therefore recommended that the government strengthen education programs and establish a cooperative system to prevent teen self-harm. Some representatives proposed holding domestic violence prevention seminars for parents, and advocated education and personal skills training for young people to strengthen their awareness against crime.

The PJ awarded certificates to schools as thanks for their "strong support" of youth crime prevention, and for assisting police in improving security arrangements around schools. **STAFF REPORTER**

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Lawmakers raise doubts over public capital enterprises regime

RENATO MARQUES

LAWMAKERS from the First Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL) have expressed several concerns and raised many doubts over a new bill which aims to establish a new legal regime to regulate enterprises with the participation of public capital either in full or part, the president of the committee, lawmaker Ella Lei, said.

Lei was speaking at a media briefing held at the AL yesterday afternoon, after the first meeting of the committee on the matter.

"Today we had a general discussion on the bill without the presence of the government [representatives]. We essentially heard the opinion of the members [of the committee], which was to draft a list of questions we want the government to answer," Lei said.

She added, "There are many questions, from the definitions to the scope [of the bill], as well as matters such as the operations of the companies in which the government has non-dominant participation, supervision, and several other concerns."

The apprehension of the lawmakers is not new and seems to follow the debate on May 26, when the bill was approved in the first reading at the AL plenary. At the time, several lawmakers aired similar concerns that have not yet been clarified by the government.

Although the bill was generally greenlit by a large majority, two lawmakers José Pereira Coutinho and Che Sai Wang, abstained from voting at the first reading.

One big concern continues to be the uncertainty over which government department will be in charge of general supervision over the activities of public capital companies.

"Who will supervise and how will the government manage the different



competencies and responsibilities of different government departments over this matter?" Lei asked, expressing the doubts of the lawmakers. She said that lawmakers "know that this bill is being proposed by the Office for the Planning of Supervision of Public Assets (GPSAP) but the bill does not clearly state if it is this office that will be in charge of supervision over the enterprises. We also know that the Financial Services Bureau has responsibilities and competencies in this matter, so we need to clarify who will be in charge of what."

"It might even be that a new department is created. We don't know," Lei said.

IN DISHARMONY WITH THE COMMERCIAL CODE

Another big issue noted by the lawmakers yesterday was the articulation of the new regime with the existing Macau Commercial Code, Lei said.

"There are several types of companies with different interests and purposes, some aim to make profits, others have a more social-oriented purpose. ... We are anticipating [potential] problems in the articulation and harmonization of this regime with

the existing commercial code," she said, adding that these problems are more obvious in relation to companies where the government has only "small participation" or a minority stake (of less than 50%).

Lei also noted regulations over the granting of subsidies to support operations and the alienation of public assets, among others.

"Regarding the alienation of public assets or capital, there is a line [in the bill] that states that it should be done only in cases where there is 'reasonable compensation,' but what does it mean to be 'reasonable,' who defines this reasonability?" Lei asked.

LEGAL HINDRANCE REGIME NEEDS CLARITY

In yet another issue that raised questions from lawmakers, the committee members are concerned with a "lack of clarity" on some procedural matters, including the regime that regulates the legal impediment or hindrance over the participation and decision-making of people who may have to represent both public and private interests.

Lei said that a mechanism to regulate the Legal

Impediment Regime is necessary so there is no room for doubt when it is enforced.

Lawmakers think that more duties, such as "loyalty" and "reputability," should be added to the portfolio of the administrators or government representatives on the companies' boards.

Concerns also extended to the procedures regarding the decision of the general assembly or board of directors of some of these companies.

"In some aspects [the bill] states that the general assembly or the board can decide but it seems that the procedures are not very clear," Lei remarked. She added that the law is not that extensive — containing fewer than 40 articles — but that there are many questions and issues that deserve attention from the government.

There will now be a listing of all the questions for the government and a future meeting will be scheduled with government officials to hear their explanations.

Lei said that she didn't know when this meeting would take place as "the committee needs to give some time for the government to find the answers."

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DIPLOMACY

CHINA, CAMBODIA BREAK GROUND ON PORT, DISMISS US CONCERNS

DAVID RISING & SOPHENG CHEANG, PHNOM PENH

CHINESE and Cambodian officials broke ground yesterday on a naval port expansion project, dismissing American concerns it could provide Beijing with a strategically important military outpost on the Gulf of Thailand.

Cambodian Defense Minister Tea Banh, Chinese Ambassador to Cambodia Wang Wentian and other officials donned white gloves before turning over shovels full of dirt to launch the official "modernization" of the Ream Naval Base, which will include a dry dock for ship repairs, an extended pier, a hospital, a workshop and a "reception building."

Longtime leader Hun Sen in 2019 reportedly granted China the right to set up a military base at Ream, but has long denied that, saying Cambodia's Constitution prohibits foreign military facilities.

Dredging is already underway to allow larger ships to use the port. Tea Banh told guests, including the U.S. defense attaché, that it would still only be able to accommodate ships of up to 5,000 tons displacement — an improvement from the current 1,000 tons but too shallow for all but the smallest of naval ships.

"Please don't be too worried about this Ream base," Tea Banh said, speaking in front of a sign proclaiming the project is being funded by "grant aid from the People's Republic of China."

"This port is too small and even after upgrading it can't be a port that would threaten any countries," he said.

AP PHOTO



Cambodian Defense Minister Tea Banh and Chinese Ambassador to Cambodia Wang Wentian preside over the groundbreaking ceremony for a shipyard repairing and restoration workshop in Ream Cambodian Naval Base of Sihanoukville, yesterday

Tea Banh said he invited the U.S. and other foreign representatives to the base so they could see for themselves "there is nothing here," though he added that once construction is complete the facility will become a restricted military zone with no access for foreign nations.

Following the ceremony, the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh reiterated American concerns that a Chinese "military presence at Ream could threaten Cambodia's autonomy and undermine regional security."

"The U.S. and countries in the region have expressed concern about the lack of transparency on the intent, nature, and scope of this project as well as the role the PRC military is playing in its construction and in post-construction use of the facility," embassy spokesperson Stephanie Arzate said in an email to The Associated Press.

Ream faces the Gulf of Thailand, adjacent to the South China Sea, where China has asserted its claim to virtually the entire strategic waterway. The U.S. has refused

to recognize China's sweeping claim and routinely conducts military maneuvers there to reinforce that they are international waters.

Tea Banh said the port project is expected to take two years to complete. He did not say how much it would cost, but China has given Cambodia hundreds of millions of dollars in grants in recent years for infrastructure projects.

Chinese Ambassador Wang said the construction will follow a plan agreed upon by Hun Sen and Chinese President Xi Jinping earlier this year to "further promote

the building of a community with a shared future with strategic significance."

"China and Cambodia have become ironclad brothers, economical with words but generous in action, treating each other with all sincerity and standing side by side at challenging times," he said, according to an English translation of his remarks provided by the Chinese delegation.

The U.S. in November sanctioned two senior Cambodian defense officials over allegations of graft connected to construction financing at the Ream base, and Wang lashed out at the move, without mentioning the United States by name.

"Some countries keep smearing legitimate exchanges and cooperation between China and Cambodia and arbitrarily impose unilateral sanctions on Cambodia under the false subterfuge of 'democracy' and 'human rights,' blatantly interfering in Cambodia's internal affairs through 'long-arm jurisdiction,'" he said. "We firmly oppose all these misbehaviors."

He said when completed, the base will be a monument to "the ironclad friendship and cooperation between the two militaries" of China and Cambodia.

China only operates one acknowledged foreign military base, in the impoverished but strategically important Horn of Africa nation of Djibouti, but Western diplomats believe that its People's Liberation Army "is busy establishing an overseas military network."

Beijing recently signed a security agreement with the Solomon Islands that has raised fears of a possible Chinese outpost in the Pacific, and it has reached out to multiple other island nations in the region.

The U.S. has more foreign military bases than any other country, including multiple facilities in the Asia-Pacific region. MDT/AP

ACROSS CHINA

Hainan island explores green fishery for sea protection

ZENG Guangneng, a fish farmer in Wenchang, a city in south China's island province of Hainan, has experienced several major life changes. His grandfather was a sea fisherman, his father bred fish on the shore, and now he moved fish ponds into a building.

In a new, two-story breeding demonstration building of Fengjiawan Modern Fishery Industrial Park in Wenchang, Zeng carefully checked the growth of fish fry in the aquaculture ponds.

As one of the first groups of fish farmers in the park, Zeng moved in there in May

last year and has benefited from the modern way of breeding aquatics.

The building adopts multi-story breeding modes to increase the space for ponds. During the first three-year trial period, the park also exempted these fish farmers from fees, including rent and water supply costs.

From April to May this year, Zeng sold over 250,000 high-end fish fry with a total income of about 1.5 million yuan (about USD225,000).

"Compared with the traditional greenhouse breeding mode, temperature

and light are controlled here. It is also easier to monitor diseases. It is conducive to cultivating high-end fry varieties," said Zeng.

Fengjiawan Bay used to be a famous base for shrimp seedlings in China in the late 1980s. However, a long-term, extensive fish culture that involved uncontrolled tailwater discharge had caused pollution on the beach.

In 2016, nearly 1,000 households of aquaculture farmers lived along the Fengjiawan Bay coastline, and the dense pipelines and widespread fish ponds looked like scars when seen from

the sky.

Last year, the local government relocated 195 households of fish farmers at Fengjiawan Bay to restore the environment. Instead, they planted mangroves there.

In 2020, the local government began to build the modern fishery industrial park at Fengjiawan Bay area, explored the multi-layer breeding model, and promoted the green transformation of the fishery industry.

Liu Wenlong, a park official, said to solve pollution, the park collects the aquaculture tailwater together

and treats it with modern technology, and then discharges the treated tailwater after it reaches the required standard, which means it will not pollute the seawater.

So far, eight farmer households, including Zeng's, have moved into the park, which covers nearly 467 hectares.

"My family has lived here for generations. We used to do well in aquaculture, but over the past five or six years, farm numbers have greatly increased. The water quality has become poor due to the need for water and drainage. So it's challenging to

succeed," said Zeng, adding that the government has centralized water taking and drainage in the park to solve the problem.

According to Zeng, they used to breed fish in plastic greenhouses by the seaside, and a typhoon could wipe out everything they had earned. "The conditions here are good, and a typhoon will have little impact on the building," said Zeng, noting it has mitigated the risks and helped increase the output.

The park has also attracted 14 breeding enterprises and two research institutions. XINHUA

TASSANEE VEJPONGSA,
BANGKOK

THAILAND

Police sentenced to life for killing drug suspect

A former Thai police colonel nicknamed "Jo Ferrari" for his extravagant collection of luxury cars was sentenced Wednesday to life in prison for the torture and killing of a drug suspect from whom they were trying to extort money.

Allegations of corruption and rough treatment of suspects by police in Thailand are not unusual. But the assault on the suspect on Aug. 5 last year was captured on video, causing a public uproar when a lawyer who received it from a whistleblower, a junior policeman, posted it on social media.

The video appears to show Col. Thitsan Utthanaphon, chief of the station in Nakhon Sawan province, north of Bangkok, directing other officers to assault the suspect, Jirapong Thanapat, after he was brought into a room handcuffed with a black plastic bag over his head.

The officers threw Jirapong, 24, to the floor and put more bags on his head. Then one of the officers appeared to briefly kneel on Jirapong until he went limp. After failed attempts to revive him, he was sent to a hospital.

The six defendants convicted of premeditated murder and employing torture or acts of cruelty

AP PHOTO



Thai police escort former police officer Thitsan Utthanaphon, known as "Jo Ferrari", while leaving the Crime Suppression Division in Bangkok (Aug. 2021)

and two lesser charges were initially given death sentences, but those were reduced to life in prison for the officers' efforts to revive the victim and compensate his family.

A seventh officer not in the room during the assault was sen-

tenced to prison for five years, four months for abuse of power and extortion.

Police and officials from Thailand's Anti-Money Laundering Office seized assets from Thitsan worth about 131 million baht (\$3.8 million). They included a

mansion valued at 57 million baht (\$1.7 million) and 24 cars valued at 70 million baht (\$2 million). Media reports said the vehicles had been acquired under suspicious circumstances.

The lethal encounter occurred after police arrested Jirapong

and his female companion, who allegedly possessed more than 100,000 methamphetamine tablets.

The police officers first demanded 1 million baht (\$29,000) from the suspects, which they agreed to pay for their release, according to the account of the whistleblower, who was not named for his own safety.

However, Thitsan then demanded double that amount and ordered his subordinates to cover Jirapong's head with the plastic bag and beat him until he agreed, said the junior policeman. He added that the arrested woman was released and told not to say anything about the incident, and that Thitsan paid the victim's father to remain silent.

The defendants were not in court but attended Wednesday's sentencing by video from the prison where they are being held, while the victims' parents were present. His father, Jakkrit Klundee, said he thought the police officers should have restrained each other and that the family will seek compensation from the police department.

"It was hard to hear the details, the number of bags used, how they tightened them up until my son couldn't breathe," he told reporters. "When we heard all of this, my wife was crying. I hope that they learned their lessons and will pay for what they did." MDT/AP

AD



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PUTIN'S WAR

Ukrainian forces could pull back from embattled eastern city

BERNAT ARMANGUÉ
& YURAS KARMANAU,
BAKHMUT

UKRAINIAN forces battling Russian troops in a key eastern city appeared on the cusp of retreat yesterday, though the regional governor insisted they are still fighting "for every centimeter" of the city.

The urban battle for Sievierodonetsk testified to the painstaking, inch-by-inch advance by Russian forces as they close in on control of the entire Luhansk region, one of two that make up the industrial heartland known as the Donbas.

After a bungled attempt to overrun Kyiv in the early days of the war, Russia shifted its focus to the region of coal mines and factories. The Donbas has been partly controlled by Russia-backed separatists since 2014, making supply lines shorter and allowing Moscow to tap those separatist forces in its offensive there.

But Russia also faces Ukraine's most battle-hardened troops, who have been fighting the separatists for eight years there.

The result is a slow slog in which both sides exchange artillery barrages that seemingly inflict heavy losses, but neither appears to have the clear momentum.

The grinding war has left thousands dead and driven millions from their homes — and its consequences are felt in many countries where it is driving up the price of food since critical shipments of Ukrainian grain are trapped inside the country.

After meeting with Russia's foreign minister yesterday, Turkey's top diplomat said he thought a plan to create a secure shipping corridor to resume exports of that grain was "feasible."

Luhansk Gov. Serhiy Haidai acknowledged the difficulties in Sievierodonetsk, telling The Associated Press "maybe we will have to retreat, but right now battles are ongoing in the city."

Earlier, on the Telegram messaging app, he said Ukrainian forces were fighting "for every centimeter of the city."



An injured Ukrainian servicemen is transferred to a medical facility after getting an emergency medical treatment in the Donetsk region

He indicated they could pull back to positions that are easier to defend. The city across the river, Lysychansk, sits on higher ground.

Sievierodonetsk, which had a prewar population of 100,000, became the administrative capital of the region after the city of Luhansk was taken by separatists in 2014.

Both it and Lysychansk are wedged between Russian forces to the east, north and south — in the small portion of the Luhansk region that Russia has not yet claimed control of. Moscow also appears to hold about half of Donetsk region that rounds out the Donbas.

West of those cities, medics worked in the Ukrainian-held town of Bakhmut to care for the wounded, as the fighting threatened to encroach.

"It seems to be getting a bit worse. The number of patients that we're seeing is getting to be more and more, and it seems that the fighting is getting closer to this area," said Danial Rebar, a paramedic from Detroit and a former U.S. serviceman who has been volunteering in Ukraine for the past seven weeks as a combat medic.

Meanwhile, to the north, Russian shelling of the northern Kharkiv region killed five people and wounded 12 more over the past 24 hours, regional governor Oleh Syniehubov said.

The Russian military

said yesterday that Moscow used "air-launched, high-precision missiles" to hit an armor repair plant near Kharkiv. There was no confirmation from Ukrainian officials of such a plant being hit.

Before Russia's invasion, Ukrainian officials said Russia controlled some 7% of the country, including the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia annexed in 2014, and areas held by the separatists in Donetsk and Luhansk. Last week, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Russian forces held 20% of the country.

While Russia has superior firepower, the Ukrainian defenders are entrenched and have shown the ability to counterattack.

"The absolutely heroic defense of the Donbas continues," Zelenskyy said late Tuesday in his nightly video address.

Speaking earlier to a Financial Times conference, Zelenskyy insisted on Ukraine's need to defeat Russia on the battlefield but also said he is still open to peace talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

But a former senior U.S. intelligence officer said the time isn't right.

"You're not going to get to the negotiating table until neither side feels they have an advantage that they could push," said Andrea Kendall-Taylor of the Washington-based Center for a New American Security.

Turkey has sought to play a role in negotiating an end to the war — but talks it hosted earlier in conflict yielded no progress. Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said yesterday his country is "much more optimistic" that Russia and Ukraine can be persuaded to return to talks after he met with his Russian counterpart, Sergey Lavrov. But he provided no details why.

Cavusoglu is also trying to help negotiate a plan to get Ukrainian agricultural products out of the country and said he thought a plan to create a secure shipping corridor was possible.

But it's not clear if any progress was made since there was no Ukrainian representative at the meeting.

Russia has said shipping could resume if Ukraine removes mines from the area near its Black Sea port of Odesa. It has pledged not to use the demined corridor to attack Ukraine — but Kyiv has voiced doubt about that promise. Moscow also says it wants to check the ships coming into Odesa for weapons.

The war has helped fuel a food crisis in developing countries, since Ukraine is one of the world's largest exporters of wheat, corn and sunflower oil, but much of that flow has been halted by the war and a Russian blockade.

An estimated 22 million tons of grains are sitting in silos in Ukraine. MDT/AP

this day in history

1975 FIRST LIVE BROADCAST OF PARLIAMENT



The first live transmission from the House of Commons has been broadcast by BBC Radio and commercial stations.

Commentary was provided by BBC political editor David Holmes and Edmund Boyle, from Independent Radio News, who shared a cramped, sound-proofed box inside the chamber.

Secretary of State for Industry Tony Benn was the first minister to be questioned in Parliament live on air, starting a debate which some listeners said was difficult to follow on radio.

But the BBC and IRN said it was pleased with the first daily Question Time broadcast of this four-week experiment.

Mr Holmes and Mr Boyle - who both said they hoped their uncomfortable booth would be upgraded if the trial became permanent - attempted to provide background details of the proceedings.

But they admitted this was sometimes difficult with the speed of the debates and Commons' traditions like referring to other MPs as "honourable gentleman", rather than their name.

BBC boss Peter Hardiman Scott said it would be arrogant to expect MPs to alter their procedure for the sake of the broadcast, but said he would not be surprised if subtle changes were made in time.

"One might get shorter speeches, or speeches rather to the point - only the diehards would suggest that these would be changes for the worst," he said.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The idea of broadcasting the proceedings of Parliament was first suggested by the BBC in the 1920s, but permission was refused. Permanent radio coverage was eventually granted in 1978 after the 1975 dry-run. In November 1984, cameras were installed in the Lords for an experimental period and have remained ever since. Permission for television broadcasts of Commons' proceedings was finally granted in 1990 after an 18-month trial.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Do something together and you'll be surprised how sweet a deal you can make. Consider starting a small business on the side. Look for a marketable gimmick.

TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

They will jump at the chance to do something without you if it sounds like more fun. Overexertion and negligence will be your worst enemies.

GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

This will be a great night to invite friend over to visit. You can make a huge difference to children if you are able to put yourself in their shoes. You may have some difficulties with someone you live with.

CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Don't draw too much attention to yourself at work. Coworkers may not be giving you all the pertinent information. Make plans that will take you to exotic destinations.

LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Do not overexpand if you have your own business. Sit tight. Try not to be overbearing where family is concerned. You can enjoy doing things that include children.

VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

New projects may lead you into a dead end. Make alternate plans just in case you need to make a career shift. Friendships will be ruined if you let too many people get involved in any disputes.

LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Your interest in helping others may take you back to school. If you're already in a relationship, use this added energy passionately. You may have a tendency to put on weight.

SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Before you proceed be sure to talk your plans over with those they will affect. Try to be a bit more understanding or you may end up spending the evening alone.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Avoid letting family get involved in your personal life. Don't point your finger unjustly at others. Do you really want to start something with someone you can't reason with?

CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

You will be misinterpreted if you get involved in other people's problems. Chances are you could get stuck with a colleague's job unexpectedly. Upheavals may occupy your day.

AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You may have a hidden adversary who would love to prove you wrong. You may have personal problems, but professional duties might be pressing.

PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

You need to challenge yourself. You can make career moves that will be prosperous. Use your creative talent in order to accomplish your goals.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	17	24	cloudy
Changchun	13	22	rain
Chengdu	21	28	showers
Chongqing	23	28	rain
Fuzhou	19	23	rain
Guangzhou	24	28	rain
Guiyang	18	26	cloudy
Haikou	24	33	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	20	29	cloudy
Harbin	14	24	cloudy
Hefei	18	30	cloudy
Nanjing	18	29	cloudy
Shanghai	18	28	overcast
Taipei	19	23	rain
Wuhan	23	34	fine
Hong Kong	27	29	thunderstorms
WORLD			
Moscow	18	28	overcast
Frankfurt	9	20	showers
Paris	16	21	overcast
London	15	20	overcast
New York	17	27	showers

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Bars legally; 7- Exist; 10- Low in pitch; 14- Strong cigar; 15- Blend; 16- Chills and fever; 17- Infuse; 18- Explosive sound; 19- Ready for plucking; 20- Limber; 23- Campaign tactic; 26- Noteworthy period; 27- Approaches; 28- Seemingly forever; 29- Nor. neighbor; 30- Bashful; 31- Cocktail; 33- Car club; 34- Young bear; 37- How was ___ know?; 38- Oui's opposite; 39- Building annex; 40- ___ glance; 41- Nine-digit ID; 42- Drag; 43- Necessary; 45- Krazy ___; 46- Bandleader Brown; 47- Able was ___; 48- Jordan's capital; 51- Anaconda; 52- Orgs.; 53- Responsibility; 56- Yes ___; 57- Old California fort; 58- Blows one's top; 62- Phooey!; 63- Ring result; 64- Sell directly to the consumer; 65- Exclamation to express sorrow; 66- Novelist Rand; 67- Stylish;

DOWN 1- U.K. record label; 2- ___ Quentin; 3- NFL 6-pointers; 4- Survive longer; 5- Earlier; 6- Han ___ was a "Star Wars" character; 7- Current unit; 8- Spanish wine; 9- Public exhibition; 10- Fred Flintstone's best friend; 11- Heartburn; 12- Great; 13- Sows; 21- Work of one who stitches; 22- Breathe in; 23- Penultimate round; 24- Castle water pits; 25- Noted bankruptcy of 2001; 29- Muzzle; 30- Income source; 32- Upcountry; 33- Trojan War hero; 34- Sidewalk eateries; 35- Complete reversal; 36- Bundles; 44- Quarrel; 45- South African animal rug; 46- Capital of United Kingdom; 48- Greek marketplace; 49- Wall painting; 50- Devilfish; 51- Like a tree trunk or a yipping dog; 52- Broadcaster; 54- Mite; 55- Cattle group; 59- ___ de deux (ballet dance); 60- ___ the season...; 61- Foxy;

Yesterday's solution

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- Emergency calls 999
- Fire department 28 572 222
- PJ (Open line) 993
- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IAM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
- Telephone - Report 1000
- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
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HELLENE GARDENS 3 BEDS	HKD 13,500
TAIPA STUDIO	HKD 6,800
COLOANE 1 BED	HKD 9,300

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TAIPA RENOVATED 2 BEDS	HKD 4,680,000
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TAIPA STUDIO WITH BALCONY	HKD 3,780,000
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E-COMMERCE

AMAZON SAYS IT PREVENTED 4 BILLION BAD LISTINGS IN 2021

AMAZON, which has been under increasing pressure to tackle counterfeit products, said in its second-annual report that it prevented 4 billion bad listings from making it onto its site and got rid of more than 3 million phony products last year.

The results, released yesterday, were mixed compared with 2020, when Amazon blocked 10 billion listings and got rid of 2 million phony products. The Seattle-based e-commerce juggernaut also saw a decrease in complaints of intellectual property infringement in 2021 while growing the number of active brands on its site.

According to the report, Amazon stopped more than 2.5 million attempts to create fake accounts on its third-party marketplace, where sellers can list their products directly to consumers. That number is about a 58% decline from the attempts it said it stopped in 2020, which the company credits to its vetting process and other efforts to deter bad actors.

But Juozas Kaziuknas, the founder of e-commerce research firm Marketplace Pulse, said it can be hard to independently know what actually caused those declines — whether it's Amazon's policies or other factors.

Counterfeit sellers have long plagued Amazon and other e-commerce retailers, including eBay. And Amazon has stepped up efforts to fight it in recent years amid heightened scrutiny from brands and lawmakers

PHOTO ARCHIVE



pushing for anti-counterfeit legislation.

Amazon backs a House version of an online retail bill, known as the INFORM Act, which would require online marketplaces to collect contact and financial information from high-volume sellers and disclose some of the information to consumers. Amazon

had opposed an earlier Senate version of the bill, which would require online retailers to gather information from a larger group of third-party merchants.

Meanwhile, TechNet, a lobbying group that counts Amazon and eBay as some of its members, is pushing back against another bill that would make the

e-commerce platforms liable for counterfeit goods sold on their site. An Amazon spokesperson said in an emailed statement the company recognizes "the intent of the legislation is to stop counterfeits" and looks forward to working with Congress to achieve that goal.

In its report, Amazon said it

implemented a program last year that made it harder for bad actors to register for selling accounts by requiring one-on-one conversations with a company team member to verify their identity. It says it's also verifying the seller's physical location and payment instruments and leveraging machine learning to detect risks about potential accounts.

Last year, the company said it spent more than \$900 million to push back against fraud, and sued — or referred — more than 600 sellers for investigation in the U.S. and other places like China. Amazon did not reveal in the report the source of most counterfeit products, but China has been a sore spot. And the company won't share data that helps it detect and prevent phony products from showing up on its site, said Mary Beth Westmoreland, Amazon's vice president of brand protection.

According to Marketplace Pulse, the share of top China-based merchants has steadily been declining on Amazon's third-party marketplace since late 2020, a trend some experts believe may be caused by pandemic-induced supply chain snafus and the company's recent efforts to crack down on prohibited activity, including fake reviews. Last year, the company suspended several prominent China-based sellers and reportedly kicked off 50,000 merchants for violating its rules.

Marketplace Pulse's data shows 55% of the top sellers on Amazon's U.S. marketplace are domestic businesses, a jump from 48% in November 2020. **MDT/AP**

CORPORATE BITS

CESL Asia's Monte do Pasto acquires new farm in Alentejo



Monte do Pasto Group, owned by CESL Asia, recently completed the acquisition of Herdade das Gregas de Cima, a 455 hectare property in Alentejo. The group now has a total of 4200 hectares for the development of its "sustainable livestock and agriculture business," the Macau-based company said yesterday.

In a statement, the company

said that this investment "will expand the extensive cattle breeding activity, boost lamb breeding and reinforce the potential of irrigated agriculture as part of its growth strategy which will include, in the short term, increasing the internationalization of its products — live animals and True Born meat — in the Asian and Middle Eastern markets."

According to the company, the Portuguese agricultural sector "has shown a high capacity for innovation, renewal and resilience, with a very strong commitment to grow in new markets."

The Monte do Pasto Group, through its shareholder CESL Asia, maintains a preferential relationship with the Macau, Hong Kong and mainland China markets.

"[CESL Asia] will continue to invest strategically in projects that can leverage this opportunity and create value for the Portuguese agricultural sector, the Alentejo region and for the Macau Platform for the economic and social development of China, Portugal, the Portuguese-speaking countries and Macau in the context of the Great Bay Area," the statement reads.

The Portuguese vice-minister for regional development, Isabel Ferreira (pictured, center), visited the farmland last week to observe Monte do Pasto operations, development strategy, and investment in the internationalization of the company.

Wynn signs agreements with DSEDJ for two collaborative initiatives



Wynn Macau has signed two memoranda of understanding with the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) to launch the "School-Corporation Partnership" and "Parenting Education" program, the gaming operator announced yesterday in a press release.

Through these two initiatives, "established with the goal of offering students and young people learning and training opportunities across industries," Wynn and DSEDJ "hope to work together to help cultivate a new generation of talent in Macau."

The "Inspiring Through Talents Nurturing Program" Collaboration Signing Ceremony" took place

yesterday at Wynn Palace. Kong Chi Meng, director of the DSEDJ, and Zuleika Mok, senior vice president of human resources at Wynn Macau Limited, co-signed the memoranda in the presence of Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Ao leong U, and Xu Ting, director of the department of education and youth affairs in the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macau SAR.

"Wynn is honored to partner with the DSEDJ in launching the two collaborative initiatives," said Linda Chen, president and executive director of Wynn Resorts (Macau).

GOLF

DeChambeau, Reed to join Saudi-funded league in US: report

DOUG FERGUSON

MAJOR champions Bryson DeChambeau and Patrick Reed plan to sign up with the Saudi-funded LIV Golf Invitational series in time for the rival circuit to start playing in U.S. cities, a British newspaper reported yesterday.

The Daily Telegraph says Greg Norman and his staff that runs LIV Golf Investments plan to announce the latest two defections from the PGA Tour on Friday.

The inaugural LIV Golf Invitational at Centurion Golf Club, which features Dustin Johnson, Phil Mickelson and Sergio Garcia, is set to begin today.

DeChambeau was among the early recruits to the Saudi league in January. That changed when Mickelson brought unwanted attention on the nascent league with interviews that disparaged the PGA Tour and the Saudis who are funding the LIV Golf In-



AP PHOTO

vestments. Johnson was the biggest name to announce his support for the PGA Tour in February, and DeChambeau followed suit.

"While there has been a lot of speculation surrounding my support for another tour, I want to make it very clear that as long as the best players in the world are

playing the PGA Tour, so will I," DeChambeau said in a February statement.

Asked about his interest last week at the Memorial, DeChambeau said, "I personally don't think that at this point in time I'm in a place in my career where I can risk things like that."

"I'm loyal to my family that I've created around me with sponsors and everything. And as of right now, the golf world is probably going to change in some capacity. I don't know what that is. Not my job to do so. I'm just going to keep playing professional golf and enjoy it wherever it takes me, play with the best players in the world."

His agent said Wednesday in a statement that "Bryson has always been an innovator."

"Having the opportunity to get in on the ground floor of something unique has always been intriguing to him. Professional golf as we know it is changing and it's happening

quickly," said Brett Falkoff of GSE Worldwide.

DeChambeau won the U.S. Open at Winged Foot in 2020 at a time when he captivated golf with his out-of-the-box thinking that more speed and more power would change the game. He added 40 pounds of muscle and mass and his ball speed off the driver hit 200 mph. He also competed in long drive exhibitions.

Reed won the 2018 Masters for his only major. Along with being known for his grit and short game, he was a prime source of heckling in U.S. galleries for moving sand away from his golf ball in the Bahamas in 2019, a clear violation of the rules.

Players are getting massive signing bonuses to join Norman's league. The Telegraph reports Johnson getting \$150 million even before competing for \$25 million funds at each of the eight LIV events on the schedule.

Mickelson was asked about reports he was getting \$200 million.

"I feel that contract agreements should be private," he said. "Doesn't seem to be the case, but it should be."

The first U.S. event for the LIV series is the weekend before the Fourth of July at Pumpkin Ridge in Oregon. **MDT/AP**

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OPINION

World Views

Paul Wiseman, MDT/AP Economics Writer

**WORRY ABOUT
 STAGFLATION, A FLASHBACK
 TO '70S, BEGINS TO GROW**

Stagflation. It was the dreaded "S word" of the 1970s.

For Americans of a certain age, it conjures memories of painfully long lines at gas stations, shuttered factories and President Gerald Ford's much-ridiculed "Whip Inflation Now" buttons.

Stagflation is the bitterest of economic pills: High inflation mixes with a weak job market to cause a toxic brew that punishes consumers and befuddles economists.

For decades, most economists didn't think such a nasty concoction was even possible. They'd long assumed that inflation would run high only when the economy was strong and unemployment low.

But an unhappy confluence of events has economists reaching back to the days of disco and the bleak high-inflation, high-unemployment economy of nearly a half century ago. Few think stagflation is in sight. But as a longer-term threat, it can no longer be dismissed.

This week, the World Bank raised the specter of stagflation in sharply downgrading its outlook for the global economy.

"The world economy is again in danger," the anti-poverty agency warned. "This time, it is facing high inflation and slow growth at the same time. ... It's a phenomenon — stagflation — that the world has not seen since the 1970s."

The U.S. government estimates that the economy shrank at a 1.5% annual rate from January through March. But the drop was due mostly to two factors that don't reflect the economy's underlying strength: A rising trade gap caused by Americans' appetite for foreign products and a slowdown in the restocking of businesses inventories after a big holiday season buildup.

For now, economists broadly agree that the U.S. economy has enough oomph to avoid a recession. But the problems are piling up. Supply chain bottlenecks and disruptions from Russia's war against Ukraine have sent consumer prices surging at their fastest pace in decades.

The Federal Reserve and other central banks, blindsided by raging inflation, are scrambling to catch up by aggressively raising interest rates. They hope to cool growth enough to tame inflation without causing a recession.

It's a notoriously difficult task. The widespread fear, reflected in shrunken stock prices, is that the Fed will end up botching it and will clobber the economy without delivering a knockout blow to inflation.

Former Fed Chair Ben Bernanke last month told The New York Times that "inflation's still too high but coming down. So there should be a period in the next year or two where growth is low, unemployment is at least up a little bit and inflation is still high."

And then Bernanke summed up his thoughts: "You could call that stagflation."

There's no formal definition or specific statistical threshold.

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, has his own rough guide: Stagflation arrives in the United States, he says, when the unemployment rate reaches at least 5% and consumer prices have surged 5% or more from a year earlier. The U.S. unemployment rate is now just 3.6%.

In the European Union, where joblessness typically runs higher, Zandi's threshold is different: 9% unemployment and 4% year-over-year inflation, in his view, would combine to cause stagflation.

Until about 50 years ago, economists viewed stagflation as a near-impossibility. They hewed to something called the Phillips Curve — this theory held that inflation and unemployment move in opposite directions.

It sounds like common sense: When the economy is weak and lots of people are out of work, businesses find it hard to raise prices. So inflation should stay low. Likewise, when the economy is hot enough for businesses to pass along big price hikes to their customers, unemployment should stay fairly low.

Somehow, reality hasn't proved so straightforward. What can throw things off is a supply shock — say, a surge in the cost of raw materials that ignites inflation and leaves consumers with less money to spend to fuel the economy.

[Abridged]

China's coastal regions are in urgent need of enhancing shoreline protection and adaptation capacity to cope with the rising sea levels, according to a report released by the Ministry of Natural Resources, cited by Xinhua.

In the coming 30 years, the country's coastal sea levels are estimated to rise by 68 mm to 170 mm, said the annual report recording the sea-level changes in China, which was released by the ministry's department of oceanic monitoring and early warning.

Last year's coastal sea levels, reaching an all-time high since

1980, surpassed the average levels recorded in previous years by 84 mm, the report said.

In the past 40 years, China's coastal sea levels rose at a pace of 3.4 mm per year, faster than the global average, the report said, adding that higher sea levels could worsen consequences of ocean disasters.

Last year, most cases of storm surges and floods in coastal cities occurred between July and October, the yearly period of high sea level, the report said.



AP PHOTO

Clark Little takes a selfie as he photographs waves on the North Shore of Oahu near Haleiwa, Hawaii

**HAWAII PHOTOGRAPHER
 FINDS FINE ART IN
 MASSIVE PACIFIC WAVES**

CALEB JONES, HALEIWA

HAWAII photographer Clark Little is known for his stunning images from inside the barrels of some of the most powerful and dangerous waves on Earth.

The native of Oahu's North Shore has spent the last 15 years documenting shorebreak waves, the monster swells that roll in from the Pacific and crash directly onto the sand, unobstructed by reefs or shallow water.

Little just released a book, "The Art of Waves," that chronicles his adventures in the ocean. It contains more than 150 of his favorite images.

"Shorebreak is so beautiful and scary at the same time," Little said of the waves that crash directly onto the sand. "I used to surf the shorebreak, so ... it's my comfort zone. I like sand bottom. I think

it has more aqua beautiful colors."

Surfing great Kelly Slater affectionately calls Little "Turbo" — he was known for driving fast and taking chances when the two got to know each other decades ago, well before Slater became one of surfing's most decorated athletes.

"Clark is so connected with what he's looking at. It seems so natural to him," said Slater, who wrote the forward to the new book. "It just struck him one day to start capturing it."

Big waves surfer Laird Hamilton said Little's photography gives him the chance to examine the ocean in a way that's impossible when surfing in the chaotic and big seas that he likes to be in.

"When I look at Clark's books ... I see the beauty of the ocean and the complexity," Hamil-

ton said. "His books capture the things about the ocean that make us believe in higher powers."

When he was younger, Little would surf the shorebreak waves, something very few people dare to do. But Little said even he gets into trouble in these conditions.

"On a big day and I'm trying to swim out to get the shot ... then there's one wave, two waves, three waves," Little said. "Then I'm out of breath and then there's another five more waves. I can't swim in. I can't get out because it's pulling. It's huge. And it's just, it's chaos."

People around the globe will be paying respect to waves Wednesday in honor of World Oceans Day, an annual event aimed at promoting conservation and raising awareness of the human impact on oceans. **MDT/AP**

India's central bank yesterday raised its key interest rate to 4.9% from 4.4%, the second such hike in the last three weeks to contain inflation. Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das said the decision was aimed at curbing price increases and mitigating the impact of geopolitical tensions, like the war in Ukraine. The recent increase follows a 40 basis points rise in May.



AP PHOTO

Iran A passenger train partially derailed in eastern Iran yesterday, killing at least 17 people and injuring 50 more, including some critically, authorities said. The report said the number of casualties could rise, though initial details about the disaster involving a train reportedly carrying some 350 passengers remained unclear.



AP PHOTO

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov is due to hold talks with Turkish officials on a plan that could allow Ukraine to export its grain through the Black Sea to global markets amid an escalating food crisis. Ukraine is one of the world's largest exporters of wheat, corn and sunflower oil, but the war and a Russian blockade of its ports have halted much of that flow, endangering food supplies to many developing countries. Many of those ports are now also heavily mined. An estimated 22 million tons of grains are sitting in silos in Ukraine.

European Union's chief executive vowed that Poland would get no money from the bloc's vast pandemic relief fund until the right-wing government rolls back measures deemed to limit the independence of the country's judiciary. Poland is line to receive nearly 36 billion euros to help its economy recover from the impact of measures introduced to limit the spread of the coronavirus.