

15 YEARS A-CHANGIN'

Double down! ADVERTISE WITH US +853 287 160 81

CTM Smart Life for Elderly

Mainland China - Macau Offer

\$38 / 3GB per month

☎ 8891 5377

Note: Customers of the above promotions are bound by the respective service agreement.

CTM

FITCH: MACAU'S ZERO-COVID STRATEGY 'CONTINUES TO CONSTRAIN THE CASH-FLOW GENERATION ABILITY OF OPERATORS'

▲ P4

ID TESTS POSSIBILITY OF HOSTING 'AIRTIGHT' GRAND PRIX

▲ P5

A SECTION OF THE OLD CITY WALL ALONGSIDE ESTRADA DE S. FRANCISCO WILL BE DEMOLISHED DUE TO THE RISK OF COLLAPSE

▲ P5

AP PHOTO



Philippines Sara Duterte, the daughter of the outgoing populist president of the Philippines, took her oath yesterday as vice president following a landslide electoral victory she clinched despite her father's human rights record that saw thousands of drug suspects gunned down. The inauguration in their southern hometown of Davao, where she's the outgoing mayor, comes two weeks before she assumes office on June 30 as specified in the Philippine Constitution.

More on p7

AP PHOTO



Afghanistan The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for an attack on a Sikh temple in Afghanistan's capital of Kabul that killed at least one worshipper and wounded seven others. IS made the claim in a statement posted on its Amaq website late Saturday. It said the assault on "the Sikh and Hindu temple" was in response to alleged insults made against the Prophet Muhammad, the central figure of the Islamic religion, by an Indian government official. It did not name the official.

Germany's economy minister said yesterday that the country will limit the use of gas for electricity production amid concerns about possible shortages caused by a reduction in supplies from Russia. Germany has been trying to fill its gas storage facilities to capacity ahead of the winter months, when gas is more urgently needed as a heating fuel. Economy Minister Robert Habeck said that Germany will try to compensate for the move by increasing the burning of coal, a more polluting fossil fuel.

More on backpage

LARGEST OUTBREAK YET



Macau is facing an 'unprecedented' outbreak as tally hits 31, locking down several sites; 602 people under follow-up

▲ P2-3



'Unprecedented' outbreak puts several sites on lockdown as gov't confirms 31 cases

ANTHONY LAM

MACAUI is battling with its worse Covid-19 outbreak yet as the city recorded 31 new SARS-CoV-2 infections of unknown origin as of 10 p.m. yesterday.

The government has not stated whether the latest 10 cases were detected from the ongoing mass testing or from close contacts of the 21 positive cases confirmed yesterday afternoon.

The cases involve 21 women and 10 men, aged between eight months and 89 years old. Eight of the 31 were symptomatic confirmed cases, while 23 are classified as asymptomatic.

Due to this outbreak, the Health Bureau (SSM) has put 602 people under follow-up, with 146 close contacts, 36 second-level close contacts, 10 common contacts,

four accompanying personnel and 375 with itinerary intersections, which was referred to by the health officials as "non-core close contacts."

Health officials found the current conditions worrying and "unprecedented," in Alvis Lo's own words.

21 INFECTED IN STABLE CONDITION

In a press conference at 5 p.m. yesterday, when the tally was still 21, Lo, director of the SSM, pointed out although eight of them have developed symptoms, all symptoms were mild and the people were in a stable condition.

The remaining 13 people showed no symptoms as of the time of yesterday's press conference.

Meanwhile, not all infected people were vaccinated. Four people were completely unvaccinated,

three had only had their first dose, five had received only two doses and the remaining nine had received a booster shot.

Of the 21 people, 16 are women and five are men. They are aged between eight months and 89 years. The 21 people were separated into two epidemiological clusters consisting of 17 and four people respectively.

Thirteen of those in the 17-person cluster are non-local workers from Myanmar, living together in an apartment in Im Lai Building. Another infected person is a neighbor of the thirteen. Another two people are colleagues at Padre Modern Cuisine near the Government Headquarters. The remaining person is the employer of the 13 non-local workers.

The other cluster includes a worker at the Correctional Services Bureau's (DSC) headquarters at the

local prison in Coloane. The infection was detected from the regular key-group SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid test (NAT) scheme. The other three people from this cluster are relatives of the DSC worker who meet each other often, according to Lo.

The main connection between the two clusters, Lo said, is that they are linked with apartments located in buildings diagonally opposite each other on Rua Afonso de Albuquerque.

HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS

SARS-CoV-2 managing to infect 13 people living together is proof of how contagious the virus is, said Lo.

Lo made this statement in response to a journalist's question about how infectious these new patients were. Previously, local health officials have said that the count of virus detected in a secretion sam-

ple collected from a patient would indicate the capacity of the infection to spread from that particular patient.

"There is a household shared by 14 people, of whom 13 were infected," the city's health chief said, adding that this was a "clue as to how contagious the virus is."

The official noted that cycle threshold (CT) values do not always signal how easily the patient may infect others. "CT values are dynamic," the official said, referring to the recently popular term.

He pointed out that counts of the virus could soar in the first three days and plunge afterwards. "But three days is enough [to infect people] if no safety measures are put in place," Lo said. "This is a very good example."

The city's two previous outbreaks of Covid-19 occurred among cohabitants. The city has

MOP10B SUBSIDY

Gov't to roll out seven new business subsidies

ANTHONY LAM

SEVEN new financial subsidies for local businesses will be introduced later this year in response to the current Covid-19 outbreak, Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong announced yesterday afternoon.

The seven types of subsidy are: housing tax refunds for industrial and commercial real properties; tourism tax waivers for this fiscal year; vehicle circulation tax refunds for commercial vehicles such as trucks and taxis; refunds or waivers of the license administrative tax and its related fees; petrol subsidies for taxis; a new round of subsidies for employees, freelancers and business operators; and a special interest subsidy on loans granted to local businesses.

According to Lei, the



new financial subsidies will total MOP10 billion in value.

The measures must be passed by parliament in a budget amendment procedure before they can take effect. The government

may trigger the emergency process, which would allow the subsidies to pass without discussion by the parliamentary committee, but passage by the legislature will still be required.

At a press conference

announcing the subsidies, some journalists asked whether the government would implement these measures as soon as possible.

In response, Lei emphasized that the parliament must be involved to lawfully implement these new measures. The senior official highlighted that, despite the urgency, due process could not be bypassed.

The official also noted that the Monetary Authority of Macao (AMCM) had instructed local financial institutions to extend the validity of the "interest only loan repayments" measure to the end of next year.

For the time being, it is unclear what impact this measure will have on the market when combined with the interest rate increase by the U.S. Federal Reserve. Theoretically, due to the Linked Exchange Rate

Mechanism concerning Macau Patacas, Hong Kong Dollars and US Dollars, interest rate fluctuations are interconnected.

Before announcing the new subsidies, the senior official also recapped the existing financial measures that have been put in place in response to almost three years of de-facto lockdown in Macau caused by Covid-19.

There are six existing measures: the early issuance of the Wealth Partaking Scheme funds, commonly known as the "cash handout;" professional tax refunds being capped at MOP14,000 or 60% of the tax paid for the fiscal year of 2020; a short-term food subsidy to local residents who are involuntarily unemployed; the third-round electronic consumption stimulus; electricity and water bill subsidies in

2022; and subsidies that aim at encouraging local employers to hire local residents.

READING FOR GAMING LAW AMENDMENTS

Also at the press conference, the senior official was asked if he still felt confident about the second reading in parliament of the gaming law amendments, which was set to take place this week.

Even if the bill does pass in parliament, there will be a lot of work for the executive before the new casino licenses are determined.

In response to this question, Lei emphasized his confidence in the second reading, although he highlighted that the professional judgment of the Health Bureau (SSM) must be observed and followed.

He acknowledged the urgency of the bill's passing but reiterated that the SSM has the final say on whether gatherings, including parliamentary meetings, may be held.

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

REACHING OUT!

+23,000

Like us on facebook.com/mdtimes



MacauDaily 澳門每日時報
Times

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

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

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

Advertisement advertising@macaudailytimes.com

For subscription and general issues:

general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

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

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



also seen mass outbreaks of the flu in schools, with the SSM announcing the city's first flu fatality over the weekend.

At the press conference, Lo reiterated that members of the public are encouraged to reduce movements to allow the bureau to buy time and contain the current outbreak.

Comparing experiences with neighboring countries, Japan and South Korea have lifted travel bans and started allowing tourists to enter despite new infections being reported in those countries every day.

NEARLY 67,000 TESTS NEGATIVE AS OF 10 P.M.

As of 10 p.m. yesterday, a total of 211,779 samples have been collected, of which 66,797 have been tested and confirmed as negative. Test results from the mass testing drive will not be uploaded to the Macao Health Code and cannot be used for immigration purposes.

Health officials also emphasized the transmissibility of the virus.

Cases were reported in other places, indicating that a brief, seconds-long interaction at a super-

market is sufficient to spread the virus, even when both people are wearing face masks.

Authorities reiterate that anyone who remains untested after 12 p.m. on June 21 will be assigned a yellow health code and will be taken by police to a designated venue to undergo sampling.

The health official was also questioned several times on the possibility of these cases being imported from mainland China. To this, Lo emphasized that epidemiological tracking was still in progress, so he would not give any definite answer.

CIVIL SERVICE SEES TWO-DAY SERVICE SUSPENSION

The Administration and Public Services Bureau (SAFP) announced in a statement delivered by Lo yesterday that local public services will be suspended for two days on Monday and Tuesday this week.

The work suspension was implemented to help facilitate the citywide NAT and to reduce human movement across the city. The decision was made by the Chief Executive and promulgated in Executive Order No 99/2022.

Departments that provide emergency services to the public will re-

main in operation despite the public service suspension.

The private sector is also encouraged to halt operations and work from home, the health chief noted, although this is not mandatory.

He reiterated the main reason the government is putting non-emergency civil servants on a two-day break is that it will help reduce the movement of people in the community. The executive would like to attempt to contain the spread of the virus using this tactic.

As such, he said, the private sector is also recommended to follow suit.

PRESENTED BY

銀河娛樂集團 Galaxy Entertainment Group

BRITCHAM'S PUNK BALL

BRITCHAM MACAO THANKS ITS SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS MAKING THE PUNK BALL AN EXPLOSIVE SUCCESS ON 18TH JUNE

JEWEL IN THE CROWN: 銀河娛樂集團 Galaxy Entertainment Group

星際酒店 StarWorld Hotel

RUBY CROWN: 120 BNU

ICBC 工銀澳門

Jardines

LIGHT & WONDER

MGM 美高梅

PAIRED PINK DIAMOND CROWNS: DODABILLA GROUP MACAU

DIAMOND CROWN: LORD STOW'S BAKERY

SAPPHIRE CROWN: DSL lawyers

PRINCIPAL MEDIA PARTNER: Times

SUPPORTERS: 50 cent, CPG CONCEPTS, CTM 澳門電訊

皇鑽珠寶

ICONIC

JEC

IAM CONFIRMS ABUNDANT FOOD SUPPLY

Suppliers and importers have increased the amount of fresh and live food supplied to Macau, according to the Municipal Affairs Institute (AIM). The bureau stresses that pandemic prevention work does not affect the supply of fresh and live food to Macau and that the "food supply is abundant." IAM has contacted both Nam Yue (Group) Company Limited and Nam Kwong (Group) Company Limited to ensure that the transportation of fresh and live food to Macau is not affected and that supply is stable.

TRAVELERS ENTERING ZHUHAI FROM MACAU TO UNDERGO HOME QUARANTINE

Travelers who have entered Zhuhai from Macau since June 15 will have to undergo a 14-day home quarantine, the Zhuhai Center for Disease Control and Prevention announced. This comes after the discovery of new Covid-19 cases in the SAR. People arriving from Macau should report to their neighbourhood community and undergo a "7+7" measure, where they are only allowed to leave the house when necessary from the second week onwards. Also from yesterday, people departing from Macau should hold a negative nucleic acid test (NAT) certificate within 24 hours of departure.

AIR MACAU TO RESUME SHANGHAI FLIGHTS

Air Macau will resume the Macau to Pudong route from June 23 after halting operations to deter the spread of Covid-19. Flights were first halted after Shanghai began its lockdown on April 1. On the day of resumption, the round-trip flight numbers for the Macau-Shanghai Pudong route will be NX136 and NX135. Flights have already resumed on Air Macau's East China routes, including Shanghai, Nanjing, Nantong and Changzhou. On June 1, Shanghai authorities announced that they would take major steps towards reopening China's largest city after a two-month Covid-19 lockdown set back the national economy and confined millions of people to their homes.

GREEN HEALTH CODE REQUIRED WHEN TAKING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

All passengers taking buses, taxis or light rails must show the green health code to the driver from today. The two bus companies and the light rail company have strengthened the disinfection and cleaning of carriages, and will provide relevant guidelines for frontline personnel, according to a statement from the Transport Bureau

GAMING

FITCH MAINTAINS NEGATIVE WATCH ON OPERATORS, DOWNGRADES ECONOMIC RECOVERY

LYNZY VALLES

FITCH Ratings has expressed reduced confidence in Macau's economic recovery as the city's zero-Covid strategy "continues to constrain the cash-flow generation ability of Macau's operators."

Analysts have updated Macau's gross gaming revenue recovery curve to reflect its performance forecasts for 2022-2024 compared with 2019 levels at -73%, -50% and -30%, respectively.

"The forecasts reflect the risks facing operators including travel restrictions, the potential economic impact of China's sporadic and large-scale shutdowns on the movement of premium mass and higher-end players, as well as general economic volatility," the American credit rating agency said in a statement.

The ratings were released last week but predictions may worsen given the current state of the SAR, which is suffering from a new wave of Covid-19 that, according to the government, may be "the worst one" yet.

Meanwhile, Fitch Ratings has downgraded the Issuer Default Ratings of Las Vegas Sands Corp., Sands China, Ltd to BB+ from BBB-.

Fitch Ratings has maintained a Rating Watch Negative (RWN) on all ratings.

According to Fitch Ratings, "LVS' resultant leverage trajec-

MDT ARCHIVE



tory is no longer consistent with an investment-grade rating."

Fitch Ratings has also downgraded SJM Holdings Limited's (SJM) Long-Term Foreign-Currency Issuer Default Rating and senior unsecured rating to BB- from BB.

According to the firm, the downgrade reflects its "reduced confidence in the recovery of Macau's gaming industry as a result of the government's strict Covid-19 pandemic-related policies, continued weakness in tourism and the delayed ramp up of the newly developed Grand Lisboa Palace (GLP)."

The GLP opened in July 2021, but continues to run at limited capacity.

"SJM's leverage trajectory is no longer consistent with its previous rating level following our weaker gross gaming revenue forecast for Macau," Fitch Ratings said in a statement.

The agency firm believes that SJM's concession re-bidding procedure will be pragmatic. However, the RWN reflects the damaging credit implications of a failure to secure a new gaming concession or more onerous economic licensing conditions.

"We expect gross leverage to remain well above our downgrade threshold of 4.5 till 2024, based on our updated recovery curve. However, we believe there is room for leverage to improve beyond this period," it added.

The firm also believes that the challenging operating environment may encourage more satellite casino owners to cease operations when their contracts expire this month. The agency estimates staffing costs could increase by up to HKD600 million in the second half of 2022, as SJM brings gaming staff onto its payroll.

Meanwhile, amid the outbreak, Secretary Lei Wai Nong has emphasized his confidence in the second reading of the gaming bill that was scheduled this week, although he highlighted that the professional judgment of the Health Bureau (SSM) must be observed and followed.

83-year-old is first death case of flu this year

AN 83-year-old local man died late last week from pneumonia that resulted from complications associated with infection with Flu virus (Influenza A), the Health Bureau (SSM) informed in a statement.

According to the same statement, this was the first flu-linked fatality recorded this year. The SSM also said that this was one of the 10 cases of severe infection with influenza recorded this year.

The man was living for some time in an elderly home institution after a series of health complications including an immu-

nological disease, hypertension, and a stroke.

According to SSM, this was the only patient from the 10 severe cases in the hands of the health authorities that did not receive the seasonal anti-influenza vaccine.

Two other residents of the same institution that shared the same room with this patient were also diagnosed with Influenza A.

The SSM has also reported three other cases of collective influenza infection in the last 24 hours, most of them occurred in kindergarten institutions. **RM**



ID tests possibility of hosting 'airtight' Grand Prix

RENATO MARQUES

OVER the weekend, the Sports Bureau (ID) has tested the feasibility of hosting this year's Macau Grand Prix in an "airtight" mode, meaning that spectators and other members of the public, including the media, would not come into close contact with competitors.

The trial comes after last week's confirmation by the Times that some international racers who had regularly competed in previous years at the Guia Circuit had begun receiving invitations from the Macau Grand Prix Organizing Committee (MGPOC) to rejoin the racing event after its two-year hiatus.

Using the opportunity of the local karting and motorcycle championships at the Coloane Karting Track last weekend, the ID conducted a trial that simulated a racing event hosted in a closed-loop system. The purpose was to test solutions that could be adopted at the big event set to take place in November this year.



During the trial at the karting track, the venue was categorized into two areas: green and red. The red area was the closed loop where only the racers and essential staff, such as emergency rescuers, were permitted. This minimized

the number of people in direct contact with the racers.

The green zone was the area where members of the public and the media could watch the event.

The drill also included "virtual"

press conferences and interview opportunities with racers broadcast in real-time. There was also a virtual prize-awarding ceremony.

Pun Weng Kun, ID President and coordinator of the MGPOC, told media at the event that he

was pleased with the outcome of the trial, noting that a closed-loop GP is currently being seriously considered as an alternative to medical observation quarantine requirements for all racers and their teams.

As the Times previously reported, lengthy quarantine periods enforced by the local government were responsible for the cancellation of all international events of the local GP over the past two years. Canceled events include the Macau Motorcycle GP, the FIA Formula 3 World Cup, the FIA GT World Cup and the FIA WTCR race for touring cars.

As the Times reported last week, racers have indicated that they are willing to rejoin the competitions in Macau on the condition that restrictions imposed on entry to Macau are removed or significantly reduced.

The second trial had initially been scheduled for yesterday afternoon, but was canceled after the news of the potential community outbreak of Covid-19. The news led Chief Executive, Ho Iat Seng, to issue an order for a state of immediate prevention effective from 1 a.m. Sunday.

The order necessitated the cancellation of all public events as well as restrictions on privately hosted events, and later that morning a new round of community mass testing for Covid-19 was announced.

LANDSLIDE

SECTION OF OLD CITY WALL TO BE DEMOLISHED

RENATO MARQUES

THE government has announced that a section of the Old City Wall alongside Estrada de S. Francisco will be demolished due to the risk of collapse. The wall had been involved in a landslide that caused damage to surrounding buildings.

The news came via a statement from a taskforce created to evaluate the situation. The taskforce includes the Land and Urban Construction Bureau, the Public Works Bureau (DSOP), and the Cultural Affairs Bureau.

"About 10 meters of the Old City Wall on the slope are inclined and cracked, and the wall is unstable and may collapse. The damage may also impact the remaining stable parts of the old wall," authorities said, adding that "the three services reached a consensus that public safety must be a priority. They have therefore drafted an intervention plan."



The plan from the three government bodies includes demolishing 10 meters of the wall that are considered unstable, as well as other works to secure what remains on the slope.

According to the taskforce, the plan was presented in a special meeting to the Cultural Heritage Commit-

tee who, given the urgency, did not raise objections.

The DSOP noted that, due to recent weather instability and fears of an additional collapse, demolition will proceed as soon as possible. This is to avoid additional damage and further risk for those living in the area.

CRIME

OLD MAN APPREHENDED ON ALLEGATIONS OF SHAM MARRIAGE 18 YEARS AGO

A local 81-year-old man was recently arrested on allegations of a sham marriage for profit that took place 18 years ago, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) has announced.

Through the alleged sham marriage, a woman and her daughter managed to obtain Macau IDs.

According to the police, the old man currently lives in an aged care facility.

The woman, currently 63 years old, was a mainland resident 18 years ago.

Following its regular review on immigration through marriage applications, the Identification Services Bureau (DSI) held suspicions regarding the marriage. It referred the matter to the police.

Following investigation, the two people were arrested on June 9 and 10.

The man confessed to the police that he married the woman back in 2004

MARIANO RIVAS



in return for MOP10,000. He was a gambling addict seeking funds at the time of the union.

After marrying, they applied for family reunion for her and her daughter.

Five years later, in 2009, the woman managed to obtain a Macau ID. La-

ter, her daughter's application for residency was also approved, resulting in another Macau ID.

The woman also confessed to the sham marriage and admitted that she had habitually resided in mainland China since her residency was approved. **AL**

AP PHOTO



GOV'T DEFENDS 'ZERO-COVID' AFTER US ENVOY WARNS OF COSTS

CHINA on Friday defended its tough "zero-COVID" policy after the U.S. ambassador said it was causing serious damage to the global economy and foreign business sentiment.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said the Chinese economy is recovering from the effects of the pandemic and "facts prove" the policy mandating lockdowns, quarantines and mass testing is "suitable for China's national conditions and has stood the test of history."

"We have full confidence that (we can) contain the epidemic, steady the economy and achieve the goal of safe economic development," Wang said at a

daily briefing.

China has sought to completely eliminate outbreaks of COVID-19 with tough restrictions, while most other countries are relaxing their anti-coronavirus measures to "live with" the disease.

Ambassador Nicholas Burns said on Thursday that the "zero-COVID" policy has "had a major impact" on business sentiment, singling out as especially damaging a two-month lockdown in Shanghai, China's largest city and key financial hub.

Most of Shanghai's 25 million people were confined to their homes or immediate neighborhoods, and hundreds of

thousands continue to remain under restrictions. Rolling lockdowns have also continued to Beijing and other cities.

Critics say the policy is disrupting global supply chains and hurting employment and consumption in China. The U.N.'s World Health Organization has called it unsustainable. China denounced the remarks as irresponsible.

Burns said in a virtual address to the Brookings Institution think tank that there were 40,000 American citizens in the Shanghai area before the pandemic, but that "lots and lots of those people have gone home." Diplomats from Europe, Japan and other countries

report similar declines, he said.

"We're quite cognizant of the need, I think the Chinese government is quite cognizant of the need, to try to get back to a situation of normalcy," Burns said.

He said few American companies are leaving China completely because of its continuing importance, "but from the results that I've read, and the conversations I've had with lots of business leaders here, I think there is a hesitancy to invest in future obligations until they can see the end of this."

The U.S. and China recorded \$650 billion in trade last year, and around 1,100 American companies are operating in China.

Chinese restrictions have all but ended visits by U.S. government officials and business leaders, while the number of American students has dropped sharply since China suspended issuing student visas.

"It's difficult to convince any of my colleagues in Washington to come here if I tell them that when they do it, they've to quarantine for 14 days before they can have a single meeting," Burns said. "And I understand their unwillingness to do that."

Burns said the Chinese government is signaling that the "zero-COVID" policy will probably be extended at least into the beginning months of 2023.

Burns, who has declared that relations between Washington and Beijing are at their lowest point since former President Richard Nixon visited in 1972, said China's aggressive foreign policy has intensified competition between the countries. But he said they still have multiple areas in which they can engage constructively, including on climate change, anti-narcotics measures and agricultural trade.

Burns said much of his job is focused on outreach to the Chinese public, a task made more difficult by COVID-19 restrictions and the government's strict censorship.

A recent speech on China by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken that the embassy posted on China's Twitter-like Weibo social media platform was taken down within about 2 1/2 hours, but drew large numbers of views while it was up, he said.

A second attempt to post it three days later resulted in it being censored within 20 minutes, Burns said.

"So that's the game that they play," he said. **MDT/AP**

Biden, mulling tariff decision, will talk soon to China's Xi

AAMER MADHANI,
REHOBOTH BEACH, DEL.

PRESIDENT Joe Biden said Saturday he plans to talk to Chinese leader Xi Jinping soon as he considers whether to lift some Trump-era tariffs on Chinese goods.

Biden did not say when they might speak, but suggested he was getting closer to making a decision about the fate of the economic penalties.

"I'm in the process of making up my mind," Biden told reporters in a brief exchange after a bike ride near his beach home in Delaware.

National security and

economic aides are in the process of completing a review of the U.S. tariff policy and making recommendations to the president.

The tariffs imposed under President Donald Trump applied a 25% duty on billions of dollars of Chinese products. The penalties were intended to reduce the U.S. trade deficit and force China to adopt fairer practices.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen recently called for eliminating some of those tariffs as a way to fight inflation in the United States. Others in the Biden administration, including U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai, have raised

concerns about easing tariffs when China has not upheld its agreements on purchasing U.S. products.

She said she saw the tariffs as "a tool in the economic policy toolbox" that could be considered, but alongside "a lot of other tools at our disposal."

"What is of the utmost importance for us is to ensure that this medium-term strategic realignment that we know we need to accomplish is something that we are able to accomplish, and that nothing that we do in the short term undermines that larger goal," Tai told The Associated Press in an interview last month.

MDT/AP

AP PHOTO



JIM GOMEZ, MANILA

PHILIPPINES

Duterte's daughter takes oath as vice president

SARA Duterte, the daughter of the outgoing populist president of the Philippines, took her oath yesterday as vice president following a landslide electoral victory she clinched despite her father's human rights record that saw thousands of drug suspects gunned down.

The inauguration in their southern hometown of Davao, where she's the outgoing mayor, comes two weeks before she assumes office on June 30 as specified in the Philippine Constitution. President-elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr., Duterte's running mate, will take his oath in Manila on June 30.

"I'm not the best or the most intelligent person in the Philippines and the world but nobody can beat the toughness of my heart as a Filipino," Duterte, who wore a green traditional gown, said in a speech after she took her oath before a Supreme Court associate justice, her hand resting on a Bible held by her mother.

"The voice of 32.2 million Filipinos was loud and clear - with the message to serve our motherland," Duterte said, referring to the votes she got, to an applause from thousands of supporters.

Fondly called by supporters as "Inday Sara," the mother of three called for national unity and devotion to God and asked Filipinos to emulate the patriotism of the country's national hero Jose Rizal. She cited longstanding social ills facing Filipino children, including poverty, broken families, illegal drugs, bullying and online misinformation and asked parents to ingrain in them the values of integrity, discipline, respect for others and compassion.

President Rodrigo Duterte, 77, led the VIPs in the heavily guarded ceremony at a public square near city hall in the port city of Davao, where he had also served as a longtime mayor starting in the late

AP PHOTO



1980s. His family, hailing from modest middle-class background, built a formidable political dynasty in the restive southern region long troubled by communist and Muslim insurgencies and violent political rivalries.

Duterte's presidency has been marked by a brutal anti-drugs campaign that has left thousands of mostly petty suspects shot dead by police or vigilantes. The drug killings are being investigated by the International Criminal Court as a possible crime against humanity.

The electoral triumph of Sara Duterte and Marcos Jr. has alarmed

left-wing and human rights groups because of their failure to acknowledge the massive human rights atrocities that took place under their fathers, including late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Marcos Jr. and Sara Duterte campaigned on a vague platform of national unity, without clearly addressing activists' calls for them to take steps to prosecute the elder Duterte when he retires from politics.

One of the president's son, Sebastian Duterte, will succeed his sister as Davao mayor, and another son, Paolo Duterte, won a seat in the House of Representati-

ves in the May 9 elections. The outgoing president's late father was a former Davao governor.

Philippine elections have long been dominated by politicians belonging to the same bloodlines. At least 250 political families have monopolized power across the country, although such dynasties are prohibited under the constitution. Congress — long controlled by members of powerful clans targeted by the constitutional ban — has failed to pass the law needed to define and enforce the provision.

While Sara Duterte, 44, refused calls by her father and supporters

to seek the presidency, she has not ruled out a future run. She topped pre-elections surveys for the president last year and won with a huge margin like Marcos Jr.

Aside from the vice president, she has agreed to serve as education secretary, although there were talks that her initial preference was to head the Department of National Defense, a traditional springboard to the presidency.

Still, the education portfolio would provide her first national political platform, especially with plans to resume physical classes soon after the country was hit hard by two years of coronavirus pandemic outbreaks and lockdowns.

She thanked her Davao supporters on Saturday and said she decided to hold her inauguration in one of the country's most developed cities to show her pride as a southern provincial politician who rose to a top national post.

Duterte finished a medical course and originally wanted to become a doctor but later took up law and was prevailed upon to enter politics starting in 2007, when she was elected as Davao vice mayor and mayor three years later.

In 2011, she drew national attention when she was caught on video punching and assaulting a court sheriff who was helping lead a police demolition of a shanty community despite her plea for a brief deferment. The court official sustained a black eye and face injuries and was taken by her bodyguards to a hospital.

Despite her public feuds with her father, Sara Duterte had her hair shaved a year before the 2016 elections as a show of support for his candidacy.

He won the single six-year mandate by a huge margin on an audacious but failed promise to eradicate illegal drugs and corruption in three to six months, and constant public threats to kill drug dealers. **MDT/AP**

Floods in India, Bangladesh leave millions homeless, 18 dead

JULHAS ALAM & WASBIR HUSSAIN, DHAKA

ARMED troops were called in to rescue thousands of people stranded by massive floods that have ravaged northeastern India and Bangladesh, leaving millions of homes underwater and severing transport links, authorities said Saturday.

In India's Assam state, at least nine people were killed in the floods and 2 million saw their homes

submerged, according to the state disaster management agency. Lightning strikes in parts of neighboring Bangladesh have left at least nine dead since Friday.

Both countries have asked their militaries for help as more flooding looms with rains expected to continue over the weekend.

In Sylhet in northeastern Bangladesh, on the banks of the Surma River, children sat on a window of an inun-

dated house while other family members gathered on a bed inside their flooded home, some wondering how to make it through the ordeal.

"How can we eat (in this condition)?" said Anjuman Ara Begum, standing in the water inside her kitchen. "We are living on muri (puffed rice) and chira (flattened rice) and other things given by people. What else can we do? We can't cook."

Flights at Osmani International Airport in Sylhet

were suspended for three days as floodwaters almost reached the runway, according to Hafiz Ahmed, the airport manager. The Sylhet Sunamganj highway also was flooded but motorbikes were moving along.

Water levels in all major rivers across the country were rising, according to the flood forecasting and warning center in Dhaka, the capital. The country has about 130 rivers.

The center said the flood situation is likely to de-

AP PHOTO



teriorate in the worst-hit Sunamganj and Sylhet districts in the northeastern region as well as in Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Nilphamari and Rangpur districts in northern Bangladesh.

The Brahmaputra, one of Asia's largest rivers, breached its mud embankments, inundating 3,000 villages and croplands in 28 of Assam's 33 districts across the border in India. **MDT/AP**

PUTIN'S WAR

Morale is concern as NATO chief warns war could last 'years'

JOHN LEICESTER &
DAVID KEYTON, UKRAINE

FOUR months of brutal fighting in Ukraine appear to be straining the morale of troops on both sides, prompting desertions and rebellion against officers' orders, British defense officials said yesterday. NATO's chief warned the war could drag on for "years."

"Combat units from both sides are committed to intense combat in the Donbas and are likely experiencing variable morale," Britain's defense ministry said in its daily assessment of the war.

"Ukrainian forces have likely suffered desertions in recent weeks," the assessment said, but added that "Russian morale highly likely remains especially troubled."

It said "cases of whole Russian units refusing orders and armed stand-offs between officers and their troops continue to occur."

Separately, the Ukrainian Main Intelligence Directorate released what it said were intercepted phone calls in which Russian soldiers complained about frontline conditions, poor equipment, and overall lack of personnel, according to a report by the Institute for the Study of War.

In an interview published in the German weekly *Bild am Sonntag*, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said that "nobody knows" how long the war could last. "We need to be prepared for it to last for years," he said.

He also urged allies "not to weaken support for Ukraine, even if the costs are high, not only in terms of military aid, but also because of the increase in energy and food goods prices."

In recent days, Gazprom, the Russian gas company, has reduced supplies to two major European clients — Germany and Italy. In Italy's case, energy officials are expected to huddle this week about the situation. The head of Italian energy giant ENI said on Saturday that with additional gas purchased from other sources, Italy should make it



through the coming winter, but he warned Italians that "restrictions" affecting gas use might be necessary.

Germany will limit the use of gas for electricity production amid concerns about possible shortages caused by a reduction in supplies from Russia, the country's economy minister said on Sunday. Germany has been trying to fill its gas storage facilities to capacity ahead of the cold winter months.

Economy Minister Robert Habeck said that Germany will try to compensate for the move by increasing the burning of coal, a more polluting fossil fuel. "That's bitter, but it's simply necessary in this situation to lower gas usage," he said.

Stoltenberg stressed, though, that "the costs of food and fuel are nothing compared with those paid daily by the Ukrainians on the front line."

Stoltenberg added: What's more, if Russian President Vladimir Putin should reach his objectives in Ukraine, like when he annexed Crimea in 2014, "we would have to pay an even greater price."

Britain's defense ministry said that both Russia and Ukraine have continued to conduct heavy artillery bombardments on axes to the north, east and south of the Sievierodonetsk pocket, but with little change in the front line.

Luhansk governor Serhiy Haidai said via Telegram on Sunday: "It is a very difficult situation in Sievierodonetsk, where the enemy in the middle of the city is conducting round-the-clock aerial reconnaissance with drones, adjusting fire, quickly adjusting to our changes."

Russia's defense ministry claimed on Sunday that Russian and separatist forces have taken control of Metolkin, a settlement just to the east of Sievierodonetsk.

On Saturday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy made a trip south from Kyiv to visit troops and hospital workers in the Mykolaiv and Odesa regions along the Black Sea. He handed out awards to dozens of people at every stop, shaking their hands and thanking them again and again for their service.

Some time after Zelenskyy left Mykolaiv, "the enemy carried out fire damage against units of the Defense Forces with cannon and rocket artillery in the areas of the settlements of Pravdyne, Posad-Pokrovskoe and Blahodatne," according to the Ukrainian army briefing on Sunday.

In other attacks in the south, Ukraine's southern military operational command said on Sunday that two people were killed in shelling of the Galitsyn community in the Mykolaiv region and that shelling of

the Bashtansky district is continuing.

Russia's defense ministry said seaborne missiles destroyed a plant in Mykolaiv city where Western-supplied howitzers and armored vehicles were stored.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has expressed concerns "that a bit of Ukraine fatigue is starting to set in around the world" and has urged support for Ukrainian efforts to try to roll back the Russian invasion.

"It would be a catastrophe if Putin won. He'd love nothing more than to say, 'Let's freeze this conflict, let's have a cease-fire,'" Johnson said on Saturday, a day after a surprise visit to Kyiv, where he met with Zelenskyy and offered offer continued aid and military training.

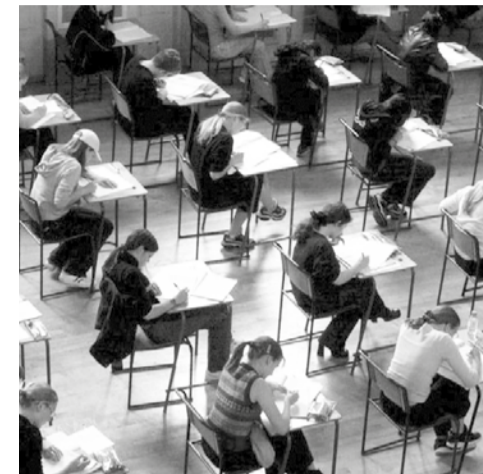
Western-supplied heavy weapons are reaching front lines. But Ukraine's leaders have insisted for weeks that they need more arms and they need them sooner.

On Sunday Pope Francis, despite having lamented arms build-ups, added his own admonition to those who might lose focus on Ukraine, which he has said deserves to defend itself.

"And let's not forget the martyred Ukrainian people in this moment," Francis told the public in St. Peter's Square. He prodded them to ask themselves "What did I do today for the Ukrainian people?" **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1984 O-LEVELS TO BE REPLACED BY GCSEs



O-Level and CSE exams are to be abolished and replaced by a new examination for 16 year olds, in the biggest exam shake-up for over 10 years.

Education Secretary Sir Keith Joseph said schools would begin teaching the General Certificate for Secondary Education, or GCSE, in autumn 1986, with the first pupils sitting the exam in 1988.

The new system will put all children on the same scale on a range of seven grades from A to G.

The 29 examination boards are to merge into five groups to reduce the large and complex system of assessment which currently operates.

The groups will adhere to an agreed national standard to ensure that the same range of knowledge will be required to attain certain grades throughout the country.

Sir Keith said: "The system we propose will be tougher, but clearer and fairer.

"It will be more intelligible to users, better than O Levels, and better than CSE.

"It will stretch the able more and stretch the average more."

It was also more intelligible and therefore more useful for employers, he added.

At the higher end of the range there will be scope for a new distinction certificate for those achieving consistently high grades, and in some subjects children will set their own standards and decide which grade to aim at.

GCSEs will also place more emphasis on oral and practical skills where possible, the minister said.

Teachers' unions welcomed the announcement. Fred Jarvis, of the National Union of Teachers, said: "This is one decision of Sir Keith's which will be applauded throughout the teaching profession".

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Under the old O Level and CSE system, grades were awarded primarily according to statistical rules which measured each candidate's performance relatively against those of competing candidates.

The introduction of the GCSE meant that, for the first time, grades would be allocated with reference to absolute standards of knowledge, understanding and skill.

Despite concerns about the exams getting easier and of girls outdoing boys, the government is committed to retaining the system.

Speaking after the publication of results in August 2002, Education Minister Margaret Hodge said: "GCSEs remain a vital indication of young people's progress".

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

<p>ARIES Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Time spent with family, children, or good friends will be regenerating and positive. You may find that your quick wit and charm will help you in obtaining allies.</p>	<p>TAURUS Apr. 20-May. 20 Get some sound advice and help setting up a workable budget. You will do well in social settings, and new and interesting individuals may spark a romantic curiosity.</p>
<p>GEMINI May. 21-Jun. 21 Use your energy wisely. Property purchases should be on your mind. Throw yourself into your profession. Changes in your home may be disruptive and upsetting.</p>	<p>CANCER Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You won't be able to keep a secret. Changes in your home environment may cause friction. Turn things around, make sure that they do their share.</p>
<p>LEO Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Now is the time for completing hobbies that you've been working on for a long time. Opportunities for new partnerships will develop through the organizations you encounter.</p>	<p>VIRGO Aug. 23-Sep. 22 Opportunities for advancement at work are apparent. Investments that deal with property will be lucrative; however, upsets with family members may be likely.</p>
<p>LIBRA Sep. 23-Oct. 22 You can make financial gains through your unique and creative approach to business. You are going through a period of questioning. You will be highly sensitive to comments made by your lover.</p>	<p>SCORPIO Oct. 23-Nov. 21 You may want to take a look at courses offered at a local institute. Emotional upset at work will set you back. You will find their philosophies worth exploring.</p>
<p>SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You might find that coworkers will support your endeavors. Don't be too quick to spend money. You are exceptional at presenting your ideas.</p>	<p>CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You will enjoy events that lean toward theater, art, or music today. Think about your budget before booking a trip. You may end up being blamed if anything goes wrong.</p>
<p>AQUARIUS Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You can do well on stage or behind the scenes, the choice is yours. Try to take some time to listen to their complaints, and in turn, do something to appease them.</p>	<p>PISCES Feb. 19-Mar. 20 Keep an eye on your weight. Females may put demands or added responsibilities on you. Don't bang your head against a wall. Problems with your partner are apparent.</p>

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	22	33	fine
Changchun	18	29	cloudy
Chengdu	22	30	cloudy
Chongqing	23	31	cloudy
Fuzhou	24	32	cloudy
Guangzhou	25	30	rain
Guiyang	19	25	showers
Haikou	27	37	cloudy
Hangzhou	24	28	rain
Harbin	18	30	cloudy
Hefei	24	31	overcast
Nanjing	25	35	cloudy
Shanghai	24	31	overcast
Taipei	23	29	cloudy
Wuhan	24	27	rain
Hong Kong	26	28	rain
WORLD			
Moscow	13	23	showers
Frankfurt	9	23	showers
Paris	15	24	showers
London	11	23	overcast
New York	17	27	overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Skater Lipinski; 5- ___-voo!; 9- Son of Isaac and Rebekah; 13- Goo-covered; 15- Village Voice award; 16- Unit of potential difference; 17- Aquarium buildup; 18- Bakery worker; 19- Arrow poison; 20- Narrow inlet; 21- Puts two and two together; 23- Furry swimmers; 25- Cleveland's lake; 26- Shocked; 27- Walked like a duck; 30- La-la lead-in; 31- Adonais, Thanatopsis, or In Memoriam; 32- Tie or draw; 37- Red flower; 38- Girder; 40- Author ___ Stanley Gardner; 41- Widespread; 43- Refute by evidence; 44- Obtain, slangily; 45- Salty Mideastern body; 47- Summer ermines; 50- After John in the NT; 51- Alberta's home; 52- "The Time Machine" race; 53- "The Addams Family" cousin; 56- Public disturbance; 57- Make weary; 59- Western; 61- Chip in; 62- Coup d' ___; 63- Part of TNT; 64- Bingo call; 65- Morse element; 66- "___ you darel";

DOWN 1- Boris Godunov, for one; 2- ___ want for Christmas...; 3- Baltic capital; 4- Doctors' org.; 5- Canceled; 6- Basics; 7- Contend; 8- Airmail letter; 9- Patti LuPone role; 10- Loudness units; 11- Argus-eyed; 12- Salt Lake City hoopsters; 14- On an annual basis; 22- Vegas roller; 24- Word of comparison; 25- Shoved aside; 26- Kofi ___ Annan; 27- Used to be; 28- Hanging to one side; 29- Lucie's father; 32- Fairly dry, when describing champagne; 33- Exploits; 34- Heavenly bodies; 35- Duct for smoke; 36- Goat's milk cheese; 38- Copied; 39- Fragments; 42- Mild oath; 43- Allotted amount; 45- 4th letter of the Hebrew alphabet; 46- Author Umberto; 47- Person of exceptional holiness; 48- Govt. security; 49- Like Cheerios; 51- Cancer's critter; 52- Periods of history; 53- What's ___ you?; 54- Small gull; 55- Horse's gait; 58- Give ___ rest; 60- Helping hand;

Friday's solution

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

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency calls 999	Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222	Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993	Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775	Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333	Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944	
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731	
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333	
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300	
IAM 28 387 333	
Tourism 28 333 000	
Airport 59 888 88	

It's prime time to BUY & RENT!
 We have great properties available!

CONTACT US & SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY!

BUY RENT

FOR RENT		FOR SALE UNDER HKD 5 MILLION	
PACIFICA GARDEN 3 BEDS	HKD 13,000	OLD TAIPA VILLAGE 2-BEDS	HKD 4,800,000
NOVA TAIPA 4 BEDS	HKD 14,800	TAIPA RENOVATED 2 BEDS	HKD 4,680,000
TAIPA 1 BED	HKD 7,900	CENTRAL TAIPA 2-BEDS	HKD 4,380,000
MACAU 2 BEDS	HKD 9,300	TAIPA CUTE & COZY STUDIO	HKD 3,980,000
TAIPA MARINA BAY 1 BED	HKD 7,500	TAIPA STUDIO WITH BALCONY	HKD 3,780,000
HELLENE GARDENS 3 BEDS	HKD 13,500	TAIPA GREAT POTENTIAL 1-BED	HKD 3,480,000
TAIPA STUDIO	HKD 6,800	CENTRAL MACAU 1 BED	HKD 2,850,000
COLOANE 1 BED	HKD 9,300	MACAU PARKING VA LONG	HKD 1,600,000

FOLLOW US!

jmlproperty.com

@jmlproperty

jmlmacau

(853) 2835 2699

LICENSE NO. MI-10001398-6
 有關樓宇廣告法定資訊資料請向職員查

AD

jmlproperty.com
info@jmlproperty



In the heart of COLOANE VILLAGE

FOR RENT

Houston Court building
with a lovely common
terrace!

1 & 2 beds available
from HKD **9,300**



Beach luxury at HELLENE GARDENS

FOR SALE

4 beds | 3 baths
2 carparks | 2500 sqf
HKD **13,500,000**

FOR RENT

3 beds | 2 baths
1 carpark | 1750 sqf
HKD **12,500**



Great opportunities UNDER 5 MILLION

- Old Taipa Village | 2 beds HKD 4,800,000
- Taipa Renovated | 2 beds HKD 4,680,000
- Central Taipa | 2 beds HKD 4,380,000
- Taipa Cute & Cozy | Studio HKD 3,980,000
- Taipa with Balcony | Studio HKD 3,780,000
- Taipa Great potential | 1 bed HKD 3,480,000
- Central Macau | 1 bed HKD 2,850,000
- Macau Va Long | Parking HKD 1,600,000



Call us!

(853) 2835 2699



Juliet Risdon
(853) 66809804
juliet@jmlproperty.com
AI-1003469-6



Elda Lemos
(853) 62268566
elda@jmlproperty.com
AI-10007134-2



Windy Lam
(853) 68811007
windy@jmlproperty.com
AI-10010081-9



João Lam
(853) 66841718
joao@jmlproperty.com
AI-10010563-6

'We ain't done': NBA champion Warriors already looking ahead

THE goal was enormous: Return to the NBA's mountaintop.

And now with that monumental task complete, the NBA champion Golden State Warriors already have a new target: staying up there for a while.

The victory cigars hadn't been extinguished after the title-clinching win in Boston, the last celebratory bottles of Moët & Chandon hadn't been emptied, and the topic — can the Warriors win it again next season? — was already coming up. They have been installed by FanDuel Sportsbook as the favorites for the 2023 NBA title, and with Finals MVP Stephen Curry, Klay Thompson and Draymond Green all back it would be foolish to think that their chance at a fifth championship in nine years isn't very real.

"It still has not been proven, that when we're whole, that anybody can stop it," Green said.

That's true, and that's why it makes sense for the Warriors to carry the burden of being favorites into next season. They know what it takes; they have as many



championships in the last eight seasons — four — as the rest of the league combined. The last run that was better than this was put together by Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls, winning six in an eight-year span of the 1990's.

Warriors coach Steve Kerr — now a nine-time champion —

played for the Bulls for some of that run, and has led Golden State to all four of these titles.

"They are all unique. They are all special," Kerr said. "I think this one may have been the most unlikely just from the standpoint of where we've been the last couple years. A lot of unknowns."

Indeed, there were questions.

The Warriors answered them all. No, the core wasn't too old. Yes, Thompson would come back from more than 900 days on the sidelines with injuries. And absolutely, Curry can still be unstoppable in the biggest moments.

They took that core and fortified it with a new group of talent. Among those on that list: 27-year-

-old Andrew Wiggins, the 2014 No. 1 pick who has come into his own and was nothing less than a star in the NBA Finals; Jordan Poole, who turns 23 this weekend and will celebrate as a champion who has blossomed after facing off against Curry in practice all the time; and Jonathan Kuminga, the 19-year-old who got into 86 games and is raved about by teammates.

"And we ain't done," Thompson said early Friday while appearing on Green's podcast, The Draymond Green Show. "That's the beautiful thing about it. We got these young bucks behind us and we got the same squad coming back? That's scary for the NBA."

Green concurred. "It is very scary," he said.

They earned that championship moment, after going through an NBA Finals loss in 2019 to Toronto and then two seasons with a combined 54-83 record, a million miles away from being the team that the Warriors demand they be.

The Warriors had the NBA's worst record in 2019-20 in large part because of roster turnover — Kevin Durant, who was out that whole season while recovering from Achilles surgery, had just left for Brooklyn — and injuries. Thompson didn't play that season because of a knee injury suffered in the final game of the 2019 finals. Curry played in just five games. It was the reset year. **MDT/AP**

AD

仁德 CENTRO MEDICO PEDDER
• 仁德醫療中心 •

We bring high quality of medical service to Macau

General Surgery : Dr. Fok Manson, Dr. Lai Cheuck Seen Edward, Dr. Lau Wing Kee Peter, Dr. Kwong Man, Dr. Nie Fu Zhong, Dr. U Chong San, Dr. Lei Chin Chong

Breast Surgery : Dr. Leong Iat Lun

Urology : Dr. Lo Kwong Yin Richard, Dr. Zhao Yun Qiao

Paediatric Surgery : Dr. Yeung Chung Kwong

Paediatrics : Dr. Zhang Zhiqin

Obstetrics & Gynaecology : Dr. Fong Kuan Io

Plastic & Aesthetic Surgery : Dr. Lam U Lin

Orthopaedic Surgery & Sports Medicine : Dr. Lam Kun Kuan

ENT : Dr. Cheng Zheng Ang

Cardiology : Dr. Wong Kwok Yiu Chris, Dr. Jin Chun, Dr. Leong Man Kin

General Medicine : Dr. Ng Kam Hong, Dr. Lam Weng Chio

Dietitian : Chan Lai U Joey

Avenida da Praia Grande No 599, Edifício Comercial Rodrigues 14 e 15 Andar, em Macau
T. 2832 2298 / 2832 2229 Website: www.peddermacau.com
Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 10:00 - 19:00 Sat 10:00 - 14:00 Sun & PH closed

KTRANZ
TRANSLATIONS LIMITED

ACCURATE, TIMELY & COMPETITIVE TRANSLATIONS

Languages:
ENGLISH, CHINESE,
PORTUGUESE, JAPANESE,
KOREAN, SPANISH,
FRENCH, ARABIC,
RUSSIAN

Services
TRANSLATIONS,
PROOFREADING, COPYWRITING,
DATA INPUT, NEWS MONITORING

We translate +10,000 words a day

Contact: Ms. Amy Yang
Email: amy@ktranz.com.mo
Tel: +853 2871 6081/2 Fax: +853 2871 6084

Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR

OPINION

Multipolar World

Jorge Costa Oliveira



THE SHIFT OF CHINESE INVESTMENT IN THE EU

According to a recent study by researchers at Rhodium Group and MERICS, Chinese foreign investment stagnated in 2021. While global foreign direct investment (FDI) has recovered sharply, outward Chinese FDI rose by a mere 3% to 96 billion euros. Meanwhile, merger and acquisition (M&A) transactions by Chinese companies abroad fell to a 14-year low in 2021, amounting to only 20 billion, down 22% from an already weak 2020. Investment from China in Europe (the 27 EU countries and the UK) increased 33% (to 10.6bn) year-on-year, but remains low when compared to 2016-2017.

The increase was due to two factors: a EUR3.7 billion acquisition of Philips' home appliance division by Hong Kong Hillhouse Capital and a record EUR3.3 billion in greenfield investment. However, 2021 was the second year running to record the lowest Chinese investment in Europe since 2013.

The Netherlands was the largest destination for Chinese investment in 2021, followed by Germany, France and the UK. Together, these countries received 39% of all Chinese investment in Europe.

The share of Chinese state-owned investors (SOEs) has fallen to a 20-year low in Europe, with their investment down 10% from 2020. Their share of total Chinese investment has also reached its lowest point in 20 years - a mere 12%. SOEs' investment was focused on energy and infrastructure, particularly in southern Europe.

Consumer products and the automotive sector were the main sectors subject to Chinese investment in Europe. This was, in part, due to the aforementioned acquisition by Hong Kong Hillhouse Capital. In the automotive sector it was propelled by greenfield investments in batteries for electric vehicles (EV) made by CATL. Together, the two sectors accounted for 59% of the total value of Chinese investment. The next three largest sectors were: healthcare, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology; information and communication technologies (ICT); and energy.

The nature of Chinese investment in Europe is changing. After years being dominated by M&A, Chinese investment in Europe has become more focused on greenfield projects.

Chinese venture capital investment is pouring into European tech startups, and by 2021 it had more than doubled to a record EUR1.2 billion.

It was centered in the UK and Germany and focused on a handful of sectors, including e-commerce, fintech, gaming, AI and robotics.

Chinese investment in Europe is unlikely to increase in 2022. This is because strict controls on capital outflows, the policy of financial deleveraging and other restrictions, including those arising from the zero-Covid policy, are still in place. The war in Ukraine and expanding regimes of screening and scrutiny of Chinese investment in the EU and U.K. will not help either. However, there are still compelling reasons for Chinese companies to invest in Europe: demand for European innovation and technology (catalyzed by U.S. blacklists involving hundreds of Chinese companies and restrictions on large Chinese tech companies), the need for integration with European value chains, compliance with European regulations and avoiding regulatory hurdles, and internationalization to markets with high disposable income.

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

The Ukrainian cabinet approved a resolution on Friday to bar Russian citizens from entering Ukraine without a visa. The move is likely to be viewed as symbolic given that the borders between Russian and Ukraine have remained shut since Moscow invaded its neighbor on Feb 24 and Kyiv severed diplomatic ties with Moscow.

The visa requirement, which is set to take effect on July 1, nevertheless represents a significant change to the ease of travel previously permitted.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on social media Friday that the decision was motivated by "unprecedented threats to the national security, sovereignty and territorial integrity" of Ukraine.

Before Russia invaded Ukraine, Russians didn't need visas to enter the country. Many Russians have relatives across the border, while others traveled regularly to visit Ukraine's southern beaches and historic cities.

UK GOV'T ORDERS JULIAN ASSANGE'S EXTRADITION

THE British government on Friday ordered the extradition of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange to the United States to face spying charges, a milestone — but not the end — of a decade-long legal saga sparked by his website's publication of classified U.S. documents.

WikiLeaks said it would challenge the order, and Assange's lawyers have 14 days to lodge an appeal.

"We're not at the end of the road here," said Assange's wife, Stella Assange. "We're going to fight this."

Julian Assange has battled in British courts for years to avoid being sent to the U.S., where he faces 17 charges of espionage and one charge of computer misuse.

American prosecutors say the Australian citizen helped U.S. Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning steal classified diplomatic cables and military files that WikiLeaks later published, putting lives at risk.

To his supporters, Assange, 50, is a secrecy-busting journalist who exposed U.S. military wrongdoing in Iraq and Afghanistan.

A British court ruled in April that Assange could be sent to face trial in the U.S., sending the case to the U.K. government for a decision. Britain's interior minister, Home Secretary Priti Patel, signed an order on Friday authorizing Assange's extradition.

The Home Office said in a statement that the government had to approve his move to the U.S. because "the U.K. courts have not found that it would be oppressive, unjust or an abuse of process to extradite Mr. Assange."

Barry Pollack, Assange's U.S. lawyer, said it was "disappointing news that should concern anyone who cares about the First Amendment and the right to publish."

Assange's lawyers said they would mount a new legal challenge, and legal experts say the case could take



months or even years more to conclude.

"We will appeal this all the way, if necessary to the European Court of Human Rights," Assange attorney Jennifer Robinson said.

Robinson asked U.S. President Joe Biden to drop the charges brought against Assange during Donald Trump's presidency, arguing they posed a "grave threat" to free speech.

During a press conference outside the British Consulate in New York City, Assange's father, John Shipton, also urged the U.S. to drop the prosecution.

"All it will take is a simple telephone call from Attorney General Merrick Garland to the home secretary in the United Kingdom to drop these charges. That's all it will take. It's not complex," he said.

Assange's supporters and lawyers maintain he was acting as a journalist and is entitled to First Amendment protections of freedom of speech. They argue that the case is politically motivated, that he would face inhumane treatment and be unable to get a fair trial in the U.S.

Silkie Carlo, director of civil liberties group Big Brother Watch, said the British government's "complicity in the political persecution of a journalist simply for revealing uncomfortable truths to the public is appalling, wrong and shames our country."

Stella Assange, a lawyer who married her husband in a prison ceremony in

March, said the U.K. decision marked "a dark day for press freedom and for British democracy."

"Julian did nothing wrong," she said. "He has committed no crime and is not a criminal. He is a journalist and a publisher, and he is being punished for doing his job."

Friday's decision came after a legal battle that went all the way to the U.K. Supreme Court.

A British district court judge initially rejected the extradition request on the grounds that Assange was likely to kill himself if held under harsh U.S. prison conditions. U.S. authorities later provided assurances that the WikiLeaks founder wouldn't face the severe treatment that his lawyers said would put his physical and mental health at risk.

Those assurances led Britain's High Court and Supreme Court to overturn the lower court's ruling.

Journalism organizations and human rights groups had called on Britain to refuse the extradition request. Assange's lawyers say he could face up to 175 years in jail if he is convicted in the U.S., though American authorities have said any sentence is likely to be much lower than that.

Amnesty International Secretary General Agnes Callamard said Friday that extraditing Assange "would put him at great risk and sends a chilling message to journalists the world over." **MDT/AP**



UK Thousands of people marched through central London on Saturday in a protest over the soaring cost of living in Britain. Huge crowds flooded into the British capital for the rally to demand that the government do more to help people faced with bills and other expenses that are rising more quickly than their wages. Prime Minister Boris Johnson has been criticized for being slow to respond to the cost-of-living crisis. Inflation in Britain and across Europe has been surging, as Russia's war in Ukraine crimped supplies of energy and food staples like wheat. Prices were already rising before the war, as the global economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic resulted in strong consumer demand.



French voters went to the polls yesterday in the final round of parliamentary elections that will demonstrate how much legroom President Emmanuel Macron's party will be given to implement his ambitious domestic agenda. In last week's first-round vote, a coalition led by hard-left firebrand Jean-Luc Melenchon made a surprisingly strong showing, sending jitters through Macron's centrist and center-right allies.



Spain Firefighters in Spain yesterday struggled to contain wildfires in several parts of the country, which is suffering a heat wave unusual for this time of the year. The worst damage has been in the northwest province of Zamora where over 25,000 hectares have been consumed, regional authorities said. The blaze that started in Zamora's Sierra de la Culebra has forced the evacuation of at least 10 villages. More than 500 firefighters are supported by water-dumping planes and helicopters in the sparsely populated area.