

For your health and the health of others  
Get vaccinated against COVID-19

Vaccination booking system



Please scan QR code or visit website  
<https://eservice.ssm.gov.mo/covidvacbook>  
Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre

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.



**LOCAL AUTHORITIES WILL NOT REGULATE THE RETAIL PRICE OF RAPID ANTIGEN TEST KITS THAT HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED FOR SALE AT PHARMACIES**

**BANKING ASSOCIATION HEAD PROVIDES ASSURANCE ON BACKUP SERVICES**

**SJM RESORTS IS SET TO DELIVER ANOTHER BONUS FOR ITS EMPLOYEES AS PART OF THE CASINO INDUSTRY'S CUSTOMARY ANNUAL STIPEND**

▲ P2

▲ P3

▲ P5



**NATO** secretary general Jens Stoltenberg said yesterday that the military alliance will increase the size of its rapid reaction forces nearly eightfold to 300,000 troops as part of its response to an “era of strategic competition.” The NATO response force currently has about 40,000 soldiers which can deploy quickly when needed. Coupled with other measures including the deployment of forces to defend specific allies, Stoltenberg said the move is part of the “biggest overhaul of collective defense and deterrence since the Cold War.”



**EU** countries agreed yesterday that all natural gas storage in the 27-nation bloc should be topped up to at least 80% capacity for next winter as they prepare for the possibility of Russia further reducing deliveries. The EU is trying to slash its use of Russian energy amid the Kremlin's war in Ukraine and find other sources. A ban on imports of Russian coal will start in August, and an embargo on most oil from Russia will be phased in over the coming eight months.



**Germany** A knife-wielding attacker stabbed several people in a shelter for asylum-seekers, killing one man and wounding at least five people. German news agency dpa reported. The attacker, reportedly a resident of the shelter, is said to have knocked on the doors of the rooms of the building in Kressbronn, on Lake Constance, on Sunday evening. When residents opened, he stabbed them, dpa reported.

More on backpage

# STILL ON THE RISE

**Covid-19 tally rose to 391 with one considered to be severe; 10 clusters have been identified and five mixed samples tested positive from mass testing** ▲ P3



RENATO MARQUES

## DSEDJ PLEDGES TO SAFEGUARD VOLUNTEERS AGAINST INFECTIONS



ANTHONY LAM

▲ P4



COVID-19 OUTBREAK

# GOV'T WILL NOT REGULATE RETAIL PRICE OF RAT KITS

RENATO MARQUES

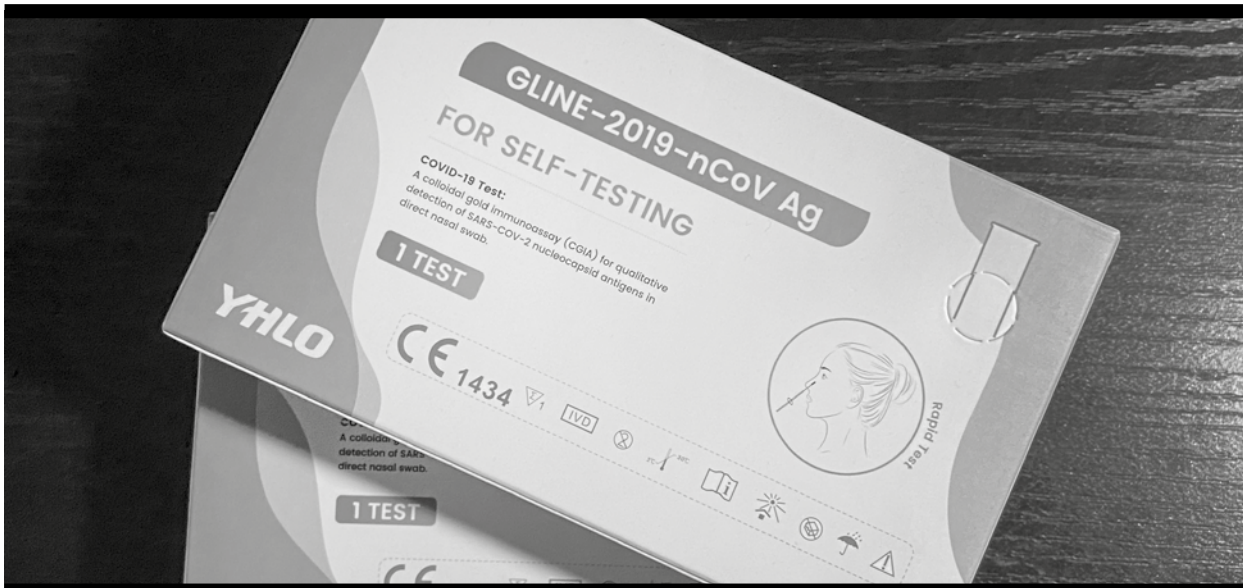
**T**HE local authorities will not regulate the retail price of the Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) kits that have been authorized for sale at pharmacies, the director of the Health Bureau (SSM), Alvis Lo, said during a press briefing organized by the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center on Sunday.

In response to a question from the media, the director of the SSM said that the government will not interfere in the retail price of the tests since they are sold on the private market and therefore the vendor is at liberty to establish the retail price.

"Pharmacies are part of the private sector so they can sell the products for the price that they think is best. We will not enforce any mandatory sale price for this kind of product," Lo said, adding, "We are inspecting the sales of the [RAT] kits in the pharmacies just to ensure that there is no stock rupture and also to see that the selling prices are reasonable."

Appealing to the public not

RENATO MARQUES



to hoard test kits, considering that the government has been supplying mandatory tests free of charge, Lo said that there is no advantage in stockpiling the tests, because they have a short lifecycle and cannot be stored for long periods.

Admitting that the government had no regulatory power to prevent either stockpiling or price gouging, Lo said that, nonetheless, the Pharmaceutical Administration Bureau and the Consumer Council will monitor the situation closely.

Questioned about the companies that are demanding that their employees take daily RATs at their own expense in order to work, Lo said, "The government is distributing some [for those positions which we think require them] but I can't ensure that we can supply enough for all the positions [for which employers] are requiring regular tests," he said. He added that he is aware that casino workers are required to have a daily negative RAT before starting work but

that the kits, as well as KN95 masks, are being supplied by the casino concessionaires.

"If we [the government] request citizens to conduct a RAT, you can rest assured that we will supply the kits to the citizens so that they are able to comply with our request," he concluded.

Several posts from concerned members of the public on social media platforms report that there are a growing number of companies and business sectors that are demanding that their staff take RATs on a daily basis.

This includes sectors such as logistics, cleaning, security, catering, and food and beverage, among others. Unlike casino staff, most of these workers must purchase the RATs at their own expense. If the current outbreak persists, this will have a significant impact upon household budgets.

## RAT KITS PRICED BETWEEN MOP10 AND 50

**DR.** Leong Iek Hou, Coordinator at the local Center for Disease Control and Prevention, noted during yesterday's press briefing that, following the inspection conducted by the Pharmaceutical Administration Bureau (ISAF), Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) kits Macau were being sold at a retail price ranging between 10 and 50 patacas. Leong explained that prices varied according to the brands, manufacturing locations, logistics costs and other factors, but that said all the models found are homologated and certified, producing all results with

similar accuracy. She also said that, in response to public concern, the ISAF will inspect the stock of RATs at local pharmacies between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. each day, updating product information on the website ([www.isaf.gov.mo](http://www.isaf.gov.mo)). Leong also announced that there is currently enough stock of 69 different types of these tests and that the importers are already working to import more stock, which is due to arrive in Macau later this week.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## AN OPEN LETTER TO THE HONOURABLE DR. LO IEK LONG, DIRECTOR OF THE HEALTH BUREAU OF THE MACAO SAR GOVERNMENT

Dear Dr. Lo Iek Long,

When the virus first started spreading in China, many people were alarmed. We were scared, skeptical, appalled. We are now roughly two and a half years down into the pandemic, with different protection mechanisms still in place (e.g., no visitors can enter Macao; no resident can return without being mandatorily quarantined in a designated hotel; wearing a mask remains compulsory).

We also know that nearly 90% of the city's population has been vaccinated against the virus. Local and international authorities have acknowledged that

the disease is not what it used to be. The virus is weaker, we have higher immunity, and we know more about it.

Similar to many people here, I haven't left Macau since January 2020. I have not been to mainland China during this whole period, nor have I travelled to Hong Kong. I have worked online when the government requested I do so. I got vaccinated when a lot of people were still questioning the efficiency of the vaccines against COVID-19. I went through a pregnancy with minimal care in the beginning of the pandemic. I kept wearing a mask on a daily basis. I have avoided crowds. I have followed the instructions. I

am a good citizen.

As a professional and a mother, I can say that the last few days have been particularly challenging with the need to reconcile work with intense parenting. It has also been a source of consternation to subject my children to repeated nose or mouth swabs for COVID-19 testing.

We all know kids would be better off living a normal life, not being trapped in their home or away from their school and basic sociality. But we also understand that times like this call for caution. In any case, I wonder if they should still be required to perform these swabs so often; actually, it seems to me that many young children

— babies, toddlers, and pre-school kids at least — could likely be spared at this stage.

With all due respect to you and other Macao SAR Government health and executive authorities, who have so relentlessly worked to keep the city safe, we all know that children alone do not wander around places, go out to eat at a restaurant or run errands in town by themselves.

Lately, they also haven't gone to school, because the institutions have been shut down. Therefore, children's chances of catching COVID-19 if their caretakers are not infected are currently extremely low.

Would it be possible that the

government mandate children be tested for the coronavirus only if an adult in their household has tested positive?

My kids have tested negative four times in a week, and they still have to be tested again today. They are not going places, they are not seeing family or school friends, and they are not spending time in public spaces.

As a matter of fact, the only place they have been to that may have offered some risk of contamination is the Nucleic Acid Test (NAT) stations crowded with people throughout the day.

I think it is safe to state that other parents also feel apprehensive about this whole situation.

Young children have suffered a good amount, and are incapable of understanding the reason why they have to go through COVID-19 testing again and again.

After being swabbed and vainly crying in pain, they are taken back home by their parents or other family members in the belief that they are free from that agony. I would like to believe so too.

Therefore, I ask Dr. Lo: Wouldn't it be within the authorities' capacity to free young children, at least, from having to repeatedly go through COVID-19 testing?

Sincerely,  
**Sheyla S. Zandonai, Ph.D.**  
Mother

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

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

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



RENATO MARQUES

COVID-19 OUTBREAK

# 35 new cases raise tally to 391, first severe case

**L**OCAL health authorities have reportedly found a total of 391 positive cases of infections with Covid-19 from June 18 to 5 p.m. yesterday, the coordinator at the local Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Leong Iek Hou, said at yesterday's press briefing from the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center.

The figure includes 35 new cases on June 27 and a further 89 found on Sunday.

Of the 89 cases detected before midnight on June 26, the larger portion (50) were cases found in the community through testing, while the remaining 39 are related to people who are already under medical observation for being in close contact with other infected people.

Of the total number of cases found during the ongoing outbreak, only 88 people are presenting symptoms of the disease, while the majority (269 cases) are asymptomatic.

According to the same official, one case is now considered to be severe, since the patient, a 60-year-old local woman, has been diagnosed with bilateral pneumonia, and is presenting with difficulties in her breathing.

Nonetheless, Leong said that her medical condition is considered stable and that she is being medicated with anti-viral medicines. According to the record of the Health Bureau, the woman has been inoculated with three doses of the Sinopharm's inactivated virus vaccine.

Except for 30 cases that are still

RENATO MARQUES



under epidemiological investigation, the remaining cases have been categorized as belonging to the same 10 groups or clusters as previously, with eight out of the 10 cluster group now showing links

between them.

Only group 4, the OD Health Club (4 persons) and Shoppes at Four Seasons, and group 6, the China Construction Commercial Building in Rua do Campo (20

persons), have so far not been linked to any other clusters.

On Sunday and Monday, health authorities were able to clarify links from the previous groups 7 and 9 to the second cluster, related

to people living at the Tat Cheong building at the Rua de Afonso de Albuquerque and involving some 84 cases.

## PEOPLE WITHOUT RATS DENIED ENTRY TO MASS TESTING

At the same press briefing, the representative of the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ), Luis Gomes, confirmed that several people have been barred from entering nucleic acid test (NAT) sampling stations because they had failed to present a negative result of a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) taken the same day.

"We have been asking people [since the previous mass testing round] to do a RAT and ensure that the result was negative before heading to the NAT sample collection stations. The majority have done it. But there were some cases in which people were not able to present this result. Some of them justified this by saying that they did not have any more kits. In those cases, we have supplied them an extra RAT kit and requested them to go back home and do it first before returning to the NAT stations."

Still, the official said that the results obtained by the government showing that over 570,000 uploaded their RAT results over recent days demonstrate that the vast majority of the population is completing the tests, while some still require information.

At the time of the close of this edition, a total of 326,062 people have completed the mass testing and, of those, 87,373 have already obtained negative results.

Five 10-in-1 samples tested positive as of 9 p.m.

# Banking association head provides assurance on backup services

ANTHONY LAM

**P**RESIDENT of the Macau Association of Banks, Ip Sio Kai, has given assurances that local banks are providing auxiliary services to their clients despite the recent series of SARS-CoV-2 infections in the city.

Ip is also a lawmaker representing the indirect election constituency.

In light of the recent series of infections, the government has decided to close all non-essential public service offices, such as post offices and libraries. Although not many private sector businesses are following suit, the banking sector announced a suspension directly after the government's announce-

EDUARDO SOARES



ment.

Currently, branch services will be suspended until

July 1, as with non-essential public services.

Ip also pointed out that

the temporary closure of branches does not equate to a complete shutdown of

the banking sector.

In an interview with local Chinese paper Macao Daily News, the banking association head said that the decision to suspend branch services was made to help contain the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and is in line with the government's calls.

"However, the sector has not suspended operations," the lawmaker explained. "Backend teams are still operating as usual to provide emergency or necessary assistance to clients."

It is approaching the end of the month, and therefore many employers are trying to pay employees' salaries. Ip addressed this concern, adding that companies will need clearance services near the end of the month.

Furthermore, the banking association head disclosed that local banks had designated officers and executives to handle

the needs of their corporate clients. According to Ip, banks have required their staff to proactively contact their clients to notify them of the availability of these services.

Likewise, if clients require emergency or sudden assistance, such as matters involving large amounts of cash, they may contact their banks for help.

As for personal clients, local banks will also allow grace periods for some of their transactions. For example, clients who have set up direct debit instructions to settle credit card bills will either see their bills settled automatically on the set transaction date or else on July 4 if there are insufficient funds in their accounts.

Ip added that the branch suspensions should not cause too much inconvenience, as online banking tools have become more comprehensive.



### HEAT WAVE CONTINUES: SMG WARNS AGAINST DEHYDRATION AND HEATSTROKE

The Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) has announced that hot weather will continue due to a subtropical high. Macau has experienced extremely hot weather for several days, and recorded a high of 34 to 35 degrees Celsius in some areas. According to the SMG forecast, the heat wave will last for another two to three days. The authorities remind residents to take precautions against heatstroke and to remain hydrated.

### GOV'T ADJUSTS ELECTRICITY CHARGE SYSTEM

The Official Gazette has published a document entitled "Public services charge system for electricity supply," which aims at promoting energy saving and emission reduction. The main contents of the system include the price formula and period for each rate category, the addition of a high-voltage rate category, charging for transport, which is divided into public charges and general charges depending on the circumstances of power consumption. In addition, except for public lighting rates, which are adjusted in accordance with the system, the rates for other charge groups are unchanged.

### WORKERS WITH YELLOW CODE ALLOWED TO PERFORM DUTY

Residents with a yellow health code are required to undergo nucleic acid testing as scheduled, and comply with measures including departure restrictions, close health monitoring and self-health management, the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre stated. As long as relevant anti-epidemic arrangements are observed, persons with a yellow health code can perform duty after communicating with their employer or department supervisor. Employers should make appropriate arrangements for such workers at work; this includes the supervision of regular nucleic acid testing and antigen testing, and the proper use of mask (preferably a KN95 or higher standard).

# EDUCATION CHIEF PLEDGES TO SAFEGUARD VOLUNTEERS AGAINST INFECTIONS DURING MEAL BREAKS

ANTHONY LAM

**T**HE citywide SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid test (NAT) stations have differing amounts of space, but the government will try to provide facilities for volunteers to rest and have meals, an education official said yesterday.

The Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) is in charge of the citywide NAT stations once again. The bureau director, Kong Chi Meng, met the press at the Sacred Heart Canossian College (English Section) test station yesterday afternoon.

In response to a question from the Times about volunteers complaining they do not have enough space to rest and have meals at the test stations, the education chief said more work would be done.

Some volunteers complained that it was suggested they take their meals in a room of about 200 square feet. Since they could not eat while wearing masks, they feared that to do so would be violating Health Bureau (SSM) restrictions as well as exposing themselves to the risk of infection.

Kong said that the DSEDJ would keep reminding test station leaders to pay attention to the problem and try to look for larger rooms for volunteers to rest and take their meals in.

He admitted that test stations have different sizes and layouts, hence not all test stations will have as many rooms as their counterparts.

The education chief reiterated that test takers should undertake their SARS-CoV-2 rapid antigen test (RAT) prior to leaving home and not arrive too early at the station so as to avoid the buildup of crowds.

Yesterday, some people were observed taking RATs at NAT stations. The education chief maintained that a NAT station is not a suitable place to conduct RATs. He commented that some elderly people were unfamiliar with the declaration system but he emphasized that pictures of the RAT results would also allow access to NAT stations.

Many people have already used up their RAT kits for various reasons. Kong said that such individuals may approach any NAT stations explain their situation to the staff. The staff will offer them a free kit so that they can take the citywide NAT.

Concerning how test takers' names and test dates should be written while declaring RAT results, Kong said that the best way is to write the details on the test kit.

ANTHONY LAM



DSEDJ Director Kong Chi Meng



However, if that is not possible, writing them on the insert of the kit and photographing the insert next to the kit will also be accepted.

The DSEDJ director was confident that this round of tests would be concluded on time, despite the sample collection period being shorter. He applauded test takers for using the booking process more smoothly.

At 3 p.m. yesterday, 400,000 had booked a test and 130,000 had had their samples collected.

With a shorter test period, Kong was not worried about crowds gathering and thus, according to the government, posing higher risks of an extensive outbreak. He justified his view by pointing out that more test stations and more sample collection points have been added compared to previous rounds. He

also said that the larger number of test stations has also shortened queue times.

In response to a question, Kong admitted that some NAT stations had fully distributed their RAT kits. However, he emphasized that stations have frequently been restocked. In fact, stocks were refilled constantly during the hour when the press event took place.

Kong also released some data related to this round of citywide NATs. As there are nine additional test stations this round, he assured the public that, as of 3 p.m. yesterday, they were operating in a smooth manner.

In the morning, the waiting times at most stations were shorter than 30 minutes. Only at about midday did queues begin to lengthen and the waiting times exceeded 30 minutes.

With more stations, the need for workers has also risen. Therefore, with the exception of teams from the social affairs and culture, administration and justice, as well as the security sectors, this round will also attract support from the economy and finance as well as transport and public works sectors. "Even colleagues from the Commission Against Corruption, the Commission of Audit and the Public Prosecutions Office are also helping at stations," Kong revealed. "Therefore, we can make more frequent rotations to avoid workers from being [in one] position, for example under the sun, for too long."

The sample collection coach is also taking samples in Hac-Sa and Ka-Ho. As of 3 p.m. yesterday, it has taken samples from nearly 500 people.



# SJM to deliver employee bonuses

**G**AMING operator SJM Resorts SA is set to deliver another bonus for its employees as part of the casino industry's customary annual spend.

Dubbed as the "living subsidy," the bonus will amount to one and a half to two months' salary, and will be delivered in July.

"The summer allowance is payable in patacas [...] and is payable to employees [who have been] employed before June 26," the memo to the employees read.

Terms and conditions for eligible employees were not listed in the note.

Ever since the pandemic began, the city's casino workers have endured significant financial hardship, with many being laid off or furloughed. The bonus is considered a life-saver to struggling casino staff during the crisis, particularly amid the current outbreak, which has led to a halt in tourism.

Before the peak of the pandemic in 2020, casino workers received bonuses twice yearly, as summer and winter bonuses.



Each was equivalent to about a month's salary. These were traditionally handed out in the July-August period and before Chinese New Year, respectively.

Recently, Fitch Ratings downgraded SJM's Long-Term Foreign-Currency Issuer Default Rating and its 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." LV

## RESIDENTS' INVESTMENT IN SECURITIES UP 7% Y-O-Y

**L**OCAL residents' investments have reached MOP1,098.1 billion in current market value, representing a rise of 1.9% from end-June 2021, or 7.2% from end-2020.

Investment in securities issued by mainland Chinese companies, including those securities listed on non-mainland exchanges, continued to lead, occupying 36.3% of local residents' portfolio investments outside Macau as at end-December 2021.

Data from the Monetary Authority of Macao shows that the market value increased by 6.1% from end-2020 to MOP398.2 billion.

The investment consisted of MOP132.9 billion in equity securities, MOP221.6 billion in long-term debt securities and MOP43.7 billion in short-term debt securities, representing

34.2%, 34.2% and 71.0% of the total, respectively.

Meanwhile, the share of investment in securities issued by Hong Kong SAR companies dropped from 13.6% to 12.2%.

Investments in European securities rose 2.1 percentage points to 13.4% in share and increased by 26.7% to MOP147.2 billion in market value from end-2020.

Also, the market value of Macau residents' investments in countries along the "Belt and Road" (excluding China) increased 19.0% from end-2020 to MOP93.6 billion, equivalent to 8.5% of total external portfolio investment. Meanwhile, the market value of portfolio investment in Portuguese-speaking countries was MOP573.8 million, which was placed in securities issued by companies in Portugal and Brazil. LV



### 合夥人 PARTNERS:

官樂怡 Rui José da Cunha °  
山度士 Álvaro Rodrigues °  
馬天龍 Nuno Sardinha da Mata °  
趙魯 Zhao Lu \*  
馬傑安 João Nogueira Marques

### 大律師 ASSOCIATES:

高文軒 Adelino Correia °  
羅普齡 Zelina Rodrigues \*  
馬潔冰 Maria João Marques  
陶義德 António Isó de Azeredo  
白穎怡 Iclia Berenguel  
沈玲鳳 Mariana Afonso Esteves  
馬秀文 Sofia Mendes Martins  
飛嘉華 Carlos dos Santos Ferreira °  
杜力信 Nelson de Azevedo  
莫永誠 Rui Velez de Moura  
安東尼 António Manuel dos Santos  
巴慧雅 Vera Bastos  
歐文傑 Miguel Evaristo  
陳芷喬 Joana Chan  
顏曉蓉 Teresa Xiaorong Yan  
諾瑪莉 Maria Noras  
康靜雅 Viviana Hong  
梁淑嵐 Ana Leon  
黃瀚賢 Frederico Vong

### 實習律師 TRAINEE LAWYERS:

張偉鴻 Cheong Wai Hong  
陳健雄 Eurico Chan  
吳靈鋒 Ng Teng Fong  
戴博晴 Tai Pok Cheng  
吳佩愉 Ng Pui U  
陳子健 Kimi Chan  
劉慧敏 Amanda Liu

### 法律專家 JURISTS:

羅成軒 José J. Rodrigues  
斐彥德 Gonçalo Figueiredo  
伍福賢 Domingos Ng  
楊詩婷 Si Teng leong



To protect the health and safety of our Clients and Staff, we continue implementing prevention measures at the office entrance, as recommended by the local Authorities.

為了保護客戶和員工的健康和安全，我們將繼續按照本地政府的建議在辦公室入口處實施預防措施。

A: Av. da Praia Grande 759, 3-5 Floors  
Macau SAR, China  
地址:澳門南灣大馬路759號3-5樓  
Tel: (853) 2837 2642 / 2837 2623  
Office hours:  
Mon-Thu: 9:30-13:00, 14:30-18:30  
Fri: 9:30-13:00, 14:30-18:00  
Sat: 9:00-13:00

WWW.CCADVOG.COM

律師事務所



C&C  
LAWYERS  
& NOTARIES  
SINCE 1996



# Seoul urges China, Russia to prevent North Korean nuke test

KIM TONG-HYUNG, SEOUL

**A** top South Korean official said yesterday that North Korea is increasingly targeting the South with its nuclear arms program, and urged China and Russia to persuade the North not to conduct a widely expected nuclear test.

Unification Minister Kwon Youngse's comments came after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un re-emphasized his nuclear ambitions in a key military meeting last week and approved unspecified new operational duties for front-line army units.

Experts say North Korea could be planning to deploy battlefield nuclear weapons along its tense border with South Korea. During a prolonged stalemate in nuclear diplomacy, North Korea has spent much of the past three years expanding its arsenal of short-range solid-fuel missiles that are potentially capable of evading missile defenses and striking targets throughout South Korea, including U.S. bases there.

U.S. and South Korean officials say that North Korea has all but finished preparations for its first nuclear test since September 2017, when it claimed to have detonated a thermonuclear warhead designed for intercontinental ballistic missiles. North Korea may use its next nuclear test to claim that it has acquired the ability to build small nuclear warheads that can be placed on



South Korean Unification Minister Kwon Youngse speaks during a news conference in Seoul, South Korea, yesterday

short-range missiles or other new weapons systems it has demonstrated in recent months, analysts say.

Kwon, who oversees South Korea's relations with North Korea, said at a news conference that the North is exploiting a favorable environment to push ahead with weapons development and overturn the regional status quo as the U.S.-led West remains distracted over Russia's invasion of Ukraine. He said North Korea's nuclear ambitions pose a "very serious and fundamental threat" to South Korea and that Seoul is preparing

stern countermeasures in response to a possible North Korean nuclear test. He didn't elaborate.

"North Korea's transition in weapons development from long-range ballistic missiles to short-range ballistic missiles, from strategic nuclear weapons to tactical nuclear weapons, is obviously targeted toward South Korea," Kwon said.

"It seems clear that North Korea is simultaneously pursuing an ability to attack the United States and to attack South Korea," he said.

Kwon said North Korea could

go ahead with a nuclear test at "any time."

While the U.S. government has vowed to pursue additional sanctions against North Korea if it conducts another nuclear test, the possibility of meaningful new punitive measures remains unclear because Russia's war in Ukraine has deepened divisions among permanent members of the U.N. Security Council. China and Russia have vetoed U.S.-sponsored proposals that would have increased sanctions on North Korea over some of its recent ballistic missile tests.

Kwon, who served as South Korea's ambassador to China from 2013 to 2015, expressed hope that Beijing and Moscow will react differently to a North Korean nuclear test since both have maintained public support for a denuclearized Korean Peninsula.

"If North Korea goes ahead with a nuclear test at a time when the global security situation is as unstable as it is now, the country will face enormous criticism from international society, and the response will be more than just words," Kwon said.

North Korea has conducted more ballistic tests in the first half of 2022 than it has in any previous entire year, firing around 30 missiles, including its first tests of ICBMs in nearly five years. Kim has punctuated the tests with repeated comments that North Korea would use nuclear weapons proactively if threatened or provoked, which experts say is an escalation in its nuclear doctrine.

The U.S. government has reaffirmed its commitment to defending allies South Korea and Japan with its full range of military capabilities, including nuclear, but there are concerns in Seoul that North Korea's ICBMs could make Washington hesitant in the event of another war on the Korean Peninsula.

Experts say North Korea's unusually heavy testing activity this year underscores Kim's intent to advance his arsenal as well as pressure the United States into accepting North Korea as a nuclear power, thereby strengthening its position in negotiating economic and security concessions.

Talks have stalled since early 2019 because of disagreements over a relaxation of crippling U.S.-led sanctions against North Korea in exchange for North Korean disarmament steps. **MDT/AP**

# Censors delete discussion of Beijing's future COVID control

HUIZHONG WU, TAIPEI

**D**IGITAL censors quickly deleted a hashtag "the next five years" yesterday as online discussion swirled in response to reported remarks of Beijing's Communist Party secretary saying that the capital city will normalize pandemic prevention controls over the course of the next five years.

Beijing's Communist Party chief, Cai Qi, made the remarks yesterday morning as part of a report on the Party's management of the city.

The citywide party congress is held once every five years, ahead of the national level party congress, which



is slated for this fall. At the congresses, members generally review the work of the past five years while also announcing goals for

the next five years. "In the next five years, Beijing will resolutely, unremittingly, do a good job in normalizing pandemic

prevention controls," according to a cached version of the remarks in Beijing Daily, the main Communist Party mouthpiece in

the capital city.

The city "will implement high quality regular PCR tests, and screening at key points, strictly inspect entries in residential communities, work units and public institutions," it said.

The current version of the Beijing Daily no longer has the phrase "in the next five years." On Weibo, the hashtag "the next five years" was deleted. A search for it on the social media platform turns up a notice saying the topic could not be displayed "according to relevant laws, regulations and policies," a common error message for topics deleted by the app's censors.

Since a surge of cases

driven by the omicron variant in April, China has made mass testing requirements even more frequent. In Beijing, residents are now required to hold a negative test from within the last 72 hours to enter any public venue, including restaurants and offices.

Across the city, the government pushed to set up thousands of testing spots where a person can get swabbed.

Throughout the pandemic, China has stuck to its strategy of "clearing to zero" or "zero-COVID." It relies on mass testing, surveillance, and strict lockdowns to stop the virus from transmitting widely in the community. **MDT/AP**



# Sri Lanka sends two ministers to Russia for oil amid crisis

BHARATHA MALLAWARACHI,  
COLOMBO

**S**RI Lanka is sending two government ministers to Russia to negotiate for fuel — one of the necessities nearly exhausted amid the Indian Ocean island nation's economic collapse.

The development comes as Washington and its allies aim to cut off energy imports from Russia in line with sanctions over its war on Ukraine. Since the invasion in late February, global oil prices have skyrocketed, sparking a number of countries to seek out Russian crude, which is being offered at a steep discount.

Power and Energy Minister Kanchana Wijesekera said two ministers were scheduled to leave for Russia yesterday to continue talks that Sri Lanka has been having with Russian authorities to directly purchase fuel, among other related issues.

He urged people Saturday not to line up for fuel, saying only limited stock will be distributed to limited stations throughout next week. He said until the next shipments arrive, "public transport, power generators and industries will be given a priority."

AP PHOTO



Residents have had to queue for hours and sometimes days to get fuel, sometimes resorting to burning charcoal or palm fronds for cooking.

Wijesekera's comments come while a high-level U.S. delegation is visiting Sri Lanka, seeking ways to help the island nation cope with an unprecedented economic crisis and severe shortages of essential supplies.

Like some other South Asian nations, Sri Lanka has remained neutral on the war in Europe.

However, Wijesekera said the foreign ministry and the Sri Lankan ambassador in Russia have been making arrangements for a fuel sale.

"There is an advantage for us if we could buy oil directly from the Russian government or the Russian firms. There are talks going on," he told reporters Sunday.

The shortages have led to protests against the government, recently to demand fuel. The government has deployed armed

troops in addition to police at every fuel station.

Sri Lanka says it's unable to repay \$7 billion in foreign debt due this year, pending the outcome of negotiations with the International Monetary Fund on a rescue package. It must pay \$5 billion on average annually until 2026. Authorities have asked the IMF to lead a conference to unite Sri Lanka's lenders.

Last month, the country bought a 90,000-metric-ton (99,000-ton) shipment of Russian crude

to restart its only refinery, Wijesekera said.

In an interview with The Associated Press in mid-June, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said Sri Lanka would be compelled to buy oil from Russia and was trying to get oil and coal from traditional suppliers in the Middle East.

"If we can get from any other sources, we will get from there. Otherwise (we) may have to go to Russia again," he said.

Wickremesinghe also said last week that the state-run Ceylon Petroleum Corporation was \$700 million in debt and as a result, no country or organization was willing to provide fuel.

On Sunday, the corporation hiked prices of petrol by 22% to 550 Sri Lankan Rupees per liter (about \$5.80 per gallon), and diesel by 15% to LKR 470 per liter (about \$4.95 per gallon). Wijesekera said the hike was meant to be par with the global fuel prices.

Protesters have occupied the entrance to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's office for more than two months demanding his resignation, saying the primary responsibility for the crisis rests with him and his family, whom they accuse of corruption and mismanagement.

The U.S. delegation led by Robert Kaproth, deputy assistant secretary of the Treasury for Asia, and Kelly Keiderling, deputy assistant secretary of state for South and Central Asia, began its visit Sunday and is scheduled to meet top Sri Lankan officials during their stay until Wednesday. **MDT/AP**

## CLIMATE

# Tokyo warned of power crunch as Japan endures heat wave

MARI YAMAGUCHI,  
TOKYO

**P**EOPLE in Tokyo are sweating it out as the government warns of possible power shortages and urges greater efforts to conserve energy while Japan endures unseasonably hot temperatures.

Weather officials announced the earliest end to the annual summer rainy season since the Japan Meteorological Agency began keeping records in 1951. The rains usually temper the summer heat, often well into July.

The sultry temperatures would be considered mild compared to some South and Southeast Asian countries. But they are adding to worries over power shortages over the summer. Some coal-fired plants serving the region were

AP PHOTO



taken offline for repairs after a strong earthquake in mid-March. The government warned of potential problems in late March, though no actual outages occurred.

The economy and in-

dustry ministry urged people living in the region serviced by the Tokyo Electric Power Co. to conserve power in the afternoons, especially when demand peaks at 4-5 p.m.

Kaname Ogawa, direc-

tor of electricity supply policy at the ministry, said electricity demand yesterday was bigger than expected because the temperature exceeded Sunday's forecast. A similar warning was issued for today.

"We are struck by unusual heat for the season," Ogawa said. "Please cooperate and save as much power as possible."

Ogawa, however, said people should use air conditioning appropriately and take precautions against heat stroke.

Heat stroke is a big concern since many older Japanese tend to avoid using air-conditioning, partly out of habit and partly to avoid running up big electricity bills. Older Japanese homes also tend to lack insulation and are stifling hot in the summer and very cold in the winter.

TEPCO said it was expecting contributions from the Tohoku Electric Power Co., which serves Japan's northern prefectures, to help ease the crunch.

The Japanese archipe-

lago has seen record high temperatures for June in some areas. In Isezaki, north of Tokyo, the temperature rose to 40.2 Centigrade (104.4 Fahrenheit) on Saturday, the highest ever for June. Temperature in downtown Tokyo rose to nearly 35C yesterday, higher than the forecast Sunday of 34C.

With humidity at about 44%, temperatures felt still warmer.

With hot air coming from a powerful high atmospheric pressure system stalled over the Pacific Ocean, high temperatures were expected through early July, the meteorological agency said.

More than 250 people were taken to hospitals in Tokyo over the weekend for treatment of heat stroke, according to the Mainichi newspaper. **MDT/AP**





# G-7 leaders confer with Zelenskyy, prep new aid for Ukraine

ZEKE MILLER, DARLENE SUPERVILLE & GEIR MOULSON, ELMAU

**L**EADING economic powers conferred by video link with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy yesterday as they underscored their commitment to Ukraine for the long haul with plans to pursue a price cap on Russian oil, raise tariffs on Russian goods and impose other new sanctions.

In addition, the U.S. was preparing to announce the purchase of an advanced surface-to-air missile system for Kyiv to help Ukraine fight back against Vladimir Putin's aggression.

The new aid and efforts to exact punishment on Moscow from the Group of Seven leaders come as Zelenskyy has openly worried that the West has become fatigued by the cost of a war that is contributing to soaring energy costs and price hikes on essential goods around the globe.

Leaders were finalizing the deal to seek a price cap during their three-day G-7 summit in the German Alps. The details of how a price cap would work, as well as its impact on the Russian economy, were to be resolved by the G-7 finance minis-

ters in the coming weeks and months, according to a senior administration official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to preview the announcements from the summit.

The largest democratic economies will also commit to raising tariffs on Russian imports to their countries, with the U.S. announcing new tariffs on 570 categories of goods, as well as use of sanctions to target Russia's defense supply chains that support its effort to rearm during the war.

Biden is expected to announce the U.S. is purchasing NASAMS, a Norwegian-developed anti-aircraft system, to provide medium- to long-range defense, according to the person familiar with the matter, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. NASAMS is the same system used by the U.S. to protect the sensitive airspace around the White House and U.S. Capitol in Washington.

Additional aid includes more ammunition for Ukrainian artillery, as well as counter-battery radars, to support its efforts against the Russian assault in the Donbas, the person said. Biden is also announcing a \$7.5 billion commitment to help Ukraine's government meet its expenses,

as part of a drawdown of the \$40 billion military and economic aid package he signed into law last month.

The G-7 leaders began yesterday's session of their three-day summit with a focus on Ukraine. Later, they will be joined by the leaders of five democratic emerging economies — India, Indonesia, South Africa, Senegal and Argentina — for a discussion on climate change, energy and other issues.

The war in Ukraine was already at the forefront of the G-7 leaders' minds as they opened their summit at the secluded Schloss Elmau luxury hotel on Sunday — just as Russian missiles hit the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv for the first time in weeks.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, the summit's host, said that the G-7 countries' policies on Ukraine are "very much aligned," and that they see the need to be both tough and cautious.

Scholz said after meeting Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau yesterday that "we are taking tough decisions, that we are also cautious, that we will help ... Ukraine as much as possible but that we also avoid that there will be a big conflict between Russia and NATO."

He added that "this is

what is of essence -- to be tough and thinking about the necessities of the time we are living in."

Biden said Sunday that Russian President Vladimir Putin "has been counting on, from the beginning, that somehow NATO and the G-7 would splinter, but we haven't and we're not going to."

Biden hopes to use his trip to Europe to proclaim the unity of the coalition pressing to punish Russia for its invasion of Ukraine as much as he is urging allies to do even more — seeking to counter doubts about its endurance as the war grinds into its fifth month.

The summit's host, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, said last week that he wants to discuss the outlines of a "Marshall plan for Ukraine" with his G-7 counterparts, referring to the U.S.-sponsored plan that helped revive European economies after World War II.

With the war still in progress and destruction mounting by the day, it's unlikely to be a detailed plan at this stage. Scholz has said that "rebuilding Ukraine will be a task for generations."

The G-7 already is committed to help finance Ukraine's immediate needs. Finance ministers from the group last month agreed to provide \$19.8 billion in economic aid to help Kyiv keep basic services functioning and prevent tight finances from hindering its defense against Russian forces.

A senior U.S. administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations between the G-7 leaders, said the U.S. and Europe are aligned in their aims for a negotiated end to the conflict, even if their roles sometimes appear different.

Scholz and French President Emmanuel Macron have tried to facilitate that through active conversations with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Zelenskyy, while also supplying weapons to Ukraine. The U.S. has largely cut off significant talks with Russia and aims to bolster Ukraine's battlefield capacity as much as possible so that its eventual position at the negotiating table is stronger. **MDT/AP**

## this day in history

### 2004 US TRANSFERS POWER BACK TO IRAQ



The United States has handed power back to the Iraqi people at a low-key ceremony in Baghdad.

US administrator Paul Bremer transferred sovereignty to an Iraqi judge at a handover brought forward two days in an attempt to prevent the occasion being marked by bloodshed.

Mr Bremer flew out of the country shortly after. His departure ends 15 months of US control in Iraq.

Iraq's interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, who attended the handover in the city's heavily-guarded "Green Zone", said it was an "historic day" for Iraq.

Mr Allawi's cabinet were sworn in at a later ceremony, also held in secret.

The new prime minister made a televised address after formally taking office.

He told Iraqis: "I call on our people to stand united to expel the foreign terrorists who are killing our children and destroying our country."

Although power is back in Iraqi hands, US President George Bush said American troops would remain in the country as long as they were needed.

The president added that US presence would also be at the request of the newly-formed interim government.

Mr Bremer defended his country's reasons for being in Iraq, referring to recently discovered graves where thousands of victims of Saddam Hussein's regime are believed to be buried.

The former Coalition Provisional Authority administrator said: "Anybody who has any doubt about whether Iraq is a better place today than it was 14 months ago should go down and see the mass graves in Hilla.

"Anybody who has seen those things that I have will know that Iraq is a much better place."

The power handover was welcomed by world leaders. The European Union and Nato alliance both pledged their support for Mr Allawi's government.

Mr Bush and Mr Blair were apparently the only leaders at the current Nato summit who knew the transfer of sovereignty would take place early.

The news was revealed by Iraqi foreign minister Hoshiyar Zebari, speaking after talks with the UK prime minister.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Bringing the handover forward and holding it in secret meant the transfer of power was not marked by attacks by insurgents.

But frequent attacks on US and UK forces as well as on Iraqi civilians have continued to take place in the country.

Neither the US nor Britain have yet committed to a date when troops will be removed.

Iraq held its first multi-party elections in 50 years in January 2005. An interim democratically elected government was sworn in on 3 May 2005 with Shia Ibrahim Jaafari as prime minister.

But finding an acceptable balance of power in the government between Iraq's national groups has proved difficult.

In December 2005 Iraqis voted for the first full-term government since the American-led invasion.

In January 2006 the Shia-led United Iraqi Alliance emerged as winners of the elections but without an absolute majority.

After four months of deadlock, President Talabani asked Shia compromise candidate Jawad al-Maliki to form a new government.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

**ARIES**  
**Mar. 21-Apr. 19**  
 Be cautious while traveling; minor accidents are evident. Don't spend too much in order to impress others. Although upsetting, changes in your domestic situation will be favorable.

**TAURUS**  
**Apr. 20-May. 20**  
 Your creative talent will prove to be lucrative if put to proper use. Opportunities for new friendships are apparent. Get ready to take care of your financial situation.

**GEMINI**  
**May. 21-Jun. 21**  
 Your best gains will come through helping others emotionally. Be tactful if you see flaws in someone else's work. Try to avoid being extravagant today.

**CANCER**  
**Jun. 22-Jul. 22**  
 Traffic will be busier than you anticipated, so try to get a head start if you have made plans to travel. There's lots to be done and if you meet your deadline you'll be in your boss's good books.

**LEO**  
**Jul. 23-Aug. 22**  
 Trips, educational pursuits, or projects that could lead to new outlooks should be on your agenda. You will have an inaccurate assessment of your status in society.

**VIRGO**  
**Aug. 23-Sep. 22**  
 You can make a difference if you're willing to stand up and be counted. Make any decisions you have to in order to avoid feeling unsettled. Jealous coworkers may try to sabotage your attempts to get ahead.

**LIBRA**  
**Sep. 23-Oct. 22**  
 Think twice before you pursue an unrealistic endeavor. You will learn a great deal from people with different cultural backgrounds. Colleagues may try to undermine you.

**SCORPIO**  
**Oct. 23-Nov. 21**  
 Such over indulgence due to emotional upset will be your downfall. Tempers will mount if you're too pushy at work or at home. You're likely to encounter new partners if you take short trips.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
**Nov. 22-Dec. 21**  
 You can learn valuable information if you listen and observe what others are doing and saying. Problems with large corporations or institutions are apparent.

**CAPRICORN**  
**Dec. 22-Jan. 19**  
 Do not give your heart to someone who may not live up to your standards. Do not allow colleagues to hinder your ambitions. Sudden changes at home will affect family members more than you anticipated.

**AQUARIUS**  
**Jan. 20-Feb. 18**  
 Spending too much time talking to friends or relatives could easily turn into a debate that could lead to estrangement. You can enjoy social events and meet new potential mates.

**PISCES**  
**Feb. 19-Mar. 20**  
 Pleasure trips will be favorable and bring about possible romance. Children may be difficult to handle. Partnerships will be successful; however, avoid being lavish.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sanson**



**SUDOKU**

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

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

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

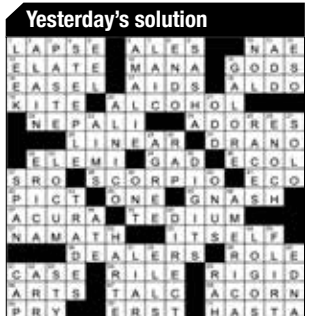
**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	22	29	rain
Changchun	20	25	rain
Chengdu	23	34	cloudy
Chongqing	24	35	fine
Fuzhou	25	36	cloudy
Guangzhou	25	35	thunderstorms
Guiyang	19	28	cloudy
Haikou	26	36	cloudy
Hangzhou	27	37	overcast
Harbin	21	26	rain
Hefei	25	31	rain
Nanjing	28	33	rain
Shanghai	28	35	overcast
Taipei	25	30	rain
Wuhan	25	33	rain
Hong Kong	28	33	overcast
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	13	26	clear
Frankfurt	19	28	overcast
Paris	16	28	overcast
London	14	22	overcast
New York	17	27	overcast

**CROSSWORDS**

ACROSS 1- School founded in 1440; 5- Material charity; 9- Cougar; 13- Flat sign; 15- Splendor; 16- Camaro model; 17- Attempts; 18- Draft classification; 19- Currency unit in Western Samoa; 20- From \_\_\_ Z; 21- Impulse to act; 23- Drink of the Gods; 25- Buffalo's county; 26- Tizzy; 27- Hobby; 30- Author Fleming; 31- \_\_\_ Ark; 32- Put in order; 37- As to; 38- Called one's bluff; 40- Raines of film; 41- Not a direct hit; 43- Everyday; 44- Snitch; 45- Majestic; 47- Picture theater; 50- Bothers; 51- Area with coin-operated games; 52- Final Four org.; 53- Name; 56- Arians; 57- Furniture wood; 59- Spacious; 61- Coup d'\_\_\_; 62- Otherwise; 63- Bungling; 64- Hot; 65- Horse of mixed color; 66- Being, to Brutus;

DOWN 1- Bluesy James; 2- Legal wrong; 3- Assortment; 4- Word used to precede a woman's maiden name; 5- Climax; 6- Unaccompanied; 7- Marseilles Mrs.; 8- Iberian peninsula inhabitant; 9- Toss; 10- Component of organic fertilizer; 11- Grinder; 12- Rent-\_\_\_; 14- Trouble, slangily; 22- Backboard attachment; 24- Sicilian smoker; 25- Early anesthetic; 26- Desperate; 27- Nabokov novel; 28- Tops; 29- Poet Teasdale; 32- \_\_\_ longa, vita brevis; 33- Bird homes; 34- Adhesive; 35- Airline to Tel Aviv; 36- Tyne of "Judging Army"; 38- Distance across a circle; 39- Charles barker; 42- TV horse; 43- Naked-faced Amazon monkey; 45- Make queasy; 46- \_\_\_-la-la; 47- El Greco's birthplace; 48- Mountaineer's tool; 49- Beastly; 51- Burrows and Vigoda; 52- Mission control gp.; 53- Evil is as evil \_\_\_; 54- Strike callers; 55- Memory unit; 58- "Evil Woman" band; 60- Half and half.



**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

- 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
- Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



**It's prime time to BUY & RENT!**

We have great properties available!

**CONTACT US & SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY!**

BUY RENT

**FOR RENT**

PACIFICA GARDEN 3 BEDS	HKD 13,000
NOVA TAIPA 4 BEDS	HKD 14,800
TAIPA 1 BED	HKD 7,900
MACAU 2 BEDS	HKD 9,300
TAIPA MARINA BAY 1 BED	HKD 7,500
HELLENE GARDENS 3 BEDS	HKD 13,500
TAIPA STUDIO	HKD 6,800
COLOANE 1 BED	HKD 9,300

**FOR SALE UNDER HKD 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 STUDIO WITH BALCONY	HKD 3,780,000
TAIPA GREAT POTENTIAL 1-BED	HKD 3,480,000
CENTRAL MACAU 1 BED	HKD 2,850,000
MACAU PARKING VA LONG	HKD 1,600,000

FOLLOW US!

[jmlproperty.com](http://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



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

# US MARKETS POINTING TOWARD POSITIVE START TO THE WEEK

U.S. markets are pointing higher before the opening bell yesterday as leaders of the Group of Seven economic powers pledged financial, humanitarian and other support for Ukraine.

Futures for the Dow Jones industrials gained 0.4% while futures for the S&P 500 rose 0.5% after it had its best day in two years Friday.

Conferring by video link with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Group of Seven leaders were finalizing a deal to seek a price cap on Russian oil, raise tariffs on Russian goods and impose other new sanctions. Details were to be sorted by finance ministers, according to a senior U.S. official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to preview announcements from the summit.

Markets seemed unfazed by the possibility that Russia may have defaulted on its foreign debt for the first time since the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, further alienating the country from the global financial system amid its war in Ukraine.

Russia faced a Sunday night deadline to meet a 30-day grace

AP PHOTO



period on interest payments originally due May 27. But it could take time to confirm a default.

In Europe at midday, Germany's DAX gained 0.8%, while the CAC 40 in Paris picked up 0.1% and Britain's FTSE 100 advanced 0.7%.

In Asian trading, Hong Kong's Hang Seng index led regional gains, surging 2.4% to 22,229.52,

while the Nikkei 225 in Tokyo gained 1.4% to 26,871.27. In South Korea, the KOSPI climbed 1.5% to 2,401.92.

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 added 1.9% to 6,706.00 while the Shanghai Composite index rose 0.9% to 3,379.19.

Positive news about inflation helped push stocks in New York higher on Friday, but the boost to

sentiment may prove ephemeral, "largely because the downward trend for equity indices remains intact and we have seen previous instances of a single event pertaining to inflation, economic outlook and central banks' policies bringing back market jitters and reversing dip-buying sentiments," Jun Rong Yeap of IG said in a commentary.

The S&P 500 notched a 6.4% gain last week, though it's still close to 20% below its record set early this year. On Friday, it gained 3.1%, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 2.7%. The tech-heavy Nasdaq ended 3.3% higher.

The Russell 2000 of smaller company stocks added 3.2%.

To beat down punishingly high inflation, central banks are raising interest rates and taking other measures that hurt prices for investments and could slow the economy enough to cause a recession.

The International Monetary Fund on Friday downgraded its forecast for U.S. growth in 2022 to 2.9%, down from 5.7% in 2021 when the economy was bouncing back from the pandemic recession. But it said the U.S. could narrowly avoid recession with careful policy adjustments.

In other trading, the price of U.S. benchmark crude oil gained 41 cents to \$108.03 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It gained \$3.35 on Friday to \$107.62.

Brent crude oil, the pricing standard for international trading, gained 72 cents to \$109.82 per barrel.

The dollar rose to 135.31 Japanese yen from 135.11 yen on Friday. The euro climbed to \$1.0576 from \$1.0554. **MDT/AP**

AD

**HOLIDAY RENTAL HOUSES**

Lugar das Letras Casa de Gouvães

The houses are set in the heart of the World Heritage Site of the Douro Valley and its famous winery landscape where the world's Ports are produced. Both restored relics overlooking the Rio Douro, these eight rooms houses have been blessed with gorgeous wooden floors, plush queen beds and marble baths; the best have dazzling river views. But it is the welcome that makes this place stand out from the crowd.

visit us at [www.lugardasletras.com](http://www.lugardasletras.com) visit us at [www.casadegouveas.com](http://www.casadegouveas.com)

**BOOK NOW!**  
info@lugardasletras.com  
Mobile: +351 917921 320  
Praça de Gouvães, apartamento 20,  
5085-242 Gouvães do Douro, Sabrosa  
CASA DE GOUVAÊS - DOURO - PORTUGAL  
TURISMO NO ESPAÇO RURAL

**BOOK NOW!**  
info@casadegouveas.com  
Mobile: +351 917921 320  
Praça de Gouvães, apartamento 20,  
5085-242 Gouvães do Douro, Sabrosa  
CASA DE GOUVAÊS - DOURO - PORTUGAL  
TURISMO NO ESPAÇO RURAL

**DUFFY'S IRISH PUB**  
where everyone gets lucky!

- A GREAT PLACE TO HANG OUT FOR FUN & HAVE GOOD TIMES WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS
- WITH OUTDOOR SEATING & A PRIVATE SNUG FOR INTIMATE GATHERINGS
- HAS A GREAT SELECTION OF WHISKEY, GIN, BEERS, ETC.

DUFFY'S IRISH PUB MACAU / BROADWAY FOOD STREET AT GALAXY MACAU TEL.: 2875 2945 OR 63281245



# Female referee at men's World Cup wants the game to shine

STEPHEN WADE, TOKYO

**J**APANESE referee Yoshimi Yamashita agrees with Pelé or whoever it was decades ago that first described soccer as the "beautiful game."

Yamashita is one of three women picked by FIFA to be referees at the men's World Cup in Qatar, which opens on Nov. 21. It's the first time a woman will be in charge on soccer's largest stage.

She sees her job this way: Let the game shine, as it should.

"One of the big goals as a referee is to bring out the attractiveness of soccer," she said Monday in Tokyo in an interview with the Associated Press. "I do my best for that, and I will do what I should at that time toward that end. So if I need to communicate with the players, I will do that. If I need to show a card, I will show a card. Rather than control, I'm thinking about what to do toward the big goal of bringing out the appeal of soccer."

Stephanie Frappart of France and Salima Mukansanga of Rwanda are the other women who were selected. There are 36 referees in total. FIFA has also named three female assistant referees in a pool of 69: Neuza Back



Yoshimi Yamashita of Japan, one of three women picked to be head referees at the men's soccer World Cup

of Brazil, Karen Diaz Medina of Mexico, and Kathryn Nesbitt of the United States.

Though it's likely all three will be in charge of games, it's not a given. They would also be used as so-called "fourth referees" on the sidelines. However, they cannot be used as assistants.

"Each match official will be

carefully monitored in the next months with a final assessment on technical, physical and medical aspects to be made shortly before the World Cup," Massimo Busacca, FIFA's director of refereeing, said in a statement.

Yamashita's selection puts the focus on Japan's low ranking on most measures of equal pay for

women, and in global studies of gender equality.

Only 14.3% of the seats in Japan's national legislature are held by women — 152nd of 190 countries in a study published several months ago by the U.S. Congressional Research Service. Another study on the gender pay gap placed Japan 120th of 156 countries.

"I would be very happy if women could play an active role in sports in this way, and if sports and especially soccer could lead this," Yamashita said. "In Japan, there is still a long way to go in the world of soccer (regarding participation of women), so it would be great if this could connect to promotion of female participation in different ways, not only in soccer or in sports."

Women's soccer has led the way in Japan. Japanese women won the 2011 women's World Cup, were runners-up in 2015, and have been consistently among the game's elite teams.

Yamashita went through a workout on Monday just outside Tokyo, sweltering in temperatures that reached 35 C (95 F). She laughed when she was reminded that games in Qatar — located on a tip of the Arabian Peninsula — will be much cooler, being played in the Northern Hemisphere winter and in air-conditioned stadiums.

Yamashita seemed relaxed during the interview, removed from the obvious pressure. She has been a referee in Japan's men's J League, and has also been in charge of the Asian equivalent of the men's Champions League. She also handled matches during last year's Tokyo Olympics.

"Of course, I think the pressure is huge," she said, "and I think I have a lot of responsibility. But I am really happy to take this duty and pressure, so I try to take it positively and I try to be happy." **MDT/AP**

# US basketball star Griner due in Russian court

JIM HEINTZ, MOSCOW

**M**ORE than four months after she was arrested at a Moscow airport for cannabis possession, American basketball star Brittney Griner was to appear in court yesterday for a preliminary hearing ahead of her trial.

The Phoenix Mercury star, considered in some polls to be the United States' most gifted female athlete, could face 10 years in prison if convicted on charges of large-scale transportation of drugs. Fewer than 1% of defendants in Russian criminal cases are acquitted, and unlike in the U.S., acquittals can be overturned.

The trial date has not been announced, but is expected soon; Griner was recently ordered to remain in pretrial detention until July 2. The hearing in the court of the Moscow suburb of Khimki is to address proce-



Phoenix Mercury center Brittney Griner

dural issues.

Griner's detention and trial come at an extraordinarily low point in Moscow-Washington relations. She was arrested at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport less than a week before Russia sent troops into Ukraine,

which aggravated already-high tensions with sweeping sanctions by the United States and Russia's denunciation of U.S. weapon supplies to Ukraine.

Amid the tensions, Griner's supporters had taken a low profile in hopes of a

quiet resolution, until May, when the State Department reclassified her as wrongfully detained and shifted oversight of her case to its special presidential envoy for hostage affairs — effectively the U.S. government's chief negotiator.

That move has drawn additional attention to Griner's case, with supporters encouraging a prisoner swap like the one in April that brought home Marine veteran Trevor Reed in exchange for a Russian pilot convicted of drug trafficking conspiracy.

Russian news media have repeatedly raised speculation that she could be swapped for Russian arms trader Viktor Bout, nicknamed "The Merchant of Death," who is serving a 25-year sentence on conviction of conspiracy to kill U.S. citizens and providing aid to a terrorist organization.

Russia has agitated for Bout's release for years. But the discrepancy between Griner's case — she allegedly was found in possession of vape cartridges containing cannabis oil — and Bout's global dealings in deadly weapons could make such a swap unpalatable to the U.S.

Others have suggested that she could be traded in tandem with Paul Whelan, a former Marine and security director serving a 16-year sentence on an espionage conviction that the United States has repeatedly described as a set-up.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, asked Sunday on CNN whether a joint swap of Griner and Whelan for Bout was being considered, sidestepped the question.

"As a general proposition ... I have got no higher priority than making sure that Americans who are being illegally detained in one way or another around the world come home," he said. But "I can't comment in any detail on what we're doing, except to say this is an absolute priority."

Any swap would apparently require Griner to first be convicted and sentenced, then apply for a presidential pardon, Maria Yarmush, a lawyer specializing in international civil affairs, told Kremlin-funded TV channel RT. **MDT/AP**



**OPINION**

**China Daily**  
 Editorial, China Daily

**G7'S DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE INITIATIVE INTENDED TO BE MEANS OF SEVERANCE**

Decades of economic globalization have interwoven countries so tightly together that many matters that could have been tackled by countries individually or in small groups previously now entail the greater, broader engagement of many more countries.

In the highly globalized international landscape that has been profoundly transformed by transnational industry, supply and value chains, any attempts at reversing the trend would prove costly, and unrealistic.

Plenty of common, global challenges such as economic recovery, climate change, and volatile traditional and nontraditional security risks add to the urgency of greater international synergy in a post-COVID-19 world.

The world, however, appears to be on the brink of another round of geopolitical bisectioning.

As the just concluded BRICS Summit and ongoing G7 Summit have demonstrated, countries are thinking very differently about how they should interact in a post-pandemic world.

Just like at the 25th St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, where President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin reiterated the significance of building a democratic, multipolar world, where there is no hegemony and bullying, BRICS leaders in their joint statement pledged to work to develop inclusive partnerships for common, global prosperity.

The correct way forward, as the BRICS leaders said, is for countries to work together, rather than against one another.

It is this inclusive global vision, which prompted China's recent proposals of a Global Development Initiative and Global Security Initiative.

Unfortunately, the developed countries think differently. At their ongoing summit in southern Germany, the G7 leaders unveiled a development assistance initiative, which should have been good news for developing countries.

Under the "Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment", a new package of United States President Joe Biden's "Build Back Better World" campaign trail proposal, the seven countries on Sunday pledged to raise \$600 billion in private and public funds over five years to finance needed infrastructure in developing countries.

That they are now getting serious about giving, having for so long failed to deliver on their promises of infrastructure funding, should indeed have been a welcome move. Except that international development aid is being used for geopolitical purposes, to rival the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, and offset alleged Chinese influence in the developing world.

The Chinese leader has on several occasions invited Western countries to join the Belt and Road Initiative for the betterment of human progress worldwide.

The G7 initiative, however, will inevitably work against the ideal of global synergy and worsen geopolitical divisions in addition to widening the development gaps.

It will thus do a disservice to world peace and prosperity in the long run.

**21 DEAD IN SOUTH AFRICAN NIGHTCLUB; CAUSE NOT YET KNOWN**

THE BUZZ

South African police were investigating the deaths of at least 21 people at a nightclub in the coastal town of East London early Sunday and authorities said most of the victims were minors as young as 13 years old.

It is unclear what led to the deaths of the young people, who were reportedly attending a party to celebrate the end of winter school exams.

Local newspaper Daily Dispatch reported that bodies were strewn across tables and chairs without any visible signs of injuries.

"At this point we cannot confirm the cause of death," said health

department spokesperson Siyanda Manana. "We are going to conduct autopsies as soon as possible to establish the probable cause of death."

The victims' ages ranged from 13 to 17.

President Cyril Ramaphosa expressed condolences to the families of those who died.

"The President is, however, concerned about the reported circumstances under which such young people were gathered at a venue which, on the face of it, should be off limits to persons under the age of 18," Ramaphosa said in a statement.



AP PHOTO

**UK PRESSES ON WITH BREXIT RULES REWRITE; EU CALLS IT ILLEGAL**

JILL LAWLESS, LONDON

BRITAIN is ramping up a feud with the European Union by pressing on with a plan to rip up parts of the post-Brexit trade deal it signed with the bloc.

Legislation that rewrites trade rules for Northern Ireland was scheduled to get its first major House of Commons debate yesterday, the first step on what could be a rocky journey through Parliament.

The legislation, if approved by lawmakers, would remove checks on goods entering Northern Ireland from the rest of the U.K., thereby scrapping parts of a trade treaty that Prime Minister Boris Johnson signed before Britain left the EU in 2020.

Johnson said he thought the plan could be approved "fairly rapidly" if Parliament cooperates, and that the measures could become law by the end of the year.

"What we are trying to do is fix something that I think is very important to our country, which is the balance of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement," Johnson told reporters at the Group of Seven summit in Germany.

The British govern-

ment says the rules are burdening businesses and undermining peace in Northern Ireland. It argues the unilateral move is justified under international law because of the "genuinely exceptional situation."

Northern Ireland Secretary Brandon Lewis said Sunday that the aim was to "fix," rather than throw out, the trade agreement, known as the Northern Ireland Protocol.

Johnson's opponents, however, say the move is illegal and will shred Britain's international reputation. It is also causing concern among some of the prime minister's fellow Conservatives, already worried about Johnson's judgment — and popularity — following a series of ethics scandals and two special election defeats.

But Johnson said yesterday that questions about his leadership were no longer relevant.

"We settled that a couple of weeks ago," he told reporters in Germany, referring to his survival in a no-confidence vote three weeks ago.

The EU has threatened to retaliate against the U.K. if it goes ahead with its plan to rewrite the rules of the post-Brexit deal, rais-

sing the specter of a trade war between the two major economic partners.

The bloc's ambassador to Britain, Joao Vale de Almeida, said Britain's plan was "illegal because it is a breach of international law, a breach of EU law, U.K. law and international law."

"It is a treaty that we signed, ratified and even went through a general election in this country," he told Times Radio.

Northern Ireland is the only part of the U.K. that shares a border with an EU country, Ireland. When Britain left the European Union and its borderless free-trade zone, the two sides agreed to keep the Irish land border free of customs posts and other checks because an open border is a key pillar of the peace process that ended decades of violence in Northern Ireland.

Instead, to protect the EU's single market, there are checks on some goods, such as meat and eggs, entering Northern Ireland from the rest of the U.K.

Johnson's Conservative government claims overzealous EU implementation means the rules are not working as expected and are causing a political crisis in Northern Ireland. **MDT/AP**



AP PHOTO

**Czech Republic** A bullet train collided with an engine in a train station yesterday, killing one person and injuring five. Czech Railways said the accident took place early in the morning in the town of Bohumin, shortly after the departure of the Pendolino train for Prague. It was unclear whether the engine was moving at the time of the head-on crash.



AP PHOTO

**Hungary** The roof and part of the front of an apartment building in the Hungarian capital collapsed yesterday, injuring four pedestrians and flattening a number of parked cars. Budapest police said in a statement that the search of the rubble and the building itself was continuing, but that so far there was no indication of fatalities.

**Spain's** Cabinet approved on Monday a new draft of a LGBTQ rights bill that if backed by parliament will allow people as young as 16 to change their gender freely, and those as young as 12 to do so with a judge's authorization. This version of the bill is very similar to the one that was initially presented by the government a year ago but was held up due to debates within Spain's left-wing ruling coalition.



AP PHOTO

**Colombia** Part of the wooden stands collapsed during a bullfight in central Colombia, sending spectators plunging to the ground and killing at least four people and injuring hundreds, authorities said. The disaster took place in a stadium in the city of El Espinal in Tolima state during a traditional event called "corraleja" in which members of the public enter the ring to engage the bulls.