



MacauDaily 澳門每日時報® Times

FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Geldenhuys EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho www.macaudailytimes.com.mo



N.º 4054 MONDAY 18 Jul 2022 T. 28°/33° Air Quality Good

“THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’”

MOP 8.00 HKD 10.00 2305 4271

DOMESTIC HELPERS ON LEAVE SINCE OUTBREAK CONFUSED OVER NEW MANDATE THAT REQUIRES THEM TO TAKE NAT EVERY DAY

P4

GOV'T: HOME QUARANTINE FOR RETURNEES NOT AN OPTION

P4

PEOPLE OVER 80 YEARS OLD AND THOSE WITH SEVERE DISABILITIES ARE NOW EXEMPTED FROM TAKING PART IN THE ROUNDS OF CITYWIDE NAT

P3



China Flash floods in southwest and northwest of the country have left at least a dozen dead and put thousands of others in harm's way, state media reported yesterday. In the southwestern province of Sichuan, at least six people have died and another 12 are missing after torrential rain triggered flash floods, state-owned news outlet CGTN reported. Some 1,300 people had been evacuated as of Saturday, the report said.



South Korea Thousands of gay rights supporters marched under heavy police guard in the South Korean capital on Saturday as they celebrated the city's first major Pride parade in three years after a COVID-19 hiatus. Police were on alert because church-backed counterprotesters rallied in nearby streets, highlighting the tensions surrounding the rights of sexual minorities in the deeply conservative country.



Sri Lanka lawmakers met Saturday to begin choosing a new leader to serve the rest of the term abandoned by the president who fled abroad and resigned after mass protests over the country's economic collapse. A day earlier, Sri Lanka's prime minister was sworn in as interim president until Parliament elects a successor to Gotabaya Rajapaksa, whose term ends in 2024. Parliament Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana (pictured) promised a swift and transparent political process that should be done within a week. *More on p7*

More on backpage

THE MORE, THE MERRIER

An extra MOP10 billion will be withdrawn from the fiscal reserves for use in another round of financial subsidies

P5



LOW COMMUNITY CASES BOOST PROSPECTS FOR DECONFINEMENT

P3

PSP: POLICE SMOKING CAUGHT ON TAPE 'NOT A CRIME'

P2

CE UNDER HEALTH SELF-MANAGEMENT

When questioned about Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng's condition amidst the announcement of the major measure of de facto lockdown, Secretary for Administration and Justice André Cheong disclosed that the head of government is now under health self-management after his official visit to Hong Kong. However, although not seen at any press conference lately, he has, according to Cheong, been kept apprised of all policy adjustments and updates. In accordance with Health Bureau measures, entrants from Hong Kong must be quarantined for 10 days upon arrival, before having seven days of health self-management. Ho attended Hong Kong's handover anniversary on July 1.

DSAL TO PROCESS NON-RESIDENT PERMITS AFTER PARTIAL LOCKDOWN

Employers may submit a renewal application to the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) on the day of resumption of business for their employees whose permits are expiring from July 18 to 24, according to a statement issued by the bureau. The bureau will process renewal applications that have already been submitted as soon as possible after normal business operations resume. This comes after the government announced a continued suspension of non-essential services amid the current outbreak. If an employment permit application for a non-local employee is related to pandemic prevention work or other emergencies, the applicant can submit the application directly by email to dsaldctrn@dsal.gov.mo.

FOOD DELIVERY DRIVERS' LABOR RIGHTS REGULATED

The Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) director Wong Chi Hong has stated that the labor rights and interests of food delivery drivers as employees are regulated by the Labor Relations Law and related laws. If there is an affiliation between food delivery platform company and food delivery driver, the drivers provide services and receive returns under the direction of the company. Thus, the drivers are employees and the company as an employer must purchase labor insurance to ensure that employees are effectively protected against damage that may arise from workplace accidents.

PSP: OFFICERS CAUGHT SMOKING NOT BREACHING THE RULES, SCRUTINY ON UM PARTY

RENATO MARQUES

THE Public Security Police Force (PSP) has stated that a group of eight police officers caught on amateur footage smoking together are not breaking any laws or rules. Accordingly, they will not be punished.

During yesterday's press briefing from the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center, the representative of the force, Ma Chio Hong, reaffirmed a statement issued earlier by the PSP explaining that the footage was not captured in a public space but an area of a police station located in the ZAPE area.

According to Ma, the officers were exercising their right to smoke in an open-air area that had been demarcated at the station for many years for such a purpose. Accordingly, the space is not a public space but rather a private area.

Responding to several inquiries from the media on the topic, Ma said that despite the actions portrayed in the footage not being illegal and not constituting any breach of the rules, the PSP has issued an internal warning for all staff members to avoid gathering in that area and to keep a safe distance from each other when smoking.



"We have made improvements and are now imposing a limitation on the number of people who can gather at the same time in that area," Ma said.

In response to an inquiry about whether the actions of the police officers could increase the chances of an outbreak more than the actions that led to the prosecution of a total of 27 people, so far, for breaching the infectious diseases law, the same official said that the force does not wish the matter to be treated as a "witch hunt" or a case of "double standards between the police and the rest of the population," noting that the officers have been "working very hard

to ensure the safety of the whole population" during the Covid-19 pandemic and specifically during the outbreaks.

Ma also noted that a direct comparison with the cases of people being prosecuted for smoking in the streets cannot be made as the officers were in a private facility and not in a public area.

Of the 27 cases of people prosecuted for breaking the law, a large majority relate to people not wearing facemasks properly while smoking in public spaces.

UM PARTY UNDER INVESTIGATION

In relation to a party or celebration that allegedly took place

over the weekend at the University of Macau (UM), the PSP said they had received a report from UM and are in the process of investigating whether the gathering broke any local laws.

Ma said that the university has also opened an internal investigation into the case and "they will act with zero tolerance" in response to any rule-breaking.

The coordinator at the local Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Leong Iek Hou also noted that they have been informed that UM has already reported the case and has told all staff members about the need to strictly enforce the measures imposed by the government. We are waiting on the outcomes from the PSP investigation in this case.

Commenting on the case, Leong also remarked on the need to wear a mask and maintain social distancing. These protocols apply to everyone but specifically those working during this period of confinement.

"It is and has always been a part of our principles which we have been insisting on [to prevent the transmission of Covid-19] and these principles must be applied at all times," the health official said.

Pet owner disappointed with the gov't rescue delay

STAFF REPORTER

A pet owner has expressed disappointment in the delayed rescue of his dog by authorities.

According to a statement issued by the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM), the dog had difficulty breathing when eating. The dog's owner began calling authorities for help from 5 p.m. Only after two hours, at 7 p.m., did authorities arrive at

his home, but the dog had already passed away. The owner's home was in a red zone.

"I'm not asking you to help me clean up the dead body; what I asked you for was help saving my dog," the pet owner said despairingly to the authorities.

After examination, the cause of death was determined to be asphyxiation, caused by the entrance to the trachea being completely blocked by obstruc-

tions.

"I regret the unfortunate incident and have reviewed the relevant measures immediately with animal organizations and the veterinary sector to avoid this situation from happening again," said André Cheong, Secretary for Administration and Justice, as cited in a statement.

Cheong further said that he understood that mandatory confinement



measures cause physical and mental distress to resident and pets. Pet owners can contact the respite service of the IAM

if their pet does not have safe defecation habits, which affect the safety and health of the pet, he reiterated.

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

COVID-19

'Very low' community case numbers boost prospects for deconfinement

RENATO MARQUES

THE results obtained by health authorities during the several levels of testing held on July 16 (Saturday) boost the prospects of progressive relaxation of the restrictive measures in force. It also means the city is more likely to reach, by the end of this week, the so-called "period of consolidation." The recent testing detected only four positive cases in the community and, of those, all cases were considered part of special groups (two cases were close contacts and two were from key groups).

During yesterday's press briefing with the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center, the coordinator at the local Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Leong Iek Hou, highlighted these results, expressing hope that the goal established on Saturday by the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Elsie Ao Ieong, can be reached as planned.

The "period of consolidation"

was presented by Ao Ieong on Saturday and will be a period of continuing relative confinement during which authorities will progressively allow the city to return to its previous state, prior to the June 18 outbreak. To do so, conditions will be imposed such as the use of face masks and continued testing for different groups.

According to figures cited by Leong, a total of 27 new positive cases were found on July 16, of which 23 were detected in people undergoing medical observation in isolation either at home (red zones of confinement) or in quarantine hotels.

Authorities also explained that the outbreak which occurred in connection with The Parisian hotel in Cotai is contributing to the growing number of cases.

Leong added that a total of 65 people have been released from medical observation, including 39 cases of asymptomatic infection and 26 confirmed cases that are considered recovered. In total, 384 people in connection with last month's outbreak have been released from isolation and have

RENATO MARQUES



returned to the community.

By 3 p.m. yesterday, from the tenth round of citywide mass testing that finished at 6 p.m., a total of 598,991 people had been tested and, of those, 449,862 samples had already returned negative

results. Three batches containing 10-in-1 mixed samples have tested positive, and the results of re-testing will likely be known later today.

Questioned by the media as to when the population could

see some measures lifting, Leong explained that this will depend "on everyday evolution of results," but added, "we hope that this week we will detect zero cases and can enter the period of consolidation."

Elderly, disabled with reduced mobility exempted from mass testing

RENATO MARQUES

PEOPLE aged 80 or older and those with severe disabilities that relate to their autonomy and mobility are, from now on, exempt from taking part in the rounds of citywide nucleic acid testing (NAT), the coordinator at the local Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Leong Iek Hou, said yesterday during the press briefing from the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center.

According to the announcement, this measure aims to accommodate those who have very restricted mobility and need the support of caregivers to take part in the mass testing.

All those born on or before December 31, 1942 (80+) as well as those holding a disabled card issued by the Social Welfare Bureau and other people who

RENATO MARQUES



are dependent on caregivers to leave their homes can apply for this exemption.

Leong explained that the application must be filed online by the caregiver. The exemption is on the condition that the exempted person will not leave their home during the period of mandatory confinement.

Caregivers may collect facemasks and rapid antigen test kits for those

exempted by using the identification cards of the people in their care as well as health code screen captures and screen captures confirming receipt of exemption applications. Caretakers may do this while providing their own NAT samples.

In response to media inquiries on the matter, Leong said that other groups, including those who have recently given birth and

young children (over 3 years old), are not exempt at this time as authorities do not wish to create "too many exemption groups" at once, fearing the benefits of the mass testing would otherwise be lost or reduced.

The eleventh round of citywide mass testing starts today, making a total of thirteen rounds already scheduled and running until July 23.

MANDATORY CONFINEMENT

PARTIAL LOCKDOWN EXTENDED TO JULY 22

LYNZY VALLES

THE city's suspension of non-essential services is set to continue until midnight on July 23, according to a Chief Executive dispatch released over the weekend.

Last week, the government ordered all industries and commercial companies and venues in Macau to suspend operations from July 11 until July 18.

Leaders of local social and community associations and groups, as well as lawmakers, have expressed concerns over the possibility of an extension of the period of "relative confinement" slated to continue until midnight July 18.

According to a statement issued over the weekend, "the relevant epidemic prevention measures will play an important role in controlling the spread of Covid-19."

Non-essential services

of the government also remain closed, while a few bureaus, such as the Immigration Department, provide only limited services.

Thousands of residents have already been affected by the closure of non-essential businesses, such as those working in integrated resorts.

A gaming association has previously expressed concern that the Macau government's confinement measures will likely disadvantage employees in the sector.

Casino stocks have also plunged as casinos closed for the first time in two years.

Also, several academic studies, experts and reports from local welfare associations note that partial lockdown measures can exacerbate existing mental health problems, including depression, anxiety, insomnia and suicidal tendencies. LV

DOMESTIC HELPERS ON LEAVE SINCE OUTBREAK CONFUSED OVER NEW NAT MANDATE

LYNZY VALLES

SEVERAL domestic workers are confused about the new mandate that requires those who do not live with their employers to take a nucleic acid test (NAT) every day.

On Friday, authorities announced that domestic workers are now part of the city's key groups and accordingly require a daily NAT.

According to the mandate, those who do not live with their employers from July 11 are considered part of the key group.

This comes after the government encouraged employers to have their domestic helpers live with them amid the outbreak to reduce the spread of the virus. Not all employers have heeded the call.

However, several domestic helpers who are currently not working expressed their confusion to the Times over whether they are also part of the key group.

"I haven't been working since the outbreak and I only leave the house when I need to undergo NAT and buy groceries. The government isn't clear on the man-



date, and it confuses a lot of us," said one who asked for anonymity.

"I've been at home since June 19 and I only go out when necessary. I think for us who are not working, it's pretty difficult to assess whether we are part of the key group," said another.

The new mandate requires

employers to check online whether their domestic helper underwent a NAT. Authorities have also called on employers to allow their workers to queue up at NAT stations during work time.

According to several comments on social media, some have found it discriminatory, while others accept the rule as part of

what the government is doing to reduce Covid-19 cases.

Data from the government as of Friday shows that among the 1,675 positive cases detected in the community, 95 cases were related to those involved in domestic work, which accounts for 5.7% of the total.

Lourenco Lameiras, president

of the Foreign Workers Association commented that the measure is not discriminatory but necessary because the government is imposing the measures to achieve zero cases.

Speaking to TDM, Lameiras noted that "domestic servants usually go to the market and live with several people in an apartment. I think the government initiative is trying to protect domestic workers. Everyone has a responsibility to follow the government's instructions."

Health authorities have appealed to all families employing domestic helpers to make arrangements to allow them to stay overnight at their employers' homes or, alternatively, to find a place for them to stay in a separate room to avoid direct contact with other people in a domestic setting.

According to the coordinator at the local Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Leong Iek Hou, domestic workers who live outside their employer's home usually live in places with "great numbers of people and that are lacking [amenities], which all contribute to the easy spread of the virus."

COVID-19

Home quarantine for returnees not an option

RENATO MARQUES

HEALTH authorities refuse to consider permitting residents returning to Macau to undergo medical observation quarantine in their homes, the coordinator at the local Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Leong Iek Hou, said yesterday in response to a media inquiry on the topic.

Leong explained that such a method of quarantine "has proven to be unsatisfactory and unsuitable to Macau," explaining that due to the high population density of the region, home quarantine could pose a risk to other inhabitants in the building or area.

She also added that adopting such a method would "cause concern to neighbors."

Questioned about whether authorities are considering reducing the number of days of quarantine on arrival for those returning from medium and high risk areas, Leong said that health authorities are collecting data on the matter, expressing



hope that the period "can be adjusted in the future."

Leong did not clarify when this adjustment may occur or if the adjustment will or will not match the current standard from the mainland that requires seven days' quarantine in a hotel and an extra three days of health self-management at home for those arriving from such areas.

Leong noted that the current rule for Macau continues to be a 10 day quarantine in a designated hotel facility, plus

another seven days of health self-management, noting that the health codes of the people undergoing observation are already green during these seven days, which allows them a "normal life."

Also under consideration is the measure that forces families to undergo a 14 day quarantine (instead of 10) if they are traveling to Macau with young and unvaccinated children. Similarly, no timeline was given for the authorities' changed approach to these measures.

GBA

MACAU RESIDENTS IN HENGQIN GET UP TO 70% OFF INDIVIDUAL TAX UNDER POLICY

AFTER the preferential individual tax policy for Macau residents, I received a tax refund of about 80,000 RMB. The policy is really attractive!" remarked Chen Cailing, a postdoctoral researcher from the Traditional Chinese Medicine Science and Technology Industrial Park of Cooperation between Guangdong and Macau.

Recently, Macau residents paying individual tax in Hengqin in 2021 have all received tax refunds during the settlement of individual tax. According to the actual tax reduction, the overall tax of Macau residents in Hengqin has decreased by up to 70%, ensuring Macau employees in Hengqin enjoy same income

tax rates as in Macau.

Over 90% of Macau employees in Hengqin received tax refunds under 10,000 RMB. Therefore, the tax authorities in Hengqin have provided classified and refined services to facilitate Macau residents there.

The tax authorities have applied a data model to calculate the taxable amount eligible for full reduction under the preferential policy. Macau taxpayers with an annual taxable income in Hengqin no higher than that amount, accounting for over 80 percent of the group, can confirm their declaration with "a mere click" via the mobile Individual Income Tax App. **MDT/NEWSGD**



STIMULUS

Finance Secretary: Another MOP10b in financial subsidies

ANTHONY LAM

AN extra MOP10 billion will be withdrawn from the city's fiscal reserves for use in another round of financial subsidies, Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong announced over the weekend.

Last month, not long after this outbreak was first detected, Lei announced a series of financial subsidies worth MOP10 billion.

The adjustment to the annual budget that would facilitate the subsidies, alongside other necessary spending, was submitted to the parliament last Friday for readings and voting. This is the second time this year the annual budget required an amendment.

The aforementioned amendment concerns a sum of nearly MOP35.2 billion.

At a daily press conference over the weekend, the financial secretary expected this round of subsidies to be issued from early August. The relevant budget

RENATO MARQUES



amendment is already with the parliament.

He also announced the extra MOP10 billion to be used for general subsidies.

The subsidy round announ-

ced in June focused mainly on entrepreneurs and the working population. Over the weekend, Lei announced that the coverage of these new subsidies will be expanded. The income floor has

been scrapped and the ceiling raised to MOP600,000, counted over a two-year period, for those subsidies issued to employees.

It will then include those who have lost their jobs within the

past two years.

In explaining the next withdrawal of MOP10 billion, the financial secretary said the funds will be used for a focused subsidy scheme. It will cover elderly people, housewives or househusbands, as well as children and others out of the working population.

The senior official hinted that the scheme was not completely ready. "Mature details" will be announced first and the remainder will be announced after broader consultation, usually closed-door dialogues with associations.

Speaking to local Chinese press Macao Daily News, three lawmakers – Hon Ion Sang, Leong Hong Sai and Ngan Iek Hang, all directly or indirectly connected to the Macau Federation of Neighborhood Associations – expressed their support for the subsidy scheme.

Explaining the basis of their support, the three lawmakers said that the subsidies will help boost confidence in market revitalization.

Additionally, they said the budget amendment included tax refunds for businesses and thought that this would help ease the pressure on entrepreneurs and business operators.

The three lawmakers also applauded how the government "stood in people's shoes" when putting together another round of financial subsidies.

GAMING

ANALYSTS: MACAU CASINOS STILL ROBUST IN LONG TERM

ANTHONY LAM

MARKET analysis Agency Daiwa Capital Markets Hong Kong Limited expects Macau casinos to remain solvent in the long term despite current challenges.

In an interview with Hong Kong media Ming Pao Daily, the market analysts pointed out that the city's casino operators are in the process of moving towards zero revenue, in contrast to "dynamic Covid zero."

It added that five of the operators have, since 2020, issued debts totaling USD9.35 billion, with Sands China issuing USD3.45 billion. Their expirations range between January 2026 and August 2031.

However, the popularity of the debts and the long validities imply creditors' confidence in the operators, Daiwa explained. As



such, the analysts are confident in the city's casino operators in the long run, especially Galaxy Entertainment Group, which has a strong balance sheet that shows it has the liquidity to operate for three years.

Another analysis agency, Citigroup, cited "industry sources" that said the in-

dustry had only generated MOP200 million gross gaming revenue (GGR) in the first 10 days of July. Last month, GGR totaled MOP2.49 billion.

The city's July GGR may see record lows as the government has ordered suspension of operations between July 11 to 22.

EDUCATION

MOVING TUITION COURSES ONLINE ALLOWED

LEONG I On, representative from Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ), said that moving tuition courses online was permitted on a consensual basis.

He was asked whether such practice, which he called "change of the mode of tuition," is allowed by DSEDJ. To which, he first admitted to receiving enquiries from parents about the matter.

Given the enquiries, Leong disclosed in a press conference on Friday that DSEDJ had contacted local extracurricular tuition entities and parents to understand the situation.

"Last week, we issued notices and a set of guidelines to all local training and extracurricular education entities to remind operators to notify their clients and communicate immediately when they deem the original mode



or timetable of services will become infeasible under existing control measures," Leong said.

The official added that these entities can make changes to the mode or timetable of services or other practical arrangements if the original arrangements become unavailable or impractical.

"However, the key point is that the change or special arrangement must

be made on a consensual basis," Leong emphasized.

He pointed out that 16 such entities are faced with such a situation. Fourteen of them have already made special arrangements with their clients. Leong stressed that DSEDJ would continue its coordination efforts so as to meet the goals and arrangements of the stakeholders. **AL**



Economy shrinks 2.6% during virus shutdowns

JOE MCDONALD, BEIJING

CHINA'S economy contracted in the three months ending in June compared with the previous quarter after Shanghai and other cities shut down to fight coronavirus outbreaks, but the government said a "stable recovery" is under way after businesses reopened.

The world's second-largest economy shrank by 2.6%, down from the January-March period's already weak 1.4%, official data showed Friday. Compared with a year earlier, which can hide recent fluctuations, growth slid to 0.4% from the earlier quarter's 4.8%.

Activity was "much weaker than expected," Rajiv Biswas of

S&P Global Market Intelligence said in a report.

Asian stock markets were mixed following the news. Hong Kong was down 0.8% at mid-morning while Shanghai, Tokyo and Seoul gained.

Anti-virus controls shut down Shanghai, site of the world's busiest port, and other industrial centers starting in late March, fueling concerns global trade and manufacturing might be disrupted. Millions of families were confined to their homes, depressing consumer spending.

Factories and offices were allowed to start reopening in May, but economists say it will be weeks or months before activity is back to normal. Economists and

business groups say China's trading partners will feel the impact of shipping disruptions over the next few months.

"The resurgence of the pandemic was effectively contained," the statistics bureau said in a statement. "The national economy registered a stable recovery."

Data on factory output, consumer spending and other activity suggest overall growth was even weaker than the headline figure, Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics said in a report.

"Even accounting for June's strength, the data are consistent with negative y/y (year-on-year) growth last quarter," Evans-Pritchard wrote. "This isn't the first time that the official GDP figures

have seemingly understated the extent of an economic downturn."

The slump hurts China's trading partners by depressing demand for imported oil, food and consumer goods.

China's infection numbers are relatively low, but Beijing responded to its biggest outbreak since the 2020 start of the pandemic with a "zero-COVID" policy that aims to isolate every person who tests positive. The ruling party has switched to quarantining individual buildings or neighborhoods with infections but those restrictions covered areas with millions of people.

Repeated shutdowns and uncertainty about business conditions have devastated entrepreneurs who generate China's new wealth and jobs. Small retailers and restaurants have closed. Others say they are struggling to stay afloat.

Cheng Hong, a mother of one who owns the Qifei Travel Agency in Shijiazhuang, southwest of Beijing, said business is down more than 80%.

"I almost couldn't hold on, but I am lucky to see the start of a recovery," said Cheng.

The ruling Communist Party is promising tax refunds, free rent and other aid to get companies back on their feet, but most forecasters expect China to fail to hit the ruling party's 5.5% growth target this year.

Other major economies report growth compared with the previous quarter, which makes their levels look lower than China. Beijing for decades reported only growth compared with the previous year, which hid short-term fluctuations, but has started to release quarter-on-quarter figures.

Forecasters say Beijing is using cautious, targeted stimulus instead of across-the-board spending, a strategy that will take longer to show results. Chinese leaders worry too much spending might push up politically sensitive

housing costs or corporate debt they worry is dangerously high.

Growth for the first half of the year was 2.5% over a year earlier, one of the weakest levels in the past three decades.

Retail sales were off 0.7% from a year earlier in the first half after plunging 11% in April.

Song Haixia, a shopkeeper who sells food and cigarettes in the northern city of Taiyuan, said sales have fallen by up to 70% to as little as 300 yuan (\$45) a day. She said migrant workers who were among her customers were driven away by anti-virus measures.

"People are just not making money," said Song, 45, the mother of two children. "I am not very optimistic about future prospects."

Investment in factories, real estate and other fixed assets climbed 6.1%, reflecting the ruling party's effort to stimulate growth by boosting spending on public works construction and ordering state-owned companies to spend more.

China also faces headwinds from weak global demand. Exports jumped 17.9% in June over a year earlier, but forecasters say that reflected ports clearing out cargo after anti-virus curbs lifted. They say growth is likely to fall back.

Slowing growth in the United States and Europe "could weaken demand for China's manufacturing exports," said Biswas.

China rebounded quickly from the pandemic in 2020, but activity weakened as the government tightened controls on use of debt by its vast real estate industry, which supports millions of jobs. Economic growth slid due to a slump in construction and housing sales.

Investors are waiting to see what happens to one of China's biggest developers, Evergrande Group. It has struggled since last year to avoid defaulting on \$310 billion owed to banks and bondholders. **MDT/AP**

China's Xi, in Xinjiang, signals no change to Uyghur policy



CHINESE leader Xi Jinping, on a visit this week to the Xinjiang region where his government is accused of oppressing predominantly Muslim ethnic minorities, showed no signs of backing off policies that have come under criticism from the U.S. and many European countries.

Xi stressed the full and faithful implementation of his ruling Communist Party's approach in the region, highlighting social stability and lasting security as the overarching goals, the official Xinhua

News Agency said Friday.

Xi, on what was described as an "inspection tour" from Tuesday to Friday, said that enhanced efforts should be made to uphold the principle that Islam in China must be Chinese in orientation, Xinhua said.

While the needs of religious believers should be ensured, they should be united closely to the Communist Party and the government, the official news agency quoted him as saying.

He called for educating and guiding people of all

ethnic groups to strengthen their identification with the Chinese nation, culture and Communist Party.

The Chinese leader called Xinjiang a "core area and a hub" in China's program of building ports, railways and power stations connecting it to economies reaching from Central Asia to Eastern Europe. The U.S. has blocked some imports of cotton and other products from the region over reports of forced labor.

Xi met with leaders of the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps, a

supra-governmental body that operates its own courts, schools and health system under a military system imposed on the region after the Communist Party took power in China in 1949.

Xi "learned about the history of the XPCC in cultivating and guarding the frontier areas," Xinhua reported.

Xinjiang borders Russia, Afghanistan and volatile Central Asia, which China has sought to draw within its orbit through economic incentives and security alliances. **MDT/AP**

G20 finance meetings in Bali overshadowed by war in Ukraine

ELAINE KURTENBACH,
BANGKOK

FINANCIAL leaders of the Group of 20 richest and biggest economies agreed at meetings on the Indonesian resort island of Bali this week on the need to jointly tackle global ills such as inflation and food crises, but failed to bridge differences over the war in Ukraine.

As G-20 host this year, Indonesia has sought to bridge divisions between G-20 members over Russia's invasion, but enmity over the conflict was evident even as the finance ministers and central bank chiefs concurred on other global challenges that have been worsened by the war.

All involved agreed the meeting took place "under a very challenging and difficult situation because of the geopolitical tensions," Indonesian Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati said Saturday.

She said delegates had "expressed sympathy that Indonesia has to manage this situation."

Indrawati and Indonesian central bank Gov. Perry Warjiyo said Indonesia would later release a G-20 chair's statement that would include two paragraphs describing areas where the participants failed to agree.

There were still issues that could not be reconciled, "because they want to express their views related to the war," Indrawati said. In the statement "related to the war there are still views that are different within the G-20," she said.

Indrawati outlined a range of



Indonesian Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati, left, shakes hands with Financial Action Task Force (FATF) President Raja Kumar

areas where the members did agree, including the need to improve food security, to support the creation of a funding mechanism for pandemic preparedness, prevention and responses, on working toward a global tax agreement and on facilitating financing of transitions toward cleaner energy to cope with climate change.

"The progress is more than expected," Warjiyo said.

With inflation running at four-decade highs — U.S. consumer prices were up 9.1% in June — Warjiyo said participants were

"strongly committed to achieving price stability."

"There is a commitment among the G-20 to well calibrated macro economic policy to address inflation and slowing growth," he said.

The meetings in Bali follow a gathering of G-20 foreign ministers earlier this month that also failed to find common ground over Russia's war in Ukraine and its global impacts.

During the talks that began Friday, U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen condemned Moscow for "innocent lives lost and the on-

going human and economic toll that the war is causing around the world."

"Russia is solely responsible for negative spillovers to the global economy, particularly higher commodity prices," she said.

Canadian Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland likened the attendance of Russian officials at the meetings to having "an arsonist joining firefighters." War is waged by economic technocrats, as well as generals, she said in a post on Twitter.

Russian officials reportedly blamed Western sanctions over

the war for worsening inflation and food crises.

Indrawati said the closed-door G-20 talks did not include discussion of proposals for a price cap on Russian oil — one of Yellen's key objectives as the U.S. and allies seek to curb Moscow's ability to finance its war.

Such discussions would have occurred on the sidelines of the meeting, she said.

The Bali talks saw more progress than an earlier G-20 finance meeting in Washington in April, when officials from the U.S., Britain, France, Canada and Ukraine walked out to protest the attendance of Russian envoys. That meeting also ended without the release of a joint statement.

Caught in the middle as host, Indonesia has urged officials from all sides to overcome mistrust for the sake of a planet confronting multiple challenges.

"The world needs even more and more collaboration. no matter what country ... they cannot solve this problem alone. food security, energy, climate change, pandemic ... all are interconnected," Indrawati said.

"We all agreed we need to continue the spirit of collaboration and multilateralism," she said.

The meetings also addressed the problem of mounting debts in countries like Zambia, Myanmar and Sri Lanka.

While the G-20 is "not a creditor forum, there is a recognition that there is growing debt," Indrawati said.

The talks centered on a framework to enable creditor and debtor nations to work out solutions to help countries in need.

"When a country has a debt that is unsustainable they have to communicate with their creditors," she said. "This mechanism needs to be more predictable. That is what we have been discussing within the G-20." **MDT/AP**

Sri Lanka begins choosing leader to replace ex-president

KRISHAN FRANCIS
& BHARATHA
MALLAWARACHI,
COLOMBO

SRI Lankan lawmakers met Saturday to begin choosing a new leader to serve the rest of the term abandoned by the president who fled abroad and resigned after mass protests over the country's economic collapse.

A day earlier, Sri Lanka's prime minister was sworn in as interim president until Parliament elects a successor to Gotabaya Rajapaksa, whose term ends in 2024. Parliament Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywar-



dana promised a swift and transparent political process that should be done

within a week.

The new president could appoint a new prime minis-

ter, who would then have to be approved by Parliament.

Parliament's secretary general, Dhammika Dasanayake, said during a brief session on Saturday that nominations for the election of the new president will be heard on Tuesday and if there is more than one candidate, the lawmakers will vote on Wednesday.

Dasanayake also read Gotabaya's resignation letter out loud in Parliament.

In the letter, Rajapaksa says he was stepping down following requests by the people of Sri Lanka and political party leaders. He notes that the economic crisis was looming even when he

took office in 2019 and was aggravated by frequent lockdowns during the coronavirus pandemic.

Security around the Parliament building in the capital, Colombo, was heightened on Saturday with armed masked soldiers on guard and roads near the building closed to the public.

In a televised statement on Friday, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said he would initiate steps to change the constitution to curb presidential powers and strengthen Parliament, restore law and order and take legal action against "insurgents."

It was unclear to whom he was referring, although he said true protesters would not have gotten involved in clashes Wednesday night near Parliament, where many soldiers reportedly were injured.

"There is a big difference between protesters and insurgents. We will take legal action against insurgents," he said.

Wickremesinghe became acting president after Rajapaksa fled Sri Lanka on Wednesday and flew first to the Maldives and then to Singapore. Many protesters insisted that Wickremesinghe too should step aside. **MDT/AP**

PUTIN'S WAR

RUSSIA STRIKES SOUTH UKRAINE CITY, PRESSES ATTACKS IN EAST

HANNA ARHIROVA
& CARA ANNA, VINNYTSIA

RUSSIAN missiles hit industrial facilities at a strategic city in southern Ukraine yesterday as a funeral was held for a 4-year-old girl killed in an earlier deadly strike elsewhere in the country.

Liza, who had Down syndrome, was en route to see a speech therapist with her mother when a Russian missile struck the city of Vinnytsia in central Ukraine on Thursday. At least 24 people were killed, including Liza and two boys aged 7 and 8. More than 200 others were wounded, including Liza's mother, who remains in an intensive care unit in grave condition.

"I didn't know Liza, but no person can go through this with calm," priest Vitalii Holoskevych said, bursting into tears as Liza's body lay in a coffin with flowers and teddy bears in the 18th century Transfiguration Cathedral in Vinnytsia.

"We know that evil cannot win," he said, his voice trembling.

Yesterday, more Russian missiles struck industrial facilities in the strategic southern city of Mykolaiv, a key shipbuilding center in the estuary of the Southern Bug river. There was no immediate information about casualties.

Mykolaiv has faced regular Russian missile strikes in recent weeks as the Russians have sought to soften Ukrainian defenses.

The Russian military has declared a goal to cut off Ukraine's entire Black Sea coast all the way to the Romanian border. If successful, such an effort would deal a crushing blow to the Ukrainian economy and trade and allow Moscow to secure a land bridge to Moldova's separatist region of Transnistria, which hosts a Russian military base.

Early in the campaign, the Ukrainian forces fended off Russian attempts to capture Mykolaiv, which sits near the Black Sea Coast between Russia-occupied Crimea and the main Ukrainian port of Odesa.

Since then, the Russian troops have halted their attempts to advance in the city but have continued to



Relatives and friends react near the coffin during a funeral ceremony for Liza, 4-year-old girl killed by Russian attack, in Vinnytsia, Ukraine, yesterday

pummel both Mykolaiv and Odesa with regular missile strikes.

Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Lt. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said yesterday that Russian missiles destroyed a depot for anti-ship Harpoon missiles delivered to Ukraine by NATO allies, a claim that couldn't be independently confirmed.

The Russians also sought to reinforce their positions in the Kherson region near Crimea and part of the northern Zaporizhzhia region that they seized in the opening stage of the conflict, fearing a Ukrainian counteroffensive.

The British Defense Ministry said yesterday that Russia is moving manpower and equipment between Kherson, Mariupol and Zaporizhzhia. It said the Russians also are increasing their security measures around Melitopol.

It added: "Given the pressures on Russian manpower, the reinforcement of the south whilst the fight for the Donbas continues indicates the seriousness with which Russian commanders view the threat."

For now, the Russian military has focused its efforts on trying to take control of Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland of Donbas, where the most capable and well-equipped Ukrainian forces are located.

Ukraine says its forces still retain control of two small villages in the Luhansk region, one of the two pro-

vinces that make up the Donbas, and are successfully fending off Russian attempts to advance deeper into the second one, the Donetsk region.

The Ukrainian military's General Staff said that Ukrainian troops thwarted Russian attempts to advance toward Sloviansk, the key Ukrainian stronghold in Donetsk, and other attacks elsewhere in the region.

During a visit to the front lines Saturday, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu issued an order "to further intensify the actions of units in all operational areas."

The Russian military said it has struck Ukrainian troops and artillery positions in Donbas in the latest series of strikes, including a U.S.-supplied HIMARS multiple rocket launcher. The Russian claims couldn't be independently verified.

Dmitry Medvedev, the deputy head of Russia's Security Council chaired by President Vladimir Putin, responded to Ukrainian officials' statements that Kyiv may strike the bridge linking Crimea and Russia, warning that that would trigger devastating consequences for the Ukrainian leadership.

"If that happens, the consequences will be obvious: They will momentarily face the Doomsday," Medvedev said yesterday. "It would be very hard for them to hide."

While focusing on Donbas, the Russians hit areas all across the country

with missile strikes.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy urged Ukrainians not to fall for Russia's attempts to scare them with warnings of horrendous missile attacks to come, which he said were aimed at dividing Ukrainian society.

"It's clear that no Russian missiles or artillery will be able to break our unity or lead us away from our path" toward a democratic, independent Ukraine," he said in his nightly video address to the nation. "And it is also clear that Ukrainian unity cannot be broken by lies or intimidation, fakes or conspiracy theories."

In the Kharkiv region, at least three civilians were killed and three more were injured Saturday in a pre-dawn Russian strike on the city of Chuhuiv, which is only 120 kilometers (75 miles) from the Russian border, the police said.

Lyudmila Krekshina, who lives in the apartment building that was hit, said a husband and wife were killed, and also an elderly man who lived on the ground floor.

Another resident said she was lucky to have survived.

"I was going to run and hide in the bathroom. I didn't make it and that's what saved me," said Valentina Bushuyeva. Pointing up at her destroyed apartment, she said: "There's the bathroom — explosion. Kitchen — half a room. And I survived because I stayed put." MDT/AP

this day in history

1990 ENGLISH TEENAGERS HELD IN THAILAND OVER DRUGS



Two teenage girls from the Midlands have been arrested for drug smuggling in Thailand. Patricia Cahill, 17, and Karen Smith, 18, were stopped by customs officials at Bangkok airport trying to board a flight to Amsterdam.

They found nearly 70lb (32kg) of powdered heroin with a street value of about £4m hidden in shampoo bottles and coffee and biscuit tins.

The girls claim they did not know what was in the containers, given to them by a third person.

They are denying the allegations being made against them.

The British consulate in Bangkok has appointed a solicitor to represent Ms Cahill and Ms Smith in the Thai courts.

Drug trafficking is punishable by death in Thailand but foreigners usually have this sentence commuted.

Under Thai law Ms Cahill is too young to be executed.

Speaking from his home in Birmingham Ms Cahill's father did not even know his daughter had left the country. Patrick Cahill thought she was holidaying in Scotland.

He said that Patricia was "dead against drugs, she was dead against abortions and things like that."

The poppy fields of the so-called 'Golden Triangle' - between Thailand, Laos and Burma - have attracted drug smugglers since the 1960s.

Thailand has responded to international pressure to control the illicit trade by enforcing harsh sentences and searching all baggage leaving the country.

Ten years ago British nurse Ruth Nightengale served 18 months of a 20 year sentence for heroin smuggling in Thailand before her release after receiving a royal pardon.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Ms Cahill and Ms Smith had met a man in a Birmingham nightclub who paid for their flights to Thailand.

Once there, they were given packages to take to Gambia, a well-known drugs transit point. Amsterdam was a stopover on the way. They claimed they thought the packages contained sweets and toiletries.

British customs officers said that they had first noticed the girls as possible drugs couriers at Heathrow on 6 July.

British and Thai authorities then tracked them through Thailand.

Both girls were found guilty and served three years in prison before being given a royal pardon after pressure from the British Government.

They were released in 1993.

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Acceptance will be necessary. Opportunities to expand your circle of friends will result in possible new romantic encounters. Opportunities to get involved in self improvement projects will be rewarding.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Use your obvious talent to work with detail and you can come up with something great. Be discreet about any information you uncover. New romantic partners may attend a function that puts you in the limelight.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Ask those in key positions to help you overcome the delays and to support your concerns in order to move on. Opportunities to expand your circle of friends will result in possible new romantic encounters.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Put your energy into home renovations. Don't let others bully you into agreeing with them. Your input into their activities will help bring you closer together.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Be cautious while traveling to foreign countries. Your creative ideas must be put to good use. Your involvement in groups will be favorable for meeting new and exciting individuals.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

You are best to work at home, clearing up overdue projects. Dealing with foreigners will be most enlightening. A new relationship can be yours if you get out with friends.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Emotional disputes will only end in sorrow. Don't let coworkers interfere with your objectives. Travel should be on your agenda.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Minor health problems will flare up if you don't take care of yourself. Try to avoid serious discussions with loved ones. Your added discipline will enable you to complete some of those unfinished projects.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You'll find it easy to upgrade your environment by redecorating or changing your residence. Your changing philosophies may lead you into new circles and open doors that will give you a unique outlook on life.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Try to convince a good friend to take a holiday with you. Unexpected changes in friendships could occur. Short trips will prove to be more fruitful than you imagined.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You will need to do a lot of research if you wish to get to the bottom of things. You must consider yourself for a change. Make sure that you make reservations early.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Don't take your frustrations out on loved ones. Travel and educational pursuits may help alleviate the stress you have been feeling. Travel opportunities must be taken advantage of.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	24	32	cloudy
Changchun	19	26	rain
Chengdu	23	29	rain
Chongqing	31	41	rain
Fuzhou	29	38	cloudy
Guangzhou	27	34	thunderstorms
Guiyang	22	27	rain
Haikou	26	34	rain
Hangzhou	27	35	rain
Harbin	20	25	thunderstorms
Hefei	29	30	rain
Nanjing	29	34	thunderstorms
Shanghai	28	36	rain
Taipei	27	31	rain
Wuhan	27	32	rain
Hong Kong	29	32	overcast
WORLD			
Moscow	12	21	rain
Frankfurt	16	34	overcast
Paris	24	39	clear
London	25	38	clear
New York	24	30	thunderstorm

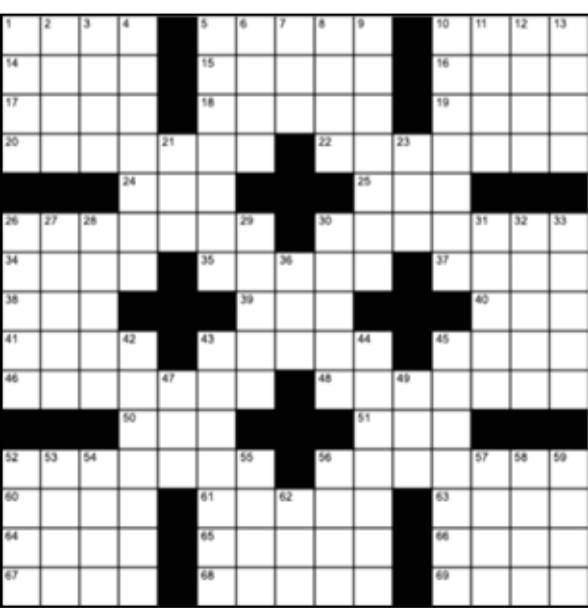
CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Spar; 5- Common person of ancient Rome; 10- Prejudice; 14- Official records; 15- Author of fables; 16- Seed cover; 17- A Baldwin brother; 18- Treaties; 19- Vasco da ___; 20- Condiment; 22- Topmost; 24- Calendar abbr.; 25- Youngster; 26- Ill-fated; 30- Small round boat; 34- Christmas; 35- Biblical brother; 37- Buenos ___; 38- Call ___ day; 39- Romanian monetary unit; 40- Queue after Q; 41- Throw; 43- Arrive at; 45- Family portrait?; 46- Leads on; 48- Out of control; 50- Female bovine; 51- Thor Heyerdahl craft; 52- Large ships; 56- Entangled; 60- Rebuff; 61- Silly; 63- Commotion; 64- Architectural pier; 65- Wearies; 66- Ireland; 67- Cheerful; 68- Sporting blades; 69- Charge per unit;

Down
1- Yes, ___!; 2- Rights org.; 3- Canonized Fr. women; 4- Diplomatic; 5- Red powdery condiment; 6- Heavy metal; 7- PC key; 8- Two out of two; 9- Fifth letter of the Greek alphabet; 10- Capital of Iraq; 11- Dies ___;

12- Intentions; 13- Strip of wood; 21- Curve; 23- Needlefish; 26- Put together; 27- ___ your life!; 28- Minimum; 29- Some locks; 30- Lounge; 31- Wispy clouds; 32- Coherent light beam; 33- Rival of Helena; 36- Stephen of "The Crying Game"; 42- Ship hospital; 43- Editor's request; 44- Working gear of a draft animal; 45- Chatter; 47- Cedar Rapids college; 49- Center Ming; 52- Boris Godunov, for one; 53- ___ Domini; 54- Kernels; 55- Short cut?; 56- Leg joint; 57- When said three times, a 1970 war movie; 58- Prepare a book or film for release; 59- Ready to eat; 62- Exist;

Friday's solution



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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

- MANHATTAN | 4 BEDS HKD18,800
- MANHATTAN | 3 BEDS HKD17,500
- ONE CENTRAL | 2 BEDS HKD16,500
- BUCKINGHAM | 2 BEDS HKD13,900
- HELLENE G. | 3 BEDS HKD12,500
- NAM LONG | 2 BEDS HKD11,500
- COLOANE V. | 1 BED HKD 9,300
- TAIPA STUDIO | 1 BED HKD 6,800
- COLOANE V. | 2 BEDS HKD10,500

FOR SALE

- JADE GARDEN | 4 BEDS HKD15,380,000
- NOVA TAIPA | 4 BEDS HKD12,880,000
- BAI YUEN GRD. | 3 BEDS HKD12,800,000
- MANHATTAN | 3 BEDS HKD12,980,000
- HELLENE G. | 4 BEDS HKD 9,588,000
- NAM LONG | 1 BED HKD 3,780,000
- HELLENE G. | 2 BEDS HKD 9,900,000
- TAIPA STUDIO | 1 BED HKD 3,980,000
- NOVA PARK | 2 BEDS HKD10,800,000

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

jmlproperty.com
clients@jmlproperty.com

f jmlmacau

@jmlproperty



Stunning apartment for sale in Taipa!

This fantastic property boasts wide living spaces, large terraces wraparound balconies and a spacious modern kitchen.

The apartment has a pantry, laundry room and extensive storage.

The main bathroom is fantastic, with modern shower and sink, plus an amazing bath.

The condo includes swimming pool for those hot summer days.

Live large, entertain your friends and play with your family, in this amazing apartment!!!

- | 4 beds
- | 3 baths
- | 3 terraces
- | 4080 sqf

HKD 15,380,000

FOR RENT FOR SALE



Call us! (853) 2835 2699

E-mail us! clients@jmlproperty.com

WORLD ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Ukraine on her mind as high jumper goes for gold at worlds

EDDIE PELLIS, EUGENE

IT took her three days by car to escape from Ukraine after the war started. Champion high jumper Yaroslava Mahuchikh can only guess at how long it will take to get back.

On her way out, Mahuchikh heard gunfire and could sometimes see shells raining down miles away. Though her hometown of Dnipro was far from the front lines of the Russian invasion, she could never shake the fear that when she said goodbye to her mom and dad and grandfather and sister, it might have been for the last time.

"When a war is going on," Mahuchikh said, "it's highly complicated to say that any city is safe."

Four months after that harrowing trip to cross the border in Serbia, the 20-year-old is at the track and field world championships, a world away in Eugene, Oregon.

She easily made it through qualifying Saturday, and is a favorite to win a gold medal Tuesday in part



Yaroslava Mahuchikh, of Ukraine, competes during qualifying for the women's high jump at the World Athletics Championships, Saturday

because her main rival, three-time world champion Maria Lasitskene, is Russian and not allowed to compete because of the war.

World Athletics President Seb Coe said that given the difficulties the 22 Ukrainians competing in worlds have endured simply to make it to this point, it would be "inconceivable" to think the Russians would've been allowed here to go up against them.

Mahuchikh agrees. In a series of in-person interviews and email exchanges with The Associated Press, she said that though the relationship between herself and Lasitskene was always cordial, it was never warm. Now, it might never be repaired.

"She wrote that she can't compete because she's Russian," Mahuchikh said of Lasitskene's recent open letter that criticized

Coe and International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach. "And our people die because they're Ukrainian. I don't want to see, at the track, killers. Because it's really killers, a lot of sportsmen who support this war."

There are some Russian athletes who have backed the war, led by a handful of gymnasts including Ivan Kuliak, who wore a "Z" symbol in support of the war whi-

le standing only steps away from a Ukrainian athlete on a medal podium at a recent World Cup event. Shortly after, gymnastics officials stripped the medal from Kuliak and suspended him for a year.

Other Russians have promoted peace, including tennis player Daniil Medvedev, who was barred from competing at Wimbledon this year, and Alex Ovechkin, who plays for the NHL's Washington Capitals.

In her letter, Lasitskene, who won last year's Olympics to go along with her three straight world titles, commiserated with the plight of the Ukrainian athletes. They "are experiencing what no one human being should ever have to feel," she wrote.

She also said keeping Russians out of sports did not stop the war "but on the contrary, it gave birth to a new one, around and inside the sports, which is impossible to contain."

Missing in Lasitskene's correspondence, Mahuchikh said, has been outreach to the Ukrainians themselves.

"Russia is an aggressor country that launched a full-scale invasion of my country," she said. "Many coaches and athletes have gone to the Army to defend our country; some are in hot spots, and some are imprisoned or killed. Sports infrastructure in many cities is destroyed. We can't train in our native country." **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 lat 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 lo

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

生活藝術雜誌 LIVING & ARTS MAGAZINE

MACAUCLOSER

可持續的生活 LIVING SUSTAINABLY

認識正在為城市綠化努力的澳門人

MEET MACAU LOCALS MAKING AN EFFORT TO GREEN UP THE CITY



現在發售
NOW
ON SALE

OUR GREATER BAY AREA
SUPPLEMENT INSIDE
本期雜誌加入了大灣區特刊，
不容錯過

OPINION

Multipolar World

Jorge Costa Oliveira



THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG AND THE GBA ON THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAR

Last June, the Portugal-Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce and Industry and two other Hong Kong associations organized a seminar in Lisbon commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) and its future. The seminar focused on the fact that the SAR is one of the flagship cities of the Greater Bay Area (GBA).

The GBA is a major megalopolis that the Chinese government is creating. It spans the Hong Kong and Macao SAR and nine urban areas in Guangdong province, with a special emphasis on Guangzhou and Shenzhen. It has a total area of approximately 56,100 square kilometers, a population of 86 million and an overall GDP of EUR1.587 billion (slightly higher than that of Russia). The GBA was the first megalopolis to have an approved "Development Plan" that provides the objectives of the mega metropolitan area and the role of each of its urban areas.

More than 20 years after the People's Republic of China reassumed sovereignty over Hong Kong, the SAR has retained its economic strength and key economic characteristics - being an international business city, a free port with an almost total absence of customs tariffs, free movement of capital, low taxation, a gateway to China in numerous sectors (catalyzed by CEPA, a comprehensive free trade agreement with the Mainland), a major trading center, a major port and maritime trade center, a major hub for civil aviation - in the Far East and worldwide - and the most important financial hub in Asia.

Additionally, the creation of the GBA will increase and catalyze Hong Kong's potential. For one, it will be easier to integrate distribution networks in the Hong Kong SAR with the distribution networks of the main urban areas of Guangdong. Professional practice is also facilitated in the whole GBA for liberal professionals from Hong Kong (and Macau). Given the large pool of skilled professionals in Hong Kong, businesses and liberal professionals in Hong Kong are expected to benefit from this facility.

One of the major goals underlying the establishment of the GBA is the creation of a large international financial hub, with new financial markets in several urban areas. Finance companies and professionals in this sector in Hong Kong will greatly benefit from this objective. However, many Chinese and foreign businesses will take the opportunity to raise capital and obtain funding in these financial centers.

It is important to closely examine the evolution of the GBA, from the outset as an integrated market and with a dimension that is more compatible with the scale of companies from Portugal and other small European countries. On the other hand, the GBA will become one of the main areas to set up financing for business projects in Portuguese-speaking countries, especially when they are in partnership with Chinese companies. Lastly, the interest of several Guangdong companies, especially state-owned enterprises and provincial funds, in their internationalization and in international partnerships, opens up very interesting prospects for companies that know how to position themselves and find the right channels to do so.

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

US, RUSSIAN ASTRONAUTS WILL SWAP SEATS ON ROCKETS AGAIN

THE BUZZ

NASA astronauts will go back to riding Russian rockets under an agreement announced Friday, and Russian cosmonauts will catch lifts to the International Space Station with SpaceX beginning this fall.

The agreement ensures that the space station will always have at least one American and Russian on board to keep both sides of the orbiting outpost running smoothly, according to NASA and Russian officials. The swap had long been in the works and was finalized despite tensions over Moscow's war in Ukraine, a sign of continuing Russia-U.S. cooperation in space.

U.S. astronaut Frank Rubio will launch to the space station from Kazakhstan with two Russians in September. That same month, Russian cosmonaut, Anna Kikina, will join two Americans and one Japanese aboard a SpaceX rocket flying from Florida. Another crew swap will occur next spring.

No money will exchange hands under the agreement, according to NASA.

NASA astronauts routinely launched on Russian Soyuz rockets — for tens of millions of dollars apiece — until SpaceX started flying station crews from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in 2020.



UN DECRIES RISING DEATH TOLL, RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN HAITI

THE U.N. human rights office on Saturday expressed concern about rising violence around Haiti's capital, saying 99 people have been reported killed in recent fighting between rival gangs in the Cite Soleil district alone.

The warning came hours after the U.N. Security Council unanimously approved a resolution renewing the mandate of a U.N. office in the troubled Caribbean nation and calling on all countries to stop the transfer of small arms, light weapons and ammunition to anyone along with the strengthening of human rights monitoring and reporting, must remain a priority", he said.

The Security Council resolution drafted by the United States and Mexico was approved 15-0 Friday. It demanded an immediate cessation of gang violence and criminal activities — a point stressed by China.

"The heavily armed gangs are becoming increasingly sophisticated in their actions, conducting simultaneous, coordinated and organized attacks in different areas," Laurence said. The government, he

g-related violence in the Cite Soleil area of the city."

He said most of the victims "were not directly involved in gangs" but were targeted by them.

Separately, the U.N.'s humanitarian affairs office reported that 99 of the recent casualties in Cite Soleil were deaths.

Laurence called on gangs to halt the violence, while also urging Haitian authorities to ensure that fundamental human rights are "placed at the front and center of their responses to the crisis. The fight against impunity and sexual violence, along with the strengthening of human rights monitoring and reporting, must remain a priority", he said.

The Security Council resolution drafted by the United States and Mexico was approved 15-0 Friday. It demanded an immediate cessation of gang violence and criminal activities — a point stressed by China.

"The heavily armed gangs are becoming increasingly sophisticated in their actions, conducting simultaneous, coordinated and organized attacks in different areas," Laurence said. The government, he

said, has a duty to protect citizens' right to life even from threats that come from private entities.

The U.N. agencies said some gangs even deny access to drinking water and food in order to control the population, aggravating malnutrition.

U.S. Deputy Ambassador Richard Mills said the new resolution will allow the U.N. mission to promote political dialogue and bolster the capacity of the Haitian National Police to control gang violence and protect human rights.

A year after the unsolved assassination of President Jovenel Moïse, gang violence has grown worse and many Haitians have tried to flee a country that seems to be in economic and social freefall. Attempts to form a coalition government have faltered, and efforts to hold general elections have stalled.

The United Nations has been involved in Haiti on and off since 1990, and the last U.N. peacekeeping mission was in the country from 2004 until October 2017. The political mission now there advises Haiti's government on promoting political stability and good governance. MDT/AP

Israeli military attacked what it said was a Hamas military site in the Gaza Strip early Saturday in response to a pair of rocket attacks overnight. The exchange that took place hours after U.S. President Joe Biden concluded a visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories. The army said its fighter jets struck an underground complex containing raw materials used in the production of rockets.



Germany A court last week convicted a military officer who posed as a Syrian asylum-seeker of plotting to attack prominent politicians, sentencing him to 5½ years in prison. The Frankfurt state court convicted the defendant of preparing a serious crime meant to endanger the state, violations of weapons laws and fraud, German news agency dpa reported.



Greece Experts were poised to investigate the site of a plane crash in northern Greece yesterday to determine whether any dangerous chemicals or explosive cargo remains. The An-12 cargo plane smashed into fields between two villages late Saturday. Local residents reported seeing a fireball and hearing explosions for two hours after the crash. A plume of white smoke was still rising from the front end of the plane yesterday morning.



Portugal The pilot of a firefighting plane died when his plane crashed while on a firefighting operation in the northeast of the country Friday. The death came as fires continued to rage across Portugal, neighboring Spain and in France. More than 3,000 firefighters battled alongside ordinary Portuguese citizens desperate to save their homes from several wildfires that raged across the country.