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**RESTAURATEURS ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH RULES ESTABLISHING THAT PATRONS OF F&B ESTABLISHMENTS MUST PRESENT A VALID NAT RESULT IN ORDER TO DINE IN**

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**REPORTS TO CORRUPTION WATCHDOG NEARLY DOUBLED IN 2021**

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**RUSSIA REPEATS PUTIN'S NEW MESSAGE AGAINST A NUCLEAR WAR**

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**China** Police in southern China are searching for a man who allegedly killed three people and injured six at a kindergarten in the province of Jiangxi yesterday. The 48-year-old suspect was identified by his surname Liu in a police statement. No further details of yesterday's morning attack in the province's Anfu County were given in the brief statement. China upgraded security at schools following a spate of deadly attacks in recent years.



**Sri Lanka's** new president (pictured) said yesterday that his government is preparing a national policy roadmap for the next 25 years that aims to cut public debt and turn the country into a competitive export economy as it seeks a way out of its worst economic disaster. President Ranil Wickremesinghe in his speech to Parliament said Sri Lanka needs long-term solutions and a strong foundation to stop a recurrence of economic crises.

**Myanmar** Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov arrived yesterday in Myanmar for an official visit that Moscow said will include discussions with the military government on security and economic issues, the Russian news agency TASS reported. Russia is a major supporter of Myanmar's military government. Lavrov met with his counterpart, Wunna Maung Lwin, and other top Myanmar officials shortly after his arrival in the capital, Naypyitaw.

**Russia** A court ruled yesterday to transfer a university rector from jail to house arrest in an embezzlement case that has been seen by some observers as part of authorities' efforts to target members of the country's liberal elite. Sergei Zuyev, the rector of the Moscow School of Social and Economic Sciences, has been behind bars since November. The school is one of Russia's leading non-state universities.

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# NEW STRAIT CRISIS?

**Sino-American relations reach a new low following Nancy Pelosi's high-profile visit to Taiwan that drew official ire from Beijing to Macau**

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**EASL BASKETBALL LEAGUE MOVES AHEAD WITHOUT MACAU ON THE CALENDAR**



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**STATEMENT**

Liu Xianfa\*



**ANY PROVOCATIVE MOVE TO CHALLENGE CHINA'S RED-LINE BOUND TO FAIL**

Taiwan question bears on China's core interests and is the most important and sensitive issue in China-US relations. In his latest phone call with President Xi Jinping on July 28, the US President Joe Biden reassured that the one-China policy of the US has not changed and will not change, and that the US does not support "Taiwan Independence". The US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan also made same pledges in talks with their Chinese counterparts.

True to US politicians' nature, they always say one thing and do another. Although China has repeatedly made clear to the US its serious concerns over US House Speaker Pelosi's potential visit to Taiwan as well as China's firm opposition to it, such a visit still took place. Pelosi's visit to Taiwan is a watershed event in Cross-Straits relations as well as China-US relations.

It sends another wrong signal to the separatist elements seeking "Taiwan independence", constitutes a gross interference in China's internal affairs, seriously undermines China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, wantonly tramples on the one-China principle, greatly threatens peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, severely undermines China-US relations, and leads to a very serious situation and grave consequences.

There is only one China in the world, and Taiwan is an inseparable part of China. It is an established international consensus and a widely recognized basic norm in international relations. The one-China principle is a fundamental principle affirmed in the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758. It is also the premise on which China established diplomatic relations with 181 countries, including the US. In December 1978, China and the US issued the Joint Communiqué on the establishment of diplomatic relations, in which the US "recognizes the government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legal government of China" and "acknowledges the Chinese position that there is but one China and Taiwan is a part of China."

The whole world now knows which side is breaking its own words, which side is stirring up trouble, and which side is taking unilateral actions to change the status quo of the Straits. Pelosi is the third highest-ranking official in the US government, and second in the line

of succession to the US presidency. Whatever the timing or the way she goes to Taiwan, it will seriously violate the one-China principle the US is committed to in the three Communiqués which are the foundation for diplomatic relations between the two countries, and will undoubtedly create an egregious political impact.

The separation of powers in the US by no means makes Pelosi's Taiwan trip excusable. And the absurd assertion that "If the Speaker does decide to visit and China tries to create some kind of crisis or otherwise escalate tensions, that would be entirely on Beijing" made by Secretary of State Blinken only bankrupts US credit with its hypocrisy.

In fact, for a period of time, the US side has been ramping up its efforts to play the "Taiwan card" with the attempt to use it to contain China. It keeps distorting and hollowing out the one-China policy, strengthening official interaction with Taiwan, helping Taiwan develop so-called asymmetrical defense capabilities, advocating the theory of "undecided status" of Taiwan, and thus bolstering "Taiwan independence" separatists. The Taiwan question concerns China's core interests, over which there is no room for compromise. We will never allow any room for "Taiwan independence" forces in whatever form. No one should underestimate the great resolve, firm will and strong capability of the Chinese people in defending national sovereignty and territorial integrity. As the one who provoked the current tensions, the US has to bear all the serious consequences arising therefrom.

Just as President Xi Jinping has emphasized in his phone call with President Biden, resolutely safeguarding the nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity is the firm will of the more than 1.4 billion Chinese people. Those who play with fire will perish by it. No force can stop China from achieving national reunification between Taiwan and the Chinese mainland. National reunification has never been a matter of yes or no, but a choice of path and time. Any provocative move to challenge China's red-line is bound to fail.

**\*Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the Macao Special Administrative Region**

**COVID-19**

**SSM TO ACQUIRE JABS FOR CHILDREN AGED SIX MONTHS TO FIVE YEARS OLD**

RENATO MARQUES

LOCAL health authorities are planning to acquire mRNA vaccines specifically designed for babies and children aged between six months and five years old as soon as possible, the local coordinator of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Leong Iek Hou, said during Tuesday's press briefing of the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center.

In response to a media inquiry, Leong said that the health authorities have already made contact with the supplier of the mRNA vaccines for children aged five to 11 years old, to see when they could supply the specially designed jabs for the younger population, but there is not a timeline yet for the availability of the product.

"We know that vaccination can be [administered to] children below the age of 5 years old but we are still studying and checking which vaccines are more effective [for the younger children]. We already have stock for the mRNA vaccines for the population of 5 to 11 years old,



which allowed us to lower the vaccination age from the previous 12 years old to five," she said, adding, "We are checking [whether] the same supplier can supply for the six months to five years old [age group] but since this is a new vaccine and not a restock of a previous one, we also need a new tendering process [for the acquisition]."

Leong also added that the Sinopharm inactivated virus vac-

cine is already approved for use in children aged three or older, but the authorities are still collecting data on the effects of this vaccine on the younger group, as well as trying to acquire the BioNTech vaccine that can be used for a wider age group.

The acquisition of the vaccine from the Health Bureau (SSM) also depends on the demand from Macau society for such a vaccine, she said.

**SAR GOV'T DUBS PELOSI'S TAIWAN VISIT 'BLATANT INTERFERENCE' IN CHINA'S AFFAIRS**

THE SAR government yesterday condemned the visit to Taiwan by the U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, stating the visit constitutes "blatant interference in China's internal affairs."

According to a statement issued by the Government Information Bureau, the visit "gravely undermines China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, wantonly tramples on the one-China principle, greatly threatens peace and stability across the Taiwan

Strait, and seriously endangers China-U.S. relations."

Pelosi arrived in Taiwan late Tuesday, becoming the highest-ranking American official in 25 years to visit the island.

Her visit has ratcheted up tension between China and the United States because China claims Taiwan as part of its territory, and it views visits by foreign government officials as recognition of the island's sovereignty.

The SAR government said that it has maintai-

ned a consistent stance on the Taiwan issue.

"The MSAR government devotes resolute determination to safeguarding national sovereignty and territorial integrity, in firm adherence to the one-China principle," the statement read.

"The Taiwan issue is the most important and most sensitive issue at the core of China-U.S. relations. The incumbent U.S. administration has claimed that it is committed to the one-China policy, but action-wise, it has

been backtracking," it added.

The local government in the statement offered its full support and cooperation regarding the country's "determination to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity, and [...] also resolutely safeguards the country's sovereignty, security and development interests."

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said in a statement that "some American politicians are playing with fire on the issue of Taiwan." LV

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MacauDaily 澳門每日時報  
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**DIRECTOR & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF** Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com  
**ASSISTANT EDITOR** Lynzy Valles  
**CONTRIBUTING EDITORS** Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai

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

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

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**ADMINISTRATOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com  
**OFFICE MANAGER** Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com  
**ADDRESS** Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR **Telephones:** +853 287 160 81/2 **Fax:** +853 287 160 84  
**Advertisement** advertising@macaudailytimes.com  
**For subscription and general issues:** general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

COVID-19

# Gov't foreshadows retraction of some outdoor NAT stations

ANTHONY LAM

**A**DJUSTMENTS to the location of outdoor SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid test (NAT) stations will be made from time to time as per the development of the Covid-19 outbreak, with the possibility of withdrawal, a government doctor said at yesterday's regular press briefing.

Lei Wai Seng, Accident and Emergency doctor and medical director at the public hospital made these comments when asked about concerns over crowd formation at outdoor NAT stations.

He remarked that adjustments may be made in the future.

"If, in the future, crowds start to form at outdoor NAT stations, adjustments cannot be ruled out," Lei added. "These stations, meanwhile, are only mid-term facilities. Adjustments will be made in the future as per the development of the pandemic."

The mobility of these stations is the key to their easy alteration, Lei said.

"As you can see, these outdoor stations are very mobile and easily adjustable. They can be moved around easily," Lei pointed out.

He also pledged that the Health Bureau (SSM) would closely monitor the work – especially in terms of epidemiological control – of these stations. Adjustments can be made if they unduly impact residents accessing leisure and recreation.



Lei added that the location planning for outdoor NAT stations was conducted with consideration of the population and needs of each area.

"In previous press conferences, I have disclosed that the location of each station focused on the convenience factor," Lei recapped. "Of course, some recreational areas are in use for that purpose."

The medical doctor emphasized that outdoor NAT stations were set up to support citywide mass NAT drives during the past outbreak, before saying that adjustments could be made in the future.

"They were set up to support our mass test drives," he said. "As the key groups shrink in size and the border-crossing groups expand, we may make appropriate adjustments to these [outdoor] stations."

Lei suggested that people stay tuned to the booking conditions of each station, adding that the key problem is with the payment gateway.

"Because we've been taking mobile or e-payment at test stations, time will be required to introduce payment gateways at these outdoor stations," Lei disclosed. "I believe more self-paid stations will be available for prospective test takers."

At the press briefing, it was also announced that self-paid NAT would have a reduced price from today, with the price for each such test to be lowered from MOP55 to MOP50.

Lei added that not all outdoor stations would necessarily follow this price rule.

## DELAYING CLOSE-LOOP CESSATION AT CERTAIN FACILITIES

Twenty-six minutes before yesterday's press briefing, the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) issued a statement to announce the resumption of normal operations at 36 care facilities that had been forced into closed-loop administration, a term that the government used to refer to the state in which workers and users of such facilities were forced to stay confined in the facilities.

"Since the resumption of quarantine-free border-crossing between Macau and Zhuhai at 6 p.m. on August 3, staff at facilities who reside in Macau or the mainland will be allowed to continue or terminate the closed-loop state," IAS wrote in the statement.

It added that 11 rehabilitation facilities and a drug rehabilitation facility will lift all confinement measures from August 8, while 24 elderly homes will do so, on top of foreign visitation resumptions from August 15.

It was asked at the briefing why there had been different handling of all care facilities. Since IAS did not assign any official to yesterday's briefing,

government public health doctor and SSM division head Leong Iek Hou attempted to respond on IAS's behalf.

"As per my understanding, the delayed termination to closed-loop management at certain facilities mainly concerns elderly hostels, where people with weaker immune systems are hosted," Leong said. "We attempt to ensure that a risk of infection is completely [eliminated] before their resumption of normal operations."

She reiterated that the delay is based on safety, adding that workers can leave the loop. The retained confinement measure will only apply to visitors.

The panel of officials was also questioned as to whether there was scope to exempt infants from taking regular NATs, as occurred in some previous rounds of citywide mass NAT drives.

In response, also on behalf of IAS, Leong said that with more people moving around the city, the risk of infections could be on the rise. Considering the weaker immune systems of infants and their risk, testing them regularly is justifiable.

On the resumption of athletes' regular training, the public health doctor explained that as long as athletes follow SSM guidelines on venue use, sporting activities had been allowed to resume, including athletes' training sessions.

## SECOND BOOSTER AVAILABLE

**THE** Health Bureau is calling on people at high risk of Covid-19 infection to be inoculated with a second booster dose in a bid to lower the risk of another large-scale epidemic in the city. The bureau has short-

ened the interval between the first and second booster doses for relevant persons to three months after the previous dose. The relevant vaccination services will be provided from tomorrow.

COVID-19

# Quarantine-free visit between Macau and Zhuhai resumes

**I**NDIVIDUALS travelling from Macau to Zhuhai must hold a nucleic acid test (NAT) certificate – issued within 24 hours of intended arrival – proving they are 'negative' for Covid-19 infection, as a condition of quarantine-free entry to Zhuhai.

The update was announced yesterday by the Zhuhai-Macau Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism.

Any person intending to enter Zhuhai from Macau must make an advanced health declaration via the

WeChat official account "Health Zhuhai," and notify after arrival either their neighbourhood committee, or chosen hotel or entity.

The 24-hour test result presented on arrival is regarded as the first test; so those entering Zhuhai should take another test within 48 hours.

For three days before departure for Zhuhai, individuals should in principle follow point of origin-to-place of destination between their place of work, and the place they lodge. They should

also avoid either taking any public transport, being part of a crowd, or joining any form of gathering.

The abrupt announcement of border normalization between the two regions were questioned yesterday at the regular press briefing.

Some journalists questioned the transparency of the communications between the two cities.

Rejecting the criticism, public health doctor Leong Iek Hou emphasized that communications between

various agencies from the two places on various topics had been constant.

"For example, technical communications on health issues between the health bureaus from Macau and Zhuhai have been ceaseless," Leong said. "Discussions have been held continuously on the risks [of Covid-19] in Macau."

She added that discussions on when border normalization should resume were also held.

"However, the two places needed to come to an

agreement, given there were many areas of considerations," Leong remarked. "Understanding many have the need to cross the border, we made the announcements as soon as we obtained a confirmation from Zhuhai."

Another point of criticism was that the abrupt announcement on border normalization had prompted crowds of people who wanted to travel to Zhuhai to gather at various NAT stations across the city.

This has led to the go-

vernment bending its rules to upgrade eligibility of free-of-charge – in fact government-sponsored – NATs so that the results could be used for border-crossing purposes.

The government stressed that such an arrangement was a one-off and would only be valid for tests taken on August 2 and 3.

Leong said that there had been hours between the announcement and the border normalization, hinting that there should not have been any confusion. **AL**

CRIME

# FIVE RESIDENTS FALL VICTIM TO SCAM TRAPS AMOUNTING UP TO HKD726,000

STAFF REPORTER

**T**HE Judiciary Police (PJ) reported three phone scam cases and two sexual scam cases in a joint police press conference yesterday, in which all five people suffered financial losses.

In the first case, a woman in her 30s received a phone call originating from mainland China on July 29. The suspect who called the victim claimed to have a lost package belonging to the woman, and enticed the victim to download an app, and provide personal information through the app, in order to retrieve the item.

The suspect then required the victim to transfer RMB72,000 to a mainland bank account due to an error on the app. After transferring the money, the victim lost contact with the suspect.

The second victim is a local woman, who lost a total of HKD726,000 in a phone scam. The victim received a phone call notifying her that her package was contaminated with a virus, and required the victim to submit to an investigation by the authorities in



FLORA TANG

Guangzhou.

The victim was persuaded by the suspect to download an app and provide personal information through said app. On July 5, the victim found that the money had been transferred from her bank account.

The third victim, who received a phone call from mainland China on June 23, lost a total of HKD600,000

after a person claiming to be a staff member for health authorities on the mainland, said they suspected that the victim had illegally sold Covid-19 medication in mainland China.

The victim was told they were required to provide personal information and subsequently transferred money twice to the account designated by the suspect.

Meanwhile, a local man lost a total of MOP 5,800 after he met a suspect on a social media platform who provided sexual services during the conversation.

The suspect requested that the victim download another social app for a further conversation on July 31, and instructed the victim to transfer MOP 4,500 to a specific bank account for the cost of se-

xual services.

The victim then discovered that the owner of the account was male, and requested the victim to buy a MOP 800 point-card for the cost of conversing with the first suspect.

The male suspect required the victim to provide a photo of his Macau ID card, and threatened the victim in order to persuade him to transfer MOP500 to a specific bank account.

Lastly, a man in his 20s lost a total of MOP 22,100, also in a sexual scam.

The man saw a job listed on an advertisement through a social app. After contacting the publisher of the advertisement, he was told that the job was to provide sexual services. The suspect claimed that the victim could earn MOP5,000 per service.

The victim accepted the job and downloaded another chat app, as required by the suspect.

During the period of July 28 to 30, the suspect used excuses such as introduction fees and costs for hotels, to persuade the victim to transfer money to another Macau bank account on 16 occasions, amounting to MOP22,100.

As of July 30, the victim had still not received any information regarding the job, and found that he had been the victim of a scam.

The PJ advises residents against providing personal information to other people.

# F&B association raises questions over NAT rules for dine-in

RENATO MARQUES

**R**ESTAURATEURS are not fully satisfied with the rules establishing that patrons of restaurants, bars, and other food and beverage (F&B) establishments must present a valid nucleic acid test (NAT) result in order to dine in.

According to the president of the United Association of Food and Beverage Merchants of Macao, Chan Chak Mo, the rules established by the government to prevent the transmission of Covid-19 are somewhat confusing or lack clarification, causing confusion for both diners and restaurants, Chan said in an interview to All About Macau.

The report stated that, besides creating some issues for businesses needing to have staff constantly check everyone's health codes and NAT validity, there is a lack of clarity on matters such as who has the legal power



RENATO MARQUES

to supervise the establishments. Also, in the case of non-compliance with the rule, the nature of the sanction that such an establishment or staff members would face has been queried.

These are some of the questions that are concerning the owners and managers of such venues since the government decided on August 2 to allow their reopening for closer to regular operation, after

more than 40 days in which they could only supply takeaway meals.

The fact that the rules are not clear is also causing hassle to the patrons, as the Times could attest from personal experience yesterday, when at a local fast-food establishment, a staff member initially refused to serve a takeaway meal to a client because the person did not have a valid NAT proof.

The case generated

some misunderstanding until the manager finally decided that the client could have the takeaway meal.

Initially, the staff member had informed the person they could not enter the premises without a valid NAT, a rule that is not in the government guidelines, which are considered by the association representing the industry to possess several flaws.

GBA

# SELF-DRIVE MACAU BUS TRIAL IN HENGQIN PRECEDE INTELLIGENT-DRIVING TEST AREA

STAFF REPORTER

**M**ACAU'S first autonomous driving bus recently completed a 17-day smart-driving test on roads within the Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) Science & Technology Industrial Park of Cooperation Between Guangdong & Macao in Hengqin.

For the July 15-31 trial, a research team upgraded functionality and reliability in line with a performance route on the University of Macau (UM) campus. The latest research achievements were used in driving environment perception, planning, and decision-making.

For instance, the traditional GPS tracking mode now has simultaneous localization and mapping (SLAM) algorithm to realize automatic environmental map construction using laser radar and other sensors.

Relying on UM's foundation in autonomous vehicle research and Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin advantages in support policies and ample space, the research team will establish an international intelligent driving testing platform in the Greater Bay Area. The platform will provide automated standardized testing and certification services for autonomous-driving manufacturers in Guangdong and Macau.

Previously, the platform collected data (traffic signals and pedestrians and vehicles on the road) with the help of artificial intelligence, big data processing, Internet of Things, and cloud computing. This ensures that the bus runs safely and reliably in an open and uncertain environment and forms a highly efficient transport system for people, vehicles, and roads.



EAST ASIA SUPER LEAGUE

# Basketball league moves ahead without Macau on the calendar

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE East Asia Super League (EASL) basketball competition will proceed with its inaugural home-and-away pan-regional format in 2022, as previously announced, having released yesterday the full schedule of the

season, which is kicking off this October.

The new format is an evolution from the single-site invitation tournaments hosted in Macau between 2017 and 2019.

The major novelty of the final schedule is that Macau, as well as Hong Kong and mainland China, have been left out of the calendar,

with the only representative of the Greater China region being Taiwan's Taipei Fubon Braves.

The new league will include the participation of eight teams representing Japan's B.LEAGUE, Korea's KBL, the Philippines' PBA, and the Taiwanese P. League+.

As for the expected participation of a brand-new team re-

presenting the Greater Bay Area (GBA) named the Bay Area Chun Yu Phoenixes, this new team has been renamed the Bay Area Dragons.

Statutorily linked to the Hong Kong region, this team will be playing this year as a guest representative from the PBA (Philippine Basketball Association)

playing out of Manila, Philippines, to avoid travel and border restrictions imposed by China, which also apply to Macau and Hong Kong regions.

The Dragons' team roster continues to include a majority of mainland players plus three players from Hong Kong, including Scotty Ewing, former player for the Macau Wolf Warriors.

The Dragons will also include the former NBA player, Andrew Nicholson, who played last season in the KBL.

"The Dragons are showcasing Chinese basketball to the world and that is something I'm proud to be a part of. I know how good Chinese basketball talent is and I can't wait to play alongside my teammates and these coaches. I'm also looking forward to taking on the Seoul SK Knights again with my new club, and I'm pretty sure we're going to stack up well," Nicholson said.

On the commencement of the new league, EASL CEO Matt Beyer said, "EASL is honored to be the hub of East Asian basketball, bringing the best of the best of the region's professional teams together in a premier, entertainment-driven league, supported by long-term agreements with FIBA and East Asia's top leagues," adding, "Our mission is to be East Asia's premier basketball league, with a vision to be one of the top three leagues globally by 2025 in terms of fan base and commercial revenue."

Questioned by the Times on the possibility of the EASL returning to Macau, a representative replied, "Potentially, in the future, for more events."

# Reports to anti-corruption watchdog nearly doubled in 2021

**T**HE city's anti-corruption watchdog has received 712 complaints or reports in 2021, of which 179 related to elections.

The reported figure is nearly double the number received in 2020, when a total of 479 complaints and reports were recorded.

Upon collating and consolidating the complaints or reports with the same objectives, the cases which met the conditions for filing were sent to the Anti-Corruption Bureau and the Ombudsman Bureau for follow-up work, with a total of 119 and 226 respectively, the Commission Against Corruption said in a statement yesterday.

In addition, a total of 310 cases that did not meet the conditions to be filed were archived or transferred to other de-



partments for handling.

Meanwhile, in 2021, upon completion of the elections, a total of 13,089 inspections were carried out and 28 inves-

tigation files were opened, including four investigation files and two minor infringement files. Summaries of some of the cases have been in-

cluded in the report.

As to combating corruption, the CCAC apprehended a former leader of the former Land, Public Works and Trans-

port Bureau (currently the Land and Urban Construction Bureau) who had been living on the Chinese mainland for a long time. They also detected multiple cases involving occupational crimes and disciplinary offences committed by public servants, as well as cases involving bribery in the private sector.

In addition, in 2021, there was a decrease in cases involving fraud over various public funds compared with previous years, proving the effectiveness of the forceful crackdowns on fraud over public money.

As regards action by the ombudsman, a number of cases with the same or similar objectives were consolidated and handled together by the CCAC and a comprehensive investigation mechanism was adopted.

"As a result, there was a decrease in case backlogs and the CCAC was also able to collate and analyze the facts found in some cases, which enabled it to give suggestions to the departments or administrative bodies concerned in a unified way," the bureau stated.

The corruption watchdog said it has found that many complaints stemmed from a lack of communication and inadequate information transparency, and it therefore suggested that the relevant departments or administrative bodies strengthen communication with residents.

The Annual Report has been submitted to the Chief Executive, Ho Iat Seng, in accordance with the Organic Law of the Commission Against Corruption of the SAR. LV

STRAIT CRISIS

# China, US allies divided over Pelosi's Taiwan

**U**.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan has drawn bipartisan support at home and backing among American allies while China has rallied support among fellow states. The divided opinions speak both to China's growing global influence and the backlash that has prompted among the world's liberal societies.

President Joe Biden's administration was not openly supportive of Pelosi's trip, with the president himself saying the military felt it was "not a good idea right now" amid heightened tensions between the sides.

China has responded to the visit by announcing a series of days-long military exercises surrounding Taiwan and issuing a stream of invective aimed at the U.S. and Taiwan governments, accusing them of colluding to undermine Chinese sovereignty and national security. China in 2016 severed contacts with independence-leaning Taiwanese leader Tsai Ing-wen over her refusal to endorse its insistence that the island and mainland are part of a single Chinese nation.

"This action is a solemn deterrent against the recent major escalation of the negative actions of the United States on the Taiwan issue, and a serious warning to the 'Taiwan independence' forces seeking 'independence,'" the People's Liberation Army's Eastern Theater command said in a statement.

Exercises will include air and sea drills and long-range missile targeting, the statement said. Operators are already bracing for disruptions to civil aviation and commercial



U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi speaks during a meeting with Taiwanese leader Tsai Ing-wen, right, in Taipei

shipping.

The Chinese response has sparked concerns about a new Taiwan Strait crisis, similar to that of 1995-96, when China held threatening military exercises and bracketed the island with missile strikes in waters north and south of its main ports. Despite their division amid civil war more than 70 years ago, China has maintained its threat to invade and has massively increased its capabilities through investments in missiles, navy ships and its air force.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, whose country's ties with China have nosedived in recent years, declined to comment

specifically yesterday on Pelosi's visit. However, he noted, "We live in an era where the strategic competition and increased tension in our region and where China has taken a more aggressive posture in the region."

"But our position on Taiwan is clear," he added. "We don't want to see any unilateral change to the status quo and we'll continue to work with partners to promote peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait."

Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno also avoided commenting on Pelosi's Taiwan visit, but raised concern about China's planned live-fire military exercises in the regional seas

that encompass parts of Japan's Exclusive Economic Zone. Matsuno said Japan has conveyed Tokyo's "concerns" to Beijing about the exercise.

"The peace and stability of the Taiwan Strait is important not only for Japan's national security but also for the international community, and Japan's position is that we expect peaceful solution of the issues surrounding Taiwan through dialogue," Matsuno said.

Chinese ally North Korea, meanwhile, used the visit to accuse the U.S. of being "the root cause of harassed peace and security in the region," and said it supported Beijing in the confrontation surrounding

Pelosi's visit.

"We vehemently denounce any external force's interference in the issue of Taiwan, and fully support the Chinese government's just stand to resolutely defend the sovereignty of the country and territorial integrity," a government spokesperson was quoted as saying. "The U.S. scheme to disturb the growth and development of China and its efforts for accomplishing the cause of reunification is bound to go bankrupt."

Russia — another Chinese ally and whose invasion of Ukraine has fueled concerns over China's own threat to annex Taiwan by force — called the visit a "clear provocation,

DEFENSE

# US, Indonesia hold joint military drills amid China concerns

NINIEK KARMINI,  
JAKARTA

**T**HE United States and Indonesian militaries began annual joint combat exercises yesterday on Indonesia's Sumatra island, joined for the first time by participants from other partner nations, signaling stronger ties amid growing maritime activity by China in the Indo-Pacific region.

More than 5,000 soldiers from the U.S., Indonesia, Australia, Japan and Singapore were participating in this year's exercises, making them the largest since the

drills were established in 2009. The exercises are designed to strengthen interoperability, capability, trust and cooperation in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific, the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta said in a statement.

"It's a symbol of the U.S.-Indonesia bond and the growing relationship between land forces in this consequential region," Gen. Charles Flynn, Commanding General of U.S. Army Pacific, said in the statement. "Because land forces are the glue that binds the region's security architecture together."

Flynn and Indonesia's Military Chief Gen. Andika Perkasa opened the joint drills with a ceremony yesterday morning in Baturaja, a coastal town in South Sumatra province. The exercises will last until Aug. 14, encompassing army, navy, air force and marine drills.

The planned two-week drills opened after China's Defense Ministry said Tuesday night it would conduct a series of targeted military operations to "safeguard national sovereignty" in response to U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to self-governed Taiwan, which

China claims as part of its territory to be annexed by force if necessary.

China has also been increasingly assertive over its claim to virtually the entire South China Sea.

U.S. Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the number of intercepts by Chinese aircraft and ships in the Pacific region with U.S. and other partner forces has increased significantly over the past five years, and the number of unsafe interactions has risen by similar proportions.

"The message is the Chinese military, in the air and

at sea, have become significantly more and noticeably more aggressive in this particular region," Milley said last month during a trip to the Indo-Pacific that included a stop in Indonesia.

Milley said Indonesia is strategically critical to the region and has long been a key U.S. partner. Earlier this year, the U.S. approved a \$13.9 billion sale of advanced fighter jets to Indonesia. And in Jakarta last December, Secretary of State Antony Blinken signed agreements for enhanced joint naval exercises between the U.S. and Indonesia.

While Indonesia and China enjoy generally positive ties, Jakarta has expressed concern about Chinese encroachment on its exclusive economic zone in the South China Sea, which China claims virtually in its entirety.

The U.S.-Indonesia military exercises coincided with Pelosi's arrival in Taiwan late Tuesday, as the highest-ranking American official in 25 years to visit the self-ruled island. Beijing views visits by foreign government officials as recognition of the island's sovereignty.

Japan's Ground Self-De-

# visit

which is in line with the United States' aggressive policy aimed at comprehensively containing China."

Beijing "has the right to take measures to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity in relation to the Taiwan issue," the government said in a statement.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov further criticized the visit in comments yesterday during a stop in Myanmar.

"It's an aspiration to prove to everyone their impunity and show lawlessness. It's my

way only,' something like this," Lavrov said in reference to the U.S. "I see no other reason to create such an annoyance almost out of the blue."

China and Russia have closely aligned their foreign policies in recent years, with Moscow backing China over Taiwan and Beijing refusing to criticize Russia for invading Ukraine, while accusing the U.S. and NATO of provoking the conflict and leveling punishing economic sanctions against Russia.

China's official Xinhua News Agency also quoted the Chinese secretary general of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization as saying the China and Russia-dominated grouping of mainly Central Asia states "firmly opposes interference in the internal

affairs of its member states by any external force."

"Pelosi visited China's Taiwan region in disregard of China's strong opposition and serious representations, and the Chinese government has expressed its firm opposition to and stern condemnation of the visit," Zhang Ming was quoted as saying.

In remarks at a meeting with Tsai yesterday, she said, "Today the world faces a choice between democracy and autocracy."

"America's determination to preserve democracy, here in Taiwan and around the world, remains ironclad," Pelosi said.

After Taiwan, she will visit South Korea and Japan, both major U.S. security partners in Asia. **MDT/AP**

## CHINESE MAINLAND ANNOUNCES PUNISHMENTS ON ORGANIZATIONS RELATED TO DIE-HARD 'TAIWAN INDEPENDENCE' ELEMENTS

**T**HE Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council yesterday announced punishments on organizations related to die-hard elements seeking "Taiwan independence."

Under the guise of "democracy" and "cooperation and development," "Taiwan Foundation for Democracy" and "International Cooperation and Development Fund" have wantonly carried out "Taiwan independence" separatist activities in the international arena. They have gone all out to ingratiate themselves with external anti-China forces, said Ma Xiaoguang, spokesperson for the office.

They have also attacked and smeared the mainland, and used money and other means as bait to expand the so-called "international space" of Taiwan, attempting to undermine the international support for the one-China principle, Ma said.

The mainland has decided to take punitive measures against the above-mentioned foundations, banning them from cooperating with mainland organizations, enterprises or individuals.

The mainland will also punish, in accordance with the law, organizations, enterprises or individuals that offer funds or services to the foundations, and take other necessary measures, Ma said.

The mainland will prohibit mainland organizations, enterprises or individuals from any transaction or cooperation with Speedtech Energy, Hyweb Technology, Skyla, SkyEyes GPS Technology and other enterprises that have donated money to the foundations. Heads of relevant enterprises will be banned from entering the mainland, Ma said. **XINHUA**



### STRAIT CRISIS

## Beijing blocks some Taiwan imports but avoids chip disruption

JOE MCDONALD, BEIJING

**C**HINA blocked imports of citrus and fish from Taiwan in retaliation for a visit by a top American lawmaker, Nancy Pelosi, but has avoided disrupting one of the world's most important technology and manufacturing relationships.

The two sides, which split in 1949 after a civil war, have no official relations but multibillion-dollar business ties, especially in the flow of Taiwanese-made processor chips needed by Chinese factories that assemble the world's smartphones and other electronics.

They built that business while Beijing threatened for decades to enforce the ruling Communist Party's claim to the island by attacking.

Two-way trade soared 26% last year to \$328.3 billion. Taiwan, which produces half the world's processor chips and has technology the mainland can't match, said sales to Chinese factories rose 24.4% to \$104.3 billion.

"The global economy cannot function without chips that are made in either Taiwan or China," said Carl B. Weinberg of High-Frequency Economics in a report.

Yesterday, Beijing blocked imports of citrus fruits and frozen mackerel from Taiwan after Pelosi, speaker of the House of Representatives, arrived in Taiwan. Those products are only a fraction of Taiwan's total exports to the Chinese mainland. The ruling party has avoided disrupting the flow of chips and other industrial components, a step that would send shock waves through the shaky global economy.

Beijing also announced four days of military exercises with artillery fire in waters around Taiwan. That might delay or disrupt shipping to and from the island, one of the biggest global traders.

The potential disruption adds to concerns over weakening global economic growth, but Asian stock markets rose yesterday after there was no immediate sign of Chinese military action.

The ban on imports of citrus fruits and frozen mackerel will hurt suppliers seen as Tsai's supporters.

Taiwan plays an outsize role in the chip

industry for an island of 24.5 million people, accounting for more than half the global supply.

Its producers including Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Corp. make the most advanced processors for smartphones, tablet computers, medical devices and other products. Taiwan says chip sales to China factories rose 24.4% last year to \$104.3 billion.

Beijing has invested billions of dollars in developing its own industry, which supplies low-end chips for autos and appliances but cannot support the latest smartphones, tablet computers, medical devices and other products.

Chips are China's biggest import at more than \$400 billion a year, ahead of crude oil.

That concentration has fueled concern in the United States and Europe about relying too heavily on supplies that might be disrupted by conflict. The U.S. government is trying to expand its domestic chip production capacity.

Overall, China is Taiwan's biggest trading partner, taking more than twice as much of its exports as the United States, the island's No. 2 foreign market.

Beijing has tried to use access to its markets to undermine Tsai and other Taiwanese leaders it accuses of pursuing independence.

The customs agency blocked imports of cookies and other food products from more than 100 Taiwanese suppliers on Monday ahead of Pelosi's visit, according to the Global Times and other Chinese news outlets.

The Communist Party also has used military action in the past to try to hurt Taiwanese leaders by disrupting the island's economy.

The mainland tried to drive voters away from then-President Lee Teng-hui ahead of the island's first direct presidential elections in 1996 by firing missiles into shipping lanes.

That forced shippers to cancel voyages and raised insurance costs but backfired by allowing Lee to brag about standing up to Beijing in front of cheering supporters. Lee won the four-way election with 54% of the vote. **MDT/AP**



U.S. soldiers walk during annual joint combat exercises in Baturaja, South Sumatra province yesterday

fense Force is participating for the first time in the exercises, saying it promotes a "free and open" Indo-Pacific vision of security and trade with the

U.S. and other democracies in the region.

The expanded drills are seen by China as a threat. Chinese state media have ac-

cused the U.S. of building an Indo-Pacific alliance, similar to NATO, as a means to intentionally provoke conflict. **MDT/AP**

# Russia repeats Putin's new message against a nuclear war

EDITH M. LEDERER,  
UNITED NATIONS

A Russian official yesterday [Macau time] twice repeated President Vladimir Putin's new message that "a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought," apparently trying to roll back on Putin's warning after the Ukraine invasion that Russia is a "potent" nuclear power and any attempt to interfere would lead to "consequences you have never seen."

Putin's comment then dramatically escalated global tensions, which rose even further days later when he ordered Russian nuclear forces put on high alert.

Igor Vishnevetsky, deputy director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's nonproliferation and arms control program, started his country's address to the pandemic-delayed conference to review the 50-year-old Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty by reading Putin's message to participants against a nuclear war. And he repeated the same words later.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, in his speech at Monday's opening, called Putin's warnings after the Ukraine invasion "reckless, dangerous nuclear saber-rattling."

What impact Putin's new commitment has remains to be seen.

Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister Mykola Tochytyskyi told Monday's high-level meeting that Putin's open threat to the world on Russia's ability to use nuclear weapons had been backed by "clear calls to do so by the Russian state media."

"Think tanks and experts widely argue on what type of nuclear weapons — tactical or strategic — Russia will use during the ongoing war against Ukraine," he said. "This is the background for our NPT review conference."

Defending Russia's military intervention in Ukraine, Vishnevetsky cited an expanded NATO that he said is "seeking undivided military, strategic and geopolitical dominance" and forced Moscow to defend its "core security interests."



Russia's delegates are seated during the 2022 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty review conference, in the United Nations General Assembly, this week

Russia "has been subjected to a hybrid military campaign fraught with a slide into a direct armed conflict between nuclear powers," he said. "Moreover, the arms control system, which has traditionally been a core pillar of international security and stability, is currently facing a crisis that has no precedent in recent history in terms of its scale."

Vishnevetsky made no mention of Putin's warning and action after invading Ukraine, but he said given the current situation "it is more critical than ever that the nuclear powers behave with restraint and responsibility."

He noted that in a joint statement in January the five nuclear powers — Russia, United States, China, Britain and France — reiterated that a nuclear war should never be fought and can't be won and emphasized "the need to prevent not only a nuclear confrontation but also any military confrontation between nuclear powers."

"It is imperative that all signatories demonstrate in deeds their commitment to these provisions," the Russian official said.

The review conference, which ends Aug. 26, is aimed at strengthening the NPT, which is considered the cornerstone of international disarmament efforts. Its goal is to prevent the spread of

nuclear weapons and eventually achieve a nuclear-free world, and it has the widest support of any arms control agreement, with 191 parties to the treaty.

Under the NPT's provisions, the five original nuclear powers agreed to negotiate toward eliminating their arsenals someday and nations without nuclear weapons promised not to acquire them in exchange for a guarantee to be able to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Chinese Ambassador Fu Cong, head of the Foreign Ministry's arms control department, whose country has close ties to Russia, told delegates that "the NPT is significantly strained and even faces new and the most severe challenges since the end of the Cold War."

"The specter of Cold War mentality is there to stay," he said, pointing to a deteriorating global strategic security environment, "the outdated approach to security based on military alliances" and the growing risk of an arms race and conflicts.

Fu called for the five nuclear powers "to work together to reduce nuclear risks," strengthen communications on strategic stability "and conduct in-depth dialogue on reducing the role of nuclear weapons in their national security doctrines and on a broad range of issues including mis-

sile defense, outer space, cyberspace, and artificial intelligence."

Blinken, America's top diplomat, said Monday that the U.S. chose "to act with restraint" in response to Russia's actions and avoid anything that could unintentionally raise nuclear tensions. As examples, he said the U.S. abandoned previously scheduled tests of intercontinental ballistic missiles and did not raise the alert status of its nuclear forces "in response to Russia's saber-rattling."

"There is no place in our world — no place in our world — for nuclear deterrence based on coercion, intimidation or blackmail," Blinken said. "We have to stand together in rejecting this."

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres sounded the alarm at Monday's opening over the war in Ukraine, nuclear threats in Asia and the Middle East, and other tensions, warning that "humanity is just one miscalculation away from nuclear annihilation."

Blinken said the U.S., United Kingdom and France have released a set of principles and best practices that all NPT nuclear weapon states should adhere to, "among them that every effort has to be made to ensure that nuclear weapons are not used again." MDT/AP

## this day in history



### 1964 THREE CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVISTS FOUND DEAD



The bodies of three civil rights workers missing for six weeks have been found buried in a partially constructed dam near Philadelphia, Mississippi.

Agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation found the three young men — two white and one black man — about six miles from the town in a wooded area near where they were last seen on the night of 21 June.

They were Michael Schwerner, aged 24, Andrew Goodman, 20, both from New York and James Chaney, 22, from Meridian, Mississippi. All were members of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) dedicated to non-violent direct action against racial discrimination.

As soon as the men were reported missing, the case was made top priority and codenamed Miburn (Mississippi burning). FBI agents headed by Major Case Inspector Joseph Sullivan were sent down to Mississippi to investigate the matter.

After a tip-off they found the mens' burnt-out car two days after their disappearance.

The bodies have been taken to Jackson, Mississippi, for further examination into the cause of death. It is believed all three had been shot and the finger of blame is pointing at the Ku Klux Klan white supremacist group.

The three young men had left the CORE office in Meridian six weeks ago to investigate the destruction of a black congregation church in Longdale, Neshoba County because it was used as the site for a "freedom school".

The school was set up by Mr Schwerner as part of a wider civil rights campaign in Mississippi teaching black children, among other things, black history and the philosophy of the civil rights movement.

The Mount Zion Church was burned down on 16 June by members of the KKK searching for Mr Schwerner.

His wife, Rita, made an emotional statement to newspapers today.

She said: "My husband, Michael Schwerner, did not die in vain. If he and Andrew Goodman had been negroes, the world would have taken little notice of their deaths.

"After all, the slaying of a negro in Mississippi is not news. It is only because my husband and Andrew Goodman were white that the national alarm had been sounded."

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

On 13 October 1964 James Jordan, a member of the Ku Klux Klan, told FBI agents he had witnessed the murder and was willing to testify. A total of 19 men were arrested and charged.

On 24 February 1967 Judge William Cox dismissed 17 of the 19 indictments but he was overruled by the Supreme Court and the so-called Mississippi Burning trial took place in October 1967.

It emerged that the three young men had been arrested by Deputy Sheriff Cecil Price on 21 June, then released from Neshoba jail in the middle of the night and attacked and killed by the KKK as they drove out of town.

Among those convicted were Deputy Sheriff Price, who got six years in jail. Ku Klux Klan leader Sam Bowers and KKK member Wayne Roberts were sentenced to 10 years each.

A film based on the FBI investigation was made in 1988 called Mississippi Burning.

In June 2005 Edgar Ray Killen, 80, was convicted of recruiting the killers. Killen was sentenced to 60 years in jail for the three manslaughters.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

## YOUR STARS



### ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Don't push your mate away. You may find yourself in a predicament with family members. Someone you care about may let you down or criticize your methods.



### TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

You will be up and down emotionally. Discuss your objectives with partners or peers. You can bet that you'll draw attention to yourself.



### GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Be on your best behavior. Romantic encounters will develop through colleagues. You will be able to get to the bottom of things today.



### CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

You may find that your generosity has been taken for granted. Don't spend too much in order to impress others. You should make sure that your personal papers are in order.



### LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

You may find it difficult to communicate. Family outings should include visiting friends or relatives. Look to a close friend for advice.



### VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Don't allow your lover to take advantage of your good nature. Opportunities to get involved in investment groups will payoff. Reevaluate your situation.



### LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Trips will be exciting. You need activity. Friends and relatives may not understand your needs. Seek solace in a more intimate relationship.



### SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Romance appears. You'll be an emotional basket case today. Don't take any comments too seriously. You can ferret out secret information if you just listen to what others have to say.



### SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You can discuss your findings behind closed doors with your boss. You need a change and you need to earn more cash. Your need to obtain additional details will lead you into strange topics of conversation.



### CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Put your energy into self-improvement programs that promise to make you into a better you. Older family members will make demands on your time. Try to convince a good friend to take a holiday with you.



### AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You will need to finalize important deals today. Emotional deception is evident. Business or pleasure trips will be knowledgeable as well as highly successful.



### PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Use discrimination and play hard to get. Don't be too quick to respond to a plea for help. This is a great day to mingle with people you would like to impress.

## The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



## SUDOKU

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

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

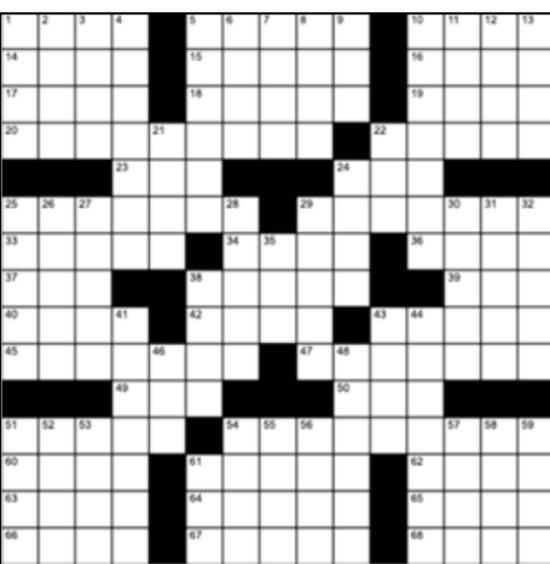
## WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	26	36	rain
Changchun	23	29	thunderstorms
Chengdu	24	33	showers
Chongqing	29	39	fine
Fuzhou	26	35	cloudy
Guangzhou	25	30	rain
Guiyang	22	32	cloudy
Haikou	27	33	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	27	39	fine
Harbin	22	32	thunderstorms
Hefei	26	36	cloudy
Nanjing	29	38	cloudy
Shanghai	28	36	fine
Taipei	25	31	fine
Wuhan	27	36	fine
Hong Kong	28	30	thunderstorms
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	17	29	overcast
Frankfurt	21	38	overcast
Paris	16	30	overcast
London	12	24	overcast
New York	25	33	overcast

## CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- A Baldwin brother; 5- Wing it; 10- Actor Novello; 14- Andean country; 15- Monetary unit of Oman; 16- Wife of a rajah; 17- Hydroxyl compound; 18- Silvery fish; 19- Opposite of sans; 20- Offend; 22- Grind together; 23- Campaigned; 24- Memo letters; 25- The tiniest bit; 29- East African nation; 33- Shakers et al.; 34- Queue after Q; 36- Dweeb; 37- "Silent" prez; 38- Ford flop; 39- Wander about; 40- \_\_\_ impasse; 42- Routine; 43- Malice; 45- Revolving part; 47- Hobo; 49- Also; 50- Poetic preposition; 51- Result; 54- Satisfied; 60- Sugar substitute?; 61- Fungal infection; 62- Short letter; 63- Infatuated; 64- Maker of Pong; 65- Wrinkle remover; 66- Catchall abbr.; 67- Mortise insert; 68- Lady's man;

DOWN 1- Copied; 2- Filmmaker Riefenstahl; 3- Psyche's love; 4- Guilty person; 5- Missing; 6- Lady of Spain; 7- Falsehoods; 8- Capri, for one; 9- Baseball club; 10- Shah, e.g.; 11- \_\_\_-voom!; 12- Singles; 13- Loaded; 21- Neighbor of Cambodia; 22- Hoops venue; 24- Disgusting; 25- Academy award; 26- Peachy!; 27- Dazzling display; 28- Passion; 29- Spirited horse; 30- On the up-and-up; 31- Beside oneself; 32- European viper; 35- Fast flier; 38- Switch back?; 41- Musical mark; 43- Beget; 44- Former monetary unit of Germany; 46- Digit of the foot; 48- Keep possession of; 51- Barely beat; 52- Tidy, without fault; 53- It's a long story; 54- Quote; 55- \_\_\_ even keel; 56- Emperor of Rome 54-68; 57- Raced; 58- Collar type; 59- Fender ding; 61- Sylvester, to Tweety;



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



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- MANHATTAN | 3 BEDS HKD 17,500
- CHUN LEONG | 1 BEDS HKD 8,200
- BUCKINGHAM | 2 BEDS HKD 13,900
- HELLENE G. | 3 BEDS HKD 12,500
- NAM LONG | 1 BED HKD 8,500
- COLOANE V. | 1 BED HKD 9,300
- COLOANE V. | 2 BEDS HKD 10,500
- COLOANE V. | 2 BEDS HKD 10,000

### FOR SALE

- JADE GARDEN | 4 BEDS HKD 15,380,000
- NOVA TAIPA | 4 BEDS HKD 12,880,000
- BAI YUEN GRD. | 3 BEDS HKD 12,800,000
- MANHATTAN | 3 BEDS HKD 12,980,000
- 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 HKD 10,800,000

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

F&B

# STARBUCKS REPORTS RECORD REVENUE ON FROTHY US DEMAND

DEE-ANN DURBIN

**S**TARBUCKS yesterday [Macau Time] reported record revenue in the April-June period, as strong U.S. demand made up for COVID shutdowns in China.

The Seattle-based coffee giant exceeded sales expectations despite continuing store closures and reduced hours in China due to coronavirus measures. Starbucks said its same-store sales in China — its second-largest market after the U.S. — were down 44% in its fiscal third quarter. Starbucks said it ended the quarter with roughly 2,000 stores in 50 cities operating with COVID restrictions.

But strong U.S. demand made up for that. Same-store sales, or sales at stores open at least a year, rose 9% in the U.S., where customers are spending more on customizable cold beverages and food, like lime-frosted coconut bars. Morning traffic was also picking up as more people returned to offices.

Interim Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz said the company isn't yet



seeing any impact from inflation, despite increasing prices about 5% over the same period last year.

"While we are sensitive to the impact inflation and economic uncertainty are having on consumers, it's critically important that you all understand we are not currently seeing any mea-

surable reduction in customer spending or any evidence of customer's trading down," Schultz said on a conference call with investors.

Schultz added that cold drinks, which now make up 74% of U.S. beverage sales, have become a huge competitive advan-

tage for Starbucks and are bringing in younger customers.

"The premium, customized cold coffee opportunity is simply enormous," Schultz said.

Starbucks' revenue rose 9% to \$8.2 billion, a quarterly record. That surpassed Wall Street's forecast of \$8.1 billion, according to analysts polled by FactSet.

New stores, including many that are more focused on drive-thru and curbside service, are helping sales. The company said it has opened 298 net new stores in its North America region since June 2021 and 1,355 new stores in international markets.

Starbucks said its net income fell 21% to \$912.9 million as it spent more on labor, worker training and supply chain costs. Last fall, the company announced a \$1 billion investment in employee wages and benefits in an effort to lift U.S. workers' pay. U.S. workers currently make an average of \$17 per hour, Starbucks North America chief John Culver said. Training hours have also increased.

Schultz said Starbucks is in the midst of a modernization plan that he hopes will help it retain employees and better keep up with customer demand. The plan — which will be fleshed out in more detail at the company's investor day in September — comes amid growing employee dissatisfaction at some U.S. stores.

More than 200 of Starbucks' 9,000 company-owned U.S. stores have voted to unionize since last December, a move the company opposes. Schultz didn't mention the union campaign.

Schultz, a longtime CEO of Starbucks who rejoined the company in April, reiterated his plan to remain through the first few months of 2023 even after a new CEO is named.

Schultz said the company has narrowed down its list of potential CEOs who are "excited and positive and in agreement" about the modernization plan.

"I have committed myself to stay as long as necessary to ensure that the new CEO has a soft landing and then I transition to the board," he said.

Adjusted for one-time items, Starbucks earned 84 cents per share. That was higher than the 77-cent profit Wall Street forecast.

Starbucks shares rose nearly 2% in after-hours trading. MDT/AP

AD

生活藝術雜誌 LIVING & ARTS MAGAZINE

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FOOTBALL

# Ten young players to watch in Europe's five leading leagues

JEROME PUGMIRE,  
MDT/AP SPORTS WRITER

Look at 10 young players who could stand out this season in Europe's five major leagues:

ENGLAND



**HARVEY ELLIOT, Liverpool**

Harvey Elliot started in the Liverpool team last season until a serious ankle injury against Leeds in September sidelined him for several months.

The 19-year-old Elliot plays on the right side of a midfield three and could make a push for England's World Cup squad if he gets enough games under manager Jürgen Klopp. That could well be the case with James Milner and Jordan Henderson advancing in years.

"Last season came with a lot of ups and downs, and a lot of challenges," Elliot said. "But I think if anything it's helped towards this season. It's been there for me to go and show for myself and show to the fans, to the world, that I can get into the team."



**CARNEY CHUKWUEMEKA, Chelsea**

Eighteen-year-old midfielder Carney Chukwuemeka emerged from Aston Villa's strong youth team and made enough of an impression last season to earn a move to Chelsea.

The London club announced it has agreed a deal to sign Chukwuemeka after Villa manager Steven Gerrard, who knows about playing in the middle,

brought him in for the final games of last season.

Chukwuemeka helped England win the Under-19 European Championship last month, with a goal in the final against Israel, and made it into the team of the tournament. Last year, Chukwuemeka played in Villa's FA Youth Cup victory and finished the competition as the leading scorer with six goals.

SPAIN



**MOHAMED-ALI CHO, Real Sociedad**

Like France star Kylian Mbappe, 18-year-old Mohamed-Ali Cho started out as a winger. Real Sociedad signed him from French club Angers on a five-year deal for about 12 million euros (\$12.3 million).

Cho is strong with both feet and can play wide — cutting inside to shoot — or in a central role.

He was the youngest player in France to be given a professional contract and made his league debut at 16 years, 7 months — four months younger than Mbappe when he made his Monaco debut.

After a few years spent in PSG's junior teams, Cho joined the youth ranks of Premier League club Everton for five years before once more returning to France to join Angers. He scored four league goals for Angers last season.



**EDUARDO CAMAVINGA, Real Madrid**

This is a big season for 19-year-old Eduardo Camavinga, who needs to impress at Real Madrid to stand a chance of getting back into the France squad for the

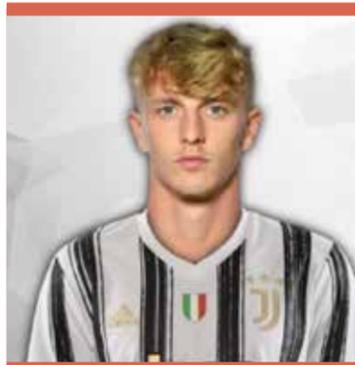
World Cup.

Camavinga did well in spells last season as Madrid won the Spanish league and the Champions League. But he was mostly a substitute and found it hard to break the midfield stranglehold of Toni Kroos and Luka Modric.

Camavinga has quick feet, strong technique, reads the game well and is also a strong tackler. A superb athlete, Camavinga is equally adept at breaking quickly and turning from midfield into attack.

A good passer, Camavinga needs to add a few more goals to his game, having only scored eight in 141 games for Madrid and his previous club, Rennes.

ITALY



**NICOLO ROVELLA, Juventus**

Nicolo Rovella spent last season on loan to Genoa but returns following the club's relegation to the second division and with an opportunity to claim a place in coach Massimiliano Allegri's midfield following Paul Pogba's knee injury.

Juve have high hopes for the 20-year-old Rovella, who is an established member of Italy's under-21 team and hopes to push for a first call-up to the senior squad.

The right-footer is a versatile player, too, who can operate as a holding midfielder or lend himself to the attack thanks to his first touch and passing.



**LORENZO PIROLA, Salernitana**

Lorenzo Pirola is a technically strong and versatile central defender with good passing ability. The 20-year-old Italian came

through Inter Milan's youth academy and has been loaned out to Salernitana this season.

The move could be timely because he will get the chance to make a name for himself in what could be another difficult season for the unheralded southern club, which only just avoided relegation last season.

Pirola's tackling, aerial ability and positional sense should all serve Salernitana well against bigger clubs, although his one weakness is that he struggles against skillful players who attack him at speed.

GERMANY



**KARIM ADEYEMI, Borussia Dortmund**

Borussia Dortmund has sold one young star and might just have found another one in 20-year-old Karim Adeyemi, who joined from Austrian club Salzburg on a five-year deal after Erling Haaland left for Premier League champion Manchester City.

Adeyemi distinguished himself with Salzburg last season, when he earned a remarkable four penalties in two Champions League games. His combination of trickery, quick feet, great balance, reading of the game and direct running make him a handful.



**ADAM HLOZEK, Bayer Leverkusen**

Bayer Leverkusen's return to the Champions League will have a Czech feel up front as Adam Hlozek teams up with striker Patrik Schick — whose 24 league goals helped Leverkusen finish third last season. The

19-year-old Hlozek joins from Sparta Prague, where he scored 40 goals in 132 games after making his debut at 16.

He follows in the footsteps of Schick, who also broke through with Sparta. Hlozek is an imposing forward who can also play on the wing and could prove a good provider for his international teammate.

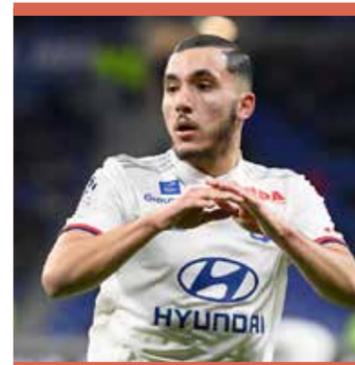
FRANCE



**HUGO EKITIKE, Paris Saint-Germain**

Paris Saint-Germain beat another cash-rich club in Premier League team Newcastle to sign 20-year-old forward Hugo Ekitike. He joined from Reims on a season-long loan with an option to buy for 35 million euros (\$36 million).

Although Ekitike scored a modest 10 league goals last season, he was one of the most efficient finishers, scoring with 32.3% of his shots. His ratio of one goal for every 3.1 shots was better than new teammates Neymar and Kylian Mbappe, and second only to Monaco forward Wissam Ben Yedder's ratio of 2.88.



**RAYAN CHERKI, Lyon**

Eighteen-year-old Rayan Cherki is another product of the prolific youth academy at Lyon that produced Real Madrid great Karim Benzema, Hatem Ben Arfa, Corentin Tolisso and Alexandre Lacazette.

Two years ago, Cherki produced a remarkable performance in a French Cup game when he was only 16, scoring two goals and providing two assists.

Opportunities have been somewhat limited since then but this could be a breakthrough season for the attacking midfielder under coach Peter Bosz.

Like so many of Lyon's technically gifted academy players, Cherki has it all: quick feet, close control, astute passing, great skill and an eye for goal.

**OPINION**

**China Daily**  
 Editorial, China Daily

**TSAI ADMINISTRATION WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO DIGEST WHAT ITS 'DISTINGUISHED GUEST' HAS SERVED UP**

Be it the arrangement of two planes heading to Taiwan from Malaysia at almost the same time on Tuesday night, which took big loops to shun Chinese mainland airspace, or the escort provided by an aircraft carrier strike group along the route, it demonstrates that the United States is aware how provocative House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to the Chinese island was.

Although she said in her statement upon her arrival in Taipei that her visit "in no way contradicts" the three joint communiques between the United States and China, it only exposed her awareness that it does. She is like the thief who steals a bell and thinks she can mute the telltale ringing announcing her crime by covering her own ears.

When she alleged that "the world faces a choice between autocracy and democracy" in her statement on the visit, she was taking defending "democracy" as a pretense to interfere in China's internal affairs.

That's an old trick of US politicians, something they have staged again and again to try and disguise their troublemaking.

And her expression of support for Taiwan's "vibrant democracy" was a condescending citation awarded the Tsai Ing-wen administration for it dutifully playing the role Washington has assigned to it while playing the Taiwan card in its efforts to contain China.

What makes it a total farce is that Tsai, whose bow-and-scrape reception and treatment of the "distinguished guests" from the US has galled many on the island, conferred a medal on Pelosi, saying that it "represents the Taiwan people's gratitude to her".

What it really represents is their joint efforts to hijack the island's future for personal gains.

That the Tsai administration has readily accepted the "proposal" that Taiwan should join the US' "Indo-Pacific strategy" targeting China means the island will then be integrated deeper into the complicated framework the US is constructing to contain China.

However, no matter what provocation the US has come up with on the Taiwan question, it has always been repaid by the Chinese mainland's progress in strengthening its military capabilities to guarantee reunification by force as a last resort.

So is it this time.

The intensive military drills the People's Liberation Army organizes around the island, which defy the 12-sea-mile "territorial sea border" the island administration claims, and the so-called middle line of the Straits, mark a key step for the mainland to bolster its military deterrence to the secessionists on the island. Not to mention the other countermeasures the mainland has vowed to take to make the trip a memorable one for both the hosts and the guests.

It will take a long time for the Tsai administration to digest what Pelosi has served up in just a few hours.

**FRANCE'S SECOND HEAT WAVE OF THE YEAR LEAVES PARIS SWELTERING**

Paris' regional authorities warned residents to be vigilant yesterday, with temperatures soaring to 36 degrees Celsius (97 Fahrenheit). In a tweet, the Ile-de-France prefecture also asked residents to moderate their water consumption amid a "major dry spell."

Elsewhere in France, some 27 departments have now been placed on "orange

alert" with a heat wave spreading mainly to the east of mainland France. Temperatures are set to hit up to 40 C in some places in the south. The heat will reach its peak Wednesday, and begin to decline Thursday.

This August heat wave episode should be shorter than that of July, according to the French weather agency.



THE BUZZ



AP PHOTO

**UK LEADERSHIP ELECTION RULES CHANGED OVER SECURITY FEARS**

JILL LAWLESS, LONDON

BRITAIN'S governing Conservative Party said yesterday that it has delayed sending out ballots for the party's leadership election after a warning from the U.K. intelligence services about the risk of fraud.

Ballots had been due to be mailed out early this week to about 180,000 party members, who are selecting a new leader for the party and the country.

The party said it decided to "enhance security" on the advice of the National Cyber Security Centre, part of U.K. electronic spy agency GCHQ.

The party had intended to allow members to vote online or by postal ballot, with an option to change the vote up until voting closes on Sept. 2. It now says each member will get a unique code that allows one, unchangeable vote, either online or by post.

It said members should receive their ballot packs by Aug. 11.

The National Cyber Security Centre said it had "provided advice to the Conservative Party on security considerations for

online leadership voting," but did not give details of the advice. The Daily Telegraph newspaper reported that the changes were made in response to concerns about the vulnerability of the voting process to hackers, rather than because of a specific threat from a group or state.

resigned as party leader in July after months of ethics scandals.

The winner will be announced Sept. 5 and will automatically become prime minister. The new leader won't have to face voters until the next general election, due to be held by 2024.

**The winner will be announced Sept. 5 and will automatically become prime minister. The new leader won't have to face voters until the next general election**

Jamie MacColl, a cybersecurity expert at defense think-tank the Royal United Services Institute, said it was unlikely Russia would try to directly interfere with the leadership race, since the outcome would not change U.K. policy. Both candidates in the contest are strong supporters of Ukraine.

But he said the election could be targeted by "someone who just wants to cause a bit of mischief."

Tory members are choosing between Foreign Secretary Liz Truss and former Treasury chief Rishi Sunak to replace Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who

Supporters of Sunak hope the delay will give him time to close the gap on front-runner Truss, who leads in polls of party members and had gained backing from several high-profile Cabinet ministers.

Sunak is running as an experienced minister who can guide the country through the economic turbulence caused by the pandemic and the war in Ukraine. He accuses Truss of peddling "fairy tales" with her promise to slash taxes within weeks of taking office. Sunak argues it is vital to get inflation under control first.

But he is facing a backlash from some Conservatives for resigning from Johnson's Cabinet last month as the government floundered amid ethics scandals. More than 50 government ministers went on to quit, leaving Johnson no choice but to resign. MDT/AP

**Turkey** The first grain ship to depart Ukraine under a wartime deal entered the Bosphorus Strait on the way to Lebanon after its cargo was checked and approved yesterday, Turkish and Ukrainian authorities said. An inspection team spent about 90 minutes conducting checks aboard the Sierra Leone-flagged Razoni, which was carrying Ukrainian corn and anchored off Istanbul.



AP PHOTO

**Austria** The OPEC oil cartel and its allies are meeting today [Macau time] to decide how much crude to produce in September amid high oil prices and unstable energy supplies exacerbated by the war Russia has waged on Ukraine. They also will be considering what effects staggering inflation and rising COVID-19 rates may have on global demand for fuel in the fall, with gasoline prices at the pump still high.



AP PHOTO

**USA** The Senate is set to ratify NATO membership for Finland and Sweden, a crucial step toward swiftly expanding the Western military alliance with a show of U.S. support in response to Russia's war with Ukraine. Senators have invited the ambassadors of the countries to witness today's historic debate and vote, which would open a new era for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.



AP PHOTO

**Hollywood** Producer Janet Yang has been elected president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the group's board of governors announced, making her the first Asian American to lead the film academy. Yang, the 66-year-old producer of "The Joy Luck Club" and "The People vs. Larry Flynt," becomes the fourth woman to lead the organization behind the Oscars. Elected by the academy's 54-member board, Yang succeeds outgoing president David Rubin.