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electronics

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**ONE YEAR AFTER AFGHANISTAN, US SPY AGENCIES PIVOT TOWARD CHINA**

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**China** Authorities are investigating the cause of a fire that engulfed a covered wooden bridge with 900 years of history in southeastern China over the weekend. The entire length of the Wan'an Bridge appeared to be in flames in video and photos of the Saturday night fire in Fujian province's Pingnan county. No one was reported injured in the blaze. The 98-meter bridge is the longest of its kind in China.



**Myanmar's** ambassador to China has died, the Chinese government said yesterday. "I can confirm what you mentioned," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said in response to a question about the reported death of Ambassador Myo Thant Pe. He did not say when the diplomat had died or what the cause of death was. Myo Thant Pe had been ambassador to China since 2019.

AP PHOTO



**Gaza Strip** A fragile cease-fire deal to end nearly three days of fighting between Israel and Palestinian militants in Gaza held into yesterday. The flare-up was the worst fighting between Israel and Gaza militant groups since Israel and Gaza's Hamas rulers fought an 11-day war last year, adding to the destruction and misery that have plagued blockaded Gaza for years.

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"A full exemption of quarantine between Macau and Hong Kong would be conditional on the situation in three places, Macau, Hong Kong, and mainland China. For this to happen, the situation of Covid-19 on all sides needs to be similar. If Hong Kong reaches the point where it can [fully] reopen its border with the mainland, Macau will follow," she added.

Although the new rule in Hong Kong maintains the number of days of medical observation as a total of seven, the focus has now shifted to a larger percentage of days for health self-management with the number of days in a quarantine hotel unit now reduced by one.

Yesterday, Hong Kong leader John Lee announced that the city will reduce the mandatory hotel quarantine for overseas arrivals to three days from a week.

The southern Chinese city remains one of the few places in the world, together with mainland China and Macau, to require a quarantine to guard against travelers spreading Covid-19 to the local population. The policy taking effect Friday will be Hong Kong's shortest quarantine for arrivals since the pandemic began.

Lee said arriving travelers must quarantine three days in a designated hotel, then undergo four days of medical surveillance during which their movements will be restricted via the use of a health code system.

Lee said the new policy of just three days in quarantine was made after scientific evidence and data had been analyzed to control the risk factors, as cited in a report issued by the Associated Press.

COVID-19

# MACAU'S EASING OF QUARANTINE MEASURES DEPENDS ON MAINLAND

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE decision to adjust the number of days of quarantine under medical observation in Macau depends ultimately on the analysis and decision of the Central government regarding the situation in those areas, the local coordinator of the Center for Di-

sease Control and Prevention, Dr. Leong Iek Hou said during yesterday's press briefing from the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center.

Questioned on the new rule established by the government of Hong Kong which amended the medical observation to '3+4' (three days in a quarantine hotel

plus four days of health self-management), Leong said that Macau is not, for the time being, reducing the current '7+3' quarantine, noting that the easing of border restrictions depends on the situation in the local jurisdiction.

"Macau and Hong Kong have never closed the borders completely and currently people

from Macau can enjoy entering Hong Kong without the need for quarantine. Still, the reverse is not possible yet and people arriving from Hong Kong in Macau still need to follow the '7+3' rule. We are communicating constantly and following up on the new cases in each region and area," she said.

# Housing prices considered steady

**T**HE overall residential property price index is considered to have held steady from April to June 2022, decreasing only 0.3% from the previous period (March - May 2022) to 258.7. The indices for the Macau Peninsula (259.0) and Taipa & Coloane (257.7) dropped by 0.2% and 0.5% respectively, according to the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).

Real estate developer Centaline Property has previously reported that the transaction volume

showed signs of recovery at the beginning of the second quarter.

However, with the city recently recording its largest Covid outbreak so far, the firm is expecting that the residential transaction volume in June will hit a new low in a single month, with only 150 transactions.

Meanwhile, the index for existing residential units fell by 0.2% to 276.5; the index for Taipa & Coloane fell by 0.6% to 305.1, while the index for Macau Peninsula (269.3) stayed flat from the previous period.

Residential housing transaction in the city is expected to continue to decline in the short term.

Centaline Property estimated that the total residential transaction volume for the first half of the year was about 1,600, down 50% from the same period last year. Compared with Macau's quarterly average of over 1,000 transactions before the pandemic, there are now little more than 1,000 transactions every two quarters.

In terms of commercial property, the latest data

shows 78 transactions in the first quarter. With the Covid outbreak and the economic downturn, the developer expects that the total transaction volume in the first half of the year is estimated to be about 138, down nearly 30% year-on-year, with the total transactions involved standing at about MOPI.44 billion, down 20% year-on-year.

"The transaction volume may rebound after the epidemic, but there is little chance of price increases," Centaline Property stated in its latest report. LV

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COVID-19

# Origin of new case 'unknown', Zhuhai blames Macau

RENATO MARQUES

**L**OCAL health authorities are yet to confirm whether the case of the non-resident worker found by Zhuhai authorities to be infected with Covid-19 is an infection originating in Macau or Zhuhai, the local coordinator of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Leong Iek Hou said during yesterday's press briefing from the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center.

Questioned on the topic by the media, Leong said that it was not possible yet to confirm the origin of the infection.

"The case has been discovered by the Zhuhai side and we are investigating the source together. We are still trying to find it as, for the time being, no links have been found between this infection and other cases," Leong said, adding, "It's too early to say if there is any connection, but, so far, all the nucleic acid tests (NATs) conducted on his workmates as well as people co-living with the positive case turned out negative."

While Leong said that local authorities need to wait for the final results from the NATs being done at the key area defined in the surroundings of the border gate, authorities across the border seem to have already made up their minds about the case, classifying it as an "imported case from Macau."

Leong further explained in response to another media inquiry that the most scientific and accurate method to ensure the origin



of the infection is by sequencing the virus DNA and comparing it with other cases detected locally. Leong admitted however, that this work is impossible to be done on the Macau side as the sample that tested positive was found across the border.

"We don't have the sample. As you know the case was detected in Zhuhai. For now, we don't even know the strain of this virus. We can only wait for the information from Zhuhai authorities," the official explained, noting that Zhuhai is in control of the situation.

As a result of the case, people in Macau in two different key areas have been called to do NATs on Sunday and Monday.

Of those tested, Leong said all the over 200,000 NAT results obtained so far are negative.

"It seems that the risk is not high and although the area around the border gate is still undergoing testing, no positive cases have been found yet. When all the results are out, we will know for sure," she said, adding that also over 582,000 rapid antigen tests (RATs) uploaded to the reporting platform from Sunday and Monday until 5 p.m. also show all results as negative.

"All the RATs from yesterday [Sunday] were negative and if all RATs from today are also negative, we are not going to ask the population to continue doing it," Leong remarked.

## ZHUHAI ALSO IN CHARGE OF THE BORDER

The same health authorities from Zhuhai have also annou-

nced further restrictions on the border crossing between Macau and Zhuhai, the representative of the Public Security Police Force, Ma Chio Hong, revealed yesterday. Ma noted that for one month starting today (August 9 to September 9), border crossings are limited to one round trip per day at all the border posts.

Late last week, PSP announced that the only exception to this rule was the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge Port.

According to Ma, this measure applies to everyone crossing the border with exception of cross-border drivers and others people whose job duties require them to cross the border several times a day.

The neighboring city authorities also said that those with a specific reason justifying a need to cross the border more frequently than the general rule, will need to file a special request that will be analyzed by Zhuhai.

"People that have a special reason need to file a request for exemption and submit it to our [PSP] immigration department at Pac On. We will then forward these requests to Zhuhai and they will approve them or not according to their analysis. After that we [PSP] will communicate the result to the applicants," he concluded.

## POSITIVE CASES FROM ABROAD REQUIRE MORE SCRUTINY FROM AUTHORITIES

**O**N the delays at the local airport, Dr. Leong Iek Hou justified the need for giving additional scrutiny to arrivals from abroad, as the authorities are finding a large percentage of positive cases. "Over 10% of all the people arriving last Saturday (for instance) tested positive," she said, adding, "We also think the current situation [of the long wait times] is not the ideal

but there are several procedures and we need to ensure all these steps are properly undertaken." According to the figure cited, on Saturday alone, more than 100 people arrived in Macau from abroad via a transfer flight in Singapore. Of those, 11 have reportedly tested positive and are undergoing isolation in different venues.

# Mobile payments reach MOP6.4b in Q2

STAFF REPORTER

**T**HE transaction values of local mobile payment tools has increased by 7.6% by quarter-to-quarter this year, reaching MOP6.4 billion, according to the data published by the Monetary Authority of Macao (AMCM).

The number of transactions carried out by local mobile payment tools grew by 7.6% from the previous quarter to 68.6 million in the second quarter of 2022. The transaction value reached MOP6.4 billion, up 7.6%

from the first quarter of 2022, according to the AMCM.

At the end of June in 2022, the number of mobile payment terminals and QR code signs totaled 93,200, a rise of 0.7% quarter-to-quarter.

Concerning payment cards, at the end of June in 2022, the total number of personal credit cards issued by banks stood at 1,662,136, representing an increase of 3.5%, from the previous quarter.

Meanwhile, the number of debit card transactions other than cash with-

drawals declined by 16.4% from the previous quarter to 347,700, with debit card turnover falling 22.1% to MOP694.9 million.

At the end of June in 2022, the credit card credit limit granted by banks reached MOP47.8 billion, up 1.7% from end of March. Credit card receivables amounted to MOP2.3 billion.

The delinquency ratio, i.e. the ratio of amounts more than three months overdue to credit card receivables, went up 0.4 percentage points to 2.9% over the second quarter.



NDT ARCHIVE

CRIME

# PSP REPORTS SEVEN FRAUD CASES OF UP TO MOP430,000

STAFF REPORTER

**T**HE Public Security Police (PSP) has reported a total of seven cases of financial fraud in a joint police press conference yesterday.

In first case, a local woman in her 30s reported to police that she lost a total of MOP300,000 after meeting the suspect in an online social media platform on June 9, and then becoming infatuated with the suspect. The suspect introduced the victim to an online investment platform, who, on the suspect's instructions, opened a personal investment account.

From June 9 to August 1, the victim made five transfers totaling MOP300,000 to various bank accounts in order to recharge her online investment account.

In due course, the victim found that her account balance in the online platform amounted to MOP430,000.

The victim successfully withdrew MOP18,000 in profit and continued to invest.

On August 4, the victim at-



tempted to withdraw all of the money (both investment principle and profit) from her investment account, but the customer service of the online investment platform informed the victim that she couldn't withdraw all of the money because the term of

her deposit had not yet elapsed.

The victim tried to contact the suspect immediately, but received no reply. In the second case, two female victims lost a total of RMB790. On August 3, the suspect published a post in a class WeChat

group for a primary school in which the suspect impersonated a school teacher. The post required each parent to pay a total of RMB395 to the suspect through the red packet function in WeChat to cover the cost of purchasing textbooks for the class.

The two victims believed that the suspect was the genuine class teacher and each transferred RMB395 to the suspect.

After 30 minutes, the real teacher clarified on the WeChat group that they had not published any post requiring parents to transfer money to buy textbooks.

The two victims realized that they had been defrauded and reported the case to the police.

As for how the suspect entered the WeChat group, the police said they are investigating the circumstances.

Another five people have been victims of credit card fraud.

The first victim is a man who received a message from his bank on August 4 saying that he had spent over MOP1,600 in a certain store. The victim had made no such purchases and suspected that his credit card was stolen.

The second victim is a man who noticed on August 6 that MOP9,700 from his account had been spent on Apple.

The third victim received six messages on August 7, that they had been cheated of over MOP800; while the fourth and fifth victims noticed that they had been defrauded of over MOP5,600 and MOP700 respectively.

The PSP said that these five credit card theft cases are currently being investigated.

## Two suicide cases involving elderly people reported in less than 24 hours

STAFF REPORTER

**T**WO suicide cases were reported in less than 24 hours involving senior citizens, as concerns grow about an alarming rise in suicide cases among the elderly.

Yesterday, the Judiciary Police (PJ) reported in a brief statement that authorities were notified of a woman who was suspected to have fallen to her death from a multi-story apartment block.

The report came as a residential staff member was patrolling the parking lot of the apartment building.

The deceased lived with her family.

No suicide note was found.

The other case invol-

ves a 91-year-old male who hanged himself in his residence.

The family discovered the deceased upon entering his room.

"The suicide note of the deceased was found in the residence, and the deceased was ill before his death," the PJ stated.

These two cases add to the recent suicide toll among senior citizens over the past month, with at least three old-aged residents aged 74, 75 and 87 years being found in apparent suicide.

There has been a total of 53 cases of suicide since January, a figure which approaches the 60 cases of suicide recorded over the whole of 2021.

Health authorities advise members of the public who have mental

health problems due to the long period of Covid-19 prevention measures to seek help.

"There are many pressure factors including unemployment, quarantine and conflicts with family due to needing to stay at home for a long period, which may cause mental health problems," Dr. Lei Wai Seng, from the Conde de São Januario Hospital, previously said.

The Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) encourages residents to be conscious of their psychological and emotional state as well as those of their relatives and friends. If in need, residents can call Caritas' Life Hope hotline (28525222) or IAS' counseling hotline (28261126).

## PROBABILITY OF ISSUING T3 'RELATIVELY HIGH' TODAY

STAFF REPORTER

**T**HE chance of issuing tropical cyclone signal no.3 is relatively high today, according to the Meteorological and Geophysics Bureau (SMG).

The broad low pressure over the central part of the South China Sea has intensified into a tropical depression. It will gen-

rally move towards the western coast of Guangdong to Hainan Island.

"Under the influence of the broad circulation, its rainband will bring unsettled weather to Macau. Winds in Macau will intensify with occasional heavy showers and thunderstorms from [today] to Wednesday," the SMG stated.

Meanwhile, as it is during the high phase of the astronomical tide, under the combined influence of the storm surge and persisted rain, flooding is expected to occur in low-lying areas tomorrow and on Thursday, from early morning to morning.

The tropical cyclone signal No.1 was issued at 7 p.m. last night.



# Advisory committee urgently needed to investigate gas prices hikes

ANTHONY LAM

**COMMENTATOR** Sulu Sou and lawmaker Ron Lam have once again called for the government to establish a legally-required advisory committee so that the Consumer Council (CC) can launch investigations on the structure of local gas prices.

Vehicle gas prices, for example, have seen steady rises over the past year on the retail end. It must be emphasized that the government has not levied any retail tax on the commodity for the past decade.

Ron Lam commented that the retail prices for vehicle gasoline in Hong Kong are much higher than in Macau, but government of the neighboring region is levying a retail tax of about HKD6 per liter.

Although supply of petroleum remains tight, prices are still projected to fall amidst worries about stagflation in developed economies and a global economic recession.

Bracing for a potentially worsening market, investors have continued to divest themselves of the resource to prepare for a forecasted sharp drop in demand, which subsequently led to the international petroleum prices hitting a record low in a week last week since April 1 this year.

For example, New York petroleum prices fell by 9.74%, and Brent oil prices fell by 8.70%. International petroleum prices have already fallen to the level they stood at the beginning of February this year, that is, before the Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Despite the international price plummet and continued falls since June this year, according to sur-



vey data released yesterday by the CC, 80% of local fuel stations have raised retail prices. For regular unleaded fuel, all except Nam Kwong Fuel have hiked the prices to 2.8%, equating to a MOP0.4 rise.

Nam Kwong made a price change yesterday, putting the price down 0.7% from MOP14.28 per liter to MOP14.18. The last occasion on which the other four brands changed prices was June this year.

As for premium unleaded fuel products, both Esso and Shell hiked the prices for 2.5%, from MOP15.79 per liter to MOP16.19. The two companies, which are the only sellers of premium fuel products in city, made the price changes in June.

Given the discrepancy in the local market, both Lam and former lawmaker – now commentator – Sulu Sou are once again urging the government to inaugurate the aforementioned advisory committee for the CC.

The main reason for the demand comes from the promulgation of the Consumer Rights Pro-

tection Law early this year. Before instigating any investigations on private business practices, the CC must seek advice from the committee. However, eight months after the enactment of the law, the committee has not yet been established.

In many of their commentaries and enquiries, the duo has emphasized that the CC should be able to investigate, as the law empowers it to, the price structure of local fuel prices, including (but not limited to) vehicle gasoline prices.

Sou pointed out, for example, that gas prices on the upstream and at the retail end are assessable by the public, given the publication of the data by the Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSED). "However, we are uncertain about the costs at mid-levels," the former lawmaker added.

In addition, both find the situation of delaying the inauguration of the aforementioned committee unacceptable. Sou even questioned why the government does not use the tool when it is so emi-

nently useful.

He suspects, meanwhile, that the government does not want to admit that fuel prices in Macau are either unreasonably high or experiencing fluctuations, which are key factors for triggering investigations.

At the same time, both pointed to the operations of the fuel storages as the probable reason for price hikes and weakened competition.

Lam revealed that the midway storage in Ilha Verde, although owned by the government, actually has its usage rights equally distributed among five fuel brands in Macau. Other smaller dealers are required to lease rights from one of these brands.

The logical development of such mechanism is that smaller dealers will not be able to sell the commodity at a lower price than the five major brands.

On the other hand, Sou pointed out that the main fuel storage in Ka-Ho, although owned by the government, is managed under commission by Nam Kwong, whi-

ch is among the five major fuel brands in Macau and is in direct competition with the other four brands that need to use the main storage.

Besides this, Lam considered the mode of concession requires a review. He revealed that land designated for gas stations will technically be so indefinitely. Concessions are automatically renewed.

By contrast, he suggests in the future, concessions should be re-licensed or retendered near their respective expiration dates in the hope of encouraging more competitive pricing.

Furthermore, he also suggests that when new gas stations are being established on the New Urban Zones, the tenders should require operators to introduce gas products with lower octane levels to the market.

Currently, the city is seeing such products with an octane value of around 97 to 98, which is generally considered to be higher than needed for most everyday vehicles. Some comments suggest that products with an octane value of 95 are suitable. Products with lower octane values are cheaper than their higher-value counterparts.

The lawmaker said that the lower prices will help attract drivers to new gas stations set up at the New Urban Zones, which will help compensate for the less satisfactory business environments, such as low pedestrian traffic in these zones during their early development.

He also revealed that many residential gas pipelines are operated under contracts – in many cases of long duration – by gas product suppliers, which will also leave residents with no other option than to tolerate high prices.

## Taxi drivers to get MOP12,000 max subsidizing fuel costs

**LOCAL** taxi drivers, provided that they meet certain criteria, are entitled to a maximum MOP12,000 fuel subsidy, the Transport Bureau (DSAT) announced yesterday.

The subsidy is a one-off support measure, DSAT added.

The sum of money is part of the overall MOP10 billion employment subsidy scheme announced by the government on June 19, a day after the recent Covid-19 outbreak

commenced.

The criteria that a driver should meet so that they will be entitled to the one-off subsidy includes the possession of a taxi driver license issued by DSAT between January 1 and July 31, 2022. In addition, they should have worked for at least 35 hours during the aforementioned period. Moreover, the fuel subsidy and the overall employment subsidy are mutually exclusive, meaning that a driver meeting the first cri-

teria will only be entitled to either one subsidy or the other.

The overall subsidy will issue monetary subsidies to eligible working groups. Should a taxi driver fit the criteria in the overall subsidy and able to claim this money, they will only be issued with the excess part remaining from the difference between this and the fuel subsidy.

The subsidy will gradually roll out in September. **AL**



ANALYSIS

# ONE YEAR AFTER AFGHANISTAN, US SPY AGENCIES PIVOT

NOMAAN MERCHANT,  
WASHINGTON

IN a recent closed-door meeting with leaders of the agency's counterterrorism center, the CIA's No. 2 official made clear that fighting al-Qaida and other extremist groups would remain a priority — but that the agency's money and resources would be increasingly shifted to focusing on China.

The CIA drone attack that killed al-Qaida's leader showed that fighting terrorism is hardly an afterthought. But it didn't change the message the agency's deputy director, David Cohen, delivered at that meeting weeks earlier: While the U.S. will continue to go after terrorists, the top priority is trying to better understand and counter Beijing.

One year after ending the war in Afghanistan, President Joe Biden and top national security officials speak less about counterterrorism and more about the political, economic and military threats posed by China as well as Russia. There's been a quiet pivot within intelligence agencies, which are moving hundreds of officers to China-focused positions, including some who were previously working on terrorism.

The last week makes clear that the U.S. has to deal with both at the same time. Days after Ayman al-Zawahri was killed in Kabul, China staged large-scale military exercises and threatened to cut off contacts with the U.S. over House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan.

The U.S. has long been alarmed by China's growing political and

economic ambitions. According to CIA, China has tried to influence foreign elections, mounted campaigns of cyber and corporate espionage, and detained millions of minority Uyghurs in camps — although Beijing has been vehemently denying these accusations. Some American experts also think Beijing will in coming years try to seize the self-ruled island of Taiwan by force.

Intelligence officials have said they need more insights on China, including after being unable to definitively pinpoint the cause of the COVID-19 pandemic.

And the war in Ukraine has underscored Russia's importance as a target. The U.S. used declassified information to expose Russian President Vladimir Putin's war plans before the invasion and rally diplomatic support for Kyiv.

Supporters of the Biden administration approach note that the U.S. was able to track and kill al-Zawahri is evidence of its capabilities to target threats in Afghanistan from abroad. Critics say the fact that al-Zawahri was living in Kabul, under the apparent protection of the Taliban, suggests there's a resurgence of extremist groups that America is ill-equipped to counter.

The shift in priorities is supported by many former intelligence officers and lawmakers from both parties who say it's overdue. That includes people who served in Afghanistan and other missions against al-Qaida and other terrorist groups.

AP PHOTO



Rep. Jason Crow, a former Army Ranger who served in Afghanistan and Iraq, said he believed the U.S. had been overly focused on counterterrorism over the last several years.

CIA spokesperson Tammy Thorp noted that terrorism "remains a very real challenge."

"Even as crises such as Russia's invasion of Ukraine and strategic challenges such as that posed by the People's Republic of China demand our attention, CIA will continue to aggressively track terrorist threats globally and work with partners to counter them," Thorp said.

Congress has pushed the CIA and other intelligence agencies to make China a top priority, according to several people familiar with the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive intelligence matters. Pushing resources toward China has required cuts elsewhere, including in counterterrorism. Specific figures were unavailable because intelligence

budgets are classified.

In particular, lawmakers want more information about China's development in advanced technologies. Under President Xi Jinping, China has committed trillions of dollars in investment on quantum science, artificial intelligence and other technologies that are likely to disrupt how future wars are fought and economies are structured.

As part of the shift, congressional committees are trying to better track how intelligence agencies spend their funding on China, seeking more detail about how specific programs contribute to that mission, one person familiar with the matter said.

"We are late, but it's good that we're finally changing our focus into that region," said Rep. Chris Stewart, a Utah Republican who serves on the House Intelligence

## Congress has pushed the CIA and other intelligence agencies to make China a top priority: sources

"A far greater existential threat is Russia and China," said Crow, a Colorado Democrat who serves on the House Intelligence and Armed Services committees. Terrorist groups, he said, "will not destroy the American way of life [...] the way China can."

STRAIT CRISIS

# Australia calls for cooling of Taiwan tensions

AUSTRALIAN Foreign Minister Penny Wong yesterday called for a cooling of tensions after Beijing accused her of "finger-pointing" in her criticism of China's military exercises in response to U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan.

Wong criticized China's launch of ballistic missiles during the ongoing air and sea drills around Taiwan, which Beijing claims as part of its territory. She also signed a joint statement with the United States and Japan on Saturday that condemned firing of missiles into Japanese exclusive economic zones and accused China of "raising tension and destabilizing the region."

The Chinese Embassy in Australia replied to the trilateral statement, saying: "It is absolutely unacceptable for the finger-pointing on China's justified actions to safeguard state sovereignty and territorial integrity."

The embassy accused Australia of doing the bidding of the United States, which China described as the "biggest saboteur and destabilizer of peace in the Taiwan Strait and the biggest troublemaker to regional stability."

"We ... hope that the Australian side could treat the Taiwan question with caution, does not follow certain countries' strategy of con-

taining China with Taiwan, and does not create new troubles and disturbances in China-Australia relations," an embassy statement said.

Wong declined to comment on the state of the Sino-Australian relationship following Pelosi's visit last week. Beijing had signaled a potential reset in the relationship following the new Australian government's election in May. Relations had plumbed new depths during the previous government's nine years in power.

"What is most critical at the moment is that the temperature is lowered and calm is restored when it comes to cross-strait tensions," Wong told reporters.

"Australia continues to urge restraint, Australia continues to urge de-escalation, and this is not something that solely Australia is calling for, and the whole region is concerned about the current situation, the whole region is calling for stability to be restored," Wong added.

Asked how Australia was a developing foreign policy independent of the United States, Wong told reporters: "Australia is always guided by our national interests."

She later hosted U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman at Parliament House. Sherman came to Australia after visiting Solomon Islands, Samoa and Tonga — South Pacific is-

land nations where China is increasing its influence.

Sherman said at the outset of talks with Wong that the United States and Australia "share a commitment in deepening cooperation with the Pacific islands who are critical partners."

Wong's call for restraint was backed by Latvian Foreign Minister Edgars Rinkevics, who was in the Australian capital Canberra for the opening of a new embassy.

Rinkevics drew parallels between Chinese military assertiveness over Taiwan with Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"It is very important to understand that China is also very carefully watching

AP PHOTO



what is happening in Europe, what is happening in Ukraine," he said. "It is very important that we work together and we provide the

# NOT TOWARD CHINA

Committee. "That means in people, in resources, in military assets, and in diplomacy."

The CIA last year announced it would create two new "mission centers" — one on China, one on emerging technologies — to centralize and improve intelligence collection on those issues. The CIA is also trying to recruit more Chinese speakers and reduce wait times on security clearances to hire new people faster.

Inside the agency, many officers are learning Chinese and moving into new roles focused on China, though not all of those jobs require language training, people familiar with the matter said.

Officials note that intelligence officers are trained to adapt to new challenges and that many were moved more quickly into counterterrorism roles after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Advances from counterterrorism work — including better use of data and different sources of intelligence to build networks and identify targets — are also useful in countering Russia and China, former officers said.

"It's the analytics and targeting machine that has become extraordinary," said Douglas Wise, a former CIA senior officer who was deputy chief of operations at the counterterrorism center.

The CIA's Counterterrorism Center, renamed the Counterterrorism Mission Center in a 2015 reorganization, remains a point of pride for many people who credit its work for keeping Americans safe from terrorism after Sept. 11. CIA officers landed in Afghanistan on Sept. 26, 2001, and were part of operations to displace the Taliban and find and

kill leaders of al-Qaida including Osama bin Laden.

And 13 years after a double agent tricked officers pursuing al-Zawahri and blew himself up, killing seven agency employees, the CIA killed him in a strike with no reported civilian casualties.

The CIA was also involved in some of the darkest moments of the fight against terrorism. It operated secret "black site" jails to hold terrorism suspects, some wrongly, and was found by a Senate investigation to have used interrogation methods that amounted to torture. Elite Afghan special operations units trained by the CIA were also accused of killing civilians and violating international law.

There's long been a debate over whether counterterrorism pulled intelligence agencies too far away from traditional spying and whether some of the CIA's work in targeting terrorists should instead be done by special forces under the military.

Marc Polymeropoulos is a retired CIA operations officer and former base chief in Afghanistan. He said he supports a greater focus on China and Russia but added, "There's no reason to diminish what we had to do."

"This notion that somehow all the CT work we did, somehow that was wrong, that we took our eye of the ball — just remember on Sept. 12 what everyone was feeling," he said.

Re-orienting the agencies toward more of a focus on China and Russia will ultimately take years and require both patience and recognition that the agency's culture will take time to change, Wise said. **MDT/AP**



Fighter jets of the Eastern Theater Command of the PLA conduct a joint combat training exercises around the Taiwan Island on Sunday

## STRAIT CRISIS

# Beijing extends threatening military exercises around Taiwan

**C**HINA said yesterday it was extending threatening military exercises surrounding Taiwan that have disrupted shipping and air traffic and substantially raised concerns about the potential for conflict in a region crucial to global trade.

The exercises would include anti-submarine drills, apparently targeting U.S. support for Taiwan in the event of a potential Chinese invasion, according to social media posts from the eastern leadership of China's ruling Communist Party's military arm, the People's Liberation Army.

The military has said the exercises involving missile strikes, warplanes and ship movements crossing the midline of the Taiwan Strait dividing the sides were a response to U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to the self-ruled island last week.

China has ignored calls to calm the tensions, and there was no immediate indication when it would end what amounts to a blockade.

On a visit to Myanmar, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Washington was "taking the opportunity to build up its mi-

litary deployment in the region, which deserves high vigilance and resolute boycott from all sides."

"China's firm stance" is aimed at "earnestly safeguarding peace across the Taiwan Strait and regional stability," Wang was quoted as saying by the official Xinhua News Agency.

Taiwan's defense ministry said Sunday it detected a total of 66 aircraft and 14 warships conducting the naval and air exercises. The island has responded by putting its military on alert and deploying ships, planes and other assets to monitor Chinese aircraft, ships and drones that are "simulating attacks on the island of Taiwan and our ships at sea."

Meanwhile, Taiwan's official Central News Agency reported that Taiwan's army will conduct live-fire artillery drills in southern Pingtung County on Tuesday and Thursday, in response to the Chinese exercises.

The drills will include snipers, combat vehicles, armored vehicles as well as attack helicopters, said the report, which cited an anonymous source.

China claims Taiwan as its own territory and has threatened to

annex it by force if necessary.

Taiwan leader Tsai Ing-wen has called on the international community to "support democratic Taiwan" and "halt any escalation of the regional security situation." The Group of Seven industrialized nations has also criticized China's actions, prompting Beijing to cancel a meeting between Foreign Minister Wang Yi and his Japanese counterpart, Yoshimasa Hayashi.

China has cut off defense and climate talks with the U.S. and imposed sanctions on Pelosi in retaliation for her visit.

The Biden administration and Pelosi say the U.S. remains committed to the "one-China" policy that extends formal diplomatic recognition to Beijing while allowing robust informal relations and defense ties with Taipei.

In Washington, Taiwan's de facto ambassador Bi-khim Hsiao said China had no reason to "be so furious," over Pelosi's visit, which follows a long tradition of American lawmakers visiting Taiwan.

"Well, you know, we have been living under the threat from China for decades," Hsiao told CBS News on Sunday. **MDT/AP**



Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong

same kind of message of the need to have a restraint, not to overreact in their actions and not to create another regional and global hotspot."

Latvia wants Russia declared a state sponsor of terrorism and has urged other countries to follow the Latvian lead by denying all Russians any type of visa. **MDT/AP**



HIROSHIMA

# UN chief urges nuke powers to abide by no-first-use pledge

MARI YAMAGUCHI, TOKYO

UNITED Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres yesterday urged countries with nuclear weapons to stick to their no-first-use commitment of their atomic arsenals, warning that the nuclear arms race has returned amid growing international tension.

"This is the moment ... to ask the nuclear-armed countries to commit to the principle of non-first-use and to commit to not use and not threaten the non-nuclear countries," Guterres said at a news conference in Tokyo, two days after he visited Hiroshima to commemorate victims of the Aug. 6, 1945, atomic bombing.

"I think that nobody, nobody can accept the idea that a new nuclear war would happen. This will be the destruction of the planet," Guterres said. "What is clear is if nobody uses for the first time then there will be no nuclear war."

Fears of a third atomic bombing have been on the rise amid Russia's threats of a nuclear attack since its

war on Ukraine began in February.

On Thursday, Moscow shelled the Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia, which holds Europe's largest nuclear plant. When asked about the attack, Guterres said, "Any attack to a nuclear plant is a suicidal thing."

He said he fully supports the International Atomic Energy Agency in their effort to stabilize the plant and have access to the facility to exercise its mandate.

Guterres said that after decades of nuclear disarmament efforts, the world is now "moving backwards," noting that the world already has 13,000 nuclear bombs and huge investment going into modernization of atomic arsenals. "So this is the time to say: Stop it."

Guterres said that the billions of dollars being used in the arms race should be spent on other pressing issues.

"The billions that are being used in this arms race need to be used to fighting climate change, fighting poverty, addressing the needs of the inter-

national community," he said.

He said he will be also going to Mongolia and South Korea to discuss ways to address North Korea's nuclear development.

**"Any attack to a nuclear plant is a suicidal thing."**

ANTÓNIO GUTERRES

Asked about China's ongoing military exercises surrounding Taiwan in response to U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit last week to the self-governing island, Guterres said the U.N. abides by the general assembly resolution supporting the "One China" policy, which acknowledges Beijing's view that it has sovereignty over Taiwan, but considers Taiwan's status as unsettled.

"We all want that resolution to correspond to a peaceful environment," he said, calling for "common sense and then restraint, allowing for de-escalation."

Earlier yesterday, Guterres met with Japanese

Foreign Minister Yoshi-masa Hayashi and shared "serious concern about the tense situation in the region and concurred on the importance of de-escalating the tension," the ministry said in a statement.

At a time when geopolitical tensions are rising and the nuclear threat is back in focus, Japan's strong and consistent voice on peace is more important than ever, Guterres said, urging Japan to use its unique position as the world's only country to have suffered atomic attacks to act as "a bridge-builder and peacemaker to strengthen global cooperation and trust and solidarity."

Guterres said he is counting on Japan's potential to take leadership on the global fight against climate change, and specifically urged Tokyo to stop funding coal plants.

Japan, which has not clarified the timing when it will fully ban coal-fired plants, has been seen as reluctant to commit itself to banning coal power as soon as many European countries.

Current efforts in Japan, the world's third-largest economy, are focused on developing methods to burn ammonia in conventional coal-fired plants and gradually phasing out use of coal possibly sometime in the 2040s. Japan also aims to promote the "clean coal" technology in Asia to achieve zero emissions.

Energy experts and critics say Japan currently has overly ambitious targets for nuclear energy to supply 20%-22% of its energy mix by 2030. By that time, the country has promised to cut emissions to 46% of 2013 levels.

"There is no such thing as clean coal," Guterres said. "For a real change, I hope Japanese public and private capital will stop financing coal completely."

Guterres said he expects Japan, through multilateral development banks, to "immediately deliver investments and support for developing countries to expand renewables and build climate resilience" to find solutions that fit their needs in addressing the climate emergency.

"I call for Japan to make the right choice — for Japan and for the world," he said. **MDT/AP**

## this day in history

### 1945 ATOM BOMB HITS NAGASAKI

American forces have dropped an atomic bomb on Nagasaki - the second such attack on Japan in three days.

The bomb was dropped by parachute from an American B29 Bomber at 1102 local time.

It exploded about 1,625 ft (500m) above the ground and is believed to have completely destroyed the city, which is situated on the western side of the Japanese island of Kyushu.

In a statement issued from Guam, General Carl A Spaatz, Commander of the US Strategic Air Forces in the Pacific, said: "The second use of the atomic bomb occurred at noon, August 9, at Nagasaki."

"Crew members report good results. No further details will be available until the mission returns."

American airmen flying many miles from Nagasaki have said smoke from fires in the city was rising 50,000ft (15,240m).

Nagasaki is one of Japan's most important ports providing vital access to and from Shanghai.

Three days ago a similar device was dropped on the city of Hiroshima on Japan's largest island, Honshu.

The extent of the damage caused to Hiroshima is not yet known but Japanese broadcasts indicate that "enormous devastation" has been done.

No reaction to the Nagasaki attack has yet been given by Japan but pressure is growing on the country to surrender. Yesterday the USSR joined forces with the allies and declared war on Japan.

The Americans have also warned the Japanese people that further attacks of a similar nature will be made unless they petition their emperor to surrender.

More than three million leaflets were dropped over the country today from American aeroplanes warning the Japanese people that more atomic weapons would be used "again and again" to destroy the country unless they ended the war forthwith.

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Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

About 30% of Nagasaki, including almost all the industrial district was destroyed by the bomb and nearly 74,000 were killed and a similar number injured.

The bomb, nick-named "Fat Man" in a reference to Winston Churchill, measured just under 3.5m (11ft 4in) in length, had the power of 22 kilotons of TNT and weighed 4,050kg (9,000lbs).

The attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were the first time atomic bombs had been used in warfare.





Residents of both cities are still suffering the physical and mental consequences of radiation to this day.

On 14 August Japan surrendered to the Allies.

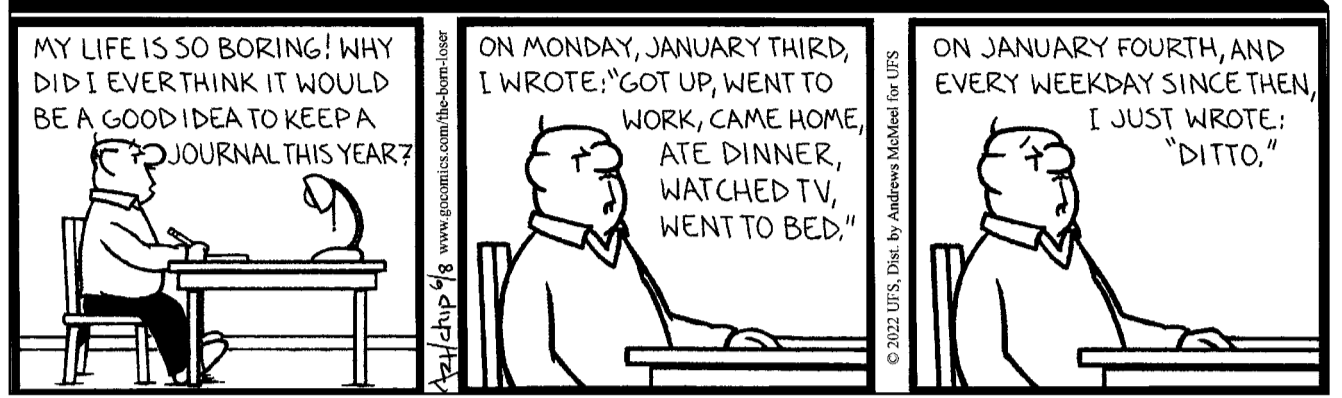


MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

 <b>ARIES</b> Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You will learn a great deal from the foreigners you meet. You may be overreacting to personal problems. It's a great day to attend social functions.	 <b>TAURUS</b> Apr. 20-May. 20 Get involved in sports events that will benefit your physical appearance. Sudden changes regarding your domestic scene are probable.
 <b>GEMINI</b> May. 21-Jun. 21 Legal matters that have been pending may be alleviated through compromise. You may find that relationships are not going as well as you'd like. Encourage the youngsters in your family.	 <b>CANCER</b> Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You may want to plan physical activities that will help burn off some of their excess energy. You can make wonderful contributions to any organization that you join.
 <b>LEO</b> Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Do not overexpand if you have your own business. Sit tight. Travel opportunities should be your first choice. Don't cause a scene, but when you get home let your partner know how you feel and why.	 <b>VIRGO</b> Aug. 23-Sep. 22 Do not reveal personal information to those you feel may be untrustworthy. People who try to persuade you to do things their way will annoy you. Don't let your health suffer because of worry.
 <b>LIBRA</b> Sep. 23-Oct. 22 You will meet new romantic partners if you get involved in seminars or travel. Payoff all your debts before you go out and celebrate. Your ability to help others will win you points.	 <b>SCORPIO</b> Oct. 23-Nov. 21 You will need to finalize important deals today. Don't let your stubborn nature get the better of you. You mustn't take on other people's responsibilities or you may find yourself irritable and exhausted.
 <b>SAGITTARIUS</b> Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Your outgoing, aggressive nature will attract someone you've been eager to meet. Attend to things that you should have done yesterday. Concentrate on your career and on making money.	 <b>CAPRICORN</b> Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Don't reveal anything about your personal life that could be used adversely. Short trips may be tiring but rewarding. Don't hesitate to come right out and ask for the pertinent information.
 <b>AQUARIUS</b> Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Opportunities to make money may interfere with your personal plans. You will have a productive day if you organize yourself well at work. Get help setting up a reasonable budget.	 <b>PISCES</b> Feb. 19-Mar. 20 Your ability to charm others will put you in the limelight at social functions. Dream a little today. You will impress others with your initiative and ability to accomplish while on short business trips.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sansom**



**SUDOKU**

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

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

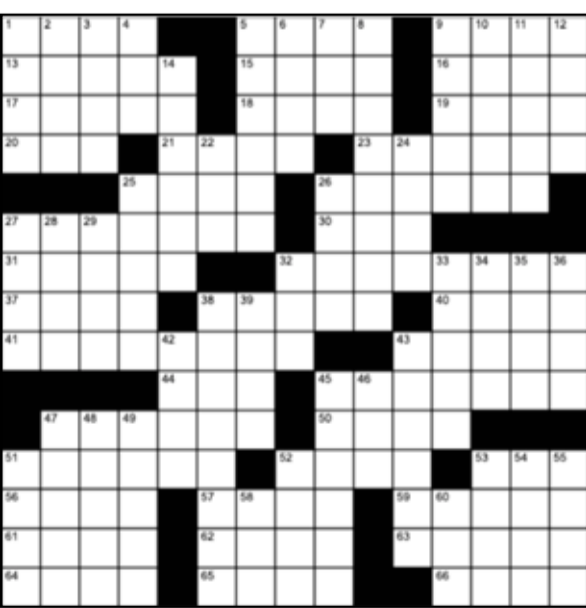
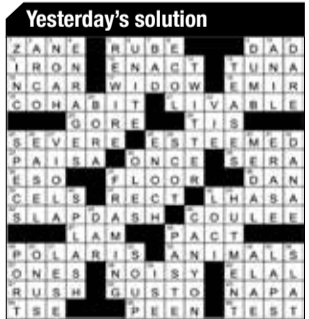
**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	22	28	rain
Changchun	16	27	cloudy
Chengdu	26	36	fine
Chongqing	31	39	fine
Fuzhou	26	37	fine
Guangzhou	25	33	rain
Guiyang	20	29	cloudy
Haikou	25	29	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	29	40	fine
Harbin	16	27	fine
Hefei	27	39	fine
Nanjing	29	39	cloudy
Shanghai	29	38	fine
Taipei	26	32	fine
Wuhan	30	38	cloudy
Hong Kong	28	29	thunderstorms
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	13	19	rain
Frankfurt	17	31	overcast
Paris	19	32	fine
London	15	28	overcast
New York	25	36	overcast

**CROSSWORDS**

ACROSS 1- Hunk; 5- Ayatollah's predecessor; 9- Dutch name of The Hague; 13- Dike, Eumonia and Irene; 15- River to the Seine; 16- The King \_\_\_; 17- Follows orders; 18- Hurler Hershiser; 19- Sincere; 20- Get thee \_\_\_ nunery; 21- Quote; 23- Mountain range; 25- Lepidopterous insect; 26- Pilot; 27- Unfavorable; 30- Kind of fingerprint; 31- Pay for; 32- Something easy or certain; 37- Regretted; 38- Model Campbell; 40- It's blown among the reeds; 41- According; 43- Elude; 44- Do one's part?; 45- Add sugar; 47- Walk stealthily; 50- Bring home the bacon; 51- Meal; 52- Abominable snowman; 53- Guido's high note; 56- OPEC member; 57- Frozen treats; 59- Politico Kefauver; 61- Kind of prof.; 62- Tidy, without fault; 63- Cheek cosmetic; 64- Not as much; 65- Architect Saarinen; 66- Galileo's birthplace;

DOWN 1- Ammo; 2- Timber wolf; 3- Neck of the woods; 4- Sea arm; 5- Assuage; 6- Charter; 7- Enzyme ending; 8- Capital of Finland; 9- Seraglio; 10- The end of \_\_\_; 11- I don't give \_\_\_; 12- Arizona river; 14- Go with; 22- T.G.I.F. part; 24- Dies \_\_\_; 25- Gettysburg general; 26- Economist Smith; 27- Gillette brand; 28- Medicine; 29- Change direction; 32- Gear tooth; 33- Interlaced; 34- Blind as \_\_\_; 35- Prospector's find; 36- Sharp; 38- Poisonous alkaloid; 39- Poker stake; 42- Consumes; 43- More spiningling; 45- Takes care of; 46- Buddhist temple; 47- Pithy; 48- Bridge declaration; 49- Trousers; 51- Unit of currency in Iran and Yemen; 52- 365 days; 53- Sewing case; 54- Staying power; 55- On the briny; 58- Bee follower; 60- Dip in liquid;



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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BUY



RENT

**FOR RENT**

- MANHATTAN | 4 BEDS HKD 18,800
- 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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PHILANTHROPY

# NONPROFITS LAUNCH USD100M PLAN TO SUPPORT LOCAL HEALTH WORKERS

THALIA BEATY

A new philanthropic project hopes to invest \$100 million in 10 countries, mostly in Africa, by 2030 to support 200,000 community health workers, who serve as a critical bridge to treatment for people with limited access to medical care.

The Skoll Foundation and The Johnson & Johnson Foundation announced yesterday that they donated a total of \$25 million to the initiative. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, which will oversee the project, matched the donations and hopes to raise an additional \$50 million.

The investment seeks to empower the frontline workers that experts say are essential to battling outbreaks of COVID-19, Ebola and HIV.

"What have we found out in terms of community health workers?" said Francisca Mutapi, a professor at the University of Edinburgh,



AP PHOTO

who helps lead a multiyear project to treat neglected tropical diseases in multiple African countries. "They are very popular. They are very effective. They are very cost effective."

On a recent trip to Zimbabwe for research, Mutapi described how a communi-

ty health worker negotiated the treatment of a parasitic infection in a young child who was part of a religious group that doesn't accept clinical medicine.

"She's going to the river, getting on with her day-to-day business, and she notices that one of the children

in her community is complaining about a stomachache," said Mutapi.

The woman approached the child's grandmother for permission to bring the child to a clinic, which diagnosed and began treating the child for bilharzia. That would not have happened without the woman's intervention, Mutapi said.

Ashley Fox, an associate professor specializing in global health policy at Albany, SUNY, said evidence shows community health workers can effectively deliver low-cost care "when they are properly equipped and trained and paid—that's a big caveat."

Though the current number of these workers is not well documented, in 2017, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention estimated that the continent required 2 million to meet health targets. Many of these workers are women and unpaid, though The Global Fund advocates for some sort of salary for them.

"It's hard to think of a better set of people that you would want to be paying if you think about it from both the point of view of creating good jobs as well as maximizing the health impact," said Peter Sands, the fund's executive director.

The Global Fund, founded in 2002, channels international financing with the aim of eradicating treatable infectious diseases. In addition to its regular three-year grants to countries, it will deploy these new philan-

thropic donations through a catalytic fund to encourage spending on some of the best practices and program designs.

Last Mile Health, part of the Africa Frontline First health initiative, has worked with the Liberian government to expand and strengthen its community health program since 2016.

In the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, former Liberian president and Noble Peace Prize recipient, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, convened Last Mile Health and other organizations to grapple with a response.

"We were all kind of seeing the deja vu moment of recalling back to a couple of years ago where Liberia was beset by this tragic epidemic of Ebola," said Nan Chen, managing director of Last Mile Health. "And as President Sirleaf reminded us: the tide was turned when we turned to the community."

Along with the other organizations that specialize in the financing, research and policy of public health, they set about designing an initiative to expand community health programs and to capitalize on the attention the pandemic brought to the need for disease surveillance.

The catalytic fund is the result. "I think the pandemic has shone a light on the critical role of these health workers," said Lauren Moore, vice president of global community impact at Johnson & Johnson.

Don Gips, CEO of the

Skoll Foundation, emphasized that these workers also can raise early warnings that benefit people everywhere.

"It's critical not just for delivering health care in Africa, but this is how we'll also catch the next set of diseases that could threaten populations around the world," said Gips, who is also the former U.S. ambassador to South Africa.

Last Mile Health won a major donation from Skoll Foundation in 2017 and has also received large donations from the Audacious Project from TED and Co-Impact, another funding collective. The organization's co-founder, Raj Panjabi, now serves in the Biden administration.

"What philanthropy has noticed about Last Mile Health is that we were not only taking direct action on the problem by actively managing community health worker programs, but that we were seeing our innovation adopted in national policy at scale," said James Nardella, the organization's chief program officer.

SUNY's Fox and other experts say linking the work of community health care workers to the national health system is a priority, along with securing sustainable funding for their programs.

The Global Fund said it will assist countries with the design of proposed community health care worker expansions over the next year.

Chen acknowledged there is no silver bullet for the issue of sustainability.

"Part of the work that organizations like Last Mile Health have to do is to sit in that discomfort and wrestle with it, with our partners, with donors, until we incrementally squeeze out the solution here," Chen said.

Mutapi said eventually governments must fund the programs themselves and she argued the experiences of places like Zimbabwe and Liberia with community health workers could benefit people in other contexts as well.

"Actually having lived on Scottish islands, which are inaccessible," she said, the innovation of community health workers is "something that actually can be exported to Western communities that are remote because that connection between a health provider and the local community is really important for compliance and for access." MDT/AP

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**GOLF**

# Kim arrives on PGA Tour with 61 to win Wyndham Championship

**T**HE last five weeks feels like three months to 20-year-old Joohyung “Tom” Kim, and for good reason. The South Korean kid who named himself after a cartoon train is on the fast track.

He got a rare PGA Tour start in the Scottish Open because of his standing on a Korean tour points list, hopeful of doing well enough to get a shot at the Korn Ferry Tour finals.

Now he's a PGA Tour winner who is No. 21 in the world and headed to the FedEx Cup playoffs, and he can probably count on a spot with the International team at the Presidents Cup.

All aboard with Tom the Train!

“It's been a crazy month,” Kim said.

He announced his arrival on the PGA Tour at the Wyndham Championship, where he began the tournament with a quadruple-bogey 8 and finished it with a 9-under 61 for a five-shot victory.



Joohyung Kim, of South Korea, watches his approach shot on the eighth hole during the final round of the Wyndham Championship golf tournament in Greensboro, N.C., Sunday

“I'm really, really happy for Tom,” said Sungjae Im, who completed the rain-delayed third round Sunday morning

with a one-shot lead and couldn't keep up with Kim, because no one could. Kim shot 27 on the front nine that left everyo-

ne in his wake.

“He's a great kid and to come out here and to win on tour as a nonmember and secure your card is really not an easy task and he achieved that,” Im said.

Kim, who turned 20 in June, is the second-youngest winner on the PGA Tour since World War II. Jordan Spieth was two weeks away from turning 20 when he won 2013 John Deere Classic.

The victory gave Kim instant membership on the PGA Tour, making him eligible for the FedEx Cup playoffs that start next week. He is No. 34, assured of playing two postseason events and with a reasonable shot at getting to the finale at East Lake.

Im had a 68 and tied for second along with John Huh (67).

Kim spent his developmental years in the Philippines and in Australia. He already had won three times on the Asian Development Tour and once in Korea before making his American debut at age 18 in the 2020 PGA

Championship at Harding Park.

As for the name? He was a big fan as a young boy of Thomas the Tank Engine in the TV series “Thomas & Friends.”

“You're supposed to let your parents name yourself and I was like, ‘Nope, I'm to name myself Thomas.’ I loved the show as a kid. I haven't watched it or anything, but apparently I really loved the train.”

The other option — he was a big “Toy Story” fan — would have been Buzz Lightyear. That would have worked. The kid is creating quite the buzz, and he's light years ahead of others his age.

Only Rory McIlroy and Sergio Garcia were younger when they reached as high as No. 21 in the world ranking.

Kim finished third in the Scottish Open, the first time it was co-sanctioned by the PGA Tour, and his goal was to get enough FedEx Cup points to finish equal to the top 200 so he could earn his card through a series of Korn Ferry Tour events late in the summer.

He earned special temporary PGA Tour membership when he made the cut at the British Open. He secured a PGA Tour card last week with a seventh-place finish in the Rocket Mortgage Classic. The stress gone, not even an opening quadruple bogey rattled him. **MDT/AP**

AD

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SINCE 1996

**OPINION**

**Multipolar World**

Jorge Costa Oliveira



**'LET'S ELIMINATE NUCLEAR WEAPONS BEFORE THEY ELIMINATE US'**

We've known for several decades that there is no way for our civilization and most life on the planet to survive a nuclear war, even a limited one, and the ensuing nuclear winter. During the Cold War, nuclear deterrence worked through the "balance of terror." For this to be possible, all nuclear powers must keep their weapons under tight control.

However, there is the risk of technical errors, accidents, and false alarms that could trigger the use of nuclear weapons. A nuclear power could mistakenly believe it is under attack. A nuclear bomb that detonates accidentally — or even a false alarm — could prompt nuclear retaliation since several countries keep their nuclear weapons in a "launch on warning" protocol.

For nuclear deterrence to be well-balanced, all parties must be in control at all times. This, however, is not the case. There have been several situations where one power has been close to the risk of using nuclear weapons. There is also the risk of an irresponsible person leading a country that possesses nuclear weapons. There is the further risk of nuclear terrorism, should a terrorist organization acquire such weapons. And there is the possibility that hackers could seize control of the nuclear chain of command.

To mitigate the underlying risks, international agreements have been established: the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the Strategic Arms Reduction Agreement (or START) between the United States and Russia and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Although the United Nations has formally adopted the TPNW, which became effective last year with 86 signatory states, the major nuclear powers — Russia, the U.S., China, France, and the U.K. (the P5) — have refused to support the treaty, arguing that the NPT, coupled with direct negotiations between the nuclear powers, represents the most realistic long-term path to nuclear disarmament.

The upcoming NPT Review Conference this month, the first in seven years, is a pivotal opportunity for the P5 and other nuclear states to demonstrate that they are serious about this threat and remain committed to nuclear disarmament. But the outlook for progress is not looking good. And the reluctance of the P5 to reduce their stockpile of nuclear warheads is legitimizing the nuclear aspirations of a growing number of emerging powers.

The START agreement between the United States and Russia is due to expire in February 2026, and it is very likely that a major agreement limiting nuclear weapons between the two traditional nuclear superpowers will cease to exist for the first time in over 50 years. And there are still over 10,000 nuclear warheads.

While there is increasing global pressure upon world leaders to take action on climate change, there is little pressure regarding the eradication or reduction of the nuclear arsenals which pose an equally pressing existential threat to life on Earth. It is necessary to increase this pressure, as UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has in recent days: "Let's eliminate nuclear weapons before they eliminate us."

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**FIBER OPTIC CABLE THEFT HALTS SPANISH BULLET TRAIN SERVICE**

Hundreds of rail passengers using the line between Madrid and Barcelona were left stranded for hours after some 600 meters of fiber optic cable used in the signaling system were stolen, Spain's railway infrastructure company ADIF said yesterday.

The overnight theft in the Catalonia region forced the suspension of the bullet train service linking Spain's two biggest cities, as many people headed off for their summer vacation.

Passengers crowded platforms before trains began running

again in the late morning. Passenger José Luis told the Associated Press at Madrid's Atocha station that he had been waiting for hours to catch his train to Barcelona.

Catalonia regional police Mossos d'Esquadra said one person had been arrested for stealing around 600 meters of cable. An ADIF spokesperson told the AP service would be fully restored around midday and estimated that at least 15 train departures would be canceled.

**THE BUZZ**

AP PHOTO



A dawn service at Bloody Ridge is underway as part of commemorations to mark the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Guadalcanal near Honiara, Solomon Islands

**JAPANESE SAILOR ATTACKED AT SOLOMON ISLANDS MEMORIAL SERVICE**

**NICK PERRY, WELLINGTON**

A Japanese sailor was attacked yesterday in the Solomon Islands during a World War II memorial service that was also attended by U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman.

Radio New Zealand reported that the victim was part of a Japanese navy media team and that he was stabbed in the neck with a pair of scissors, receiving minor injuries.

The Solomon Islands government was hosting the dawn service at Bloody Ridge as part of commemorations to mark the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Guadalcanal.

Radio New Zealand spoke with medics who said the sailor would require stitches but was doing well. Bloody Ridge community chief Wesley Ramo said the suspect was from a neighboring community, was under the influence and mentally unstable.

Also attending the ceremony were Makoto Oniki,

Japan's state minister of defense, and Peeni Henare, New Zealand's defense minister.

The suspect reportedly tackled the sailor to the ground during the attack before locals and U.S. military personnel stepped in and detained him. Police then took him away and the ceremony resumed after a short break.

**Radio New Zealand spoke with medics who said the Japanese sailor would require stitches but was doing well**

Commemorations are being held over three days in the Solomon Islands to mark the anniversary of the battle. Bloody Ridge is a small hill where in Sept. 1942, U.S. Marines held off a Japanese force that was attacking a military airfield.

Sherman is part of a high-profile diplomatic delegation that the U.S. sent to the Solomons, which also includes U.S. Ambassador to Australia Caroline Kennedy.

The trip holds a personal interest for Sherman and Kennedy, whose fathers both fought there during World War II.

Kennedy on Sunday met with the children of two Solomon men who, during the war, helped rescue her father, the late President John F. Kennedy, after his boat was rammed and sunk by a Japanese destroyer.

In an emotional moment, Kennedy gave the children a replica of the coconut husk that her father had used to write a message asking for help, news organization Stuff reported.

The trip comes after the U.S. and several Pacific nations expressed deep concern about a security pact the Solomons signed with China in April, which many fear could result in a military buildup in the region.

As part of her trip, Sherman has also visited the Pacific nations of Samoa and Tonga and plans to visit Australia and New Zealand. **MDT/AP**

**Afghanistan** A late night roadside bombing in eastern Afghanistan struck a vehicle carrying members of the Pakistani Taliban group, killing a senior leader and three other militants, Pakistani officials and militant figures said yesterday. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the Sunday night killing of Abdul Wali, also widely known as Omar Khalid Khurasani, in Afghanistan's Paktika province. His death is a heavy blow to the Pakistani Taliban, the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan group or the TTP.

AP PHOTO



**Ukraine** The echo of artillery shells thundering in the distance mingles with the din of people gathered around Sloviansk's public water pumps, piercing the uneasy quiet that smothers the nearly deserted streets of this eastern Ukrainian city. The members of Sloviansk's dwindling population only emerge — a few minutes at a time — to fill up at the pumps that have been the city's only water source for more than two months. More on [macaudailytimes.com](https://www.macaudailytimes.com)

AP PHOTO



**Rwanda's** government is rejecting a report by United Nations experts saying they have "solid evidence" that members of Rwanda's armed forces are conducting operations in eastern Congo in support of the M23 rebel group whose deadly resurgence has led to talk of war as well as protests against the U.N. peacekeeping force. The report is a "tactic to distract from real issues," an official said.

AP PHOTO



**USA** Pfizer is buying sickle cell drug maker Global Blood Therapeutics in an approximately \$5.4 billion deal as it looks to accelerate growth after its revenue soared during the pandemic. GBT is the developer of Oxbryta tablets, which directly targets the root cause of sickle cell disease. Oxbryta sales were about \$195 million last year. Pfizer will pay \$68.50 per share in cash for each GBT share.