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AP PHOTO



**Indonesia's** president called on all citizens to remain united, vigilant and alert as they face crises fueled by the war in Ukraine and coronavirus pandemic in his State of the Nation address yesterday. After two years of remote meetings amid pandemic restrictions, more than half of Indonesia's Parliament was in attendance as President Joko Widodo told them that regional tensions are threatening security.

AP PHOTO



**Crimea** Explosions and fires ripped through an ammunition depot in Russia-annexed Crimea yesterday in the second suspected Ukrainian attack on the peninsula in just over a week, forcing the evacuation of more than 3,000 people. Russia blamed the blasts in the village of Mayskoye on an "act of sabotage" without naming the perpetrators.

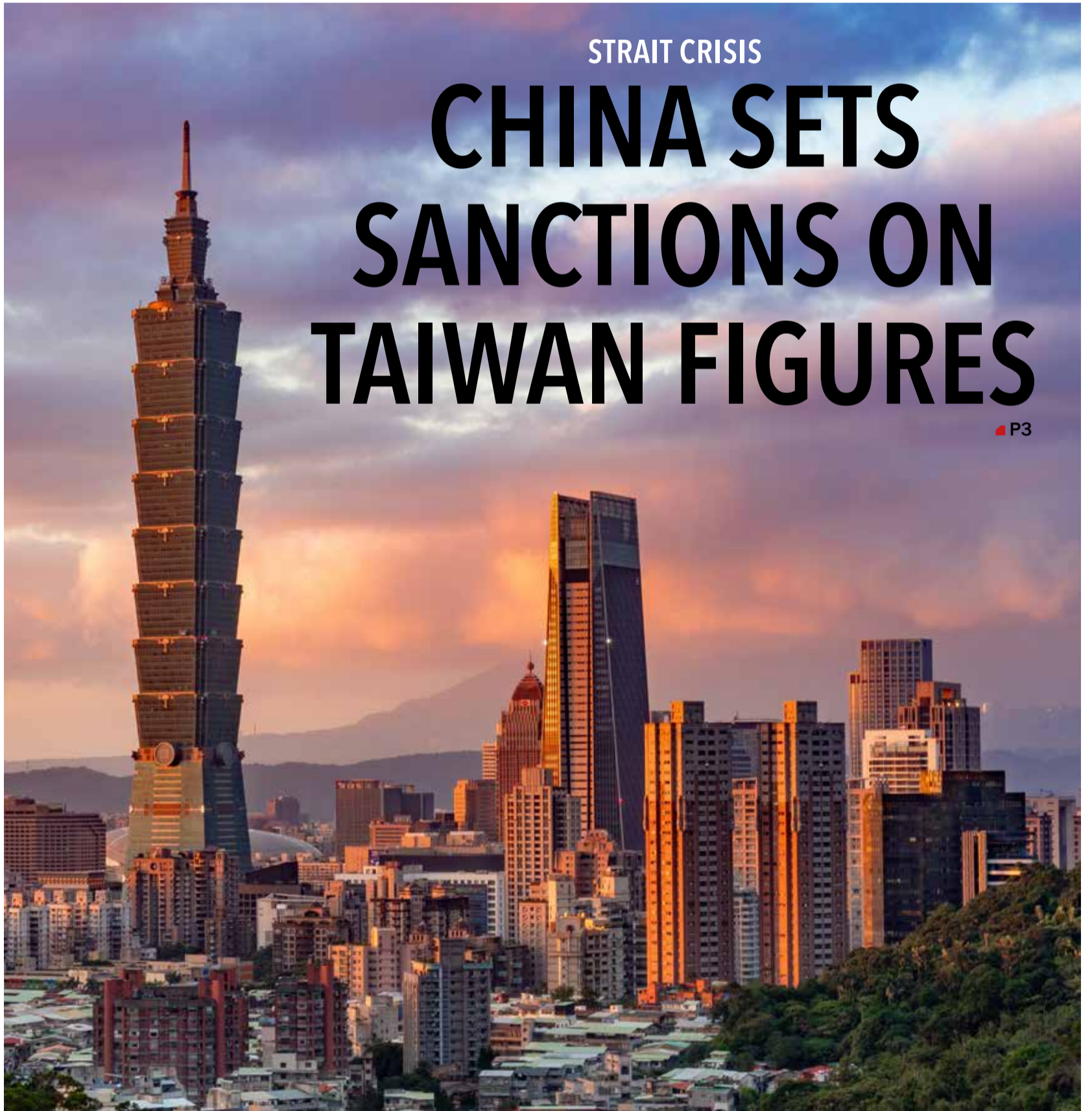
**Britain's** police watchdog is investigating after armed officers pulled over Portuguese sprinter Ricardo dos Santos' car in London two years after a traffic stop of the athlete led to accusations of racial profiling. The Metropolitan Police force said officers on a routine patrol pulled over a car in west London early Sunday because they thought the driver might be using a mobile phone at the wheel. The force said officers spoke to the driver, who then went on his way.

AP PHOTO



**Scotland** A law has taken effect in Scotland to ensure period products are available free of charge to anyone who needs them. The Scottish government said it became the first in the world to legally protect the right to access free period products when its Period Products Act came into force Monday.

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STRAIT CRISIS

# CHINA SETS SANCTIONS ON TAIWAN FIGURES

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## FISHING BOATS NEW ANCHORAGE REGULATION TO BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER

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### SANDS SHOPPING CARNIVAL TO BE HELD FROM SEPT. 10

The Sands Shopping Carnival will take place from September 10 to 12, after the event, originally to be held in July, was postponed due to the suspension of non-essential businesses and activities brought about by the pandemic. To be held at The Venetian Macao's Cotai Expo for a third year, the three-day event will feature more than 580 booths. The event provides a free business platform for local SMEs and Sands retailers. The carnival will also include an international cuisine food court area, activities and games for children, as well as the newly-added Healthy Lifestyle and Sport Accessories areas.

### CLOSED-CIRCUIT WORKER TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID

A 24-year-old employee working under closed-circuit management at Treasure Hotel has tested positive for Covid-19. Some people who are under medical observation at the hotel will need to extend their period of medical observation until August 20 as a result. The Health Bureau requires high-risk workers to undergo a nucleic acid test at least once every two days.

### SAR, CHINA MEDIA GROUP LAUNCH NEW ROUND OF COOPERATION

Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng said a new round of cooperation between the SAR government and China Media Group (CMG) would further promote Macau's "distinctive cultural image and the richness of the city's customs." Ho was speaking at an online ceremony – held simultaneously in Macau and Beijing on Monday – to mark the launch of the new round of cooperation. The new round of cooperation would be "rich in terms of content and diversity, based on the good foundations of existing collaboration," according to Ho.



### GAMING

# COLLABORATION DUTY DROPPED FROM 'JUNKETS BILL'

RENATO MARQUES

**T**he infamous Article 56 of the new law to regulate casino activities, also called the "junkets bill," has been dropped from the bill's final version by the second standing committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL).

The article had sparked polemic among lawmakers and the public because it called for collaboration between those entities providing information to the government regarding the activities of the casinos, gaming promoters (junkets) and management entities, among others.

According to the president of the committee, lawmaker Chan Chak Mo, Article 56 has been completely erased from the latest version of the bill, after the committee finalized its review yesterday. The duty of providing the necessary documentation to the concessionaires has been added to Article 5.

Responding to a media inquiry, Chan said that after the previous discussion and the concerns expressed, "the government decided that the scope of the former Arti-

cle 56 was too broad and, because it could eventually be imposed on any person or entity, it was too subjective. We also thought that this could create a problem and now the government has decided to remove it completely."

To ensure that junkets, and management companies or entities behave responsibly, the requirements were added to a new Article 5. Chan said that in order "to ensure the reputation and the financial capacity of the companies, the concessionaires must provide the necessary documentation to the Gaming Inspection, and Coordination Bureau (DICJ)."

Explaining the difference, Chan noted that the requirement now stipulates that the concessionaires have the responsibility to provide enough information to DICJ.

Asked whether this solution finally solves the potential problems raised in the past over the breaching of the duty of professional confidentiality by lawyers or legal advisors as well as accountants and auditors, Chan said that it is now clear that the DICJ will not request information from any

entity except the concessionaires.

"If there is a need to provide a document or a certificate that is in the possession of the lawyers or accountants, it is the concessionaire that should ask for it and then present it to the DICJ," he clarified.

He added that, "according to the new version of Article 5, especially section 2, if the concessions

cannot provide the documents, it's presumed that the entity or company lacks the reputation or financial capacity," Chan said.

### COMMITTEE ASKED GOV'T TO SET A DATE

Lawmakers on the second committee of the AL are concerned the government has not clearly stated a precise date for the law to be enforced.

Lawmakers want the government to set a date and to clarify whether it will be January 1, 2023, like the new gaming law to which it is related, or a different date.

The government explained it decided to state the law will come into force from the date of the new gaming concession contracts because the government cannot ensure all gaming concession contracts will be signed and come into force on the same day.

But lawmakers still think that, to avoid confusion and misinterpretation, the government should find a way of establishing a precise date.

### ID CARD FOR JUNKETS STAFF

This last meeting of the second standing committee of the AL also questioned how patrons and authorities would be able to determine whether a staff member working on the gaming floor is part of the concessionaire, or from a junket.

Lawmakers proposed that all junket staff members wear a uniform identification card, approved by the DICJ, so they may be easily distinguished from other concessionaire workers.

Responding to the call of the lawmakers, Chan said the government would consider the matter and see if there is a need for an identification card as well as a uniform model for all the promoters.

## NEW LAW TO REGULATE CREDIT FOR GAMING NOT CRUCIAL

**ONE** article of the bill mentions the need for it to relate to the regulation on the attribution of credit for gaming.

As the bill notes, and as the president of the second standing committee of the AL also mentioned, this regulation will be separate from both the gaming law and the law for the operation of casino games, being a separate and autonomous bill.

Acknowledging that the amendments to this law have not yet been presented by the government to the AL, lawmakers also

questioned the government statement that, although there is an intention to update this regulation soon, the current law, which dates from 2019, is still sufficient to handle most cases, and that this is the reason the government is not rushing to present a new bill.

The same government officials added that this law can enter into force in combination with the current law of credit for gaming activities, noting that it is not crucial to amend it before the new gaming laws come into force.

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# Diehard 'Taiwan independence' separatists banned from entry to mainland, SARs

**B**EIJING yesterday announced sanctions on "Taiwan independence" diehards on a Chinese mainland's list.

To resolutely punish "Taiwan independence" diehard elements, it is decided that Bi-khim Hsiao, Koo Li-hsiung, Tsai Chi-chang, Ker Chien-ming, Lin Fei-fan, Chen Jiau-hua and Wang Ting-yu are listed as diehard "Taiwan independence" separatists, and punitive measures are imposed on them, a spokesperson of the Taiwan Work Office of the Communist Party of China Central Committee announced.

Punitive measures were also imposed on Su Tseng-chang, You Si-kun and Jaushieh Joseph Wu, who had already been on the list, said the spokesperson.

They and their family members are banned from entering the mainland and the special administrative regions of Hong Kong and Macau. Their affiliated institutions are restricted from forging cooperation with relevant organizations and individuals on the mainland.

The enterprises related to them, as well as their sponsors, are prohibited from engaging in profit-making activities on the mainland. Other punitive measures will also be taken. They will be held to lifelong accountability according to law, said the spokesperson.

Sanctions are also imposed on the president of

the "Taiwan Foundation for Democracy," and the secretary general of the "International Cooperation and Development Fund." They are banned from entering the mainland, and the special administrative regions of Hong Kong and Macau, said the spokesperson. You Si-kun is the chairman of the "Taiwan Foundation for Democracy." Jaushieh Joseph Wu is the chairman of the "International Cooperation and Development Fund."

Actions seeking "Taiwan independence" constitute the biggest obstacle to China's reunification and a grave danger to the national rejuvenation.

For some time, a few diehard separatist elements, out of their own interests, have gone to their lengths to collude with external forces in provocations advocating "Taiwan independence." They have deliberately instigated confrontations across the Taiwan Strait, and recklessly undermined peace and stability in the region.

Their activities became all the more egregious during the visit by Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi to China's Taiwan region, further exposing their obstinate nature in seeking "Taiwan independence," the spokesperson said.

The Chinese mainland will never tolerate any kind of activity to split the country, will never allow any external force to interfere in its national reunification,

and will leave no room for separatist activities seeking "Taiwan independence" in any form, said the spokesperson.

China's reunification is a historical trend and the right path, while "Taiwan independence" goes against the tide of history, and it is a path to nowhere, said the spokesperson.

The names of diehard separatists announced today are only a part of the list, said the spokesperson.

"We seriously warn diehard 'Taiwan independence' separatists to avoid going down the wrong path further. Anyone who deliberately challenges the law will face severe punishment," said the spokesperson. "No one should underestimate our resolve, will and ability to defend China's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

We expect Taiwan compatriots to become fully aware of a few "Taiwan independence" separatists' nature of harming Taiwan, and to grasp where their own interests and well-being hinge.

We hope compatriots in Taiwan will consciously make a clean break with "Taiwan independence" separatists, resolutely resist and oppose actions advocating "Taiwan independence," and join hands with compatriots on the mainland in advancing the peaceful development of cross-strait relations and the process toward national reunification, said the spokesperson. MDT/XINHUA

AD

Lei n.º 14/2021

## "Regime jurídico da construção urbana"

entra em vigor em 17 de Agosto de 2022

### Reparação e conservação periódica do edifício

Decorridos **10 anos** após a emissão da licença de utilização e em cada **5 anos** subsequentes  
Falta de reparação e conservação do edifício

Os proprietários devem realizar, por iniciativa própria, as obras de reparação e conservação do edifício.

Os proprietários são responsáveis pela reparação e conservação do edifício e têm o dever de o manter sempre em boas condições. Quando se verificarem sinais de falta de reparação e conservação, a DSSCU exige aos proprietários que apresentem um "Relatório sobre o estado do edifício" com a descrição dos trabalhos, intervenções ou obras necessários a executar.

### Combate às obras ilegais

Execução de obras ilegais:

sancionada com multa de **5 000 a 2 000 000 patacas.**

Incumprimento da ordem de demolição:

sancionada com multa de **5 000 a 500 000 patacas.**

Em casos de infracções graves, pode ser suspenso o fornecimento de água e energia eléctrica e em caso do incumprimento da ordem de demolição, a DSSCU comunica à Conservatório do Registo Predial para o averbamento do referido incumprimento no registo predial.

A eliminação das obras ilegais depende principalmente do cumprimento da lei e da cooperação da população, pelo que não se devem executar obras ilegais no sentido de salvaguardar o bem-estar das pessoas.

### Melhoria da qualidade de obras

Fixação de um prazo mínimo de garantia de obras:

**10 anos** para fundações e estrutura principal do edifício.

**5 anos** para demais partes e instalações do edifício.



Durante o prazo de garantia, o empreiteiro é obrigado a assumir a responsabilidade pela reparação dos vícios em obras realizadas.

Em articulação com a implementação da lei, o Regulamento Administrativo n.º 38/2022 (Regulamentação do Regime jurídico da construção urbana) prevê a optimização dos procedimentos, desde o pedido de aprovação do projecto de obra até ao licenciamento de obras, bem como clarificação da delimitação das competências entre a DSSCU e do Corpo de Bombeiros em termos da apreciação e aprovação de projectos de obra, cabendo ao último a aprovação dos projectos relativos aos sistemas de segurança contra incêndios e a emissão de parecer vinculativo sobre os projectos de segurança contra incêndios.



# STUDY: SINGLE MIDDLE-AGED MEN HAVE 'HIGH PROBABILITY' OF PROBLEM GAMBLING

LYNZY VALLES

A study on gambling prevalence conducted by local scholars has shown that a middle-aged Chinese man who is self-employed, separated/widowed/divorced, and living alone has a high probability of being a problem gambler, "probably due to his financial and family's independent status with some years of casino gambling experience."

The study titled "Profiling of Gamblers and Problem Gamblers Among Casino Patrons in Macao SAR" conducted by Wai Ming To and Gui-Hai Huang of the Macao Polytechnic University, was recently published by Springer, a global publisher that serves the research community.

The study found that traits such as a respondent's marital status being separated/widowed/divorced, living alone, being aged between 35 and 54 years, and being Buddhist, significantly affected their gambling behaviors.

"While the association between Buddhism and problem gambling seems a bit surprising, it can be explained that Chinese men who

are influenced by Confucianism and Buddhism see gambling including casino gambling to be a socially reinforced activity and a way of testing one's luck and fate," the study noted.

The survey obtained responses from 1,352 casino patrons in Macau.

Results showed that about one-third of the respondents were local residents, while 50% of the respondents were from mainland China.

The respondents indicated that they had gambled in casinos at least once in the past 12 months. Over 90% (1,228) of the respondents reported that they gambled in Macau's casinos and slot lounges. The three most popular forms of casino gambling were baccarat, Sic Bo, and slot machines.

As cited in the report, the monthly median expenditure on gambling was HKD1,845 with a range from HKD2 to HKD375,175.

"In terms of the frequency, duration, and monthly expenditure on gambling, the study's results showed that the median frequency of gambling was 24 times a year, the median duration of each gam-

CHRIS LIVERANI



bling session was three hours and the median monthly expenditure on gambling was HKD 1,845," the scholars noted.

The median monthly expense on gambling was around 3.6 times higher than the mean betting amount of HKD400 per month reported in a study conducted in 2005.

"The study's results showed that the problem and pathological gambling prevalence rates of the "original" (i.e. unweighted) sample were 21.3% and 16.4%, respectively. In other words, the overall rate of problem and pathological gambling was 37.4%," the scholars added.

It added that slightly over one

in every five Macau's casino patrons were problem gamblers.

Meanwhile, the researchers also called on future researchers to explore whether and how Macau's secondary and tertiary prevention measures have effects on local and non-local casino patrons' problem gambling behaviors.



## Gov't registers 933 tobacco law infractions in H1

IN the first six months of 2022, 933 tobacco law violations were registered, of which 918 related to people identified as smoking in prohibited areas.

According to the Health Bureau (SSM), seven cases related to illegalities on tobacco product labels, six cases related to the illegal

sale of products of tobacco on shelves and two cases related to the illegal sale of electronic cigarettes.

SSM carried out a total of 149,748 inspections at establishments in the first half of this year, which represents an increase of 3,364 inspections (2.3%) compared to the same period last year.

Night inspections, stores and commercial establishments continued to be the main inspection targets, representing 47% of the total. Restaurant establishments follow, representing 27.4%, while the remaining establishments, such as venues where amusement machines and video games are ope-

rated, cybercafés, saunas and bars accounted for 25.6%.

In June, authorities identified 117 places with the highest incidence of infractions, including Novos Jogos (Praia do Manduco), Brilhantismo Shopping Center Building, POCO Cultural Creative Center Ltd., among others. 341 inspections were carried out at these sites and 42 indictments were issued.

Regarding the type of establishment with the highest number of infringement cases, 175 cases (18.8%) were registered in catering establishments, 145 (15.5%) in parks/gardens and leisure areas, and in indoor settings intended for collective use, 96 cases were detected (10.3%).

With regard to compliance with the law in casinos, the SSM and the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau carried out 301 inspections of casinos in Macau. In this context, 31 individuals were charged with smoking in prohibited places. Regarding the payment of fines, 834 people (89.4%) paid fines. LV

## 5G SERVICE TO LAUNCH IN Q1 2023

RENATO MARQUES

THE 5G technology standard for 5G broadband cellular networks is expected to launch in Macau in the first quarter (Q1) of 2023, the Macao Post and Telecommunications Bureau (CTT) has announced, following the bidding opening ceremony for the public tender to attribute the licenses.

In the ceremony, which was held at the CTT headquarters building Monday afternoon, the bureau also announced that the two bids received for the 5G tender have been both accepted, although the bid from China Telecom has been accepted conditionally, meaning the company must provide further documentation or elements missing from the list of requirements.

The bid of CTM, the second bidder for a 5G license, was immediately accepted.

According to CTT, the services will now carry out an analysis of the two proposals. the bureau said it was "making efforts to complete the licensing process within this year," so that licensed operators will be able to launch the service to the users between January and March next year.

In May this year, during a media event, CTM officials said that the company's 5G network had been ready and fully operational since June 2021 and was just waiting for the public tender on the operating licensing.

The company also said it was expecting to launch this service as early as the end of this year.



# Embracing sustainability through award winning programs

**T**HE challenges Macau has recently faced from Covid-19 have brought public and private entities together to combat the effects of the pandemic – yet amid these trying times, sustainability efforts have not ceased.

Sands China Ltd. is one of the companies in the city that has battled the pandemic while remaining unwavering in its commitment to integrate sustainability into its core business strategy and align its strategy with the Macau SAR's green development goals.

The company's sustainability efforts are guided by the award-winning Sands ECO360 global sustainability strategy of its parent company, Las Vegas Sands Corp. (LVS). Sands ECO360 is designed to utilize measures like energy saving, resource recycling, conservation, and community engagement to help minimize the company's environmental impact and lead the way in sustainable building development and resort operations.

As a mega-international company, the group is dedicated to the preservation of the environment and the conservation of natural resources through Sands ECO360, aiming to leave a legacy of a cleaner and safer world for future generations.

The company strategy is aligned with the central government's aim of reaching a CO2 emissions peak before 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality ahead of 2060.

The carbon intensity target is expected to be set for the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025) in accordance with the carbon emission targets, and specific plans will be drawn up to tackle climate change.

To take part in this globally significant goal, Sands China is doing its part to help realize a transition to low-carbon solutions.

For the company, the ongoing development of sustainability measures represents support of Beijing's target of net zero emissions and is aligned with the carbon neutrality goals of the central government's 14th Five-Year Plan.



"It is the responsibility of businesses, governments and stakeholders to create a sustainable future centered on the transition to low-carbon solutions," said Dr. Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd.

"The success of our Sands ECO360 global sustainability strategy during the past five-year reporting cycle is the fruit of the contributions of all our team members – comprising focus-areas like hotels and food waste to green events and supporting local NGOs. As we enter a new five-year cycle under our enhanced strategy, we remain steadfast in our efforts to create positive local impact and help build a green Macau through a series of green principles and measures."

## MACAO GREEN HOTEL GOLD AWARDS

Through the efforts of the company's team members putting sustainability into practice, all hotels at Sands China's properties have won the Macao Green Hotel Gold Award, including Sands Macao in 2021. Awarded properties are recognised in particular for their sustainable policies on food waste management, reducing carbon emissions, recycling, and eliminating single-use disposable plastics.

## FOOD WASTE STRATEGY

According to the report on the state of the environment of Macau, kitchen waste accounts for about 33% to 38% of municipal solid waste. In response to this situation, Sands China's food waste strategy includes food waste prevention, food rescue and food waste diversion. The strategy aims to prevent and divert food waste for a targeted 25% reduction in food waste per cover by 2025.

## FOOD WASTE PREVENTION

All Sands China properties' Team Member Restaurants (TMR) have implemented the company's Food Waste Minimization Program. This program includes food waste education, separation, and data analysis to achieve its goals.

The company also added three additional Winnow Vision artificial intelligence (AI) units in 2021, which provide real-time data that monitors progress and determines response, and helps the kitchen team determine menu adjustments. As a result, the company's properties realized a 6% decrease in food waste per cover in 2021 compared to its 2020 volume.

## FOOD RESCUE

The company 'rescues' food by donating surplus catered food to community organizations, and also through the Community Fridge program, which gives food to the needy, as well as partnering with Anima Society and the Abandoned Animals Protect Association (AAPAM) of Macau to donate food to local animal shelters.

## FOOD WASTE DIVERSION

Last year, the company converted 177.6 tonnes of food waste to bio-water through food digester systems. The Food Waste Diversion expansion plan, implemented in 2022, includes restaurants owned by Sands China along with popular leased restaurants such as The Cheesecake Factory, Shake Shack, Haidilao and Taier.

## CARBON NEUTRAL EXHIBITION

In June, Sands China signed a memorandum of understanding with the Macau Fair & Trade Association (MFTA) to mark their joint commitment promoting and strengthening green development, carbon neutrality and the sustainable development of the convention and exhibition industry in Macau.

Both parties are also promoting the upcoming 2022 MIECF as Macau's first carbon neutral exhibition at The Venetian Macao's Cotai Expo. Their joint efforts aim to meet carbon neutrality and maintain alignment with the Environmental Protection Planning of Macao for "Building a Green Macau with a Low Carbon Footprint."

## SANDS CHINA'S NEW 2025 ESG TARGETS

**GUIDED** by the science-based targets initiative, the company has added new ESG targets and increased its ambitions in the area of low-carbon emissions, renewable energy, waste, food waste, and plastic and packaging. Goals for 2025 include:

- 17.5% emissions reduction (vs. 2018 baseline Scope 1 & Scope 2)

- 25% of food waste per cover prevented or diverted (team member restaurants)
- Increase in the operational diversion rate to 20%
- 3% reduction in water use per active square foot from 2019 baseline
- 100% Sands China branded water bottles made from sustainable materials



FISHING BOATS

# NEW ANCHORAGE REGULATION TO BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER

STAFF REPORTER

**T**HE Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) has released a new anchorage regulation for Inner Harbour whereby, starting from September 1, fishing boats will have to be declared before mooring to the port.

Due to the Inner Harbour accident resulting in damaged boats in April, the DSAMA has sought to strengthen the management of fishing boats mooring in the port and will publish a notice about the new regulation today, with the concerned restriction starting from September.

The new restriction requires all fishing boats to declare their details through an online platform such as the license of the fishing boat, the contact information of the boat's owner, how many days the fishing boat is moored, as well as the quantity of spare diesel fuel and petroleum gas in the boat.

"The purpose of declaring the details of their boat is to quickly find the location of the boat and to easily contact the boat's owner when there is a fire," said the director of Maritime Activities Department of DSAMA, Wong Man Tou.

FLORA TANG



Director of Maritime Activities Department of DSAMA, Wong Man Tou

Meanwhile, the regulation stipulates that boat owners must ensure the boat is not carrying dangerous items.

Further, fishing boats will need to form a group of five when

mooring, and will need to be docked at least 10 meters apart from other groups.

"In the past, we had a maximum of 20 fishing boats in one group. However, [there] needs to

be more time to evacuate the boats when [an] emergency accident [occurs]," said Wong.

"Within the anchorage, activities such as using fire to cook or burn joss paper, fireworks, repair

work, thinner and glue are prohibited," the director explained.

Wong said that the above-mentioned activities are only allowed when the fishing boat is within a controlled area and is moored individually.

According to the official, DSAMA will arrange fishing boats according to the contents of the boats that they declare.

"Two control areas can moor no more than 10 fishing boats, respectively," Wong pointed out.

Fishing boats can store a maximum three cans of petroleum gas and not over 50kg in total, or they will be asked to leave the port immediately.

"We hope to reduce the causes of fires, to avoid the same accident that happened in April," Wong said.

He was referring to the large flames off Inner Harbour that consumed at least half a dozen fishing ships.

As for the violation, MOP500 to MOP10,000 will be charged to the fishing boat's owner when the rules are violated.

DSAMA will also dispatch staff to inspect whether the fishing boats store dangerous items and whether the fuel of the boat is being managed correctly before and after the Lunar New Year, as well as before and after the fishing moratorium.

The fishing moratorium ended yesterday, with some fishing boats still docked, which have not arranged to leave.



## NAT FREE COVID-19 TEST ONLY FOR KEY GROUPS

STAFF REPORTER

**T**HE appointment link for mass testing has been suspended from yesterday as the city enters the "normalization stage," according to health authorities. The government is encouraging those that think they are at risk of contracting Covid-19 to make an appointment through the link located at the bottom of

the Macau Health Code app. Residents can click on the link to make an appointment free of charge, yet the test results cannot be used for cross-border clearance and cannot be used for the purpose of regular testing for key working groups.

As for the list of key groups previously submitted by the competent authority, they can only pre-book a nucleic

acid test via a designated website.

The list of key groups includes cleaning staff, security guards, bus drivers and workers from the frozen food sector, among others.

Meanwhile, the Times received reports from those who were required to undergo the test, noting that the test booking system was down.

Therefore, those residents with a yellow code who failed to take a test because only the public hospital accepts walk ins, may take the test today instead.

## COVID-19 GOV'T EASES REQUIREMENTS FOR ARRIVALS OF RESIDENTS WITH COVID HISTORY

STAFF REPORTER

**I**NDIVIDUALS who have had Covid-19 abroad and intend to travel to Macau within two months of their infection will no longer need to present proof of negative antigen tests or nucleic acid tests (NAT) carried out at 24-hour intervals in the past 14 days.

Back in April, the go-

vernment announced that individuals who have had Covid-19 within two months may only board a civil aircraft to Macau at least 14 days after having three consecutive negative rapid antigen tests or NATs. However, in the recent announcement, the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center said that those who were infected

with Covid-19 and have obtained a negative NAT after seven days of infection "are not highly contagious."

The new measure came into force yesterday.

Individuals are still required to present a negative NAT taken within 72 hours prior arrival and proof that they have been vaccinated with a booster shot.



# Chinese navy ship docks in Sri Lanka, stokes worry in India

ERANGA JAYAWARDENA,  
HAMBANTOTA

A Chinese navy vessel arrived at a Beijing-built port in southern Sri Lanka yesterday, after its port call was earlier delayed due to apparent security concerns raised by India.

The Yuan Wang 5 sailed into the Hambantota port and was welcomed by Sri Lankan and Chinese officials. The development could spark worry in India, which views China's rising influence in the Indian Ocean with suspicion.

Sri Lanka has referred to the Yuan Wang 5 as a "scientific research ship," but there are fears in India that the vessel could be used to surveil the region, with multiple media reports calling it a "dual-use spy ship."

"The Yuan Wang 5 is a powerful tracking vessel whose significant aerial reach — reportedly around 750 km — means that several ports in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh could be on China's radar," the Indian Express newspaper wrote.

The closely watched developments surrounding the vessel underscore the competing interests of regional giants India and China in the small island nation. For more than a decade, Sri Lanka's strategic location in the Indian Ocean and along one of the busi-



A Sri Lankan traditional dancer carries a decorative umbrella as the crew of Chinese scientific research ship Yuan Wang 5 waves Chinese flags after arriving at Hambantota International Port in Hambantota, yesterday

est shipping routes has seen both countries vie for influence.

Over the years, Beijing was widely seen as having an upper hand with its free-flowing loans and infrastructure investments. But Sri Lanka's economic collapse proved an opportunity for India to gain greater sway, as New Delhi stepped in with massive financial and material assistance to its neighbor.

The ship has permission to dock in Hambantota until Aug. 22, Sri Lanka's Foreign Ministry said last weekend. It added that China had agreed the ship would keep its identification systems on and would not carry out any research activities while in Sri Lankan waters.

"Given the geopolitical dynamics in the region and Sri Lanka's heavy vulnerability on the econo-

mic front, Sri Lanka is playing with two fires at a diplomatic level," said international affairs analyst Ranga Kalansooriya.

The Yuan Wang family of naval vessels serve both the Chinese missile force and its space program, which is run by the People's Liberation Army, the military wing of the ruling Communist Party.

## "Sri Lanka is playing with two fires at a diplomatic level."

RANGA KALANSOORIYA  
ANALYST

Previous official Chinese media reports have described PLA officers serving in command positions aboard the vessels in the Yuan Wang class, which may also

have civilians in their crews.

China Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Wang Wenbin dismissed concerns about the ship in a briefing yesterday.

"I would like to reiterate that the marine scientific research conducted by the research ship Yuan Wang 5 conforms to international law and international

common practice, and will not affect the security and economic interests of any country," he said.

On Monday, India gifted a maritime reconnaissance aircraft to Sri Lanka to strengthen its maritime security. The Indian Embassy said the aircraft would help Sri Lanka tackle multiple security challenges such as human and drug trafficking as well as other crimes in its coastal waters more effectively.

Indian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said last week that India was aware of the planned visit by the vessel and that it carefully monitors any development that affects its security and economic interests and would take all measures to safeguard them. He also dismissed claims last week that India put pressure on Sri Lanka to delay the ship.

As Sri Lanka endures its worst economic crisis, India in recent months has provided crucial assistance including food, fuel, medicines and cooking gas. At the same time, China's agreement to restructure its infrastructure loans to Sri Lanka is vital for the country to reach a bailout program with the International Monetary Fund.

China has lent Sri Lanka billions of dollars for development projects, some of which have been criticized as having little practical use. They include the Hambantota port, built with Chinese money under former President Mahinda Rajapaksa in his home region, despite the plan having been rejected by an expert panel.

When the port failed to generate enough revenue to pay back the loan, Sri Lanka in 2017 was forced to hand the facility and thousands of acres of surrounding land to Beijing for 99 years — giving China a key foothold in the country directly opposite India's coastline.

Kalansooriya said while Sri Lanka is unable to discount both regional powers, President Ranil Wickremesinghe is tasked not only with salvaging the country's economy but also maintaining a diplomatic balance. **MDT/AP**

## STRAIT CRISIS

# Germany flying six fighters 8K miles in 24 hours to Singapore

A group of German air force fighter jets neared Singapore yesterday in a marathon bid to fly them some 12,800 kilometers (8,000 miles) from their home base to Southeast Asia in just 24 hours.

The exercise comes at a time of heightened tensions between China and the U.S. and its allies over Taiwan and demonstrates the ability for a European nation to move air power quickly to the region.

The European Union unveiled a new strategy in September for boosting economic, political and defense ties in the Indo-Pacific. German Defense Minister Christine Lambrecht told reporters that despite the war

in Ukraine being a priority at the moment, the Eurofighter mission underscores that Asia has not been forgotten.

"We are at the side of all of those who stand for our values such as democracy, freedom and security, and are also willing to contribute," she said as the aircraft took off from Neuburg, Germany, on Monday, the dpa news agency reported.

"Our focus at the moment is naturally on the eastern flank, for which Russia's brutal war of aggression is to blame, but we also have to keep an eye on other regions."

Part of the EU's new strategy for the Asia-Pacific is focused on improving maritime security and ensuring

safe passage through sea lanes, and several European nations have sent naval assets to the region for maneuvers this year.

As China has grown more assertive in the region, the United States, Britain and others have also made it increasingly a priority.

Germany sent the frigate Bayern to the region on a nearly seven-month deployment that wound up earlier this year, the first time a German warship had been in the Indo-Pacific for nearly two decades. It took part in joint exercises with allies including Australia, Singapore, Japan and the United States, and was denied a port call in China.

The six multirole Eurofighter jets involved in the current exercise were accompanied by four transport aircraft and three tankers. They were refueled in-air along the lengthy flight, and also made stops along the way for refueling, inspection and rotations of pilots.

During a stop at a base near Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, yesterday, Germany's air force, the Luftwaffe, said that two of the Eurofighters were found to have technical problems. One was fixed on site but the other had a defect in its hydraulics system so was held back.

The Luftwaffe said personnel were sent from Germany to repair it further so



A German Eurofighter gets ready for takeoff at Neuburg Air Base in Neuburg An Der Donau, Germany, Monday

that it would be available for upcoming exercises in Australia, where all the aircraft are heading after Singapore.

The so-called Pitch Black exercise is bringing together some 2,500 personnel and 100 aircraft from around the globe for three weeks in Australia's Northern Territory.

In addition to Germany, European NATO members France, Britain and the Netherlands are participating, along with the United States, New Zealand, Korea, the UAE, India, Japan, Thailand

and others.

The exercise is designed to test and improve multinational force integration, and "recognize Australia's strong relationships and the high value we place on regional security and fostering closer ties throughout the Indo-Pacific region," the Royal Australian Air Force said.

Following the Aug. 19-Sept. 8 exercise in Australia, the German jets are to stop in Japan and South Korea on their way back home. **MDT/AP**



# US, South Korea to begin expanded military drills next week

KIM TONG-HYUNG, SEOUL

**T**HE United States and South Korea will begin their biggest combined military training in years next week in the face of an increasingly aggressive North Korea, which has been ramping up weapons tests and threats of nuclear conflict against Seoul and Washington, the South Korean military said yesterday.

The allies' summertime drills, named Ulchi Freedom Shield, will take place from Aug. 22 to Sept. 1 in South Korea and include field exercises involving aircraft, warships, tanks and potentially tens of thousands of troops.

The drills underscore Washington and Seoul's commitment to restore large-scale training after they canceled some of their regular drills and downsized others to computer simulations in recent years to create space for diplomacy with North Korea and because of COVID-19 concerns.

The U.S. Department of Defense also said the U.S., South Korean and Japanese navies took part in missile warning and ballistic missile search and tracking exercises off the coast of Hawaii from Aug. 8 to 14, which it said were aimed at furthering three-way cooperation in the face of North Korean challenges.

While the United States and South Korea describe their exercises as defensive,

Ulchi Freedom Shield will almost surely draw an angry reaction from North Korea, which describes all allied training as invasion rehearsals and has used them to justify its nuclear weapons and missiles development.

China, North Korea's main ally, expressed concern over the expansion of U.S. military exercises with its Asian allies, saying they could worsen tensions with the North. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin didn't offer a specific answer when asked whether Beijing believes the trilateral drills in Hawaii were in some way directed at China.

"North Korea has repeatedly expressed its concern" over the joint drills, Wang said in a briefing in Beijing yesterday.

"The negative impact of the military exercises on the situation on the Korean Peninsula is worth paying attention to. All parties should act prudently and stop any actions that may increase tension and confrontation and damage the mutual trust," he said.

Before being shelved or downsized, the U.S. and South Korea held major joint exercises every spring and summer in South Korea. The spring ones had been highlighted by live-fire drills involving a broad range of land, air and sea assets and usually involved around 10,000 American and 200,000 Korean troops.

Tens of thousands of allied

troops participated in the summertime drills, which mainly consisted of computer simulations to hone joint decision making and planning, although South Korea's military has emphasized the revival of large-scale field training this time.

Officials at Seoul's Defense Ministry and its Joint Chiefs of Staff did not comment on the number of U.S. and South Korean troops that will participate in Ulchi Freedom Shield.

The drills, which will kick off along with a four-day South Korean civil defense training program led by government employees, will reportedly include exercises simulating joint attacks, front-line reinforcements of arms and fuel, and removals of weapons of mass destruction.

The allies will also train for drone attacks and other new developments in warfare shown during Russia's war on Ukraine and practice joint military-civilian responses to attacks on seaports, airports and major industrial facilities such as semiconductor factories.

"The biggest meaning of (Ulchi Freedom Shield) is that it normalizes the South Korea-U.S. combined exercises and field training, (contributing) to the rebuilding of the South Korea-U.S. alliance and the combined defense posture," Moon Hong-sik, a Defense Ministry spokesperson, said during a briefing.

Some experts say North Korea may use the drills as an excuse to increase tensions.

North Korea has already warned of "deadly" retaliation against South Korea over its own COVID-19 outbreak, which it dubiously claims was caused by anti-North Korean propaganda leaflets and other objects flown across the border by balloons launched by southern activists. There are concerns that the North Korean threat, issued last week by the powerful sister of leader Kim Jong Un, portends a provocation which might include a nuclear or missile test or even border skirmishes.

In an interview with Associated Press Television last month, Choe Jin, deputy director of a think tank run by North Korea's Foreign Ministry, said the United States and South Korea would face "unprecedented" security challenges if they don't drop their hostile military pressure campaign against North Korea, including joint military drills.

Kim Jun-rak, spokesperson of South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the South Korean and U.S. militaries are maintaining a close watch on North Korean military activities and facilities.

Animosity has increased on the Korean Peninsula since U.S.-North Korea nuclear negotiations derailed in early 2019 because of differences over a relaxation of crippling U.S.-led sanctions on North Korea in exchange for disarmament steps.

Kim Jong Un has since declared North Korea will bolster its nuclear deterrent in the face of "gangster-like" U.S. pressure and halted all cooperation with South Korea. Exploiting a division in the U.N. Security Council over Russia's war on Ukraine, North Korea has dialed up its weapons testing to a record pace this year, conducting more than 30 ballistic launches. They included the country's first intercontinental ballistic missiles since 2017 and tests of tactical systems designed to be armed with small battlefield nuclear weapons.

Kim has punctuated the testing binge with repeated warnings that North Korea will proactively use its nuclear weapons in conflicts with South Korea and the United States, which experts say indicate an escalation in its nuclear doctrine that could cause greater concern for its neighbors.

South Korea and U.S. officials say North Korea has been gearing up for its first nuclear test since September 2017, when it claimed to have developed a thermonuclear warhead to fit on its ICBMs. **MDT/AP**

## this day in history

### 1998 CLINTON ADMITS LEWINSKY AFFAIR



President of the United States Bill Clinton has admitted having an inappropriate relationship with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

In a televised address Mr Clinton told the American people that he took full responsibility for his actions.

He said: "Indeed I did have a relationship with Ms Lewinsky that was not appropriate. In fact, it was wrong."

Aides close to the president now hope the confession will bring an end to the investigation into Mr Clinton's affairs, brought by independent prosecutor Kenneth Starr.

Mr Starr's four-year inquiry began as an investigation into land deals by Hillary and Bill Clinton when he was governor of Arkansas.

It moved onto his personal life when Mr Starr began to investigate allegations that Mr Clinton had had sexual relations with Monica Lewinsky and then lied about it under oath in a sexual harassment case brought by Paula Jones in 1994.

The president's confession follows months of denial. On 26 January this year, Mr Clinton categorically denied having sexual relations with Miss Lewinsky.

Appearing serious and contrite, Mr Clinton told the American people: "I misled people, including my wife. I deeply regret that."

He concluded: "This matter is between me, the two people I love most - my wife and my daughter - and our God."

He said he had not come clean earlier because he was embarrassed but he denied he had asked anyone to lie about the relationship.

He also criticised Mr Starr and the investigation, which so far has cost £25m.

On 6 August this year Ms Lewinsky told the jury that she had an 18-month sexual relationship with the President and that the pair had discussed ways of concealing the relationship.

She also presented one of her dresses as evidence, stating it had been stained with Mr Clinton's semen during one of their sexual encounters.

If it is proved that he lied he faces possible impeachment hearings on Capitol Hill.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

On 21 September President Clinton's Grand Jury testimony was released to the public.  
On 9 December 1998 the House Judiciary Committee proposed four articles of impeachment against the president.  
Ten days later - after a bitter debate between Republicans and Democrats - the House of Representatives voted to confirm the recommendation.  
Bill Clinton became only the second president in American history to face such an indictment, but he refused to resign.  
His trial began on 7 January 1999 and ended on 12 February when senators voted to acquit him of the impeachment charges of perjury and obstruction of justice.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

## YOUR STARS

**ARIES**  
Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
You can make personal changes that will enhance your appearance and bring about greater social activity. Involve yourself in group endeavors. You should be putting your cash into long-term investments like real estate.

**TAURUS**  
Apr. 20-May. 20  
Your willingness to help others can and will lead to fatigue if you don't learn to say no. Try to deal with it quickly; don't dwell on past regrets. Listen, but don't make any rash decisions.

**GEMINI**  
May. 21-Jun. 21  
Be sure to cover all the necessary groundwork before signing binding contracts. You may find it difficult to discuss personal matters with family members. Spend time with friends and relatives.

**CANCER**  
Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
Your best gains will come through helping others emotionally. Take on positions that offer on the job training or pay for courses related to the business.

**LEO**  
Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
Involvement in fitness clubs will be conducive to engaging romantic connections. Your creative ideas will be put to good use if you dig in and do things around the house that will make your family happy.

**VIRGO**  
Aug. 23-Sep. 22  
You will find that unfinished projects at home will be most satisfying. Don't force your opinions on friends or relatives unless you are prepared to lose their favor. Travel will be favorable.

**LIBRA**  
Sep. 23-Oct. 22  
Make decisions about your professional objectives. You can visit clients and make a big impression just by giving them some hands-on help. Your own small business on the side sounds pretty lucrative.

**SCORPIO**  
Oct. 23-Nov. 21  
Try to slow down, and take another look. A lack of support and negativity have been the main problems. Find ways to make extra cash. Start making things or reusing rather than buying ready made.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
Mingle with those who have similar interests, and you should be able to start something. Keep an open mind when listening to the opinions of others. Realize that you don't have to do everything yourself.

**CAPRICORN**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
You may get upset with peers or relatives. You're on to something tangible and need to act fast. Mingle with those who can help you get ahead.

**AQUARIUS**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
It might be time to shake a leg and do a personal makeover. Be professional, and you will advance much more quickly. Take some time out.

**PISCES**  
Feb. 19-Mar. 20  
Your mind will be on matters that deal with secret affairs. You are best to do something energetic with friends instead. Travel and educational pursuits may help alleviate the stress you have been feeling.

## The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



## SUDOKU

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

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

## WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	22	30	cloudy
Changchun	17	28	fine
Chengdu	27	37	cloudy
Chongqing	33	42	fine
Fuzhou	27	39	cloudy
Guangzhou	26	35	thunderstorms
Guiyang	23	32	cloudy
Haikou	25	31	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	28	37	thunderstorms
Harbin	17	29	fine
Hefei	26	34	rain
Nanjing	28	34	cloudy
Shanghai	26	35	rain
Taipei	26	31	cloudy
Wuhan	29	37	showers
Hong Kong	28	31	thunderstorms
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	18	30	rain
Frankfurt	19	31	overcast
Paris	17	24	thunderstorms
London	16	23	rain
New York	18	27	overcast

## CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Humble homes; 5- Disrespectful back talk; 9- Starting; 13- Writer Loos; 15- Mormon state of western USA; 16- Body of an organism; 17- Crackerjack; 18- Computer list; 19- Monogram ltr; 20- Deity; 21- Duration; 23- So far; 25- Fix up; 26- Furry swimmers; 27- 4th president of the U.S; 30- Cambridge sch.; 31- Meager; 32- Without sin; 37- Precious stones; 38- Ferber novel; 40- Animal house; 41- Dendroid; 43- Shouldered; 44- Leb. neighbor; 45- Articles; 47- Midday nap; 50- "Is so!" rebuttal; 51- Skunk feature; 52- Slippery; 53- Primate with a short tail or no tail; 56- Nailed obliquely; 57- Beatty Oscar film; 59- Fidgety; 61- Bald eagle's relative; 62- Actress Olin; 63- Suckle; 64- Jury member; 65- Age unit; 66- Makes lace;

DOWN 1- Dutch name of The Hague; 2- Bring to ruin; 3- Bound; 4- The Racer's Edge; 5- Call for the presence of; 6- To \_\_\_ (perfectly); 7- Honshu honorific; 8- Closing; 9- Line in a play directed to the audience; 10- Sub system; 11- Drops; 12- Destiny; 14- Corroborate; 22- Words with a certain ring?; 24- Director Preminger; 25- Wash cycle; 26- Bygone Dodge; 27- High-ranking NCO; 28- Super server; 29- Title for Agatha Christie; 32- May \_\_\_ excused?; 33- Influence; 34- Hearing organs; 35- Baseball team; 36- Very, in Versailles; 38- Sororal; 39- Gumbo thickener; 42- Speech issue; 43- East Indian fig tree; 45- Roman general; 46- Dogpatch adjective; 47- Put away; 48- Peace goddess; 49- Duck with soft down; 51- Footfall; 52- Poet \_\_\_ St. Vincent Millay; 53- Gillette brand; 54- Hey, over here!; 55- Organs used for sight; 58- Extra-wide shoe size; 60- Kernel;



## 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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- 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

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- 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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MARKETS

# US FUTURES TURN AROUND ON STRONG PERFORMANCE FROM RETAILERS

WALL Street nearly recouped overnight losses and was inching toward gains yesterday after some bell-weather retailers reported strong second-quarter earnings, suggesting that Americans have continued to spend despite the worst inflation in 40 years.

Futures for the Dow and S&P each fell less than 1% in premarket trading.

Retail giants Walmart and Home Depot, whose quarterly financial results often give investors insight into broader consumer habits, both reported strong second quarter earnings, giving markets a boost before the opening bell.

Walmart earned \$5.15 billion, or \$1.77 adjusted for one-time costs and charges, easily topping Wall Street's target of \$1.62 per shares. Sales also beat analysts projections and shares rose more than 4% before the opening bell.

Home Depot reported record quarterly profit and revenue, but shares dipped less than 1% as the home improvement retailer maintained its guidance for the year.

Stocks in July had their best month in a year-and-a-half, but some analysts say prices haven't properly reflected real risks.

"It doesn't seem to matter what the news is, there is



just a huge appetite to buy stocks. And to keep buying," said Clifford Bennett, chief economist at ACY Securities. "Talk of the bottom having already been priced in seems somewhat premature. Should the market turn down again after all this long positioning, it will fall with a thunderous impact. Buyers beware."

Shares in Europe rose and Asian markets were mixed a day after China reported negative economic data and analysts warned that volatility may lie ahead.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 was little changed and finished at 28,868.91. South Korea's Kospi rose 0.2% to 2,533.52. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 added 0.6% to 7,105.40. Hong Kong's Hang Seng reversed course and was down

1.1% at 19,830.52, while the Shanghai Composite gained nearly 0.1% to 3,277.88.

Markets reacted to news that China's central bank cut a key interest rate, acknowledging more needed to be done to shore up its economy. The move is the latest warning for markets already on edge over record-high inflation and fears about recessions in the U.S. and elsewhere.

China is the world's second-largest consumer of crude oil, so the news weighed on energy prices on Monday, but were back up slightly yesterday. U.S. crude gained 74 cents to \$90.15 a barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, picked up 43 cents to \$95.53.

Global investors are worried that the U.S. Federal

Reserve could hit the brakes too hard and send the economy into a recession. Any signal that inflation could be peaking or retreating has helped ease some of those worries.

"Lack of direction is what investors will be suffering until we see clearer signs of inflation abating. And that will take time, as we must see a couple of encouraging data points to call the central banks' inflation fight successful. The lack of clear direction is driving the markets up and down," said Ipek Ozkardeska, senior analyst at Swissquote Bank.

Investors are also keeping a close watch on how inflation is affecting businesses and consumers. Spending has slowed and the broader economy has already contracted for two straight quarters.

Following Walmart and Home Depot, Target reports results on Wednesday. The U.S. Commerce Department also releases its July retail sales report on Wednesday. Economists surveyed by FactSet expect modest 0.2% growth from June, when sales rose 1%.

In currency trading, the U.S. dollar edged up to 134.39 Japanese yen from 133.27 yen. The euro cost \$1.0130, down from \$1.0165. MDT/AP



AVIATION

## AMERICAN AIRLINES PLACES DEPOSIT ON 20 SUPERSONIC PLANES

AMERICAN Airlines has agreed to buy up to 20 supersonic jets and put down a non-refundable deposit on the planes that are still on the drawing board and years away from flying.

Neither American nor the manufacturer Boom Supersonic would provide financial details yesterday, including the size of American's deposit. American becomes the second U.S. customer for Boom after a similar announcement last year from United Airlines for 15 of the planes, called the Overture.

It has been nearly 20 years since the last supersonic passenger flight by Concorde, the British-French plane that failed to catch on because of the high cost of flights.

Boom CEO Blake Scholl insists his company's plane will be different when it debuts in 2029, with tickets costing about \$4,000 to \$5,000 to fly from New York to London in about three and one-half hours.

"There are tens of millions of passengers every year flying in business class on routes where Overture will give a big speed-up," Scholl said in an interview, "and airlines will be able to do it profitably."

Skeptics have questioned Boom's ambitious timetable, especially in light of the many years it has taken Boeing, an established manufacturer, to get planes or even retrofits to planes approved by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Boom says the Overture program will cost between \$6 billion and \$8 billion. The plane carries a list price of \$200 million, although other manufacturers routinely give airlines deep discounts. MDT/AP

## CORPORATE BITS

### The Residence at The Londoner Hotel wins accolade at International Hotel & Property Awards



The Residence, an exclusive club for guests of The Londoner Hotel, has been named 'Best Restaurant in Asia Pacific' at The International Hotel & Property Awards 2022 hosted by design et al, a UK interior design magazine.

Spanning over 1,100 square metres, The Residence is divided into a series of uniquely contrasting rooms, inspired by classic London houses and the homes of famous British personalities. The main dining area, The Green Room, is designed

to reflect the musicals of famous British composers. A further dining space is The Lounge, an art gallery-themed room reflecting London's contemporary art scene. The Bar is inspired by British wartime Prime Minister Winston Churchill, incorporating a billiard room and outdoor terrace with a view of the iconic Big Ben.

Kris Kaminsky, senior vice president of Hotel Operations, Sands China Ltd., said: "This award acknowledges design excellence achieved by our global design team through collaboration with world-class partners, and will inspire us to continue to push boundaries."

### Wynn partners with local brand for 'sustainably chic' mooncake gift sets



Wynn Macau and Wynn Palace have once again collaborated with October Fifth Bakery Macau to present crafted mooncakes in "sustainably chic" gift sets for the

Mid-Autumn Festival, the gaming operator has announced in a statement.

Wynn is presenting The Wynn Tea Classic Mooncakes, infused with the fra-

grant Osmanthus Oolong tea, while the Wynn Signature Mooncakes feature three distinctive flavors - Tea Classic, Lava Pineapple and Coffee.

Each mooncake gift box features embossed 3D Wynn flowers and is printed on FSC-certified paper that has been harvested responsibly to protect forests, as well as using a more sustainable Soy Ink in place of traditional ink.

The mooncake trays within the boxes are also made entirely of biodegradable materials to further reduce environmental impact.

Each tote bag is lined with a layer of thermal insulation to protect food and beverages for outdoor celebrations any time of year.

FOOTBALL

# Núñez sent off as Liverpool draws with Palace in EPL

LIVERPOOL 1, C PALACE 1

**T**WO glaring misses then a red card for a reckless headbutt.

It was a home debut to forget for Liverpool's big off-season signing, Darwin Núñez.

Fortunately for the Reds, another South American came to the rescue at Anfield as a dazzling individual goal by Luis Díaz salvaged a 1-1 draw against Crystal Palace in the Premier League yesterday [Macau time].

In his first competitive start for Liverpool, Núñez lost control after jostling with Joachim Andersen off the ball and thrust his head into the face of the Palace defender, with referee Paul Tierney watching on close by in the 57th minute.

The red card was immediately brandished and Núñez had to be calmed down by his teammates as he attempted to confront Tierney. Liverpool manager Jürgen Klopp blanked Núñez as the Uruguay striker headed down the tunnel.

"It's a red card," Klopp said. "He



was provoked all the time but that is not how to behave."

Núñez, an off-season signing from Benfica, earned his first start after a couple of impressive, goalscoring displays off the bench in the Community Shield against Manchester City and then against Fulham, and also because Roberto Firmino was missing through

injury.

He missed a very presentable early chance against Palace by miscuing a close-range volley at the back post, and then hit the post from a similar range in the final minute of the first half.

Maybe some frustration had set by the time he was red-carded. As they jostled at the edge of Pa-

lace's penalty area, Núñez threw his head back at Andersen and missed. Then, when confronted moments later by the aggrieved defender, Núñez turned into Andersen and butted him square in the face.

Already trailing because of Wilfried Zaha's 32nd-minute goal, Liverpool was really up against it. But even down to 10 men, Klopp's team still dominated possession and Díaz earned his team a point by cutting in from the left, slipping between two defenders, and curling a shot into the far corner in front of the Kop. The Colombia international's goal came four minutes after the red card.

"Sometimes you need a moment of brilliance," Liverpool midfielder James Milner said, "and when you have players like Luis on the pitch, he can create something out of nothing. It was an incredible goal."

Palace relied almost exclusively on the counterattack throughout the match and it was from that means that Zaha opened the sco-

ring, breaking the offside trap to latch onto Eberechi Eze's through-ball and curl a finish into the far corner.

Zaha missed a great chance to snatch a win when he stretched to meet a cross late in the game and hit the post.

Liverpool has now drawn its first two games — Klopp's team was held 2-2 by Fulham in the opening weekend — and is already four points behind Manchester City and Arsenal, the early pacesetters.

Its third match will be at Old Trafford next Monday against a beleaguered Manchester United team that has lost both of its games.

Núñez will be suspended for that, while Klopp is set to be without a slew of key players, with the likes of Thiago Alcantara, Diogo Jota, Ibrahima Konaté and Joel Matip currently out injured. Firmino missed the game as a precaution, according to Liverpool, so could be fit in a week's time.

"Everything went against us during the week," Klopp said. "It was crazy — it was like a witch was in the building. Every time somebody else had problems and then putting in such a performance, especially in the circumstances, I'm really proud."

American defender Chris Richards made his Premier League debut, entering for Palace in the 79th minute. **MDT/AP**

AD

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**OPINION**

**China Daily**  
Editorial, China Daily

**ECONOMY CONTINUES TO INSPIRE CONFIDENCE**

With the international situation becoming increasingly complicated and inflation rates soaring in the world's major economies, it is not easy for China to maintain its economic growth momentum, and yet it registered a growth of 2.5 percent year-on-year in the first half of this year.

But the conclusion that China's economy continues to recover, which was heard at a news conference on the economic situation on Monday, is well-founded. Despite the repeated domestic outbreaks of the novel coronavirus, which requires tightened prevention and control measures at various levels, the economy still registered a growth of 0.4 percent in the second quarter of this year.

Such a fact-based judgment should consolidate confidence in the resilience of the Chinese economy.

Indeed, a report released by the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade on the environment for foreign businesses two weeks ago shows that foreign investors are generally optimistic about the country's economic prospects, with 91 percent foreign-funded enterprises in China saying that they will either maintain their business scale or expand their business.

Reports of the American Chamber of Commerce in China and the German Chamber of Commerce in China paint a similar picture, indicating that 60 percent of United States' enterprises and 70 percent of German companies surveyed plan to increase their investment in China.

Such optimism is well-founded as the central government has ensured the stability of the economy with a range of policies.

A total of 32 policies adopted since May, involving financial and fiscal measures as well as approaches to secure investment and consumption, food security, and industry and supply chains have ensured the Chinese economy has not only maintained its recovery momentum despite the flare-ups of the virus, but also pressed ahead with its upgrading and transformation.

The added value of high-tech manufacturing increased 9 percent year-on-year in the first half of the year, and investment in high-tech industries grew by 20.2 percent.

The biggest constraint on the economy is the insufficient market demand, but household consumption is expected to gradually recover with the introduction of pro-consumption policies.

That more than 1,600 companies from 61 countries participated in the China International Consumer Products Expo 2022 held in July in the city of Haikou, Hainan province, indicates the foreign brands believe that demand will pick up.

Given the volatile international situation, China still faces challenges to maintain its economic growth. But with the implementation of targeted policies to overcome the difficulties, China can be confident of sustaining its own economic development and the world of it continuing to be a key driver of the global economy.

**CLIMATE CHANGE: HIGH TEMPS, DROUGHT AFFECT DRINKING WATER, CROPS**

**THE BUZZ**

Unusually high temperatures and a prolonged drought are affecting large swaths of China, reducing crop yields and drinking water supplies.

The lack of rain has been especially marked in the southwestern megacity of Chongqing, which encompasses a large area of mountains and rivers.

State media yesterday reported fire trucks were delivering water to outlying villages for drinking and irrigating crops.

Rainfall in Chongqing has been half of what is usually expected for the year and some smaller waterways have dried up entirely.

Authorities have issued warnings of temperatures exceeding 40 Celsius.

Many parts of China have broken records for high temperatures this year.

Amid the drought, other areas of China have been hit by flash floods, underscoring the effects of climate change on the vast nation of 1.4 billion people stretching from the mountains and deserts of Central Asia to the South China Sea.

The Chongqing drought has affected more than 600,000 people and 36,700 hectares of crops, the Xinhua News Agency reported.

Neighboring Hubei province has also been badly hit, with some areas reporting the growing season a complete failure, Xinhua said.

AP PHOTO



Russia's President Vladimir Putin and Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu attend the opening of the Army 2022 International Military and Technical Forum in Moscow, Monday

**PUTIN BLASTS US 'HEGEMONY', PREDICTS END TO 'UNIPOLAR' WORLD**

**VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV, MOSCOW**

Russian President Vladimir Putin accused the United States of trying to encourage extended hostilities in Ukraine as part of what he described yesterday as Washington's alleged efforts to maintain its global hegemony.

Addressing a security conference attended by military officials from Africa, Asia and Latin America, Putin reaffirmed his long-held claim that he sent troops into Ukraine in response to Washington turning the country into an "anti-Russia" bulwark.

"They need conflicts to retain their hegemony," Putin charged. "That's why they have turned the Ukrainian people into cannon fodder. The situation in Ukraine shows that the United States is trying to drag the conflict out, and it acts in exactly the same way trying to fuel conflicts in Asia, Africa and Latin America."

The speech represented the latest attempt by the Russian leader to rally support amid bruising Western sanctions that targeted the Russian economy and finance along with its

government structures, top officials and businesses for Moscow's action in Ukraine.

Putin also drew parallels between the U.S. backing Ukraine and a recent visit to Taiwan by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, charging that both were part of an alleged American attempt to foment global instability.

"The American adventure in Taiwan wasn't just a trip by an irresponsible politician. It was part of a deliberate and conscious U.S. strategy intended to destabilize the situation and create chaos in the region and the entire world, a blatant demonstration of disrespect for another country's sovereignty and its own international obligations," Putin said.

The Russian leader claimed that "Western globalist elites" were trying "to shift the blame for their own failures to Russia and China," adding that "no matter how hard the beneficiaries of the current globalist model try to cling to it, it's doomed."

"The era of the unipolar world order is nearing its end," he added.

Speaking at the same conference, Russian Defense Minister Sergei

Shoigu charged that along with supplies of weapons to Ukraine, Western allies also have provided detailed intelligence information and deployed instructors to help the Ukrainian military operate the weapons systems.

"Western intelligence agencies not only have provided target coordinates for launching strikes, but Western specialists also have overseen the input of those data into weapons systems," Shoigu said.

He dismissed allegations that Russia could potentially use nuclear or chemical weapons in the conflict as an "absolute lie."

"From the military viewpoint, there is no need for using nuclear weapons in Ukraine to achieve the stated goals," Shoigu said. "The main mission of the Russian nuclear forces is providing a deterrent against a nuclear attack."

Shoigu added that the claims of a possible chemical attack by Russia were equally "absurd," saying that Moscow fully liquidated its chemical weapons stockpiles in compliance with an international treaty banning chemical weapons. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



Germany's main industry lobby group warned yesterday that factories may have to throttle production or halt it completely because plunging water levels on the Rhine River are making it harder to transport cargo. The Rhine's level at Emmerich, near the Dutch border, dropped by a further four centimeters in 24 hours, hitting zero on the depth gauge.

Switzerland has signed an agreement with Uzbekistan on the return of \$131 million seized as part of a money-laundering investigation against the eldest daughter of former Uzbek President Islam Karimov. The deal will see the funds seized from Swiss accounts belonging to Gulnara Karimova in 2012 placed in a United Nations trust and used "for the benefit of the population of Uzbekistan." Further assets that might be confiscated from Karimova.

Kenyan opposition figure Raila Odinga (pictured) said yesterday he'll challenge the results of the close presidential election with "all legal options" after Deputy President William Ruto was declared the winner, bringing new uncertainty to a country where the vote was widely considered to be its most peaceful.

Cuba A doctor has been shot to death at a hospital in a rough neighborhood on the outskirts of Mexico City, prosecutors in the State of Mexico confirmed yesterday [Macau time]. The doctor, whose name was not provided, was killed Friday along with a nurse and another woman at a hospital in the suburb of Ecatepec.

Puerto Rico The Center for Biological Diversity filed a lawsuit against the U.S. government, accusing it of endangering wildlife and humans as it prepares to dredge and expand Puerto Rico's biggest bay to accommodate massive tankers that will serve a new liquid natural gas terminal. The Arizona-based nonprofit said the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' \$60 million project would remove 2.2 million cubic yards of seafloor sediment to deepen and widen San Juan Bay's shipping channels.