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**CHARGES WERE PRESSED AGAINST A COUPLE FOR ALLEGEDLY ADMINISTERING PHYSICAL PUNISHMENT ON THEIR SEVEN-YEAR-OLD SON**

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**IAS: DRUG ABUSE SITUATION HAS BEEN CONCEALED WHILE THE NUMBER OF REGISTRATIONS OF ADDICTS DECREASED**

P4



**Philippines** Survivors of torture and other atrocities under dictator Ferdinand Marcos yesterday marked his martial law declaration 50 years ago by pressing their demand for justice and apology from his son — now the country's president. Activists held street protests, a musical concert and unveiled a documentary at the state-run University of the Philippines. They say the manifestations were aimed at preventing a repeat of the abuses and plunder that began after Marcos imposed martial law in the Philippines in September 1972.



**Japan** A man set himself on fire near the prime minister's office in Tokyo yesterday in an apparent protest against the state funeral planned next week for former leader Shinzo Abe, officials and media reports said. The man, believed to be in his 70s, sustained burns on large parts of his body but was conscious and told police that he set himself on fire after pouring oil over himself, Kyodo News agency reported.



**Afghanistan** The Taliban appointed a new education minister, days after the United Nations called on the country's new rulers to reopen schools for girls beyond sixth grade. Since seizing power in Afghanistan just over a year ago, the Taliban have restricted the rights of girls to education, despite initial promises to the contrary. The United Nations estimates that more than a million girls have been barred from attending most of middle school and high school over the past year.

More on backpage

# RUNNERS GEAR UP

MDT ARCHIVE

One of the city's largest sports events, the int'l marathon, will return on December 4 with 12,000 slots P3



**SUNCITY TRIAL**

**SIDE-BETTING SYSTEM NOT OWNED BY SUNCITY: DEFENDANT**

P3

**FMCC SEMINAR**

**NFT CAN HELP MIGRATE LOYALTY PROGRAMS**

P2



# NFT CAN HELP MIGRATE LOYALTY PROGRAMS, SAY INDUSTRY SPEAKERS

ANTHONY LAM

**C**urrent loyalty programs can see great advances in NFT technology, including but not limited to unique and irreplicable membership cards, a panel of IT industry speakers announced recently.

The France Macau Chamber of Commerce (FMCC) organized an evening seminar-over-drinks that presented a panel discussing the metaverse and NFT and related technologies, which were collectively referred to as Web 3.0.

The panel of speakers noted that, unlike the previous version, Web 3.0 is distinguished by its decentralization. People can read, write and own a certain space. "All data is saved in a decentralized place and no entity will be able to keep your data," Roy Lee, co-founder of T-Rex Technology, said.

The idea of the metaverse has emerged in recent years. More precisely, as Mary Mendoza, a member of the Technology Innovation Committee of FMCC and moderator of the panel, put it, "The term got its popularity when Facebook rebranded its [parent company] as Meta."

Fearing some people may not yet be familiar with the term, Mendoza invited a panelist, Olinto Oliveira, general manager, MCI Hong Kong & Macau, to explain "what metaverse is not."

ANTHONY LAM



"It's not a program, a device or an app," Oliveira first clarified, as Mendoza revealed that some people thought the metaverse was an app. "It's an infinite space in which engagements can be conducted in a way that has not been [seen] before."

Another panelist, Charles Fauchet, co-founder, HighCo Metaland, added the metaverse is a set of virtual worlds connected via the internet and the blockchain. "Instead of moving from websites to websites, we'll be moving from virtual worlds to virtual worlds," he said.

In addition to Lee's explanation of Web 3.0, Oliveira said that in the future, companies will be able to create infinite spaces, which can

be manipulated, altered, changed and personalized in a way that has never been seen before. "It's very far-reaching in terms of what we're able to achieve," Oliveira concluded.

New terminologies have emerged alongside metaverse, such as blockchain, cryptocurrency (crypto) and NFT. When asked by Mendoza to give some explanation of them, Oliveira said they all happen

in the same ecosystem and have a lot of commercial applicability.

NFT, for example, will verify ownership of data as well as the travel that they have made. Oliveira used healthcare as an example to explain the business application, which is now a reality in Canada.

"In fact, everybody has a set of NFT data, which is their health records," he said. "When you go to the hospital and give [them the right] to access your NFT health records, they will be able to take information from there." He further explained that pharmaceutical companies can subscribe for medical data directly from the concerned person. When the person no longer wants to offer the subscription, they can suspend it immediately.

Another scenario is that products that can be counterfeited, for example, wine and sneakers, can have their copyright protected by NFT. "Whether it's fake or not fake; where it has been; [NFT] gives a lot of power to the creator and owner," Oliveira explained.

On how NFT can help amend existing loyalty programs, Fauchet cited the case of non-art retail to explain that. "For example, currently [convenience stores] are giving out stickers for people to buy merchandise later," he said. "With NFT, people can trade these stickers on the web."

Moreover, businesses can also offer crypto cash-back schemes to attract returning customers.

More information on NFT and loyalty programs can be found in the article on page 1.

## TOURISM

# MGTO expresses hope for upcoming Golden week

STAFF REPORTER

**F**or the upcoming Golden week, offline promotion will be paused to attract more visitors through online promotion, said the Macao Government Tourism Office director, Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes.

Dubbed the Golden Week, the seven-day holiday is a major event in mainland China, with the other being the May 1 holiday, which also lasts seven days.

"I believe that the number of visitors will not increase quickly under the pandemic, but the authorities will prepare golden week well," said Senna Fernandes.

Currently, due to the pandemic rebound in mainland China, many cities are worried that the pandemic will grow more serious during the Golden Week.

Senna Fernandes said the "Macao Week in Shandong and Qingdao" activities will be postponed due to the pandemic, and mainland authorities have

published a notice to call for reduced activities. MGTO will comply with the pandemic prevention measure by suspending offline promotion, and using online promotion.

The Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council has indicated that Chinese authorities will promote measures actively supporting Macao tourism depending on a request from the Macao Government.

Senna Fernandes said they are already preparing the relevant work, and deciding on suitable timing.

The official said the plan for the "2023 Parade for Celebration of the Year of the Tiger," was the same as last year, and that the event will take place on the third day of the Chinese Lunar New Year and another week.

Earlier this week, the validity of the nucleic acid test (NAT) taken for the purpose of crossing the border, previously 24 hours, was changed to 48 hours, a measure that will likely boost tourism arrivals in the upcoming Golden Week holidays.

FLORA TANG



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DIRECTOR & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com  
ASSISTANT EDITOR Lynzy Valles  
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai

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

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

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ADMINISTRATOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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



41ST MACAO INT'L MARATHON

# Local marathon moves forward with last year's format

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE 41st Macao International Marathon will take to the streets of Macau on December 4 in a format practically transposed from last year's event, the organizers said yesterday in a press conference to launch the event.

The president of Sports Bureau (ID), Pun Weng Kun, highlighted the long-time commitment of the sponsor – Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) – to the event, which has lasted 19 consecutive years, in the press conference that took place at the Banyan Tree hotel yesterday afternoon.

Pun also noted that the recent changes in the city's urban development have presented new challenges for the organization and the determination of routes to be followed for the full marathon distance (42.2km), the half-marathon (21.1km), and the mini-marathon, which will be 4.5km this year.

The president of the General Association of Athletics of Macau, Lam Hin Fu, said staff training and course preparation works have already begun to ensure the event runs smoothly, as in other years.

Lam Hin Fun said the support team this year will count on the help of over 1,000 members, who will also help to ensure that all the health-related protocols are strictly followed.

Representing the title sponsor, senior vice president of the corporate office of GEG, Buddy Lam,

RENATO MARQUES



noted the brand's commitment to the development of sports and sporting events in Macau over the years. He also said GEG will continue to promote the event through several events and initiatives. GEG is this year arranging a special promotional package that will allow participants to stay at the Galaxy Hotel at an affordable price, adding that it is also supporting the ID's promotional campaigns of the event in the Greater Bay Area cities to attract more participants and visitors to the competition.

Group advisor of GEG, Jorge Neto Valente, presented a check of 8 million patacas to Pun related to the sponsorship of this event, at the press conference.

## 12,000 ATHLETES EXPECTED TO RUN IN DECEMBER

A total of 12,000 entries will be made available for the registration of athletes of all levels and the three racing distances, with the larger portion (5,800) reserved for the mini-marathon, 4,800 entries being available for the half-marathon distance and the remaining 1,400 for the full marathon.

As in previous events, registrations will be available online on a specially dedicated website ([www.macaomarathon.com](http://www.macaomarathon.com)) or via a mobile application (Macao Marathon) on two different dates. For the marathon and half-marathon distances, regis-

tration will open on October 8 (Saturday) at 9 a.m., while for the mini-marathon, registrations will

open at the same time but on the following day (October 9). Both registrations will close as soon as all the slots are filled.

On the race day (December 4), participants for the marathon and half-marathon distances will hear the starting pistol at 6 a.m., while those for the mini-marathon will start to run 15 minutes later.

## VACCINE AND NAT NEEDED

As in the 2021 event, participants will have to present a vaccination proof of completion of the primary vaccination scheme for Covid-19 (2 doses) by November 20 (14 days before the competition) as well as undergo a nucleic acid test (NAT) before the event day and with a validity that includes the day of the competition. Participants must arrange and pay for this NAT.

The proof of vaccination will have to be presented at the BIB collection counter set up at Broadway Macau between November 27 and December 3.

In last year's event, which was affected by the border restrictions that only allowed the entry of athletes from the mainland, the organizers still noted that the event had participants from 29 different countries and regions, the large majority of which were people living in Macau.

## ID CHIEF HOPES ETHIOPIAN AND KENYAN CAN JOIN MARATHON

**ON** the sidelines of the press conference of the 41st edition of the Macao International Marathon, president of Sports Bureau (ID), Pun Weng Kun, said he hopes Ethiopian or Kenyan athletes (the most successful participants in the past) can still join this year's event, noting that quarantine requirements have

been reduced from previous 14 to '7+3' days. However, both countries are not included in the list of 41 countries which Macau has authorized reentry from early this month. As for the invited athletes, Pun admitted that invitations from organizers was "focused on the athletes from mainland."

SUNCITY TRIAL

# Side-betting system not owned by Suncity, defendant testifies

ANTHONY LAM

**A** former employee at the Suncity Group's IT Department told the court the alleged side-betting computer system was not owned by the company.

The fourth defendant in the spotlighted lawsuit concerning Suncity Group and 21 suspects, Ma Tin Lon, testified at yesterday's court hearing that the computer system, opsman, which could collect data on side-betting, was used by the fifth defendant, Cheong Chi Kin.

Cheong is a former em-

ployee at Suncity's Operations Department.

The opsman system was only installed at Cheong's request, according to Ma, as Cheong wanted to replicate Sunpeople's reception of data from the casino cage. Sunpeople was a system owned by Suncity.

Ma emphasized Sunpeople did not involve any information related to side-betting.

Ma added that Cheong is a business partner of Alvin Chau, boss of the company. He recalled Chau had instructed him to aid Cheong

on technical systems. He added that Cheong would bring customers to Suncity, but he was unaware if any side-betting practices existed.

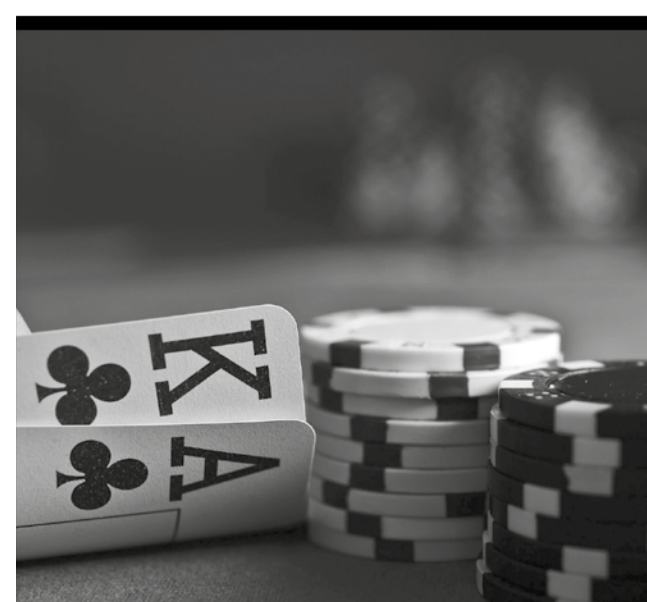
In addition, he only became aware of the side-betting recording function of the system in 2018 and said he did not know what side-betting was when he started his employment in 2013. The IT Department, he added, aids other departments as required.

Ma said all data related to tele-betting was in the Philippines. His department had

deployed teams to establish a server there when Suncity's VIP casinos opened there.

His department only had an auxiliary role afterwards and engaged service providers to provide support when problems arose. All software and hardware were sold to another company when Suncity announced its withdrawal from tele-betting in 2019.

In previous hearings, Chau testified he suspected it was probably Cheong who had been running side-betting.





STAFF REPORTER

# IAS: CONCEALMENT OF DRUG ABUSE STILL GOING ON

**I**N recent years, the drug abuse situation has been concealed while the number of registrations of drug addicts decreased, according to the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS).

Due to increasing drug abuse cases discovered recently (with people arrested for planting cannabis), the bureau said it has caused society once more to pay attention to the problem of drug abuse in Macau.

"In 2021, among a total of 231 drug addicts who [were] registered [by] the authorities, the main [motivation] was to reduce pressure, which related to the pandemic," said Tang Sut I, head of the department for the Prevention of Drug Addiction of the IAS.

Among the registrants, around 12 people were aged under 21-years-old, and their motivation for drug use was related to peer pressure.

During the pandemic, local youth have had more time to stay at home, therefore, the number of requests for assistance has increased.

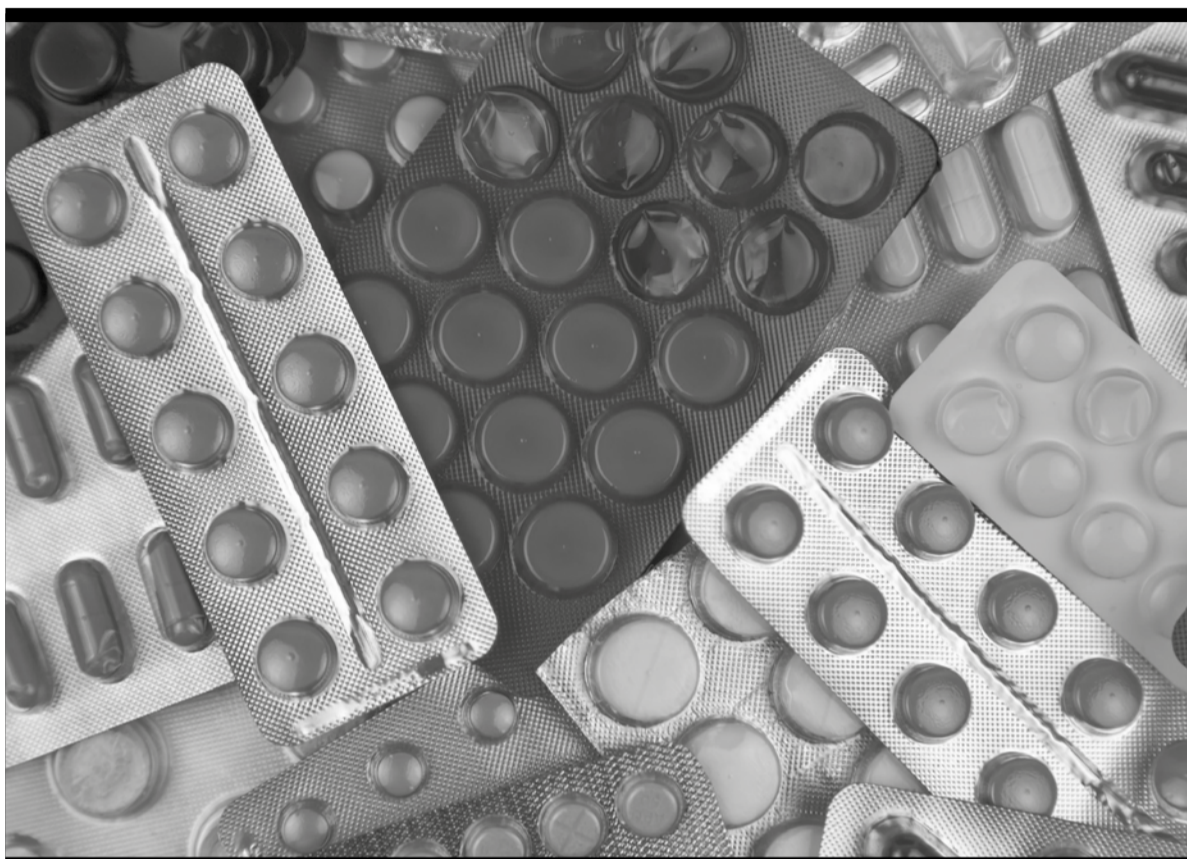
"Although the number of re-

quests was the same number as before the pandemic, the content of their request changed [due to] growing needs [responding to] pressure from family or study," Tang explained.

"In the last five years, the application number of drug addicts registered with the authorities was decreasing, maybe related to the concealment of drugs," said Tang.

Compared to the past five years, overall application numbers continued to decrease from 462 people in 2017 to 231 people in 2021, reflecting the fact that drug use was becoming more and more difficult to find and the need to pay attention to the situation, according to the data from the IAS.

Furthermore, the authorities are planning to conduct a study of around 10,000 young people in Macau, to find the reason why they use drugs and inform their prevention work regarding drugs.



CRIME

## Childcare worker arrested in nursery abuse case

STAFF REPORTER

**T**HE Judiciary Police (PJ) have arrested a non-local female employee in an alleged child abuse case in a childcare facility, in which a child's left arm was allegedly dislocated.

The female suspect, surnamed Padre, is in her 30s and is a Filipino childcare worker.

According to the PJ, they received a report on September 17 that a child had been hurt in a childcare facility at Rua Central da Areia Preta, and that the child's left arm had been dislocated.

The PJ arrived at the childcare facility and examined the facility's closed-circuit television (CCTV) system.

The CCTV showed a two-year-old child pushing chairs in the classroom. The suspect stopped the behavior by lifting the child with both hands from behind and moving the child to one side.

The PJ added that, in the video, when the suspect lifted the child down, the child's left arm seemed to be drooping.

Authorities therefore believed the suspect's behavior may have caused the child's injury. In addition, no other injury was found.

The PJ took the suspect and a witness from the childcare facili-



ty on September 19 for investigation.

During the investigation, the suspect admitted to the relevant behavior, but claimed she had not noticed the child was hurt.

The PJ said that, according to the forensic report, the child's injury meets the conditions of common assault, causing harm to bodily integrity.

The suspect has been charged with the offence of common as-

sault causing harm to bodily integrity and her case has been referred to the Public Prosecutions Office.

The matter was first unearthed on Monday when a woman alleged she suspected her son's left arm had been dislocated while he was at the childcare facility.

The police and the Social Welfare Bureau followed up on the case.

CRIME

## COUPLE PROSECUTED ON ALLEGATIONS OF PHYSICALLY ASSAULTING SON, 7

ANTHONY LAM

**C**HARGES have been pressed against a couple for allegedly administering physical punishment on, and causing injuries to, their seven-year-old son, the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) revealed in a statement.

Preliminary investigations show the two defendants are suspected of repeatedly physically punishing their son, for study and behavioral problems. The punishment allegedly caused bruises to various parts of the son's body.

A few days ago, the bruises were spotted by a teacher at the son's school, leading to the unearthing of the case.

Evidence points to the defendants' alleged violations of Clauses 1 and 2 of Article 18, and Item 1 of Clause 3 of the same Article of Law No 2/2016 – a law to prevent and combat domestic violence.

Pursuant to the law, anybody who administers physical, mental or sexual abuse to another family member or a member of similar relations, can be subject to imprisonment from

one to five years.

In addition to other legal and aggravating circumstances, which carry a sentence of up to 15 years, violators can also be imprisoned between two and eight years if the violence is inflicted on, or witnessed by, a minor 14 years or younger.

The victim is now in the custody of the Social Affairs Bureau (IAS).

The judge at the Criminal Procedure Court has applied restrictions on the defendants, namely periodic appearances before the court, prohibiting contact with the victim and prohibiting them from being in the presence of, or near, the school or foster home of the victim.

The MP said investigations would continue.

In the statement, the MP said domestic violence affects the mutual relationships between family members and their physical and psychological health, as well as having a negative impact on social stability. Parenting assistance can be sought from the government, the MP added.



ZERO-COVID

# HKSAR may announce end to quarantine as Macau continues to adhere to policy

LYNZY VALLES

**U**S-LISTED gaming operators' casino stocks in the city climbed earlier this week following reports that Hong Kong could announce the end of mandatory quarantine this week, in a move that could revive the financial hub.

The neighboring region currently requires three-day hotel quarantine with seven-day home surveillance. With this move, travelers will only have to home-quarantine for a week.

The move will be out-of-step with China's zero-Covid policy, which has retained some of the strictest Covid measures in the world despite most countries dropping restrictions and freely allowing international travel.



"Ideally if we can do this by November – zero days of quarantine – it will be very much helpful for us to organize these huge events," Holden Chow, a lawmaker and vice chairman of the largest political party in Hong Kong's legislature, previously said.

"Our final goal is to reach zero days, so they [may] also

do it on a step-by-step or gradual basis."

It is still unknown whether Macau would cut its quarantine period. It took Macau two months to decide to reduce the quarantine period to seven days from the former 10+7 days.

Last week, local authorities doubted the optimistic words

of the World Health Organization (WHO) director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus who announced that the end of the Covid-19 pandemic "is in sight."

The local government said it prefers to wait and keep observing the development of the pandemic as well as following the guidelines coming from both the WHO and China's central government on the matter.

Further, big-six shares yesterday slightly dropped except for Galaxy Entertainment Group.

Casino operators have been bleeding cash every day and have been in turmoil due to the pandemic that has been lingering for two and a half years, amid the city's adherence to Beijing's zero-Covid policy.

EDUCATION

## 110 GRADUATE FROM MPU'S SENIORS ACADEMY

STAFF REPORTER

**A** total of 110 senior Macau residents graduated from the Seniors Academy of the Macao Polytechnic University (MPU) in a graduation ceremony held in early September.

Around 770 students were enrolled in the 2021/2022 academic year, while 106 older adults studied in five short-period courses launched by the academy. The Seniors Academy provided 876 study places to older adults.

"Senior education is the process for integrating the elderly into society, and providing them with supporting skills and knowledge," said MPU's rector, Im Sio Kei, in his speech.

"It is never too late to learn for the elderly and studying at the Seniors Academy is a means of prompting and encouraging them to keep learning," he said.

Furthermore, in alignment with measures under the '10-year action plan for elderly support services' published by the government, MPU will be launching more courses for older adults.

The Seniors Academy was established in 1999 and was the first academic unit for older adults to study at a higher educational institution in Macau. The academy was established to provide older adults with the opportunity to return to school.

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STRAIT TENSION

# BEIJING DIALS DOWN TAIWAN RHETORIC; US, CANADA TRANSIT STRAIT



The Royal Canadian Navy Halifax-class frigate HMCS Vancouver transits the Taiwan Strait with guided-missile destroyer USS Higgins while conducting a routine transit on Tuesday

KEN MORITSUGU, BEIJING

CHINA toned down its rhetoric on Taiwan yesterday, saying it is inevitable that the self-governing island will come under its control but that it would promote efforts to achieve that peacefully.

The comments followed recent remarks by President Joe Biden that the U.S. would defend Taiwan if China were to invade and came a day after U.S. and Canadian warships sailed through the Taiwan Strait.

They don't appear to signal a change in policy as much as a broader attempt to calm the waters on multiple fronts in the runup to a major meeting of the ruling Communist Party next month.

"I would like to reiterate that ... we are willing to strive for

the prospect of peaceful reunification with the greatest sincerity and utmost efforts," Ma Xiaoguang, the government spokesperson on Taiwan, said when asked about growing concern that China might resort to force.

China and Taiwan split in 1949 during a civil war that brought the Communist Party to power on the mainland. The rival Nationalists retreated to Taiwan and established their own government on the island off China's east coast.

China launched missiles into the waters around Taiwan during major military exercises held last month in response to a visit by senior U.S. lawmaker Nancy Pelosi, the speaker of the House of Repre-

sentatives.

Ma, speaking at a news conference on the Taiwan issue, did not use the word force in

**"We are willing to strive for the prospect of peaceful reunification with the greatest sincerity and utmost efforts."**

MA XIAOQUANG  
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SPOKESPERSON

his response, as he has in the past. Instead, he said that China would take "resolute measures" against any provocative moves by Taiwan or its international supporters.

He said that China would introduce more policies to help Taiwan, highlight the benefits of integration with China and encourage people-to-people exchanges.

"The motherland must be unified and will certainly be unified," Ma said, calling it "a historical trend that no one can stop."

But Taiwanese, who have grown accustomed to democratic freedoms, appear unlikely to join China voluntarily — particularly after China's crackdown on dissent in Hong Kong, a former British colony returned to China in 1997.

China's military, for the second time in recent weeks, noted the sailing of a U.S. warship

through the Taiwan Strait without calling it provocative, as it had done earlier this year.

Chinese forces monitored the USS Higgins, a guided-missile destroyer, and a Canadian frigate, the HMCS Vancouver, spokesperson Col. Shi Yi said in a statement. He added that the military would resolutely defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin was more outspoken, accusing the U.S. of stirring up trouble and ganging up with other countries to exert pressure.

The U.S. Navy said in a statement that Tuesday's joint maneuver "demonstrates the commitment of the United States and our allies and partners to a free and open Indo-Pacific." MDT/AP

## China doesn't object US, UK joining Pacific allies in Fijian military exercise

ROD MCGUIRK,  
CANNBERRA

A military exercise in Fiji involving the United States, Britain, Australia and New Zealand ends this week as the traditional allies counter China's growing influence in the region.

The 11-day Exercise Cartwheel in Fiji began Sept. 12 and ends Friday, the U.S. Embassy in the Fijian capital, Suva, said yesterday in an email.

U.S. Navy Cmdr. Victor Lange said the name

of the exercise originated from Operation Cartwheel during World War II, in which the U.S. fought alongside the militaries of Australia, New Zealand and Fiji — then a British colony — to neutralize the Japanese base at Rabaul in Papua New Guinea.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said China had "no objection to normal defense cooperation among the countries concerned."

"But the cooperation should not be directed at third parties," Wang told re-

porters in Beijing.

The United States has promised greater engagement with the South Pacific after China and the Solomon Islands signed a bilateral security treaty in May that has raised concerns of a Chinese naval base being established in the region.

U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris told a South Pacific leaders' summit in Suva in July that the United States will open new embassies in Tonga and Kiribati. She also flagged a tripling of U.S. funding for fisheries assistan-

ce to \$60 million.

Australia's new government, elected in May, is also taking steps to increase its engagement with its island neighbors.

The government plans to establish an Australia-Pacific Defense School to train neighboring armies in response to China's potential military presence on the Solomon Islands.

Australians were reminded Wednesday of World War II coming to their shores when divers found what appeared to be an unexploded bomb off the

AP PHOTO



A New Zealand soldier looks down his training descent rope during Exercise Cartwheel at Nausori Highlands Training Area, Fiji, on Sunday

coast of the northern city of Darwin. Darwin became the first target of Japanese bombers on the Australian mainland in a devastating air raid on Feb. 19, 1942.

A 250-meter exclusion zone has been established in Darwin Harbor until the Defense Department removes the suspected bomb. MDT/AP



MALAYSIA

# Dad pleads help for scam victims after son died

EILEEN NG, KUALA LUMPUR

**T**HE parents of a Malaysian man who died after falling prey to a human trafficking scheme appealed yesterday to the government to rescue other scam victims trapped in Myanmar and Cambodia, saying they hoped there would be no more fatalities.

Malaysia's government has pledged to rescue Malaysians caught in what is said to be "modern slavery" in the region, including in Laos, Thailand, Myanmar and Cambodia. The victims are often young people in search of employment or romance, like Goi Zhen Feng. The 23-year-old went to Bangkok in January to meet a woman he had only contacted online who he described as his girlfriend, his father Goi Chee Kong said.

Zhen Feng, who planned to graduate as a teacher this year, failed to return for his mom's birthday in February. He made his first — and last — call to his parents in March to say he'd been beaten up for allegedly faking sick and needed 80,000 ringgit (about \$17,500) so he could be hospitalized for an

illness, the senior Goi said.

Following a tip-off by another Malaysian victim who had returned to the country, Goi said he believed Zhen Feng was taken to KK Garden in Myanmar's Myawaddy township near the Thai border to work for companies engaged in online scams. Malaysian officials said KK Garden is a casino and entertainment complex in the Myawaddy village of Shwe Kokko that involves Chinese investment and is suspected of being a hub for organized crimes.

The family discovered Zhen Feng died in May under a fake name in a Thai hospital in Mae Sot, across the river from the Myanmar complex. He was hospitalized in intensive care for a month and his cause of death was reported to be infection in his heart and lungs, Goi said.

"We are slowly accepting the reality that my son is dead," Goi told a news conference organized by the opposition Justice Party. "We hope the government will rescue all the victims in Myanmar and Cambodia."

The foreign ministry says 148 out of 158 reported victims of job scams in Cambodia alone have been rescued, and it's trying to track down victims in

other countries: 12 in Thailand, 28 in Laos and 54 in Myanmar.

Over 30 Malaysian families rallied this week outside the prime minister's office, calling for government intervention as more cases surface. The youngest reported victim to be rescued was 14.

Sim Chon Siang, a Justice Party lawmaker, has helped more than 50 scam victims. He said Shwe Kokko was like a maze with 20 blocks of buildings, based on victim and source accounts. He said each block has 52 rooms, with up to eight people crammed in one room.

Victims included people from Africa and other Asian nations who were lured to the guarded complex and immediately be given new names, Sim said. Generally they made to work long hours in a confined area scamming others, with some beaten up if they failed to show results, he said.

Some made it back home after their families paid ransoms, but many are afraid to share their experience for fear over their safety, Sim added.

Two Malaysians at the press conference yesterday shared their stories of being tricked to work in Shwe Kokko.

A 30-year-old man, who declined to be named for fear of retaliation, said he was hoodwinked by a Malaysian he befriended on WeChat, a Chinese messaging app. He was offered 50,000 Thai baht (about \$1,300) a month for an easy job and flew to Bangkok in mid-July.

He said he was taken to Mae Sot and crossed the river into Myanmar where armed men in military outfits escorted him to the complex. He said he saw some 200 Malaysians in the complex during his stay there, where he was made to work 15 hours daily recruiting people for the operations. After his family paid a 40,000 ringgit (\$8,760) ransom, he was let off with a warning: "Don't look for trouble."

His experience was echoed by a 29-year-old single mother who was desperate after losing her job due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She said a Malaysia agent took her to Thailand, then to Mae Sot and KK Garden. She escaped more than three months later after pleading for her life and paying a ransom.

"I hope my son is the first and last (Malaysian) to die due to such scams," Goi said. **MDT/AP**

ADVERTORIAL

## GREAT TIMES

### Imperial Court at MGM: Recreating Nostalgic Abalone

**S**ELECTING the very best seasonal ingredients to go with the abalone, Homan Tsui, Chef de Cuisine of Imperial Court, pays homage to Lingnan culinary craftsmanship to recreate nostalgic dishes with fine contemporary twists. Contrasting the pairing, the wok-fried dish of crispy Chinese dough stick and water chestnut, was one of the beloved Guangdong culinary classics that was popular few decades ago. Draw on this traditional technique, Chef Tsui thoughtfully elevates the crux of Lingnan dishes by incorporating freshly sliced South African abalone, and stuffed the Chinese dough stick with minced cuttlefish paste, to revamp an umami bomb with playful twist, impeccably illustrating the Lingnan essences of freshness and delicacy.



Reminiscent of a staple in the legendary Manchu-Han Imperial Feast, Braised Sliced South Africa Abalone with Giant Groupers Skin is a sophisticated yet nostalgic dish, only served in upper-class banquets in the past century. From soaking the dried giant grouper skin, to braising in a rich broth, the entire process usually takes three to four days to perfect. Chef Tsui stressed, "due to its time-consuming process and intricate techniques required, this century-old hand-crafted dish is hardly found nowadays. We hope to pass on this luscious indulgence for every gastronomy enthusiast, and at the same time catering contemporary palate and wellness concern, making these traditional classics more enjoyable for all." For enquiries or reservations, please call 8802 2361.



Goi Chee Kong shows a picture of his son Goi Zhen Feng, who died after falling prey to human trafficking syndicates, during a press conference in Petaling Jaya, outskirts of Kuala Lumpur, yesterday

AP PHOTO



UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

# Biden says Russia 'shamelessly violated' UN Charter in Ukraine

AAMER MADHANI  
& ZEKE MILLER,  
UNITED NATIONS

**P**RESIDENT Joe Biden declared at the United Nations last night [Macau time] that Russia has "shamelessly violated the core tenets" of the international body with its war in Ukraine as he summoned nations around the globe to stand firm in backing the Ukrainian resistance.

Delivering a forceful condemnation of Russia's seven-month invasion, Biden said reports of Russian abuses against civilians in Ukraine "should make your blood run cold." And he said President Vladimir Putin's new nuclear threats against Europe showed "reckless disregard" for Russia's responsibilities as a signer of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

He criticized Russia for scheduling "sham referenda" this week in territory it has forcibly seized in Ukraine.

"A permanent member of the U.N. Security Council invaded its neighbor, attempted to erase a sovereign state from the map. Russia has shamelessly violated the core tenets of the U.N. charter," he told his U.N. audience.

Biden called on all nations, whether democracies or autocracies, to speak out against Russia's "brutal, needless war" and to bolster the Ukraine effort to defend itself.

"We will stand in solidarity against Russia's aggression, period," Biden said.

Biden also highlighted consequences of the invasion for the world's food supply, pledging \$2.9 billion in global food security aid to address shortages caused by the war and the effects of climate change. He praised a U.N.-brokered effort to create a corridor for Ukrainian grain to be exported by sea, and called on the agreement to be continued despite the ongoing conflict.

Biden, during his time at the U.N. General Assembly, also planned to meet Wednesday with new British Prime Minister Liz Truss and press allies to meet an \$18 billion target to replenish the

AP PHOTO



Global Fund to Fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

But the heart of the president's visit to the U.N. this year was his full-throated censure of Russia as its war nears the seven-month mark. One of Russia's deputy U.N. ambassadors, Gennady Kuzmin, was sitting in Russia's seat during Biden's speech.

The address came as Russian-controlled regions of eastern and southern Ukraine have announced plans to hold Kremlin-backed referendums in days ahead on becoming part of Russia and as Moscow is losing ground in the invasion. Russian President Putin on Wednesday announced a partial mobilization to call up 300,000 reservists and accused the West of engaging in "nuclear blackmail."

The White House said the global food security funding includes \$2 billion in direct humanitarian assistance through the United States Agency for International Development. The balance of the money will go to global development projects meant to boost the efficiency and resilience of the global food supply.

"This new announcement of \$2.9 billion will save lives through emergency interventions and invest in medium- to long-term food security assistance in order to protect the world's most vulnerable populations from the escalating global food security crisis," the

White House said.

Biden was confronting no shortage of difficult issues as leaders gather this year.

In addition to the Russian war in Ukraine, European fears that a recession could be just around the corner are heightened. Administration concerns grow by the day that time is running short to revive the Iran nuclear deal and over "China's saber-rattling on Taiwan."

When he addressed last year's General Assembly, Biden focused on broad themes of global partnership, urging world leaders to act with haste against the coronavirus, climate change and human rights abuses. And he offered assurances that his presidency marked a return of American leadership to international institutions following Donald Trump's "America First" foreign policy.

But one year later, global dynamics have dramatically changed.

His address comes on the heels of Ukrainian forces retaking control of large stretches of territory near Kharkiv. But even as Ukrainian forces have racked up battlefield wins, much of Europe is feeling painful blowback from economic sanctions levied against Russia. A vast reduction in Russian oil and gas has led to a sharp jump in energy prices, skyrocketing inflation and growing risk of Europe slipping into a recession.

Biden's visit to the U.N.

also comes as his administration's efforts to revive the 2015 Iran nuclear deal appears stalled.

The deal brokered by the Obama administration — and scrapped by Trump in 2018 — provided billions of dollars in sanctions relief in exchange for Iran's agreement to dismantle much of its nuclear program and open its facilities to extensive international inspection.

"While the United States is prepared for a mutual return to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, if Iran steps up to its obligations, the United States is clear: We will not allow Iran to acquire nuclear weapons," Biden said.

U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said no breakthrough with Iran was expected during the General Assembly and that administration officials would be consulting with fellow signers of the 2015 agreement on the sidelines of this week's meetings.

This year's U.N. gathering is back to being a full-scale, in-person event after two years of curtailed activity due to the pandemic. In 2020, the in-person gathering was canceled and leaders instead delivered prerecorded speeches; last year was a mix of in-person and prerecorded speeches. Biden and first lady Jill Biden were set to host a leaders' reception today [Macau time] evening.

President Xi Jinping opted not to attend this year's U.N. gathering. MDT/AP

## this day in history

### 1980 WAR BREAKS OUT BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ



Three weeks of border clashes between Iran and Iraq appear to have finally erupted into all-out war.

Iraq has bombed several Iranian air and military supply bases, including Tehran's international airport.

The rise in hostilities comes after Iraq tore up a 1975 border agreement with Iran over sovereignty of the Shatt al-Arab waterway.

The southern end of the river forms part of the border between the two countries, leading into the Gulf, and is a vital supply line for oil to the West.

Iraqi and Iranian ships exchanged fire in the disputed estuary yesterday and Iraq claimed to have sunk eight Iranian patrol boats.

Iranian reports say Iraqi forces shelled the Iranian naval base of Khorramshahr, 20 miles (32kms) south of Abadan, and site of the world's largest oil refinery. There are also reports of ground forces advancing into surrounding Iranian territory.

Iraqi officials say Iranian guns hit Iraqi economic installations in the Shatt al-Arab waterway. Some reports say they fired at an Iraqi oil reservoir in the Basra area in southern Iraq and set it on fire.

Iraq has announced the call-up of all army, police, public security and customs reservists.

It is also reported to have moved bombers and transport aircraft into neighbouring Jordan.

Western diplomats believe Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is seeking to take advantage of the post-revolution turmoil in Iran to seize control of the waterway and other territory handed over to Tehran as part of the 1975 agreement.

In return Iran agreed to end support for a Kurdish rebellion in northern Iraq.

President Hussein also appears intent on destroying the new Islamic leader, Ayatollah Khomeini's, grip on Iran and the majority Shia Muslim population amid fears they may arouse discontent among Iraq's Shia majority community.

A senior member of the Iraqi government, Tariq Aziz, is in Moscow for talks in what appears to be a move to seek for more arms.

Iraq may be forced to seek support from its traditional ally, the United States. Part of the price for that support would be a demand to release the 52 US hostages who have been held by Islamic fundamentalists in Tehran since November last year.

Oil experts in London say the conflict spells no immediate threat to supplies.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The Iran/Iraq war lasted eight years, despite the limited military capabilities of the two sides.

The two superpowers, the USA and the USSR, declared neutrality. The USA, under President Jimmy Carter was committed to keeping the oil supply route open. The Soviets had paid to arm Iraq but shared a common border with Iran. Iraq's superior military equipment initially gave it the upper hand in the fighting, but Iran fought back and even advanced to occupy some Iraqi territory in 1984 and 1986.

Both sides eventually agreed to the terms of a United Nations ceasefire in August 1988. Official reports say more than 400,000 were killed and 750,000 wounded.

In 1990 Iran and Iraq restored diplomatic relations.



## YOUR STARS



### ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

It's time to reconnect with some of the people you used to know. Your intellectual charm will entice mates who have common interests. Work quietly behind the scenes.



### TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Sudden changes at home will affect family members more than you anticipated. Try to do your job and then leave. Accept the inevitable, and opportunities for advancement will follow.



### GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Take time to do some writing, whether it's correspondence, poetry, or keeping a journal. Expressing yourself in novel ways should lead you down new avenues.



### CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

You could meet potential new mates if you go out with friends or take pleasure trips. Family members may want you at home, when your heart is telling you to spend time with someone you recently met.



### LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

You will be emotional with regard to your personal life. Exhaustion combined with overindulgence could result in minor health problems. Your changing attitudes may be causing concern for your partner.



### VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

This will be a very hectic day if you've made promises to too many people. You can expect to have some problems with skin, bones, or teeth if you haven't taken proper care of them.



### LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Join a club to work off that excess energy; but consider ways of doing that without spending the money. Use your own ideas to further your interests. If you can get away for a vacation, do so.



### SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Lending a hand may become a problem. Travel for pleasure will be enticing. Sudden romantic connections may be short lived. Don't let your boss get the better of you.



### SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Hard work will not go unnoticed. You can gain distinction; however, it may be for the wrong reasons. Your home may be in an uproar and you are best to stay out of the line of fire if at all possible.



### CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

You mustn't be so trusting. You can make reasonable bids on real estate or large items for your home. Don't give them the use of your credit card.



### AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You can make money through your creative efforts. Try a barbecue or a day at the beach. You may be overly emotional when dealing with your mate.



### PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Try not to allow your partner to lead you astray or upset your routine. Travel, although enticing, will cost more than you expect. You may want to try your hand at a little creative writing.

## The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



## SUDOKU

### EASY

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

### EASY+

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

### MEDIUM

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

### HARD

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

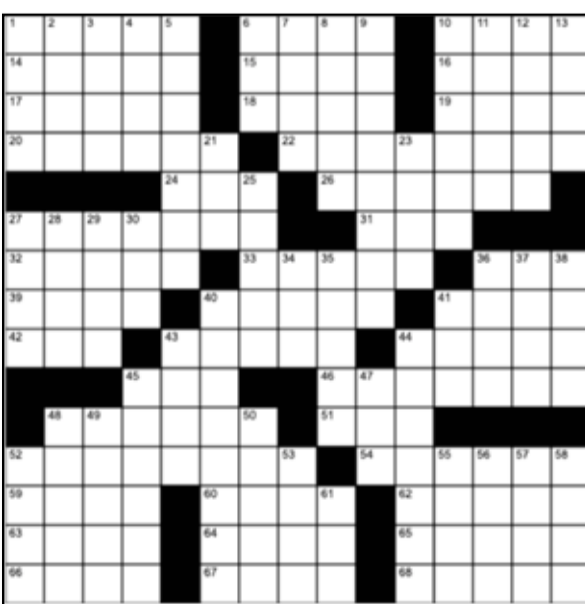
## WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	16	27	cloudy
Changchun	13	22	rain
Chengdu	18	23	overcast
Chongqing	20	23	rain
Fuzhou	24	32	cloudy
Guangzhou	25	34	thunderstorms
Guiyang	17	22	rain
Haikou	25	30	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	19	28	cloudy
Harbin	14	21	showers
Hefei	15	28	cloudy
Nanjing	17	28	cloudy
Shanghai	20	27	fine
Taipei	23	28	fine
Wuhan	17	27	fine
Hong Kong	28	32	overcast
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	8	16	rain
Frankfurt	6	19	overcast
Paris	10	21	overcast
London	13	21	overcast
New York	11	23	thunderstorm

## CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Minor mistakes; 6- Pop; 10- Throw; 14- Walk-on role; 15- Are you out?; 16- Shrinking sea; 17- Warning; 18- Fourth-down option; 19- Quechua speaker; 20- Zealot; 22- Teredo; 24- Young fellow; 26- Recently; 27- Sigh; 31- Charged particle; 32- Milo of "Barebella"; 33- Establish; 36- Mom-and-pop org.; 39- Bump into; 40- Host; 41- Sulk; 42- Period of history; 43- Like Fran Drescher's voice; 44- Pic; 45- Rejections; 46- Membrane in the ear canal; 48- Climbed; 51- Genetic material; 52- Pertaining to bodily structure; 54- Cultivated; 59- Adriatic port; 60- Son of Aphrodite; 62- Mikhail's wife; 63- Cube creator Rubik; 64- Emperor of Rome 54-68; 65- Bungling; 66- Observed; 67- Low card; 68- Gut course;

DOWN 1- Shell game; 2- In \_\_\_ land; 3- Model married to David Bowie; 4- Gilpin of "Frasier"; 5- East African nation; 6- Little drink; 7- Weight; 8- "Tiny Bubbles" singer; 9- Ingenuity; 10- Island off the SE coast of China; 11- Ready \_\_\_; 12- \_\_\_bleul; 13- Close with force; 21- Teen's desire; 23- Scheme; 25- Considers; 27- A bit; 28- Consumer; 29- Queens stadium; 30- Domesticated animal; 34- Nipper's co.; 35- Conger catcher; 36- Wanting; 37- Ballerina's skirt; 38- Molecular component; 40- Convenience; 41- High degree; 43- \_\_\_ contender; 44- Tract of grassland; 45- Country; 47- Hill builder; 48- Capture; 49- Chili con \_\_\_; 50- More urgent; 52- Burrows and Vigoda; 53- Reactor part; 55- Actress Turner; 56- Falsehoods; 57- Catch sight of; 58- Numbers to crunch; 61- Salty sauce;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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- 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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- 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
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- NOVA PARK | 2 BEDS HKD 10,800,000

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ECONOMY

# HIGH INFLATION IN SIGHT, US FEDERAL RESERVE TO SIGNAL MORE RATE HIKES AHEAD

CHRISTOPHER RUGABER,  
WASHINGTON

**L**AST month, when Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell spoke at an economic conference in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, he issued a blunt warning: The Fed's drive to curb inflation by aggressively raising interest rates, he said, would "bring some pain" for Americans.

When the Fed ends its latest meeting Wednesday and Powell holds a news conference, Americans will likely get a better idea of how much pain could be in store.

The central bank is expected to raise its key short-term rate by a substantial three-quarters of a point for the third consecutive time. Another hike that large would boost its benchmark rate — which affects many consumer and business loans — to a range of 3% to 3.25%, the highest level in 14 years.

Many Fed watchers, though, will be paying particular attention to Powell's words at a news conference afterward. His remarks will be parsed for any hint of whether the Fed expects to moderate its rate hikes in the coming months — or instead to continue tightening credit significantly until it's convinced that inflation is on its way down.

In a further sign of the Fed's deepening concern about inflation, it will also likely signal Wednesday that it plans to raise rates much higher by year's end than it had forecast three months ago — and to keep them higher for longer. Economists expect Fed officials to forecast that their key rate could go as high as 4% before the new year. They're also likely to signal additional hikes in 2023, perhaps to as high as roughly 4.5%.

Short-term rates at that level would make a recession likelier next year by sharply raising the costs of mortgages, car loans and business loans. The Fed intends those higher borrowing costs to slow growth by cooling a still-robust job market to cap wage growth and other inflation pressures. Yet the risk is growing that the Fed may weaken the economy so much as to cause a downturn that would produce heavy job losses.

The economy hasn't seen rates as high as the Fed is projecting since before the 2008 financial crisis. Last week, the average fixed mortgage rate topped 6%, its highest point in 14 years. Credit card borrowing costs have reached their highest level since 1996, accor-

AP PHOTO



ding to Bankrate.com.

Powell and other Fed officials still say the Fed's goal is to achieve a "soft landing," by which they would slow the economy enough to tame inflation but not so much as to trigger a recession.

By last week, though, that goal appeared further out of reach after the government reported that inflation over the past year was a painful 8.3%. Even worse, so-called core prices, which exclude volatile food and energy costs, rose much faster than expected.

The inflation report also documented just how broadly inflation has spread through the economy, complicating the Fed's task. Inflation now appears increasingly fueled by higher wages and by consumers' steady desire to spend and less by the supply shortages that had bedeviled the economy during the pandemic recession.

"They're going try to avoid recession," said William Dudley, formerly the president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. "The problem is that the room to do that is virtually non-existent at this point."

The Fed's rapid rate hikes mirror steps that other major central

banks are taking, contributing to concerns about a potential global recession. The European Central Bank last week raised its benchmark rate by three-quarters of a percentage point. The Bank of England, the Reserve Bank of Australia and the Bank of Canada have all carried out hefty rate increases in recent weeks.

And in China, the world's second-largest economy, growth is already suffering from the government's repeated COVID lockdowns. If recession sweeps through most large economies, that could derail the U.S. economy, too.

## If recession sweeps through most large economies [like China], that could derail the US economy, too

At his news conference yesterday, Powell isn't likely to drop any hints that the central bank will ease up on its credit tightening campaign. Most economists expect the Fed to stop raising rates in early 2023. But for now, they expect Powell to reinforce his hard-line anti-inflation stance.

"It's going to end up being a hard landing," said Kathy Bostjancic, an economist at Oxford Economics.

"He's not going to say that," Bostjancic said. But, referring to the most recent Fed meeting in July, when Powell raised hopes for an eventual pullback on rate hikes, she added: "He also wants to make sure that the markets don't come away and rally. That's what happened last time."

Indeed, investors responded then by bidding up stock prices and buying bonds, which lowered rates on securities like the benchmark 10-year Treasury. Higher stock prices and lower bond yields generally boost the economy — the opposite of what the Fed wants.

The central bank has already engaged in the fastest series of rate hikes since the early 1980s. Yet some economists — and some Fed officials — argue that they have yet to raise rates to a level that would actually restrict borrowing and spending and slow growth.

Loretta Mester, president of the Cleveland Federal Reserve Bank, and one of the 12 officials who will vote on the Fed's decision Wednesday, said she thinks it will be necessary to raise the

Fed's rate to "somewhat above 4% by early next year and hold it there."

"I do not anticipate the Fed cutting" rates next year, Mester added, dispelling the expectations of many investors on Wall Street who had hoped for such a reversal. Comments like Mester's contributed to a sharp fall in stock prices last month that began after Powell's stern anti-inflation speech at the conference in Jackson Hole.

"Our responsibility to deliver price stability is unconditional," Powell said then — a remark widely interpreted to mean that the Fed will fight inflation even if it requires deep job losses and a recession.

Many economists sound convinced that a recession and widespread layoffs will be necessary to slow rising prices. Research published earlier this month under the auspices of the Brookings Institution concluded that unemployment might have to go as high as 7.5% to get inflation back to the Fed's 2% target.

Only a downturn that harsh would reduce wage growth and consumer spending enough to cool inflation, according to the a paper by Johns Hopkins University economist Laurence Ball and two economists at the International Monetary Fund.



TENNIS

# Top seeds Badosa and Garcia ousted at Pan Pacific Open

**T**OP seed Paula Badosa, second seed Caroline Garcia and Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina were knocked out of the Pan Pacific Open yesterday.

Badosa was overwhelmed by Qinwen Zheng, the 19-year-old rapid improver from China, 6-3, 6-2. Qinwen won 10 of the last 12 games, playing fearlessly on Badosa's serve to break her four times.

"It's not a surprise, I always knew I had the level, I just had to make it," Qinwen said after her first completed top-10 win.

Qinwen's third quarterfinal of the year will be against Claire Liu, who beat Elise Mertens 6-4, 6-1.

Garcia was upset by another Chinese in the second round, Zhang Shuai, who prevailed 4-6, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (5) in 2 1/2 hours.



Zhang Shuai of China returns a shot against Caroline Garcia of France

Garcia broke Zhang in the opening game and won the set with her 10th ace. But despite serving 27 aces — beating Qinwen's mark of 21 in a match for best on tour this year — Garcia couldn't hold her form and Zhang used her speed and precision to take the second set.

Zhang said her many years of playing and training

in Japan paid off.

"I was trying to stay calm. I told myself in the tough moments how I never lose on this court so today I will win," she said. "This is my home tournament so that gave me a lot of motivation. Everything is positive here and that's why I played really well."

Rybakina was coming off losing a three-set final in

Slovenia last weekend but struggled to find any rhythm against an in-form Liudmila Samsonova, who won their tournament opener 6-2, 6-4.

Samsonova won two tournaments in August and reached the fourth round of the U.S. Open, and was calmly efficient in Tokyo.

"I'm incredibly happy about this match," she said. "It's always tough to play Elena. She's a big champion now so I was prepared for a big fight. Last month was very positive for me. Winning a tournament I have more confidence, but I have to stay focused."

She faces China's Xinyu Wang in the second round.

Third-seeded Garbine Muguruza avoided the upsets after a first-round bye by cruising past Greek qualifier Despina Papamichail 6-4, 6-2 to reach the quarterfinals. MDT/AP

FOOTBALL

# WORLD CUP CAPTAINS WANT TO WEAR RAINBOW ARMBANDS IN QATAR

**F**IFA came under pressure yesterday from several European soccer federations who want their captains to wear an armband with a rainbow heart design during World Cup games in Qatar to campaign against discrimination.

France and Germany, the last two World Cup champions, were among eight of the 13 European soccer teams going to Qatar who joined the "One Love" campaign, which started in the Netherlands. The Dutch team plays Qatar in Group A on Nov. 29.

FIFA rules prohibit teams from bringing their own armband designs to the World Cup and insist they must use equipment provided by

the governing body.

Armbands are the latest battleground for players to push political messages linked to the World Cup hosted in Qatar, where homosexual acts are illegal and the treatment of migrant workers building projects for the tournament has been a decade-long controversy.

"Wearing the armband together on behalf of our teams will send a clear message when the world is watching," England captain Harry Kane said in a statement.

The Swiss soccer federation said it wanted captain Granit Xhaka to wear an armband on which "you can see a heart with diverse colors which represent the diversity of humanity." MDT/AP



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**OPINION**

**China Daily**  
 Editorial, China Daily

**SINO-RUSSIAN TIES  
 CONTRIBUTE TO  
 REGIONAL STABILITY**

As two of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, as well as two major pillars of the United Nations-centered international system, both China and Russia consider it a shared responsibility to deepen their strategic coordination to prevent the law-based international order from being hijacked by the United States and its clique for their own narrow ends.

In doing so, the two countries have formed a model for the relationship between major countries that is characterized by mutual respect.

Shortly after the leaders of the two countries met during the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, last week, top Chinese diplomat Yang Jiechi co-chaired the 17th Round of the Strategic Security Consultation between China and Russia with Nikolai Patrushev, secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation, in Fuzhou, Fujian province, on Monday.

The consultation has undoubtedly initiated the implementation of the consensus reached by the two countries' leaders on deepening the two countries' cooperation and the need for joint efforts to uphold fairness and justice in the international system.

Thus Yang and Patrushev exchanged views on better coordinating and targeting their actions to maintain peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, and discussing the situations in Afghanistan and Ukraine, among other issues.

Those who feel uneasy or even fearful at the normal collaboration between Beijing and Moscow should do some soul-searching on their own motives, rather than racking their brains to speculate on the two countries having ulterior motives.

The two countries' focus is on improving the common good of the two peoples and contributing to world peace and stability. Their relations have never been at the mercy of third parties. They have not changed and will not change their original vision or course due to drastic changes in the international landscape or under pressure from third parties.

Their adherence to the principles of non-alignment, non-confrontation and not targeting third parties while handling bilateral ties guarantee that Sino-Russian relations will withstand the tests of various kinds of challenges, and they will continue to work together to safeguard the security interests of the region as well as the common interests of developing countries and emerging market economies.

That is in stark contrast to the behavior of some Western countries that are intent on sowing seeds of discord around the world and provoking confrontation.

The times are changing and the historical forces driving the change call for political trust, openness and inclusiveness, not aspersion, confrontation and exclusion.

**RUSSIA WARNS PROTESTS AGAINST  
 RESERVISTS' DRAFT WON'T BE TOLERATED**

**THE  
 BUZZ**

The Moscow Prosecutor's Office has said that participation in protests and unsanctioned "mass events" is a punishable offense which can result "imprisonment for up to 15 years," BBC reported.

It shared the message on Telegram as an apparent warning to people considering taking to the streets this evening to protest the Russian government's decision to draft reservists to fight in Ukraine, announced yesterday.

Meanwhile, various Telegram channels are reporting that protests against mobilisation are kicking off in the Far East of Russia. Ten people are thought to have already been detained in Irkutsk.

Russia has cracked down on protests in recent months. Independent human rights media project OVD-info estimates that 16,437 people have been detained since the start of the war in Ukraine on 24 February.

The Russian government says it will announce "very soon" who will be exempt from its partial mobilisation.

Speaking to reporters, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the government would shortly decide which citizens would be allowed to defer a call-up.

According to BBC, Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu earlier said only soldiers with military experience will be called up.



Donald Trump sits with his children, (from left) Eric Trump, Donald Trump Jr., and Ivanka Trump during a groundbreaking ceremony for the Trump International Hotel (2014)

**NY ATTORNEY GENERAL  
 SUES DONALD TRUMP  
 AND HIS COMPANY**

**N**EW York's attorney general sued former President Donald Trump and his company yesterday, alleging business fraud involving some of their most prized assets, including properties in Manhattan, Chicago and Washington, D.C.

Attorney General Letitia James' lawsuit, filed in state court in New York, is the culmination of the Democrat's three-year civil investigation of Trump and the Trump Organization. Three of Trump's adult children, Donald Jr., Ivanka and Eric Trump, were also named as defendants, along with two longtime company executives, Allen Weisselberg and Jeffrey McConney.

The lawsuit seeks to strike at the core of what made Trump famous, taking a blacklight to the image of wealth and opulence he's embraced throughout his career — first as a real estate developer, then as a reality TV host on "The Apprentice" and "Celebrity Apprentice," and later as president.

James, a Democrat, announced details of the lawsuit at a news conference yesterday. The case showed up on a court docket yesterday morning.

James said Trump "falsely inflated his net worth by billions of dollars."

The goal, the attorney general's office has said, was to burnish Trump's billionaire

image and the value of his properties when doing so gave him an advantage, while playing down the value of assets at other times for tax purposes.

"This investigation revealed that Donald Trump engaged in years of illegal conduct to inflate his net worth, to deceive banks and the people of the great state of New York," James said at the news conference. "Claiming you have money that you do not have does not amount to the art of the deal. It's the art of the steal."

James is seeking to remove the Trumps from businesses engaged in the alleged fraud and wants an independent monitor appointed for no less than five years to oversee the Trump Organization's compliance, financial reporting, valuations and disclosures to lenders, insurers and tax authorities.

She is seeking to replace the current trustees of Trump's revocable trust, which controls his business interests, with independent trustees, to bar Trump and the Trump Organization from entering into commercial real estate acquisitions for five years, from obtaining loans from banks in New York for five years and permanently bar Trump and three of his adult children from serving as an officer or director in any New

York corporation or similar business entity registered and/or licensed in New York State.

She also seeks to permanently bar Weisselberg and McConney from serving in the financial control function of any New York corporation or similar business entity registered and/or licensed in New York State.

James said her investigation uncovered potential criminal violations, including falsifying business records, issuing false financial statements, insurance fraud, conspiracy and bank fraud. She said her office is referring those findings to federal prosecutors and the Internal Revenue Service.

Alina Habba, an attorney for Trump, said the lawsuit "is neither focused on the facts nor the law — rather, it is solely focused on advancing the Attorney General's political agenda."

"It is abundantly clear that the Attorney General's Office has exceeded its statutory authority by prying into transactions where absolutely no wrongdoing has taken place," Habba said.

James' lawsuit comes amid a swirl of unprecedented legal challenges for a former president, including an FBI investigation into Trump's handling of classified records and inquiries into his efforts to overturn the 2020 election. **MDT/AP**



**Russia** Large numbers of Russians rushed to book one-way tickets out of the country while they still could yesterday after Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a partial mobilization of military reservists for the war in Ukraine. Flights filled up quickly and the prices of tickets for remaining connections sky-rocketed, apparently driven by fears that Russia's borders could soon close or of a broader call-up that might send many Russian men of fighting age to the war's front lines.



**Germany** About 250 police officers have raided two dozen properties across Germany linked to Russian oligarch Alisher Usmanov, a close ally of President Vladimir Putin, in connection with alleged breaches of sanctions and money laundering rules, officials said yesterday. Prosecutors in Frankfurt and Munich said in separate statements that state and federal police were searching the 24 properties in Bavaria, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein.



**German** government said that it has agreed to nationalize the country's biggest natural gas importer, UniPer, expanding state intervention in the industry to prevent an energy shortage resulting from Russia's war in Ukraine. The deal with UniPer builds on a rescue package agreed to in July and features a capital increase of 8 billion euros that Germany will finance. As part of the agreement, the government will gain a 99% stake in the energy supplier, which until now was controlled by Finland-based Fortum.

**Britain's** government said it will cap wholesale energy bills for businesses this winter to ensure companies don't go bust amid soaring energy prices. Authorities said the government will pick up nearly half of all business energy bills for six months starting Oct. 1 to ensure companies "are able to get through this winter."