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TAIWAN SLATED TO RECEIVE PACKAGE TOURS TRAVELING FROM HONG KONG, MACAU FROM NOVEMBER 7, ACCORDING TO ISLAND AUTHORITIES

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MONEY IN BANK: CITY HAS NEARLY MOP563B IN FISCAL RESERVES LAST QUARTER

▲ P3

GERMAN CHANCELLOR SCHOLZ'S CHINA VISIT SPARKS DEBATE AT HOME

▲ P6



AP PHOTO



South Korea When Kim Kap Soo watched live broadcasts of the harrowing Halloween party crush that killed more than 150 people in Seoul last weekend, there was shock and sadness — but also the embarrassed realization that this wasn't the first time he'd seen South Korea suffer a devastating disaster as a result of official incompetence and safety failures. “My heart is aching very much. We are among the world's 10 largest economies, and I totally don't understand how this can happen in our nation,” said Kim, 73, a retired engineer. More on macaudailytimes.com

AP PHOTO



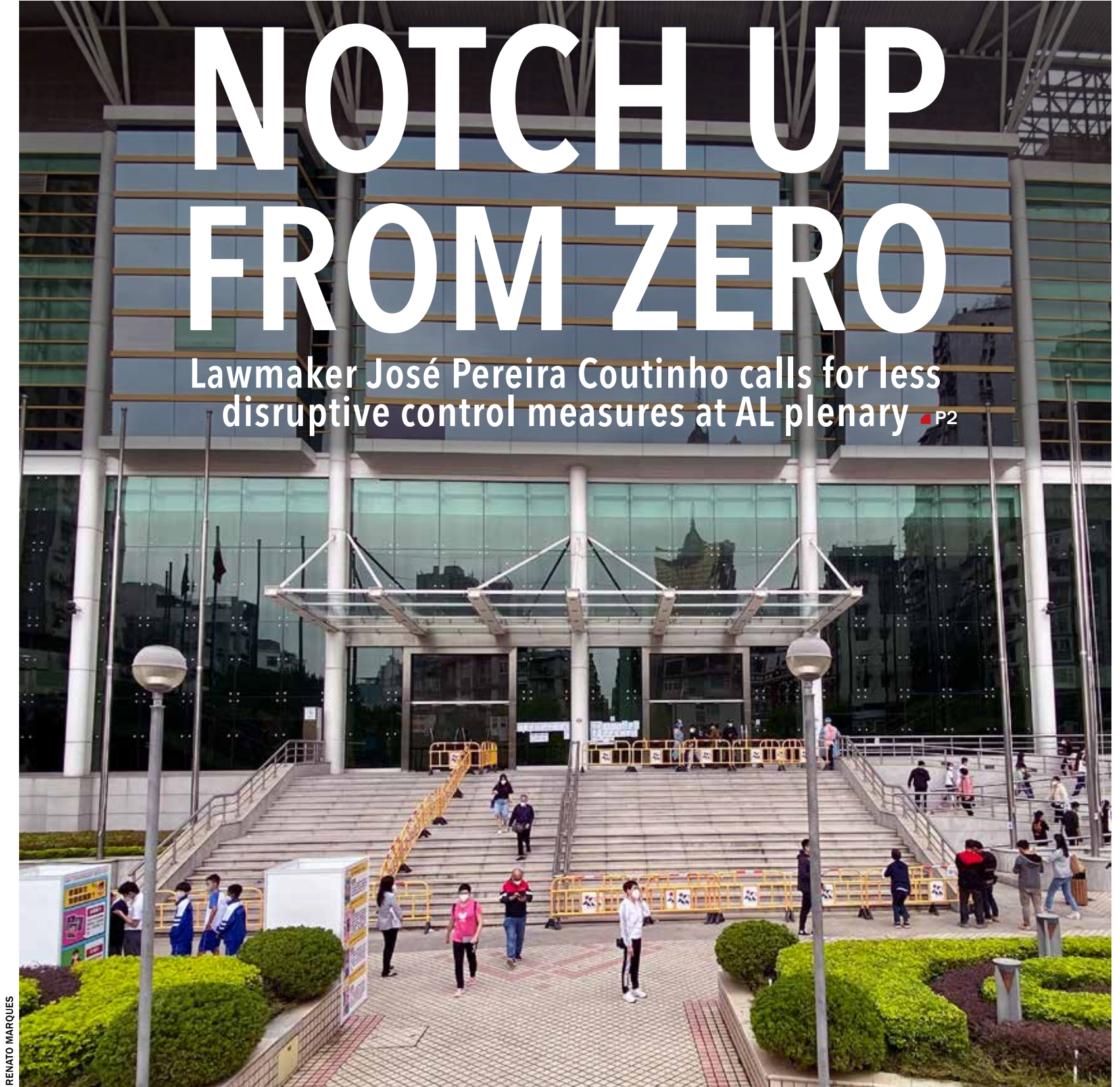
North Korea Alarms blared from cellphones, radios and public loudspeakers and fishermen hurried back to shore in northern Japan yesterday after North Korea fired an intercontinental ballistic missile above its eastern waters, adding to a recent barrage of provocative weapons demonstrations that officials say may culminate with a nuclear test in coming weeks. The ICBM test, which was followed by two short-range ballistic launches into the sea, was swiftly condemned by North Korea's neighbors and the United States.

AP PHOTO



Cambodia Prime Minister Hun Sen has agreed to send deminers to help train Ukrainians in clearing land mines planted by Russian forces during their invasion, the Foreign Ministry announced this week. Hun Sen made the commitment to send trainers, in collaboration with Japan, during a telephone conversation with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Tuesday, the ministry said in a statement.

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RENATO MARQUES

NOTCH UP FROM ZERO

Lawmaker José Pereira Coutinho calls for less disruptive control measures at AL plenary

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WEATHER

TYPHOON NALGAE LEAVES SARs WITH NO DAMAGE

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TASTE OF EDESIA



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AL PLENARY

LAWMAKER CALLS FOR LESS DISRUPTIVE COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

ANTHONY LAM

LAWMAKER José Pereira Coutinho condemned the recent Covid-19 restrictions in his pre-agenda speech yesterday.

Coutinho noted that despite the 14 mass SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid test (NAT) drives undertaken during the June 18 outbreak, the latest mass NAT drive was beset with issues. The past two days saw difficult bookings, long wait periods, and sudden booking cancellations in the latest mass NAT drive. He said he found it unacceptable that nobody was held accountable.

He revealed that unannounced cancellations to prior healthcare bookings for sample collection and testing at the Ocean Health Centre also occurred. According to Coutinho, many service seekers had either fasted overnight or were required to hold onto their urine samples while waiting without assistance at the public healthcare facility.

Regarding the Lusofonia Festival, the lawmaker was dissatisfied with the government's abrupt termination of the event on its last day. He stated that this caused financial loss to participating entities and negatively affected the role of the event and Macau more broadly in promoting harmony between China and Lusophone countries. In addition, he blamed the government for failing to th-



roughly consider the consequences before calling off the event, and "following no standard."

Based on the abrupt suspension of the Lusofonia Festival, the lawmaker demanded the government explain whether the upcoming Grand Prix and Food Festival would also face similar disruptions, based on existing criteria and assessments.

"Will the same [disruptions] occur to prevent crowds from gathering and lower the risk of outbreaks? Or will the government favor one event over another?" the lawmaker questioned.

Coutinho criticized the government for lacking political sensitivity in its decision to suspend the 25-year-old major event, highlighting the need to foster cul-

tural interactions as part of a national policy to make progress in China-Lusophone relations.

Describing the government's decision to suspend the event as "discriminatory", Coutinho highlighted the defeat that would be felt within the local Portuguese-speaking community as a result of the decision. The local Portuguese-speaking community, he said, had been "working for the betterment of the Macau Special Administrative Region with diligence, dedication and passion."

At the same occasion, trade unionist lawmaker Ella Lei said that the infinite and ever-changing Covid-19 restrictions have fatigued many residents. She pointed out that according to government contingencies, larger-

-scale outbreaks will trigger even tighter restrictions, including but not limited to de-facto lockdowns and work suspensions.

Citing a previous reply to her inquiry from the government, she emphasized that she did not see any long-term and institutional economic support.

Lei said that various forms of institutionalized financial and livelihood support for employees were present in places such as Hong Kong and Taiwan. For example, in Hong Kong, Covid-19 positive workers undergoing quarantine are considered to be on sick leave, and may be eligible for subsidies should certain criteria be met.

Lei continued to stress that employees in Macau, whether in

the public or private sectors, have faced differing treatment in compensation and remuneration after being quarantined or treated in isolation.

ZONE A MATTERS

Banker-lawmaker Ip Sio Kai, meanwhile, focused on the development of the New Urban Zone A and noted that while Zone A has been positioned primarily as a residential district, community-level commercial facilities will be part of the development efforts. Such facilities will help to satisfy residents' day-to-day needs and foster greater community interactions.

Ip expressed the belief that greater marketization of the development of Zone A would encourage the creation products and services that are more closely aligned to market needs, maximize land value on the reclaimed district. Commercializing the development would also reinvigorate the market, Ip added.

Another reason in support of his proposal, Ip said, is that the government had spent a lot of money during the pandemic. The city has run on budget deficits for nearly three years. As such, if the government were to expand its investments in the development of Zone A, it would both add to its financial burden and also extend the duration of development.

He highlighted the failed case of Seac Pai Van as an example, echoing a previous inquiry by his colleague, lawmaker Ron Lam. Numerous retail spaces in the public housing district have been left vacant due to the low concordance between market needs and what the government had predicted.

GRAND PRIX

Mr. Macau returns to Guia with Audi

RENATO MARQUES

THE most successful driver of the Guia Circuit, Edoardo Mortara – also known as "Mr Macau" – is returning once again this year to the local Grand Prix to attempt another record-breaking performance.

The 35-year-old racer, who is of Swiss, Italian and French heritage, is returning this year to compete in the Macau GT Cup behind the wheel of an Audi R8

LMS GT3 Evo II from Absolute Racing.

The ten-time winner of Macau races (with seven main race wins to his name) has a long history in the street circuit. He was the first racer to win the Formula 3 race twice (2009 and 2010), after having won the 2008 and 2010 F3 Qualification Races and finishing second in the main race in 2008.

Swapping the formulas for the GT cup, Mortara

continued his winning streak with victories in the main races of the Macau GT Cup in 2011, 2012, and 2013.

Mortara won a single-make trophy race behind the wheel of an Audi R8 LMS in 2013. This was the year that marked the 60th anniversary of the Macau GP and ran over two weekends.

He won again in 2017, this time in the Macau GT World Cup Qualification

Race and Main Race in a Mercedes-AMG GT3, raising his tally to an impressive 10 race wins and seven main race wins.

The last time Mortara raced in Macau was back in 2019 in the last edition of the FIA GT World Cup. He finished sixth overall after a disastrous qualifying race, in which he was taken out at Lisboa bend by another Mercedes-AMG racer, Maro Engel.

Celebrating his enor-



mous success, the revamped Macau Grand Prix Museum put one of Mortara's

winning cars, the 2012 Audi R8 LMS Ultra, on permanent display.

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ZERO-COVID

New round of mass testing without 'exemptions'

RENATO MARQUES

THOSE who have performed a NAT the previous day will not be exempt from the new round of citywide nucleic acid tests (NATs), the coordinator of the local Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Leong Iek Hou said yesterday during the daily briefing of the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center.

The new round of citywide NAT starts today and ends tomorrow afternoon.

In a response to a media inquiry, Leong said, "[Today] will see the start of a new round of mass testing. This time, there will be no exemption for those who did a test on the previous day. Only tests from November 4 or November 5 will count towards this round of mass tests."

Regarding the last round held between October 31 and 11 a.m. on November 1, the health authorities had validated all tests conducted on October 30. This led to a large number of people seeking to test that day, creating havoc at many NAT stations.

Authorities announced there would be more testing posts in Seac Pai Van as well as Riviera (in Macau's Inner Harbour district) to cater to those with special needs in this second round.

As with previous rounds, Leong noted that pre-booking is



mandatory and asked that people strictly only attend the station at the location and time of their booking.

The second NAT drive this week will kick off at 7 a.m. today and will run until 11:59 p.m., resuming 7 a.m. until 6 p.m. tomorrow. That is, the second NAT drive will take place over a total of 28 hours, consistent with the first round earlier this week.

Acknowledging that the risk in Macau is currently considered

low, Leong nonetheless commented on the need for this second round to "avoid exporting the disease into mainland China." She added that it would also "allow us to raise [mainland authorities'] confidence regarding people arriving from Macau."

The same official noted that the health authorities had identified 5,600 people who did not participate in the first round of testing. Of these, the majority (3,806) have not yet done the test, she said. As

such, their health codes have turned red and their cases will now be followed more closely by the Public Security Police Force (PSP).

As with the previous drive, officials said they hoped that schools would continue to organize students, class by class, to do the NAT. This work should be done in coordination with the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEDJ), with the students being tested at stations closer to their school.

Leong I On, division head for secondary education of the DSEDJ, added that the bureau is also arranging for University level students to undertake their tests during their spare time outside of classes.

NO CHANGES ON THE EXEMPTION FOR COVID-19 RECOVERED PATIENTS

Questioned by the media on the topic, Leong clarified that there is no change to the previously announced rule that establishes a special exemption from participating in NAT mass testing. The exemption applies to those who have recently recovered from an infection with the virus.

"Local [infection] cases are exempted for a period of 60 days after leaving the treatment facility or hotel. For patients related to imported cases from abroad, the exemption period is 30 days after leaving the same treatment or recovery facility. Out of this period, everyone needs to participate," Leong remarked.

24-HOUR NAT VALIDITY TO CONTINUE

In the same press briefing, the PSP representative, Lei Tak Fai, also clarified that the need for a 24-hour NAT validity period for border crossing is still in force and will remain that way for at least a few more days.

According to Lei, "when the outbreak was detected on October 30, the mainland authorities amended the measures for a 48 hour validity test to 24 hours – a measure that would be in effect for five days," he explained. He added that the return to the previous state would require the parties to negotiate again, which should take place in upcoming days.

AL PLENARY

City has nearly MOP563 billion in fiscal reserves as of Q3

ANTHONY LAM

AS of end September 2022, Macau has recorded about MOP185 billion and MOP379 billion in basic and excess reserves, Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong told the parliament.

Yesterday, the senior official presented an update to the parliament on the budget for the fiscal year 2021. He also took the opportunity to disclose the amount of the city's reserves.

Lei disclosed that last year, the city produced actual general composite income of MOP94.81 billion – MOP6.86 billion short



from the previous year. The amount declared in the legislated budget was nearly MOP96.04 billion.

Of actual income, nearly MOP4.86 more regular in-

come and about MOP11.7 billion less capital income was generated compared to the previous year.

Meanwhile, the government had actual general

composite expenditure of nearly MOP89.2 billion last year, MOP6.974 billion less than the previous year. Regular expenditure approached MOP73.92

billion and capital expenditure was MOP15.24 billion, MOP4.67 billion and MOP2.37 billion short from the previous year.

Specific entities recorded total income of MOP17.15 billion and total expenditure approaching MOP12.3 billion. The two figures equate to an execution rate of 119.9% and 84.6% respectively.

Eight entities contributed to these income and expenditure amounts, namely the Macao Post and Telecommunications Bureau, Macao Postal Savings, the Pension Fund, the Social Security Fund, the Monetary Authority of Macao, the Motor and Marine Guarantee Fund, the De-

posit Protection Fund and the Macao Foundation.

The senior official explained that the expenditures were mainly incurred on transfers, subsidies and grants, which amounted to nearly MOP6.9 billion, as well as on retirement and pension payments, which amounted to MOP2.63 billion.

Other expenditures were related to human resources, operations and finance, with the former two areas costing MOP2.22 billion and the latter MOP347 million.

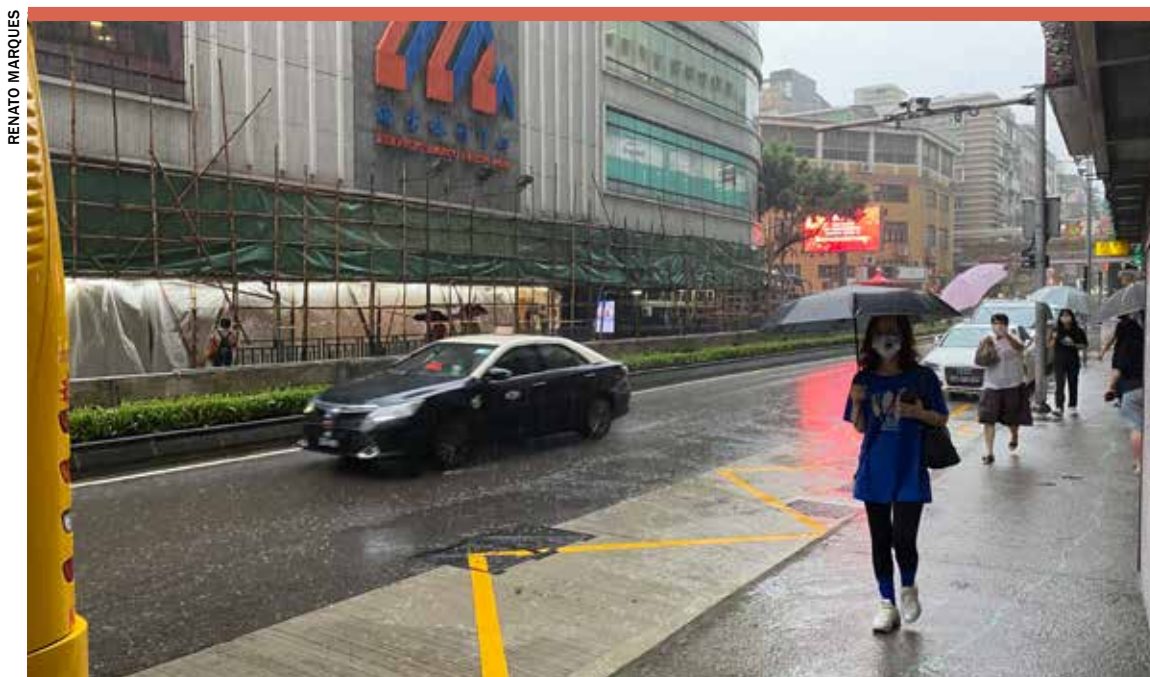
The entities generated MOP8.74 billion and MOP4.29 billion from fiscal income and transfers respectively.

LOCAL CONSTRUCTION WORKERS' DAILY PAY AT MOP992

The average daily wage of construction workers increased by 1.3% quarter-to-quarter to MOP805 in the third quarter of 2022, according to the latest data released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). The average daily wages of local workers (MOP992) and non-resident workers (MOP723) went up by 1.6% and 0.6%, respectively. The average daily wages of concrete formwork carpenters (MOP793), structural iron erectors (MOP801) and electricians & electrical workers (MOP892) rose by 6.3%, 4.6% and 3.4% respectively quarter-to-quarter. The Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) expects that, by the end of 2022, it will deliver 800 to 1,000 places in training programs for the construction industry.

MACAU RAISES INTEREST RATE TO 4.25%

The base rate of the discount window yesterday was raised by 75 basis points to 4.25%, the Monetary Authority of Macao (AMCM) announced. As the pataca is linked to the Hong Kong dollar, the movements of policy rates in Hong Kong and Macau should be "basically consistent in order to maintain the effective operation of the linked exchange rate system," AMCM said in a statement. Hence, the AMCM followed the Hong Kong Monetary Authority to adjust its base rate.



RENATO MARQUES

WEATHER

TYPHOON NALGAE LEAVES SARs WITH NO DAMAGE

All typhoon signals were canceled at 8:30 a.m. yesterday as Typhoon Nalgae passed Macau, causing no damage to the city.

The weather bureau raised the typhoon signal to T8 at 9:30 p.m. Wednesday as Typhoon Nalgae edged closer to Macau.

T3 has been hoisted since 3 a.m. Tuesday.

At 7 a.m. yesterday, T8 was replaced by Signal 3 after Typhoon Nalgae weakened with the cold weather, after making its landfall in Xiangzhou District, Zhuhai.

All marine transport has

been canceled and nucleic acid testing stations across the city have suspended operation.

Three bridges linking the Macau Peninsula and Taipa-Coloane, and the Lotus Bridge that connects Taipa-Coloane and Hengqin Island of Zhuhai, have been shut down due to safety

concerns, and only reopened at 7 a.m. yesterday.

Classes in the city's kindergartens and primary schools were also canceled.

According to the Dispatch of the Chief Executive, following the signal being lowered in accordance with Item 1 of Article 9 of Law No. 11/2020 (the Civil Protection Legal Regime), the state of immediate prevention was terminated.

The Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) expects the weather to be cloudy and slightly cold with occasional showers in the next two days.

While the tropical cyclone continues to affect the city, temperatures will range between 18 and 22 degrees Celsius.

In the neighboring region, the Hong Kong Observatory canceled all storm signals at 6.20 a.m. yesterday, about 17 hours after the storm brought the city's "first T8 alert in the month of November in 50 years," as cited in a report issued by South China Morning Post.

On Wednesday, the region opened temporary shelters and theme parks were closed. Afternoon trading was suspended in the stock market, and some ferry and bus services were halted. The Hong Kong Jockey Club also scrapped the evening's horse races. **MDT**

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GAMING

MGM Q3 losses widen, places confidence on eVisa resumption

LYNZY VALLES

MGM China recorded a widened loss during the third quarter of this year as total revenues stood at HKD687 million, compared to HKD1.1 billion in the second quarter.

The group recorded negative adjusted EBITDA of approximately HKD536 million, compared to negative adjusted EBITDA of approximately HKD382 million previously.

This comes as the city suffered its biggest Covid-19 outbreak in mid-June that led to a partial lockdown in July, leading to a halt in non-essential businesses such as casino activities for nearly two weeks.

The 12-day suspension hampered Macau visitation due to strict border regulations for



mainland travelers.

For now, the gaming operator looks forward to the resumption of electronic visas for mainland travelers to Macau. This resumption commenced November 1, a

move that has long been awaited by the tourism sector since electronic visas were halted in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The issuance of group package tours to Macau and eVisas under

the Individual Visit Scheme (IVS) is shaping up to be a massive boost for the SAR's gaming and tourism operators, which have been negatively affected since the pandemic began in early 2020.

In an earnings call with analysts, Bill Hornbuckle, CEO and president of MGM Resorts remarked, "We're encouraged by the signal and what it means for Macau. Macau is obviously a SAR, but it is considered part of broader China in every way and that shapes performance. So, in trying to give support, it is meaningful to us."

MGM Cotai was reopened by local authorities on Wednesday, after the site was locked down on Sunday as one of its croupiers tested positive for Covid-19. Guests and staff inside the resort were required to quarantine and undergo nucleic acid testing (NAT), and from these all tested negative.

Speaking with analysts, Hubert Wang, president and COO of MGM China said, "These things can happen from time to time if the policy is still in place."

"But overall, I think over the long run, it is a positive. [...] I think that we're looking at OpEx of about USD1.5 million a day, or in that range," he said.

MGM China had market share of 13.2% in the third quarter. Occupancy was 21%, compared to 25.6% in the second quarter.

GAMING

Phase 2 of Studio City to open Q2 2023, earnings down 46% y-o-y

LYNZY VALLES

THE construction of Studio City Phase 2 is progressing on schedule and it is anticipated that the opening will be conducted in stages, beginning in the second quarter of 2023, Lawrence Ho, Melco Resorts & Entertainment Limited's CEO and chairman said in the company's third quarter earnings report.

"We will monitor the market closely to determine the appropriate time to open," he said.

Ho stated that the results for the third quarter of 2022 were impacted by the casino closures in July and the travel restrictions imposed across mainland China and Macau as the city battled its largest Covid-19 outbreak in mid-June to July.

Although borders have reopened, the group considered that the operating environment have remained "challenging given the continuing tight travel restrictions."

However, the group is



encouraged by the recent re-opening of Macau to international tourists from designated countries as well as the increase in visitors over the October Golden Week. "We are also cautiously optimistic that the granting of eVisas and group visas, which commenced on November 1, 2022, will lead to a gradual increase in visitation," said Ho.

Total operating revenue for the third quarter of 2022 was USD241.8 million, representing a decrease of approximately 46% from USD446.4 million for the compar-

able period in 2021.

The decrease in total operating revenue was primarily attributable to the government's mandated 12-day closure of casinos in July, which led to slower performance in the rolling chip and mass market table games segments.

Melco generated negative adjusted property EBITDA of USD34.9 million in the third quarter of 2022, compared with adjusted property EBITDA of USD31.9 million in the third quarter of 2021.

Meanwhile, Ho considered the gaming propo-

sals for the city's 10-year gaming concessions to have been a "smooth and transparent process."

"Our proposal reinforces our commitment to Macau, and we look forward to playing a leadership role in partnering with the Macau government to execute its vision," Ho said.

Discussions between the gaming commission for the tender and operators will not be made public.

The commission reportedly had its last meeting with bidders in late October.

TAIWAN TO ACCEPT GROUP TOURS FROM HONG KONG, MACAU

LYNZY VALLES

TAIWAN is slated to receive tourists on package tours traveling from Hong Kong and Macau from November 7, according to the Mainland Affairs Council.

In the recent announcement by the council, the region said it will accept tour groups of between five to 40 tourists from Monday.

These travelers should go through travel agencies registered with the Taiwan Tourism Bureau.

Meanwhile, the council stated that they would continue to gradually adjust entry measures for visitors coming from Hong Kong, Macau, and the mainland, to ensure national security and protect citizens' rights while striking a balance between economic development and Covid con-

trol and prevention.

In the announcement, the council also stated that the decision to receive tourists from the SARs without requiring them to undergo quarantine also applies to visitors who are seeking white-collar jobs on the island and to those coming for religious purposes, as well as mainland students.

In October, Taiwan opened its borders to foreign arrivals. However, it has different border policies for people from mainland China, Macau and Hong Kong due to the "lack of reciprocity," according to a report by Taipei Times.

According to Taipei Times, the policy would be "subject to rolling reviews according to Covid-19 pandemic conditions, the state of cross-strait ties and other factors," officials said at the time.



DIPLOMACY

SCHOLZ'S CHINA VISIT SPARKS DEBATE AT HOME

THE timing of German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's imminent trip to China and what signals he will give to Beijing have raised questions at home, a German member of the European Parliament said yesterday.

Reinhard Butikofer of the Green Party, which is part of the governing coalition, said in Taiwan that Scholz's one-day trip is "probably the most controversially debated visit in the country for the last 50 years."

Scholz, who will visit Beijing today, will be the first European leader to visit China since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which Germany has strongly opposed. Beijing has provided Moscow with diplomatic backing, accused the U.S. and NATO of provoking the attack and scathingly criticized punishing economic sanctions imposed on Russia.

Some in the ranks of Scholz's three-party governing coalition have questioned at least the timing of his visit. His trips to Ukraine and Russia in February also stirred controversy.

Scholz has pledged to use his trip to make the case for Chinese moderation and assistance in calming the situations with Ukraine and Taiwan.

In the face of Chinese threats



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz

to annex Taiwan by military force, the self-governing island has drawn increasing support from Western politicians, even while their governments maintain only unofficial relations with Taipei in deference to Beijing.

Butikofer said Germany's governing coalition had agreed on a first-ever "clear expression of support for Taiwan's democracy against China's aggression," as

well as Taiwan's "meaningful participation" in international organizations from which it is currently excluded at China's insistence.

Butikofer is one of five members of the European Parliament banned from visiting China, a step taken by Beijing after the EU, Britain, Canada and the United States launched coordinated sanctions against officials in China over alleged abuses in the far-western Xin-

jiang region.

The European Parliament has said it won't ratify a long-awaited business investment deal with China as long as sanctions against the legislators remain in place.

Visiting along with Butikofer were legislators Els Van Hoof of Belgium, Sjoerd Sjoerdsma of Holland and Mykola Kniashchytskyi of Ukraine.

In Beijing, Chinese Foreign

Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian called the lawmakers' visit a "clumsy political hype-up" and said efforts by Taiwan's governing Democratic Progressive Party to garner foreign support are "doomed to fail."

At a news conference, Taiwanese minister Joseph Wu said the delegation's visit "demonstrates the strength of the relations between Taiwan and the European Union and the bond that unites us with like-minded democracies across the globe."

Sjoerdsma said the visit had special resonance following last month's twice-a-decade congress of the ruling Communist Party, at which Xi Jinping reiterated Beijing's determination to "reunify" with Taiwan.

"We have a message to Beijing and I think the core message of our visit here is ... that Taiwan is not to be isolated, but that contacts will only increase, that we will not be intimidated, that will be coming over more often, and that our relations and our friendships are not to be determined by others," Sjoerdsma said.

Scholz's visit to Beijing was also criticized by Hong Kong activist Nathan Law, who said it risked sending mixed messages over Russia's Ukraine invasion. **MDT/AP**

MEDIA

With no word on visas, Canada's CBC closes Beijing bureau

CANADIAN public broadcaster CBC says it is closing its China bureau after the Chinese government ignored requests to base a reporter in Beijing.

CBC said its applications had been met "by months-long silence from Chinese officials." The broadcaster's last correspondent left Beijing as China closed down amid the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

The bureau, located in one of Beijing's high-security diplomatic compounds, had remained open in anticipation of restaffing.

Yesterday, a plaque identifying the bureau remained posted on the outside wall but no one responded to knocks or the doorbell. Calls to the bureau's number published by the Chinese Foreign Ministry also went unanswered.

China has taken an increasingly hard line in foreign relations, and ties with Canada nosedived after China, the U.S. and Canada



The Canadian Embassy in Beijing

completed what was effectively a high-stakes prisoner swap last year involving a top executive from Chinese tech giant Huawei who had been charged with fraud by the U.S.

China jailed two Cana-

dians shortly after Canada arrested Meng Wanzhou, Huawei Technologies' chief financial officer and the daughter of the company's founder, on a U.S. extradition request. They were sent back to Canada in Sep-

tember, the same day Meng returned to China after reaching a deal with U.S. authorities in her case.

Canada has banned wireless carriers from installing Huawei equipment in its high-speed 5G ne-

tworks, joining allies in shunning the company that has close links with the ruling Communist Party and its military wing, the People's Liberation Army.

Canada has also ordered three Chinese companies to sell lithium mining assets in Canada after it imposed limits on foreign involvement in supplying "critical minerals" used in batteries and high-tech products.

The order Wednesday came amid rising tension between the West and China over control of sources of lithium, rare earths, cadmium and other minerals used in cellphones, wind turbines, solar cells, electric cars and other emerging technologies.

After being denied visas, many foreign media outlets have based correspondents in Taiwan and other Asian centers that protect free speech.

"There is no point keeping an empty bureau

when we could easily set up elsewhere in a different country," CBC News editor-in-chief Brodie Fenlon said in a blog post.

"Closing the Beijing bureau is the last thing we want to do, but our hand has been forced," Fenlon said.

CBC said Philippe Leblanc, a journalist with Radio-Canada, the broadcaster's French-language counterpart, would work from Taiwan's capital, Taipei, after Chinese diplomats ignored his applications.

Canada now joins Australia in no longer having a permanent media presence in China following diplomatic disputes. CBC said it would be the first time in more than 40 years that the broadcaster has not been present in China.

The Asia correspondent for Canada's main newspaper, Globe and Mail, is based in Hong Kong because he has been unable to get a China visa. **MDT/AP**

ADVERTORIAL

SANDS CHINA NEWS

Sands China Ltd. Wins Gold in Youth Empowerment Initiative Category at PATA Gold Awards 2022

Sands China Ltd. was honoured by the prestigious **Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Gold Awards 2022** as winner of the **Youth Empowerment Initiative** category at PATA's virtual awards ceremony Oct. 7. The award recognises Sands China's **City of Gourmet – Youth Development and Integration Program**.

Launched in 1984, the PATA Gold Awards aims to recognise exceptional and innovative tourism initiatives in the Asia Pacific region and beyond and has become one of the most sought-after awards in the industry.

Wen Hongyan, senior vice president of human resources for Sands China Ltd., said: "As we facilitate the advancement of local youth's food and beverage careers through this program, we hope to also support the sustainable development of the industry – while helping drive Macao's economic growth in order to strengthen Macao's positioning as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy, World Centre of Tourism and Leisure, and Tourism Training Hub for the Greater Bay Area.

Sands China is dedicated to the development of local youth, in line with the Macao government's policy of "building Macao with talent." The City of Gourmet – Youth Development and Integration Program is part of the company's broader youth empowerment initiative, the Youth Development and Integration Program. Among its innovative series of programs, more than 20 are designed to develop young talent in the food and beverage industry.

Tutors of Sands China's various programs include industry experts like the "Godfather of Huaiyang Cuisine" Zhou Xiaoyan and Sichuan master chef Lan Minglu. The programs aim to equip young locals who are passionate about careers in food and beverage management with valuable skills for thriving in the industry.

One of those is the All-round Food & Beverage Management Program, where participants complete a practicum at Michelin-starred, Black Pearl or other restaurants and obtain international certifications and qualifications with Sands China's full support. Upon completion, qualified young locals are promoted to restaurant assistant managers. 200 young locals have applied to date; 19 were qualified to join the program and seven of them have now become assistant managers at Sands China's restaurants.



In this image made from video provided by the Queensland Police Service, Vanessa Gardiner speaks in Cairns this week

AUSTRALIA

Police offer \$633,000 reward for Indian suspect

ROD MCGUIRK, CANBERRA

AUSTRALIAN police offered a 1 million Australian dollar (\$633,000) reward yesterday for information on the whereabouts of an Indian national who is suspected of murdering a woman on a tropical beach four years ago before returning to his homeland.

Queensland state police officers who speak Hindi and Punjabi are waiting in an office in Cairns to be contacted from India via WhatsApp or online about where Rajwinder Singh, 38, can be found, Detective Inspector Sonia Smith said.

Singh was a nurse working at Innisfail, south of Cairns, when the body of 24-year-old Toyah Cordingley was found on Wangetti Beach on Monday, Oct. 22, 2018.

She had gone to the beach, north of Cairns, to walk her dog the day before.

Singh flew from Cairns to Sydney the day Cordingley's body was found and left for India the following day, police said.

The reward is the largest in Queensland's history and unique in that it does not seek a clue that solves a crime and leads to a successful prosecution. Instead, the money is offered for information that leads only to a suspect's location and arrest.

Police Minister Mark Ryan approved the reward and was confident people knew where Singh could be found.

"We know that people know this person, they know where this person is and we're asking those people to do the right thing," Ryan said.

"Now, there is a million reasons for a billion eyes around the world to help us deliver justice for Toyah," he added.

Deputy Police Commissioner Tracy Lindford said detectives believed Singh remained in India. She appealed for witnesses among India's population of 1.4 billion people to come forward and "give some respite to the family who miss Toyah."

Three Queensland detectives were already in India working with Indian authorities on the investigation, Smith said.

The victim's parents, Troy Cordingley and Vanessa Gardiner, released a video statement pleading for public help to find her killer.

"I can't believe that it's a million dollars, but Toyah deserves that. She deserves every bit of it," Gardiner said.

The father said bringing the killer to justice "is the very least that she deserved."

"At the very minimum, this person must be removed from society and held accountable for their crime," the father said.

Australia applied to India for Singh's extradition in March last year but he could not be found.

Australia's Attorney-General's Department did not immediately reply when asked yesterday how many people had been extradited between the two countries since a bilateral treaty took effect in 2010.

Australia has been pursuing for 13 years the extradition of Indian national Puneet Puneet, 33, who was drunk-driving a car and speeding when he hit and killed a pedestrian and injured another person in downtown Melbourne in 2008. **MDT/AP**

ANALYSIS

Ukraine war: boost or setback for climate efforts?

FRANK JORDANS, BERLIN

LUETZERATH may be 1,000 miles from Ukraine, but it is an indirect victim of Russia's invasion and some fear so is Earth's climate.

The ancient hamlet in western Germany will soon be demolished along with a wind park to expand a nearby coal mine, despite protests from environmentalists who fear millions more tons of heat-trapping carbon dioxide will be released into the atmosphere.

Their concerns were echoed recently by Antonio Guterres, the United Nations Secretary-General, who warned that "the horrors of the war in Ukraine should not put climate action on the back burner."

"Doubling down on fossil fuels is not the answer," he wrote on Twitter. "The only path to energy security, stable power prices and a livable planet lies in accelerating the renewable energy transition."

But Germany's center-left government says the war in Ukraine means tough decisions need to be made on energy security and insists the nation's climate goals will be kept.

Luetzerath's days may be numbered, but the planet will be saved, officials argue.

Similar scenes are playing out across the world as countries try to fend off a feared energy crunch without betraying their long-term commitments to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

The question of whether the conflict in Ukraine will hasten or hinder the shift from fossil fuels to clean energy needed to keep global temperatures from reaching dangerous heights looms large ahead of next week's U.N. climate conference.

In Germany, Europe's biggest economy, officials point to new programs they say will massively increase sun and wind power generation. An even bigger plan by the European Union to wean itself off Russian gas could further boost the bloc's already-ambitious emissions reduction targets this decade, said Rachel Simon, a policy expert at campaign group CAN Europe.

In the United States, Pre-



A coal-fired power plant at the Garzweiler open-cast coal mine near Luetzerath, western Germany

sident Joe Biden's Inflation Reduction Act has earmarked \$375 billion for climate incentives that would slash the cost of installing renewable energy and shrink U.S. carbon emissions by as much as two-fifths until 2030.

Climate hawks say that won't be enough.

While greenhouse gas emissions are rising more slowly than before, recent reports show the trend remains upward when it needs to point sharply down. Rising fossil fuel subsidies to cushion the impact of high energy prices and efforts to tap new sources of gas, oil and coal will further drive up emissions, at least in the short term.

This means the amount of carbon dioxide that can still be released into the atmosphere before the world hits the limit of 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) warming — agreed in the 2015 Paris climate accord — is being used up rapidly, expert say.

"It's incredibly risky because not only does it reduce even further the carbon budget, it sends exactly the wrong signals" said Johan Rockstrom, head of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research near Berlin.

Meanwhile, climate impacts already being felt worldwide — from fierce storms in the U.S. to extreme heat in Europe and worsening droughts in Africa — are hitting

the poor hardest. Devastating floods in Pakistan have fueled calls for developing nations to receive climate compensation from big polluters.

Laden with debt and surging inflation, many vulnerable nations now find themselves struggling to pay for energy, let alone adapt to the effects of a warmer world, even as rich countries splurge on imports and new fossil fuel projects.

Experts say this could inflame tensions in Sharm el-Sheikh, undermining trust during the two-week U.N. talks that rely on consensus by all countries for any formal decision.

Russia could add further fuel to the fire. The world's biggest exporter of natural gas is at loggerheads with the West since its invasion of Ukraine, while China, the biggest-emitting country, insists it also has a right to burn more coal.

Even if negotiations by the Red Sea produce little progress, experts are hopeful the war in Ukraine has jolted complacent governments into speeding up the transition from fossil fuels to clean power.

The war is "the perfect storm" for an accelerated path toward clean energy, said Rockstrom.

Laurie Bristow, Britain's former ambassador to Moscow, said the measures now

being taken by countries such as Germany were encouraging because they end not just the decades-long reliance on Russian gas but commit to a much larger energy transition.

"It's the recognition that things could not go on as they were before," he said. "And there are very big, very serious policy decisions in there."

That's little consolation to Elizabeth Wathuti, a Kenyan environmentalist, who visited Germany's Garzweiler coal mine near Luetzerath with other activists last month.

"I've been very overwhelmed to see what is happening right behind me," she said during the visit.

Wathuti said she couldn't understand how Germany could justify burning more coal when the impacts of climate change are already becoming apparent.

"For my community and for my country, this is a life and death situation," she told The Associated Press. "We cannot afford to continue investing in fossil fuels at the expense of people's lives and livelihoods who have even done the least to cause this crisis."

"If anything, it's only going to cause more devastation and more losses, more damages to my community," she said. MDT/AP

this day in history

1956 SOVIET TROOPS OVERRUN HUNGARY



The Soviet air force has bombed part of the Hungarian capital, Budapest, and Russian troops have poured into the city in a massive dawn offensive.

At least 1,000 Soviet tanks are reported to have entered Budapest and troops deployed throughout the country are battling with Hungarian forces for strategic positions.

The Soviet invasion is a response to the national uprising led by Prime Minister Imre Nagy, who has promised the Hungarian people independence and political freedom.

Mr Nagy's anti-Soviet policies, which include withdrawal from the Warsaw Pact, have been worrying Eastern Bloc countries and Moscow has demanded his government's capitulation.

News of the attack came at 0515 local time on Radio Budapest in an urgent appeal by Mr Nagy himself for help from the West.

Despite an apparent withdrawal only last week, Soviet troops deployed outside Budapest swept back into the capital with Russian and Romanian reinforcements between 0400 and 0800 local time.

The Times newspaper reports that artillery units pounded Budapest from the surrounding hills as Soviet MIG fighters bombarded the capital from the air.

Sources say Soviet infantry units stormed the Parliament building, a key strategic and symbolic target, early this morning.

Reports that Mr Nagy and other members of his cabinet were captured in the attack have not been confirmed.

But in an unscheduled newscast on Moscow radio shortly after 1200GMT, Russia claimed to have "crushed the forces of reactionary conspiracy against the Hungarian people".

Despite Moscow's claims, heavy fighting is reported to be continuing throughout the country for key installations such as railway stations and major bridges across the River Danube.

Moscow is now backing a new breakaway Hungarian government led by Janos Kadar, whose stated purpose is to destroy Mr Nagy's "counter-revolution".

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The "de-stalinisation" process initiated by Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev gave Soviet satellite countries like Poland and Hungary new hope of democratic freedom. This prompted mass anti-Soviet demonstrations in October 1956.

In Hungary the protests became a full-scale revolt. Ordinary Hungarians battled with Soviet troops and the hated state security police.

Thousands of political prisoners were freed and the Central Committee elected the popular Imre Nagy as prime minister. He began to dismantle the one-party state.

Encouraged by an apparent promise of help, Nagy appealed to the UN and Western governments for protection. But with the Suez crisis in full swing and no real appetite for fighting the USSR over a crisis in Eastern Europe, the West did not respond.

The Soviet military's response was swift and devastating. Some 30,000 people were killed in Budapest alone and about 200,000 Hungarians sought political asylum in the West.

Over the next five years, thousands were executed or imprisoned under Janos Kadar's puppet regime. Nagy and others involved in the revolution were secretly tried and executed in June 1958.

Soviet troops finally withdrew from Hungary in 1991.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You can make excellent investments if you are in the right place at the right time. You can make changes that will enhance your appearance. Go out with friends or family.

TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Use your inventiveness to find solutions. Do not invest in ventures that only appear to be lucrative. Residential moves will be in your best interest.

GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Opportunities will come through long term investments. You may find it difficult to discuss personal matters with family members. You can make money if you work on personal investments.

CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Make any necessary changes to your insurance policy. Listen to the complaints of others. Expect to pay more than anticipated for entertainment or other purchases.

LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Take a trip or just spend some quality time with your mate. You may be in love today, but who knows what tomorrow may bring. Your temper may get the better of you.

VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Organize all the responsibilities that have to be attended to and make sure everyone knows what to do. Be sure that the person you're drawn to is not already involved.

LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

You may need to lend an ear to an old friend. Travel will be favorable and bring you the greatest rewards. You are best to avoid joint ventures, and whatever you do, don't lend to friends or relatives.

SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

You must be careful not to trust just anyone. Keep an eye on your weight. Put your thoughts on paper. Try to be as mellow as possible.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Do not invest in joint ventures. Your high energy, original ideas, and excellent memory will aid your accomplishments. You may not see your situation clearly.

CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Passion is about the best way for you to relieve tension. Do not let others exhaust you financially. Try to keep ahead of the game.

AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

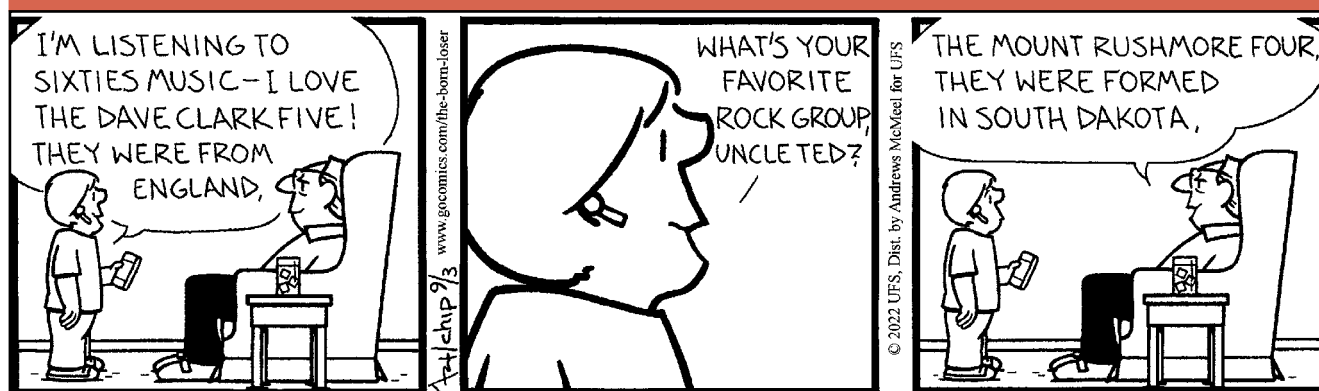
Residential moves will be hectic and may be unsatisfactory. Be sure to find out all you can before you commit to anything. You will feel better about yourself.

PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Don't agree to make any of those cosmetic alterations you've been considering. If you haven't planned a vacation, then at least try to get away for the weekend.

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

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

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

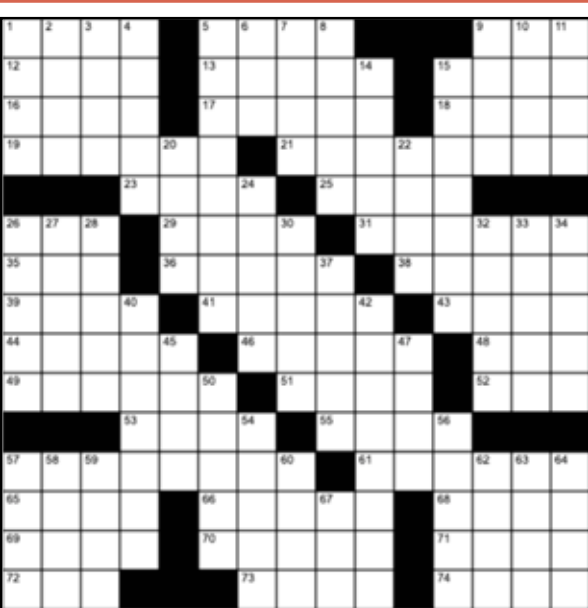
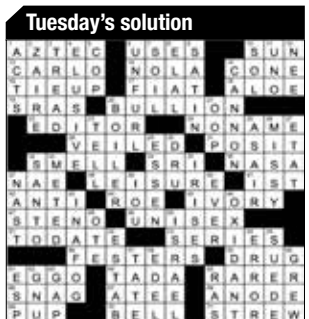
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	3	12	cloudy
Changchun	-7	2	fine
Chengdu	16	20	overcast
Chongqing	16	23	cloudy
Fuzhou	18	23	rain
Guangzhou	18	22	rain
Guiyang	8	22	fine
Haikou	20	27	cloudy
Hangzhou	12	22	overcast
Harbin	-5	1	fine
Hefei	8	21	cloudy
Nanjing	11	20	cloudy
Shanghai	13	21	cloudy
Taipei	21	23	rain
Wuhan	10	24	fine
Hong Kong	19	23	rain
WORLD			
Moscow	-1	2	cloudy
Frankfurt	5	12	overcast
Paris	5	12	showers
London	4	12	overcast
New York	15	21	overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Like the White Rabbit; 5- Comic Fox; 9- ___ juris; 12- Excited; 13- Staggering; 15- Unit of language; 16- Be dependent; 17- Rhythm; 18- "___ sprach Zarathustra"; 19- Oracle site; 21- You're on!; 23- New Mexico art colony; 25- Take note of; 26- Airline to Stockholm; 29- Reason to cancel school; 31- Comfort in misfortune; 35- Credit-tracking corp.; 36- Seine spot; 38- Approaches; 39- Sincere; 41- Parasite; 43- Fiddlesticks!; 44- Conjunction; 46- Killed; 48- Any person; 49- Zealot; 51- Bond classic; 52- Maiden name preceider; 53- In this way; 55- Icelandic epic; 57- Having ears that droop; 61- Handy; 65- Yonder; 66- "Otello" composer; 68- Withered; 69- Some PX patrons; 70- Great Lakes tribesmen; 71- Gymnast Korbust; 72- L.A. clock setting; 73- Junk e-mail; 74- Answered a charge;

DOWN 1- Hog fat; 2- "The Morning Watch" author; 3- Damage done; 4- Exodus origin; 5- Lucid; 6- Before, of yore; 7- Moore of "G.I. Jane"; 8- Profundity; 9- Flatfish; 10- Bear in the sky; 11- Billy ___ had a hit song with "White Wedding"; 14- Misplaces; 15- Walked like a duck; 20- Briefcase closer; 22- Long time; 24- Sensitive spots; 26- Play chords; 27- Sports venue; 28- Country lad; 30- Brandish; 32- Biblical brother; 33- Large wading bird; 34- Rival of Helena; 37- Frighten; 40- Tarries; 42- Religion of India; 45- Okinawa port; 47- Agrees tacitly; 50- Bend; 54- Prophets; 56- Man of morals; 57- Reindeer herder; 58- Does in; 59- Agreement; 60- Faucet problem; 62- Cut down; 63- Impulse to act; 64- Be in front; 67- Narc's org.;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
- Fire department 28 572 222
- PJ (Open line) 993
- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IAM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
- Telephone - Report 1000
- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
- Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



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HKD 8,500/mth 2 beds 1 bath

AD

FOOTBALL | CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

BENFICA WINS ITS GROUP WITH ROUT OF MACCABI HAIFA

MACCABI 1, BENFICA 6

BENFICA kept pressing and the goals kept coming.

João Mário's long-range strike in stoppage time sealed Benfica's 6-1 rout of Maccabi Haifa that was enough to secure the Portuguese team a helpful first place in its Champions League group yesterday [Macau time].

Benfica also achieved its best ever group-stage campaign with the win at Haifa, which gave the club 14 points, two points more than its previous best campaign 11 years ago.

Benfica ended tied on points with Paris Saint-Germain, which won 2-1 at Juventus but finished behind Benfica in Group H on the number of away goals scored overall — PSG had six, Benfica got nine. Benfica and PSG were even on head-to-head games, number of goals scored in all group matches and goal difference overall.

The group winners are drawn with the second-place finishers in the round of 16, meaning Benfica will avoid teams like Real Madrid, Manchester City and



Benfica's Gonçalo Ramos (left) and Antonio Silva celebrate the first of six goals that put the "Eagles" on top of PSG for away goals

Bayern Munich.

"We were trying to win the match, and then we felt that it was possible to reach first place as well so we went looking for more goals," Benfica's Gonçalo Ramos said. "As the game progressed we

realized that we could do it."

Benfica had already secured a spot in the next round in advance.

"We deserved to finish in first place because we played very well throughout the whole cam-

paign, now we will take it game by game as far as we can," Benfica's Petar Musa said. "It's an incredible feeling to score in the Champions League. We showed all our quality, our good football and we deserved to win this group."

Ramos put the visitors ahead with a header in the 20th, and Haifa equalized with Tjaronn Chery converting a penalty kick awarded following a lengthy video review for a handball by Benfica defender Alexander Bah inside the area.

Musa put Benfica ahead with another header in the 59th, Alejandro Grimaldo added to the lead by converting a free kick 10 minutes later, Rafa Silva netted the fourth from inside the area in the 73rd, and Henrique Araújo added a fifth in the 88th.

The victory over Haifa also extended Benfica's unbeaten run to 22 straight matches this season.

Benfica had already beaten Haifa at home, and it also defeated Juventus twice while drawing both matches against PSG home and away.

Last-place Haifa, whose only group-stage win this season had come against Juventus at home, was coming off a 7-2 loss at PSG in the previous round.

Benfica's last defeat on the road was exactly one year ago when it lost 5-2 to Bayern Munich. Its undefeated run on the road was its longest of any of this season's 32 teams.

Benfica reached the quarterfinals of the Champions League last season, being eliminated by Liverpool. **MDT/AP**

AD

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

TASTE OF EDESIA

A heartbreaking tale of ramen and gyoza

IRENE SAM, MDT

I have always been a big fan of Wynn Palace's Hanami Ramen for its beautiful, yet casual ambience. Hanami's sumptuous bowls of handmade noodles paired with top-notch ingredients are unforgettable, so when I heard that **Wynn Macau's Tekka** - a restaurant that serves ramen and yakitori - has opened, I immediately decided to give it a try.

Tekka's interior is modern and sophisticated. With red and gold tones gleaming in between black surfaces, the setting is stylish and inviting. An open kitchen is right behind the entrance and arrangements of seats are made facing the chefs. As the server puts the menu and we begin to explore the dishes available, it is clear that the pricing gears towards an extremely affordable category as some of the sets are even cheaper than local restaurants. A 20% discount is also offered to individuals who pay with Mpay.

However, when the dishes finally arrive on the table, it becomes evident that the quality of both the ramen and gyoza does not match up to one's expectation. Gyoza is a popular food in Japan which

corresponds to Jiaozi or dumplings in Chinese culinary culture. At Tekka, the gyoza wrapper is undercooked, which results in a hard dough that makes it difficult to enjoy the filling. Authentic Japanese gyoza tends to have thin wrapping and a higher proportion of vegetables to pork, but Tekka's gyoza, which comes with the ramen set, only has a small amount of filling, which further enhances the texture of the undercooked outer layer. Therefore, one can conclude that the Gyoza experience at Wynn Macau's latest F&B outlet is far from satisfying.

As far as the ramen is concerned, for those who frequent Wynn Palace's Hanami Ramen, I would suggest that one should just take a taxi and head to Taipa for a better experience. The cha-shu on the ramen at Tekka is overcooked and if one has to compare the soup base to that of Hanami's, it is less creamy and not as flavourful, even though the texture of the ramen is acceptable. When asked about what the concept at Tekka is, the manager on duty indicates that it is completely different than that of Hanami, but for an individual who has always been a fan of Wynn's F&B concepts and dedication to quality, the entire experience is nothing less than heartbreaking.



Macau Racing Tips

By Davy Chiu, MDT



THE CALCUTTA 1510M SAND 2022-11-04|Fri|21:25

KINGDOM Qi Feng should be fit and ready to greet his connection come this Friday night. He ran a very strong second last Saturday which was his second run of the season, this K.M Chin's horse looked very good in his trackwork ahead of his last start. Expected **Kingdom Qi Feng** a decent each way return from this Friday night's sand run and he is worth taking on as a solid investment of the meeting. The booking of T.Tanaka also indicates that his handler want to give him a strong push in the finishing line. Go with **Kingdom Qi Feng** all the way to the Winning Post this Friday night.

Race 5 Horse no. 2 Kingdom Qi Feng Win & Place bets



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OPINION

Multipolar World

Jorge Costa Oliveira



OPEC, US, SAUDI ARABIA AND THE CUTBACK OF OIL PRODUCTION

On October 5, OPEC+ decided to reduce oil production by two million barrels per day (b/d). OPEC lowered its 2022 global oil demand growth forecast for the fourth time since April, as well as its forecast for next year.

The demand for oil will increase by 2.64 million b/d - 2.7% - in 2022, according to OPEC in a monthly report, a drop of 460,000 b/d from the previous forecast. This 2 million b/d production cut is based on existing base numbers, which means that the cutbacks will be lower since OPEC+ fell about 3.6 million b/d below its production target in August.

The underproduction is due to sanctions on countries like Venezuela, Iran and Russia, and production problems in Nigeria and Angola. The Saudi energy minister said the actual cutbacks would be 1.0-1.1 million b/d. Analysts at Jefferies estimate the figure to be around 0.9 million b/d, while Goldman Sachs puts it at 0.4-0.6 million b/d, with the cutbacks coming mainly from Gulf producers.

Although the OPEC decision was made unanimously, Biden threatened that there would be consequences for Saudi Arabia for this "short-sighted" decision and "collusion" with Russia. He instructed his administration to consider measures to curtail OPEC's control of energy prices, thus contributing to the fear of OPEC countries, and also voiced by some analysts, that the planned price cap on Russian energy products could be similarly used on other oil-producing countries.

Saudi Arabia said this cut was necessary in the face of a weakened global economy, citing slowing economies, the continuing zero-covid policy in China, and high inflation. It rejected criticism that it was colluding with Russia.

In response to Saudi Arabia's claims that the West often gets carried away by the "arrogance of wealth" when criticizing the cartel, Biden counterargued that only lower oil prices would curb Russian revenue. However, low oil prices impact all other oil-producing countries, and not just Russia. Of course, it doesn't help to have soaring fuel prices in the US during the midterm elections...

As one Eurasia Group analyst explained, "this is not the Saudi Arabia of the past, and the U.S. may have been a little slow or reluctant to recognize that on energy issues." American administrations have a hard time accepting that the world has changed; in the multipolar world we live in, mid-sized powers like Saudi Arabia (and other OPEC+ countries) make decisions in line with their interests. And a superpower like the US, no matter how powerful, will only have its interests considered if they negotiate, which is far from the US's stance. Anyway, in this specific case, the countries who will suffer the most from soaring oil prices will be the European (in the US, fuel is about half the price and gas is one third of the price in the EU). Moreover, for geopolitical reasons, the US and Saudi Arabia are bound to work together. But it is foolish to forget that the war in Ukraine is as remote to the Gulf elites as the wars in Yemen or Afghanistan are to the Europeans'.

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POWERBALL PRIZE UP TO \$1.5 BILLION, THIRD-LARGEST EVER IN US

The bad news is that no one won yesterday's huge \$1.2 billion Powerball jackpot.

The good news is that means the prize has grown even larger to \$1.5 billion ahead of the next drawing Saturday night. That is the third-largest lottery prize in U.S. history.

The numbers drawn Wednesday night were: 2, 11, 22, 35, 60 and the red powerball 23.

No one has won the top Powerball prize since Aug. 3, making for 39 consecutive drawings without anyone matching all six numbers.

What's behind three months of lottery futility? It's simple math. The odds of winning the jackpot are an abysmal 1 in 292.2 million.

It is because of those long odds that the grand prize has grown so large.

The new \$1.5 billion prize is actually for winners who opt for an annuity, paid out annually over 29 years. Nearly all winners choose cash, which for Saturday's drawing would be \$745.9 million.

Powerball is played in 45 states, as well as Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

THE BUZZ



A vehicle drives near wind turbines at Lekela wind power station, near the Red Sea city of Ras Ghareb, some 300 km from Cairo

AFTER SIX YEARS, UN CLIMATE SUMMIT RETURNS TO AFRICA

WANJOHI KABUKURU, MOMBASA

THE U.N. climate summit is back in Africa after six years and four consecutive Europe-based conferences.

The 27th annual Conference of the Parties of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change — better known as COP27 — will be held in the resort city of Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt and begins next week. It's been branded as the "African COP", with officials and activists hoping the conference's location will mean the continent's interests are better represented in climate negotiations.

Hosts Egypt say the meeting represents a unique opportunity for Africa to align climate change goals with the continent's other aims, like improving living standards and making countries more resilient to weather extremes. Organizers expect over 40,000 participants, the highest number ever for a climate summit on the continent.

Ever since the conference's first iteration in Berlin in 1995, the U.N. climate summit continues to rotate annually among the five U.N. classified regions: Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, central and eastern Europe, and

western Europe. It's the fifth time that an African nation has held the U.N. climate summit, with Morocco, South Africa and Kenya all serving as former hosts.

The first African summit, held in Marrakech in 2001, passed landmark accords on climate funding and made other key decisions on land use and forestry. The following three meetings on the continent had some success on issues like adapting to climate change, technology and sowing the seeds for the Paris Agreement in 2015 years earlier. Marrakech is also the last African city to host the event, having hosted a second COP in 2016, that aimed to implement some of the Paris goals.

The Paris Agreement, considered a major success of the U.N. climate summits, saw nations agree to limit warming to "well below" 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit), with an aim of curbing it to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

And although experts don't expect agreement between countries to reach the same scale as Paris, hopes on the continent are high for the upcoming conference.

Mithika Mwenda, who heads the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance, told The Associated Press that the summit "presents

a unique opportunity to place Africa at the center of global climate negotiations" and hoped the conference "truly delivers for the African people."

Mwenda said that the "special needs and circumstances" of the continent need to be considered as it attempts to both increase access to electricity for millions of people while addressing climate change and limiting the use of fossil fuels.

He added negotiations must prioritize how vulnerable countries will adapt to climate change, address compensation from high-polluting countries to poorer ones, known as "loss and damage", and seek avenues for financing for both a move to cleaner energy and building resilience to climate change. Many developing countries look to the U.S. and much of Europe, who have contributed the largest share of emissions over time, to pay for damage caused by climate change.

So far, pledges by rich countries on climate finance, such as the \$100 billion-a-year promise to help poorer nations meet their climate goals, have not been met. The Egyptian organizers said the summit should focus on how countries can implement pledges made in previous years. **MDT/AP**



United Nations The UN Security Council overwhelmingly rejected Russia's attempt to establish a commission to investigate its unfounded claims that Ukraine and the United States are carrying out "military biological" activities that violate the convention prohibiting the use of biological weapons. Russia only got support from China in the vote on its resolution, with the U.S., Britain and France voting "no" and the 10 other council nations abstaining.



West Bank The apparent comeback of former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the dramatic rise of his far-right and ultra-Orthodox allies in Israel's general election this week have prompted little more than shrugs from many Palestinians. "It's all the same to me," Said Issawi, a vendor hawking nectarines in the main al-Manara Square of Ramallah, said of Netanyahu replacing centrist Yair Lapid and poised to head the most right-wing government in Israel's history.



Vatican Pope Francis is bringing his message of dialogue with the Muslim world to the kingdom of Bahrain, where the Sunni-led government is hosting an interfaith conference even as it stands accused of discriminating against the country's Shiite majority. Human rights groups and relatives of Shiite activists on death row have urged Francis to use his visit to call for an end to the death penalty and political repression in Bahrain. But it's not clear if Francis will publicly embarrass his hosts during his four-day visit, the first of any pontiff to the island nation in the Persian Gulf.