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PUBLIC WORKS: LAWMAKER RON LAM QUESTIONS GREEN LIGHT FOR HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS AT THE OLD COTTON MILLS IN TAIPA

P4

UNIONIST LAWMAKERS DEFEND CONFORMITY TO MAINLAND COVID-19 MEASURES

P3

UKRAINE WAR, US-CHINA TENSIONS LOOM OVER G20 BALI SUMMIT

P8



AP PHOTO



South Korea will extradite a New Zealand murder suspect within 30 days, about two months after she was arrested in South Korea in connection with two dead children found in suitcases in Auckland, officials said yesterday. South Korean Justice Minister Han Dong-hoon issued the order for the extradition of the 42-year-old woman, surnamed Lee, to New Zealand, the ministry said in a statement.

AP PHOTO



Philippine authorities have killed 46 drug suspects and arrested more than 22,000 others under President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s campaign, the national police chief said yesterday, and added the lower death toll underscores efforts to avoid lethal force. Marcos Jr., who took office in June, has vowed to press on with his predecessor's crackdown on illegal drugs, which left thousands of mostly petty suspects dead, but said it would be done differently and focus more on rehabilitating drug dependents.

AP PHOTO



Egypt's imprisoned hunger-striking activist Alaa Abdel-Fattah has started drinking water again, his family said yesterday, in the first communication from the prominent dissident in over a week amid fears for his life. The announcement came in a letter the family received from Abdel-Fattah through the prison authorities, dated on Saturday. Last Thursday, the authorities said they had "medically intervened" in Abdel-Fattah's case, without providing details and raising concerns that he was being force-fed.

More on backpage

XI, BIDEN MEET IN BALI

BRIDGING THE GAP

P6

TO AVOID CONFLICT IN THE STRAIT



XINHUA

ZERO IMPACT

NEW CASES WILL NOT AFFECT UPCOMING LARGE-SCALE EVENTS

P2

IT'S THE ECONOMY

Association's survey identifies economic recovery as central public concern as Ho Iat Seng presents the Policy Address

P3

ZERO-COVID

NEW CASES WILL NOT AFFECT UPCOMING LARGE-SCALE EVENTS

LYNZY VALLES

THE city's most recent Covid cases reported yesterday will have no effect on upcoming events including the Grand Prix, Macau Food Festival, as well as the 2023 Policy Address of the Chief Executive scheduled for today.

The announcement was made by Health Bureau director Alvis Lo after authorities called for a press conference yesterday to report two new clusters.

According to Lo, any postponement of the events would depend on the development of the outbreak, noting that the risk of transmission at the moment is low.

Hence, there are no plans to carry out a citywide mass testing.

"We have clearly verified the source of the cases, so for now there is no need for a mass test,"

As the city adheres to the strict zero-Covid policy where it requires the confinement of every infected person, authorities sealed two residential buildings yesterday where the three positive cases reside, designating residents of the building with a red code.



The Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center, authorities announced that a 21-year-old tested positive for Covid-19, following the recent return of her parents from Portugal.

Her parents tested positive

while in medical observation at the end of October, received treatment and were released November 10.

On November 13, the father tested a "weak positive" in the required nucleic acid test (NAT), and was considered a re-

lapse case.

He was placed under medical observation early yesterday.

The 21-year-old female was considered a close contact and tested positive yesterday with a CT value of 16. Authorities considered the case to be related to

an imported case.

The Vista 38 restaurant on the 38th floor of the Four Seasons Macao where she is an intern was closed immediately, and the authorities are coordinating with restaurant employees to further assess the risk.

All staff at Four Seasons are required to take NATs on November 15, 16 and 18, in addition to the test they took yesterday.

The Times is aware that the hotel operator has set up a NAT booth to accommodate the employees.

The building, Edif. Tranquilidade on Avenida do Ouvidor Arriaga 28-28B near the Pak Vai Activity Center where the family resides, has now been listed as a Red Code Zone.

The other case involves a 34-year-old man who lives in Macao and works in Zhuhai for a parcel delivery service in the underground shopping center.

This case was reported to Macau authorities by Zhuhai authorities.

His wife and child are in quarantine in Coloane despite testing negative, and the residential building in front of St. Lawrence Church where they reside, is also cordoned off.

Meanwhile, authorities are calling on individuals who have been to Gongbei Port Underground Shopping Centre between November 11 and 13 to undergo "three tests in three days."

FMCC charity gala raises MOP61,000

THE France Macau Chamber of Commerce (FMCC) 2022 Charity Gala Dinner has raised a total of MOP61,000 to support the city's drug rehabilitation center.

Themed "Around the World in 80 Days," the proceeds from the event will be given to the Association of Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers of Macao (ARTM) to launch its awareness program around the abuse of alcohol and its impacts, including the setting up of a 24-hour hotline.

Earlier this year, ARTM statistics were quoted showing that there has been an increase in al-



cohol consumption among residents since the pre-pandemic era.

"It is vital for our society to have a program that provides professional cou-

nseling when a crisis point is reached, with aftercare and means of recovery,"

the group said in a statement.

FMCC chairman Rutger Verschuren drew a parallel between the theme of the event and the near three-year pandemic journey of the local society and businesses in his speech, noting that people turned unexpected hardships into opportunities as they "foster core qualities such as optimism, open-mindedness, curiosity, perseverance, and adaptability."

"Let us reframe bad luck as an opportunity for growth, reflection, change and developing resiliency. This is exactly what FMCC and many of us in Macau have done: turning the unexpected hardships into opportunities by

seeing and connecting the bright dots," he said.

"Almost three years down the road, we found ways to survive, [although it hasn't been] easy and we have gone through a lot of changes and new normals. By sourcing and implementing new technologies, new organization structures and concepts, rethinking our business processes, we became more efficient and stronger," Verschuren added.

The annual charity gala dinner also featured a recorded welcome speech from the new Consul General of France in Hong Kong and Macau, Christile Drulhe. LV

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Association identifies economy as central public concern

ANTHONY LAM

WITH the economy at the center of public discussion, a survey has discovered that residents want adjustments to the cash handout policy.

The Choi In Tong Sam Association, with three lawmakers in its leadership, held a press conference yesterday morning to announce the result of a survey conducted between mid-October and mid-November.

The survey was done to gather public opinion on the Policy Address that will be announced today.

The group managed to distil 1,826 valid online questionnaire responses from a total of more than 5,000. Questionnaires were distributed online mainly on the group's WeChat account, and also to groups, websites and Facebook pages of the group and to the Macao Federation of Trade Unions (FAOM), a traditional association to which the group is closely affiliated.

The group revealed that 42.7% of valid responses identified economic and subsidization measures as their principal concern. Following this are price controls (37.2%), economic development (33.8%) and housing policies (32.3%).

Executive director Lam Lon Wai of the group revealed that most respondents were concerned with the lack of "synergy" for an economic revival, especially underscored by the constantly ri-

ANTHONY LAM



sing unemployment rate.

According to Lam, respondents showed concerns over outstanding salary payments, compensations for official work suspensions and worries about potential lay-offs by casino operators. Many fear that after the re-issuing of licenses, casino operators will start dismissing workers in order to lower costs, Lam pointed out. Moreover, respondents were also concerned with the numbers of non-resident workers and youth employment.

Analyzing the situation, the group saw that Macau would need to find new leverage points to develop new trades to support economic progress and employment growth.

On regional integration, the survey included questions on Hengqin and Guangdong. On this issue, the group calls for the government to help young people find jobs in Hengqin "so as to create space for the employment of young people," Lam said.

In addition, Lam admitted that Macau residents still face challenges relocating to Hengqin when it comes to salary levels, work culture and lifestyle. He also wants more policies to help people from Macau integrate into Hengqin.

Two topics related to economic problems are subsidies and the high prices of essential goods. On this topic, lawmaker and deputy executive director of the group

Ella Lei said that despite the public welcoming the retention of the cash handout scheme in the coming year, the scheme should be adjusted to use public funds more wisely.

Lei pointed out that many former residents who left Macau long ago are still receiving the cash distributed by the government. It is highly unlikely that such people will use the money in Macau. As such, Lei recommends the government adopt the eligibility criteria used in the Central Provident Fund to require cash handout recipients to remain in Macau for at least 183 days per year to qualify.

Nonetheless, Lei added that many people who live in the

mainland but work in Macau, as well as those studying outside of the city fear that they will be excluded from the scheme. Lei suggests that provided such people are able to prove a connection with Macau, this should be sufficient to qualify them, even if they do not meet the daily retention threshold.

Another problem is that local commodity prices, especially fuel, are constantly on the rise. Lei especially mentioned that gasoline prices have not reflected the reality or projection of the global price levels of the commodity. She said that the prices often went up but seldom down, regardless of the fluctuations of global oil prices.

Lawmaker Leong Sun Iok, also deputy executive director of the group, reported that most respondents were concerned with economic and sandwich-class housing schemes. The group elaborated that although the government wanted to construct a housing "ladder", by proposing the exclusion of economic housing unit owners from buying sandwich-class housing, the group cannot see vertical mobility in the so-called "ladder".

Therefore, Leong said that the government should consider allowing economic housing owners – past or present – to enjoy a one-off chance of purchasing a sandwich-class housing unit, so as to signal its commitment to building a housing ladder.

Both Lei and Leong recommends more targeted support for sandwich-class income groups, those who have spouses, children, parents, deducted salaries due to work suspensions and mortgaged homes of which the debt repayments are ongoing based on partial salaries.

The last question of the survey invited open answers to free topics and 361 respondents gave feedback, the group added.

Trade unionist lawmakers defend conformity to mainland Covid-19 measures

ANTHONY LAM

WITH the red-code period for arrivals being extended from seven to eight days, trade unionist lawmaker Lam Lon Wai has insisted that following mainland Covid-19 standards would be best for Macau.

At a press conference yesterday held by his affiliated group, the Choi In Tong Sam Association, the lawmaker was asked by the Times what suggestions the group would make to align with Macau government's policy aim to attract more



foreign tourists.

During the press conference, the lawmaker dis-

closed that a recent survey by the group discovered widespread public concern

over the future and the recovery of the economy. In the past decades, Macau has relied on tourism as a main source of income.

With quarantine still in force, the city is not likely to be attractive to foreign visitors when they can travel quarantine-free to most parts of the world.

In response to the question, Lam stressed that social stability is the key to an energetic tourism market. By stability, he included health as well, he added. "Covid-19 cases will scare tourists away," he noted.

Elaborating on his views,

he pointed out that Macau is still highly reliant on mainland China, despite the government's desire to divert the focus to foreign source markets. He even commented that he took a walk in the city on Sunday and saw many tourists in groups, "which might be organized by the tourism trade or local associations."

Based on the comment, he hinted that group tourists from mainland are needed for economic recovery.

While commenting that the government has learned more about SARS-CoV-2, Lam said that new Covid-19

cases will delay events, "for which organizers have or will have spent much time in preparations."

Early October, Singapore saw the return of the Formula 1 Grand Prix and 300,000 spectators with new cases detected every day.

Also replying to the same question, Lam's colleague Leong Sun Iok also insisted that conforming to the mainland on Covid-19 control measures is critical.

In addition, he said that as far as he knows, many mainland long-distance runners are hoping to come to Macau to run in the annual marathon. As such, he calls on the government to continually promote a multifaceted tourism model, which the government has branded as Tourism+.

HENGQIN ANNOUNCES TAX INCENTIVES FOR AUGMENTED-REALITY ENTERPRISES

Development of the metaverse industry will be further advanced with tax incentives, the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin bureaus of Finance, Taxation, and Economic Development announced earlier this month. 26 new tax policies support the agglomeration and development of metaverse enterprises, attract R&D talents, and accelerate the settlement and transformation of sci-tech achievements in the Cooperation Zone. They will provide full cycle backing for metaverse enterprises from the start-up stage through further growth and development, as cited in a statement issued by the Hengqin government. Qualified companies in metaverse-related industries and sectors will receive a preferential corporate income tax (CIT) rate of 15%, while eligible enterprises will be exempted from CIT for incomes generated from new overseas direct investment.

WHOLESALE, RETAIL TRADE REVENUES REACH MOP114B IN 2021

Receipts of Wholesale & Retail Trade rose by 34.7% year-on-year to MOP114.19 billion in 2021, returning to over 80% of the receipts in 2019. Data from the Statistics and Census Service shows that expenditure stood at MOP104.84 billion, up by 29.7% year-on-year. Receipts of Wholesale Trade went up by 11.9% year-on-year to MOP34.76 billion. Retail establishments totalled 7,771, up by 526 year-on-year; most of them were engaged in retail sale of food and beverages. However, the number of persons engaged in Retail Trade dropped by 1,285 to 41,630 despite receipts rising by 53.5% year-on-year to MOP73.59 billion.

PUBLIC WORKS

LAWMAKER QUESTIONS GREEN LIGHT FOR HIGH RISE RESIDENCES NEAR NOVA GRAND

ANTHONY LAM

In his latest written inquiry, lawmaker Ron Lam questioned the criteria used by the Urban Planning Committee (CPU) in passing the controversial planning draft for the development at the former cotton mills in Taipa.

Last week, amid debates from both members of the public and within the committee itself, the government – represented by CPU president and director of the Land and Urban Construction Bureau (DSSCU) Lai Weng Leong – decided to issue a green light to the project.

The project will feature a set of buildings reaching a maximum height of 90 meters off from the southwestern tip of the Nova Grand residential estate. The DSSCU also permitted 100% use of the land.

The planning draft for the four plots of land, numbered BT7, BT8, BT9 and BT9a, has garnered an overwhelming 462 opinions, the majority of which are against the development. Most of the submissions called for more leisure and community spaces.

Although Lai assured the public that land will be reserved for future leisure and community spaces, Lam was not convinced. Similar to Lai's approach, who had resorted to the Master Urban Plan to justify the government's approval, Lam also cited the Plan to state that only the



Flower City Garden and the Taipa Central Park would remain the same. He added that without any additional land reservations for greenery expressly stipulated in the Master Plan, the public's concerns over the planned development was justified.

Lam then referred to the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines to suggest that Taipa should have more leisure and community spaces. Pursuant to the Hong Kong docu-

ment, each person residing in the urban areas in Hong Kong should be allotted 1 square meter of land for leisure purposes. He then calculated that each person residing in Taipa only has 0.39 square meters of such land.

The lawmaker also pointed out that although the ratio of green spaces to population is better than in Hong Kong, the reality was that green spaces were unevenly distributed here. Older districts, such as San Kio,

Inner Harbor and Patane, have green spaces that are compressed and limited.

Apart from calling for clearer CPU planning draft criteria, Lam also asked the government to adopt the Singaporean style of releasing plots of vacant land that has been levelled and revegetated for public use.

He also called on the government to clarify standards for leisure space per person to govern future developments.

MENTAL HEALTH

Body found decomposing in apparent suicide

DANIE FRANCO



LYNZY VALLES

Two women have been found dead separately, one of whom was a senior citizen whose body was found decomposing.

A statement from the Judiciary Police (PJ) classified the cases as "dead body found," as they were found to have committed suicide.

A 61-year-old woman was found dead in her rooftop flat in a building on Rua da Barca on Friday.

The discovery came after a resident of the building reported a foul smell.

When firefighters broke open the locked metal gate

of the flat, they found the senior citizen to have been dead for a long time as the body had begun to decompose.

No suicide note was found.

In a separate case, on Sunday, the public hospital reported to the police that a 45-year-old female resident was certified dead after overdosing on an undisclosed medication.

According to the PJ, the woman had been ill for several years.

She was discovered by her son as he was visiting her and her husband's apartment yesterday.

No suspicious injuries were found, though a suicide note was found on her mobile phone.

Local associations have previously expressed concerns that the ongoing pandemic has been taxing on the mental health of local residents, especially for senior citizens who live alone and have no one to talk to.

According to these associations, the pandemic has heightened the sense of loneliness and depression among solitary seniors, many of whom have been forced to stay at home alone for long periods of time due to social distancing

measures.

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

These two cases add to the July suicide toll among senior citizens with at least three old-aged residents aged 74, 75 and 87 years being found after apparent suicides.

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

Interim Review of Major Work of the Fifth-term Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR)

(TRANSLATED VERSION)

In the past three years, with the strong support of the Central People's Government, the fifth-term Government of the MSAR united all sectors of society to make concerted efforts and tackle challenges head on. While striving to prevent and control COVID-19, the Government also spared no effort in facilitating progress in aspects including the economy, livelihoods and infrastructure, and responded to society's concerns, thereby ensuring Macao's social stability and development.

Unswervingly facilitating diversification and continuously optimising work on enhancing people's livelihoods

- The amendments to the **Gaming Industry Regulatory Framework** were completed, and a new public tender for gaming concessions will be completed by the end of the year, boosting the development of non-gaming businesses.
- Regarding the implementation of the **Law on Pharmaceutical Activities in the Field of Traditional Chinese Medicine and the Registration of Traditional Chinese Medicines**, the Government established the Pharmaceutical Administration Bureau. The Islands District Medical Complex will commence operation in phases next year, and cooperate with Peking Union Medical College Hospital to introduce high-end medical and healthcare projects.
- To expedite the development of a modern financial services industry, the Government completed financial infrastructure, such as the Macao Central Securities Depository, and facilitated the amendments to and drafting of laws and regulations, including the **Trust Law** and the **Securities Law**. Research on a bond registration system has commenced.
- The Government restructured the Economic and Technological Development Bureau and set up a unit for technology and innovation, launched the **Industry-Academia-Research Online Matching Platform**, and effectively utilised Concordia Industrial Park to create new space for industrial diversification.
- Regarding enhancement to **"Tourism+"** crossover synergy, the Government has been developing education tourism. **"Macao Week"** activities were held in various places including Beijing to promote Macao as a healthy, safe and quality destination. Various sports events, including Macau Grand Prix, were held.
- Regarding plans for future housing supply, the Government progressively implemented the **"five-rung housing ladder"**.

Public Housing

A mechanism for applying for public housing on a regular basis was established. In the past three years, **1,278** housing units were built, further **1,590** are currently under construction and **4,088** are being planned.

Home-Ownership Scheme

A total of **8,271** housing units are under construction, and about **11,300** housing units are being planned.

Sandwich Class Housing Scheme

A total of **7,000** to **10,000** units were planned, and the work on the Sandwich Class Housing Scheme legislation and its design has commenced.

Housing for senior citizens

A total of **1,815** housing units are under construction, and work on constructing their foundations will be completed this year.

Private housing

The planning project on private building sites has commenced, and suitable sites for public tender will be selected.

- Regarding enhancement of the double-tier social security system, the Government implemented a mechanism for regular adjustments of social security benefits. By the third quarter, the number of pension recipients was **134,258**, while the number of participants in the Non-mandatory Central Provident Fund Contribution Plan had exceeded **99,000**.
- The planning and design for the construction of the Elderly Care Home Complex on Lot A8 have commenced. It is anticipated there will be a total of 18 floors, providing no less than **900** beds.
- An integrated services centre for the elderly was set up in 2020, and the first integrated service centre for patients with dementia was set up in 2021. The Government has launched and enhanced the **Carers Allowance Pilot Scheme**. By the third quarter of the year, the number of recipients of disability allowances had reached **10,326**. The Medicare Insurance Scheme in mainland China has been expanded to cover nine mainland cities in the Greater Bay Area.

- The Government has fully implemented the fundamental principle of **"patriots governing Macao"**, and held the seventh-term Legislative Assembly Election in accordance with the law.

- The Government ensured the national security law enforcement bodies became fully operational, and fully supported the National Security Affairs Adviser and the National Security Technical Advisers in their duties in accordance with the law.

- In tandem with facilitating the amendments to the **Law on Safeguarding National Security**, the Government completed the amendments to a series of legal systems, including the new immigration law, the new fire prevention regulations, the interception of communications and the supervision of dangerous goods. The Government has fully deployed the **"Sky Eye"** CCTV system, finished construction of the police cloud data centre and cloud data service platform, and created the system for crowd control in key districts.

Improving standards of public governance and facilitating cultivation of talented people in culture and education

- During the past three years, the Government has submitted **55** bills to the Legislative Assembly for deliberation, formulated **62** laws in cooperation with the Legislative Assembly, and promulgated **138** by-laws, continuously perfecting the legal system of the MSAR.
- By the end of September, there were over **409,000** users of the Government's **"Macao One Account"**, which provides more than **150** e-services and functions. As at 31 October 2022, the Government has completed restructuring, merging or revoking of **28** public departments and **13** autonomous funds.
- The Commission Against Corruption combats corruption in both the public and private sectors, ensures the function of handling complaints to the Ombudsman, and has implemented the reinvestigation mechanism. The Commission of Audit adhered to the principle of ensuring that government accounts comply with the law and regulations, promoted reform of public administration through inspections of departmental performance, and fostered the development of audit-related information technology infrastructure.
- Regarding the enhancement of the supervision of corporations with public capital, the Government established a sound system of public financial assistance and facilitated the reasonable allocation of public financial resources.
- Plans for tertiary and non-tertiary education development and youth policies for 2021-2030 were announced.
- The reform of the Education Council, education fund and public schools was completed. The Government strengthened education on the **Constitution of the People's Republic of China**, the **Basic Law of Macao**, and national security, and established the **patriotic education base for young people**.
- The bill on **Legal System for Importing Talented People** has been deliberated by the Legislative Assembly, which proposes to prioritise the import of **high-end talents** and talents required by the four nascent industries.
- The Government strengthened the industry-oriented development of academic research of tertiary institutions, focusing on key areas including Chinese medicine, microelectronics and tourism, and enhanced the transformation of industry-academia-research results. At present, **88** patents have been registered by three public institutions since 2020.
- The Government increased the number of recommended students to pursue higher education in mainland China. The percentage of Macao students studying in higher education institutions in mainland China increased to **38.3 percent** in the 2021/2022 academic year.
- Macanese Gastronomy, Pataua Theatre and Beliefs and Customs of Tao Tei were inscribed in the fifth batch of **National List of Representative Items of Intangible Cultural Heritage**. The third phase of local procedures for classifying immovable heritage was completed, and a total of 70 items were inscribed on Macao's Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Safeguarding national security to integrate into overall national development

- The compilation of the **Second Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development of the MSAR Government (2021-2025)** was completed, fully aligning with the country's **14th Five-Year Plan**. The Government set up a **Working Committee for Integrating into National Development**, to coordinate Macao's participation in the development of the "Belt and Road" initiative and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, thereby better integrating with the overall development of the country.
- The plaque of the administrative body of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin was unveiled. The Macao elements of the Cooperation Zone have been strengthened, with the goal of serving Macao, and the path of economic diversification has become clearer. Services and institutions covering education, healthcare, livelihoods and employment have become operational.
- The new Hengqin Checkpoint and Qingmao Checkpoint were put into operation, with both adopting the **"joint inspection and one-time release"** convenient border crossing method. There was steady progress with construction of the "first-tier" and "second-tier" of the Cooperation Zone – which is expected to fulfil the operational requirements for closed-end management within this year.
- The **"Double 15 percent"** tax incentive policy for the Cooperation Zone was officially implemented. A number of major industrial projects covering integrated circuits, healthcare and modern financial services were implemented. The Government expedited the implementation of work related to the major supportive policies, such as by introducing the catalogue of encouraged industries, special measures for relaxing market entry requirements, the list of the first batch of authorised items, and opinions on financial support for the construction of the Cooperation Zone.
- There was smooth progress with the **Macao New Neighbourhood** project in Hengqin, which is expected to be completed in the second half of 2023.

Please scan for more details



Interim Review of the Work of the Fifth-term Government of the MSAR



Major Welfare and Epidemic Relief Measures during 2020-2022 (Portuguese only)



Major Infrastructure Projects

Expediting infrastructure construction and building a smart and liveable city

- Taking Macao's Urban Development Master Plan as the foundation, the Government made proper use of land and marine resources, to perfect the urban infrastructure.
- The Government forged ahead with construction of the main structure and peripheral road networks of the fourth Macao-Taipa cross-harbour bridge, which is expected to be **completed in 2024**. The related construction of the extension of the LRT Taipa-Barra Line is expected to be **completed in 2023**, while the construction of the LRT Seac Pai Van Line and Hengqin Line has commenced, and the planning of the LRT East Line was completed.
- The rainwater pumping station box culvert in the northern inner Harbour was inaugurated. The Government has completed construction of infrastructure including the Qingmao Checkpoint Joint Inspection Building, Seac Pai Van Water Treatment Plant, expansion of Ka Ho Reservoir, the reclamation for New Urban Zone Area C, the third Guangdong-Macao high-voltage electric power transmission line corridor, Taipa-Macao cross-harbour gas supply pipeline, and expansion work at the southern part of the Macao International Airport passenger terminal.
- The construction of the transportation network – including a vehicle flyover at Rotunda da Piscina Olimpica, Ka Ho Tunnel, the Pedestrian System Surrounding Guia Hill, the Skywalk at Avenida de Guimaraes and a footbridge at Qingmao Checkpoint – was completed.
- The construction of various leisure facilities – including Leisure Area of Kun Iam Statue Waterfront, Flora Garden, Reservoir Park, Taipa Grande Nature Park and Luis de Camoes Garden – was completed.
- The Government has commenced the public tender and evaluation for 5G licences, and will begin 5G licensing within the year.
- In the past three years, **17 plots** of land have been returned, with a total area of approximately **230,000 square metres**. Some of the returned land plots were used for building government office buildings, warehouses, and housing, involving an area of over **180,000 square metres**.

Boosting the economy to ensure people's livelihoods and making unrelenting efforts to prevent and control COVID-19

- In view of the impact of COVID-19 on the Macao economy, residents and enterprises since its outbreak in early 2020, the MSAR Government, despite a significant decrease in fiscal revenue, has maintained a regular welfare expenditure for Macao residents of approximately **68.3 billion patacas** during the past three years (as of September this year), and an actual expenditure of approximately **32.3 billion patacas** for economic assistance specifically provided due to the pandemic, amounting to a total of approximately **100.6 billion patacas**. In addition, the actual expenditure on Investments and Development Expenses of the Administration (PIDDA) in the past three years was approximately **35.6 billion patacas**, while the actual expenditure in the deficit budget that guaranteed the daily operations of the Government stood at **34 billion patacas**.
- As of September, the **consumption benefits plan** and other schemes have spurred consumption worth a total of **14,534 billion patacas**, involving **200 million** transactions, thereby effectively popularising mobile payments. Various temporary loans for SMEs were launched, which involved **6.67 billion patacas**.
- The **"Subsidised Training Scheme"** was launched, with **15,984** enrolments by September. The Government organised internship and trainee programmes for young people, offering **5,688** positions; and assisted **12,105** young people with obtaining employment in the past three years. By September, the number of non-resident workers had decreased by **39,657** compared to early 2020.
- The Government has implemented comprehensive measures – including setting up the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre, ensuring the supply of protective face masks, introducing the **Macao Health Code** and interconnecting with **Guangdong Health Code**, and increasing the nucleic acid test capacity – in order to work with all sectors to enhance the effectiveness of epidemic prevention and promptly respond to outbreaks.

澳門健康碼
Macao Health Code

- Regarding the enhancement of the **Contingency Plan for Large-scale COVID-19 Epidemic**, the Government normalised epidemic prevention and control on three major fronts: borders, medical institutions and the community; boosted the COVID-19 vaccination rate, with coverage of around **92 percent** for all Macao residents; sterilised **9,791 million pieces** of cold-chain food and imported fruit; and carried out random tests on over **176,000 items** during the past three years.

DIPLOMACY

BIDEN DISCUSSES TAIWAN WITH XI IN EFFORT TO AVOID 'CONFLICT'

SEUNG MIN KIM
& ZEKE MILLER, NUSA DUA

PRESIDENT Joe Biden objected to China's "coercive and increasingly aggressive actions" toward Taiwan and raised "human rights concerns" about Xinjiang, Tibet, and Hong Kong during his first in-person meeting yesterday with President Xi Jinping, the White House said.

In a news conference following the meeting, Biden reiterated U.S. support for its longstanding "One China" policy. He also said that despite China's recent saber rattling, he does not believe "there's any imminent attempt on the part of China to invade Taiwan."

"It never has to come to that," Biden added.

The meeting, in the midst of Biden's seven-day, round-the-world trip, came as the superpowers aimed to "manage" differences between them as they compete for global influence amid increasing economic and security tensions. Speaking to reporters, Biden said that the U.S. would "compete vigorously, but I'm not looking for conflict," adding that, "I absolutely believe there need not be a new Cold War" with China.

Biden and Xi also agreed that "a nuclear war should never be fought" and can't be won, "and underscored their opposition to the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons in Ukraine," the White House said. That was a reference to Russian officials' thinly-veiled threats to use atomic weapons as its nearly nine-month invasion of Ukraine has faltered.

Biden and Xi also agreed to "empower key senior officials" on areas of potential cooperation, including tackling climate change, and maintaining global financial, health and food stability.



President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Joe Biden shake hands before their meeting on the sidelines of the G20 summit meeting in Nusa Dua, in Bali, yesterday

Xi and Biden greeted each other with a handshake at a luxury resort hotel in Indonesia, where they are attending the Group of 20 summit of large economies.

"As the leaders of our two nations, we share responsibility, in my view, to show that China and the United States can manage our differences, prevent competition from becoming anything ever near conflict, and to find ways to work together on urgent global issues that require our mutual cooperation," Biden said to open the meeting.

Xi called on Biden to "chart the right course" and "elevate the relationship" between China and the U.S. He said he was ready for a "candid and in-depth exchange of views" with Biden.

Both men entered the highly anticipated meeting with bolstered political standing at home. Democrats triumphantly held onto

control of the U.S. Senate, with a chance to boost their ranks by one in a runoff election in Georgia next month, while Xi was awarded a third five-year term in October by the Communist Party's national congress.

"We have very little misunderstanding," Biden told reporters in Cambodia on Sunday, where he participated in a gathering of southeast Asian nations before leaving for Indonesia. "We just got to figure out where the red lines are and ... what are the most important things to each of us going into the next two years."

White House aides have repeatedly sought to minimize any notion of conflict between the two nations and have emphasized that they believe the countries can work in tandem on shared challenges such as climate change and health security.

But relations have grown more

strained under successive American administrations, as economic, trade, human rights and security differences have come to the fore.

Pelosi's trip prompted China, officially the People's Republic of China, to retaliate with military drills and the firing of ballistic missiles into nearby waters.

The White House said Biden "raised U.S. objections to the PRC's coercive and increasingly aggressive actions toward Taiwan, which undermine peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and in the broader region, and jeopardize global prosperity."

Xi, according to the Chinese government's own account of the meeting, "stressed that the Taiwan question is at the very core of China's core interests, the bedrock of the political foundation of China-U.S. relations, and the first red line that must not be crossed in China-U.S. relations."

In the meeting, Biden said China's economic practices "harm American workers and families, and workers and families around the world," the White House said.

It came just weeks after the Biden administration blocked exports of advanced computer chips to China — a national security move that bolsters U.S. competition against Beijing.

Xi's government said he condemned such moves, saying, "Starting a trade war or a technology war, building walls and barriers, and pushing for decoupling and severing supply chains run counter to the principles of market economy and undermine international trade rules."

Before the meeting, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning had said China was committed to peaceful coexistence but would firmly defend its sovereignty, security and development interests.

"It is important that the U.S. work together with China to properly manage differences, advance mutually beneficial cooperation, avoid misunderstanding and miscalculation, and bring China-U.S. relations back to the right track of sound and steady development," she said at a daily briefing in Beijing.

White House officials and their Chinese counterparts spent weeks negotiating details of the meeting, which was held at Xi's hotel with translators providing simultaneous interpretation through headsets.

The leaders spoke while seated facing each other at two long tables separated by more than a dozen feet and an elaborate floral arrangement inside a cavernous and windowless conference room.

Each leader was flanked by nine N-95 mask-wearing aides, and in the case of Xi, at least one official newly elevated in the recent Congress to its top leadership. U.S. officials said the interaction with top Xi aides could lead to more substantive engagements down the line. **MDT/AP**

DIPLOMACY

Albanese takes 'goodwill' into meeting with Xi

AUSTRALIAN Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said yesterday he will soon meet Chinese President Xi Jinping for the first face-to-face talks between the nations' leaders in five years.

Albanese said he would meet Xi today on the Indonesian island of Bali on the sidelines of the G-20 summit.

Albanese did not answer directly when asked by a reporter in Bali how hope-

ful he was that the meeting would lead to China changing a series of official and unofficial trade barriers that are costing Australian exporters \$13 billion a year.

"We enter this discussion with goodwill. There are no preconditions on this discussion," Albanese said.

The meeting marks a major reset in a bilateral relationship that plumbed new depths under the nine-year rule of Australia's

previous conservative government.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said that improved ties would serve the fundamental interests of both countries, but did not confirm the meeting.

"We hope Australia will ... rebuild mutual trust and push the bilateral relationship back on the right track," Mao Ning said at a daily briefing in Beijing.

The last Australian pri-

me minister Xi met was Malcolm Turnbull on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Hamburg, Germany, in June 2017.

Within months, China accused Turnbull of undermining mutual trust by announcing new laws that would ban covert foreign interference in Australian domestic politics.

Relations worsened under Turnbull's successor Scott Morrison, when his administration called for an

independent inquiry into the origins of and international responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Beijing's major gripe remains Australia's ban on Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei's involvement in Australian 5G networks on national security grounds.

The Chinese People's Daily English-language newspaper reported last week that "signs of resetting bilateral ties have emerged"

since Albanese's center-left Labor Party came to power in May.

Beijing immediately lifted a ban on minister-to-minister contacts.

The Xi meeting was confirmed after Albanese spoke briefly on Saturday with China's Premier Li Keqiang at a dinner in Cambodia.

China's state-run Xinhua News Agency said Li told Albanese "China is ready to meet Australia half way" in repairing the tattered relationship.

Asked about Li's comment, Albanese said yesterday: "Australia will put forward our own position." **MDT/AP**

SOUTH KOREA

Protest song played for HK rugby team in Incheon stadium

HYUNG-JIN KIM,
KANIS LEUNG, SEOUL

THE South Korean organizers of a regional rugby tournament have apologized for mistakenly playing a song embraced by Hong Kong pro-democracy protesters as China's national anthem, an incident that sparked strong reaction from the city's government.

"Glory to Hong Kong" — whose lyrics call for democracy and liberty — was played before the men's finals between South Korea and Hong Kong in the second leg of the Asian Rugby Seven Series in Incheon, just west of Seoul, on Sunday.

Video of the song playing at the tournament went viral on social media in Hong Kong, where the song composed by a local musician and sung by demonstrators during widespread anti-government protests in 2019 is now highly sensitive.

The Hong Kong government

AP PHOTO



early yesterday issued a strongly worded statement to express its dissatisfaction over the incident.

"The national anthem is a symbol of our country. The organizer of the tournament has a duty to ensure that the national anthem receives the respect it warranted," a government spokesperson said.

The Seoul-based Korea Rugby Union said later yesterday

that the wrong song was played because of a human error and it wasn't politically motivated.

Union officials said they've apologized to the Asia Rugby Union as well as to the Hong Kong and Chinese sides. They said staff of the mainland Chinese team also competing at the tournament notified them of the error.

The organizers announced

an apology both in Korean and English at the stadium after the game, and the official Chinese national anthem was played for the winning Hong Kong team during the award ceremony, the officials said on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak to media on the matter.

According to the officials, a person handing the playing of the

national anthems accidentally chose the protesters' song saved in a computer file folder named "Hong Kong." They had mistakenly saved that song without knowing it's linked to protesters before each tournament competitor submitted the recordings of their countries' respective anthems, the officials said.

While the Hong Kong Rugby Union accepted it was a case of human error, it said the mistake was still unacceptable. Pro-Beijing politicians in Hong Kong also voiced their discontent, with some demanding an investigation to see whether it was a deliberate act.

Ronny Tong, a member of the Executive Council — Hong Kong's Cabinet — said if the mistake was unintended, the act would not constitute a criminal offense. But if an investigation later proves it was a deliberate act, those involved could face legal consequences linked to the city's sedition charge, the National Security Law or the National Anthem Ordinance depending on the results, the veteran lawyer said.

The security law was imposed by Beijing in 2020 to crack down on Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement. It criminalizes succession, subversion, terrorism, and collusion with foreign forces. The National Anthem Ordinance penalizes insults to the Chinese national anthem. **MDT/AP**

AD

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 楊詩婷 Si Teng leong
 伍福賢 Domingos Ng



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G20

Ukraine war, US-China tensions loom over big Bali summit

ADAM SCHRECK & ELAINE KURTENBACH, NUSA DUA

A showdown between Presidents Joe Biden and Vladimir Putin isn't happening, but fallout from Russia's invasion of Ukraine and growing tensions between China and the West will be at the fore when leaders of the world's biggest economies gather in tropical Bali this week.

The Group of 20 members begin talks on the Indonesian resort island today under the hopeful theme of "recover together, recover stronger."

The summit's official priorities of health, sustainable energy and digital transformation are likely to be overshadowed by fears of a sputtering global economy and geopolitical tensions centered on the war in Ukraine.

The nearly 9-month-old conflict has disrupted trade in oil, natural gas and grain, and shifted much of the summit's focus to food and energy security.

The U.S. and allies in Europe and Asia, meanwhile, increasingly are squaring off against a more assertive China, leaving emerging G-20 economies like India, Brazil and host Indonesia to walk a tightrope between bigger powers.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo has tried to bridge rifts within the G-20 over the war in Ukraine. Widodo, also known as Jokowi, became the first Asian leader since the invasion to visit both Russia and Ukraine in the summer.

He invited President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine, not a G-20 member, to join the summit. Zelenskyy is expected to participate online.

"One of the priorities for Jokowi is to ease the tension of war and geopolitical risk," said Bhima Yudhistira, director of the Center of Economic and Law Studies in Indonesia's capital, Jakarta.

Last year's G-20 summit in Rome was the first in-person gathering of members since the pandemic, though the leaders of Russia and China didn't attend.

This year's event is bracketed by the United Nations climate conference in Egypt and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit in Cambodia, which Biden and some other G-20 leaders are atten-

AP PHOTO



Mounted police patrol a street ahead of the G20 Summit in Nusa Dua, Bali

ding, and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting in Thailand right afterward.

The American president vowed to work with Southeast Asian nations on Saturday, saying "we're going to build a better future that we all want to see" in a region where China is working to grow its influence. On Sunday, Biden huddled with the leaders of Japan and South Korea to discuss China and the threat from North Korea.

One question hanging over the Bali summit is whether Russia will agree to extend the U.N. Black Sea Grain Initiative, which is up for renewal Nov. 19.

The July deal allowed major global grain producer Ukraine to resume exports from ports that had been largely blocked for months because of the war. Russia briefly pulled out of the deal late last month only to rejoin it days later.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba on Saturday called for more pressure on Russia to extend the deal, saying Moscow must "stop playing hunger games with the world."

As leaders contend with conflicts and geopolitical tensions, they face the risk that efforts to tame inflation will extinguish post-pandemic recoveries or cause debilitating financial crises.

The war's repercussions are being felt from the remotest villages of Asia and Africa to the most modern industries. It has amplified disruptions to energy supplies, shipping and food security, pushing prices sharply higher and complicating efforts to stabilize

the world economy after the upheavals of the pandemic.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is urging the G-20 to provide financial help for the developing world.

"My priority in Bali will be to speak up for countries in the Global South that have been battered by the COVID-19 pandemic and the climate emergency, and now face crises in food, energy and finance — exacerbated by the war in Ukraine and crushing debt," Guterres said.

The International Monetary Fund is forecasting 2.7% global growth in 2023, while private sector economists' estimates are as low as 1.5%, down from about 3% this year, the slowest growth since the oil crisis of the early 1980s.

China has remained somewhat insulated from soaring inflation, mainly because it is struggling to reverse an economic slump that is weighing on global growth.

The Chinese economy, the world's second largest, grew at a 3.9% pace in the latest quarter. But economists say activity is slowing under the pressure of pandemic controls, a crackdown on technology companies and a downturn in the real estate sector.

Forecasters have cut estimates of China's annual economic growth to as low as 3%. That would be less than half of last year's 8.1% and the second lowest in decades.

The U.S. is at odds with China over a host of issues, including human rights, technology and the future of the self-ruled island of Taiwan. The U.S.

sees China as its biggest global competitor, and that rivalry is only likely to grow as Beijing seeks to expand its influence in the years to come.

The European Union is also reassessing its relationship with China as it seeks to reduce its trade dependency on the country.

Many developing economies are caught between fighting inflation and trying to nurse along recoveries from the pandemic. Host Indonesia's economy grew at a 5.7% pace in the last quarter, one of the fastest among G-20 nations.

But growth among resource exporters like Indonesia is forecast to cool as falling prices for oil, coal and other commodities end windfalls from the past year's price boom.

At a time when many countries are struggling to afford imports of oil, gas and food while also meeting debt repayments, pressure is building on those most vulnerable to climate change to double down on shifting to more sustainable energy supplies.

In Bali, the talks are also expected to focus on finding ways to hasten the transition away from coal and other fossil fuels.

The G-20 was founded in 1999 originally as a forum to address economic challenges. It includes Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union. Spain holds a permanent guest seat. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1977 PRINCESS ANNE GIVES BIRTH TO MASTER PHILLIPS



Princess Anne has given birth to a boy - the first royal baby to be born a commoner for more than 500 years.

Both baby and mother are said to be in good health.

Princess Anne was driven to St Mary's Hospital in Paddington, west London at 0400 on Tuesday by her husband, Captain Mark Phillips.

He was with the princess when their son was born less than six hours later at 1046 in the hospital's maternity unit.

The royal gynaecologist, George Pinker, was also at the birth.

But fortunately for the princess the tradition requiring a government minister to witness royal births was ended before the birth of Prince Charles.

The name of the child, who weighed 7lb 9oz, has not yet been announced.

Shortly afterwards the princess telephoned her mother with the news and Captain Phillips rang his parents in Great Somerford in Wiltshire where the church bells were rung in celebration.

Official announcements of the birth were posted on the railings of Buckingham Palace and the Home Office in Whitehall.

A 41-gun salute was fired at the Tower of London to welcome the baby, who is fifth in line to the throne.

He was born plain Master Phillips because, in spite of being the Queen's daughter, Princess Anne possesses no hereditary title.

Both the princess and her husband are said to have rejected an offer from the Queen of titles which would have enabled their children to be born into the peerage.

The Queen was among the first to visit her daughter and new grandson in a private wing of the hospital.

She smiled broadly and waved to a crowd of about 200 people as she arrived.

Speaking to reporters as he left after visiting his wife and new son, Captain Phillips said he was "relieved it's all over and very pleased".

On being asked what his son was like Captain Phillips replied: "About the same as any other baby I should think".

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The baby was named Peter Mark Andrew Phillips.

He was joined by a sister - Zara Anne Elizabeth - in 1981.

They are the Queen's only untitled grandchildren.

Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips divorced in 1992.

The princess married Commander Timothy Laurence - who once served as an equerry to the Queen - later the same year.

Captain Phillips remarried in 1997 and had a daughter, with his new wife, a former Olympic horse rider.

The baby, Stephanie, was Captain Phillips' third daughter - he fathered an illegitimate child during his marriage to Princess Anne.

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Changes in your home may be disruptive and upsetting. You should get out and meet some of those clients that you only speak to on the phone.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Opportunities to get ahead are evident. Entertainment should include sports events or physical activities. Don't fall into the trap.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

You will have a childlike approach today, big hearted and full of spunk. You could be disillusioned if you let relative in on your emotional thoughts.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Don't expect the whole family to be overjoyed. Don't let your mate force you into making a decision that you aren't ready to make.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

It may not be the best time to socialize with clients or colleagues today. Kick your shoes off and relax. You need time to rejuvenate.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Your loved ones could set you off. Do not sign contracts or get involved in any uncertain financial deals. Try not to be overly generous.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Avoid getting trapped in internal disputes. Keep your wits about you and be sure that you can trust those you confide in.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Unexpected changes in friendships could occur. You need to be careful not to make promises that you can't fulfill.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You are best to concentrate on your professional endeavors. Don't be too quick to judge partners or those you work with.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Your partner will blow situations out of proportion. Your temper could get the better of you if you confront personal situations.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

If you take on too much of a financial burden you may make yourself ill. Your interests could lead you down avenues you never realized existed.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Don't even bother trying to get their approval on the things you want to do. Involvement in groups will be favorable and lead to valuable information.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	0	15	fine
Changchun	-8	4	fine
Chengdu	9	16	overcast
Chongqing	12	16	overcast
Fuzhou	19	21	rain
Guangzhou	20	28	cloudy
Guiyang	8	15	rain
Haikou	23	27	rain
Hangzhou	12	16	overcast
Harbin	-9	3	fine
Hefei	4	17	fine
Nanjing	6	16	cloudy
Shanghai	10	17	overcast
Taipei	20	23	rain
Wuhan	5	18	cloudy
Hong Kong	21	23	overcast

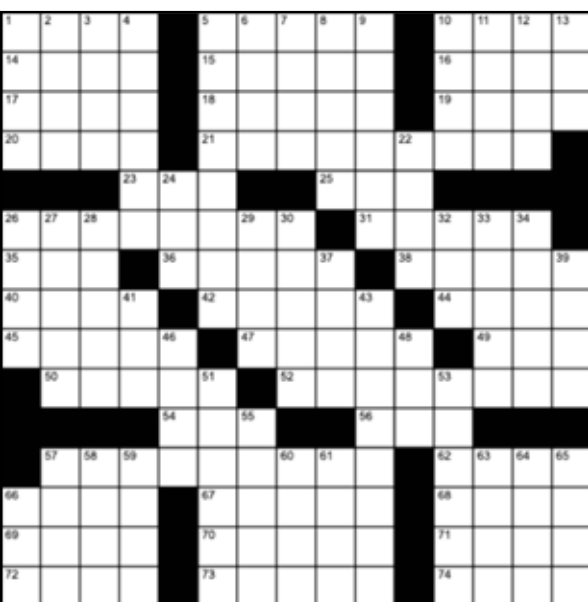
WORLD

Moscow	-4	-1	snow
Frankfurt	8	12	rain
Paris	9	13	rain
London	8	12	rain
New York	5	8	overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Turkish titles; 5- Parlor game; 10- Actress Turner; 14- Timbuktu's land; 15- Dicembre follower; 16- Airline to Tel Aviv; 17- Send forth; 18- Sub system; 19- Clanton foe; 20- Defense grp. since 1949; 21- Shrub with white fruit; 23- Ref's counterpart; 25- Oh yeah? ___ who?; 26- Careful; 31- Tendency; 35- Bit of work; 36- Trunk line; 38- Healing plants; 40- Dudley Do-Right's love; 42- Big; 44- "Carmina Burana" composer; 45- Intertwine; 47- Guides; 49- Summit; 50- Politico Kefauver; 52- Pitiable; 54- PBS benefactor; 56- TV's "Science Guy"; 57- Young sprat; 62- C.S.A. soldiers; 66- Prejudice; 67- Bellini opera; 68- Paradise lost; 69- Concerning; 70- Make fit; 71- "A Death in the Family" author James; 72- Depression-era migrant; 73- Psychics claim to have a sixth one; 74- Harp relative;

DOWN 1- Traditional prayer ending; 2- Vasco da ___; 3- Got off; 4- Skip; 5- Reservoir for sewage; 6- Bartlett's abbr.; 7- "All The Way To ___", song by REM; 8- Sketches; 9- Fruit ice; 10- Sly look; 11- Chemical used on trees; 12- ___ a soul; 13- Mont Blanc, e.g.; 22- Book before Nehemiah; 24- Actress Farrow; 26- Small change; 27- ___ having fun yet?; 28- Citrus hybrids; 29- Russian river; 30- Sprinkle; 32- "Hold On Tight" band; 33- Compass point; 34- Crusoe's creator; 37- Lab culture; 39- Dirty Harry's org.; 41- D-Day craft; 43- Toothless; 46- Portable shelter; 48- Eye infection, pig house; 51- Perceived to be; 53- Breakfast food; 55- Residence; 57- Blink; 58- Spy name; 59- Words of understanding; 60- Irish island group; 61- Little devils; 63- Jittery; 64- Ale, e.g.; 65- Dagger of yore; 66- Short life?;



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 6,300,000 3 beds 3 bath

FARMING

NEW ZEALAND TARGETS COW BURPS TO HELP REDUCE GLOBAL WARMING

NICK PERRY,
PALMERSTON NORTH

How do you stop a cow from burping?

It might sound like the start of a humorous riddle, but it's the subject of a huge scientific inquiry in New Zealand. And the answer could have profound effects on the health of the planet.

More specifically, the question is how to stop cows, sheep and other farm animals from belching out so much methane, a gas which doesn't last as long as carbon dioxide in the atmosphere but is at least 25 times more potent when it comes to global warming.

Because cows can't readily digest the grass they eat, they ferment it first in multiple stomach compartments, or rumen, a process that releases huge amounts of gas. Every time somebody eats a beef burger or drinks a milkshake, it comes at an environmental cost.

New Zealand scientists are coming up with some surprising solutions that could put a big dent in those emissions. Among the more promising are selective breeding, genetically modified feed, methane inhibitors, and a potential game-changer — a vaccine.

Nothing is off the table, from feeding the animals more seaweed to giving them a kombucha-style probiotic called "Kowbucha." One British company has even developed a wearable harness for cows that oxidizes methane as it's burped out.

In New Zealand, the research has taken on a new urgency. Because farming is central to the economy, about half of the nation's greenhouse gas emissions



AP PHOTO

come from farms, compared to less than 10% in the U.S. New Zealand's 5 million people are outnumbered by 26 million sheep and 10 million cattle.

As part of a push to become carbon neutral, New Zealand's government has promised to reduce methane emissions from farm animals by up to 47% by 2050.

Last month the government announced a plan to begin taxing farmers for animal burps, a world-first move that has angered many farmers. All sides are hoping they might catch a break from science.

Much of the research is taking place at a Palmerston North cam-

pus, which some have jokingly taken to calling Gumboot Valley, in a nod to Silicon Valley.

"I don't believe there's any other place that has the breadth of ambition that New Zealand has in terms of the range of technologies being investigated in any one place," said Peter Janssen, a principal scientist at AgResearch, a government-owned company that employs about 900 people.

Underpinning the research are studies indicating that reducing methane doesn't need to harm the animals or affect the quality of the milk or meat. Janssen said the microbes that live in the animals and produce methane seem to be opportunistic rather than integral

to digestion.

He's been working on developing a vaccine for the past 15 years and has focused intensively on it for the past five years. He said it has the potential to reduce the amount of methane belched by cows by 30% or more.

"I certainly believe it's going to work, because that's the motivation for doing it," he said.

A vaccine would stimulate an animal's immune system to produce antibodies, which would then dampen the output of the methane-producing microbes. One big upside of a vaccine is that it would likely only need to be administered once a year, or even perhaps even once in an animal's

lifetime.

Working in a similar way, inhibitors are compounds administered to the animals that directly dampen the methane microbes.

Inhibitors could also reduce methane by at least 30% and perhaps by up to 90%, according to Janssen. The challenge is that the compounds need to be safe for animal consumption and not pass through the meat or milk to humans. Inhibitors must also be regularly administered.

Both inhibitors and vaccines are some years away from being market ready, Janssen said.

But other technologies such as selective breeding, which could reduce methane output by 15%, will be rolled out onto sheep farms as early as next year, Janssen said. A similar program for cows may not be too far behind.

Scientists have for years been testing sheep in chambers to chart differences in how much methane they belch. The low-emitters have been bred and produced low-emitting offspring. Scientists have also been tracking genetic characteristics common to low-emitting animals that make them readily identifiable.

"I think one of the areas that New Zealand scientists, particularly, have made some great progress is in this whole area of animal breeding," said Sinead Leahy, the principal science advisor at the New Zealand Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Centre. "And particularly, a lot of research has been done into breeding low emissions sheep."

Another target is the feed that animals eat, which scientists believe has the potential for reducing methane output by 20% to 30%.

At one greenhouse on the campus, scientists are developing genetically modified clover. Visitors must wear booties and medical scrubs and avoid putting down objects to prevent any cross-contamination. **MDT/AP**

CORPORATE BITS

Melco restaurants receive accolade from Trip.com



Melco Resorts & Entertainment announces that Jade Dragon, its signature Cantonese fine-dining restaurant at City of Dreams, continues to uphold its status as Macau's one and only Black Diamond

restaurant by Trip.com Gourmet 2022 Global Elite Restaurant List for the second consecutive year.

According to the gaming operator, Jade Dragon is further recognized by Miche-

lin Guide Hong Kong Macau 2022 with Three Michelin-Stars and Black Pearl Restaurant Guide 2022 with Three Diamonds, being the only restaurant in Macau to achieve the highest honors from all three culinary ranking platforms.

The recently announced Trip.com Gourmet's 2022 Global Elite Restaurant List also presented Alain Ducasse at Morpheus a Diamond accolade while Yi at City of Dreams and Studio City's Pearl Dragon each received Platinum Gold awards. Additionally, City of Dreams' L'ATTITUDE, Studio City's Spotlight and Kiku and Altira Macau's Ying each won Gold awards.

Shoppes at Londoner honored as 'RLI Most Innovative Retail & Tourism Destination 2022'



Shoppes at Londoner has been honored as the 'Most Innovative Retail & Tourism Destination 2022' at the prestigious 'Global RLI Awards 2022'.

The grand award ceremony was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on Nov. 2, allowing for exposu-

re of retail offerings in Macau to industry leaders and brands not yet in Asia on the international stage, as cited in the group's statement.

The criteria for this award are to acknowledge the most outstanding contribution to

the retail and tourism sector over the past year and reward a project that has created an extraordinary experience for tourists and tenants alike.

Rebranded and expanded from the previous Shoppes at Cotai Central, Shoppes at Londoner recreates an authentic London street scene and interprets The Londoner Macao's vision of 'Bringing the Best of London to Macau'. Guests can explore more than 150 world-renowned brands across 600,000 square feet of retail space, including top luxury brands, international fashion brands, family fun boutiques and entertainment options.

RUGBY

All Blacks blow 14-0 start in comeback win over Scotland

SCOTLAND 23,
NEW ZEALAND 31

NEW Zealand remained undefeated against Scotland after a win at Murrayfield that was closer than the 31-23 scoreline suggested yesterday [Macau time].

Scotland was down 14-0 before it had a chance to sweat but leveled just as incredibly quickly. Then the Scots gained control of play, had the upper hand in the scrum, and practically did everything but score more tries.

The All Blacks were flustered and error-prone, and staying in the game thanks to brilliant defense.

They got three relieving penalties on their tryline in the first half but their best save was in the third quarter when Scotland fullback Stuart Hogg broke with the tryline clear only to be dragged down from behind by lock Scott Barrett's long arms just five meters out.

Instead of going possibly 27-14 ahead, Scotland came away up 23-14 going into the last quarter.

"So much to be proud about in that performance but we didn't see it through," Scotland coach Gregor Townsend said. "That's the best opportunity in our history to beat them and we didn't take it."

Reinforcements by New Zealand — especially in the front row — gave them energy and composure and they finished stronger with two converted tries, including a second for wing Mark Telea on debut.

The All Blacks extended their perfect record against Scotland to 117 years and, in a markedly down season, will take six successive wins into their last game of the year against England next weekend at Twickenham.

"I'm intensely proud of the way we played



New Zealand's Mark Telea (left) avoids a tackle by Scotland's Stuart Hogg

that last quarter," New Zealand coach Ian Foster said. "Our bench was strong, and we showed a lot of patience. Would have been easier for us to panic in the last 15 because Scotland were on a high."

Nobody would have thought Scotland would be ahead at halftime after New Zealand started with ominous efficiency.

Hooker Samisoni Taukei'aho powered through Zander Fagereson and captain Jamie Ritchie from lineout ball for the opening try, and an Ardie Savea ruck turnover finished with a Jordie Barrett crosskick for Telea to grab untouched.

Murrayfield was as silent as a tomb after just seven minutes.

Inspiration came from Hogg. He blew into a gap, chipped perfectly to bounce the ball between the posts and was set to score until Anton Lienert-Brown took him out early. Penalty try and the All Black in the sin-bin.

Then David Havili — perhaps missing Brown — passed straight to Scotland's Darcy Graham. From 40 meters out, Graham slipped away from Caleb Clarke

and ran around Jordie Barrett and scored a try converted by Finn Russell to even the score after 15 minutes.

New Zealand struggled to regain composure. Its scrum got on the wrong side of referee Frank Murphy and it began conceding penalties under pressure — eight by halftime.

Scotland should have added at least one, probably two more tries, and their wastefulness was criminal.

Ritchie was guilty of double movement, then a spectacular Darcy Graham dive and planned ball in the right corner was spoiled by a foot in touch from a Jordie Barrett push.

Russell added a penalty and Scotland was finishing the half hammering the tryline again but gave up a penalty for holding.

Not much changed in the new half. More mistakes by the All Blacks, offside and in the scrum, gave Russell two penalty kicks to extend Scotland's lead to 23-14.

In between, Hogg was stopped from scoring by Scott Barrett, reminiscent of the last encounter in 2017. Hogg was racing to the line for a late

match-winning try when he was caught from behind by Scott's brother

Beauden Barrett.

The bench made the difference for the All

Blacks. Front-rowers Codie Taylor, George Bower and Fletcher Newell stabilized the scrum to get a penalty which Jordie Barrett slotted for their first points in nearly an hour. More zip came from fresh backs TJ Perenara and Rieko Ioane.

Scotland came under pressure on its tryline and Jack Dempsey was sin-binned and prop Rory Sutherland was carted off injured.

Scott Barrett powered across the line from scrum ball and Jordie Barrett's conversion finally put New Zealand back ahead in the 67th.

The result was soon safe after 10 phases, including smart play by Shannon Frizell to stay inbounds, when Ioane offloaded for Telea's second try in the corner.

Foster made seven changes after they demolished Wales last weekend. He singled out Telea, the relentless Akira Ioane, and the leadership of Perenara and Sam Whitelock.

"It's about backing our squad," Foster. "We get a lot of belief out of that." **MDT/AP**

AD



**BENFICA MACAU
ACADEMY**
澳門賓菲加體育學校



FOOTBALL

BASKETBALL

DAILY TRAININGS

OPINION

China Daily
Editorial, China Daily

**G20 SUMMIT
A CHANCE TO
RECALIBRATE
SINO-US TIES**

The international community hopes the G20 Summit in Bali, Indonesia, on Tuesday and Wednesday will help ease global troubles by addressing burning issues such as how to safeguard food security, promote the digital economy, phase out fossil fuels, better protect the environment, improve healthcare, facilitate trade and development, boost the world economy's recovery, and overcome the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The summit is equally important because it has provided an occasion for a meeting between President Xi Jinping and his US counterpart Joe Biden, on the request of the US side, on Monday. The first face-to-face meeting between the two leaders since Biden took office in January 2021 has drawn worldwide attention because tensions between the two largest economies have intensified in recent times.

A slew of contentious issues, including the US' repeated provocative moves hurting China's core interests and worsening its security environment, plus an array of hot-spot issues including climate change and the Ukraine crisis, will be on the agenda when Xi and Biden sit down for talks on Monday.

With the US continuing its provocative moves against China, it needs both political wisdom and firm strategic resolve to keep China-US ties on the right trajectory, because a head-on conflict will be in neither side's interest.

On Nov 9, Biden told reporters about the need to set redlines for talks at the G20 Summit, while he and other US officials have repeatedly called for safeguarding Sino-US ties with "guardrails" to avoid any unintended escalation that could spiral into a direct armed conflict. But what Washington has been doing cannot convince the international community, let alone China, about its sincerity. US politicians, including high-ranking officials, have repeatedly breached the redline over the Taiwan question and challenged the one-China principle.

The latest example is US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan. On Nov 10, while announcing that Xi and Biden will meet on the sidelines of the G20 Summit, he said the US will brief the Chinese island of Taiwan about the result of the meeting. Such blatant violation of the one-China principle exposes the two-faced nature of the US administration.

Although Beijing remains committed to promoting healthier bilateral ties, it will not sit idle and tolerate any US provocation against its sovereignty and territorial integrity and core interests. Hopefully, Biden will have a better understanding of China's stance on issues of mutual concern and avoid making strategic misjudgments so the two countries can work together to usher in a more enabling atmosphere for bilateral cooperation.

**INDONESIAN OFFICIALS:
RUSSIA'S LAVROV TREATED AT HOSPITAL**

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov was taken to the hospital because of a health concern following his arrival for the Group of 20 summit in Bali, multiple Indonesian authorities said yesterday. Russia denied that he had been hospitalized.

Russia's top diplomat arrived on the resort island the previous evening to take part in the meeting of the world's leading economies, which begins today.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova later denied that Lavrov had been hospitalized, calling it "the highest level of fakes." She did not address whether he had received medical treatment.

She posted a video of Lavrov, looking healthy in a T-shirt and shorts.

Russia's state news agency Tass separately cited Lavrov as saying, "I'm in the hotel, reading materials for the summit [today]."

Four Indonesian government and medical officials told The Associated Press that Lavrov was treated at the Sanglah Hospital in the provincial capital, Denpasar, and later left.

All of the officials declined to be identified as they were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly. Two of the people said Lavrov had been treated for a heart condition.

**THE
BUZZ**

**ZELENSKY CALLS
LIBERATION OF KHERSON
'BEGINNING OF THE END'**

SAM MEDNICK, KHERSON

UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelenskyy made a triumphant visit to the newly liberated city of Kherson yesterday, hailing the Russian withdrawal as the "beginning of the end of the war" but also acknowledging the heavy price Ukrainian soldiers are paying in their grinding effort to push back the invading force.

The retaking of Kherson was one of Ukraine's biggest successes in nearly nine months since the invasion. It served another stinging blow to the Kremlin and could become a springboard for further advances into occupied territory.

Zelenskyy walked the streets of the city, just hours after warning in his nightly video address of booby traps and mines left behind by the Russians before their retreat.

"This is the beginning of the end of the war," he said. "We are step by step coming to all the temporarily occupied territories."

The end of Russia's occupation of the city has sparked days of celebration — but also exposed a humanitarian emergency, with residents living without power and water and short of food and medicines. Russia still controls about 70% of the wider Kherson region.

Zelenskyy has previously appeared unexpectedly in other front-line areas at crucial junctures of the war and his latest visit was both laden with symbolism and the common touch — clearly aimed at boosting the morale of both soldiers and civilians alike.

In video published by a presidential aide, a visibly moved Zelenskyy stood with his right hand on his heart and sang the national anthem, as troops saluted and stood to attention and soldier steadily



Residents gather during a visit of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in Kherson, yesterday

hailed the yellow-and-blue Ukrainian flag up a flagpole.

Other footage showed Zelenskyy waving to residents who saluted him from an apartment window and yelled: "Glory to Ukraine!" The reply — "Glory to the heroes!" — came back from Zelenskyy's group, made up of soldiers and others.

The president also distributed medals to Ukrainian soldiers in a central square and posed for selfies with them.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov yesterday refused to comment on Zelenskyy's visit to Kherson, saying only that "you know that it is the territory of the Russian Federation." The Kremlin illegally annexed the Kherson region and three others earlier this year.

After the Russian retreat, Ukrainian authorities say they are finding evidence of torture and other atrocities.

In his nightly video address on Sunday, Zelenskyy said without giving details that "investigators have already documented more than 400 Russian war crimes, and the bodies of

both civilians and military personnel have been found."

"In the Kherson region, the Russian army left behind the same atrocities as in other regions of our country," he said. "We will find and bring to justice every murderer. Without a doubt."

Residents said departing Russian troops plundered the city, carting away loot as they withdrew last week. They also wrecked key infrastructure before retreating across the wide Dnieper River to its east bank.

One Ukrainian official described the situation in Kherson as "a humanitarian catastrophe."

Reconnecting the electricity supply is the priority, with gas supplies already assured, Kherson regional governor Yaroslav Yanushevych said.

The Russian pullout marked a triumphant milestone in Ukraine's pushback against Moscow's invasion almost nine months ago. In the past two months, Ukraine's military claimed to have retaken dozens of towns and villages north of the city of Kherson. **MDT/AP**

Germany Parliament's upper house yesterday halted a proposed reform of the country's unemployment benefit system, a central policy of center-left Chancellor Olaf Scholz's government. Germany's main center-right opposition bloc objects to the overhaul on the grounds that it would reduce pressure and incentives for people to take available jobs. Scholz's three-party coalition doesn't control a majority in parliament's upper house, which represents Germany's 16 state governments, and regions in which the opposition bloc governs prevented the reform from passing.



UK King Charles celebrated yesterday his 74th birthday, his first as monarch. There were no public engagements planned and the King marked the day privately, BBC reported. It is too early in his reign for any announcement to have been made on whether the King will follow royal tradition of having a separate official birthday in the summer. His first birthday as monarch is marked by the Band of the Household Cavalry performing Happy Birthday during the Changing of the Guard ceremony at Buckingham Palace.



USA Apple is heading into a courtroom faceoff against the company behind the popular Fortnite video game, reviving a high-stakes antitrust battle over whether the digital fortress shielding the iPhone's app store illegally enriches the world's most valuable company while stifling competition. Oral arguments before three judges on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals are the latest volley in legal battle revolving around an app store that provides a wide range of products to more than 1 billion iPhones and serves as a pillar in Apple's \$2.4 trillion empire.