



MacauDaily 澳門每日時報® Times

FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Goldenhuys EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho www.macaudailytimes.com.mo



N.º 4135 THURSDAY 17 Nov 2022 T. 22º / 26º Air Quality Good

“THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’”

MOP 8.00 HKD 10.00 2305 4271

GOV'T AWARDS 22 PROJECTS, 30 GRADUATE STUDENTS FOR THEIR SCIENTIFIC AND RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS IN VARIOUS FIELDS P4

COVID-19: CROSS-BORDER NAT VALIDITY REDUCED TO 24 HOURS P2

ZERO-COVID: ONE CASE LOCKS DOWN PEKING UNIVERSITY P7



US-China A Chinese national convicted of trying to steal trade secrets from multiple U.S. aviation and aerospace companies, including the theft of proprietary airplane engine fan technology, is due to be sentenced yesterday, with prosecutors seeking a 25-year prison term. Yanjun Xu's attorneys say such a sentence would be far too harsh and that the just under five years he's served since his arrest is sufficient punishment. A federal judge in Cincinnati will decide Xu's sentence.

AP PHOTO



Indonesia Members of the Group of 20 leading economies ended their summit yesterday with a declaration of firm condemnation of the war in Ukraine and a warning that the conflict is making an already delicate world economy worse. The summit's closing statement was noteworthy because world leaders managed to highlight a denunciation of the war despite the divisions among the group, which includes not only Russia but also countries such as China and India that have significant trade ties with Moscow and have stopped short of outright criticism of the war.

Japan Japanese, Australian, U.S. and Canadian warships are currently staging extensive joint drills in Japanese and international waters, the U.S. Navy said yesterday. The 7th Fleet said the two-week biennial "Keen Sword" exercises include scenarios designed to "challenge the critical capabilities required to support the defense of Japan and stability of the Indo-Pacific region." Growing Chinese assertiveness is seen by the U.S. and its allies as the key military challenge in the region.

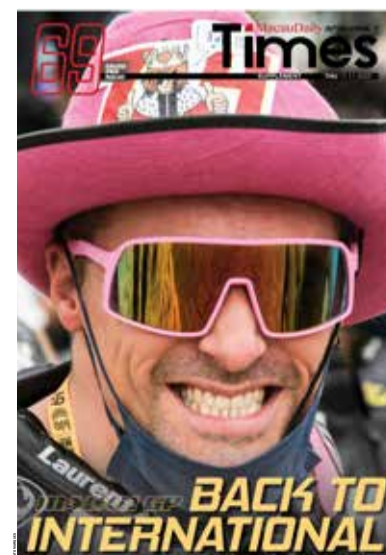
More on backpage

POLICY X-RAY

Ho lat Seng assures lawmakers reliability of future Cotai hospital slated for third quarter P3



POLICY ADDRESS 2023 NO PHASED PLANS MADE FOR LAND AUCTIONS P2



GP SUPPLEMENT

ANTHONY LAM

POLICY ADDRESS 2023

CE SAYS NO PHASED PLANS MADE FOR LAND AUCTIONS

No jurisdiction will make phased planning for land auctions, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng said in response to lawmaker Leong Hong Sai's questions yesterday.

The head of the government sat before the parliament for questions yesterday.

At the session, Leong asked him about short, mid and long-term planning on land auctions. Ho, in reply, said that the government has no such planning. In fact, he added, no place – including mainland China – will make such long planning on land auctions.

Ho said the sandwich-class housing projects opposite the airport and on Avenida Wai Long may see expansion in the area of each unit. Should that happen, he added, the plot of land will have less, instead of more than 4,000 units, which was the originally planned number.

In this case, the government will need additional land to build some 6,000 units to meet its promised threshold.

In the past two decades, no land has been auctioned. The government's current plans are to auction four plots of land, but adjustments may be possible due to market developments.

He pledged that the government would secure the supplies of subsidized housing before putting land to auction for private use.

Explaining the plan on auctioning land, he said it was foreseen that supplies of private housing will be tight and in five years' time, when the economy has revived to a certain level, these housing units will see increased demand.



When answering lawmaker Leong Sun Iok's questions on sandwich-class housing, Ho emphasized the importance of having a law before building the housing, because housing regulations codify the sizes of different compartments in a residential units. To avoid building units that cannot be sold, the law is critical.

Ho also dismissed the suggestion to allow economic housing unit owners to have one-off

opportunities to purchase sandwich-class housing units. He said the proposal of restricting economic housing unit owners to purchasing sandwich-class housing units is in fact caring for the feelings of economic housing unit buyers.

"If I can get a new unit, why should I take a used one?" Ho questioned the lawmaker. Economic housing law prohibits the transfer of units to private buyers; instead, used units can only be

sold to the Housing Bureau for future use or assignments.

The head of the government also refused to adopt the Singapore-style housing ownership program, saying that "your neighbor's shoes may not fit your feet."

IMPORTANCE OF PROCEDURAL CIVIL SERVANT PROMOTION

While responding to lawmaker Becky Song's question on civil servant recruitment, the

appointment of officials and attracting talent from outside, Ho stressed that he needs to respect the civil service career ladder.

"It has always been said that guanxi is preferable to knowledge," Ho said. The saying is used in Macau to hint at the alleged nepotism in the public sector. Members of the public usually believe that incompetent but connection-rich civil servants are promoted in the government.

As he answered Song's question, Ho compared the public sector to the private sector, pointing out that the former has procedures to follow when hiring a person, unlike the latter where any high-caliber candidates can be recruited quickly or even fast tracked.

In the civil service, appointments cannot be orchestrated with the mentality of the private sector, Ho added.

He used his personal experiences to illustrate his answer. He revealed that intermittently he would receive letters from civil servants to recommend themselves for positions such as bureau directors. They even made promises to do the jobs well.

In reply, he questioned the feasibility since some of them were only on technician level. "Had they been promoted, I would have received a lot of complaints," Ho said.

He disclosed that in Hengqin hybrid appointments – with elements of the public and the private sectors blended – is being tested. Laws may be made in the future to allow the appointments of bureau leaders from society.

The nucleic acid test (NAT) validity for cross-border travelers was reduced again to 24 hours from yesterday due to the emergence of fresh Covid-19 cases in Zhuhai.

According to the health authorities, travelers entering and exiting through the Zhuhai-Macau port must obtain a negative NAT certificate within 24 hours.

The measure is tentatively scheduled for seven days until November 23.

"Other epidemic prevention and control measures at the Zhuhai-Macau port remain unchanged. The follow-up will be dy-

COVID-19

Cross-border NAT validity reduced to 24 hours

namically adjusted according to the epidemic situation," said the Health Bureau.

The announcement came with the discovery of a new case recorded in the city yesterday that is linked with the underground mall in Gongbei.

The case involves a 40-year-old Chinese resident who works as a security guard for the Land and Urban Construction Bureau (DSSCU).

Sanitization work has been carried out in the government building and all DSSCU employees are required to take a NAT for three consecutive days.

Since Sunday, four cases have been recorded, which forced the lockdown of two residential buildings.

The government has guaranteed it will have no impact on the upcoming mega events such as the Grand Prix and the Macau Food Festival. LV



www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

REACHING OUT!

+23,000

Like us on facebook.com/mdtimes



MacauDaily 澳門每日時報
Times

DIRECTOR & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF_Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR_Lynzy Valles
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS_Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai

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

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

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

ADMINISTRATOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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



POLICY ADDRESS 2023

Gov't assures reliability of future Cotai hospital

ANTHONY LAM

CHIEF Executive Ho Iat Seng indicated his reliance on the future Islands Hospital Complex to solve most – if not all – existing difficulties facing Macau in the medical field.

Ho's reply was given in response to lawmaker Wong Kit Cheng's questions related to healthcare services in

the territory.

Wong asked the head of the government how the new hospital would be able to help local medical practitioners progress in their career. Ho expressed his hopes that the future hospital would help lower the need for external medical services.

Currently, patients whose diseases are incurable in Macau or that local hospitals do

not have the expertise to handle, will be referred to nearby cities with more advanced medical techniques for treatment. Before the advent of quarantine-upon-arrival, patients would be transferred to Hong Kong. Currently, they are usually moved to mainland China. The costs are borne by the government.

Elaborating on his response, Ho said the new hospital

will be opened in phases from the fourth quarter of next year. With the Peking Union Medical College Hospital as the operational partner, specialist medicine in the city will see progress, he said. He added that the Peking Hospital is the National Guidance Center for Diagnosis and Treatment of Difficult and Severe Diseases appointed by the National Health Commission.

The new hospital will be developed and operated without overlapping existing services offered by the public hospital and the private Kiang Wu Hospital, Ho said, adding that the future hospital will be a main base for the city to develop Big Health.

He stated that it would blend the "super hospital" concept with rehabilitation facilities. For example, he said, patients who have undergone a cosmetic surgery can be relocated to the hotel for recovery. He even disclosed that the government is in negotiations with the insurance trade to attract high-end insured mainland residents to enjoy services at the future hospital.

The future hospital will have a wide range of area-specific centers, such as oncology, cardiology, organ transplant, neurology and reproductive medicine.

GOV'T TO 'UNSWERVINGLY' SAFEGUARD NATIONAL SECURITY IN 2023

THE Macau government will continue to safeguard national security in the coming year, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng said Tuesday when delivering a policy address for the fiscal year 2023.

Reviewing the work done in 2022 regarding national security legislation, enforcement and campaigns, Ho said the SAR government will make "full efforts to continue advancing the amendment of the law on safeguarding national security in Macau" and its supporting legislation in 2023, implement the enforcement mechanism, and support advisers to the Committee for Safeguarding National Security of the SAR in performing their duties.

In the meantime, the SAR government will step up capacity building for identifying and responding to security trends, risks and threats in various areas, and prevent, stop and punish any activity that undermines social stability in Macau and the country at large, he noted.

Efforts will also be made to continuously carry out campaigns and education on the Constitution of the People's Republic of China, the Basic Law of the Macau SAR and the law on safeguarding national security in the SAR, Ho added.

He also pledged to systematically prevent and crack down on criminal activities, and deepen cooperation with neighboring regions on police affairs. **MDT/XINHUA**

AD



Important Notice Regarding System Upgrade

BOC Mobile Banking APP and bank card service

The service suspension has been shortened to 24 hours
(From 12:00pm, November 19 to 12:00pm, November 20)

For more information about service suspension, please scan the QR code



Please prepare sufficient cash for your necessity. We strive to improve our services.

Thank you for your understanding and support!

Important Announcement on Suspension of Some Services (November 11 - 20)

Dear customers,

In order to better serve customers and community in Macau, in accordance with Executive Order No.32/2021, Bank of China has invested to establish a wholly owned subsidiary, Bank of China (Macau) Limited, referred to as Bank of China (Macau), in the Macau SAR of the People's Republic of China. The sub-branches of Bank of China (Macau) will formally start business from November 21, 2022 (Monday). The addresses, phone numbers and business hours of the sub-branches will remain the same as normal.

In this regard, we will be performing system upgrade from November 19 (Saturday) to November 20, 2022 (Sunday). Affected by this upgrade, the suspension and resumption time for some banking products and services are as below. Please be prepared in advance.

Banking Products and Services	Suspension Time	Resumption Time
Thailand Baht (THB) Banknotes Exchange	Nov 11 (Friday) 09:00	Nov 22 (Tuesday) 09:00
BOC Tax Connect	Nov 11 (Friday) 18:00	Until otherwise notified
*Automatic Transfer Payment Upon Registration for Fee Payers	Nov 12 (Saturday) 00:00	Nov 20 (Sunday) 12:00
Easy Transfer Registration/Amendment/Cancellation	Nov 12 (Saturday) 09:00	Nov 21 (Monday) 10:00
*Online Account Opening for BOCNET and Mobile Banking	Nov 13 (Sunday) 06:00	Nov 20 (Sunday) 12:00
Customer Information Modification for BOCNET and Mobile Banking	Nov 13 (Sunday) 06:00	Until otherwise notified
Safe Deposit Box Services (Rental of New Boxes and Return of Boxes)	Nov 14 (Monday) 09:00	Nov 21 (Monday) 09:00
Automated Teller Machines (ATM), Cash Withdrawal and Deposit Machines (CWD)	Nov 15 (Tuesday) suspend gradually, please visit our website for details	Nov 20 (Sunday) resume gradually, please visit our website for details
*HKD, USD and CNY Cheque Collection	Nov 15 (Tuesday) 09:00	Nov 21 (Monday) 09:00
Mobile Banking Mainland (NUCC) Payment Services	Nov 15 (Tuesday) 18:00	Until otherwise notified
Korean Won (KRW), Taiwan Dollars (TWD), Malaysian Ringgit (MYR) Banknotes Exchange	Nov 16 (Wednesday) 09:00	Nov 22 (Tuesday) 09:00
TPB Transfer Payment Services (Counter, BOCNET, Mobile Banking), Suspension of Account Opening for Mobile Banking	Nov 16 (Wednesday) 18:00	Nov 20 (Sunday) 14:00
Intelligent Counter System (Cash)	Nov 17 (Thursday) 09:00	Nov 21 (Monday) 09:00
*Online Account Opening for Mobile Banking (For New Customers)	Nov 17 (Thursday) 09:00	Nov 20 (Sunday) 12:00
Application for Cheque Book, Intelligent Counter System (Integrated Account Opening, Personal Information Modification and Issuance/Re-issuance of BOC Cards), Cross-Border Wealth Management Connect Northbound Trading Remittance and All Southbound Trading Services	Nov 17 (Thursday) 18:00	Nov 21 (Monday) 09:00
Intelligent Counter System (Issuance/Re-issuance of BOC Cards) (University of Macau Sub-branch and Macau University of Science and Technology Sub-branch)	Nov 17 (Thursday) 18:00	Nov 22 (Tuesday) 09:00
*JETCO Inter-bank Transfer Services	Nov 17 (Thursday) 19:00	Nov 20 (Sunday) 08:00
Account Opening for College Students	Nov 17 (Thursday) 23:00	Nov 20 (Sunday) 14:00
*Payroll and Automatic Transfer	Nov 18 (Friday) 00:00	Nov 20 (Sunday) 12:00
*MOP, HKD Local Other Bank Cheque	Nov 18 (Friday) 09:00	Nov 21 (Monday) 09:00
Outward Remittance	Nov 18 (Friday) 16:00	Nov 21 (Monday) 09:00
*Fee Payment	Nov 18 (Friday) 18:00	Nov 20 (Sunday) 12:00
Easy Transfer Transfer Services	Nov 18 (Friday) 18:00	Nov 21 (Monday) 10:00
Changes in Instruction on Fund Dividend Distribution	Nov 18 (Friday) 19:00	Until otherwise notified
*Mobile Banking Cardless Withdrawal and Repayment via Bank Cards of Other Banks	Nov 18 (Friday) 19:00	Nov 20 (Sunday) 12:00
E-banking (Telephone Services)	Nov 19 (Saturday) 00:00	Nov 20 (Sunday) 12:00
Safe Deposit Box Services (Carat Smart Safe Deposit Boxes)	Nov 19 (Saturday) 00:00	Nov 21 (Monday) 09:00
Telephone Banking Self-service Stock Trading (Personal) or Third-party Transfer	Nov 19 (Saturday) 00:00	Until otherwise notified
*Credit Card Transactions through JETCO	Nov 19 (Saturday) 12:00	Nov 20 (Sunday) 08:00
*Debit Cards	Nov 19 (Saturday) 12:00	Nov 20 (Sunday) 12:00
*Foreign Currency Exchange Services	Nov 19 (Saturday) 12:00	Nov 20 (Sunday) 12:00
*BOCNET, Mobile Banking (Including Merchant Collection Module), WeChat Banking, Electronic Payment Platform, and SMS Services	Nov 19 (Saturday) 12:00	Nov 20 (Sunday) 12:00
*Mobile Banking QR Code Payment Services (BOC Pay) (Including the Use of Electronic Consumption Benefits Plan and Life Allowance Plan)	Nov 19 (Saturday) 12:00	Nov 20 (Sunday) 12:00
Credit Cards	Nov 20 (Sunday) 00:00	Nov 20 (Sunday) 08:00
BOC Pay Merchant Acquiring Services (QR Code)	Nov 20 (Sunday) 02:00	Nov 20 (Sunday) 07:00

* Note: update the suspension and resumption time for banking products and services.

For further information, please consult our sub-branches, or call our Customer Service Hotline (853) 888 95566, or visit our website <https://www.bankofchina.com/mo/>.

We apologize for any inconvenience caused by the business suspension. Thank you for your understanding and support!

Bank of China Limited Macau Branch
Bank of China (Macau) Limited
November 17, 2022

BROADWAY, ROCKS HOTEL DESIGNATED FOR RED CODE HOLDERS

Broadway Hotel and Rocks Hotel have been designated as quarantine venues for red health code holders, authorities announced yesterday. The addition of these quarantine venues comes amid the new cases that were discovered since Monday – two of which are linked with the underground mall in Gongbei. Meanwhile, Sheraton Grand Macao has accepted its last check-in on November 21.

RESTAURANTS, RETAILERS CONTINUE TO RECORD DROP IN REVENUES

Revenues of restaurants & similar establishments dropped by 4.1% year-on-year in September 2022, according to data from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). All the interviewed restaurants & similar establishments registered a year-on-year fall in receipts, with Chinese Restaurants recording a 6.8% decrease. Meanwhile, sales of the interviewed retailers went down by 11.3% year-on-year in September. As regards the business expectations for October, there were 34% of the interviewed restaurants & similar establishments expecting their receipts to increase month-on-month, while 48% of the retailers forecasted a month-on-month sales growth in October.

HK, MACAU POLICE ARREST 56 FRAUD SUSPECTS

Authorities in Macau and Hong Kong arrested 56 people for allegedly being part of a group responsible for an online fraud involving MOP7.8 million. According to the Judiciary Police (PJ) yesterday, the group had been operating since July 2021. Macau police arrested 10 men, one of whom is a policeman, while Hong Kong detained 46 individuals, two of them holding Macau resident identity cards. The PJ indicated that most of the fraudulent funds were transferred to the account of a key member in Hong Kong, which was then moved in a "complex" way, including the purchase of cryptocurrencies, in an attempt to launder money.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AWARDS PRESENTED TO BOOST INNOVATION

THE presentation ceremony of Macau Science and Technology Awards was held yesterday, with 22 projects and 30 graduate students awarded for their scientific and research achievements in respective fields.

The SAR government has in recent years been "devoted to improving Macau's scientific and technological innovation system, nurturing local talents, and promoting the application of research fruits," said Lei Wai Nong, Secretary for Economy and Finance at the ceremony.

He encouraged science workers in Macau to "seize opportunities brought by the building of the Guangdong-Macao in-depth cooperation zone in Hengqin, Zhuhai city, and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area to jointly promote scientific and technological development in the region."

Zhang Kang, associate dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the MUST led his team to win the award for their studies on the in-



fection mechanism and treatment of Covid-19 based on artificial intelligence and multi-omics.

Zhang believes that the SAR government's support for medical researchers will greatly promote the development of medical science and research and help develop Macau into a platform for the application of biological and medical innovations.

Meanwhile, the University of Macau (UM) has won 14 awards, including winning all awards in the Technological Invention Award category. UM's 15 doctoral students and five master's students receiving the Scientific and Technological R&D Award for Postgraduates.

Out of the 22 prizes, UM has received 14 prizes, including four second prizes and three third prizes

in the Natural Science Award category; two second prizes and four third prizes in the Technological Invention Award category; as well as a third prize in the Science and Technology Progress Award category.

No first prize was awarded this year.

The awards, founded in 2011, are presented every two years. LV

Paul Baker steps down as GLP president in latest string of casino veterans' exits

PAUL Baker has stepped down from his post as president of Grand Lisboa Palace (GLP), after leading SJM's Cotai flagship property since 2018.

The exit comes among recent high-profile exits from the city's gaming operators amid the industry reshuffle and the lasting impact of the pandemic.

In a statement, SJM has said the resignation of Baker, who worked for 11 years for Caesar Entertainment Corporation, will "have no impact on the company's

operation."

The gaming operator clarified the resignations of some employees were "due to respective personal reasons."

Baker was previously an executive vice president of Resort Operations for Wynn Macau for a year in 2013 and was a deputy COO at Genting Malaysia Berhad from 2014 to August 2018.

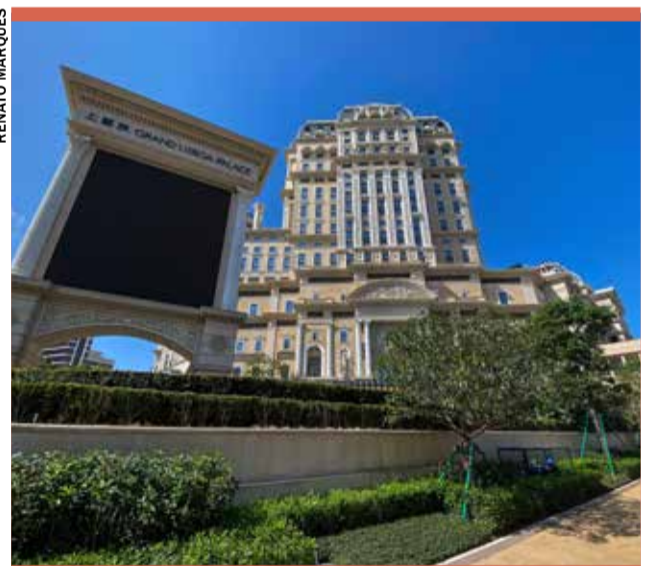
Wynn also saw a management reshuffle last quarter, seeing casino veterans step down – a change that occurred before the tender

process for the gaming concessions.

Previously, gaming expert Ben Lee, managing partner of IGamiX Management & Consulting told the Times that with no clear end in sight to the prevailing current economic conditions, "many businesses are forced to restructure their costs towards survival mode."

The Times has sought a response from GLP on who is currently overseeing the operations of the resort. No reply has been received as of press time. LV

RENATO MARQUES



FINANCE

ASIAN REGION CONTINUES TO OCCUPY LARGEST SHARE OF RESIDENTS' INVESTMENTS

THE Asian region has continued to occupy the largest share of Macau residents' external portfolio investments at 53.8%. The rest was mainly placed in the North Atlantic and Caribbean (16.4%), North America (14.2%), Europe (12.2%) and Oceania (1.6%).

Investments in Euro-

pean securities fell 1.2 percentage points to 12.2% in current market share and 16.4% to MOP123.1 billion in market value from end-2021.

Among the European countries, portfolio investments in the United Kingdom, Luxembourg and Ireland took up larger portions, valued at MOP30.9

billion, MOP25.1 billion and MOP18.7 billion respectively.

Macau residents' investments in securities issued by unrelated non-residents reached MOP1 trillion at current market value, representing a decline of 8.4% from end-2021 or 6.6% year-on-year.

By the end of June,

among the various portfolio investment instruments, equity securities (including mutual funds and investment trust units), long-term debt securities and short-term debt securities were valued at MOP331.9 billion, MOP623.6 billion and MOP50.6 billion respectively, data from the Monetary Authority of Ma-

cau shows.

Meanwhile, the market value of Macau residents' investments in countries along the "Belt and Road" (excluding China) fell 14.7% from end-2021 to MOP79.9 billion, equivalent to 7.9% of total external portfolio investment.

Meanwhile, the market value of portfolio investments in Portuguese-speaking countries was MOP928.6 million, which was invested in securities issued by entities in Portugal and Brazil. LV

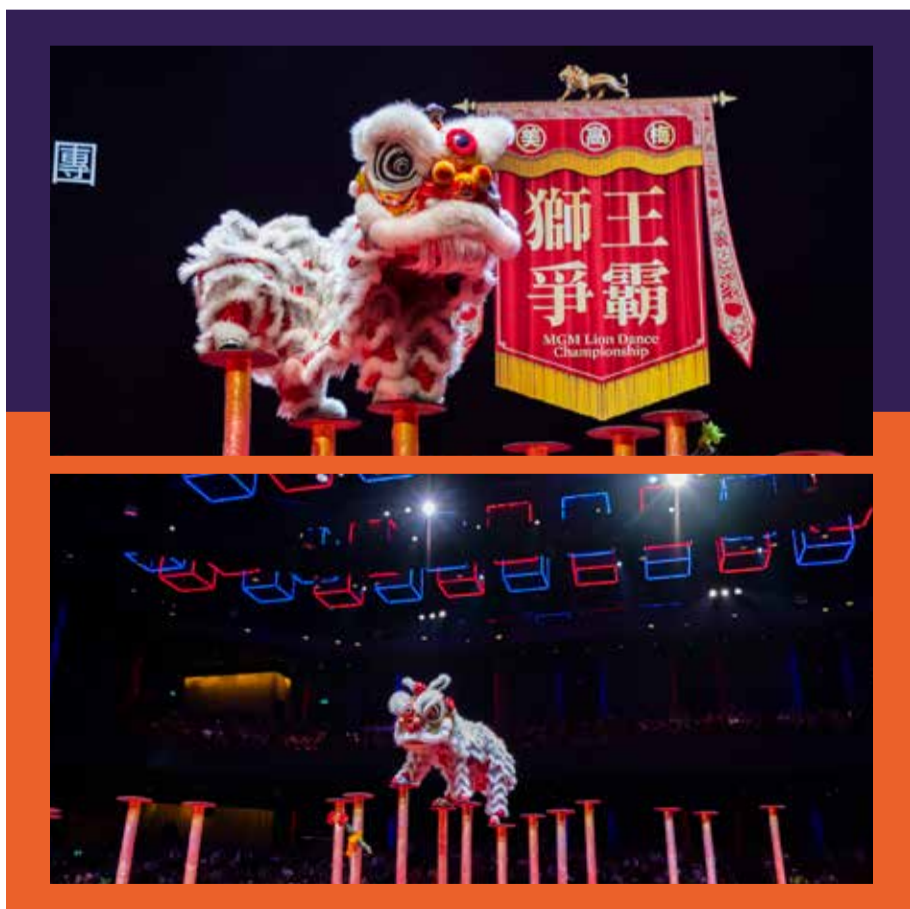


The 9th **MGM**
LION DANCE
CHAMPIONSHIP
Southern Lion Dance Invitational 2022

IMMERSE LINGNAN CULTURE INTO OUR DAILY LIFE

Lion prancing to a drumbeat, cymbals, gongs crashing, and drums pounding together, let's witness the essence of the Lion Dance prestige performance! To showcase the tremendously competitive art and traditional Lingnan culture where Chinese lion dance was originated, MGM is once again proud to present the 9th "MGM Lion Dance Championship – Southern Lion Dance Invitational 2022". The two-day event will be held on Nov 26 and 27, at MGM Theater, MGM COTAI.

This year's Championship is co-organized by MGM and Wushu General Association of Macau, Dragon & Lion Dances Federation of Asia as advisor unit, the Department of Publicity and Culture of the Liaison office of the Central People's Government in the Macao SAR, Sports Bureau, Macao Government Tourism Office, Education and Youth Development Bureau, Cultural Affairs Bureau, and Chinese Dragon & Lion Dance Sports Association as supporting units.



The Championship features the prestigious formidable troupes from 8 regions of China, forming 19 troupes to compete, including the Freestyle Lion Dance Championship – Taolu Movements on Poles, and the Female Traditional Lion Dance Championship, all demonstrating a series of acrobatic moves mimicking the mannerisms of real lions. Apart from that, Youth Traditional Lion Dance Championship is also added this year. It is more than just a place to dazzle audiences with gravity-defying performances, but also an opportunity for young talent to shine, gain recognition and reach out to the world.

With troops of colorful lion dancers, drums and cymbals, there will be a Lion Dance Parade to usher in the Championship. A Chinese traditional theme will be woven through the parade route from the Spectacle to the Harmony, all the way to the Lion Lobby to MGM Theater with intimate interaction with the guests, allowing all visitors to embrace the vibe of Chinese traditions the moment they step foot at MGM.

The Championship is entirely free to enjoy. Come over to MGM Theater at MGM COTAI this November and meet the stunning troupes for the lion's roar! For more details, please visit mgm.mo

FINANCE

EXISTING SERVICES SEE SLIGHT SUSPENSION AS BOC (MACAU) OPENS

ANTHONY LAM

As Bank of China (BOC) opens a subsidiary in Macau next Monday, certain services will be briefly suspended to cope with the transformation, bank executives announced yesterday.

The new subsidiary is branded as Bank of China (Macau) Ltd.

At a press conference held to familiarize the press with the change, BOC Macau Branch executives made the announcement, while reiterating there should be no obvious impact on customer experience.

Chan Hio Peng, CEO of BOC (Macau), told the press conference that from Monday, BOC will operate in the territory under two brands, namely BOC Macau Branch and BOC (Macau), similar to the bank's operations in Hong Kong.

General Manager Yu Jian at the digital finance department of BOC Macau Branch recapped the bank's previous announcement on brief service suspensions during the inauguration of the

ANTHONY LAM



new company, as certain upgrades to computer systems will be necessary.

He particularly reminded the bank's clients to update the app on their mobile devices from Monday. The app will see new functions and platforms such as a simplified interface with larger icons and texts for the convenience of elderly users.

Yu highlighted that the bank had decided to shorten the time

during which data migration, mobile and Internet banking, and mobile payment services will be halted from Saturday noon to Sunday noon. ATM withdrawal by card will be suspended from Saturday noon to 8 a.m. Sunday.

Credit card transactions will be suspended from Sunday midnight to 8 a.m. BOC Pay QR code services will be suspended from 2 a.m. to 7 a.m. Sunday. BOC (Macau) will run a rebate program from

November 21 to 25 in response to the suspensions.

Yu, when asked if any back-up plans had been made should glitches occur during the transition, appeared confident and said that multiple tests have been done, hinting that no major problems should be expected.

It was announced the branch will focus on company clients, and the new company on personal clients.

For example, as General Manager Leon Leong at personal banking and channel management department of BOC Macau Branch pointed out, from Monday onwards, the SWIFT code for the bank will remain BKCHMOMX for company clients and BKCHMO-MA for personal clients.

Leong also emphasized that current customers should not worry about their experiences at the bank. For example, existing credit and debit cards can be used. Bank passbooks will remain valid until they run out of pages; then they will be replaced by passbooks with new images and branding.

Explaining the parallel operations beginning next Monday, the executives stressed that it was conducted to cope with mainland and local regulations, in addition to utilizing Macau's political position as a special administrative region. Leong especially stressed that the Macau Branch brand will not diminish after the opening of the subsidiary.

On whether BOC (Macau) will accelerate its brand image rejuvenation, as attracting young talent remains is a key policymaking direction in Macau, the three executives stressed that it will depend on the needs of the market. Furthermore, they highlighted that the current bank has a high ratio of young employees.

AD

FRANCE MACAU Chamber of Commerce 法國澳門商會

Around the World in 80 Days

FMCC Charity Gala Dinner 2022 法國澳門商會慈善晚宴 環遊世界80天

Thank you to our Sponsors & Partners

PLATINUM SPONSOR	GOLD SPONSORS	SILVER SPONSORS	BRONZE SPONSORS
<p>信德集團 SHUN TAK HOLDINGS</p>	<p>MGM 美高梅</p> <p>澳門壹號廣場 ONE WORLD MACAU</p> <p>澳娛綜合 SJM</p>	<p>suez</p> <p>澳門自來水 MACAO WATER</p> <p>MELCO 新濠</p>	<p>PCL</p> <p>120 BNU</p> <p>中國銀行 澳門分行 BANK OF CHINA MACAU BRANCH</p> <p>銀河娛樂集團 GALAXY ENTERTAINMENT GROUP</p> <p>永利 Wynn</p>
PRIZE SPONSORS	SPECIAL SPONSORS		
<p>LOUIS VUITTON</p> <p>DIOR</p> <p>ARTYZEN</p> <p>MELCO</p> <p>SJM</p> <p>SOFITEL</p> <p>ST REGIS</p> <p>SHERATON GRAND</p> <p>GALLERIA</p> <p>CTM</p> <p>120 BNU</p> <p>DSL</p> <p>Earlylink</p>	<p>Epium</p> <p>Majay</p> <p>Party</p>		
		MEDIA PARTNERS	
		<p>Times</p> <p>商訊</p> <p>the macao news</p> <p>NNA</p> <p>JTM</p>	

DIPLOMACY

S.Korean leader urges China to play larger North role

HYUNG-JIN KIM, SEOUL

SOUTH Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol asked China to play a more active, constructive role in curbing the nuclear threat from North Korea when he met Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday at the Group of 20 summit in Indonesia, officials said.

Xi told Yoon that he hopes South Korea will try to improve its ties with rival North Korea, Yoon's office said, in a reflection of the two countries' divergent views on North Korea.

The Yoon-Xi meeting on the sidelines of the G-20, the first summit between the leaders of the two countries since December 2019, came after North Korea test-launched dozens of missiles, many of them nuclear-capable, in recent weeks.

Some experts say North Korea has been able to continue its barrage of missile tests in part because China and Russia have opposed efforts by the United States and its



South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol

allies to adopt new U.N. sanctions against the North. Washington is locked in a strategic competition with Beijing and in a confrontation with Moscow over its invasion of Ukraine.

China, North Korea's biggest source of aid and its economic lifeline, is believed to have the greatest leverage over North Korea. But it is suspected of "not fully enforcing

U.N. sanctions on North Korea and of shipping clandestine assistance to help keep afloat its impoverished socialist ally," which it views as a bulwark against U.S. influence on the Korean Peninsula.

During his meeting with Xi, "President Yoon said he hopes that China would play a more active, constructive role (on the North Korean issue) as its neighbor and a

member of the U.N. Security Council, after noting that North Korea has recently escalated nuclear and missile threats by launching provocations with an unprecedented frequency," Yoon's office said in a statement.

Xi said China and South Korea have common interests on the Korean Peninsula and both nations must safeguard peace. He also

said he hopes that South Korea will actively seek better relations with North Korea, Yoon's office said.

A Chinese government statement on the meeting didn't say whether the two leaders discussed North Korea.

According to the Chinese statement, Xi said China is ready to work with South Korea to boost bilateral ties and provide greater stability for the region and the world. It quoted Xi as stressing the need for the two countries to increase strategic communications and political trust.

Yoon's office also said the South Korean leader proposed that the two countries hold regular high-level talks to jointly respond to the pandemic, the global economic slump and climate issues. It said Xi agreed on the need for high-level dialogue.

Since taking office in May, Yoon, a conservative, has been seeking to solidify his country's military alliance with the United States and participate in U.S.-led regional initiatives. Yoon's government has repeatedly said such moves won't target China, its biggest trading partner.

South Korea, the world's 10th largest economy, is a major supplier of semiconductors, automobiles, smartphones and other electronic products, making it an attractive partner to both the United States and China. **MDT/AP**

ZERO-COVID

One case locks down Peking University

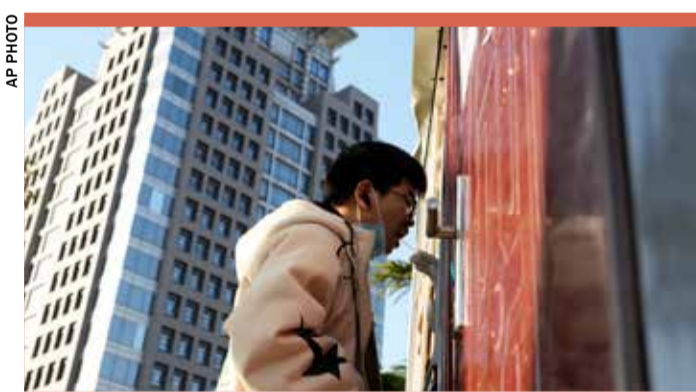
KEN MORITSUGU, BEIJING

CHINESE authorities locked down a major university in Beijing yesterday after finding one COVID-19 case as they stick to a "zero-COVID" approach despite growing public discontent.

Peking University students and faculty were not allowed to leave the grounds unless necessary and classes on the main campus — where the case was found — were moved online through Friday, a university notice said. Still, some people could be seen entering and leaving the main campus yesterday in the Chinese capital's Haidian district.

Beijing reported more than 350 new cases in the latest 24-hour period, a small fraction of its 21-million population but enough to trigger localized lockdowns and quarantines under China's "zero-COVID" strategy. Nationwide, China reported about 20,000 cases, up from about 8,000 a week ago.

Authorities are steering away from citywide lock-



A man gets swabbed for COVID test near a building of the Peking University in Beijing, yesterday

downs to try to minimize the impact on freedom of movement and a sagging economy. They want to avoid a repeat of the Shanghai lockdown earlier this year that paralyzed shipping and prompted neighborhood protests.

Revised national guidelines issued last week called on local governments to follow a targeted and scientific approach that avoids unnecessary measures.

Peking University has more than 40,000 students on multiple campuses, most in Beijing. It was unclear how many were affected by the

lockdown. The 124-year-old institution is one of China's top universities and was a center of student protest in earlier decades. Its graduates include leading intellectuals, writers, politicians and businesspeople.

Lockdowns elsewhere have sparked scattered protests. Earlier this week, videos posted online showed crowds pulling down barriers in the southern city of Guangzhou in a densely built area that is home to migrant workers in the clothing industry.

Guangzhou, an industrial export hub near Hong

Kong, reported more than 6,000 new cases in what is the nation's largest ongoing outbreak. The pandemic led the Badminton World Federation to move next month's HSBC World Tour Finals from Guangzhou to Bangkok, the federation announced this week.

Other cities with major outbreaks include Chongqing in the southwest, Zhengzhou in Henan province and Hohhot, the capital of the Inner Mongolia region in the north.

In Zhengzhou late last month, workers fled their dormitories at a sprawling iPhone factory, some climbing over fences to get out. Apple subsequently warned that customers would face delays in deliveries of iPhone 14 Pro models.

Chinese officials and state media have stressed that the government is fine-tuning but not abandoning what it calls a "dynamic" zero-COVID policy, after rumors of an easing sparked a stock market rally earlier this month. **MDT/AP**

COP27

US, CHINA CLIMATE ENVOYS MEET AT SUMMIT IN EGYPT

U.S. climate envoy John Kerry met yesterday [Macau time] with his Chinese counterpart at annual United Nations climate negotiations in Egypt in a further hint of improving relations between the world's top two polluters, seen as vital for substantial progress against global warming.

The meeting between Kerry and China's top climate official Xie Zhenhua raised prospects for a full-fledged resumption of climate talks between the two countries, which Beijing put on hold three months ago in retaliation for U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's trip to Taiwan.

Kerry and Xie met for about 45 minutes at the Chinese delegation's offices in the COP27 conference zone. Neither side revealed much after it was over. The Chinese officials left without commenting.

"We had a very good meeting," Kerry said. It was "much too early" to talk about any remaining differences, he said. "But we're gonna go to work." A day earlier, Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed with U.S. President Joe Biden to resume the talks.

Government ministers are pushing for a substantial climate deal by the time the meeting is supposed to wrap up on Friday. Officials from developing nations, meanwhile, have been increasingly lashing out in anger and frustration at wealthy countries at the gathering, known as COP27, condemning them for not doing enough to cut back emissions or help them cope with a warming Earth. **MDT/AP**

PUTIN'S WAR

Poland, NATO say missile landing wasn't Russian attack

VASILISA STEPANENKO,
PRZEWODOW

POLAND said yesterday there is "absolutely no indication" that a missile which came down in Polish farmland, killing two people, was an intentional attack on the NATO country, and that neighbor Ukraine likely launched the Soviet-era projectile as it fended off a Russian air assault that savaged its power grid.

"Ukraine's defense was launching their missiles in various directions and it is highly probable that one of these missiles unfortunately fell on Polish territory," said Polish President Andrzej Duda. "There is nothing, absolutely nothing to suggest that it was an intentional attack on Poland."

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, at a meeting of the military alliance in Brussels, agreed with the assessment.

"An investigation into this incident is ongoing and we need to await its outcome. But we have no indication that this was the result of a deliberate attack," Stoltenberg told reporters.

The preliminary findings came after U.S. President Joe Biden and other Western backers of Ukraine had thrown their weight behind the investigation and amid repeated assertions from Russia that it didn't fire the missile.

Biden said it was "unlikely" that Russia fired the missile but added: "I'm going to make sure we find out exactly what happened."

The missile came down Tuesday near Poland's border with Ukraine. Three U.S. officials said preliminary assessments suggested it was fired by Ukrainian forces at an incoming Russian one. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

That assessment and Biden's comments at the Group of 20 summit in Indonesia contradicted information earlier Tuesday from a senior U.S. intelligence official who told The Associated Press that Russian missiles crossed into Poland.

Former Soviet-bloc country Ukraine maintains stocks of Soviet- and Russian-made



Police officers work outside a grain depot where, according to the Polish government, an explosion of a Russian-made missile killed two people in Przewodow

weaponry, including air-defense missiles, and has also seized many more Russian weapons while beating back the Kremlin's invasion forces.

Ukrainian air defenses worked furiously against the Russian assault Tuesday on power generation and transmission facilities, including in Ukraine's western region that borders Poland. Ukraine's military said 77 of the more than 90 missiles fired were brought down, along with 11 drones.

The Kremlin yesterday denounced Poland's and other countries' initial reaction to the missile incident and, in rare praise for a U.S. leader, hailed the response of the U.S.

"We have witnessed another hysterical, frenzied, Russophobic reaction that was not based on any real data," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters. He added that "immediately, all experts realized that it could not have been a missile linked to the Russian armed forces," and pointed to a "restrained, much more professional reaction" of the U.S. and its president, Joe Biden.

In Brussels, NATO countries were coming together yesterday for emergency talks. There was no immediate proof that Tuesday's blast was a deliberate, hostile attack on NATO member Poland that could trigger the alliance's provisions for a collective military response.

Russia denied any involvement. But Ukraine was under countrywide Russian bombardment Tuesday by barrages of cruise missiles and exploding drones, which clou-

ded the picture of what exactly happened in Poland and why.

In Europe, NATO members Germany and the U.K. were among those stressing the need for a full investigation. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz warned against jumping to conclusions "in such a serious matter."

Still, Scholz and others also laid overall but not specific blame on Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine.

"This wouldn't have happened without the Russian war against Ukraine, without the missiles that are now being fired at Ukrainian infrastructure intensively and on a large scale," Scholz said.

U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak echoed that assessment, saying: "This is the cruel and unrelenting reality of Putin's war."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called it "a very significant escalation." On the other end of the spectrum, China was among those calling for calm and restraint.

Former Soviet-bloc country Ukraine maintains stocks of Soviet- and Russian-made weaponry, including air-defense missiles, and has also seized many more Russian weapons while beating back the Kremlin's invasion forces.

Damage from the aerial assault in Ukraine was extensive and swaths of the country were plunged into darkness. Zelenskyy said about 10 million people lost power but tweeted overnight that 8 million were subsequently reconnected, with repair crews laboring through the night.

Previous Russian strikes had already destroyed an estimated 40% of the country's energy infrastructure.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg called the meeting in Brussels of the alliance's envoys. The U.N. Security Council also planned to meet today [Macau time] for a previously scheduled briefing on the situation in Ukraine.

If Russia had deliberately targeted Poland, it would risk drawing NATO into the conflict.

Polish media reported that the strike took place in an area where grain was drying in Przewodow, a village near the border with Ukraine.

Russia's Defense Ministry denied being behind "any strikes on targets near the Ukrainian-Polish border" and said in a statement that photos of purported damage "have nothing to do" with Russian weapons.

The Russian bombardment also affected neighboring Moldova. It reported massive power outages after the strikes in Ukraine disconnected a power line to the small nation.

The assault killed at least one person in a residential building in Ukraine's capital, Kyiv. It followed days of euphoria in Ukraine sparked by one of its biggest military successes — the retaking last week of the southern city of Kherson.

With its battlefield losses mounting, Russia has increasingly resorted to targeting Ukraine's power grid, seemingly hoping to turn the approach of winter into a weapon by leaving people in the cold and dark. MDT/AP

this day in history

1989 POLICE CRUSH PRAGUE PROTEST RALLY



Riot police in Czechoslovakia have arrested hundreds of people taking part in a protest march.

More than 15,000 people, mostly students, took part in the demonstration, the biggest show of public dissent for two decades.

They called for the resignation of their country's communist government, led by Milos Jakes.

Scores of people were injured, several seriously, as the police forcibly broke up the rally.

Witnesses said the police used clubs to beat marchers and sprayed tear gas indiscriminately. It comes in the wake of a wave of reform sweeping through other former Soviet bloc states.

In particular, the fall of the Berlin Wall last week in neighbouring East Germany and the disintegration of its hard-line communist regime has heightened expectations of possible change here.

The demonstration began at Charles University, just south of the city's centre.

It started off as an officially-sanctioned march to commemorate Czech student martyr Jan Opletal, who died at the hands of the country's Nazi occupiers 50 years ago.

The fact permission for the march was given at all reflects a growing recognition on the part of the country's communist leaders of the need for change.

It was only the second time a non-government rally had been allowed in Czechoslovakia since the crushing of Alexander Dubcek's reformist government by the Soviet Union 21 years ago.

Mr Dubcek, who has since lived in relative obscurity, was refused permission to travel to Prague to take part in the rally.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The following day rumours began to circulate that a 20-year-old student, Martin Smid, had been beaten to death by riot police during the demonstration.

These reports were hotly disputed by the government but nevertheless thousands of people once again took to the streets on 19 November in protest at the killing.

Throughout November peaceful mass demonstrations and strikes gained momentum. On 22 November Alexander Dubcek addressed 200,000 people gathered in Prague's Wenceslas Square.

Eventually the Communist party leadership resigned and, in December 1989, was replaced by a government composed mainly of non-communists.

The overthrow of Czechoslovakia's communist regime became known as the "Velvet Revolution".

In 1993 the country split peacefully into two nations - the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Luck is with you. Go after your goals and don't be afraid to ask for assistance. Someone you like may be receptive and actively seeking your company.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
You need to spend some time reflecting on past experiences and involvements. You will have to make changes in order to eliminate the tension.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
Uncertainties about your personal life are probable. It might be time for you to take a quantum leap from one career to another.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Catch up on overdue paperwork. Get back to basics and reevaluate what is important in life. Do things that involve children.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Wait and get all the information before consulting your boss. For best results get out of the office and do your job en route. You can make money if you put your mind to it.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
Use your charm, but don't be phony. Go after your goals and don't be afraid to ask for assistance. You will attract new love interests.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Difficulties will result if you have to deal with controversial groups today. Changes in your residence may be financially favorable.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Make changes that will heighten your appeal. Visit friends or relatives you rarely see. You can accomplish a great deal.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Don't be too quick to judge others. Don't ignore any emotional issues that could be causing problems. Be careful not to overexert yourself.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
You should consider submitting some of your written work for publication. Self-improvement projects will payoff in more ways than one.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Don't forget that you've only heard one side of the story. Get involved in groups that will help you meet established individuals.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Look out for those wanting to push you into a disagreement. Keep your thoughts and opinions to yourself and you won't get dragged into an unsavory debate.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

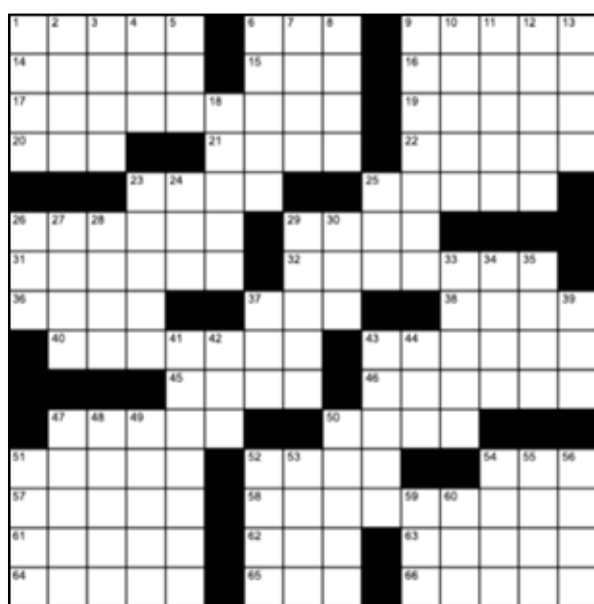
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	1	16	fine
Changchun	-6	8	cloudy
Chengdu	11	17	cloudy
Chongqing	13	17	cloudy
Fuzhou	16	25	overcast
Guangzhou	20	26	rain
Guiyang	9	17	overcast
Haikou	23	28	cloudy
Hangzhou	12	18	rain
Harbin	-6	6	cloudy
Hefei	7	16	overcast
Nanjing	8	17	rain
Shanghai	11	17	rain
Taipei	20	24	cloudy
Wuhan	10	20	cloudy
Hong Kong	24	26	overcast
WORLD			
Moscow	-7	-3	snow
Frankfurt	7	13	rain
Paris	8	13	rain
London	7	12	rain
New York	1	8	fine

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Early computer; 6- Colony member; 9- Turkish title of old; 14- Martini's partner; 15- Maui memento; 16- Capers; 17- Widespread excitement; 19- Capture; 20- Cornerstone abbr.; 21- Desire; 22- French beans?; 23- Graph line; 25- Assorted; 26- Craps natural; 29- Oz creator; 31- Sullenly ill-humored; 32- Branch of mathematics; 36- Wrinkly fruit; 37- Second-century date; 38- Author Jaffe; 40- Legendary king of Thebes; 43- Ray of "GoodFellas"; 45- "A Doll's House" heroine; 46- Comes to mind; 47- Gives a 9.8, say; 50- Genesis victim; 51- Juice of the rubber tree; 52- It's used to walk the dog; 54- Hasten; 57- Florida citrus center; 58- Pay more than one can afford; 61- Museum piece; 62- ___ es Salaam; 63- Rope used to guide a horse; 64- Construct; 65- Capp and Capone; 66- Up;

DOWN 1- Gaelic language of Ireland or Scotland; 2- Denials; 3- "___ She Lovely?"; 4- Horse-like animal, term of insult; 5- Spy org.; 6- Rap sheet info; 7- Light gas; 8- Hue; 9- Hobby; 10- Building addition; 11- Condition; 12- Took on; 13- Breezes through; 18- Strong thread; 23- Evade; 24- Crosses (out); 25- Make a face; 26- Big bird; 27- Trademark; 28- Della's creator; 29- Light wood; 30- Boxer Laila; 33- Oven option; 34- Doesn't keep; 35- Poker stake; 37- Mongrel dog; 39- Small batteries; 41- Not precise; 42- Not neg.; 43- Toi; 44- Intense anger; 47- One on track?; 48- ___ of Two Cities; 49- Tending to a definite end; 50- Australia's ___ Rock; 51- Traditional passed-down knowledge; 52- Weird Al Yankovic's parody of "Lola"; 53- Track; 54- Female lobsters; 55- "Splendor in the Grass" screenwriter; 56- Garden site; 59- Camera type, briefly; 60- Starchy dish;



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



It's prime time to **BUY & RENT!**

有關樓宇廣告法定資訊資料請向職員查詢
For more information on advertising laws, please speak to one of our representatives.

RENT

CONTACT US
& SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY!

hello@jmlproperty.com
www.jmlproperty.com

f jmlmacau @ jmlproperty

Manhattan
HKD 13,000,000 3 beds 2 bath

Va Fai
HKD 3,980,000 2 beds 1 bath

Hellene Gardens
HKD 6,300,000 3 beds 3 bath

AD



ECONOMY

UK INFLATION ACCELERATES TO 41-YEAR HIGH OF 11.1%

DANICA KIRKA, LONDON

BRITAIN'S inflation rate rose to a 41-year high in October, fueling demands for the government to do more to ease the nation's cost-of-living crisis when it releases new tax and spending plans today.

Consumer prices jumped 11.1% in the 12 months through

October, compared with 10.1% in September, the Office for National Statistics said yesterday. The new figure exceeded economists' expectations of 10.7%.

Higher prices for food and energy drove Britain's inflation rate to the highest since October 1981, the ONS said. It exceeds the record 10.7% inflation seen last month in the 19 European

countries using the euro currency and the U.S. rate of 7.7%, which slowed in October.

The figures come a day before Treasury chief Jeremy Hunt is scheduled to unveil a new budget amid growing calls for higher wages, increased benefits and more spending on health and education as raging inflation erodes the spending power of people across

the country.

Those demands are complicating Hunt's efforts to close an estimated 50 billion-pound (\$59 billion) budget shortfall and restore the government's financial credibility after former Prime Minister Liz Truss' disastrous economic policies undermined investor confidence and sparked turmoil on financial markets.

"We cannot have long-term, sustainable growth with high inflation," Hunt said after the inflation figures were released. "Tomorrow I will set out a plan to get debt falling, deliver stability, and drive down inflation while protecting the most vulnerable."

Governments and central banks around the world are struggling to contain widespread inflation that began to accelerate as the global economy recovered from the coronavirus pandemic, then soared after Russia's invasion of Ukraine restricted supplies of natural gas, oil, grain and cooking oil. While there is little policymakers can do to combat such external shocks, those price increases are becoming embedded as producers pass their costs on to consumers and workers demand higher wages, posing a longer term threat to economic growth.

The Bank of England earlier this month forecast that U.K. inflation would peak at around 11% in the fourth quarter and begin

falling early next year. The bank has approved eight consecutive interest rate increases, pushing its key rate to 3%, as policymakers try to bring inflation back in line with their 2% target.

Hunt said the government had a duty to help the Bank of England control inflation and act responsibly with the nation's finances. The comment was a stark contrast to the message from Truss, who said it was the government's responsibility to spur growth, setting up a tug-of-war between a government with its foot on the economic gas pedal and a central bank attempting to cool the economy with higher borrowing costs.

The European and U.S. central banks also have been hiking rates aggressively, though the Federal Reserve is expected to temper them going forward after inflation slowed to 7.7% last month from 8.2% in September.

But U.K. inflation has yet to peak.

Food prices rose 16.4% in the 12 months through October — the biggest jump since September 1977 — as supermarkets passed on rising costs to consumers, the statistic office said. The cost of electricity and natural gas jumped 24%, even after the government capped energy prices to shield consumers from the impact of the energy crisis tied to the war in Ukraine. **MDT/AP**

AD

ANALYSIS

Qatar's World Cup denounced for 'washing' country's image

EDDIE PELLIS

QATAR'S decision to launch itself into hosting the 2022 World Cup was a head-scratcher from the start. Why, some wondered, would a Middle Eastern kingdom with fewer than 3 million people and little soccer tradition want to host the sport's biggest event?

Skeptics say the country wanted to use the prestige of the World Cup, which starts Sunday, to remake its image as an oil producer with few international connections and a shaky human-rights record.

They viewed the move, which will cost the country some \$220 billion, as a classic case of "sportswashing" — using sports as a forum to cast a country or company as different than many people perceive.

It is hardly a new concept, and Middle Eastern oil money has long been a major player. Where many see rich nations spending money to join the global elite, other see nefarious attempts to hide undesired reputations.

"The Qatar World Cup kickstarted discussion about sportswashing and human rights in football and it has been very steep learning curve for us all," Norway soccer federation president Lise Klaveness said at a recent Council of Europe event.

Germany's interior minister also expressed concern about bringing the event to Qatar, saying "no World Cup takes place in a vacuum."

"There are criteria that have to be kept to, and then it would be better not to award to such states," minister Nancy Faeser said last month in a move that sparked diplomatic tensions.

Qatar's leader, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, has fought back, saying the country "has been subjected to an unprecedented campaign that no host country has ever faced."

The World Cup is just one way Qatar is using its massive wealth to project influence. By buying sports



teams, hosting high-profile events, and investing billions in European capitals — such as buying London's The Shard skyscraper — Qatar has been integrating itself into international finance and a network of support.

Paris-Saint Germain (PSG) of Ligue 1 is owned by the emir of Qatar. His 2011 purchase came a year after Qatar won the right to host the World Cup. For many, it felt like it was scripted to show that the country has soccer bona fides. Some of PSG's players are among the world's most famous — Neymar, Kylian Mbappé and Lionel Messi — and all will be in the World Cup.

America's own Christian Pulisic is on Premier League team Chelsea, which was owned by a Russian oligarch, Roman Abramovich.

Abramovich was widely hailed as that team's savior during his 19 years of club control but put the team up for sale this year due to sanctions related to his country's invasion of Ukraine.

The new LIV Golf league is bankrolled by Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund, which also owns another Premier League team, Newcastle, while defending English champion Manchester City is Abu Dhabi-owned.

Some of those teams' best players, including Kevin de Bruyne, Kieran Trippier and Bruno Guimarães, will play for Belgium

and England and Brazil in the World Cup.

None of these players, or owners, received the same sort of public condemnation as those in golf who left the PGA Tour to play for LIV. Just as was the case when the soccer teams were purchased, there has never been any mystery about who funded LIV, which has brazenly branded itself as a disruptive force in golf that will change the sport for the better.

According to the CIA, journalist Jamal Khashoggi was killed on the orders of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman in 2018. The Saudi Public Investment Fund's involvement became more of a lightning rod when Phil Mickelson said out loud what many already felt.

"They are scary (expletives)," the six-time major champion said in a much-cited interview with golf writer Alan Shipnuck of the FirePit Collective.

Families of 9/11 victims became vocal critics of LIV golf, pointing out Saudi Arabia's shaky human-rights record and the country's connection to the attacks.

"Despite (his) being truthful, it's not good for Mickelson's image," said Jamal Blades, a soccer-loving London tech firm manager who occasionally blogs about sports and recently completed his Master's in sports business and innovation. "But sportswashing takes place all over the world in some form, whe-

re there are people, or governments, or businesses attaching themselves to big and small events everywhere."

One high-profile advertiser, the U.S. Department of Defense, was looking for some positive publicity and a tie-in with America's

favorite sport, but the deal inadvertently triggered a public-relations problem when Colin Kaepernick took a knee during "The Star-Spangled Banner."

"When (a company) wants to be the official sponsor of a team or a league, what they are trying

to do is create an affinity to improve the reputation of (the company) and get sports fans to think of (that company) in some way other than as a commodified producer of" what that company sells, said Stephen Ross, the executive director of the Penn State Center for the Study of Sports in Society.

Heads turned when the Asian Winter Games announced it would hold the 2029 version of its event in Saudi Arabia, a desert country that is spending some \$500 billion to build a winter resort it claims will be environmentally sustainable.

Qatar, which ranks 19th in oil exports and also shares the world's largest underwater natural-gas field with Iran, wanted to get into the act, too.

It hosted world gymnastics and track titles, both of which were preludes to the World Cup, which is costing the country an estimated \$220 billion. The country might be banking on the reality that, regardless of the issues that dog a host in the lead-up, most worldwide sporting events are ultimately judged by the quality of the event itself. **MDT/AP**



BENFICAMACAU
ACADEMY
澳門賓菲加體育學校



FOOTBALL | BASKETBALL | DAILY TRAININGS

OPINION

China Daily
 Editorial, China Daily

**CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM
 THAT CO-EXISTENCE
 POSSIBLE**

Briefing the media on Monday on the outcome of the first in-person meeting between President Xi Jinping and US President Joe Biden, which wrapped up earlier that day in Bali, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi expressed cautious optimism that China and the United States can find a way to get along.

If so, the meeting will prove to have been of great practical significance in checking the worsening of bilateral ties by initiating the process of rebuilding mutual trust, which will have an important and far-reaching impact on China-US relations in the future.

Matching words with deeds is the key to moving forward. The meeting instilled confidence that by having in-depth communication and making intentions clear, redlines can be observed and ties can be guided in the right direction of win-win cooperation.

If the two countries can do that, they will not only be able to avoid confrontation but they will serve the interests of the two countries too and deliver tangible benefits to the two peoples and the world at large.

The meeting has made the direction clear for the healthy development of Sino-US relations and as President Xi said, the two sides should be responsible to history, the world and the people of the world to ensure that China-US relations stay on the right course and do not yaw, stall or collide.

Agreeing on the importance of establishing the guiding principles for China-US relations, the two heads of state tasked the working teams of the two sides to conduct follow-up consultations and strive to reach an agreement as soon as possible on the basis of the consensus reached so far.

China values the pledges Biden has reiterated on many occasions that the US does not seek a "new Cold War", to change China's system and to strengthen its alliance against China, and does not support "Taiwan independence", and has no intention of engaging in conflict or confrontation with China. And if mutual respect and the fostering of win-win cooperation serve as the foundation for the two sides' concerted endeavors to manage their differences, then the two sides should be able to prevent competition from becoming anything even close to a conflict, and to find ways to work together on urgent global issues.

Now, how the process to implement the important consensus reached by the two leaders unfolds will determine if optimism, however cautious, has been merely wishful thinking. The teams of the two sides should follow the priorities set by the two heads of state to the letter, maintain dialogue and communication, and properly manage their differences so as to promote exchanges and cooperation.

Doing so will not only inject positive energy into China-US relations but also install a safety valve.

**GLAZER TO DECIDE ON RONALDO'S
 MAN UNITED FUTURE: SOURCE**

Manchester United co-owner Joel Glazer will make the final decision about Cristiano Ronaldo's future at the club after the forward's incendiary TV interview, a person with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press. Ronaldo's position at United is considered untenable after saying he felt "betrayed" by the club in an interview set to be broadcast in Britain this week, where he also said he does not respect manager Erik ten Hag.

The interview has been widely viewed as an attempt by Ronaldo to force a move away from United after the World Cup. But Glazer will have the final say on any decision to sell the forward

and it will be up to Ronaldo's agent Jorge Mendes to present potential clubs willing to buy him, the person with knowledge of the situation said. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the issue publicly.

The person also said United's hierarchy has backed Ten Hag's handling of the player and were fully supportive of his decision to cut Ronaldo from the squad and order him to train away from the first team after the Portugal international refused to come on as a substitute against Tottenham last month.

**THE
 BUZZ**

AP PHOTO



**CLIMATE TALKS DEAL WITH
 FAST COMING DEADLINES,
 SLOW PROGRESS**

WITH an end-of-the-week deadline rushing at them faster than agreements are coming out of them, negotiators at the U.N. climate summit are in a difficult spot.

Talks in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh got off to a plodding start and are behind the pace of previous meetings as government ministers return to Egypt to take over negotiations with three days left before the scheduled close tomorrow.

"I think we still have a long way to go. But I remain hopeful that we can come to good conclusions," European Union's top climate official, Frans Timmermans, said yesterday.

A small thaw in relations between the United States and China at the Group of 20 meeting in Bali has boosted hopes that the world's top two polluters can help get a deal over the line in Egypt.

Coming into this year's annual U.N. climate conference, known as COP27, the host Egypt had declared the overarching drive would be to implement past promises, including firming up cuts in greenhouse gas emissions to meet the 2015 Paris accord's headline goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Instead, delegates have been haggling over whether to even restate the 1.5 degree goal. That objective got a boost when the G-20

meeting in Bali ended with a statement that endorsed the 1.5 degree target and made 49 references to climate.

Officials from developing nations, meanwhile, are pushing for rich countries to make good on pledges of further financial aid for those struggling to cope with global warming. One significant aspect of that could be payments for "loss and damage" resulting from climate change, which developed countries have long resisted for fear of being held financially liable for the carbon dioxide they've pumped into the atmosphere for decades.

But there has been a softening of positions among some rich nations that now acknowledge some form of payment will be needed, just not what.

"Countries that are particularly affected, who themselves bear no blame for the CO2 emissions of industrial nations such as Germany, rightly expect protection against loss and damage from climate change," German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said as she departed for Egypt.

She acknowledged that negotiators have "a difficult path" ahead of them for a substantial agreement.

Asked about the issue of loss and damage, EU Executive Vice-President Timmermans said: "We're all willing to find some substantial

steps forward, but we're not there yet."

The middle of the second weeks of climate summits in general are "a deep valley of anxiety," said Christiana Figueres, the former United Nations climate chief who was at more than 20 summits but not the one in Egypt. She said that's because there is such a big desire for something to come out of talks, but "it's also the moment in which people begin to be much more aware of the short time horizon that is left to be able to deliver something by Friday."

Geopolitical tensions have been reflected at this year's talks, with European Union delegates walking out of a speech Tuesday by Russia's special climate representative, and a small group of Ukrainian and Polish activists briefly disrupting a Russian side event.

Brazilian President-elect Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva received a more enthusiastic welcome at the talks in Egypt. He met late Tuesday with Kerry and was due to hold talks with other top leaders, despite not yet being in office.

Brazil's efforts on climate change are seen as vital because its Amazon rainforest territory provides a vast "carbon sink" to the world where emissions can be stored, whereas deforestation would fuel global warming. **MDT/AP**

Russia The Kremlin is offering rare praise for the United States, applauding President Joe Biden's "restrained" reaction to reports about a Russian-made missile landing in Poland. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov yesterday dismissed much of the reaction to the missile hit as "hysterical, frenzied." Biden said it was "unlikely" that Russia fired the missile.
 More on p8

AP PHOTO



Egypt The family of imprisoned Egyptian activist Alaa Abdel-Fattah (pictured) said they received a letter from him saying he has ended his hunger strike. In a statement, the family said that Abdel-Fattah's mother, Laila Soueif, received a short note in her son's handwriting via prison authorities. The letter is dated Monday. In it, he asks her to come for her monthly visit to him in prison today.

AP PHOTO



Bosnia-Herzegovina Separatist politician Milorad Dodik was sworn as president of Bosnia's Serb-run part, pledging to pursue good ties with Russia, China and other like-minded countries. Dodik said during the inauguration ceremony that Bosnian Serbs "have our Serbia, our Russia and our (other) partners in Hungary, China." On the other hand, Dodik singled out the United Kingdom and Germany as countries working against Bosnian Serbs and their interests.

AP PHOTO



Brazilian President-elect Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva yesterday began a series of public appearances and meetings at the U.N. climate summit being held in Egypt - six weeks before taking power. As da Silva arrived in a pavilion, hundreds of people gathered, with many cheering and chanting in Portuguese. The appearance of da Silva, who in the last year made an extraordinary political comeback after being convicted of corruption and jailed a few years ago, was easily one of the events that brought the most energy at the COP27.