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HOTEL OCCUPANCY RATE DIPS BY 22.5% IN OCTOBER TO 4.4M WHILE AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY REMAINED STABLE AT 1.8 NIGHTS, AMID BORDER RESTRICTIONS

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COVID-19: 10 NEW CASES, THREE DAYS OF MASS RAPID TESTS

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CHINA'S VACCINATION PLANS SPARK HOPE FOR END OF 'ZERO COVID'

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AP PHOTO



Russian and Chinese strategic bombers yesterday flew a joint patrol over the western Pacific in a show of increasingly close defense ties between the two countries. The Tu-95 bombers of the Russian air force and the Chinese H-6K bombers flew over the Sea of Japan and the East China Sea during an eight-hour mission. As part of the drills, the Russian bombers for the first time landed in China and the Chinese bombers flew to an air base in Russia. The joint patrols weren't directed against any other country.

AP PHOTO



Hong Kong Jimmy Lai broke into the rambunctious media world 30 years ago armed with the belief that delivering information equates with protecting freedom. Lai's own freedom is at stake as he fights charges of endangering national security as former publisher of his now-defunct pro-democracy newspaper Apple Daily. The high-profile trial slated to begin today has also sparked controversy over whether Lai's British lawyer will be allowed to defend him.

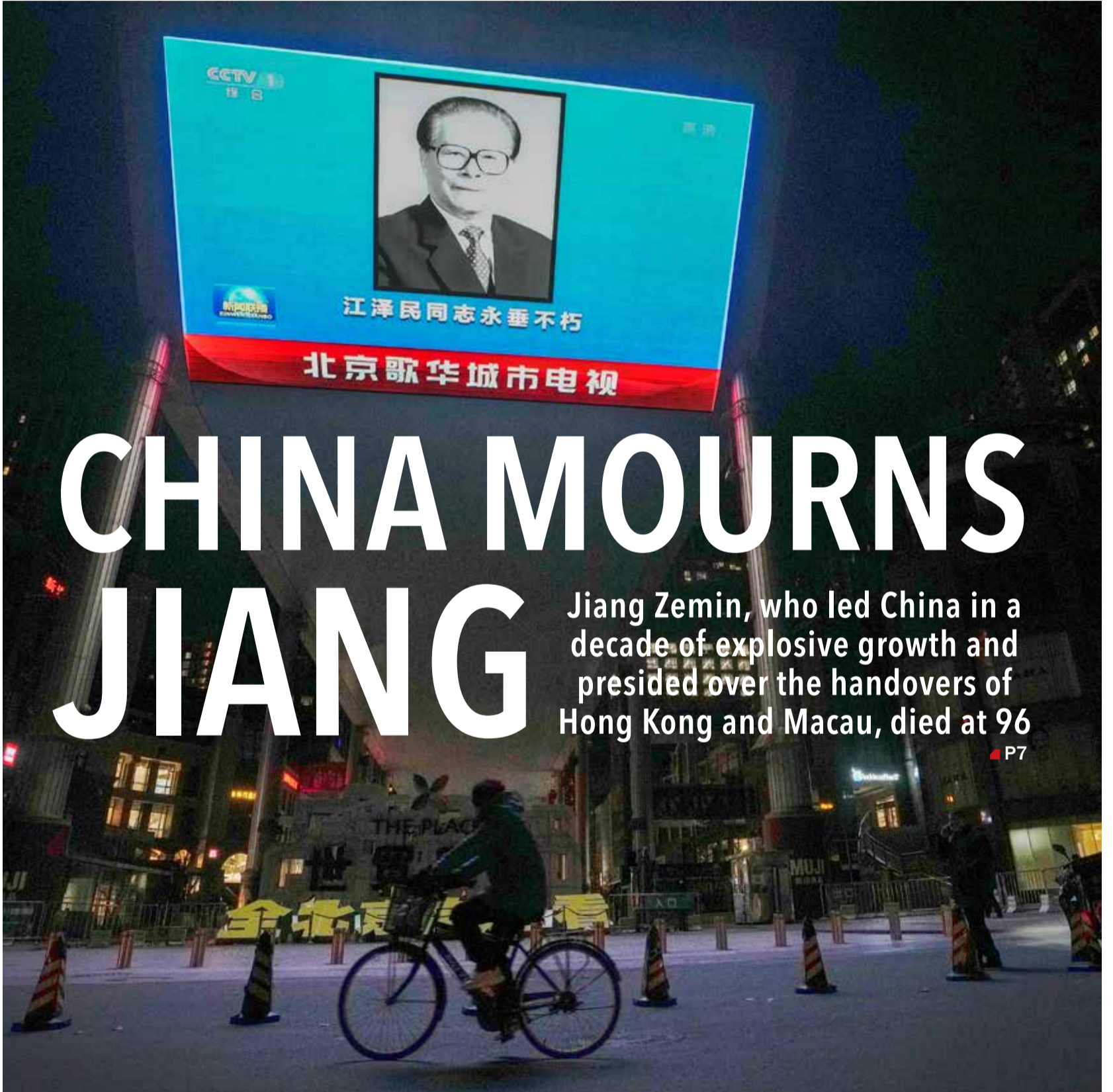
AP PHOTO



Afghanistan A bomb blast hit a religious school in northern Afghanistan yesterday, killing at least 10 students, a Taliban official said. The explosion went off at around the time of afternoon prayers at the Al Jihad Madrassa in Aybak, capital of Samangan province, a resident of the city who heard the explosion told The Associated Press. Most of the students at the school are young boys, said the resident, speaking on condition of anonymity for his own safety.

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AP PHOTO



CHINA MOURNS JIANG

Jiang Zemin, who led China in a decade of explosive growth and presided over the handovers of Hong Kong and Macau, died at 96

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POLICY ADDRESS 2023

ROSARIO SAYS EXPANSION OF THE LIGHT TRAIN NETWORK PRIORITY

P2



**MANDATED
RATS UNTIL
TOMORROW**

The government has mandated that the public must take rapid antigen tests (RAT) from yesterday until tomorrow, following the discovery of new cases over the last few days. Infants and toddlers under the age of three are exempted from testing, as well as individuals who have undergone a nucleic acid test on the same day. According to the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center, the purpose of the mandate is "to identify any potential infected persons who may be lurking in the local community and to lower the risk of transmission." Anyone who fails to declare their RAT result on the specified dates will have their health code changed to yellow.

**FINANCIAL
RESERVE
DECREASES TO
MOP563B**

The SAR financial reserve in September was 562.98 billion patacas, a decrease of 17.1 billion compared to August. This value represents a decrease of more than 100 billion patacas compared to February 2021, the month in which it reached the highest value (663.5 billion). According to figures released today by the Monetary Authority of Macao, losses for the year reached 25.894 billion.

PUBLIC WORKS

ZAPE-BARRA COASTAL PROMENADE TO START CONSTRUCTION NEXT YEAR

ANTHONY LAM

PLANNING for the ZAPE-Barra coastal promenade construction should conclude next year, with subsequent commencement of construction to occur within the year, Lo Chi Kin, vice president of the IAM's Administration Committee said.

The Municipal Affairs Bureau's (IAM) Municipal Affairs Advisory Committee has begun holding regular meetings.

The main topic for discussion was the progress of the coastal promenade from the Kun lam Ecumenical Centre to the A-Ma Temple through the Macau Tower. The project was first conceptualized several years ago and has been mentioned on multiple occasions, including parliamentary speeches and debates.

The city currently has a 400-meter promenade from the Kun lam Centre to the Macao Science Center. Usually, users will also cover the promenade of the Science Center, making the entire trail about 700 meters long. The total area of the promenade is about 15,000 square meters, with different facilities.

Discussing the extension of this existing promenade to Barra, Lo disclosed that the design is ready but can only be confirmed next year. Aiming to start construction next year, the IAM is aiming to partially complete construction in 2024. Another year will be needed for total completion.

The municipal affairs official said that the promenade will inclu-

ANTHONY LAM



de certain youth facilities, such as ball grounds, skateboarding grounds and a cycling track. Children's facilities will also be built to cater to families.

The completed promenade will be the largest of its kind on the Macau Peninsula, linking the A-Ma Temple with the Macao Science Center, covering almost the entirety of the southern coast of the peninsula.

Lo promised that more information will be released in due course.

Ron Lam, lawmaker and member of the advisory committee, recapped his proposal from several years ago on transforming the city's coast to an inviting space for sports

and leisure. This is hoped to boost Macau's characteristics as a coastal city.

On the gradual transformation of the city's coasts, the lawmaker-advisor expressed his hopes that a fishing area would be established at the Sai Van Lake, so as to cater to demand from fishing enthusiasts and better manage leisure fishing.

While discussing general municipal facilities, lawmaker-advisor Nick Lei requested that the bureau improve the layout of public facilities based on available data and comments that have been received. Urban planning factors, population and land resources should also be considered in the planning

process.

Reiterating the public's desire for more leisure sporting spaces, Lei once again requested that the bureau make use of currently unused or vacant government-owned land to build provisional leisure areas, parks or sporting facilities. A review of the existing facilities and their suitability was also suggested for the Taipa Grande Trail.

Other comments at the meeting called for upgrading the previously-announced modifications of the former Canidrome to encompass an overall transformation of the space to make them accessible to those with concerns such as mobility impairments.

Hotel guests dip 22% y-o-y by October

STAFF REPORTER

THE average occupancy rate of guest rooms of hotel establishments from January to October this year decreased by 12.0 percentage points year-on-year to 37.9%, data from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) noted.

The number of guests dipped by 22.5% year-on-year to 4,248,000, while

their average length of stay remained stable at 1.8 nights, amid the border restrictions due to Covid-19 cases.

In October, hotel occupancy slightly dropped to 41.8% despite the number of guests increasing by 11.3% to 494,000. Mainland guests (390,000) rose by 15% while local guests (70,000) went down by 11.1%.

Visitors joining local tours in October increased by 324.3% year-on-year to 3,100, and the number of Macau residents purchasing outbound services (as measured by bookings for transport, accommodation and sightseeing tours) through travel agencies surged by 65.8% to 5,900.

From January to October 2022, the number of local tour visitors dropped

by 24% year-on-year to 27,000, while Macau residents purchasing outbound services through travel agencies plunged by 74.3% to 34,000.

By October, a total of 118 hotel establishments offered accommodation services to the public, an increase of two year-on-year. The number of available guest rooms rose by 2.5% year-on-year to 37,000.

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

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

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

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ADMINISTRATOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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

POLICY ADDRESS 2023

2023 will be a year of continuity in the Transport and Public Works sector

RENATO MARQUES

THE upcoming year will mainly focus on continuing works that started in the last two years within the transport and public works sector, the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário said yesterday at the Legislative Assembly (AL).

At the AL for the last sectorial debate over the policy address for 2023 (LAG23), Rosário had little in the way of new developments to present to the public and lawmakers, instead noting that it will be another year focused on the development and potential conclusion of infrastructure work that started in 2021 and 2022.

With a focus on the transport sector, Rosário noted the continuing expansion of the Light Rapid Transit (LRT) network would be a priority, so that this type of public transportation – considered by the Secretary to be the most ecological mode of transport – can finally start serving a higher percentage of the population in their daily commute.

Raimundo explained that the idea is to finally link the LRT through all the Macau border posts, including the airport, land posts, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge Port, and the Pac On Maritime Terminal.

The most relevant event for 2023 in this regard would be the conclusion of the connection of the Taipa Line to the Peninsula through the Sai Van Bridge, with the consequent opening of the Barra transport hub to the public.

Rosário noted that the East Line project will commence next year concurrently with ongoing works on the Taipa line extension to Seac Pai Van and Hengqin border post. The East Line project will link Pac On to the Border Gate through the Zona A of the new landfills.

Other large-scale infrastructure projects mentioned included continuing works on the fourth Macau-Taipa bridge and the airport expansion project.

Rosário said all these projects are in line with the guidelines and direction of the

RENATO MARQUES



Macau and central government and will effectively facilitate and integrate Macau with its neighboring regions.

Usually a significant topic of discussion at this time of the year, the Public Housing projects did not receive more than a few brief references this time. The Secretary mentioned that there were plans to open a new tender for applications to public housing units next year. The aged care residence project is also expected to be completed during the upcoming year; news that was praised by several lawmakers representing workers.

ROAD TRAFFIC LAW EXPECTED TO BE REVISED

Another of the announcements made by the Secretary relates to the continuing government bid to replace more polluting vehicles with cleaner alternatives. In this chapter and without providing much detail, Rosário said that his Secretariat aims to promote a review of the Macau Road Traffic Law (last reviewed in 2007) in 2023, aiming to update its content and create a better environment to retire obsolete vehicles and, in some case, replace them with others that are more eco-friendly.

New developments are also expected regarding the

new 10-year plan (2021-2030) for transport in Macau. These updates are expected to more clearly define the way forward to modernize the local transport, pedestrian ways, and road networks.

He hinted that the idea is to continue striving to reduce the number of old vehicles while promoting the use of newer, more energy-efficient vehicles while keeping the annual growth rate of motor vehicles below the 3% ceiling.

Raimundo noted that some 1,100 requests have been received to replace end-of-life vehicles with electric-powered vehicles (EVs) as part of the ongoing scooter project. However, final results will only be known after March next year when the program ends.

EVS CONTINUE ON LAWMAKERS' AGENDA

Several lawmakers addressed questions to the government on the number of charging stations as part of ongoing efforts to promote electric-powered vehicles (EVs).

Among others, Angela Leong and Zheng Anting called on the government to disclose future projects in this area and requested updates on the status of the construction of charging stations.

Rosário said that while

the government still aims to significantly expand the number of charging posts for EVs this year, the existing posts are sufficient to fulfill the current demand.

"By the end of this year, we want to reach 2,000 charging posts. We have 400 already in operation and 1,000 about to start operation. We know that only around 400 users are using these charging posts daily, so we can say that what we have now and will have until the end of this year is more than enough to meet the demand," he remarked.

Responding to a side question from another lawmaker regarding the contactless payment systems at public car park facilities, the director of the Transport Bureau (DSAT),

Kelvin Lam, added that the DSAT will update and upgrade the services and use cases of the Macau Smart Go app to integrate all systems and manage smart payments.

Lawmaker Leong also asked the government if Macau has specific goals to reduce vehicle emissions and replace combustion engine vehicles by 2035, in line with other countries and regions.

Rosário said that Macau is not currently adopting those goals specifically, but that it is progressively developing its own system.

DRIVING LICENSE MUTUAL RECOGNITION SCHEME

After recent news that consensus had been reached to authorize Macau

single-plate vehicles to be driven in the mainland, the topic of the mutual recognition of driving licenses between the mainland and Macau has returned to the agenda. Mixed opinions were expressed among the lawmakers. While some are in favor of expediting this process as much as possible, others, including Ella Lei, Leong Sun Iok, and Zheng Anting, fear that this recognition might pose negative effects on both traffic circulation and a potential increase in the number of illegal jobs by mainland drivers. They called on the government to enforce strict supervision to guarantee road safety and protect the jobs of local drivers.

AD

COVID-19

GOV'T REPORTS 10 NEW CASES

STAFF REPORTER

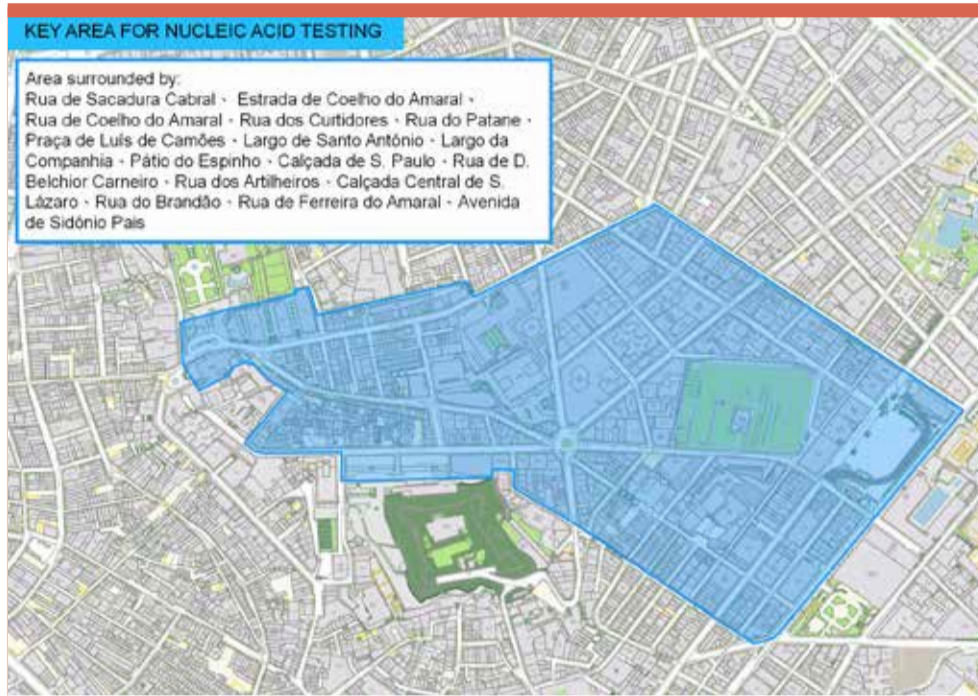
AUTHORITIES have reported a total of 10 new Covid-19 cases as of 8 p.m. last night, majority of which are directly connected to the 74-year-old taxi driver that tested positive earlier this week.

According to the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center, the driver's wife tested positive yesterday morning, as well as the 69-year-old retiree who lives in the same building as the couple.

Also related to the cabbie is a 77-year-old retired man who dined in with him and was under medical observation since the evening of November 28.

The patient's cycle threshold (CT) value showed that it was an early-stage infection.

The other patient is a 69-year-old retired man who underwent a rapid antigen test on November 28 as he "reportedly felt tired."



One of the key areas for nucleic acid testing

On Tuesday, he continued to feel tired and developed a cough in the afternoon. He underwent another rapid antigen test and the result was positive, so he was referred to the emergency service of the public hospital to undergo

NAT, the results of which confirmed the positive result.

His wife also tested positive yesterday morning.

The cases are classified as "related to an imported case."

Authorities also re-

ported a case involving a 36-year-old male non-resident worker from mainland China and his 29-year-old wife, a Macau resident, who works at Wynn Palace's Human Resources department, among four others.

Traffic accidents surge 20% y-o-y

TRAFFIC accidents in October increased by 21.5% year-on-year to 1,080, with 383 people injured, according to data from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).

From January to October, there were 9,287 traffic accidents, resulting in five deaths and 3,291 injuries.

During the same period, newly registered motor vehicles fell by 18.8% year-on-year to 8,276, of which new registered motor vehicles in October fell by 5.5% year-on-year to 853.

Cross-border vehicle traffic in October rose sharply by 1.6 times year-on-year to more than 420,000 vehicle trips, mainly due to the low base attributable to the pandemic in October last year. A total of 893 commercial flights took off in October, an increase of 17% year-on-year.

Statistics also show that in October, internet usage increased by 1.6% to 140 million hours. The total hours of usage in the first 10 months totaled 1.4 billion hours, an increase of 1.9% year-on-year. LV



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Photo competition to support Regatta 2023

ANTHONY LAM

A photo competition and several other events will be held alongside the 2023 MGM Macao International Regatta, which will be held between January 5 and 8, 2023.

The organizing committee, which comprises the Sports Bureau (ID), the Ursa Major Sailing Event Management Company, the Marine and Water Bureau (DSA-MA), and the Macau Sailing Association, said that the competition is intended to encourage local residents to feel like participants in the regatta, an emerging sport in Macau.

Photographs will be accepted between January 9 and February 15 next year and only digital submissions will be accepted. Submissions should be no larger than 5MB with a maximum length of 4,000 pixels.

Each participant is entitled to submit an unlimited number of photographs.

The winner will receive MOP5,000, while the two runners-up will receive MOP3,000 and MOP1,500. They will also each be presented with a trophy.

ANTHONY LAM



Meanwhile, five prizes to show appreciation will also be presented, at MOP500 each.

Meanwhile, at 8am on the Sunday of the match, there will be a ferry service from the Inner Harbour to the sea off from the Macau Science Center for a brief stop, during which spectators will be able to have a closer look at the match. They will alight at the Inner Harbour after the spectator ferry trip.

Another ancillary activity will

be a display of a Hobie 16 catamaran at the Grande Plaza at the MGM Macau throughout the competition period. As the title sponsor, the resort operator will also host a Family Fun Day event on the match weekend, which will include a series of sailing-themed games and foods.

This year's regatta will see about 300 athletes representing 37 teams competing in three matches or events, each with their own championship. The actual teams may

vary due to Covid-19 restrictions that are regularly adjusted.

A press conference was held yesterday afternoon to announce the competition.

The title sponsor, MGM, is providing MOP8 million for the competition. A presentation ceremony was held at the press conference, during which Kenneth Feng, president and chief strategic and financial officer of MGM, presented a ceremonial check to Pun Weng Kun, president of the ID and Ma

Man Wai, president of the event management company.

The upcoming regatta will comprise three competitions, consisting of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Cup Regatta (IRC), the Macao Cup International Regatta (Beneteau First 40.7 unified design group) and the International Catamaran Invitational (Hobie 16 unified design group).

Eleven teams in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Cup Regatta and 11 teams in the Macao Cup International Regatta will compete in the waters off south of Hac Sa Beach.

Fifteen teams participating in the International Catamaran Invitational will compete for the championship in the waters south of the Inner Harbour Channel off the Macau Science Center.

Feng described the race as "fully utilizing the territorial water resources demarcated for Macau by the Central Government for the development of tourism and sports." In doing so, the race has "great significance for Macau and [will] become a new highlight for maritime tourism that further facilitates the development of Macau's economic diversification."

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PANDEMIC

VACCINATION PLANS SPARK HOPE FOR END OF 'ZERO COVID'

JOE MCDONALD, BEIJING

A campaign to vaccinate the elderly has sparked hopes China might roll back severe anti-virus controls that prompted anti-government protests, but the country faces daunting hurdles and up to a year of hard work before "zero COVID" can end.

Stock markets rose after the National Health Commission on Monday announced the long-awaited campaign. A low vaccination rate is one of the biggest obstacles to ending curbs that have confined millions of people to their homes, depressed the economy and kept most visitors out of China. Health officials did not say how long it might take.

A vaccination campaign will require months and China also needs to build up its hospitals and work out a long-term virus strategy, health experts and economists warn. They say "zero COVID" is likely to stay in place until mid-2023 and possibly as late as 2024.

"China is in no place right now to move away from its 'zero-COVID' policy toward a 'living with COVID' policy," said Mark Williams, chief Asia economist for Capital Economics. "Health care capacity is very weak."

China, where the virus first was detected in late 2019 in the central city of Wuhan, is the last major country trying to stop transmission completely. Others are relaxing controls and trying to live with the virus that has killed at least 6.6 million people worldwide and sickened almost 650 million.

Chinese protesters accuse the ruling Communist Party of failing to outline a path away from restrictions that have repeatedly closed businesses and schools and suspended access to neighborhoods. The curbs have kept case numbers lower than other countries but are seen by the public and scientists as excessive.

Families who have been confined at home for up to four months say they lack reliable access to food and medicine. Others struggle to get treatment for other medical problems. Authorities faced public fury over reports two children who were in quarantine died after their parents said anti-virus controls hampered efforts to get emergency medical care.

The protests, the most widespread show of dissent in decades, erupted Friday after a fire in Urumqi in the northwest killed at least 10 people. That prompted angry questions online about whether firefighters or victims trying to escape were blocked by locked doors or other controls. Authorities denied that, but the

AP PHOTO



deaths became a focus of public anger over the human cost of "zero COVID."

The ruling party has promised to make restrictions less disruptive and eased some controls this week following protests in Shanghai, Beijing and at least six other major cities. But party leaders said they were sticking to "zero COVID" and gave no sign when it might end.

Yesterday, the Health Commission reported 37,828 new cases in the past 24 hours, including 33,540 without symptoms. The official death toll stands at 5,233 out of 319,536 confirmed cases, compared with 1.1 million deaths in the United States out of almost 100 million infections.

Beijing has tried to discredit protesters by accusing them of working for "foreign forces," a reference to long-running complaints that Washington and other Western governments are trying to sabotage China's economic and political rise.

On Tuesday, the ruling party legal affairs committee vowed to "resolutely crack down on the infiltration and sabotage activities of hostile forces." Its statement promising to carry out the spirit of a congress last month where Xi, China's most powerful figure since at least the 1980s, awarded himself a third five-year term as leader.

The statement didn't mention the protests and echoed routine declarations issued after such party meetings. But it was a reminder of the ruling party's determination to enforce its will and of its hostility to opposition.

The National Health Commission said its campaign will encourage people over 60 to be vaccinated.

Many have avoided vaccines due to safety worries and because, with few cases in China, their infection risk was low.

The commission said it will send out mobile vaccination units to reach people in their 70s and

80s who can't leave home.

Nine in 10 Chinese have been vaccinated but only 66% of people over 80 have gotten one shot, while 40% have received a booster shot, according to the Commission. It said 86% of people over 60 are vaccinated.

State media have described unvaccinated elderly people as at "highest risk" from the virus.

"We hope elderly friends can actively complete the vaccination as soon as possible," said a commission spokesman, Mi Feng.

China uses vaccines made by domestic developers including Sinovac and Sinopharm. It has withheld approval of mRNA vaccines such as the one invented by Germany's BioNTech, though a Chinese company bought distribution rights in 2020.

Last year, the country's top infectious diseases official acknowledged those homegrown vaccines were less effective.

Still, ahead of Tuesday's annou-

ncement, an infectious disease expert on Shanghai's COVID-19 team expressed confidence China can emerge from COVID with the right vaccination program.

"Our diagnosis, treatment and vaccines have reached a very high level," Zhang Wenhong said at a Nov. 18 medical conference in the southern city of Haikou. "We are fully capable of finally taming the coronavirus."

However, China's small, overworked health care system, especially in the poor, populous countryside, could be overwhelmed if infections spiral as restrictions are relaxed.

China has 4.3 hospital beds per person, barely half of the average of eight in neighboring Mongolia, a much poorer country, according to the World Health Organization. Japan has 13 and South Korea has 12.5.

"China will never lift COVID restrictions completely like other countries," said Yu Changping, a respiratory specialist at People's Hospital of Wuhan University.

"The epidemic will not disappear in the next three or five years and may never," Yu said. "It is a long-term task for China's prevention and control."

The outbreaks that began in October prompted affected communities to close shops and offices. Factories were required to isolate workers from outside contact.

Economists estimate those areas account for up to one-third of China's economic output. Some forecasts say China's annual growth will stay below 3%, less than half of 2021's 8.1% expansion.

While case numbers are low, "there is definitely a risk that 'zero COVID' just fails at this point. It spreads rapidly everywhere," said Williams. "I think that the response from the authorities would be to go back to the playbook from January, February 2020 and lock everywhere down." **MDT/AP**

HONG KONG

OFFICIAL WARNS LOCKDOWN PROTESTS HURT SECURITY

HONG Kong's security minister yesterday warned that the city's protests against China's anti-virus restrictions were a "rudiment of another color revolution" and urged residents not to participate in activities that might hurt national security.

Chris Tang said some events on university campuses and the city's streets had attempted to incite others to target China's central government in the name of commemorating a deadly fire in the country's far west last week.

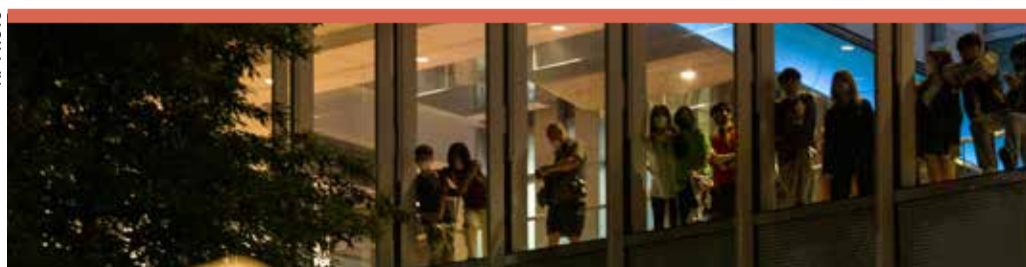
"This is not a coincidence but highly organized," he told reporters at the legislature.

Protests erupted in major mainland cities over the weekend.

Smaller protests also emerged at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the University of Hong Kong, and Central over the past two days. The participants included mainland Chinese students and residents as well as locals.

The gatherings were the biggest in the city in more than a year under rules imposed by Beijing to crush a pro-democracy movement

AP PHOTO



in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory, which has a separate legal system from the mainland.

Tang alleged that some active members of the widespread rallies in 2019 also took part in the latest Hong Kong events, noting some people planned the recent protests via social media platforms including some "anti-China" sites.

"I have previously mentioned that we face national security risks. Some people are unwilling to give up and always want to endanger our national security and Hong Kong's security. This is exactly the situation I am

talking about," he said.

He said the city has to guard against these risks if residents do not want to return to what happened in 2019.

The 2019 protests were sparked by a since-withdrawn extradition bill that would have allowed criminal suspects to be extradited to mainland China. Critics worried the suspects would disappear into China's opaque and frequently abusive legal system. Opposition morphed into months of violent unrest in the city as the protesters' demands widened to include universal suffrage and other democratic aspirations. **MDT/AP**



OBITUARY

Jiang Zemin, who guided China's economic rise, dies

JOE MCDONALD, BEIJING

JIANG Zemin, who led China out of isolation after the army crushed the Tiananmen Square pro-democracy protests in 1989 and supported economic reforms that led to a decade of explosive growth, died yesterday. He was 96.

Jiang, who was president for a decade until 2003 and led the ruling Communist Party for 13 years until 2002, died of leukemia and multiple organ failure in Shanghai, state media reported. The party declared him a "great proletarian revolutionary" and "long-tested communist fighter."

Jiang's death comes after the party faced its most widespread public show of opposition in decades when crowds called for leader Xi Jinping to resign during weekend protests against anti-virus controls that are confining millions of people to their homes.

A surprise choice to lead a divided Communist Party after the 1989 turmoil, Jiang saw China through history-making changes including a revival of market-oriented reforms, the return of Hong Kong from British rule in 1997, the return of Macau in 1999, and Beijing's entry into the World Trade Organization in 2001.

Even as China opened to the outside, Jiang's government stamped out dissent. It jailed human rights, labor and pro-democracy activists and banned the Falun Gong spiritual movement, which the ruling party saw as a threat to its monopoly on power.

Jiang gave up his last official

title in 2004 but remained a force behind the scenes in wrangling that led to the rise of Xi, who took power in 2012. Xi has tightened political control.

Jiang was responsible for China "getting onto a global platform and rehabilitating itself after 1989," said Kerry Brown, a Chinese politics expert at King's College London. "He will be remembered as someone who made probably a pretty positive contribution."

Rumors that Jiang might be in poor health spread after he missed a ruling party congress in October at which Xi, China's most powerful figure since at least the 1980s, broke with tradition and awarded himself a third five-year term as leader.

Jiang was on the verge of retirement as the party secretary for Shanghai in 1989 when he was drafted by then-paramount leader Deng Xiaoping to pull together the party and nation. He succeeded Zhao Ziyang, who was dismissed by Deng due to his sympathy for the student-led Tiananmen protesters.

In 13 years as party general secretary, China's most powerful post, Jiang guided the country's rise to economic power by welcoming capitalists into the party and pulling in foreign investment after China joined the WTO. China passed Germany and then Japan to become the second-largest economy after the United States.

Jiang captured a political prize when Beijing was picked as the site of the 2008 Summer Olympics after failing in an earlier bid.

Portly and owl-shaped in oversize

glasses, Jiang was an ebullient figure who played the piano and enjoyed singing, in contrast to his more reserved successors, Hu Jintao and Xi.

He spoke enthusiastically of halting English and would recite the Gettysburg Address for foreign visitors. On a visit to Britain, he tried to coax Queen Elizabeth II into singing karaoke.

A former soap factory manager, Jiang capped his career with the communist era's first orderly succession, handing over his post as party leader in 2002 to Hu, who also took the ceremonial title of president the following year.

Still, he was said to be frustrated that Deng picked Hu, blocking Jiang from installing his own successor. Jiang tried to hold onto influence by staying on as chairman of the Central Military Commission, which controls the 2 million-member People's Liberation Army. He gave up that post in 2004 following complaints he might divide the government.

After leaving office, Jiang had influence over promotions through his network of proteges. He was considered successful in elevating allies to the party's seven-member Standing Committee, China's inner circle of power, when Xi became leader in 2012.

Jiang faded from view and last appeared publicly alongside current and former leaders atop Beijing's Tiananmen Gate at a 2019 military parade celebrating the party's 70th anniversary in power.

Jiang was born Aug. 17, 1926, in the affluent eastern city of Yangzhou. Official biographies

downplay his family's middle-class background, emphasizing instead his uncle and adoptive father, Jiang Shangqing, an early revolutionary who was killed in battle in 1939.

After graduating from the electrical machinery department of Jiaotong University in Shanghai in 1947, Jiang advanced through the ranks of state-controlled industries, working in a food factory, then soap-making and China's biggest automobile plant.

Like many technocratic officials, Jiang spent part of the ultra-radical 1966-76 Cultural Revolution as a farm laborer. His career revived after that and in 1983 he was named minister of the electronics industry, then a key but backward sector the government hoped to revive by inviting foreign investment.

As mayor of Shanghai between 1985 and 1989, Jiang impressed foreign visitors as a representative of a new breed of outward-looking Chinese leaders.

A tough political fighter, Jiang defied predictions that his stint as leader would be short. He consolidated power by promoting members of his "Shanghai faction" and giving the military double-digit annual percentage increases in spending.

Foreign leaders and CEOs who shunned Beijing after the Tiananmen crackdown were persuaded to return.

When Deng emerged from retirement in 1992 to push for reviving market-style reform, Jiang also took up the cause.

He supported Premier Zhu Rongji, the party's No. 3 leader, who forced through painful changes that slashed as many as 40 million jobs from state industry in the late 1990s.

Zhu launched the privatization of urban housing, igniting a building boom that transformed Chinese cities into forests of high-rises and propelled economic growth.

After 12 years of negotiations and a flight by Zhu to Washington to lobby the Clinton administration for support, China joined the WTO in 2001, cementing its position as a magnet for foreign investment.

China's economic boom split society into winners and losers as waves of rural residents migrated to factory jobs in cities, the eco-

nomy grew sevenfold and urban incomes by nearly as much.

Protests, once rare, spread as millions lost state jobs and farmers complained about rising taxes and fees. Divorce rates climbed. Corruption flourished.

Despite a genial public image, Jiang dealt severely with challenges to ruling party power.

His highest-profile target was Falun Gong, a meditation group founded in the early 1990s. Chinese leaders were spooked by its ability to attract tens of thousands of followers, including military officers.

Activists who tried to form an opposition China Democracy Party, a move permitted by Chinese law, were sentenced to up to 12 years in prison on subversion charges.

"Stability above all else," Jiang ordered, in a phrase his successors have used to justify intensive social controls.

It fell to Jiang, standing beside Britain's Prince Charles, to preside over the return of Hong Kong on July 1, 1997, symbolizing the end of 150 years of European colonialism. The nearby Portuguese territory of Macau was returned to China in 1999.

Hong Kong was promised autonomy and became a springboard for mainland companies that want to do business abroad. Meanwhile, Jiang turned to coercion with Taiwan, the self-ruled island Beijing says is part of its territory.

During Taiwan's first direct presidential election in 1996, Jiang's government tried to intimidate voters by firing missiles into nearby shipping lanes. The United States responded by sending warships to the area in a show of support.

At the same time, trade between the mainland and Taiwan grew to billions of dollars a year.

One of Jiang's sons, Jiang Mianheng, courted controversy as a telecommunications dealmaker in the late 1990s, when critics accused him of misusing his father's status to promote his career, a common complaint against the children of party leaders.

Jiang is survived by his two sons and his wife, Wang Yeping, who worked in government bureaucracies in charge of state industries.

MDT/AP

CE SENDS CONDOLENCES OVER DEATH OF FORMER PRESIDENT JIANG ZEMIN

CHIEF Executive Ho Iat Seng has expressed condolences on the passing of China's former President Jiang Zemin.

In a statement, the city's top official has "expressed his deepest regret at the passing of Jiang Zemin and sent his deepest condolences to his family" on behalf of the SAR.

The CE highlighted that the late president paid "great attention to the development [of the SAR]" and recalled that during his mandate, he

made two visits to this city. He attended the handover of Macau to China on December 20, 1999 as well as the first anniversary of the city's return to the motherland. "During his stay, he participated in a series of activities where he had cordial contact with the residents, of which his voice and his smile are still vivid in everyone's memory," the statement read. Jiang Zemin passed away yesterday in Shanghai.

CAMBODIA

US JOINS PROTESTS OVER ARREST OF CAMBODIAN LABOR LEADER

SOPHENG CHEANG,
PHNOM PENH

The United States has joined local human rights groups in Cambodia in calling for the release of a labor union leader who was involved in a year-long protest at a casino and arrested last week upon her return from a trip abroad.

State Department spokesperson Ned Price said the United States was “deeply concerned” by the arrest of Chhim Sithar and urged that charges against her and other detained trade unionists for “exercising their rights to freedom of association and peaceful assembly” be dropped. The statement yesterday also called for the release of U.S. citizen Theary Seng, convicted and jailed in a separate political case.

Chhim Sithar, a union leader at the NagaWorld casino in the capital Phnom Penh, was first arrested in January after leading a demonstration of nearly 400 other dismissed employees who were demanding to be rehired. She had been released on bail in March after strong protests by rights groups and the international community.

She was arrested on Saturday at Phnom Penh International Airport



Naga World casino workers hold posters and banners during a rally in Phnom Penh, last January

after returning from a working trip to Australia. Authorities said she violated the terms of her bail by traveling abroad without court permission. The Phnom Penh Municipal Court on Tuesday said her action allowed her to be held

in pre-trial detention.

She faces up to two years in prison if convicted on the original charge of incitement to commit felony by disturbing the social order.

The NagaWorld, as the sole

legal casino located in Phnom Penh, is extremely lucrative but in late 2021 dismissed 373 of its employees on the grounds that the company had financially suffered from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Labor union actions are not

rare in Cambodia, but usually take place in outlying areas or in industrial estates in other provinces. The protest by the NagaWorld workers in central parts of the capital was unusually high-profile and drew police action.

The Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training said in a statement that 249 dismissed workers had accepted compensation under the labor law and dropped their demand to be rehired. It said 124 are still disputing their dismissal and that the ministry would continue negotiating with them.

The statement also said Chhim Sithar's arrest on Saturday was not related to the labor dispute.

A statement by 69 Cambodian civil society and rights groups called on the Cambodian government “to stop being afraid of Chhim Sithar's strength and bravery” and free her immediately and without conditions.

“Neither Sithar nor her lawyers were informed of any bail conditions. Her lawyers' request to view her case file, which would have contained such bail conditions, was never granted, in violation of the Code of Criminal Procedure,” said the statement. “Punishing people for failing to follow secret and undisclosed rules is an injustice and inconsistent with basic principles of the rule of law.”

Accusing the government of beating, arresting, sexually harassing and assaulting strikers, the statement called Chhim Sithar's arrest “an unacceptable continuation of this failed policy of repression.” **MDT/AP**

AUSTRALIA

Albanese steps up calls for US to drop WikiLeaks charges

AUSTRALIA'S Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said he recently told U.S. President Joe Biden's administration to bring WikiLeaks founder and Australian citizen Julian Assange's prosecution to a close.

Albanese's comments yesterday to Parliament appear to be an escalation of Australia's diplomatic pressure on the United States to drop spying charges against the 51-year-old who is resisting extradition from Britain.

“I have raised this personally with representatives of the United States government. My position is clear and has been made clear to the U.S. administration: That it is time that this matter be brought to a close,” Albanese told Parliament.

“This is an Australian citizen,” Albanese added. “I don't have sympathy for

Mr. Assange's actions on a whole range of matters, but ... you have to reach a point whereby what is the point of ... continuing this legal action which could be caught up now for many years into the future?”

Albanese did not say whether he discussed Assange directly with Biden when the pair held a bilateral meeting on the sidelines a Cambodian summit two weeks ago. But Albanese said he had advocated for Assange “recently in meetings.”

Albanese compared Assange's treatment to that of former U.S. Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning, who the prime minister said was “now able to participate freely in U.S. society.”

U.S. prosecutors allege Assange helped Manning steal classified diplomatic cables and military files

that WikiLeaks later published, putting lives at risk. Then-U.S. President Barack Obama commuted Manning's 35-year sentence to seven years, which allowed her release in 2017.

International news outlets that cooperated with WikiLeaks to publish confidential U.S. State Department cables in 2010 — The New York Times, The Guardian, Le Monde, El Pais and DER SPIEGEL — published an open letter this week calling for Assange's prosecution to be dropped.

Albanese spoke in response to independent lawmaker Monique Ryan's question if the Australian government would intervene to bring Assange home.

Albanese's government has been circumspect about Assange's prosecution since it was elected in May. Ministers' criticisms



WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange

have been restrained to phrases such as the case had “dragged on for too long.”

When the British government approved Assange's extradition in June, Albanese resisted calls that he

publicly demand the United States drop the prosecution.

“There are some people who think that if you put things in capital letters on Twitter and put an exclamation mark, that somehow

makes it more important. It doesn't,” Albanese at the time.

“I intend to lead a government that engages diplomatically and appropriately with our partners,” Albanese added. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken meets with Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba during the NATO foreign ministers meeting in Bucharest yesterday

PUTIN'S WAR

Ukraine welcomes arms offers, no word on Patriot missiles

ELLEN KNICKMEYER & LORNE COOK, BUCHAREST

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken condemned Russia's weeks-long assault on Ukraine's power grid, saying as NATO scrambled yesterday to scrape up replacement electrical gear that Russia had turned its war machine to strikes aiming to "turn off the heat...so that civilians suffer."

Blinken spoke at a NATO foreign ministers meeting in Bucharest, Romania devoted in part to coordinating aid to keep the lights — and furnaces — on in Ukraine, where Russian strikes have damaged an estimated third of that country's electrical infrastructure.

"Because President (Vladimir) Putin is failing to defeat Ukraine militarily, he is now prosecuting war against civilians," Blinken said. "And he's doing that by trying to destroy Ukraine's energy infrastructure, to turn off the light, to turn off the heat, to turn off the water so that civilians suffer."

"What is very clear to me ... is that support re-

mains strong, resolute, determined" on the behalf of NATO foreign ministers supporting Ukraine as Russia's invasion moves toward a February anniversary, Blinken said.

NATO estimates that Russian strikes have damaged one-third of Ukraine's electrical infrastructure. It says the missiles appear to be particularly targeting vulnerable transmission networks, leaving Ukrainians dealing with darkness and cold.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba has underscored that his country's biggest needs now are electrical gear and more advanced air-defense systems than it has gotten from the U.S. and other allies so far, to deal with the Russian missile strikes.

"In a nutshell, Patriots (electricity) transformers is what Ukraine needs the most," Kuleba declared Tuesday.

Heading into a one-on-one session with Blinken on the sidelines of the NATO gathering, Kuleba said that Ukraine at the session had received "a number of commitments, new commitments, from various NATO members with regard to providing

Ukraine with more defensive weapons and energy equipment."

But Kuleba declined to answer questions about whether that included promises of badly wanted Patriot missile batteries, from the U.S. or any other ally.

Ukraine is seeking U.S.-made Patriot missile batteries or other more advanced air defense systems than it has gotten so far from the United States and other allies to block Russian air strikes. Kuleba did not respond to repeated questions from a reporter ahead of a meeting with Blinken about whether he had gotten any commitments on Patriots.

The provision of Patriot surface-to-air missiles to Ukraine would mark a major advance in the kinds of air defense systems the West is sending to help the war-torn country defend itself from Russian aerial attack.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg confirmed that deliveries of such sophisticated surface to air missiles systems are under consideration among some allies. The military organization does not possess any weapons, only its member countries do.

A senior U.S. defense official who briefed Pentagon reporters on Tuesday, on condition of anonymity, said that the United States is open to providing Patriots. While Ukraine has asked for the system for months, the U.S. and its allies have been hesitant to provide it to avoid further provoking Russia.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said Tuesday that his country's offer to send Patriots to Poland remains on the table, despite Warsaw's suggestion that they should go to Ukraine instead.

Ukraine does not have personnel trained to use Patriots — a complicated air defense system of which there are three main types, with varying ranges and altitudes. Germany has lent them to Slovakia and Turkey but sent its own technicians to operate the missiles.

NATO allies would almost certainly refuse to send any military personnel into Ukraine, to avoid being dragged into a wider war with nuclear armed Russia. They would also want guarantees that Ukraine would only use the missiles to defend its air space and not fire them into Russian territory.

Russia is deeply opposed to the move. Dmitry Medvedev, deputy chairman of the Russian Security Council, said Tuesday on his Telegram channel: "If, as Stoltenberg hinted, NATO supplies the Kyiv fanatics with Patriot complexes along with NATO personnel, they will immediately become a legitimate target of our armed forces." MDT/AP

ADVERTORIAL

GREAT TIMES

Glow for the Holiday at the Award-Winning Spa

Count down to the most wonderful time of the year, **TRIA**, the award-winning spa at MGM, has prepared an array of limited specials to help you get your holiday season ready.



This December, experience the newly SpaChina award-winning treatment "Ginseng and Gold Journey". Your holiday glow commences with a truly luxurious ginseng body massage with a combination of **TRIA's** signature thumb pressure techniques of different depths and

intensities for you to succumb to complete relaxation. The soothing and warm massage oil helps to release stress and frazzled nerves as well as boost the immune system.

The second part of the therapeutic journey is a mini facial and a 24-K gold caviar cream hand treatment that leaves skin with a ravishing and sun-kissed glow. Designed to enhance cellular regeneration and rejuvenation, regain a sense of harmony with this 90-min extravagant at only \$1,380*.



To extend the celebrative moments of the season, take a stroll at The Gallery, our retail store and explore our fine selection of the latest must-haves for all your gifting needs this festive month.



Enjoy a complimentary 45-min body massage or 45-min facial treatment with \$1,680* spending on designated spa products, brands including Comfort Zone, Skin Regimen, Biodroga, and Aromatherapy Associates.



Don't let the rejuvenation stop. Relax in the wet facilities or keep your body in shape at the fitness center which is equipped with advanced training facilities that will help you build a healthy and vital body, all at the same time. Connect mind, body, and soul at Tria. Limited time offers until year's end! Pamper yourself with friends and family this holiday season! Reserve at MGM MACAU (853) 8802 3838 / MGM COTAI (853) 8806 2733, or email to triaspa@mgm.mo

*Terms and conditions apply, please contact us to learn more.

AP PHOTO



Kate and William

USA VISIT

UK royals traveling to Boston with eye on environment prize

DANICA KIRKA,
LONDON

THE first overseas trip by the Prince and Princess of Wales since the death of Queen Elizabeth II begins today [Macau time], an occasion to show the world as much about who they are not as who they are.

With their three-day visit to Boston, focused on Prince William's initiative to find the environmental entrepreneurs of a new generation, supplemented with trips to an anti-poverty program, child development researchers and local flood defenses, the couple hope to demonstrate that they aren't the last remnants of a dying institution. Instead, Americans will see the younger face of a monarchy that is tackling important issues as it seeks to remain relevant in modern, multicultural Britain.

The visit comes less than three months after the death of Elizabeth, whose personal popularity dampened criticism of the crown during her 70-year reign. King Charles III, William's father, has made clear that his will be a slimmed-down monarchy, with less pomp and ceremony than its predecessors.

"I think this is less about saving the Earth and more about saving the royal family," Boston University professor Arianne Chernock, an expert in modern British history, said. "To be honest, we've seen Charles as king and his first months in that position trying to feel his way, find his way towards being a more relevant, more modern monarch. And I think we see something similar happening with William and Kate."

Part of that reset involves reclaiming the hearts and minds of people in America, where William's younger brother, Prince Harry, and sister-in-law, Meghan, have dominated the media since moving to California in 2020. Harry and Meghan have criticized the royal family for alleged racism and insensitive treatment and built their own media profile by making films and podcasts for Netflix and Spotify.

The Netflix series "The Crown" has also resurrected some of the more troubled times of the House of Windsor, including the collapse of Charles' marriage to the late Princess Diana, William's mother, amid mutual allegations of infidelity.

But William and Kate are keen to tell a different

story, about their work on environmental issues, mental health and early childhood education.

During a gala concert celebrating the queen's Platinum Jubilee in June, William delivered a speech highlighting his grandmother's and father's pioneering work on the environment, as images of jungles and oceans were projected on the walls of Buckingham Palace behind him.

Kate last week wrote an opinion piece on the need to improve the lives of young children that appeared in *The Daily Telegraph*, one of Britain's most influential newspapers, alongside a photo of the princess sitting cross-legged among a group of elementary school students.

"Over the past 10 years, talking to a wide range of experts about how we deal with societal issues like poor mental and physical health, I have become more and more sure of one thing: If we are going to create a healthier and happier society for future generations, we must start by understanding and acknowledging the unique importance of the first five years of life," she wrote.

William and Kate's last visit to the United States was in 2014, not long after their wedding. During that

trip, the glamorous young couple were feted as they toured the eastern U.S.

Eight years later, now in their 40s and with three young children, the prince and princess are finally having a return engagement.

The choice of Boston, the birthplace of President John F. Kennedy, as their destination is symbolic. Kennedy's 1962 speech setting out the goal of putting men on the moon by the end of that decade inspired William's Earthshot Prize, aimed at finding solutions to climate change and other environmental problems by the end of this one.

The mission begins, when William and Kate will meet with Boston Mayor Michelle Wu and visit the John F. Kennedy Memorial Library and Museum with the late president's daughter, Caroline Kennedy.

Later in the week, they will visit Roca Inc., highlighting the racial equity group's efforts to improve the lives of young people by addressing issues such as poverty, incarceration and trauma from urban violence. They will also visit Harvard University's Center on the Developing Child, a leader in research into the long-term impact of early childhood experiences. **MDT/AP**

this day in history



1955 BLACK WOMAN CHALLENGES RACE LAW



A black woman has been arrested by police in Montgomery, Alabama, after refusing to give up her seat on the bus to a white person.

Mrs Rosa Parks now faces a fine for breaking the segregation laws which say black Americans must vacate their seats if there are white passengers left standing.

It is not the first time Mrs Parks, who is a seamstress, has defied the law on segregation.

In 1943 she was thrown off a bus for refusing to get on via the back door, which was reserved for black passengers. She became known to other drivers who sometimes refused to let her on.

Today Mrs Parks left Montgomery Fair, the department store where she was employed doing repairs on men's clothing, as usual.

She said she was tired after work and suffered aches and pains in her shoulders, back and neck.

When she got on the bus she realised the driver was the same man, James Blake, who had thrown her off twelve years before.

As more white people got on and the seats filled up, he asked her to give up her seat and she refused.

He threatened to call the police and she told him to go ahead.

She was subsequently arrested and charged with violating segregation law.

She will now appear in court on Monday 5 December.

Mrs Parks is a youth leader of the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP) and her husband, Raymond, a barber, has taken part in voter registration drives.

Between them the couple have worked for many years to improve the lot of black Americans in the southern United States where rigid segregation laws have been in force since the end of the Civil War in 1865.

Last year a group of professional black woman in Montgomery, the Women's Political Council, protested to the mayor about segregation on the buses, warning him they were planning a boycott.

The NAACP has also tried to challenge the laws on segregation in the courts and Mrs Parks has been involved in raising money to defend a 15-year-old student, Claudette Colvin, who was removed from a bus in March of this year for refusing to give up her seat to a white man.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Five days later, thousands of black citizens boycotted the buses in Alabama - to mark the day Mrs Parks was due in court. She was fined \$10 (the equivalent of about \$70 in 2003), plus \$4 costs.

She challenged the verdict and the NAACP decided to use her case as a test against city and state segregation laws.

Later that same evening, the young preacher Martin Luther King addressed a crowd of several thousand at Holt Street Baptist Church and called for the boycott to continue.

Nearly all Montgomery's 40,000 black citizens took part in the bus boycott, which lasted for 381 days.

On 20 December the Supreme court upheld the decision of a lower court to end segregation on Alabama's buses. Mrs Parks was sacked from her job and in 1957 left Montgomery for Detroit following harassment. She later became a special assistant to Democratic congressman John Conyers until her retirement in 1988.

She died in October 2005 - an icon for the civil rights movement - almost exactly 50 years after her famous bus boycott began.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

<p>ARIES Mar. 21-Apr. 19</p> <p>Your self esteem will come back if you take part in organizational functions that allow you to be in the lime light. Be sure to use your charm and diplomacy when dealing with potential new clients.</p>	<p>TAURUS Apr. 20-May. 20</p> <p>Do something that will be stimulating and creative. If you put your energy into physical outlets you will avoid confrontations. Don't get involved in other people's private doings.</p>
<p>GEMINI May. 21-Jun. 21</p> <p>You'll be pleased with the results if you take the time to decorate your home. Opportunities to show your worth will enhance your reputation and bring possible advancement.</p>	<p>CANCER Jun. 22-Jul. 22</p> <p>Get involved in activities that will bring you knowledge about foreign land, philosophies, or cultures. Travel may change your attitudes with regard to your philosophy.</p>
<p>LEO Jul. 23-Aug. 22</p> <p>Your partner may blame you for everything. Spend a quiet day with the one you love. Someone you care about may not be too well.</p>	<p>VIRGO Aug. 23-Sep. 22</p> <p>Your emotional partner will push the right buttons today. Try a barbecue or a day at the beach. Try not to be overly generous.</p>
<p>LIBRA Sep. 23-Oct. 22</p> <p>You have to take hold of your life and make some crucial decisions. You can look into new jobs but don't count on getting help from someone who may have promised your assistance.</p>	<p>SCORPIO Oct. 23-Nov. 21</p> <p>You will be confused about the intentions of someone you work with. Spend time getting to know each other. You might find that a coworker has been two faced.</p>
<p>SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22-Dec. 21</p> <p>You need time to make things better. Don't get intimately involved with a coworker. Hassles with in-laws could put a damper on your day.</p>	<p>CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 19</p> <p>Pleasure trips will be a form of healing for your emotional state of mind. Strength will come from your ability to overtake just about any one.</p>
<p>AQUARIUS Jan. 20-Feb. 18</p> <p>Daydreaming will be your downfall. Travel for business or pleasure. Don't believe everything you hear. You can make excellent purchases today.</p>	<p>PISCES Feb. 19-Mar. 20</p> <p>You will tend to overeat today. Don't let someone you work with put words in your mouth. Consider selling your homemade crafts at the flea market.</p>

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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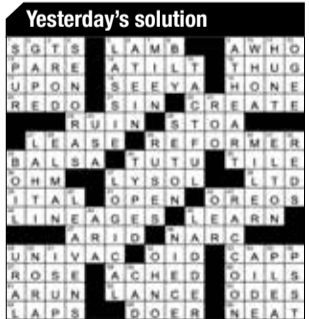
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-9	1	fine
Changchun	-18	-11	fine
Chengdu	4	7	cloudy
Chongqing	6	8	rain
Fuzhou	11	14	overcast
Guangzhou	9	12	rain
Guiyang	-1	1	rain
Haikou	19	22	rain
Hangzhou	1	4	rain
Harbin	-21	-11	fine
Hefei	-2	4	overcast
Nanjing	0	4	overcast
Shanghai	3	7	overcast
Taipei	16	18	rain
Wuhan	-1	2	overcast
Hong Hong	13	18	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	-12	-9	cloudy
Frankfurt	0	6	cloudy
Paris	4	7	cloudy
London	4	8	overcast
New York	-1	7	overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Mission control gp.; 5- More aloof; 10- Like some orders; 14- Oil-rich nation; 15- Mother of Perseus; 16- Cleveland's lake; 17- Meat substitute; 18- Festoon; 19- Bartlett's abbr.; 20- Meteorologist; 23- Dodge model; 24- Minute; 25- Starters; 28- ___ Mahal; 31- Plait; 35- Company of actors; 37- Hog; 39- Madrid Mrs.; 40- One recording the past; 44- ___-Wan Kenobi was a character in "Star Wars"; 45- Orch. section; 46- Take as an affront; 47- Logic; 50- One ___ time; 52- Borge's countrymen; 53- Roll call vote; 55- Winder for holding flexible material; 57- Freshman; 63- A party to; 64- Swedish imports; 65- Locks up; 67- Seedy joint; 68- Pineapple fiber; 69- Blind part; 70- Hang around; 71- Dutch painter Jan; 72- Rotate;

DOWN 1- It may be picked; 2- Get one's ducks in ___; 3- Call at home; 4- Scuba diver; 5- Spud state; 6- Rhythmic; 7- Are you ___ out?; 8- 1994 Costner role; 9- Continue a subscription; 10- One making fun; 11- The Ponte Vecchio crosses it; 12- Hero; 13- Spy novelist Deighton; 21- Rhythm; 22- Yank's foe; 25- Dumas dueler; 26- Clan; 27- Reddish dye; 29- To the left, at sea; 30- Dance; 32- Sallow; 33- Peace goddess; 34- Bar game; 36- Hesitant sounds; 38- Boxer's warning; 41- Give ___ rest; 42- Yellow-fever mosquito; 43- Writer of Hebrew prayers; 48- Capital of New South Wales; 49- Shoebox letters; 51- Fit for cultivation; 54- Upbeat, in music; 56- Ruhr city; 57- Military group; 58- Bright star; 59- Players; 60- Overdue; 61- Legal rights org.; 62- In the neighborhood; 63- Bartender's requests; 66- RR stop;



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MATCH OF THE DAY

MOROCCO LOOKS TO ADVANCE, CANADA NEEDS WIN

RONALD BLUM, DOHA

HIS nation on the verge of reaching the knockout stage of the World Cup for the first time since 1986, Morocco coach Walid Regragui downplayed his role.

"There are other coaches that like to make you think that they're magicians, they're the ones, they're puppeteers," Regragui said through a translator yesterday. "The players are the ones that make the coach and not the other way around."

Morocco would advance with a victory or a draw today [Thursday, 23:00] against already-eliminated Canada and also could reach the round of 16 with a loss depending on the result of Belgium's match with Croatia. The Atlas Lions opened with a 0-0 draw against Croatia before upsetting second-ranked Belgium 2-0 on goals by Romain Saïss and Zakaria Aboukhlal.

Regragui, who replaced Vahid Halilhodji in August, said if his tactics had not worked against Belgium, "it was something that probably would have had plenty of Morocco after my skin."

Morocco would play Spain,



Morocco's Yahya Jabrane (top) celebrates with Abdelhamid Sabiri (11) after Sabiri scored a goal during the group F soccer match between Belgium and Morocco

Germany, Japan or Costa Rica in the knockout stage. The North African team advanced in 1986 with 0-0 draws against Poland and England, followed by a 3-1 win over Portugal. West Germany won the round of 16 match 1-0 when Lothar Matthäus scored on a 30-yard free kick in the 88th minute.

Morocco and Canada have met once previously, a 4-0 victory by the Atlas Lions in a 2016 friendly as Hakim Ziyech scored twice.

Ziyech, a 29-year-old Chelsea midfielder, was dropped by Halilhodji but returned to the national team in September under Regragui after a 15-month absence.

"A lot of people talk about him,

about he is a crazy guy, he is a difficult guy to manage, he can't help the team," Regragui said. "For me, what I say, when you give him the love, the confidence, he can die for you. And it's what I give him. ... He is a big player, playing on a big team in Europe and you see he is a different player with the national team. All of the coaches give

him the confidence, the same with the staff."

Canada is 0-5 in World Cup play, failing to score in its only other appearance in 1986. After outplaying Belgium for most of their opener this year, but losing 1-0, they took an early lead against Croatia but lost 4-1.

Alphonso Davies scored Canada's first World Cup goal, putting the team ahead 68 seconds in with the fastest goal of this year's tournament.

"It could have been very easy to park the bus, to park the airplane in front of our net," Canada defender Steven Vitória said. "The future I think is very clear, very bright. And I know Canada is proud. I'm very excited for the growth of this team."

Morocco goalkeeper Yassine Bounou was feeling better and "he's ready for the game tomorrow," according to Regragui. Bounou felt ill before the game against Belgium and was replaced by Munir El Kajoui just before kickoff.

Canada coach John Herdman said he didn't shake hands with Zlako Dali after the Croatia game because the opposing coach had run down the sideline to celebrate with his players. Herdman said they exchanged a handshake pre-game.

Canada midfielder Stephen Eustáquio left at halftime against Croatia because of a hamstring injury. **MDT/AP**

MATCH OF THE DAY

Germany needs a win and help to avoid early exit

CIARÁN FAHEY, DOHA

AFTER getting a favor from Costa Rica, Germany needs a win against the Central American team today [Friday 03:00] to have any chance of reaching the knockout stages at the World Cup.

Costa Rica's surprise win over Japan on Sunday ensured Germany did not face the prospect of immediate elimination with a loss to Spain later that day. With the pressure off, Germany fought back from a goal down and drew 1-1 thanks to Niclas Füllkrug's late equalizer to postpone its fate to its final game in Group E.

Germany will advance to the round of 16 with a win if Spain also beats Japan in the other group game. Costa Rica controls its fate and will advance with a win.

"We didn't come to sit around and take pictures of Qatar," Costa Rica coach Luis Fernando Suárez said



Germany's goalkeeper Manuel Neuer: what now?!

before the tournament.

Even a draw would be enough for Costa Rica to reach the knockout stages if Spain beats Japan in the group's other game being played at the same time.

Spain leads Group E with four points after two games, followed by Japan

and Costa Rica both on three, while Germany has just one.

"We have a lot of humility," said Germany midfielder Thomas Müller, who pointed to the team's position in the table. "There isn't much reason to be really euphoric."

Müller said Germany's late draw against Spain provided a morale boost for the team, as well as the chance to get to the knockout stages and "show the football world what we're really made of."

Germany was in a similar situation at the last World Cup in Russia, where Joachim Löw's team lost its opening game 1-0 to Mexico before beating Sweden 2-1. A win against South Korea in the final group game would have ensured the defending champions progressed, but it slipped to a 2-0 loss and crashed out.

"Now we have to do it differently," Müller said.

"When the football world looks at Germany vs. Costa Rica, I think we're the favorite for those looking from the outside. It's clear we have to win. Naturally we have respect."

If Japan wins or draws it could go down to goal difference between Germany and Japan or Spain, depending on the result.

Costa Rica will go through with a win, while a draw will be enough if Japan loses.

"Costa Rica has shown two faces at this World Cup," Füllkrug said. "The game against Spain is difficult to evaluate. Then they made a nuisance of themselves in the second game against Japan. They had better positional play and let the ball run. We're prepared for them playing like they did against Japan."

MDT/AP

TODAY'S MATCHES

	Date	Time	Home	Away	ODDS
Thu	Dec 1	23:00	Croatia	Belgium	H 2.76, D 3.45, A 2.72
Thu	Dec 1	23:00	Canada	Morocco	H 3.65, D 3.5, A 2.2
Fri	Dec 2	3:00	Japan	Spain	H 8.8, D 4.8, A 1.44
Fri	Dec 2	3:00	Costa Rica	Germany	H 26, D 12, A 1.13

GROUP B

Pulisic goal advances US in World Cup with win over Iran

RONALD BLUM, DOHA

IRAN 0, USA 1

CHRISTIAN Pulisic kicked the ball, scored the goal and crashed into the goalkeeper, a collision that sent the American star to a hospital and the United States into the second round of the World Cup.

More than an hour later, he contacted his teammates by FaceTime to join the celebration.

Pulisic's 38th-minute goal had held up, and the United States had beaten Iran 1-0 on Tuesday night in their politically charged rematch to advance to the World Cup's knockout stage.

"Every single player is ready to lay their body on the line to make sure this team is successful," midfielder Weston McKennie said.

After finishing second in Group B with five points, two behind England, the U.S. plays the Netherlands on Saturday with the chance to reach the quarterfinals for the first time since 2002.

"I always say it's us against the world," winger Tim Weah said,



Christian Pulisic of the United States lies on the pitch after scoring as teammates Sergino Dest (left) and Josh Sargent celebrate victory goal

"cause no one believed that the U.S. could play good football."

Back in the World Cup after missing the 2018 tournament, the U.S. needed a victory to reach the round of 16. Iran finished third in the group with three points and has failed to advance in six World Cup appearances.

"The dream is over," Iran coach Carlos Queiroz said.

McKenzie started the play for the goal when he lofted the ball from just past the center circle to Sergiño Dest at the edge of the 6-yard box. Dest headed the ball in front of the net on a bounce as Pulisic charged up the center of the

field past Ramin Rezaeian and Majid Hosseini.

Twisting his body, Pulisic redirected the ball with his right foot for his 22nd international goal and first in World Cup play. His momentum carried him into goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand.

"Christian makes those runs.

That's what he does. That's the special quality he has," U.S. coach Gregg Berhalter said. "As soon as the ball is wide, he goes in with intensity to the penalty box and good things happen."

Pulisic was sprawled on the field and for about three minutes as he received treatment. He tried to continue playing but was substituted at the start of the second half and taken by athletic trainer Harris Patel for abdominal scans at Hamad General Hospital, where Pulisic followed the game on phone apps. The U.S. Soccer Federation said Pulisic was diagnosed with a pelvic contusion, returned to the team hotel and is day to day.

"I sent him a text and checked on him, and he said, 'Best believe I'll be ready on Saturday,'" McKennie said.

Weah nearly doubled the lead in the seventh minute of first-half stoppage time but was ruled offside.

Raucous Iranian fans with horns and drums in the crowd of 42,127 filled the lower bowl behind one goal at Al Thumama Stadium, a circular venue shaped like a gahfiya, a traditional hat.

While the U.S. outshot Iran 9-0 in the first half, Iran had a 4-3 advantage in the second, knowing it needed only a draw to advance. Berhalter inserted Walker Zimmerman in the 82nd minute and shifted to a five-man defense.

Nine minutes of stoppage time were added to havoc but no change was produced. **MDT/AP**

GROUP A

Netherlands beats host to reach last 16

ANDREW DAMPF,
AL KHOR

NETHERLANDS 2, QATAR 0

THE Netherlands still has a long way to go to match the "total football" teams of the 1970s, or even the more offensive "Oranje" squads that reached the World Cup final in 2010 and finished third in 2014.

Still, a 2-0 win over Qatar yesterday [Macau time] ensured the Dutch advanced to the round of 16 by finishing first in Group A while the Qataris, who were already eliminated, became the first host to lose all three of its group matches at the World Cup.

"If you play against Qatar everybody will think and expect that you'll win 5-0 or more, but this tournament has shown that it's very difficult," Netherlands midfielder Davy Klaassen, who earned player of the match honors, said through an interpreter.



Lead scorer Cody Gakpo of the Netherlands celebrates after scoring his side's opening goal

"We're very critical of ourselves and we need to improve," Klaassen added. "But we have progressed and we're going to move on."

Cody Gakpo put the Netherlands ahead midway through the first half with his third goal in as many matches and Frenkie de Jong doubled the advantage five minutes into the second half.

The Netherlands, a three-time runner-up at the World Cup, will next face the

United States for a spot in the quarterfinals.

Qatar, which was making its tournament debut, won the 2019 Asian Cup. But the team's Spanish coach, Félix Sánchez, said that the Asian Cup can't be compared to the World Cup.

"We came here trying to compete and we managed to do that," Sánchez said, adding that he wasn't sure about his future status with the team.

"One of the things about

our national team is that we have a long-term plan that doesn't depend on me or anyone else," Sánchez said. "We're going to rest for a few days and we're going to keep working and planning."

The Netherlands, which failed to qualify for the 2018 World Cup, finished with seven points at the top of the group. Senegal, which beat Ecuador 2-1 in the other group game, advanced in second place with six points. Ecuador was eliminated

with four points and Qatar ended up with zero.

The attendance at Al Bayt Stadium, which also hosted Qatar's loss to Ecuador in the tournament opener, was given as 66,784 — nearly at full capacity. There were small pockets of orange-clad Netherlands supporters, and Qatar fans behind one of the goals chanted in unison and jumped up and down.

At one point during the second half, Qatar fans held aloft a large Palestinian flag that said "Free Palestine" on it.

In the 26th minute, Gakpo took control outside the area, dribbled forward and unleashed a powerful side-footed shot between two defenders that entered inside the right post.

Gakpo became the fourth Dutch player to score in three consecutive World Cup games after Johan

Neeskens (1974), Dennis Bergkamp (1994) and Wesley Sneijder (2010). He also became only the second player to open the scoring for his team three times in the same group stage after Alessandro Altobelli for Italy in 1986.

"Cody Gakpo has everything it takes to become a star," 71-year-old Netherlands coach Louis van Gaal said. "Plus he has a wonderful personality. He's open minded to everything."

De Jong's goal came when he sprinted forward uncontested to knock in a rebound from close range following a shot from Memphis Depay.

A possible third goal for the Netherlands by Steven Berghuis was waved off following a video review for a handball in the buildup.

Berghuis then hit the bar in added time. **MDT/AP**

SCOREBOARD

Group A	Ecuador	1	2	Senegal
Group A	Netherlands	2	0	Qatar
Group B	Wales	0	3	England
Group B	Iran	0	1	United States

East-meets-West exhibition at Sands Gallery



SANDS China recently held an opening ceremony for Ink Wash • Abstraction, the latest exhibition at Sands Gallery, at the Grand Suites at Four Seasons.

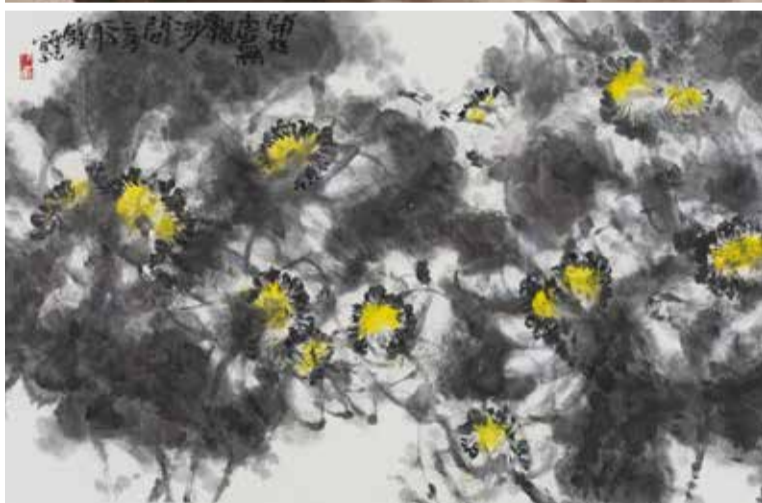
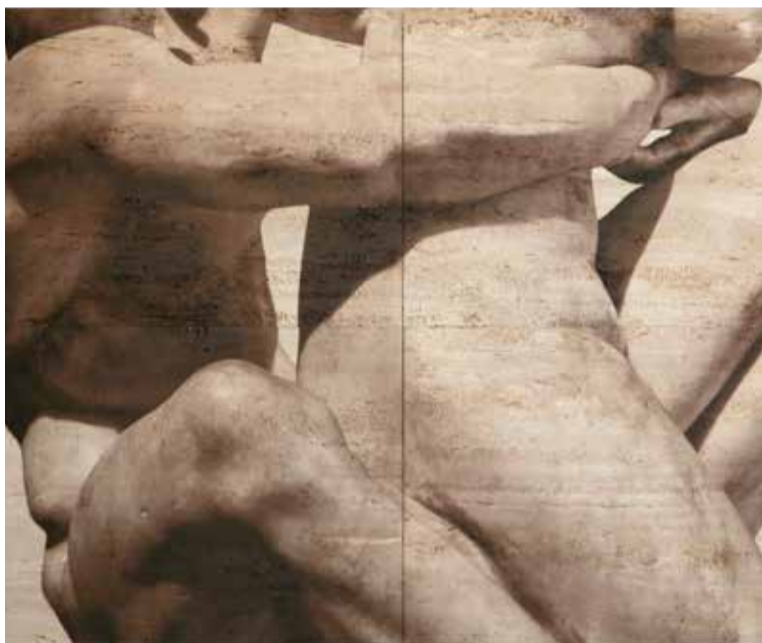
With aims to offer a high-class exhibition space for artists to exchange their ideas and display their work, the gallery has invited China's Feng Zhongyun and Italy's Elisa Sighicelli to showcase more than 30 imaginative works.

Integrating Chinese contemporary ink painting and Italian abstract photography, Ink Wash • Abstraction is the first joint exhibition in Asia by Feng and Sighicelli, two artists with very different styles, creating an unexpected East-meets-West encounter between ink paintings and subtle photographic images that forms a perfect harmony.

"It [the exhibition] is an inspiring display of artistic mastery, and we hope the spirits of exploration of these talented professionals – Feng Zhongyun and Elisa Sighicelli – will bring an impressive feast for the eyes to visitors," said Dr. Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd.

To echo the government's target to promote Tourism+, Sands China has pledged to invest more resources into inviting renowned local and international artists of different art forms to host exhibitions at the gallery.

The public can enjoy the unique and engaging visual styles of Feng and Sighicelli at Sands Gallery from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily until Jan. 8, 2023.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

PEOPLE

McConaughey, Kunis among mag's 'People of the Year'

MATTHEW McCaughey, Mila Kunis, Jennifer Hudson and "Abbott Elementary" creator and star Quinta Brunson have been named People magazine's 2022 "People of the Year."

The magazine unveiled its annual list Wednesday [today, Macau time], with Editor in Chief Wendy Naugle explaining this year's honorees were selected because of their efforts to help others.

McConaughey was chosen for his advocacy efforts after the Uvalde school shooting rocked his hometown. Kunis was lauded for her fundraising — which People said has topped \$37 million — for Ukraine,



Film star Matthew McConaughey

where she was born.

Hudson and Brunson were honored for their onscreen work. Hudson, who launched a daytime talk show this year, was cited for her efforts to

create an inclusive show where everyone felt welcome. Brunson's "Abbott Elementary," a critical hit that turned her into an Emmy winner, was praised as a show that

brought many joy and showed that different generations can work well together.

Each of the honorees are featured on a special cover that highlights their contributions. Kunis' includes the quote, "I'm proud to be from Ukraine," while Brunson includes her statement: "I'm a sign that times are changing."

McConaughey's proclaims, "We have to do better for our kids," while Hudson's says, "I'm living my dream — and learning as I go."

Previous People honorees have included George Clooney, Regina King, Dr. Anthony Fauci, Sandra Oh, Selena Gomez and Simone Biles. This year's special editions will be released Friday. **MDT/AP**



ROCK 'N ROLL

ROLLING STONES TO RELEASE STAR-STUFFED 2012 LIVE RECORDING

THE Rolling Stones plan to release what they're calling their "ultimate live greatest hits album," with appearances by Lady Gaga, Bruce Springsteen, Gary Clark Jr. and The Black Keys, early next year.

"GRRR Live!" contains songs recorded live on Dec. 15, 2012, at Newark, New Jersey's Prudential Center. That night saw guest appearances by The Black Keys ("Who Do You Love?"), Clark and John Mayer ("Going Down"), Lady Gaga ("Gimme Shelter"), Mick Taylor ("Midnight Rambler") and

hometown hero Bruce Springsteen ("Tumbling Dice").

Shown on pay-per-view in 2012, the concert has not otherwise been available to fans until now.

It also features some of the band's greatest hits, including "It's Only Rock 'n' Roll (But I Like It)," "Honky Tonk Women," "Start Me Up," "Sympathy For the Devil" and "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction."

The 24-track collection will be released on Feb. 10 in vinyl, CD, DVD, digital and Blu-ray formats. **MDT/AP**

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FOOTBALL | BASKETBALL | DAILY TRAININGS

OPINION

China Daily
Editorial, China Daily

TIANGONG SPACE STATION OPEN TO WORLD

After years of efforts, China's space station will soon be fully operational.

Over the past 19 years, from China's first manned space mission Shenzhou V to the latest Shenzhou XV launch, the nation's space endeavors have progressed from a single-astronaut mission to the long-term stay of several astronauts in space. The number of astronauts one spaceship can carry has increased from one to three, and the length of time the astronauts stay in space has expanded from just 23 hours to six months.

When the Shenzhou XV spacecraft docks with the space station, the three astronauts already crewing the station will hand it over to the three new arrivals before returning to Earth. During the weeklong transition period there will be six people living in the space station.

China's space progress has been accelerating. It took eight years to go from Shenzhou V to the Tiangong I space lab, and five years from Tiangong I to the more advanced space lab Tiangong II. During that process the program advanced so rapidly that a planned Tiangong III was incorporated into Tiangong II.

Similarly, the Long March 2F Y15 rocket, which carried the Shenzhou XV spacecraft into space, has 45 technological improvements over its predecessor which carried Shenzhou XIV, completing the upgrading and optimization of the Long March 2F rocket series.

Likewise, after the Tianhe core module of the space station was put into orbit in April last year, it took only a year and a half for the two laboratory modules to be attached, forming a Chinese space station complex that comprises the core module and two lab modules.

With the arrival of the Shenzhou XV spacecraft and its crew, the Chinese space station will open a new chapter for China's space program, as the astronauts will conduct a series of scientific experiments in space. More than 40 space science and technology experiments will be conducted by the Shenzhou XV astronauts. And with more scientific research equipment to be sent to the space station it will be equivalent to having a world-class university laboratory in space.

A number of space science projects China jointly selected with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and European Space Agency are planned, and the relevant payloads will begin to be sent to the Chinese space station next year. Requests have also been received from several countries to send astronauts to participate in the space station experiments, and China is coordinating with the relevant parties and actively preparing for the training of foreign astronauts.

The International Space Station has conducted over 3,000 experiments during its time in service, and the Chinese space station will be no slouch in this regard. As the only space station after the ISS is retired, it will continue to expand humanity's understanding of space. That is worth looking forward to.

REPORT: AUTHORITARIANISM ON THE RISE AS DEMOCRACY WEAKENS

THE BUZZ

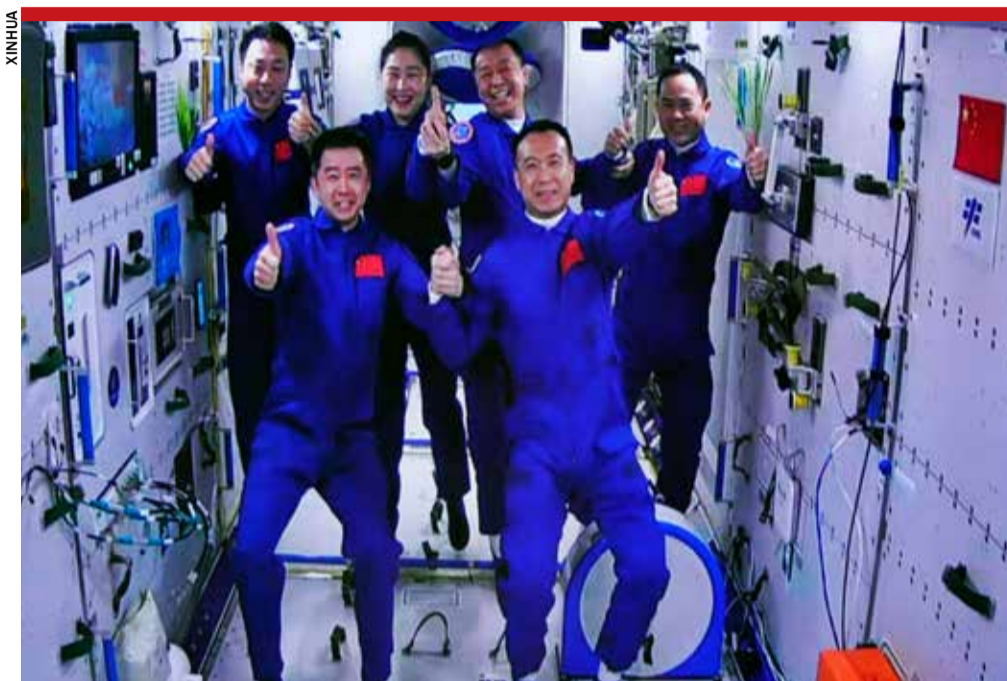
Democracy is being degraded around the world because people are losing faith in the legitimacy of elections and see freedom of expression being stymied, among a range of other problems, according to a global body founded to promote democracy worldwide.

The 34 member-country International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, or International IDEA, said in a report that the decline in democratic rule is being fueled by efforts to undermine credible election results, widespread disillusionment among youth over political parties and their out-of-touch leaders as well as the rise of right-wing extremism that has polarized politics.

The Stockholm-based organization said in its annual Global Report on the State of the Democracy that the number of countries moving toward authoritarianism is more than double those moving toward democracy and that authoritarian regimes worldwide have deepened their repression, with 2021 being the worst year on record.

Authoritarianism is gaining in countries like Afghanistan, Belarus, Cambodia, the Indian Ocean island nation of Comoros and Nicaragua.

The 64-page report that measures democratic performance in 173 nations, concluded that progress within democratically-run countries has stalled over the last five years.



A screen at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center shows the Shenzhou-15 and Shenzhou-14 crew taking a group picture after a historic gathering in space yesterday

CHINESE SPACESHIP WITH THREE ABOARD DOCKS WITH SPACE STATION

THREE Chinese astronauts docked early yesterday with their country's space station, where they will overlap for several days with the three-member crew already onboard and expand the facility to its maximum size.

Docking with the Tiangong station came at 5:42 a.m. Wednesday, about 6 1/2 hours after the Shenzhou-15 spaceship blasted off atop a Long March-2F carrier rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center.

The six-month mission, commanded by Fei Junlong and crewed by Deng Qingming and Zhang Lu, will be the last in the station's construction phase, according to the China Manned Space Agency. The station's third and final module docked earlier this month, one of the last steps in China's effort to maintain a constant crewed presence in orbit.

The crew of the Shenzhou-15 will spend several days working with the existing three-member crew of the Tiangong station, who will return to Earth after their six-month mission.

Fei, 57, is a veteran of the 2005 four-day Shenzhou-6 mission, the second time China sent a human into space. Deng and Zhang are

making their first space flights.

The station has now expanded to its maximum size, with three modules and three spacecraft attached for a total mass of nearly 100 tons.

Tiangong can accommodate six astronauts at a time and the handover will take about a week. That marks the station's first in-orbit crew rotation.

China has not yet said what further work is needed to complete the station. Next year, it plans to launch the Xuntian space telescope, which, while not part of Tiangong, will orbit in sequence with the station and can dock occasionally with it for maintenance.

Without the attached spacecraft, the Chinese space station weighs about 66 tons — a fraction of the International Space Station, which launched its first module in 1998 and weighs around 465 tons.

With a lifespan of 10 to 15 years, Tiangong could one day be the only space station still up and running if the International Space Station retires in the coming years as planned.

While China's crewed space program is officially three decades old this year, it truly got underway in

2003, when China became only the third country after the U.S. and Russia to put a human into space using its own resources.

The program is run by the ruling Communist Party's military wing, the People's Liberation Army, and has proceeded almost entirely without outside support. The U.S. excluded China from the International Space Station because of its program's military ties, although China has engaged in limited cooperation with other nations' space agencies.

China has also chalked up uncrewed mission successes: Its Yutu 2 rover was the first to explore the little-known far side of the moon.

China's Chang'e 5 probe also returned lunar rocks to Earth in December 2020 for the first time since the 1970s, and another Chinese rover is searching for evidence of life on Mars.

Officials are reporting considering an eventual crewed mission to the moon, although no timeline has been offered, even as NASA presses ahead with its Artemis lunar exploration program that aims to send four astronauts around the moon in 2024 and land humans there as early as 2025. MDT/AP



Germany A court convicted a 39-year-old man of murder yesterday in the shooting deaths of two police officers who had stopped him and an accomplice earlier this year on suspicion of poaching. Fatal attacks on police are rare in Germany and the killings of the two young officers prompted widespread outrage and condemnation. A regional court in the city of Kaiserslautern sentenced the defendant, who was identified only as Andreas S. due to privacy rules, to life imprisonment



German police searched homes and questioned suspects as part of an annual nationwide crackdown against online hate speech, authorities said. Police carried out 91 operations in 14 German states. In the central state of Hesse, officers investigated three women and six men, ages 17 to 72, prosecutors said. The country's top security official, Nancy Faeser (pictured), said that crimes committed on social media, messaging apps and Internet forums provide "fertile ground for extremist violence."



Egypt The debate over who owns ancient artifacts has been an increasing challenge to museums across Europe and America, and the spotlight has fallen on the most visited piece in the British Museum: The Rosetta stone. The inscriptions on the dark grey granite slab became the seminal breakthrough in deciphering ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics after it was taken from Egypt by forces of the British empire in 1801.