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

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IN A VIDEO TALK ORGANIZED BY USJ, SCIENCE JOURNALIST TERESA FIRMINO ADMITS THE MOST CHALLENGING PART OF THE JOB IS TO SIMPLIFY SCIENCE JARGON

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POLICE DETAINED AND OUSTED A TOTAL OF 416 PEOPLE FROM MACAU BETWEEN JANUARY 3 AND 31, ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL STATS

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AP PHOTO



China The head of the national soccer federation has been arrested on corruption charges in the latest blow to the country's effort to grow its standing at home and internationally. A one-sentence statement from the ruling Communist Party's anti-graft watchdog body said Chen Shuyuan (pictured) had been placed under investigation by national and Hubei provincial sports bodies. No details were given about the accusations against him.

AP PHOTO



New Zealand A cyclone that left a devastating wake of extensive flooding and landslides in New Zealand has claimed at least four lives and police have "grave concerns" for other residents who remain unaccounted for, the prime minister said yesterday. Cyclone Gabrielle struck the country's north on Monday and has brought more destruction to this nation of 5 million than any weather event in decades.

AP PHOTO



United Nations chief warned that global sea levels have risen faster since 1900 and their relentless increase puts countries like Bangladesh, China, India and the Netherlands at risk and acutely endangers nearly 900 million people living in low-lying coastal areas. In a grim speech to the Security Council, Antonio Guterres declared that sea levels will rise significantly even if global warming is "miraculously" limited to 1.5 degrees Celsius, the elusive international goal.

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FIFA invested over \$13 million in Macau Football Association since 2016

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PRICING, RELATED REFERENCE UNDETERMINED IN SANDWICH HOUSING BILL

ANTHONY LAM

ALTHOUGH the overall direction of pricing future Sandwich-class Housing will be dependent on private property prices, details will only be determined in subsequent Executive Regulations.

This information was disclosed by lawmaker Vong Hin Fai, president of the parliament's Third Standing Committee, which met with competent government officials yesterday morning on the Sandwich-class Housing Bill.

In previous meetings, the Committee was repeatedly assured that the future housing will be of a private property nature. This means the property can be resold privately after the blackout period of 16 years provided the government does not opt to exercise its priority privilege.

However, the housing cannot be called completely private as the government will initiate the investment. It will also initiate the maintenance fund for major projects by putting 2% of the total construction costs and the land premium as a first investment, making it a pseudo-private type of property.

The pricing of the future type of housing will be determined as against private realty in the neighborhood. That is, prices of private properties will be taken as reference points and a certain portion of deduction will be imposed, which will consequently produce the price of the Sandwich-class Housing.



When future owners want to trade their properties on the market after the blackout period, they will need to pay the deducted portion.

The portion of deduction will be determined by the Chief Executive in the form of Executive Dispatch. The scope of reference areas will also be determined by future Executive Regulations or Dispatch.

Vong was asked if any comments were made on the determination of the scope of reference areas, for the fact that Macau is a small place and a slight geographic difference can result in enormous difference in property prices. He admitted that similar concerns were raised at yesterday's meeting too.

In addition, the scope of use and the mode of trigger of the fund will also be determined by

the future Chief Executives.

Vong emphasized that the latter topic will be supervised by a "rigid" procedure. For example, he said, when money needs to be withdrawn from the fund for repairment projects, relevant laws will be abided with and the approval from competent government supervisory departments – whose authorities will be determined by the Chief Executive – must be obtained.

What is unclear is whether this fund can be used for projects not related to residential sections of the housing estate, according to Vong. He pointed out that within a housing estate, there will surely be commercial spaces, parking lots and other public facilities.

Negotiations on this topic will continue between the parliament's legal team and the government's, Vong concluded.

Some Committee members wondered why prices will not be evaluated against the cost.

Furthermore, certain Committee members also expressed concerns over the timing of price evaluation, which is not mentioned in the Bill.

For example, Vong said, fluctuations in property prices are not uncommon but in fact ordinary. "Over a period of years, prices of private property in a district can rise to a new peak or drop to a new trough," Vong said, to prove that the timing of evaluation will be very important to reflect fairness.

Consequently, the Committee reminded the government to either include the point of time for price evaluation in the Bill, or to promise to make Executive Regulations in the future to determine the timing.

Vong disclosed that the government reiterated in yesterday's meeting the "private" nature of the future type of housing. This explained why the government wants to evaluate prices against nearby private properties, Vong cited government officials as saying.

Vong did not say if the government had made any comments on the time of price evaluation, but disclosed that there was some disagreement among Committee members on the mode of price evaluation, with some demanding the Economic Housing mode and others the currently proposed mode.

The current Bill has no propo-

sal on the standards which the Chief Executive should follow to make the aforementioned determinations.

The Bill proposed that during the application period, if the lead applicant withdraws from the household due to death or divorce, the application will be voided. Nonetheless, if there is another person in the household who is eligible for a Sandwich-class Housing application, the application will be considered active. However, the replacement applicant must be within the household when the application is first made.

The Committee also discovered some discrepancies between proposals in this Bill and provisions in the Economic Housing Law. Article 25 of this Bill proposes that after signing the contract of intent, if the interested buyer withdraw from the transaction, they will not be punished or fined. This proposal is different from the latter law, which requires the drop-out buyer to pay 1% of the price of the concerned unit as a service charge or fine.

Considering this prospective financial burden on the government, the Committee raised this to the government, which said it would consider the topic. Vong emphasized that this is to protect the government's interests.

The Committee concluded studying Articles 21 to 27 of the 54-article Bill yesterday morning. Vong said the Committee would strive to finish reviewing the entire Bill in the next meeting.

CRIME

PJ bust two liquid cocaine traffickers

STAFF REPORTER

TWO Malaysian residents flying in from Singapore were arrested last night after being found with 18 bottles of liquid cocaine that were disguised as red wine. In a press conference held at the airport last night, authorities believe that the

27 liters of liquid cocaine amount to some MOP50 million, as cited in a TDM report.

The suspects arrived the city at 5 p.m. yesterday via Singapore and were intercepted by authorities after being found with over a dozen of red wine bottles in their luggages.

The arrest also came in

on the second day of resumption of flights from Kuala Lumpur to Macau.

Following investigations, the PJ revealed that the suspects were employed by a Malaysian drug syndicate and were paid HKD5,000 for trafficking it to the city.

Authorities also believe that the drugs were origi-

nally planned to be transferred to other regions via Macau, according to the report.

With the gradual resumption of overseas flights, the Judiciary Police (PJ) pledged that it will strengthen customs inspection and improve strategy in fighting drug trafficking.



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MacauDaily 澳門每日時報 * 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 Torrao, 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 Segui DESIGNER_Miguel Bandeira | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS_JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES_Associated Press, MacauHub, MacaoNews, 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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Macau to receive additional USD8m from FIFA to develop local football

RENATO MARQUES

THE Macau Football Association (MFA) will receive a new cash subsidy from the governing body of world football – FIFA – under the program FIFA Forward 3.0.

The announcement was made by FIFA after yesterday's FIFA Council that discussed the revenues generated by the sport in the period between 2019-2022 as well as expected revenues for the upcoming 4-year period (2023-2026).

In the meeting, FIFA's president Gianni Infantino announced an increase of 29% of the subsidy handed to national federations for the development of the sport (Forward 2.0), which will see the amount rise from the previous USD7 million to USD8 million (MOP64.7 million) for the upcoming four years.

According to the report, the previously distributed MOP56.6 million (2019-2022) was mostly spent on funding MFA's new headquarters, which according to FIFA will accommodate a total of 50 employees who will work to support the delivery of a long-term local strategic football development plan.

To inspect the status of such work, a FIFA delegation recently



visited Macau, having the opportunity to assist with the recent Chinese New Year Tournament, held at Taipa's Olympic Stadium over first weekend of this month.

The delegation was led by the director of FIFA Member Associations, Asia & Oceania, Sanjeevan Balasingam, and Regional Office Development Manager, Lavin Vignesh.

After the meeting, and noting the results obtained in the last

four-year period, Infantino said, "FIFA's unprecedented investment in football is the result of our solid financial transparency and stands as a concrete example of how we are aiming to make football truly global," adding, "the resounding success of the FIFA World Cup 2022 in Qatar has been key to the organization's ability to fulfill its mission concerning our member associations and the world of football, despite the mul-

iple challenges we faced during the past cycle, not least the Covid-19 pandemic."

FIFA INVESTED OVER USD13M IN MFA SINCE 2016

According to FIFA, the organization has, since 2016 and through the FIFA Forward program as well as the FIFA Covid-19 Relief Fund, invested more than USD13 million (MOP105.1 million) "into infrastructure, daily operational

costs, and national team travel for both men's and women's national teams in Macau."

As for the new MFA HQ, FIFA states that it is located in downtown Macau and includes 935 square meters of office space that will "cater to the growing operations, activities, and needs of the association, in line with MFA's long-term football development plans."

During his visit to Macau, Sanjeevan Balasingam said, "FIFA is proud to celebrate this milestone with the MFA today, as the Chinese New Year Cup 2023 welcomed back international club teams and fans to the Macau Olympic stadium for the first time post the Covid-19 pandemic," adding, "the pandemic severely affected Macau and the East Asia region. On a small peninsular like Macau where land is scarce, it is still vitally important that the MFA can have a fully functioning headquarters. This will enable them to continue to propel football forward through development initiatives ranging from grassroots to elite football."

At the same opportunity, the vice president of the MFA, Chong Coc Veng, also said, "during these difficult times, we focused on strategic planning to develop football in Macau, as one of FIFA's smallest member associations. Undoubtedly, without FIFA's financial support through the Covid-19 Relief Programme and the constant support and advice from FIFA's regional office, this landmark day when football officially returned to Macau would not have been possible."

STATS

Police ousted 416 people from Macau in January

RENATO MARQUES

THE Public Security Police Force (PSP) detained and ousted a total of 416 people from Macau in the period between January 3 and 31, the Unitary Police Service (SPU) revealed in a release related to the so-called "Winter Prevention Operation."

According to the figures released, during this operation and with the participation of all police forces, including the Customs of Macao (SA), the authorities identified 62,241 people. From these, 1,186 were taken to police stations for investigation; 416 cases resulted in deportation from Macau, mostly due to overstaying.

This anti-crime opera-



tion lasted for the whole month of January and is usually conducted before and during the period of the Lunar New Year. In this iteration, the SPU mobilized a total of 7,453 police officers.

Apart from the 416 cases of expulsion from Macau, 302 others were referred to the Public Prosecutor's Office for prosecution

for crimes related to usury (10 people), narcotics (5 people), theft (26 people), fraud (56 people), and others.

Additionally, 95 people were intercepted and delivered to the judiciary authorities as they were escaping from arrest warrants issued by judicial bodies. In three of these cases, the people were sent im-

mediately to the Coloane prison to serve their sentences.

The police forces also indicted 167 others for being involved in activities of illicit currency exchange, one person related to an illegal loan, and 15 people related to prostitution. While prostitution is not a crime in Macau, those that practice it are mostly tourists and it is therefore targeted as illegal.

During the same period, the SA launched several operations to combat smuggling, illegal immigration, and importing of counterfeit products in cooperation with Mainland Customs. In this operation, 433 people were caught and charged under the "Foreign Trade Law."

These included illegal import of cosmetic products, meat, electronic products, endangered species of plants and their products, cigarettes, and alcoholic beverages, among others.

CRIME

MAN ARRESTED FOR INJURING TODDLER, PREGNANT WIFE

A 25-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly physically assaulting his pregnant wife and his 15-month-old daughter, the Judiciary Police (PJ) announced yesterday morning.

The PJ has reported similar cases of domestic violence two days in a row.

Similar to the case announced on Tuesday, this latest case was referred to the PJ by the Public Security Police Force (PSP).

According to the police, the suspect reportedly works as a service agent in the catering trade. The family lives in an apartment in the Northern district.

During the early hours of Valentine's Day, the man responded to his infant daughter crying by pun-

ching the front and back of her head. Subsequently, the toddler started bleeding from the mouth, the nose and the head. Other family members intervened to prevent him causing further harm to the baby.

Forensic examinations were conducted on the injuries but deemed hospitalization unnecessary.

The PJ later discovered that similar assaults had happened previously.

The pregnant wife is in her twenties and has reported that on Feb. 1, the couple had an argument and the husband punched her in the abdomen. Fortunately, the fetus was not harmed.

The man reportedly has a history of beating his wife. **AL**

PUBLIC WORKS

GOV'T RECEIVES SIX BIDS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE NORTHERN SECTION OF LRT EAST LINE

RENATO MARQUES

THE Public Works Bureau (DSOP) has received a total of six bids for the construction of the section north of the Macau Light Rapid Transit (LRT) East Line that will connect Pac On in Taipa to Border Gate, passing through the Zone A of the new landfills.

The number, price, and duration of the works proposed were unveiled yesterday in a bid opening ceremony held at the DSOP.

According to the information released, the bid price range is between MOP4.473 billion and MOP5.136 billion and the overall design and construction time is of 1,350 working days.



The DSOP has also indicated that it hopes the construction can start as early as the second half of this year.

These bids refer only to the northern part of the East Line,

which is the section that starts at the Border Gate and goes until the fourth LRT station located midway into the Zone A of the new landfills with a total length of 2.9 kilometers.

As for the southern section, the longer one (4.8 km) that includes a sea-crossing tunnel section to link the line to the Pac On area in Taipa, the government has launched a se-

parate tender. The proposals for this tender will be unveiled today.

Both public tenders were launched in October last year.

When it is complete, the East Line will have a total of 7.7 km interlinking, the Border Gate, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge Port (through a separate line), and the Taipa Ferry Terminal and the Airport (via the existing Taipa Line) facilitating the connection between four large entry and exit ports of Macau.

The government has previously announced that it would make use of separate tenders for the two different sections of the line to save time and money, especially in the bidding process. This method also allows the construction to be attributed to two different contractors or consortiums at the same time which will put more resources simultaneously on the ground, accelerating the construction process from the ends to the meeting point.

The government expects that the East Line of the LRT will be completed and ready to enter into operation in 2028.

Tourism subsidy plans for Taiwan arrivals underway

STAFF REPORTER

TOURISM is expected to thrive in Macau after the resumption of Taiwan-Macau travel and international flights, said Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, director of the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO).

Macau and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) passport holders will be re-admitted by Taiwan for individual travel from Feb. 20, the island's authorities announced Tuesday.

In a statement, the Mainland Affairs Council of Taiwan disclosed that from 9 a.m. on Feb. 20, online applications for temporary stay permits to Taiwan will resume for SAR passport holders.

Following the announcement, the MGTO confirmed that the 120,000 air tickets giveaway, which was announced recently to boost arrivals to Macau, will be extended to Taiwanese tourists after the flights resume.

According to Senna Fernandes, Taiwan was the third tourist source for Macau prior to the pandemic. For better promotion of tourism in Macau, the government will invite Taiwan tourism practitioners as well as foreign travel agencies on familiarization trips.

Additionally, two subsidy plans for Taiwan and the foreign market are in progress. The subsidy for foreign groups will require at least one overnight stay by the tourist, with a higher amount than that for mainland travelers.

After the three-year suspension of Macau-related flights during the pandemic, the first AirAsia flight to Macau arrived Feb. 14 from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Approximately 200,000 Malaysian tourists came to Macau annually before the pandemic, of which 60% stayed overnight, said the director of the MGTO, who participated in the wel-

come ceremony for passengers from Kuala Lumpur Tuesday night.

She expects more foreign visitors as international flights to Macau resume. AirAsia flights to and from Macau will resume gradually, with flights to Bangkok (Don Mueang) and the Philippines beginning on February 18 and March 2, respectively.

According to the official, the government is considering increasing the proportion of air tickets given away to foreign tourists. The air ticket giveaway is specifically for Air Macau tickets, primarily in the form of a "buy one, get one free" offer.



CHINA DEEPENS CUSTOMS COOPERATION TO FACILITATE GBA GROWTH

IT will be safer and easier for personnel, goods, and articles to travel and circulate in China's Greater Bay Area, as a new arrangement was signed on Tuesday to deepen customs cooperation on risk management.

The arrangement, signed by the General Administration of Customs (GAC) and customs authorities in Hong Kong, aims to faci-

litate the high-quality development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area.

Authorities will share risk information, conduct joint analysis, and synergize their operations to forestall and crack down on the illegal imports and exports of drugs, guns and explosives, endangered species of animals and plants, and cultural relics, said the

GAC, adding that there will be strong deterrence against trafficking.

Risk prevention and control will be more targeted and precise to improve trade safety and facilitate customs clearing, according to the authorities.

GAC data shows that the mainland's trade with Hong Kong totaled more than 2.04 trillion yuan in 2022. **MDT/XINHUA**

Science journalist emphasizes simplification of jargons in news

ANTHONY LAM

A Portuguese science journalist admitted that the most challenging part of the job is to simplify science jargons to commoner language that most people can understand.

The University of Saint Joseph has recently invited Teresa Firmino, science journalist at Portuguese newspaper Público in Portugal. She holds a Master's degree in mass media communication and has studied science journalism at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA.

Her comment was made in response to a question raised by the Times, about how science jargons can be presented in a sensible manner to common readers who may not be amply trained to understand certain top scientific concepts, such as quantum physics, geology and astronomy.

To which, she said that in



Teresa Firmino, science journalist

many circumstances, jargons have to be used and must be retained, for the fact that it is the essence of the concept, hinting that other lexicons will not convey a meaning as accurate.

"However, jargons must be decoded," she said. Her sugges-

tion is that jargons must be explained, but the interpretation of them must be accurate to avoid misunderstanding.

On the question if science journalists should study science in tertiary education institutions to perform better in the jobs, Fir-

mino admitted that having formal education in the discipline is best. However, at the end of the day, after writing so many articles and talking to so many people, a science journalist will be able to understand a lot more on the topic than on the first day.

Related to this, the journalist emphasized that whatever being included in an article must be first understood by the writer. Should there be any confusion or illiteracy, the part of the information should either be discarded, or a professional explanations be sought.

Furthermore, she highlighted that after all, science journalists are journalists rather than scientists. They are usually more concerned with and more proficient in news or article writing, in contrast to experimenting in the laboratory.

With that said, the accuracy of science news stories or feature articles must be prioritized and is prominent.

While speaking to an audience over the Internet, she disclosed that she would not allow her interviewees or sources to view the article before being published because it either constitute to or invite self-censorship. She admitted that sometimes scientists do prefer a tone of writing to another, but this is within the authority of the writer. The goal is to present facts.

She also reminded that slimming processes are necessary for many details included in a research may not be understandable or appealing to laypeople.

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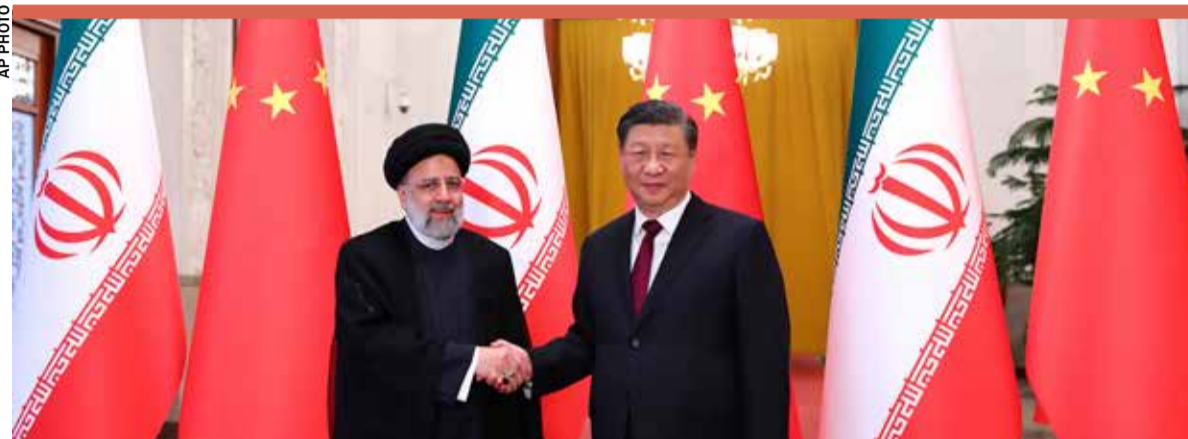
XI EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR IRAN AMID WESTERN PRESSURE

CHINESE leader Xi Jinping expressed support for Iran during a visit this week by its president as Tehran tries to expand relations with Beijing and Moscow to offset Western sanctions over its nuclear development.

The official Chinese account of Xi's meeting with Ebrahim Raisi gave no indication whether they discussed Russia's attack on Ukraine. Tehran supplied military drones to Russian President Vladimir Putin's government but says they were delivered before the war began.

Xi expressed support for Raisi's government in language Beijing uses to criticize Washington's domination of global affairs. China and Iran portray themselves, alongside Moscow, as counterweights to American power.

"China supports Iran in safeguarding national sovereignty" and "resisting unilateralism and bullying," Xi said in a statement



In this photo released by the official website of the office of the Iranian Presidency, President Ebrahim Raisi shakes hands with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping in an official welcoming ceremony in Beijing

carried by Chinese state TV on its website.

Xi and Raisi attended the signing of 20 cooperation agreements including trade and tourism, the Chinese government announced. Those add to a 25-year strategy agreement signed in 2021 to cooperate in developing oil, industry and other fields.

China is one of the biggest

buyers of Iranian oil and a source of investment.

Iran has struggled for years under trade and financial sanctions imposed by Washington and other Western governments over what they say is Tehran's efforts to develop nuclear weapons, an accusation the Iranian government denies. The United States government cut off Iran's access

to the network that connects global banks in 2018.

U.S. State Department spokesperson Ned Price urged China to influence Iran and lower potential threats in the region, saying that "would be in both of our interests."

"The PRC has a role to play in very clearly signaling to Iran that its destabilizing activities — that

its brinkmanship — is not going to be rewarded, it's not going to be countenanced. It is not something that the international community is prepared to sit idly by and watch," Price said to reporters in Washington, referring to China by its official name, the People's Republic of China.

Xi said Beijing "opposes external forces interfering in Iran's internal affairs and undermining Iran's security and stability," according to the government statement. It said Xi promised to "work together on issues involving each other's core interests," but gave no details.

Raisi's government didn't immediately release details of the meeting, but the president called the two governments "friends in difficult situations" in a commentary published Monday by the ruling Communist Party newspaper People's Daily.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, asked whether Beijing was concerned that getting closer to Iran might complicate U.S.-Chinese ties, said their "friend relations" contribute to "promotion of peace and stability in the Middle East."

"Our relations do not target any third parties," said the spokesperson, Wang Wenbin. MDT/AP

MILITARY

Taiwan threatens to shoot down any Chinese balloons

AMID speculation over alleged Chinese spy balloons, Taiwan's Defense Ministry said this week it would shoot down any suspected military object coming close to its shores from mainland China.

Maj. Gen. Huang Wen-chi, the assistant deputy chief of general staff for intelligence, told reporters that the self-governing island was on guard for any incursions, but had yet to find any that had penetrated its defenses.

Balloons found so far around Taiwan were used for meteorological exploration, he said. They were relatively small and light and would burst after rising to an altitude that could be threatening. Taiwan has yet to find targets requiring a lethal response, he said.

"We haven't seen such sophisticated spy balloons sent by the Chinese Communist Party in the waters near Taiwan," Huang said, referring to the balloon shot down by the U.S. earlier this month after traveling for days from above Alaska to South Carolina.

China, which claims Taiwan as its territory to be reunited by force if necessary, regularly



Major general Huang Wen-chi

sends fighter jets and other military assets into Taiwan's airspace and sea lanes.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin called the U.S. downing of the Chinese balloon a "clear overreaction." Beijing says it was an unmanned airship made for meteorological research that had been blown off course.

The U.S. military had engaged an "absurd and costly large-scale political performance

art show. We also advise the U.S. side to be careful about overexerting itself and spraining its back," Wang said at a daily news briefing.

The White House defended the shootdowns of three unidentified objects in as many days even as it acknowledged that officials had no indication the objects were intended for surveillance in the same manner as the high-altitude Chinese balloon. MDT/AP

WELFARE

SINGING COMMUNIST ANTHEM, SENIORS PROTEST BENEFIT CUTS

CHINESE seniors singing the communist anthem protested in the city of Wuhan yesterday over benefit cuts, in a rare sign of confrontation with the authoritarian state.

The demonstration was the latest sign of economic pain caused by China's now-abandoned "zero COVID" policy and a drop in local government coffers exacerbated by the collapse of major players in the real estate industry.

The ruling Communist Party maintains strict control over the press, but videos and photos said to be of the protest in front of Wuhan's Zhongshan Park spread on social media before censors took them down. The images couldn't be

independently verified by The Associated Press.

While there is no indication of a nationwide movement, citizens have become more outspoken over the failure of local governments to deliver on social welfare promises. Elder care has become a more acute issue because of a falling birthrate that has left fewer workers to support retirees who were promised pensions and healthcare by the state.

In Wuhan, the city where COVID-19 was first detected in late 2019, police lined up in multiple rows, some locking arms, while hundreds of mostly elderly protesters spilled onto the main road, shouting complaints. In one video, the crowd

began singing "The Internationale," the communist anthem taught and sung in China since the Communist Party took power at the end of a civil war in 1949.

China has experienced a wave of labor unrest and protests sparked by coronavirus lockdowns that were abruptly abandoned in December. Dozens or more people have been allegedly arrested on the vague charge of causing disorder.

Ma Haiyang, who works at an internet cafe near the park, said he didn't see the protest but had heard about it. He said there was no trace of protesters by the time he arrived at the area around noon, while police remained there. MDT/AP

NORTH KOREA

Unlikely that Kim's daughter groomed as successor: Seoul

HYUNG-JIN KIM, SEOUL

SOUTH Korea yesterday said that it's still premature to determine whether the recently unveiled daughter of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is being groomed as her father's successor.

Speculation about the status of Kim's daughter, reportedly named Kim Ju Ae and aged about 10, has further intensified since she recently took center stage at a massive military parade in Pyongyang and appeared in soon-to-be-released postal stamps — both events with her all-powerful father.

During a parliamentary committee meeting in Seoul, Unification Minister Kwon Youngse, South Korea's top official on North Korea, questioned a belief that she's being primed as the North's next leader. Kwon cited Kim Jong Un's relatively young age — Kim turned 39 last month — and North Korea's male-dominated power hierarchy.

"There are views that (her appearances) are aimed at talking about a hereditary power transition. But considering Kim Jong Un's age and the fact that North Korea has a much more patriarchal nature than ours, there are also lots of questions about whether North Korea ha-



In this photo provided by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un with his daughter, reportedly named Kim Ju Ae and aged about 10 (center right) attend a military parade last week

ving a woman (prepared to inherit power now is indeed right," Kwon told lawmakers.

Kwon said the girl's repeated appearances in recent months were more likely meant to shore up public support of Kim's ruling family and prepare for a future hereditary power transfer.

South Korean media have speculated Kim Jong Un also has a son who is older than Kim Ju Ae and a third child, likely a daughter. But Kwon said only Kim Ju Ae is her father's officially confirmed child.

North Korea disclosed Kim Ju Ae in November by announcing she watched an intercontinental ballistic missile test with her fa-

ther. She's since made four other public appearances, including last week's military parade.

State media have called her Kim's "most beloved" or "respected" child and published a slew of photos and video showing her closeness with her father. She was seen touching Kim's cheek at an observation stand for the military parade and sitting in the seat of honor at an earlier banquet while being flanked by her parents and generals, in what observers say had been unimaginable in North Korea because Kim is the subject of a personality cult that treats him like a god.

Designs released by North Korea's state-run Korea Stamp Cor-

poration earlier this week also show Kim Ju Ae being featured in five of eight new stamps that are set to be circulated from Friday to celebrate the November flight test of the Hwasong-17 ICBM, an event she attended. The stamps carried previously publicised images showing the girl holding her father's hand as they walked near the missile and posing for photos with her father in front of a wall of clapping soldiers days after the Hwasong-17 launch.

After her first public appearance, the National Intelligence Service, South Korea's main spy agency, told lawmakers that she was Kim's second child, according to some of the legislators

who attended a closed-door briefing. The spy service later said it believed that by taking his daughter to public events, Kim Jong Un aims to show the public his resolve to hand over power to one of his children in the future, though it assessed the younger Kim's appearances didn't necessarily mean she would succeed her father.

The name of Ju Ae matched what retired NBA star Dennis Rodman named Kim's baby daughter who he said he saw and held during his trip to Pyongyang in 2013. Rodman told the British newspaper the Guardian that Kim Jong Un was a "good dad" to his daughter and that "the Marshal Kim and I had a relaxing time by the sea with his family."

Since its foundation in 1948, North Korea has been successively ruled by male members of the Kim family. Outside studies show only a fraction of top North Korean officials are women, including Kim Jong Un's younger sister, Kim Yo Jong, and Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui. Before Kim Jong Un took power in late 2011, his father Kim Jong Il governed for 17 years, and before him, his father and state founder, Kim Il Sung, ruled for 46 years.

"It's too soon to assume that (Kim Ju Ae) will be his heir because the son has always succeeded the throne in North Korea," said Duyeon Kim, a senior analyst at the Center for a New American Security in Washington, D.C. "So, we don't yet know if Kim Jong Un is willing to break tradition regarding the gender of his successor or if she will play a key role to support whoever Kim appoints." **MDT/AP**

INDIA

Air India reveals orders for 470 Boeing, Airbus jets

AIR India unveiled orders yesterday [Macau time] for 470 Boeing and Airbus passenger jets as it races to tap surging demand for increasingly affordable air travel from the nation's growing ranks of middle-class consumers.

India's largest international airline and second-largest domestic carrier is buying 220 Boeing aircraft valued at \$34 billion. It marks the U.S. plane maker's third-largest sale of all time, in dollar value, and its second of all time in quantity.

Air India is also buying 250 passenger jets from European plane manufacturer Airbus, with the orders championed by the leaders



of the U.S., France and India.

The Boeing "purchase will support over 1 million American jobs across 44 states, and many will not

require a four-year college degree," U.S. President Joe Biden said. "This announcement also reflects the strength of the U.S.-India economic partnership."

Air India is seeking to reinvent itself by expanding its operations and modernizing its fleet. The new jets will help the airline's owner, Tata Sons, compete against upstart discount rivals including India's dominant carrier, IndiGo.

"India is going to be the world's third-largest market in the aviation sector," Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a video-conference. Over the next 15 years, it's estimated that India will need more than 2,000 aircraft, and "today's historic announcement will help in meeting this growing demand."

The Boeing order includes 190 737 Max aircraft, 20 of its 787s, and 10 of its

777Xs. The purchase includes customer options for an additional 50 737 MAXs and 20 of its 787s, which would make it 290 airplanes for a total of \$45.9 billion at list price.

Toulouse, France-based Airbus will provide Air India 40 wide-body A350 Airbus aircraft and another 210 narrow-body A320neo planes, Tata Sons Chairman Natarajan Chandrasekaran said in the call with Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron.

Airbus did not disclose financial terms of the deal, which could be worth tens of billions of dollars.

"Today is a historic moment for India, for Air India and for Airbus," Airbus CEO

Guillaume Faury said in the call. The size of the order "demonstrates the appetite for growth in the Indian aviation industry. It's the fastest growing in the world."

Chandrasekaran said the A350s will be used to "fly all ultra long distance across the globe." Single-aisle A320s are typically used on short-haul routes. He said the airline has "significant options" to increase its order.

"The order's massive, but a lot of it is long overdue replacement. Air India is way behind in modernizing their fleet," said Brendan Sobie, a Singapore-based independent aviation analyst. **MDT/AP**

PUTIN'S WAR

GOP leaders start laying groundwork for more Ukraine aid

KEVIN FREKING,
WASHINGTON

TESTIMONY on Russian war crimes. Monthly classified briefings. High-profile hearings, TV appearances and even op-eds in conservative media outlets.

Leading Republicans in Congress are not waiting for the next debate over assistance to Ukraine, instead launching an early and aggressive effort to make the case for why the U.S. should continue spending billions of dollars on the war effort.

One of their main challenges: winning over skeptical Republican colleagues.

"I'm very much focused on the dissension within my own party on this," Republican Rep. Michael McCaul of Texas, the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, told The Associated Press.

McCaul plans to hold a hearing in the spring focused on Russian atrocities against Ukrainian civilians, to try to bring home the war's terrible toll.

"I find that moves the dial, when they see these horrific killings of children," McCaul said.

The task ahead is challenging, particularly in the House. While Republicans have often been the nation's leading defense hawks, eager for the U.S. to defend its interests through foreign action, former President Donald Trump's "America First" approach has emboldened a noninterventionist wing that is ascendant. They are clamoring for the Ukraine aid to come to an end.

The top Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Rep. Gregory Meeks of New York, said of the Republicans across the aisle: "There are some that I've talked to, they don't realize the interest the United States has in it."

Last week, a group of 11 House Republicans led by Rep. Matt Gaetz of Florida unveiled a "Ukraine Fatigue" resolution. It stated that the U.S. "must end its military and financial aid to Ukraine" and urged the combatants to "reach a peace agreement."

"America is in a state of managed decline, and it will exacerbate if we continue to



hemorrhage taxpayer dollars toward a foreign war," Gaetz said.

The U.S. has provided four rounds of aid to Ukraine in response to Russia's invasion, totaling about \$113 billion, with some of the money going toward replenishment of U.S. military equipment that was sent to the frontlines.

Congress approved the latest round of aid in December. While the package was designed to last through the end of the fiscal year in September, much depends upon events on the ground. Officials in Kyiv anticipate a new Russian offensive in coming weeks around the anniversary of the Feb. 24 invasion, which could hasten Ukraine's need for more military and economic assistance.

But another funding request is certain to face heavy resistance from lawmakers closely aligned with Trump and budget hawks worried about the nation's \$31 trillion in government debt.

"We've got to get our financial house in order in the United States before we put any more dollars overseas for things like that," said Rep. Ralph Norman, R-S.C. "We've met our goal for Ukraine."

McCaul, as the new Republican chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, is now a key player in U.S. funding decisions. He is working to bring in Ukrainian Prosecutor General Andriy Kostin to testify about the violence being inflicted on civilians.

A team of experts commissioned by the U.N.'s top human rights body found last year that Russian forces are responsible for the vast majority of war crimes and human rights violations in

Ukraine. The commission documented patterns of summary executions, unlawful confinement, torture, rape and other sexual violence.

McCaul said he wants his colleagues and the public to see clearly what is happening in Ukraine and why U.S. aid is so vital.

"It's not a question of either or," McCaul said. "We're a great country. We can secure our border and protect freedom and democracy around the world, which is what Ukraine is all about."

With opponents of Ukraine spending warning of fraud and corruption, the House Armed Services Committee is planning to hold monthly classified briefings for lawmakers to detail, dollar by dollar, how the U.S. security aid is being allocated.

The briefings will be every two weeks for key staff, said Armed Services Chairman Mike Rogers of Alabama, and a public hearing is in the works "to try to get more visibility for the public into the tracking that we're doing."

One of the challenges in ensuring accountability is the sheer number of activities that U.S. dollars are supporting.

U.S. dollars not only go to Stinger missiles to take out Russian aircraft, Javelin missiles to take out tanks, but also for food, water and shelter for refugees whose homes have been destroyed. The money also supports basic government services, such as medical care, firefighting and utilities.

The inspectors general for the Defense and State departments and the U.S. Agency for International Development are the lead offices

tracking Ukraine spending. Rogers said he is encouraging NATO to bring in a third party to track U.S. weapons to assure the public they don't end up in the wrong hands.

"We know it's going to where it is supposed to, but how we know is classified," Rogers said. "We've got to find a way to let the world know from somebody that they have confidence in."

Recent polling from Gallup found that about two-thirds of Americans support aid for Ukraine to help it regain its territory, even if it means a prolonged conflict. But that support varied depending upon political party. Nearly half of Republicans, or 47%, say the U.S. is doing too much compared with 35% of independents and just 10% of Democrats.

In the Senate, Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky has consistently pressed the Biden administration for more robust action to help Ukraine win the war. He wore a bright blue and yellow tie to the State of the Union address last week — the colors of Ukraine's flag — to trumpet his support.

The ranking Republican on the Senate's Armed Services panel, Sen. Roger Wicker of Mississippi, is using the bully pulpit as well. He spoke at length on the Senate floor about Ukraine and followed up with an op-ed in the National Review, a conservative outlet.

"It is a relatively modest amount that we are contributing without being asked to risk life and limb," Wicker told the AP. "The Ukrainians are willing to fight the fight for us if the West will give them the provisions. It's a pretty good deal."

"And what we've done is expose Russia's very soft, vulnerable underbelly and we've made it less likely that any of our NATO allies will be attacked."

But there are skeptics in the Senate, too. Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., said China is the U.S.'s top foreign adversary and that's where Congress should be focusing its attention.

"We need to tell our European friends they need to carry the burden of the conventional defense in Ukraine," Hawley said. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

2005 KYOTO PROTOCOL COMES INTO FORCE



The Kyoto accord, which aims to curb the air pollution blamed for global warming, has come into force seven years after it was agreed.

The accord requires countries to cut emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

Some 141 countries, accounting for 55% of greenhouse gas emissions, have ratified the treaty, which pledges to cut these emissions by 5.2% by 2012.

But the world's top polluter - the US - has not signed up to the treaty.

The US says the changes would be too costly to introduce and that the agreement is flawed.

Large developing countries including India, China and Brazil are not required to meet specific targets for now.

The ancient Japanese capital of Kyoto, where the pact was negotiated, is hosting the main ceremony marking the treaty's coming into force.

Russia ratified the treaty in November 2004 - the crucial moment that made the treaty legally binding.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Most climate scientists say that the targets set in the Kyoto Protocol are merely scratching the surface of the problem.

The agreement aims to reduce emissions from industrialised nations only by around 5%, whereas the consensus among many climate scientists is that in order to avoid the worst consequences of global warming, emissions cuts in the order of 60% across the board are needed.

This has led to criticisms that the agreement is toothless, as well as being virtually obsolete without US support. But others say its failure would be a disaster as, despite its flaws, it sets out a framework for future negotiations which could take another decade to rebuild.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Curb or cut out that bad habit you've been meaning to do something about. Uncertain changes regarding your personal life are evident.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20

Take time to do some writing, whether it's correspondence, poetry, or keeping a journal. Don't draw too much attention to yourself at work.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21

Social events held in your home will be successful and entertaining for those who attend. Be careful not to lead someone on if you truly have no interest.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Don't hesitate to sign up for lectures or seminars that will enlighten you. Focus on forming business partnerships. You have to believe in yourself and your talents.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Friends may not be completely honest with you. Travel and communications will not run as smoothly as you had hoped. Your attitude could be up and down like a yo-yo.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22

You can surprise members of your family, which in turn will bring you a pat on the back. If you have to deal with large institutions, be careful not to make waves.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22

You can make major gains professionally by completing projects on time. You may want to take another look at the investment you are about to make.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Try a barbecue or a day at the beach. Romantic encounters will develop through colleagues. Avoid extravagance or risky financial schemes.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Consider a conservative investment that will stay solid when everything else goes sour. Don't trust a deal that looks too good, or a lover who appears to have it all.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Sports, physical fitness programs, exercise in general will make you feel better and show some pretty quick results. Take a short business trip if possible.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Be cautious and use your head wisely in situations that deal with the use of machinery or vehicles. Invite people home to discuss your plans for group fundraising events and outings.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20

You will have to be careful not to fall into traps set by jealous colleagues. Emotionally, things may not run so smoothly. Don't let someone take the credit for a job you did.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

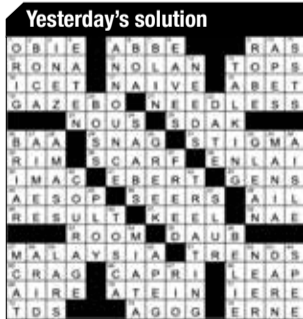
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-6	7	fine
Changchun	-14	1	fine
Chengdu	6	10	overcast
Chongqing	8	12	overcast
Fuzhou	7	14	cloudy
Guangzhou	7	20	fine
Guiyang	1	12	overcast
Haikou	15	20	cloudy
Hangzhou	0	8	fine
Harbin	-19	-2	fine
Hefei	-1	11	fine
Nanjing	-1	10	cloudy
Shanghai	2	10	fine
Taipei	10	16	overcast
Wuhan	-1	11	cloudy
Hong Kong	13	17	overcast
WORLD			
Moscow	-12	-4	cloudy
Frankfurt	7	10	fog
Paris	11	13	showers
London	9	13	showers
New York	12	17	rain

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1-Thrust with a knife; 5- Last Greek letter; 10- Pouches; 14- Hawaiian native dance; 15- Had in mind; 16- Mormon state of western USA; 17- Are you ___ out?; 18- Hitching post?; 19- Nightclub of song; 20- Vagabond; 22- Speaking; 24- New Haven collegian; 25- Gal of song; 26- Loincloth worn by Hindu men; 29- Ball belle; 32- Family car; 36- Balance; 37- People of courage; 39- Freudian topic; 40- Informally; 43- A Gershwin; 44- Second book of the Bible; 45- ___-Ball; 46- Sad song; 48- Paris possessive; 49- Deposes; 50- In the manner of; 52- Idiot; 53- 4th president of the U.S.; 57- Chemical salt; 61- Got it; 62- Have a ball; 64- River to the Caspian Sea; 65- Internet writing system that popularized "pwn3d" and "n00b"; 66- Commerce; 67- Reactor part; 68- Godiva, for one; 69- Freud contemporary; 70- Carry.

DOWN 1- Switchblade; 2- "Chicken of the sea"; 3- Sleep like ___; 4- Hair clasp; 5- Muscat native; 6- Dissolve; 7- Grab a bite; 8- Annoying insect; 9- Gillette razors; 10- Nurse at the breast; 11- Yours, in Tours; 12- ___ Crunch; 13- Layered hairdo; 21- The Greatest; 23- Cowboy's tool; 26- Celtic priest; 27- Painter Rousseau; 28- Academy award; 29- Band's sample tapes; 30- Eat away at; 31- Additional pay; 33- Student tables; 34- Lace tip; 35- "The Highwayman" poet; 37- Magic spell; 38- Frozen Wasser; 41- Staggers; 42- The right to use the property of another; 47- Merriment; 49- Bran source; 51- Main artery; 52- Fuel transport; 53- Factory; 54- On or towards the Mediterranean, for example; 55- Notable exploit, legal document; 56- Dweeb; 57- Sign over; 58- Buck follower; 59- Sharp to the taste; 60- Gen. Robert ___; 63- Batman after Michael;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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AD

AP PHOTO



INVESTMENT

BUFFETT'S FIRM BUYS APPLE, SLASHES CHIPMAKER AND BANK STAKES

JOSH FUNK, OMAHA (NEB.)

BILLIONAIRE Warren Buffett's company added to its already substantial Apple investment at the end of last year while slashing a new investment in computer chip maker Taiwan Semiconductor and two longtime bank holdings.

Berkshire Hathaway Inc. revealed several changes to its stock portfolio in documents filed

with the Securities and Exchange Commission yesterday [Macau time]. Many investors follow the company's moves closely because of Buffett's remarkably successful investing record over the decades.

Berkshire picked up nearly 21 million more shares in the iPhone maker during the final three months of last year to give it 915.6 million shares at the end of 2022.

Buffett has called Apple one of the four giants that drive Berkshi-

re's results even though it is only a stock investment. Berkshire's other main drivers are companies that it owns outright: its insurance unit that includes Geico, its energy company that owns several major utilities, and BNSF railroad.

During the quarter, Berkshire slashed its investments in Taiwan Semiconductor, US Bancorp and Bank of New York Mellon.

Just three months after re-

vealing a 60 million-share stake in the chipmaker, Berkshire cut its Taiwan Semiconductor investment down to 8.3 million shares.

Berkshire also cut its US Bancorp investment drastically from 52.5 million shares to 6.7 million by the end of the year.

Berkshire Hathaway cut its investment in Bank of New York Mellon again and sold off more than 37 million shares during the quarter to leave it with just over

25 million shares of the bank.

The quarterly filings Berkshire submitted yesterday don't make clear which investments Buffett is responsible for and which ones were made by the company's two other investment managers, but Buffett generally handles all of Berkshire's biggest investments worth \$1 billion or more. Buffett doesn't regularly comment on these stock filings.

Berkshire also added to one of its smaller investments that it first revealed three months ago when it picked up more than 1.2 million Louisiana Pacific shares to give it control of nearly 10% of that maker of building products.

During the quarter, Buffett continued to trim Berkshire's investment in Activision Blizzard to 52.7 million shares. He has said that he bought that stock as a way to bet that Microsoft's acquisition of the video game maker will ultimately go through.

The Omaha, Nebraska-based conglomerate Buffett leads also trimmed its investments in the grocer Kroger and Ally Financial.

Buffett's biggest investment over the past year in oil producer Occidental Petroleum remained unchanged during the quarter. Berkshire held 194.4 million Occidental shares and warrants to buy another 83.9 million shares at the end of the year.

Berkshire did pick up nearly 2 million more Chevron shares during the quarter to give it control of 8.7% of the oil giant.

One of the biggest changes in Berkshire's portfolio isn't reflected in the SEC filings because its investment in Chinese electric car maker BYD is held on the Hong Kong stock exchange. Since August, Berkshire has sold off 95 million of the 225 million BYD shares it bought back in 2008.

Besides stocks, Berkshire owns an eclectic mix of dozens of different manufacturing, retail and service businesses. **MDT/AP**

CORPORATE BITS

Starlux's debut long-haul to LAX to arrive in June



Taiwanese airlines Starlux Airlines will start flying to Los Angeles in June. This route will also feature a first class cabin. At least initially, there will be five flights per week. The Airbus A350 aircraft

servicing this route will have four first-class seats, 26 business, 36 premium economy and 240 economy. Outbound flights will depart Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport at 11:40pm

and arrive at Los Angeles at 8:30pm. Meanwhile, the inbound flight will depart Los Angeles at 12:50 am and arrives in Taipei at 5:40 am on the following day. Delicacies such as prime steak, Taiwanese yakiniku donburi and boba tea will be served on select services. Starlux executives have previously highlighted the competitiveness of this flight as it seamlessly delivers passengers from Macau to North America through Taipei. Local travel agency New Sintra Tours Ltd. has started selling round-trip tickets for the Macau-Taipei-Los Angeles route from the price of MOP4,000.

Sands Resorts Macao to participate in GBA caravan roadshows



Sands Resorts Macao will participate in the 'Experience Macao, Unlimited' campaign in the GBA, promoting its dining, accommodation,

shopping and leisure options to mainland residents and other potential tourists.

The local government has recently geared up its online

and offline tourism promotional campaigns and will resume the campaign.

Riding on the success of the first two stops in Zhuhai and Zhongshan last year, this year's event will kick off in Guangzhou on Feb. 18 and 19, followed by roadshows in Jiangmen, Shenzhen, Hui Zhou, Zhaoqing, Dongguan and Foshan every weekend.

The event aims to promote Macao's diverse elements of "tourism+" through multiple events and channels and attract more tourists to Macau.

At the campaign, Sands Resorts Macao booth will bring together classic elements such as the Venetian mask, the Eiffel Tower and the Big Ben.

JEROME PUGMIRE, PARIS

FOOTBALL

PSG 0, BAYERN M 1

NOT even Kylian Mbappé's substitute appearance could end Paris Saint-Germain's slump, as it lost 1-0 at home to Bayern Munich yesterday [Macau time] in the first leg of their round-of-16 Champions League clash.

A third straight loss made it five defeats in 11 games this year for PSG coach Christophe Galtier's team.

Bayern winger Kingsley Coman volleyed home inside the penalty area from Alphonso Davies' left-wing cross in the 53rd minute.

The Paris-raised Coman, who PSG sold to Juventus when he was 18, held his hands up to show he wasn't celebrating scoring against his former club — again.

"It's the city where I was born and raised so it was difficult to celebrate here," Coman said. "Given our performance we could have done more, but at the end it was a bit difficult so we're satisfied with the win."

When Bayern won the last of its six Champions League titles in 2020, it beat PSG 1-0 with Coman heading home the winner.

The World Cup superstar Mbappé made an unexpectedly quick recovery from injury and had two would-be goals disallowed for offside after coming on in the second half.

"It was difficult, unpredictable. I wasn't supposed to play but I wanted to play and help my mates. We did everything, we worked night and day to get me some game time," Mbappé said. "I wanted to (start the game). But sometimes you have to be satisfied with what you can do, and that's all I could do."

The return leg is on March 8.

PSG was eliminated by Real Madrid in the last 16 last season and may need Mbappé at this best to avoid another early exit.

"When we have our players ready and we can play our attacking game, they (Bayern) are not comfortable," Mbappé said. "We have to retain how we finished the game. We saw that we can cause them problems."

Mbappé showed no ill effects of the thigh tear he sustained two weeks ago.

He had a shot saved by Yann Sommer in the 73rd after racing through down the left. Sommer saved

Mbappé can't save slumping PSG in CL loss to Bayern Munich

AP PHOTO



Bayern's Kingsley Coman celebrates with teammates after scoring his side's goal

Neymar's follow-up and the ball fell to Mbappé near the line, but he was well offside.

Mbappé peeled away in delight after volleying Nuno Mendes' cross from close range with 10 minutes left, but it was chalked off following a quick video review.

"That's the new soccer, there's VAR. If it's offside, it's offside, you just have to switch quickly," Mbappé said. "The important thing is to go over there and qualify, and from what I saw that's possible."

Bayern's defense held firm under some late pressure, although defender Benjamin Pavard received a second yellow card was sent off for a late tackle on Lionel Messi in stoppage time.

Bayern immediately generated pressure from the start against a nervous-looking PSG by closing down high up the field. PSG hadn't lost three straight games since late 2011, which was only months into the new reign of Qatari owners QSI.

"Bayern really got on top of us and we struggled to hold the ball high up the pitch. The first half was very difficult for us," Galtier said. "I knew we could use Kylian in the second half, but unfortunately we conceded this goal just before I was going to bring him on."

The dominance of Julian Nagelsmann's team in midfield was so complete that

it forced Messi to drop deep to get the ball, and Neymar was anonymous for most of the match.

"We were a bit surprised by how much of the ball we had. We didn't expect Paris to be so passive; it was a good first half," Nagelsmann said. "The two times they really threatened it was offside."

Midway through the first half, Neymar lay face-first on the field after a shoulder barge from a defender. English referee Michael Oliver waved play on and Sommer — although nearby — didn't check on Neymar, who at the 2018 World Cup in Russia earned an unwelcome reputation for diving and play-acting.

Bayern's possession didn't lead to clear chances, however, and midfielder Joshua Kimmich's 20-meter drive was easily captured by goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma in the 43rd.

Nagelsmann showed shrewd tactical sense by bringing on Davies and switching Coman from the left to the right flank with seamless efficiency. Bayern came close to 2-0 when former PSG striker Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting had a shot tipped on the post by Donnarumma.

PSG midfielder Warren Zaire-Emery became the youngest player to start a Champions League knockout match at the age of 16 years, 343 days.

AC MILAN 1, TOTTENHAM 0

An early goal was enough for troubled AC Milan to edge Tottenham 1-0 in its first Champions League

knockout match in nearly 10 years.

Brahim Díaz netted in the seventh minute to give Milan a slender advantage to take to London when the

teams meet again in the second leg of the round of 16 on March 8.

But the Rossoneri could be left counting the cost of two late missed opportunities that their coach thought were going to end up in the back of the net.

"The two chances for Charles (De Ketelaere) and Malick (Thiaw) were important, I was already celebrating on the bench," Milan coach Stefano Pioli said. "2-0 would have been a better result clearly because we are sure that the return match will be as close, as difficult."

"But I can't be anything but happy with the team's performance today."

It was a miserable return to San Siro for Tottenham manager Antonio Conte, who endured only his second loss against Milan in 15 matches as coach. The former Inter Milan and Juventus coach had engineered 10 victories over the Rossoneri. **MDT/AP**



BENFICAMACAU
ACADEMY
澳門賓菲加體育學校



FOOTBALL | BASKETBALL | DAILY TRAININGS

OPINION

China Daily
 Editorial, China Daily

**HYSTERIA ON
 FULL SHOW IN THE
 HOLLYWOODLY HYPING
 UP OF NONEXISTENT
 ESPIONAGE THREAT**

The United States is living its dream. Well a Hollywood one, at least. Defending itself from an invasion by UFOs. A US fighter jet shot down an "unidentified object" over Lake Huron on Sunday in the fourth such downing in little more than a week. The unprecedented air defense activity in peacetime was triggered in late January when a Chinese meteorological research balloon transited the United States before fighter jets downed it off the coast of South Carolina.

China has already protested the "over-reaction" by the US to the balloon that was blown off course by strong winds, saying the excessive use of force by the US against a civilian object that did not in any way pose any security threat to any country was a "serious violation of international practice".

Yet despite that, the US has continued to stoke tensions with China by sensationalizing the balloon, describing it as a Chinese "spy balloon". During a Senate hearing last week, Republican lawmakers accused China of deliberately surveilling sensitive US military sites with the balloon, and used the event to criticize the Joe Biden administration for not having downed the balloon much earlier. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has also postponed a planned trip to China in response to the incident.

The anti-China jubilee has been unfolding without anything being presented to indicate that China conducted an "irresponsible" violation of US sovereignty. Even the Federal Bureau of Investigation admitted what they have retrieved of the shot-down balloon so far is "extremely limited". But that did not prevent US lawmakers, both Republicans and Democrats, from overwhelmingly passing a resolution condemning China for its alleged "espionage".

And it is not just the US that has been subject to Chinese balloon surveillance, according to the US State Department. It claims the balloon was part of a high-altitude balloon surveillance program by China aimed at snooping on "more than 40 countries across five continents". Which is ironic, given the US is known to have the world's most sophisticated surveillance program and it is well-proved that it spies on "the entire globe", including the leaders of many of its European allies.

The display of collective irrationality has prompted former Central Intelligence Agency and FBI official Phil Mudd to bemoan the disproportionate focus Congress and the White House have put on inflating out of all proportion a "relatively insignificant" national security issue. In his view, Google Earth and secret satellites would far better serve the purpose of collecting photos or intercepting communications. Yet "we twisted ourselves around a balloon for days in Washington DC ... Give me a break".

If the US really seeks to put the bilateral relationship back on the normal track, it should stop hyping up a non-existent China threat.

China's top diplomat, Wang Yi, met with French President Emmanuel Macron yesterday at the start of his trip to Europe, amid renewed tensions between China and the United States.

Macron met with Wang, the Chinese foreign minister, behind closed doors at the Elysee Palace.

The French capital is the first stop on Wang's tour of Europe. In the coming days, he will also travel to Italy, Hungary, Russia and Germany. He is expected to deliver a speech at the Munich Security Conference that starts on Friday.

Wang's weeklong tour of Europe is seen as part of China's efforts to

restore ties with European nations at a time of rising tensions between the world's two largest economies — China and the United States — following the U.S. shooting down of a suspected Chinese spy balloon earlier this month.

The trip comes amid China's persistent efforts to push back against Western pressure on trade, technology, human rights and its claims to a broad swath of the western Pacific. China's refusal to condemn the invasion of Ukraine nearly a year ago, and join others in imposing sanctions on Russia as the war heads into a second year has further frayed ties with the West and fueled an emerging divide with much of Europe.

AP PHOTO



An armed security person stands guard at the gate of a building housing BBC office in New Delhi

**INDIAN OFFICIALS SEARCH
 BBC OFFICES FOR SECOND
 STRAIGHT DAY**

**PIYUSH NAGPAL,
 NEW DELHI**

INDIA'S tax officials searched BBC offices in India for a second straight day yesterday questioning staff about the organization's business operations in the country, some staff members said.

BBC management told editorial and other staff members to work from home after they were able to leave the office on Tuesday night, said staff who spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to talk to media.

The searches came weeks after the BBC aired a documentary critical of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the U.K.

There was no overnight break in the search and investigators scanned the desktops of some employees who were earlier told not to use their phones and keep them aside, the staff members said.

Indian income tax officials have not made any statements since the searches were launched in the BBC's New Delhi and Mumbai offices on Tuesday morning.

The Press Trust of India news agency said the officials were making copies of electronic and paper-based financial data from the organization.

Rights groups and opposition politicians denounced the move by In-

dia's Income Tax Department as an attempt to intimidate the media.

Britain's publicly funded national broadcaster said it was cooperating fully with authorities and hoped "to have this situation resolved as soon as possible." Late in the evening, the BBC said officials were still at the two offices.

"Many staff have now left the building but some have been asked to remain and are continuing to cooperate with the ongoing inquiries," it said, adding: "Our output and journalism continue as normal."

India's News Broadcasters and Digital Association criticized the income tax "surveys" at the BBC offices.

Gaurav Bhatia, a spokesperson for Modi's governing Bharatiya Janata Party, said the BBC should have nothing to fear if it follows Indian laws. But he added that the broadcaster's history is "tainted" and "full of hatred" for India and called it corrupt, without offering any specifics.

The documentary, "India: The Modi Question," was broadcast in the U.K. last month, examining the prime minister's role in 2002 anti-Muslim riots in the western state of Gujarat, where he was chief minister at the time. More than 1,000 people were killed in the violence.

Modi has denied allegations that authorities

under his watch allowed and even encouraged the bloodshed, and the Supreme Court said it found no evidence to prosecute him. Last year, the court dismissed a petition filed by a Muslim victim questioning Modi's exoneration.

The second portion of the two-part documentary examined "the track record of Narendra Modi's government following his re-election in 2019," according to the BBC website.

The program drew an immediate backlash from India's government, which invoked emergency powers under its information technology laws to block it from being shown in the country. Local authorities scrambled to stop screenings organized at Indian universities, and social media platforms including Twitter and YouTube complied with government requests to remove links to the documentary.

The BBC said at the time that the documentary was "rigorously researched" and involved a wide range of voices and opinions.

"We offered the Indian Government a right to reply to the matters raised in the series — it declined to respond," its statement said.

India's Foreign Ministry called the documentary a "propaganda piece designed to push a particularly discredited narrative" that lacked objectivity. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



Albania A new, multimillion-euro international airport near Albania's coastal city of Vlora will mean hundreds of jobs for area residents. But environmentalists warn it could cause irreparable damage to the fragile ecosystems of protected lagoons that host flamingos, pelicans and millions of other migratory birds.

AP PHOTO



USA Republican Nikki Haley (pictured) plans to formally announce her 2024 presidential campaign yesterday, betting that her boundary-breaking career as a woman and person of color who governed in the heart of the South before representing the U.S. on the world stage can overcome entrenched support for her onetime boss, former President Donald Trump.

AP PHOTO



UK Duangpetch Promthep, one of the 12 boys who was rescued from a Thai cave in 2018, has died in the UK, BBC reported. The cause of the death is unclear, but the teenager is reported to have sustained a head injury. He enrolled in the Brooke House College Football Academy in Leicestershire late last year when he was 17.

AP PHOTO



Titanic Rare video of the 1986 dive through the wreckage of the Titanic is being released today by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. The more than 80 minutes of footage on the WHOI's YouTube channel chronicles some of the remarkable achievements of the dive led by Robert Ballard that marked the first time human eyes had seen the giant ocean liner since it struck an iceberg and sank in the frigid North Atlantic in April 1912. About 1,500 people died during the ship's maiden voyage from Southampton to NYC.