

FIREMEN KEPT BUSY

The number of incidents reported to the Fire Services increased dramatically this year due to Typhoon Hato



TALKS TO OPEN MACAU SHOP

Japanese entrepreneurs are in talks to license Wagyu beef shops in the U.S., U.K., HK, Thailand and Macau



ROHINGYA KEEP FLEEING INTO BANGLADESH

P13



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WORLD BRIEFS



Syrian forces liberated the city of Raqqa yesterday from Islamic State militants, a senior commander said, in a major defeat for the collapsing extremist group that had proclaimed it to be the capital of its "caliphate." Brig. Gen. Talal Sillo said a formal declaration that Raqqa has fallen would be made soon, once troops finish their clearing operations in the city on the banks of the Euphrates River.

US-INDONESIA

Declassified files have revealed new details of U.S. government knowledge and support of an Indonesian army extermination campaign that killed several hundred thousand civilians during anti-communist hysteria in the mid-1960s.

PHILIPPINES Gunfire rang out sporadically and explosions thudded as Philippine soldiers fought yesterday to gain control of the last pocket of Marawi controlled by Islamic militants as President Rodrigo Duterte declared the southern city liberated

from "terrorist influence."

More on backpage





CO-WORKING

New work trend reaches Macau

■ P2 MDT REPORT



Co-working space a platform for local start-ups to collaborate

Lynzy Valles

THE trend of co-working **L** spaces has been on the rise, particularly in Singapore, Hong Kong and Taiwan, with entrepreneurs, creatives and start-up businesses engaged in these spaces.

The main benefits of coworking spaces are that they allow start-ups to save capital on rent and share creative ideas. Rex Loi, a Macaubased entrepreneur, recently opened a co-working space in the region and he aims to grow the trend in Macau.

Co-working spaces are generally grouped into three categories, according to their variety of tenants. The early and still popular model targets young freelancers and artists, while the other types mainly cater to startups and multinational companies.

Loi, who is the owner of ItWorks! co-working space in Macau, said he first experienced the trend when he resided in Taiwan and upon returning to Macau he saw the need for such spaces to be available in the region.

"I was originally a freelancer and I met a group of people that have a need for this space. Because some spaces in Macau are too big, they don't need that much space," the young founder explained.

The company caters to freelancers and startups in the city and provides users with a set of equipment and a set of services.

With a monthly membership fee of MOP1,500, Loi said ItWorks! currently has five members in addition to their casual users who only acquire a day pass, which costs MOP8o.

Speaking to the Times, Loi remarked that rent remains a challenge to new entrepreneurs and startups who do not require a large space. With the use of co-working space, these residents will be able to save a significant amount of capital.

Referencing several regions where co-working spaces are widely used, the entrepreneur is confident that the trend will also increase in



ItWorks! co-working space owner Rex Loi

Macau.

"It's just the beginning. Hong Kong has developed this culture for a long time but we just started a year or two ago," Loi argued.

The 23-year old user noted that he chooses a coworking space rather than working from home, noting

a "co-working environment enables me to work more efficiently, it has less distractions" and he continued to say that "ItWorks" is a great place for him to meet people.

For the co-working space owner, he believes that such spaces increase the users' collaboration by providing them with a place and a community where sharing ideas relating to their projects and businesses will happen natu-

"The main core value of the working space is people, for example connections. In Taiwan, it's more prominent," Loi compared.

The founder added that the culture of co-working space in Macau is not as evident compared to Hong Kong or Taiwan but he predicts it will expand in Macau. Most of its local users are under the age of 40 and are not yet capable of renting a space independently through the real estate market.

"Usually these people are starting their business or careers, and usually the problem they face is the rent. The rent is too high so they are attracted to this place,' Loi said.

In the future, Loi hopes to hold activities so that the users will be able to share their experiences of working in the co-working space with theirs who are considering becoming members.

I was originally a freelancer and I met a group of people that have a need for this space.

REX LOI

"There are more and more start-ups in Macau and some technical freelancers only need to use the computer to start their jobs so they should try to rent just rent a [space] and start their work," the founder recommended.

ItWorks! also offers users access to conference rooms to conduct business activities and events when they have the need.

Meanwhile Matthew Lam, a user of the co-working space, believed that the space is useful for expanding his ne-

New work trend in Hong Kong attracts multinational companies

THE popularity of co-working spaces has

A recent report by the South China Morning Post indicated that the users of co-working spaces are diversifying past individuals involved in start-ups and small businesses; the spaces are becoming attractive to multinational companies who are keen on building flexibility in their real estate portfolios.

As cited in the report, Hong Kong based co -work space Campfire Collaborative Spaces offers private and shared office spaces, meeting rooms and chill-out zones.

Occupying a few floors in an industrial building, Campfire aims to create an 'industryoriented ecosystems - co-working communities for people in the same field.'

Along with solving the dilemma of the city's high rents, Campfire also aims to create a network for young entrepreneurs.

"We're entrepreneurs in multiple industries, and we've always found we draw the most inspiration from people in the same fields. We're creating these spaces with that in mind," says Albert Fung, one of the company's co-foun-

The founders of the co-work space also aim to create links among each other and facilitate introductions for suppliers, partners and dis-



tributors and clients to assist their co-entrepreneurs to run their businesses.

Co-founder Wang Tse even hinted that such spaces would allow entrepreneurs and startups to focus more on their businesses' resources rather than worry on spending its capital

"Our members add value to each other, and co-working enables them to save money so they can pursue a more balanced lifestyle and utilize their resources towards developing their business," Tse said.

Real estate services firm Colliers indicated that by 2030, 30 percent of all office space will be co-working. These co-founders believe that sharing economies will give developers the chance to better utilize space.

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A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

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For subscription and general issues: ral@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd MacauDaily APPHIDAR •

Fire Services answer more calls because of typhoon

Julie Zhu

HE Fire Services Bureau (CB) has released operational data for the first nine months of 2017, showing that the number of cases related to the CB's special services increased dramatically in comparison to the same period last year due to Typhoon Hato, which occurred in August.

CB's special services include assistance in incidents resulting from falling objects and trees, gas leaks and the misuse of dangerous produc-

According to David Tsang, first chief of the CB, the required services which spiked during Typhoon Hato was the removal of fallen trees or tree limbs.

The storm reportedly damaged or uprooted as many as 10,000 trees and over 4,000 of those trees were removed or stabilized by the CB.

During the January-Sep-



tember period, a total of 36,511 incidents were lodged and the number of incidents that necessitated firefighters being called out rose to a number 5.3 percent higher than last year's firefighter call out rate.

As reported by Tsang, the number of incidents when fire alarms were triggered was 758, down 7.11 percent year on year.

The department reported that the main cause of triggered fire alarms were stoves or flames left unattended.

The CB dispatched ambulances 29,816 times, representing an annual increase of 2.4 percent. A total of 41,763 ambulances were dispatched, up 29.3 percent from last year.

One of the biggest increases concerns rescue operations, of which there were 1,205 instances (a 6.07 percent growth), slightly higher than the 1,136 from the first three quarters of 2016.

Tsang stated that "although the increase in ambulance attendance has slowed, the rescue resources are still limited and we call for all of Macau's public to carefully consider whether the use of an ambulance is appropriate and to save the resources for those who really need it."

The CB also noted that Macau is still undergoing the typhoon season, and the public should be prepared for winds.

Tsang also stated that with the Chung Yeung Festival approaching on October 28, the public should also make sure to leave no fires on the mountain, which would hopefully prevent the occurrence of mountain fires.

In relation to events on educating the public, the CB organized 120 lectures on fire protection, prevention of abusive use of ambulances and fuel safety, and 12,992 people attended these lectu-

About 32 exercises on the use of fire extinguishers were organized, and these exercises were attended by 1,085 people.

Approximately, 65,401 pamphlets, posters and guides for fire prevention were distributed.

There were also 24 evacuation exercises and other kinds of emergency preparation exercises organized, and 7,590 people participated.



Pakeong Sequeira exhibition opens on Friday

The exhibition "Lonely Tones - Works by Fortes Pakeong Sequeira" will open on Friday at the AFA Macau gallery. The local artist will showcase his latest artworks which include installation and animation pieces. The exhibition will be open to the public from October 28 to November 26. AFA Macau is located at the Macau Art

Coutinho's sons convicted

The two sons of lawmaker Pereira Coutinho were sentenced to a prison term of eight years and a half for drug trafficking. The siblings were aged 31 and 27 in December, when they were detained. The sentence was read yesterday at the Court of First Instance. The judges said that "most of the facts by presented the prosecution were proven." The defendants intend to appeal the veredict.







Oktoberfest 2017

MGM is hosting Oktoberfest from October 12 to 23. of entry tickets and F&B coupons. Readers will have to correctly answer today's question to be in with a chance of winning. Each prize set includes:

> Oktoberfest entry tickets x 2 \$340 F&B coupons \$200 Oktoberfest sunglasses x 2 \$80

Total value \$620

Question for readers:

How many years has MGM MACAU hosted Oktoberfest?

Please email the answer to: oktoberfest2017@macaudailytimes.com along with your name and contact details.

MGM MACAU will bring the ninth Oktoberfest Macau at MGM between October 12 and 23 this year! Locals and guests will again get to experience Macau's most authentic bierfest outside of

History of Oktoberfest

originally launched for the Münchners to attend the estivities held on the fields in front of the city gates to celebrate the royal wedding, as well as to promote the good Bavarian harvest. Nowadays, Oktoberfest has transformed into one of the most influential annual beer carnivals in the world.

Since 2009, MGM MACAU has welcomed over 110,000 beer lovers with over 106,000 liters of beer, 23,485 kilograms of pork knuckles, 10,416 roasted chickens and 15,238 pieces of homemade pretzels served.

The 11-day beer fest at MGM MACAU captures the essence of Bavarian festivities through German beers, cuisines, live entertainments and the Bavarian party atmosphere. MGM MACAU will serve Löwenbräu, one of only six official Oktoberfest brews from Munich, with other wheat beer to pair with classic German comfort foods. Enjoy the rhythmic accordion, compah music and folk dances along with the Bavarian beer maids in dirndls. The huge beer tent with traditional decorations, including ceiling wreaths, buntings and carnival game booths, will be a guaranteed fun and alive experience that is just like the Munich Oktoberfest. Once again, MGM is flying the beloved Högl Fun Band all the way from Munich over to Macau to fill the nights with dynamic live For guests who would like to enjoy the authentic German party with children and family, the Special Day Time Oktoberfest between 11am and 3pm on October 21 is the perfect option. Nonalcoholic beers and a range of beverages are also available as

beverage coupons will be available for sale from September 11. The number of tickets and tables are limited, so get them soon

Ticket & reservation counter:

Venoe: Oktoberfest Reservation Comoter, 1/F, MGM MACAU (opposite Pastry Bar Entry ticket: MOP 170 per person (Including one standard beer or drink





4 MACAU

Macau-Phuket air link starts on January 8

AirAsia will launch a direct link between Macau and Phuket, starting January 8, Santisuk Klongchaiya, director of commercial for Thai AirAsia, told Phuket News. Santisuk said that he believes the new flight "will attract people in Macau and its vicinity to Phuket." "We will be using our strengths of low fares, on-time service and trustworthy reputation to draw in travellers and help stimulate the island's economy," he added. The establishment of the route was already expected. AirAsia Group CEO Tony Fernandes was in Macau recently and said that Macau is the low-cost airline's "number one priority in North Asia" and that new routes will be added very soon.

Lawmaker presents new trade union law

Lawmaker Pereira Coutinho said yesterday that he has submitted a new proposal to establish a trade union law to the president of the Legislative Assembly. Coutinho is asking Ho Iat Seng to convene the lawmakers to vote on his proposal. According to the lawmaker, the proposal aims to cover the definition of "fundamental rights" of workers in both the private and public sectors.

GOLF

Macao Open players compete for USD 500,000

THE 2016 Macao Golf **▲** Open champion Pavit Tangkamolprasert remains confident that he will defend his title in this year's tournament, which kicks off tomor-

The Open will take place at the Macau Golf & Country Club from tomorrow until Sunday and the tournament will once again include 144 of the world's most seasoned professionals and the region's upcoming amateur talents.

In a press conference held vesterday, Thailand's Pavit said that the course is tougher than last year, mentioning the instability of wind gust.

Pavit, also a proud graduate of the Asian Development Tour (ADT), is hoping to repeat that win at the USD500,000 full-field Asian Tour event. He added that he would dedicate the win to the late King of Thailand as his country prepares for the royal funeral which will take



Pavit Tangkamolprasert (left) and Zhang Lian Wei (right) pose with the **Macao Open trophy**

place next week.

"It's going to be tougher because the course is so perfect, [...] the greens are faster," Pavit told the press. "Maybe the speed is different. The greens are dangerous this year."

Sixteen players from nine regions have won the Macao Open, and Pavit will look to join China's golf pioneer Zhang Lian-wei and 14-time

tour winner Scott Hend of Australia as the only two-time winners of the Macao Open.

According to Zhang, the golf course in the city is "tough to handle," also noting that wind gusts can get unpredictably strong. The golf pioneer jested that every year after playing in Macao Open, players know which techniques they need to work

on as the course is famously challenging.

Pavit noted that winning the Macao Open last year has boosted his career, allowing him compete in bigger even-

The defending champion also competed in the European Tour, remarking, "Things are really different over there. You need to adapt to the weather. Distance control is really key and playing conditions are tough with the strong winds."

Rising stars Shubhankar Sharma and Chikkarangappa S. of India, American Johannes Veerman, Thailand's Panuphol Pittayarat, are all expected to perform well in the event and they are all vying for their first Asian Tour victory.

The four-day tournament is jointly organized by the Sports Bureau and the Golf Association of Macau. The tournament is santioned by the Asian Tour, and promoted by IMG. LV

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Times

UNWTO chief says number of tourists is not the enemy

Julie Zhu

of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Taleb Rifai has said that the number of tourists is not the enemy to a city and he suggested that Macau should take greater advantage of its tourism industry to develop the city.

The Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT) held a public seminar yesterday with the UNWTO discussing about tourism development in the Asia Pacific region, demanding for human resources and education related to tourism.

During a plenary discussion, speakers were asked about how a tourism-focused city could put strategies in place to preserve its culture and identity.

"You know if you really think about it, cultural heritage and environmental heritage, if you want to call it as such, are the natural assets of tourism," said Rifai.

"Culture is never static, culture is a design of so many years of development, and we don't want to keep people where they are only, so you have to also keep in mind that travel is going to change us. We should not resist that change [...] Culture is never something



Taleb Rifai (center)

that stops at a point, our culture today is different from the culture of 30 years ago, the way we dress, the way we eat, the way we viewthat's our culture. [...] so let's not be too dogmatic about this and say that we want to preserve things as they are, increase them as they are, whether it's the environ-

ment or the culture[...]."

Replying to a question asked by one of the attendants of the event about the negative impacts that have been caused by the large number of tourists visiting Macau (including pollution and congestion) Rifai said that these effects are avoidable. "Growth is not the enemy, numbers are not the enemy, the challenge is how to manage, it's a management challenge. We are not doing our homework enough to manage the development and the growth of the tourism whether it's in cities or in the countryside. We can provide everybody

the right to visit whatever they want to visit, we can increase the number of people that visit Macau, and visit all the cities in the world. And at the same time, turn the power of these numbers to my advantage. [...] To fight congestion, to make life better for you, we can do that, that's what the challenges are all about. Because I tell you, there are certain tips and certain little things that we are sometimes not observing, that we simply surrendered [...]," said Rifai.

Growth is not the enemy, numbers are not the enemy, the challenge is how to manage.

TALEB RIFAI

"When you get more people, you get more revenues. Are we utilizing these revenues? [...] Numbers and growth generate energy, and generate resources, we should use these resources to make the place better, not to look at the other options which is to stop the growing, stop the numbers."

Rifai is the Secretary-General of UNWTO and is based in Madrid, Spain. He has held this position since January 1, 2010.

GLOBAL TOURISM ECONOMY FORUM

GTEF will invite European Union to be 'partner region'

THE sixth edition of the Global Tourism Economy Forum (GTEF) ended yesterday with a ceremony attended by the Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, and the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture and Executive Chairman of GTEF, Alexis Tam. Next year, the European Union will be invited to be a "partner region."

In his closing speech, Tam remarked that the widening scope of participation in the Forum demonstrates its increasing influence.

The Secretary also emphasized the commitment to pursuing the vision of building an advanced international tourism platform that brings together decision makers and leaders of the global tourism industry.



Alexis Tam speaking at the closing ceremony

"The Forum has underscored the remarkable role of our city in the region. Not only is Macau eagerly seizing the opportunity of the Belt and Road Initiative, we are also a core member in China's strategic planning of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area development," Tam said. "We task ourselves to enhance the synergy effect these national projects will play with our own positioning as the world center of tourism and leisure."

Also at the closing ceremony, GTEF's vice chairman and secretary-general, Pansy Ho, said, "With political will, psychological consensus and mutual trust, regional collaboration can create a sustainable ecosystem like-

ned to a spider web."

According to a statement issued yesterday by the Office of the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, the event brought together around 1,500 ministerial officials of tourism and related sectors, industry leaders, experts, scholars and participants from across the globe.

During the GTEF, the World Tourism Organization and the Global Tourism Economy Research Centre presented their fourth annual joint research report of Asia Tourism Trends. The 2017 report analyzes the prospect of future tourism development in Asia, with the hope guiding decision of makers and industry leaders in their formulation of long-term development plans.

Tourist prices increase slightly

MACAU'S Tourist Price Index (TPI) for the third quarter of 2017 increased slightly by 2.17 percent year-on-year to 129.61, attributable to increasing prices of local food products, taxi fares, and the costs of hotel accommodation and restaurant services.

The data, which was released this week by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), indicated that a notable rise was observed in the price indixes of Accommodation (+6.75 percent), Restaurant Services (+5.52 percent) and Entertainment & Cultural Activities (+5.13 percent).

On the contrary, the price indexes of Clothing & Footwear and Miscellaneous Goods decreased by 3.75 percent and 2.82 percent respectively year-on-year.

In comparison with the previous quarter, TPI for the third quarter of 2017 increased by 2.59 percent.

Price indexes for Accommodation, and Transport & Communications rose by

10.68 percent and 6.55 percent respectively, owing to the higher hotel room rates and airfares during the summer holidays.

Meanwhile, the seasonal sales of summer clothing and footwear drove down the price index of Clothing & Footwear by 0.26 percent quarter-to-quarter.

The average TPI for the last four quarters ending in the third quarter of 2017 fell by 1.86 percent from the previous period. There were significant decreases in the price indexes of Transport & Communications (-12.02 percent), Clothing & Footwear (-6.13 percent) and Accommodation (-5.9 percent). For the first three quarters of 2017, TPI went down by 0.91 percent year- on-year, with a notable decline in the price indexes of Transport & Communications and Clothing & Footwear, down by 10.51 percent and 7.97 percent respectively. By contrast, the price index of Restaurant Services increased by 5.4 percent.





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Times

Wagyu beef company in talks to open Macau shop

Aya Takada, Hiromi Horie

TAPAN'S corporate enfant terrible Takafumi Horie built one of the country's most successful Internet businesses, stood for parliament, went to prison and started a space company that aims to put the country's first privately funded rocket into orbit. Now he has a new frontier: cattle.

The founder of Interstellar Technologies has teamed up with his friend Hisato Hamada to form Wagyumafia, which brands, promotes and distributes Wagyu beef. Horie, 44, compares the soft, fatty meat with Domaine Romanée-Conti, a wine estate in Burgundy, France, that has built its brand into one of the most expensive in the world.

"While Wagyu is as scarce as good Burgundy, it has been sold cheaply by JA," said Horie, referring to Japan Agricultural Cooperatives, the nation's largest farmers' group. "I'm confident that the beef can be sold at much higher prices in global markets."

Since unveiling their first, members-only restaurant in Tokyo in September 2016, Horie and Hamada have opened three more shops. Membership has risen to 1,000, about 300 of whom are from overseas. Wagyumafia has held tasting events in New York, Paris and Singapore and plans to open its first overseas restaurant in San Francisco next year.

"By mafia we mean a syndicate of ex-IT entrepreneurs," said Hamada, 40, former publisher of an online movie magazine. "Our project is to deliver Wagyu produced by selected farmers directly to global buyers, bypassing middlemen and without advertising. We find customers via social media and pop-up" events.

Wagyu comes from four Japanese breeds of beef cattle - Black,



Horie grills Wagyu during a private party



Hisato Hamada

Brown, Shorthorn and Polled that typically produce intensely marbled meat, with a higher percentage of unsaturated fat than most other beef. That makes the soft, flavorful steaks the world's most-expensive meat.

■ Wagyu
comes from
four Japanese
breeds of
beef cattle Black, Brown,
Shorthorn
and Polled that typically
produce
intensely
marbled meat

At Hamada's new shop in Tokyo's Roppongi district, a favorite area for foodies, Wagyu sells for 30,000 yen (USD268) a kilo. (The cheapest bottle of Romanee Conti costs about 46,000 yen, with top vintages in the city fetching more than 1 million yen.)

Wagyu prices are rising in Japan due to the increased costs of calves, Hamada said. The average price of a Wagyu-producing calf reached a record 852,287 yen in December, more than double the rate four years ago, according to Zen-Noh, the trading arm of JA. As many of the older farmers retire, companies are being forced to rear their own cattle to keep up supplies.

"To cope with rising costs for Wagyu calves, we decided to start breeding them by ourselves," said Aichiro Yamaguchi, a spokesman for Japanese retailer Daiei, a subsidiary of the nation's biggest supermarket chain operator Aeon

Daiei, which operates Wagyu feedlots on the southern Japanese island of Kyushu, bought 15 Wagyu cows in December for breeding. The company plans to expand its herd to 500 by 2020 and aims to slash beef-production costs by 30 percent, he said.

Hamada first met a Wagyu farmer when he was distributing "Food, Inc.," a documentary film about corporate farming in the U.S. A farmer who saw the film invited Hamada to visit his farm in the southern Japanese prefecture of Miyazaki.

The farmer, Muneharu Ozaki, feeds his cattle organic ryegrass

and natural mineral water, with a home-made mix of 12 ingredients including barley and corn. He shuns additives such as antiseptics and antibiotics.

"What I want to produce is tasty beef that my family members can enjoy without any safety concerns," said Ozaki, who studied cattle farming for two years in the U.S.

Hamada was impressed by the taste of Ozaki's beef and his way of raising cattle. Later, while working as a a French movie buyer, he met three-Michelin-star chef Alain Ducasse, who told him Wagyu could become a killer ingredient for Japan in the global food market.

He and Horie, the former president of web portal Livedoor, are trying to build a premium brand as demand for Japanese beef soars overseas, especially in China, where food quality and safety has become an increasing concern.

Japan's biggest export market was Hong Kong which bought 353 tons in the first six months of 2017, followed by the U.S. with 201 tons. Cambodia, a transit point for Wagyu shipments to China, was the third largest buyer with 197 tons.

China maintains a ban on Japanese beef after Japan's first incidence of mad-cow disease in 2001. Exports are set to expand as

Taiwan lifted its ban on Japanese beef in September.

Japan reached a trade agreement with the European Union this year to eliminate tariffs on Japanese beef. The government aims to boost Wagyu exports to 25 billion yen by 2020.

"Wagyu is on the same path as sushi," which has expanded rapidly across the globe in the past decade, said Dan Christiansen, food director of MASH steak house in Copenhagen, the biggest overseas retailer of Japanese Wagyu.

Wagyumafia sources five brands of beef from 15 farms, including Ozaki's. The best known Wagyu abroad is Kobe beef, the topgrade meat from Tajima, an old province that is now in the north of Hyogo prefecture. Tajima is a mountainous region in the west of Japan with few open fields, clear spring water and chilly nights.

Tajima cattle are smaller than other Black Wagyu types and their meat has better texture, said Kyukou Tanaka, a 42-year-old farmer from the area. The region produces less than 1 percent of the beef cattle grown in Japan.

"Our cows have maintained a pure lineage over the past 2,000 years because they are kept in an isolated area surrounded by mountains," Tanaka said in an interview in Tokyo. "Their purity is the biggest difference from other types of Wagyu." His 40-month cow was selected as the champion in the Wagyu contest of Hyogo prerefecture last year, and sold for 200,000 yen a kilogram.

Wagyumafia seeks to buy only the top 10 percent of Kobe beef, Hamada said. Its famous Kobe beef cutlet sandwich costs 20,000 yen.

"It's incredible. There is nothing like this," said American percussionist Lenny Castro after tasting Tanaka's beef at a Wagyumafia restaurant opening in September. "It's totally different from other beef."

Hamada and Horie are in talks to license Wagyumafia shops in the U.S., U.K., Hong Kong, Thailand and Macau.

"I'm always thinking how to hack the world," Horie said. "With Wagyu, I'll make my name known to the world." **Bloomberg**

IPIM to introduce 'MICE Pass' for trade exhibition

THE 22nd Macao International Trade and Investment Fair (MIF) and the 2017 Portuguese-Speaking Countries Products and Services Exhibition (PLPEX), due to be held concurrently from October 19 to 21 at The Venetian Macao, will jointly introduce a "Macau MICE Pass" for the duration of the event.

The pass was unveiled yesterday at a press conference held by the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM).

According to a press statement released by the Institute, the pass will allow professional visitors and the public to board a free shuttle bus service connecting the exhibition venue to several locations in Macau's northern and central districts as well as to Taipa.

The service is being offered on October 19, 20 and 21, with the aim of "encouraging green commuting and promoting the social economy." The exhibition is open to the public on the second and third day.

According to an IPIM statement released yesterday, the newly introduced Macao MICE Pass has been designated as a trial implementation to be used by the government to promote the development of green exhibitions and reduce the wasteful use of resources.

The MIF 2017 will see participants from mainland China, Macau and Hong Kong work together to advance projects relating to critical policy areas that have been initiated by Beijing and several local governments. They include the Belt and Road Initiative, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area, as well as the "One Center, One Platform" — otherwise known as the dual goals to develop Macau into a world center of tourism and leisure and a platform for trade between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

Last month, organizers announced that, after two years of preparation, the 2017 PLPEX will be hosted as a standalone event for the first time in its history.

According to a statement from IPIM, there has been a continual annual increase in the number of participating governmental institutions and representatives from enterprises in Portuguese-speaking countries. Last year, PLPEX attracted more than 140 enterprises and business units as participants.

IPIM said the exhibition's growth warrants its staging as a standalone event. The exhibition will cover a total area of more than 300 square meters.





Hong Kong finance elite's gym of choice is said to seek sale

Vinicy Chan, Jonathan Browning

OWNERS of Pure Group, the billionaire-backed gym chain catering to Hong Kong's financial elite, are seeking a sale that could value the company at as much as USD500 million, people with knowledge of the matter said.

Pure Group investors, including buyout firm Leonard Green & Partners and businessman Bruce Rockowitz, are working with an investment bank to find a buyer for a controlling stake in the Hong Kong-based company, according to the people. It has drawn interest from Chinese private equity firms, the people said, asking not to be identified as the information is private.

Many of Pure Group's fitness centers occupy prime Hong Kong real estate like IFC Mall, a stone's throw away from the local headquarters of UBS Group AG and the stock exchange. Earlier this year, it opened a 10,000-square-foot (930-square-meter) yoga facility in the upscale Pacific Place mall, just downstairs from the offices of Carlyle Group LP, in a spot where a Burberry Group Plc outlet used to stand.

Founded in 2002, the group

operates Pure Yoga and Pure Fitness centers in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Singapore, Taipei and New York. It also operates the rooftop RED Bar + Restaurant, which offers views of Hong Kong's Victoria Harbor, and sells its own brands of activewear and organic food. The company has more than 70,000 clients and employs 1,400 staff, its website shows.

"A buyer would care about the China expansion. The market is at a relatively early development stage - people are trying to work out more and get a healthy lifestyle," Jacqueline Ko, an analyst at Kim Eng Securities (HK) Ltd., said by phone yesterday. "They can charge a premium for a famous Hong Kong brand."

The number of sports clubs in China is expected to increase 16 percent to around 10,960 locations by 2020, up from about 9,440 at the end of last year, according to forecasts from consultancy Euromonitor International. Any deal will add to the \$123.8 billion of consumer acquisitions in Asia this year, data compiled by Bloomberg show.

Rockowitz, the chief executive officer of Global Brands Group Holding Ltd. and husband to Chinese pop singer Coco Lee, owns around half of Pure Group, according to the people. He is expected to divest a significant portion of his holding in any sale, the people said.

Fung Group, the private holding company of Hong Kong billionaire brothers Victor and William Fung, is also seeking to offload its stake of about 10 percent, said the people. Pure Group management may keep a minority interest in the company, according to two of the people.

Many of Pure Group's fitness centers occupy prime Hong Kong real estate like IFC Mall

Hong Kong's Pure Group isn't related to the U.K.-based chain PureGym Group. No final decisions have been made, and there's no certainty the deliberations will lead to a transaction, the people said.

Representatives for Pure Group and Fung Group said they couldn't immediately comment. A representative for Leonard Green didn't respond to emailed queries, while Rockowitz didn't respond to requests for comment. **Bloomberg**

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East Timor, Australia agree on border delimitation

USTRALIA and East Timor agreed on the full text of a draft treaty defining maritime boundaries, the Permanent Court of Arbitration said in a statement released in The Hague, Netherlands.

The statement said that this draft treaty delimits the maritime border between the two countries in the Timor Sea, and addresses the legal status of the Greater Sunrise gas field, the establishment of a Special Regime for Greater Sunrise, a path to resource development and resulting revenue sharing.

"The two countries will now continue their internal approval procedures for signing the Treaty," said the statement.

The meetings held in The Hague are part of a dialogue for conciliation between Timor-Leste and Australia, conducted by a Conciliation Commission under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and overseen by the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

The document adds that as the two countries have agreed on the delimitation of maritime borders,



East Timor, the Timor Sea and a part of the northern coast of Australia

attention is now focused on the Greater Sunrise field and the Conciliation Commission will remain involved in the process to ensure that a well-informed decision is made.

The main unresolved issue is how the gas from the Greater Sunrise field will be processed, particularly if a pipeline will be built to Darwin in Australia's Northern Territory or to the south coast of Timor-Leste, and the decision will affect how revenues will be shared between the two countries.

The Greater Sunrise field contains estimated reserves of 144 billion cubic metres of gas and 226 million barrels of gas condensate, with a total value of USD40 billion. MDT/Macauhub

Angolan gov't to propose legislation to end monopolies

THE Angolan gover-nment will submit to parliament a proposal for a competition law to bring an end to monopolies and other imperfections in the country's market, the new Angolan president said on Monday in Luanda, cited by Angolan news agency Angop.

João Lourenço, in a State of the Nation address at the opening meeting of the First Legislative Session of the 4th Legislature of the National Assembly, said that the government would establish a legal framework to facilitate the operation of companies, which promote and defend free enterprise, competitiveness and competition in order to safeguard consumers' rights.

President Lourenço also said that he will pay special attention to companies that face

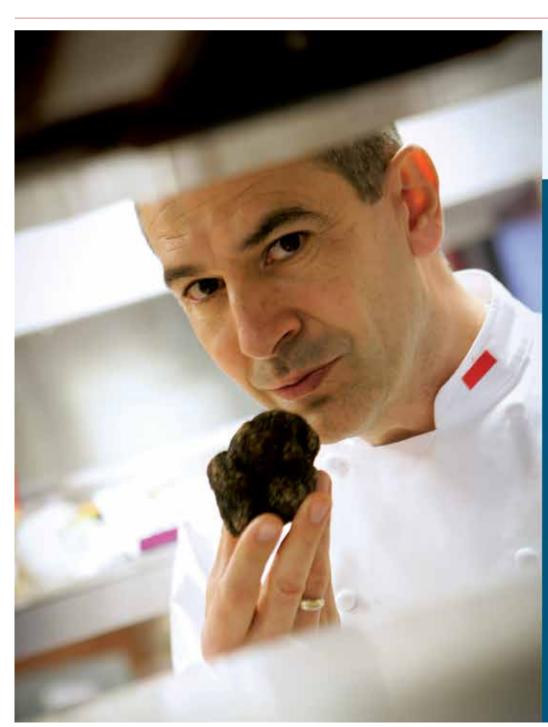
difficult situations and even struggle for survival due to the crisis, as they guarantee employment, the sustainability of families and keep the economy running.

He reiterated that he will propose tax incentives for companies that decide to invest in the interior of the country, including those that promote cooperation between the city and the countryside, reducing regional imbalances and poverty, to increase employment and income for families.

In his speech, the Head of State also noted the government's program for export promotion and import substitution, with the active participation of domestic and foreign investors, a strong focus on family agriculture and also on the mechanization of production methods.

MDT/Macauhub

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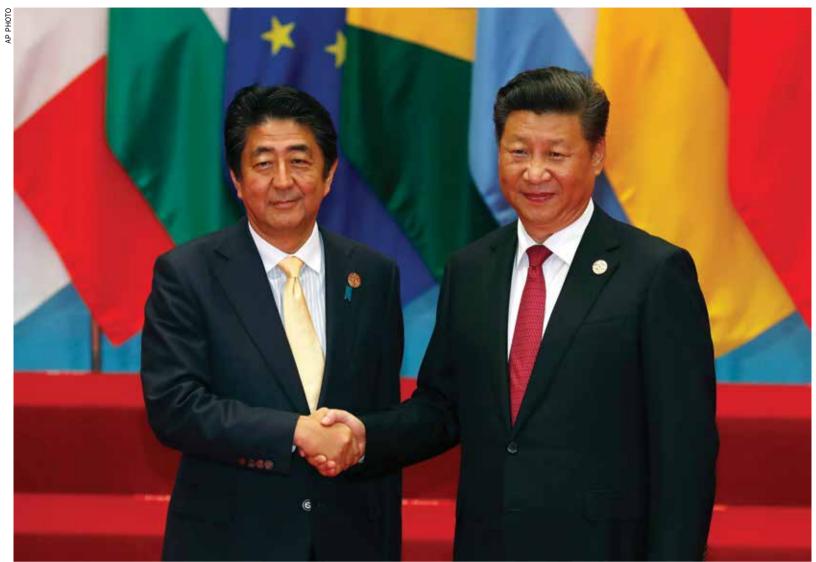
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Shinzo Abe and Xi Jinping (right)

ANALYSIS

China-Japan rivalry deepens as Xi and Abe on pace for more power

Isabel Reynolds

ASIA'S two biggest economies both have their most powerful leaders in decades - and neither one has much incentive to mend a relationship that has long been volatile.

Polls show Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's ruling party is heading for a landslide win in an Oct. 22 election, putting him on track to become the longest-serving leader in the country's history. Similarly, President Xi Jinping may enter his second term next week as China's strongest leader in at least a generation.

When both men rose to power in 2012, ties were at the lowest point since the nations agreed to establish diplomatic ties in the early 1970s. Fears of a military clash swirled as ships and planes from both countries tailed one another around disputed islands known as the Senkakus in Japan and Diaoyus in China. Anti-Japanese demonstrations in China hurt trade and investment.

While Abe and Xi have managed to stabilize ties since then - even meeting one-on-one several times - conflicting interests make it unlikely that

the next five years will bring a breakthrough in relations. The divide has been evident recently in their approach toward North Korea, with Xi's push for talks contrasting with Abe's call for more pressure against Kim Jong Un.

More broadly, Xi is pushing to expand China's military and economic influence throughout Asia, while Abe wants to counter that with stronger defense capabilities and alliances.

"Abe's quest for a more powerful Japan also stems from a strong feeling of insecurity in the face of China's aggressiveness - not just in and around Japan, but in East Asia," Giulio Pugliese, a lecturer in war studies at King's College London and co-author of a book on Sino-Japanese politics, said by email. "What we are and will be

witnessing is a quieter stando-

Mistrust between the two countries runs deep. In a poll published by the Genron NPO in September last year, more than 90 percent of Japanese said they had a unfavorable impression of China, and almost 77 percent of Chinese had a negative view of Japan.

Still, the two countries have grown more connected economically despite the animosity. China is Japan's biggest trading partner, while Japan is China's second-largest. Japan has welcomed about 5 million Chinese visitors so far this year - more than from any other country - and the number continues to grow.

Japan also faces the risk of being left behind as an increasingly confident China seeks a greater say in the global economic and security order. Abe saw a setback when U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew from a 12-nation Trans Pacific Partnership trade deal, while Xi has seen almost 70 countries sign up for his signature Belt and Road infrastructure initiative.

"They need each other economically," said Jiang Yuechun, a senior research fellow with China Institute of International Studies in Beijing. "Economic cooperation acts as the ballast of this relationship, and that is the reason why the Sino-Japanese relationship can't be burned."

In the near term, analysts are expecting Abe and Xi to meet for the second time this year after they each secure a fresh political mandate. That could happen as early as next month at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, where they sealed their first one-on-one meeting in 2014 with an awkward handshake.

If they get together, Abe would likely press his case for a long-delayed three-way summit this year in Japan, with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and South Korean President Moon Jae-in. Xi, meanwhile, will seek

to persuade Japan to join the Beijing-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

There have been some signs of a detente.

Unlike previous years, no cabinet ministers in Abe's party marked the Aug. 15 anniversary of the war's end with a visit to Tokyo's Yasukuni Shrine - a place seen by many in China as a symbol of Japan's past military aggression. Incursions by Chinese government vessels into what Japan sees as its territorial waters around the disputed islands - often used as a diplomatic signal - remained steady in August, rather than spiking as they did last year.

In a speech last month in Tokyo, Chinese Ambassador Cheng Yonghua said there was "a tendency to gradually improve the overall trend" despite complexities in the relationship. He noted that Japan and China have strengthened cooperation in trade, investment and finance after Abe recognized the importance of Xi's Belt and Road Initiative.

Still, comments made after a visit by Japanese dignitaries to China last month for an event marking the 45th anniversary of the normalization of ties showed that large obstacles remain. Yu Zhengsheng, the Communist Party's No. 4 leader, said that "complex problems remained between Japan and China" and that Abe should take the initiative to fix them.

"I thought it would be a conversation about how great things were, but he was surprisingly harsh," former foreign minister Yohei Kono, who attended the meeting, told reporters in Tokyo afterward.

Noriyuki Kawamura, a professor at Nagoya University of Foreign Studies, said the mood was similar when he attended an anniversary conference in China last month. The Abe administration's public criticism of China over its actions in the South China Sea - as well as its dispatch of military vessels to the region - are particular stumbling blocks, he said.

Even so, some analysts see a need for Japan to engage with China to bring about a peaceful solution to regional problems like North Korea. Closer ties would also help Japan influence China as its growing strength changes the world order, according to Bonji Ohara, a former naval attache at the Japanese embassy in Beijing.

"The problem now is who will be making the international rules, with the rise of China," said Ohara, now a senior research fellow at the Sasakawa Peace Foundation in Tokyo. "China has said clearly it's not happy with the current rules, but there's no discussion of how new rules can be created. We need to have that discussion, and that can't happen without strong political ties." **Bloomberg**

Abe's quest for a more powerful Japan stems from a feeling of insecurity in the face of China's aggressiveness.

GIULIO PUGLIESE LECTURER IN WAR STUDIES

Times

ECONOMY

Xi seen wary to push country reform

RESIDENT Xi Jinping is expected to emerge from the twice-a-decade Chinese Communist Party's congress that starts today as the most powerful figure in Chinese politics since Mao Zedong. Far less certain is what he'll do with all that enhanced political clout.

Global investors and executives hoping an emboldened Xi will tackle the big structural challenges facing China-from sprawling and inefficient state-owned companies to a massive corporate debt overhang-may be disappointed, according to analysts.

"The most likely scenario is a continuation of what we had in the last five years," said Frank Benzimra, head of Asian equity strategy at Societe Generale.

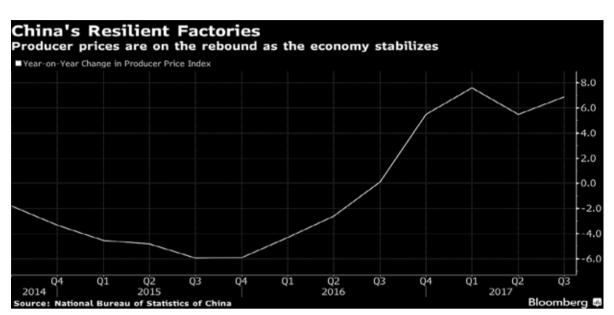
Playing it safe makes political sense for Xi at a time when the economy is delivering positive surprises - growth has beat estimates for three consecutive quarters - and the international environment features saber rattling over North Korea's nuclear program. But by delaying reforms to avoid short-term hiccups, Xi could also miss an opportunity to put the world's second-biggest economy on a

more stable long-term footing.

Markets will be listening when Xi addresses more than 2,000 delegates in Beijing to kick off the conclave. Among the existing priorities he'll likely spotlight are the One Belt One Road campaign to promote infrastructure projects with trading partners in Asia and Europe and plans to spend 2 trillion yuan (USD300 billion) building a new city near Beijing.

"We believe the overall policy direction will inevitably lean towards the more cautious and conservative side," economists Kevin Lai and Olivia Xia of Daiwa Capital Markets Hong Kong wrote in a report published last month. "The reform agenda could ultimately give way to the continuous quest for stability, and hence more control is more likely than more liberalization."

Underlining how the economy has stabilized, a gauge of manufacturing in China rose to a five-year high in September, while data released Monday showed factory prices gained a more-than-expected 6.9 percent last month. Industries that stand to benefit from increased government support include health care, semiconductors



and telecommunications equipment, according to Societe Generale's Benzimra.

Comments from People's Bank of China Governor Zhou Xiaochuan that economic growth could rise to 7 percent helped drive up yields on Chinese bonds yesterday, said Wu Sijie, senior trader at China Merchants Bank. The 10-year yield rose 3 basis points to 3.74 percent, the highest since April 2015 on a closing basis, taking its two-day advance to 6 basis points.

Zhou's comments suggest China's economy will continue its strong performance into the final quarter of the year, Wu said.

Xi may also emphasize the strategic importance of reforming state-run companies, with the government taking steps to create globally competitive multinationals in strategically important industries like telecommunications, energy, financial services, said Fan Cheuk Wan, head of Asia investment strategy and advisory at HSBC Private Banking.

However, bigger economic policy issues might also need to wait for other meetings later this year and next year, including a gathering of the Party's Central Committee known as the Third Party Plenum.

Xi will likely focus on well-known priorities of his such as the anti-corruption campaign, the One Belt One Road initiative and Made in China 2025, a plan to promote manufacturing innovation. **Bloomberg**

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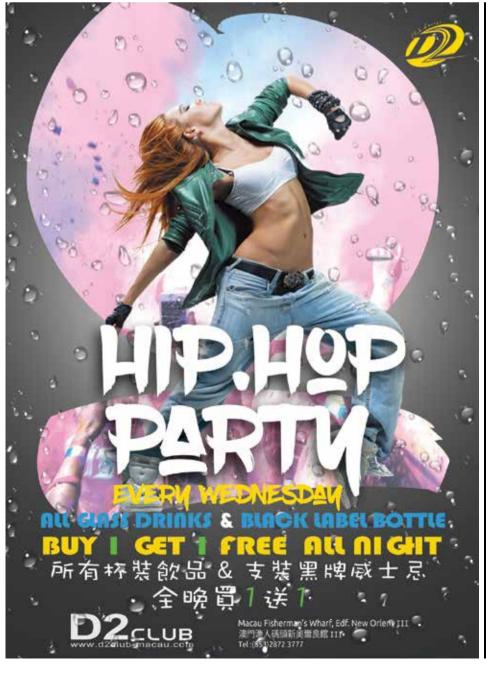
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MYANMAR

Thousands more Rohingya Muslims cross border into Bangladesh

Dar Yasin, Cox's Bazar

HOUSANDS more Rohingya Muslims are fleeing large-scale violence and persecution in Myanmar and crossing into Bangladesh, where more than half a million others are already living in squalid and overcrowded camps, according to witnesses and a drone video shot by the U.N. office for refugees.

The UNHCR video shot yesterday [Macau time] shows thousands upon thousands of Rohingya Muslims trudging along a narrow strip of land alongside what appears to a rain-swollen creek in the Palong Khali area in southern Bangladesh. The line of refugees stretches for a few kilometers.

Witnesses say a new wave of refugees started crossing the border over the weekend. An Associated Press photographer saw thousands of newcomers near one border crossing yesterday. Several said that they were stopped by Bangladeshi border guards and spent the night in muddy rice

In Geneva yesterday, UNHCR spokesman Andrej Mahecic said an estimated 10,000 to 15,000 Rohingya had fled since Sunday night — raising the overall total to 582,000 refugees who have left Myanmar since Aug. 25.

He said the latest influx came through the Anjuman Para border crossing point, and many of the new refugees explained they had fled when their villages were set on fire. Anjuman Para is in the



In this image made from a video released by UNHCR, thousands of Rohingya refugees arrive in Anjuman Para, Bangladesh, from Myanmar

Palong Khali area where the drone video was shot.

"As of this morning, they are still squatting in the paddy fields of Anjuman Para village in Bangladesh," Mahecic told a news briefing. "They are waiting for permission to move away from the border, where the sound of gunfire continues to be heard every night from the Myanmar side."

The violence in Buddhist-majority Myanmar's Rakhine state erupted after a Rohingya insurgent group known as the Arakan

Rohingya Salvation Army attacked at least 30 security outposts on Aug. 25 and the military responded with brutal attacks against the Rohingya Muslim population.

The exodus of Rohingya has continued, with a few small breaks, over the last eight weeks.

The new arrivals, almost all terrified and starving, described scenes of incredible violence with army troops and Buddhist mobs attacking Rohingya homes. The U.N. has described the violence as

"textbook ethnic cleansing."

said the Rohingya were being starved in a bid to make them lea-A woman who spoke to the AP

More recent refugees have also

on yesterday after her arrival said they had had no food to eat.

"We came here two nights ago with lots of difficulties. It took us eight days to reach here," said Anjuma, who gave just one name.

Several refugees said Bangladesh border guards were not letting them move toward the refugee camps and they were forced to spend the night in the open in pelting rain.

Myanmar officials have denied any systematic violence against the Rohingya Muslims. On Monday, the commander in chief of the country's army accused them of bullying Buddhists in Rakhine with the help of foreign organizations, which he said includes the United Nations.

UNHCR said an estimated 10,000 to 15,000 Rohingya had fled since Sunday night

Senior General Min Aung referred to the Rohingya as "Bengalis" as he spoke to Jeffrey Feltman, the U.N. under secretary-general for political affairs.

Many Buddhists in Myanmar call the Rohingya "Bengalis" and say they migrated illegally from Bangladesh, even though they have lived in the country for generations. Most Rohingya have been denied citizenship since 1982 and are excluded from the country's 135 official ethnic groups, which effectively renders them stateless.

"Bengalis themselves need to accept the fact that they are Bengalis, not Rohingya," the army chief said. AP

5-NATION TOUR

Trump in Asia will call for increased pressure on North Korea

PRESIDENT Donald Trump will ask U.S. allies to pressure North Korea on its nuclear program in an upcoming trip to the Asia-Pacific region. He'll also meet with Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte.

Trump has praised Duterte for his deadly war on drugs that has left thousands dead, according to a leaked transcript of an April phone call.

The White House says Trump will travel in November to Japan, South Korea, China, Vietnam and the Philippines from Nov. 3 to Nov. 14. Trump will also stop in Hawaii.

In South Korea, Trump will meet with President Moon Jae-in and "call on the international community to join together in maximizing pressure on North Ko-

In Japan, Trump will meet with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and participate in a meeting with families of "Japanese citizens abducted by the North Korean regime."

Trump will also meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping, Vietnam President Tran Dai Quang and attend two trade summits.

The White House says the travel will "underscore his commitment to longstanding United States alliances and partnerships, and reaffirm United States leadership in promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific region."

Vice President Mike Pence is meeting with Japan's deputy prime minister on economic issues ahead of President Donald Trump's trip to Asia next month.

Pence says alongside Japan Deputy Prime Minister Taro Aso that he's confident the U.S. and Japan will make progress toward their goal of developing stronger economic ties.

Pence kicked off the U.S-Japan economic dialogue during his trip to Japan last spring



Aso says the U.S. and Japanese ties are supported by the two nations' "close economic relationship." He says they hope to bring the

relationship to "new heights." The two leaders were also conferring on security issues in the Korean Peninsula. MDT/AP





President Donald Trump answers questions with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (right) in the Rose Garden after their meeting at the White House

USA

Trump, McConnell make a show of unity, despite tensions

Erica Werner, Washington

Donald Trump and Mitch McConnell have reaffirmed their alliance of necessity in a raucous Rose Garden news conference that also underscored their sharp differences. The garrulous president claimed they were longtime friends, now closer than ever; the reserved Senate Republican leader allowed that they share goals and speak often.

It was a spectacle that mesmerized Washington, as Trump and McConnell appeared side by side for more than a half-hour, the president tossing off answers — sometimes mini-speeches — on all topics while McConnell, disciplined as always, delivered brief, scholarly explanations about the legislative process and the risks to their party of nominating candidates who can't win.

At various points, the president denounced the Russia-Trump campaign investigation, lauded himself for his record on judicial nominations, argued wrongly that "it took years for the Reagan administration to get taxes done," and claimed that past presidents hadn't necessarily contacted bereaved family members to mourn lost service members before backtracking on that assertion when pressed. He also noted, as he often does, that he won the presidential election last fall, and he implored Hillary Clin-

ton to run again.

In front of a hastily assembled

White House press corps, jostling each other on the lawn because there wasn't time to bring out chairs, Trump began his remarks by saluting McConnell and, as he described it, their longstanding friendship.

"We're probably now closer than ever before," the president proclaimed as McConnell grinned stiffly at his side. "My relationship with this gentleman is outstanding."

■ 'We're probably now closer than ever,' Trump proclaimed as McConnell grinned stiffly at his side

Trump's former chief strategist, Steve Bannon, over the weekend declared all-out political war on the GOP establishment, including McConnell and incumbent Republican senators Bannon has deemed unsupportive of the president's agenda. Trump said earlier during a Cabinet meeting that he "can understand fully how Steve Bannon feels" and even that some in the party "should be ashamed of themselves." But he later suggested he might try

to talk Bannon out of challenging some Senate Republicans whom McConnell has pledged to defend.

"Some of the people that he may be looking at, I'm going to see if we talk him out of that, because frankly, they're great people," Trump said.

Trump's change in tone suggested that McConnell, whose allies regularly do battle with Bannon, might have talked Trump into intervening during their lunch together.

"Just so you understand, the Republican Party is very, very unified," Trump insisted.

McConnell took the opportunity to lay out, for the public and for the audience of one standing beside him, why he and GOP allies work to protect Senate incumbents. He argued that some conservative Republicans nominated in the 2010 and 2012 cycles didn't win because they weren't able to "appeal to a broader electorate in the general election."

"You have to nominate people who can actually win, because winners make policy and losers go home," McConnell said.

Trump briefly pursed his lips as McConnell made those remarks, then took a question on another topic.

Bannon, meanwhile, seemed in no mood to back down. "Senator McConnell and the GOP Establishment have 'sown the wind — now they reap the whirlwind," he said.

Bannon's Brietbart News site also reveled in the attention. "Bitter Mitch! Triggered by Bannon," one of its Monday headlines read.

Trump spent August assailing McConnell for his inability to pass legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act, calling the failure "a disgrace" and ordering McConnell over Twitter to "get back to work." For his part, McConnell has complained that Trump had "excessive expectations" for how quickly Congress could act.

Nevertheless the Kentucky senator seconded the president's latest views.

"Contrary to what some of you may have reported, we are together, totally, on this agenda to move America forward," McConnell said.

It was not clear what led to yesterday's sudden question-andanswer session, which followed lunch between McConnell and Trump at the White House. Their meeting came at a critical time, with the Senate poised to vote this week on a budget that would set the stage for tax legislation that many Republicans view as make-or-break following the failure on health care. Both McConnell and Trump recommitted themselves to the goal of passing a tax bill by the end of this year.

The last time McConnell was at the White House was early last month. On that occasion, Trump bypassed him and Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan to cut a deal with the Senate's Democratic leader, Chuck Schumer, and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi on debt and spending.

That kicked off a brief period when bipartisanship was in the air in Washington, and it seemed possible that Trump would make common cause with Democrats at the expense of Republicans on other issues, too. But the suggestion of a deal on immigration appears to have fallen apart. Questioned about Schumer and Pelosi, Trump replied: "Well, I hope to have a relationship. If we don't, we don't."

However, he claimed that his recent action to shut off certain payments to insurers under the Affordable Care Act, denounced by Democrats as sabotage, was forcing bipartisan talks. Indeed there may be a renewed focus on Senate bipartisan negotiations aimed at addressing the payments, which go to subsidize costs for low-income people.

"Because of that, people are talking now, Democrats are talking to the Republicans," Trump said, contending that a short-term fix would be followed next year by ultimate success in repealing "Obamacare," and asserting with no evidence, as he's done in the past, that the votes are there now to repeal the law.

Trump also denounced the investigation into his campaign's involvement with Russia, being conducted by a special counsel and GOP-led congressional committees.

"The whole Russia thing was an excuse for the Democrats losing the election," he said.

"There has been absolutely no collusion. It's been stated that they have no collusion. They ought to get to the end of it, because I think the American public is sick of it." **AP**

MacauDaily MPHHHAR • MacauDaily MPHHAR • MacauDaily MPHHHAR • MacauDaily

Danica Kirka, London

HE remnants of Hurricane Ophelia slammed into Ireland with wind gusts of up to 130 kph yesterday [Macau time], killing at least three people, grounding planes, shutting schools and causing widespread power outages.

Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar urged people to stay indoors until the storm passed. Tens of thousands of homes were without power and the military was placed on standby. Some hurricane-force gusts were reported 30 years to the day after a weather event dubbed the "Great Storm of 1987" battered southern England.

"It is a very dangerous storm," Varadkar said. "The last time there was a storm this severe, 11 lives were lost," he added, referring to Hurricane Debbie, which hit Ireland in 1961.

Although Ophelia has been downgraded to a post-tropical cyclone, Ireland's National **Emergency Coordination Group** on Severe Weather warned that the storm is still "unprecedented, with serious life-threatening conditions."

Ireland's weather service, Met Eireann, described the storm as the most powerful on record to have ever been this far east in the Atlantic.

Forecasters warned of flying

Hurricane Ophelia's remnants batter UK, Ireland; three dead



Waves break around the church in the harbour at Porthleven, Cornwall southwestern England, as the remnants of Hurricane Ophelia begins to hit parts of Britain and Ireland

debris, such as tiles blown from roofs. Large waves around coastal districts tossed sand and rocks onto coastal roads, seafronts and properties.

Wind warnings were in place for Northern Ireland, parts of Wales and western parts of England. Planes were grounded at several locations in the British Isles.

Some 130 flights were cancelled at Dublin Airport, while flights were also grounded at Manchester Airport. Both Ryanair and Easy Jet cancelled flights at Belfast International Airport, with more cancellations expected. Several flights to British airports were also diverted because of unusual odors on board thought to be associated with the remnants of the storm.

Authorities warned anyone with travel plans to contact their airline.

In parts of the United Kingdom and in France's Brittany region, the sky turned an eerie color as Ophelia's winds carried a mix of sand from the Sahara and particles from forest fires in Spain and Portugal, where 40 people have died. On social media, people posted pictures of London landmarks against yellow-orange skies.

A non-profit group that provides lifesaving services around the British Isles warned people to stay away from seas and beaches.

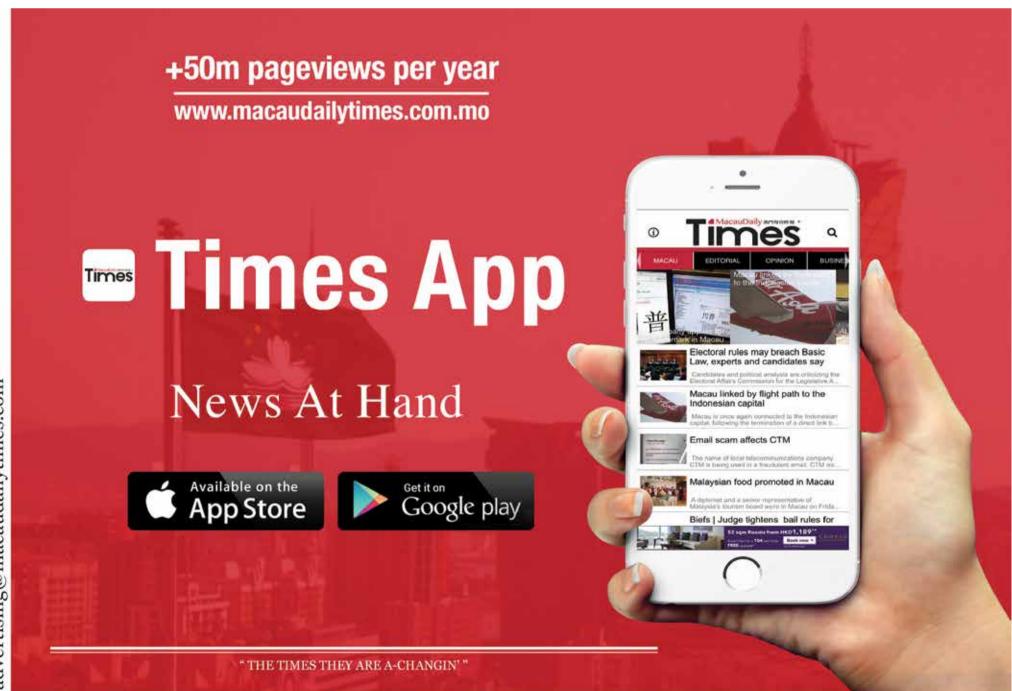
Matt Crofts, lifesaving manager for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, said coastal waters are "particularly dangerous and unpredictable, with large waves and swells being a major risk."

As tempting as it is to watch crashing surf, it isn't worth the risk of being struck by large waves that can easily knock weather watchers off their feet, Crofts said.

"The sea is far more powerful than you think and your chances of survival are slim if you are dragged into the swell," he said.

And there is more to come. Flights and ferries were cancelled in parts of Scotland, and authorities warned of coastal flooding in the southwest. **AP**

AD





what's ON



OKTOBERFEST

TIME: 6pm – midnight (October 18-23) 11am - 3pm (October 21)

VENUE: MGM Macau

ADMISSION: MOP170 (includes 1 standard drink,

except Champagne) ORGANIZER: MGM Macau ENQUIRIES: (853) 8802 8888

JAO TSUNG-I ACADEMY

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (Last admission at 5:30pm; losed on Mondays, open on public holidays) ADDRESS: No. 95 C-D, Avenida do Conselheiro

Ferreira de Almeida ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2523 & 8399 6699

Macau Illustrated - Exhibition of City Plans AND ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS FROM THE

MACAU ARCHIVES' COLLECTION TIME: 10am-6pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: December 3, 2017 VENUE: Archives of Macau ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2859 2919

Monkey King

TIME: 4pm & 8pm daily (Except on Thursdays)

VENUE: Sands Cotai Theatre

ADMISSION: MOP420, MOP480, MOP680,

MOP880, MOP1080

COTAI TICKETING: (853) 2882 8818 Kong Seng Ticketing: (853) 2855 5555

A Sculpture - Yang Xiao Hua REPRESENTING WOMEN THROUGH MAM Collection - 19th and 20th Century

TIME: 10am-7pm, last admission at 6:30pm (Closed

on Mondays, open on public holidays)

UNTIL: December 31, 2017

VENUE: Macao Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai,

NAPE

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

Offbeat

OHIO! MAN BUILDS 2-STORY 'STAR WARS' VEHICLE REPLICA FOR HALLOWEEN



A two-story, "Star Wars"-inspired Halloween yard display in Ohio should be enough to make any trick-or-treating Darth Vader proud.

Nick Meyer has built a replica four-legged All Terrain Armored Transport, or AT-AT walker, nearly as tall as his Parma home.

Meyer tells Cleveland.com he used wood, hard foam and plastic barrels. He says he enjoys the "Star Wars" movies but isn't a fanatic and simply thought the display would be unique. He's not the only Ohioan continuing a habit of massive Halloween yard displays.

In Lorain, Ricky Rodriguez and his wife built what looks like a massive digging machine poking up through their driveway, surrounded by rock debris and skeletons. Rodriguez tells The Chronicle-Telegram that it's made of wood and took six weeks to create.

IV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	RTPi Live
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:20	Zig Zag
17:10	Champions League: RB Leipzig x FC Porto (Repeated)
18:50	Brazilian Mini Serie (Repeated)
19:15	TDM Interview (Repeated)
19:50	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-daily Portuguese News
21:30	Miscelalneous
22:10	Brazilian Mini Serie
22:40	Miscellaneous
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League - Highlights
00:40	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:05	RTPi Live
02:45	Champions League: Juventus x Sporting (Live)

CINETEATRO

12 - 18 Ост



GEOSTORM

поом 1 2:30, 4:30, 9:30pm **Director: Dean Devlin**

Starring: Gerar Butler, Jim Sturgess, Abbie Cornish,

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 109 min



BLADE RUNNER 2049

2:30, 6:15, 9:15pm **Director: Denis Villeneuve**

Dave Bautista

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 141min



WHAT HAPPENED TO MONDAY

гоом 3 2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm

Director: Tommy Wirkola Starring: Noomi Rapace, Glenn Close, Willem Dafoe

Language: Chinese **Duration: 123 min**

this dav in historv



1976 FUNERAL OF MAFIA BOSS HELD IN NY

The funeral of Carlo Gambino, the 'boss of the bosses' in the Mafia, has taken place in New York.

Mr Gambino, considered the most powerful of the leaders of the American Mafia, died in his sleep at his home on Friday. It is thought he suffered a heart

The funeral, which was ticket-only, was held at the Church of Our Lady of Grace in a quiet, residential area of Brooklyn.

Plain clothes police officers and FBI agents were among the crowds outside the church. No trouble was expected as Mafia families have a history of respecting funerals, but the FBI had gone to find out who might succeed Mr Gambino as head of the family.

Carlo Gambino, in a \$7,000 (£4,400) bronze coffin, was buried next to his wife Catherine who died in

The death of Mr Gambino had long been expected following his recent spate of heart trouble.

Attempts had been made to arrest and deport him for his involvement in the attempted hijack of an armoured car in Sicily but he was considered too ill to make the journey back.

He was allowed to remain in the country and died at his home in Massapepequa, NY.

Born in Sicily in 1902, Mr Gambino moved to America in 1921 and began moving up within the Mafia. He became head of his Mafia family in 1957.

At the height of its power his family was considered to be the most influential in all America.

Speculation is now over who will become leader. Anielio Dellacroce, who once challenged Mr Gambino for the leadership of the family, and Carmino Galente, head of another New York family have been put forward.

Whoever takes over will control a 1,000 strong network of staff employed to run Mr Gambino's multimillion dollar empire of gambling, narcotics and loan sharking.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Paul Castellano took over from Carlo Gambino as head of the family. A cousin of Mr Gambino he had previously set up construction bids, union affairs and political ties.

It is widely believed the character of Don Vito Corleone played by Marlon Brando in Mario Puzo's 'The Godfather' is based on Carlo Gambino.

As well as being the head of the five New York families Carlo Gambino was also on the National Mafia Commission which governed the affairs of the 26 American families. He was considered to be very influential in this role.

The families were used to refer to the way different groups were split. The hierarchical systems each have a 'boss', an 'underboss', 'lieutenants' and 'soldiers' who together run the family businesses.

ON HIS WAY INTO

SECOND BASE!

YOUR STARS



Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

If it makes you feel warm, snuggly and as well taken care of as can be, you need to try it - even if it makes you feel faintly ridiculous at the same time. It may lead to an unexpected purchase...



Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

You are feeling especially grounded and stable right now - much more so than usual - and you are unwilling to take any guff from anyone. Your selfconfidence is the result of something you did recently that proved to others.



Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Right now is the perfect time to approach that elder or supervisor who has been so distant lately. Gather your courage - and proof of how awesome you are - and go for

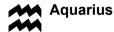


Most of the time, your main focus seems to be on other people. You concentrate on their needs, what makes them happy and how to please them - because doing that usually makes you happy as well.



Nov. 22-Dec. 21

If friends try to abduct you when you say you're working late or otherwise unavailable once again, don't even try to defend yourself. They can't handle your absence, and who can blame them?



Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You're still in that chatty zone, ready and willing to charm just about anyone into just about anything legal. Starting this afternoon, your energy starts to add some extra of determination to the mix.



Taurus

April 20-May 20

You're a veritable magnet for the affection and attention of admirers, new and old, so get used to it. If you happen to be happily attached, you may need to find a way to make your current partner know just how much you care.



Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Things are likely to get a lot better soon. If you can just make it through today, you should be able to sneak away from responsibilities for a little while. You really shouldn't wait your energy needs to take a break.



Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You're missing someone, and now

is time to make it stop. Ring them up and see if you can get together now, either at their place or, better yet, at yours - since you've probably been making it beautiful all week.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21



Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

You still feel a pang of regret over some lost friend or loved one, but now is the time to make it right. You're an adult, and you have all the right technology in place to get back in touch or to make amends



Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

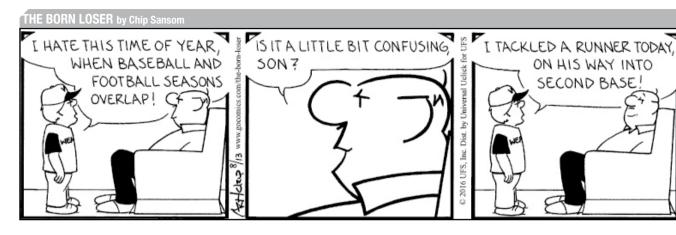
This is one of those times that absolutely everyone wishes for especially since it's happening at a good in-between point. You're endowed with all the right energy to have a warm, adventure with your love.



Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

Free will is something we've all got, and using it is what keeps us going. Exercise that right now and make some big choices, no matter how things 'should' turn out.



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Medium

3

8

2 9 8

8

2

5

9

3 2

2 5 4

Easy+

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

Hard

2

3

4

6

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

NEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	11	15	drizzle
Harbin	-4	11	clear
Tianjin	10	15	drizzle
Urumqi	9	21	clear
Xi'an	9	18	overcast/cloudy
Lhasa	5	20	clear
Chengdu	13	19	drizzle/overcast
Chongqing	15	19	shower/overcast
Kunming	14	19	shower
Nanjing	15	18	overcast/drizzle
Shanghai	17	21	cloudy/overcast
Wuhan	14	17	drizzle
Hangzhou	15	21	overcast/cloudy
Taipei	24	29	drizzle
Guangzhou	20	28	cloudy
Hong Kong	24	28	cloudy
WORLD			

Moscow	6	13	drizzle
Frankfurt	11	20	cloudy/drizzle
Paris	13	22	clear/drizzle
London	13	15	drizzle
New York	9	14	clear

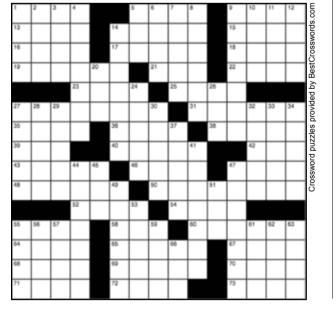
CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Role for Ingrid; 5- Denier's words; 9- Arrive; 13- Saudi king; 14- Red fluorescent dye; 15- Person who is liable to tell untruths; 16- 1998 Sarah McLachlan hit; 17- Tiny branches; 18- Women's magazine; 19- Fermented soybean cake; 21-Witness; 22- Affirmative votes; 23- Barbershop request; 25- Shower; 27- Concentrated extracts; 31- Owner of a slave; 35- Asterisk; 36- Picnic pests; 38- Paris "thanks"; 39- Male offspring; 40- Atty.-to-be exams; 42- Alley-___; 43- At attention; 46- Farm measure; 47- Melody; 48- Vocal organ of birds; 50- Capital of Jamaica; 52- Astound; 54- South American country, famous for Macchu Picchu; 55- Disagreement; 58- Animal park; 60- Entered; 64- Shoppe adjective; 65- Accord maker; 67- Tolstoy heroine; 68-Time; 69- Actor Ryan; 70- Queue before Q; 71- Not closed; 72- The Beatles' "Back in _"; 73- Able was

DOWN: 1- ___ first you don't...; 2- Fill with cargo; 3- Leveling wedge; 4- Power plug transformer; 5- Without delay; 6- Medical

suffix; 7- Large cat; 8- Pants measurement; 9- Purify; 10- Greasy; 11- Boy or man; 12- "___ Tu": 1974 hit; 14- In the right; 20-West ender?; 24- Bright bunch; 26- How _; 27- Curved letters; 28- Tale; 29-More reasonable: 30- Pile: 32- Freshwater fish; 33- Low-budget prefix; 34- Grow to maturity: 37- Divest: 41- Dakar's land: 44-Tank; 45- Explosive stuff; 47- Large sea wave; 49- City in NW Jiangsu province, China; 51- Miracle-__ (plant food); 53- High times?; 55- Manhattan neighborhood; 56-Alka-Seltzer sound; 57- Together, in music; 59- Till bills; 61- Feminizing suffix; 62- Are you ___ out?; 63- Scruff; 66- Patriotic org.;





ÚSEFUL 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

IACM 28 387 333

Tourism 28 333 000 Airport 59 888 88

Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283

Telephone - Report 1000

Water Supply - Report 2822 0088

Electricity - Report 28 339 922

Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



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Ref: 15030482



GOLF

Woods cleared for sport activities with no restrictions



Doug Ferguson

TIGER Woods is swinging a driver without pain, and his agent says doctors have cleared the former world No.

1 to practice without limitations.

Still to be determined is when Woods can play in a tournament.

"We haven't even addressed

when he comes back to play again. We have not addressed one thing," said Mark Steinberg, Woods' agent at Excel Sports Management. "He wants to play this so conservatively."

Steinberg said Woods received a "good report" last week from doctors who performed fusion surgery on his lower back in April. Woods posted a video on Twitter on Oct. 7 of him hitting a smooth iron shot. Then on Sunday, Woods posted another video — in a red shirt, no less — hitting a driver.

"Making progress," he tweeted.

Woods, whose last victory was four years ago at the Bridgestone Invitational for his record 18th World Golf Championships title, has not played since he withdrew from the Dubai Desert Classic on Feb. 3 because of back spasms.

Two months later, he had a fourth surgery on his back in 19 months.

Woods first posted a video on Aug. 31 hitting pitch shots. Steinberg said doctors last week allowed Woods "to proceed with no restrictions," which is when he began posting video of fuller golf shots.

"He has started to hit balls at a more aggressive rate," Steinberg said. "He feels really good, but he's going to take it very slowly. I think he's excited that he's not feeling pain. That's what gets him excited, being able to bend down and pick up his kids.

"He's taking it from wedges and short irons to the longer clubs. But he's still doing it in a really cautious manner."

Woods was an assistant captain at the Presidents Cup two weeks ago, and he said then his priorities were to get his health in order, make sure he is pain-free and then wait on word from his doctors.

"I'm still training. I'm getting stronger," he said on Sept. 27. "But I certainly don't have my golf muscles trained."

Woods last year returned after 15 months to play in his Hero World Challenge in the Bahamas, where he finished 15th in an 18-man field. The tournament is a week after Thanksgiving. Two spots are still available for sponsor exemptions to players in the top 50 in the world, or to the tournament host, which is Woods. **AP**

AD 👠



CYCLING

Tour champion Froome could face Dumoulin test on 2018 route

Jerome Pugmire, Paris

EFENDING champion Chris Froome can expect a stern challenge from Dutch rider Tom Dumoulin in next year's Tour de

Froome is chasing a record-equaling fifth victory to move level with Belgian great Eddy Merckx, French riders Jacques Anquetil and Bernard Hinault, and Spanish great Miguel Indurain.

Froome and Dumoulin won the three Grand Tours last year, with Froome adding the Spanish Vuelta and Dumoulin winning the Giro d'Italia.

The 105th edition of the Tour features a hilly 31-kilometer time trial through the Basque country on the penultimate day. Froome is a specialist, but Dumoulin is the reigning world time trial cham-

The 32-year-old Froome is still in his prime, while the 26-year-old Dumoulin is approaching his.

"A contest between Chris Froome and Tom Dumoulin, two riders with similar qualities, wouldn't displease me. It would force one of the two to try something different to surprise the other," Tour de France race director Christian Prudhomme said yesterday. "We're looking at a new generation that wants to entertain. I think that if Christopher Froome is up against Tom Dumoulin, they will want to do that.



Britain's Chris Froome poses in front of the the road-map during the presentation of the 2018 Tour de France cycling race, in Paris, yesterday

They will be more or less equal in the time trials. That's something very exciting.'

The race starts on July 7 - aweek later than usual because of the soccer World Cup in Russia - and opens with a flat 189-kilometer route for sprinters from Noirmoutier-en-l'ile to Fontenayle-Comte in the Vendee region, on the Atlantic coast.

With the time trial returning after being omitted the last two years, Froome's Team Sky will be confident of creating early time gaps on Stage 3 - a 35-kilometer route starting and ending in Cholet in Western France. But Sky faces tough competition, because

Dumoulin's Sunweb team is the reigning TTT world champion.

The Tour route, which goes clockwise, features 25 mountain climbs — ranging from the relatively difficult Category 2 to Category 1 and the daunting Hors Categorie (beyond classification). Eleven are in the Alps, four in the Massif central region and 10 in the Pyrenees.

"It is a massive challenge and a Tour de France that tests every aspect of cycling," said Froome, who won the past three races and in 2013. "I wouldn't expect anything different from the organi-

The Tour also has more time bo-

nuses on offer in flat stages over the 3,329-kilometer course.

The difficult climbs start on Stage 10, the first of three straight days of grueling Alpine ascents. But organizers have preceded that with a tricky ninth stage that could shake up the peloton. It takes riders over 15 treacherous cobblestone sections: the highest number since the 1980 Tour, with nearly 22 kilometers altogether.

"It's going to be a very nervous race," Froome said.

The Roubaix cobbles may perhaps trouble Froome, although Prudhomme thinks the British rider can handle anything.

"We've seen that Chris Froome has a range of abilities much wider than people said," Prudhomme said. "He's intelligent and hardworking. He keeps on winning in a different manner than in previous years.'

Even though Froome will be 33 on next year's Tour, Prudhomme still thinks he can improve.

"I don't think we've seen everything that Froome has to offer," Prudhomme said.

The cobbles are followed by a rest day on July 16, and Froome had better make the most of it because the Alps start brutally the day after.

Stage 10 on July 17 has four difficult climbs on a 159-kilometer route from Annecy to Le Grand Bornand. They include a punchy ascent of Montee du plateau de Glieres, featuring for the first time.

"Six kilometers with an 11.2 percent gradient is monumental," Prudhomme said.

The third day of Alpine climbing begins with Col de la Madeleine, then Croix de Fer (which translates as the ominous-sounding Iron Cross) and ends with an ascent of l'Alpe d'Huez: three of the Tour's most well-known.

"The Alpe d'Huez stage will be the Queen stage," said Froome, selecting it as the hardest. "It's going to be a very big challenge."

Dumoulin is not in Froome's class as a climber, but is not so easy to drop. Whether he can stay with Froome through the Pyrenees, however, will prove crucial to his chances.

Three tough days of climbing in the Pyrenees starts with Stage 16 on July 24: a daunting 218-kilometer route from Carcassone to Bagneres-de-Luchon that follows the second rest day.

Stage 17 is short at 65 kilometers but cruel, with three consecutive nasty climbs, ending with an attack up Col de Portet. Stage 19 has four ascents and then ends with a potentially treacherous 20-kilometer descent to test the concentration of tired riders.

Whoever is freshest after that will have a better chance of challenging Froome in the time

The 21-stage race ends with its customary processional Sunday finish on the Champs-Elysees. AP

GYMNASTICS

Olympic champion Simone Biles returns to gym with new coach

Biles is ready to get serious about her comeba-

Biles, who won four gold medals and five total during the 2016 Summer Olympics, has hired Laurent Landi as her coach as she plans a return to competition.

Landi served as the personal coach for two-time Olympic medalist Madison Kocian, a teammate of Biles' on the "Final Five" team that dominated in Rio de Janeiro. Landi replaces Aimee Boorman, Biles' longtime coach who moved to Florida shortly after returning from Brazil.

Landi will work out of male gymnast in a single Centre, the massive gym built by Biles' parents north of Houston. Biles pointed to her familiarity with Landi as one of the deciding factors.

"It'll definitely be a different atmosphere," Biles told The Associated Press yesterday [Macau time]. "It'll be a different style. I think sometimes you need a change to help progress as an athlete."

The 20-year-old took a well-deserved sabbatical following her triumphant two weeks in Brazil, where her four golds tied and Olympic record for the most won by a fe-

cs champion Simone the World Champions Games. She competed is really short and I feel on "Dancing With The Stars," released an autobiography and crisscrossed the country while serving as a spokeswoman for everything from mattresses to athletic apparel.

Biles began tinkering around in the gym in August, though she said at the time she was taking it slowly and wanted to see how her body responded before deciding whether she was mentally and physically prepared for the arduous task of training to compete at the elite level.

She discovered she's more than ready.

"The window to do this that right now, I feel like I've got a couple more vears in me, and that's why I'm going to decide to keep going," Biles said.

There is no timetable for when she may be ready to compete. Biles and Landi will work on a blueprint that will sketch out the next few months. Barring any setbacks, she could be ready to compete in some capacity by the middle of next summer.

"We're just going to take it a week at a time and we'll get off the drawing board," she said. "Once we get a better idea of that, we'll be OK." AP



RUSSIA 2018

Italy to face Sweden in World Cup playoffs

TTALY will face Sweden **L**in the European playoffs next month to qualify for the World Cup. The four-time World Cup champions were drawn yesterday to play away first against the Swedes in a two-leg playoff. In other pairings it was: Northern Ireland vs. Switzerland; Croatia vs. Greece; and

Denmark vs. Ireland. The eight teams were the best runners-up in the nine European qualifying groups. The first legs will be played from Nov. 9-11, with the return games from Nov. 12-14. The four winners will take part in the World Cup draw on Dec. 1 at the State Kremlin Palace in Moscow.



<u>opinion</u>

Views on China

Michael Schuman, Bloomberg

ACTUALLY, A STRONGMAN WON'T MAKE CHINA STRONGER

Who will rise and fall at this week's Communist Party congress in Beijing remains shrouded in the usual thick mist of Chinese politics. But the outcome of the twice-a-decade leadership conference is clear: President Xi Jinping will emerge with an even stronger grip on the nation. The congress will thus move China another step away from the management-by-committee that's marked its reform period and towards something closer to one-man rule.

For some China watchers, worried about the risks rising in the world's second-biggest economy, a more powerful Xi may sound like good news. Conventional wisdom holds that only a strong leader will be able to push through contentious economic reforms in the face of China's entrenched interests. The more control Xi can grasp, the faster reforms will proceed and the better off China - and the world - will be.

China's own history, however, argues otherwise. Since 1949, the country has progressed faster economically when governed in effect by coalitions, not by a single, dominant figure. In fact, it's arguable that the more power Xi gains, the less likely we are to see real change in China.

Remember that the kind of liberalizing reforms we now associate with the Chinese economic miracle arose as a reaction against the tumult created by the most domineering figure in China's modern history, Mao Zedong. After a quarter century of his arbitrary rule, buffeted by persistent purges and economic and social chaos, China's top leaders concentrated after Mao's death on governing with more pragmatism and stability, with a focus on economic development.

That movement was led by another imposing Communist dignitary, Deng Xiaoping. But the impression that Deng, who maintained influence over the regime even though he did not head either the party or the state, was all-powerful is misguided. While he may have been the motivating spirit behind new technocratic policies, Deng's real strength was his ability to forge and then manage a wide coalition of political factions - from hardboiled central planners and Communist elders to ambitious up-and-comers out in the provinces.

Deng told party members to "emancipate the mind" and he encouraged the flourishing of policy, if not political ideas. That led to an explosion of tinkering with improving corporate performance, opening to trade and investment and boosting agricultural production, all of which underpinned China's economic rise. Many of the most critical measures adopted under his watch in the late 1970s and 1980s - including the dismantling of agricultural communes and the formation of "special economic zones" to woo foreign investment - originated with provincial authorities who had been encouraged to experiment.

China witnessed another striking burst of reform during the period from 1998 to 2003, when Zhu Rongji served as premier. Not only did Zhu usher China into the World Trade Organization, he oversaw a drastic and painful downsizing of the country's state-owned enterprises (not unlike what's needed today). He managed this despite not being the top dog in Chinese politics; as premier, he ranked behind President Jiang Zemin.

The past five years under Xi has shown the dangers of too much consolidation of power. Despite gathering more and more control in his own hands, Xi has so far been unwilling to employ that clout to revamp the country's inefficient state enterprises, wean the economy off its debt addiction or allow the market to allocate financial resources; all are critical steps to bolster sagging productivity and produce healthier growth. With no one around to balance Xi's power - Premier Li Keqiang has been more or less sidelined and central bank Governor Zhou Xiaochuan is on his way out - there's no one near the top able to push for faster change.

Nor does Xi's government seem equipped to generate the kind of policy innovation that has been so crucial to China in the past.

[Shortened]

Solange, Bruno Mars Lead Soul Train Awards nominations

Solange is the most nominated artist for this year's edition of BET's Soul Train Awards.

The younger sister of Beyonce has seven nominations, including best R&B/soul female artist and video and song of the year for her single "Cranes in the Sky."

Bruno Mars has six nods, including song of the year for "That's What I Like" and album/ mixtape of the year for "24K Magic." A pair of career achievement awards will be handed out at the Nov. 5 ceremony in Las Vegas. Toni Braxton will receive the Don Cornelius Legend Award and female R&B trio SWV will honored with the Lady of Soul Award. BET said yesterday the artists are being honored for their longstanding careers and influence.

The ceremony will air on BET on Nov. 26.

Roadside 30-50 Good High Density Residental Area 30-50 Good Ambient 30-50 Good

Michelle Yeoh: Weinstein a 'bully,' 'not always honorable'

Angela Chen, Hong Kong

ACTRESS Michelle Yeoh said yesterday that she was aware of Harvey Weinstein's reputation and would have unleashed "years of martial arts training" on the fallen Hollywood mogul had he ever tried to sexually harass her.

In a statement to The Associated Press, the Malaysian star added to the chorus of female voices speaking out about the sexual harassment scandal surrounding Weinstein, who produced or distributed many of Yeoh's films and TV shows.

"Any man who treats women with such disrespect and contempt should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law," said Yeoh, who stars in the new TV series "Star Trek: Discovery."

"I knew he was a bully and not always honorable. I wasn't exposed to this side of him, otherwise he would have experienced the full effect of years of martial arts training," she said, without elaborating.

Their paths often crossed because Weinstein was passionate about Asian action movies, particularly kung fu flicks.



The Weinstein Co. was one of the producers of last year's "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon: Sword of Destiny," a sequel in which Yeoh reprised her role from the original blockbuster martial arts film. The company also produced the Netflix series "Marco Polo," a period epic in which Yeoh had a role.

Weinstein's previous company, Miramax, distributed Yeoh's earlier films. He was also a big donor to amfAR, an AIDS charity for which Yeoh, 55, is an ambassador.

Since allegations Weinstein sexually harassing women over decades emerged in reports by The New York Times and The New Yorker, more than three dozen women have publicly accused him of abuse. Weinstein has also been fired by his movie company and been expelled from prestigious Hollywood groups, cluding the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences — the home of the Oscars. AP

WORLD BRIEFS



NORTH KOREA's deputy U.N. ambassador warned that the situation on the Korean peninsula "has reached the touch-andgo point and a nuclear war may break out any moment." Kim In Ryong said that North Korea is the only country in the world that has been subjected to "such an extreme and direct nuclear threat" from the United States since the 1970s. More on p13

IRAQ Kurdish forces pulled out of disputed areas across northern and eastern Iraq yesterday, a day after handing the northern city of Kirkuk over to federal forces amid a tense standoff following last month's vote for independence.



MALTA's home minister says his EU country has appealed to the FBI and to European forensic experts to help investigate the car bomb slaying of the country's leading investigative journalist.



VENEZUELA's opposition is standing by its assertion that numerous irregularities were committed during regional voting for 23 governors, an election contest that the National **Electoral Council says** ruling party candidates won soundly. Opposition leader Angel Oropeza said Monday the opposition won't recognize the results until an independent, internationally verified audit is conducted.

UNITED NATIONS The United States and human rights groups sharply criticized Monday's U.N. election for 15 new members of the Human Rights Council, singling out conflict-torn Congo's victory despite accusations of serious rights abuses and an investigation by the U.N.'s top human rights body.

