



**NEW BLOOD 'TO CHANGE' LAWYERS' REGULATOR BOARD**  
 Veteran lawyer Sérgio de Almeida Correia is running for president of the Lawyers Association to change its ways

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**CHINA COMPLAINS TO SWEDEN OVER TOURISTS' TREATMENT**  
 China urged Sweden to respond to its complaints about the alleged mistreatment of a Chinese family removed from a hotel in Stockholm

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**RONALDO KICKSTARTS SCORING FOR JUVENTUS**

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# Times

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## TYPHOON MANGKHUT FLOODS DOWNTOWN

# A hole in the operation

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### WORLD BRIEFS

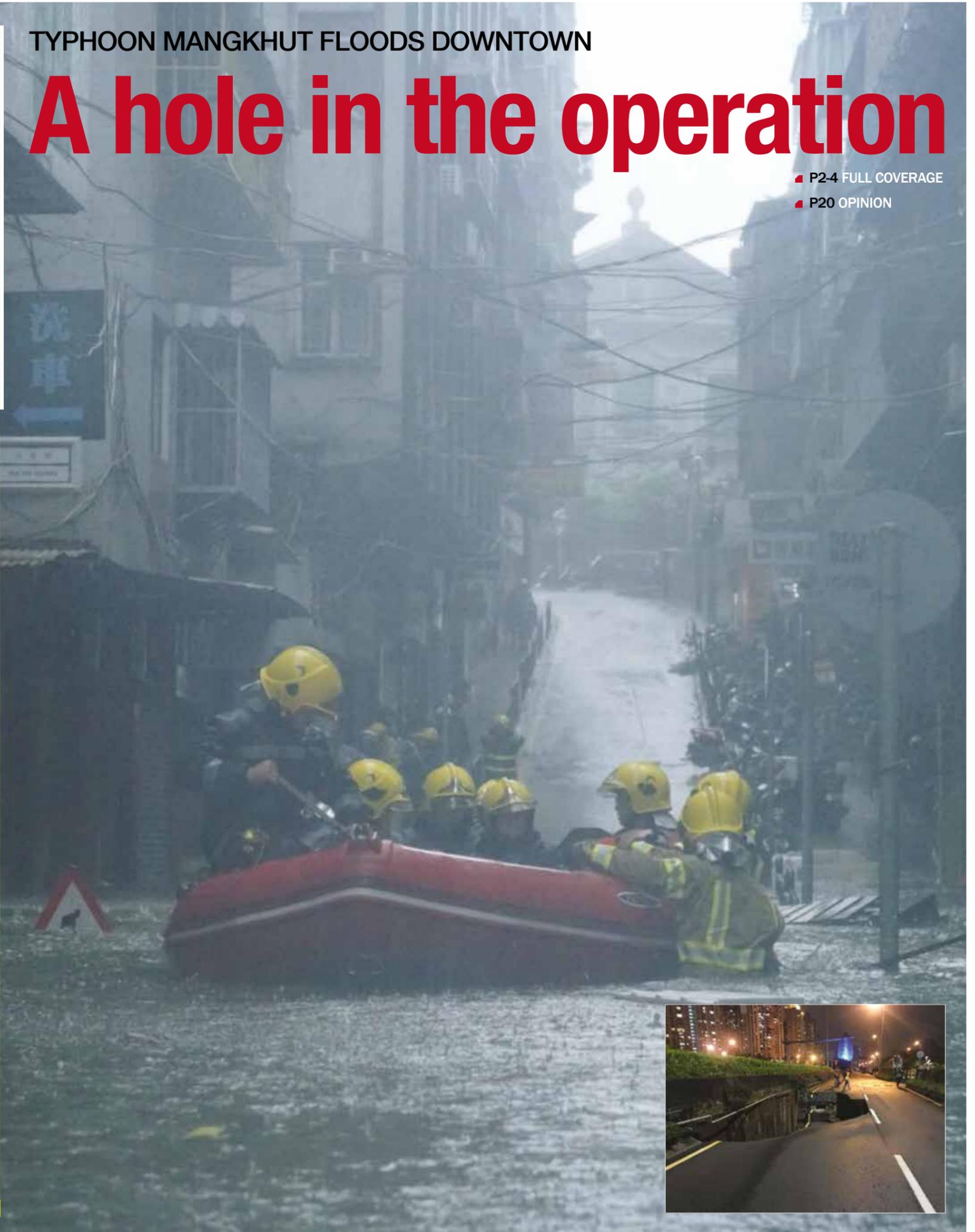
**CHINA** A prominent figure in global finance said Beijing should press Washington to end their tariff battle by clamping down on exports of goods needed by American companies. The comments by Lou Jiwei, a former finance minister and chairman of the sovereign wealth fund, follow reports regulators are squeezing American companies. More on p10

AP PHOTO



**PHILIPPINES** Dozens of people believed to be buried in a landslide unleashed by Typhoon Mangkhut in the Philippines probably did not survive, a mayor said yesterday, although rescuers kept digging through mud and debris covering a chapel where they had taken shelter. Of the 40 to 50 miners and their families believed inside the chapel, there is a "99 percent" chance that they all were killed.

More on backpage



## MANGKHUT

## Fire accident killed one

A fire outbreak, which took place early morning on Friday at Fai Chi Kei Social House, resulted in one death and five injured. The deceased resident was a local 74-year-old man, tenant of the social house. The fire occurred in the residential building's 17th floor, in the housing unit where the late victim was living. The other five victims live in the same building and described some discomfort during their escape, mainly trouble breathing. Some 180 residences were evacuated in total while the Fire Services Bureau (CB) combatted the fire. According to the Housing Bureau, the central gasoline system of the concerned social house is in a normal condition. A regular inspection has been carried out at the project as well. The latest inspection of the concerned building's fire system was conducted at the end of August. The CB spent 20 minutes extinguishing the fire, with ten ambulances and two ladders deployed to the site.

## Gov't preventive measures pay



## Prison police dismissed for failing obligation

A prison police officer has been dismissed due to his failure to fulfill his legal obligations as a public servant. According to a statement released by the Office of the Secretary for Security, the former police officer violated his obligation to be caring and diligent, as well as to not be involved in other jobs. The dismissal was issued on August 8. The same police officer had also been accused, in 2016, of bribery, in a case related to 2015, by the Commission Against Corruption. However, recently, the Court of First Instance ruled that the police officer was not guilty of bribery.

## Mak Soi Kun suggests more teenagers join PSP youth club

Lawmaker Mak Soi Kun is proposing to the police authority that more local youth should join the Public Security Police (PSP)'s youth club. Recently, the PSP established a youth team hoping to attract teenagers into participating in the city's anti-crime activities. Mak complimented the PSP youth club, saying it can help to train more successors to Macau's future development. "There are however some residents querying me to ask the administration authority how it will expand the scale of the PSP youth club, and how it will enhance the promotional campaigns for recruiting more youth and students to participate [in the PSP's youth club]. Furthermore, they want to know if every community and family can be part of the civil protection team. Will the government increase the strength of the society through the youth club?" Mak questioned.

## Lynzy Valles

**T**HE SAR government undertook several preventive measures in response to this year's typhoon Mangkhut to avoid casualties similar to the scale seen during typhoon Hato last year. Government authorities yesterday said that they were satisfied with the response of civil protection teams and that pre-disaster preparation had been improved.

On Saturday, a red storm surge warning was issued at 9 p.m. in the form of an alarm warning residents, particularly in low-lying areas, to evacuate to the 16 government-run shelters.

According to official data, a total of 5,650 people living in low-lying areas were evacuated, while the 16 centers accommodated 1,343 residents.

The Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) hoisted signal No. 8 on Sunday at 2 a.m., and raised it to signal No. 9 followed by No.10 at 11 a.m.

"It's the longest hoisting of T10 since 1968. T10 was hoisted for nine hours before Mangkhut arrived. Its wind speed was 173 km/h near the center, stronger than Hato which was 165 km/h," said a spokesperson from the SMG yesterday at a press conference.

"It was closest to Macau at 4 p.m. yesterday, about 60 km away from Macau, whe-

reas Hato was 40 km away. Hato's highest water level was 6.2 meters, while Mangkhut was at 5.58 meters," the official added.

During the hours of adverse weather on Sunday, the period from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. saw floodwaters reach about 1.9 meters in height in some areas of Macau.

Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak expressed hopes that in the future, residents will voluntarily evacuate once warnings have been issued.

"We hope that evacuation will be voluntarily in order to ensure people's safety and under special conditions, mandatory evacuation is needed," he said.

Wong was pleased with the efforts of the Civil Protection Action Center, noting that residents' civil protection awareness has increased through the conduct of pre-disaster preparation.

"Under the government's coordination, six gaming operators' parking lots and government parking lots were prepared, and many temporary parking spaces were arranged," said Wong.

The government had also required casinos to suspend operations, which occurred for the first time along with the closure of the border gate.

"The government prepared a large amount of information and released it in a timely fashion, and made effective clarification," he noted.

The Times received reports that by around 2 p.m. on Sunday, some households in the Inner Harbor area had lost electricity. CEM reported that over 20,000 households lost power.

Emergency repairs to certain power transformer stations located at the street level in low-lying areas were carried out when the floodwaters receded.

Public services and schools – with the exception of the civil protection system – were suspended yesterday.

The Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau plans to set up refuse collection points in 45 locations in low-lying areas. All of these collection points were operational from 7:30 a.m. yesterday.

Yesterday morning, the Transport Bureau (DSAT)

## Causes of road sinkhole under investigation

**T**HE government is investigating the causes behind a sinkhole that appeared near the entrance of one of Macau's bridges, the government reported yesterday during a press conference on typhoon Mangkhut.

The road's contractor is already following up, and the government will release further information later, though it expects to have the affected road repaired within one week.

Other damage recorded by the Civil Protection Action Center totaled 523 incidents, including 69 felled trees and 320 instances of fallen scaffolding at construction sites. Forty people were injured in the typhoon, 12 of which were female, but most of the injuries were considered to be light in terms of severity.

The government received 1,196 calls requesting assistance, and 3,262 calls for inquiries.

From midnight yesterday until the start of the press conference at 3 p.m., the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM), together with cleaning companies and other parties, had collected 455 tons of trash.

Trash cars deployed increased from 11 to 19 vehicles. IACM lent scooters to residents for conveying goods.

In total, 3,700 trees sustained damage: 2,200 had broken branches, while 1,500 fell to the ground.

As of 3 p.m. yesterday, IACM collected 75 tons of broken branches and fallen leaves.

IACM has a total of 2,100 volunteers, including 500 ordinary residents, 400 civil servants, and 1,200 people from the city's associations, providing aid in the clean-up process.

Regarding taxi infractions, a police representative reported that 29 overcharging cases and 10 cases of refusing to take passengers were recorded. **JZ**

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# off during typhoon stronger than Hato



fixed five traffic light systems which were damaged by the typhoon. As of 3 p.m., there were still 15 traffic light systems being fixed, representing approximately 10 percent of the city's traffic light systems.

Compared to last year when 200 buses were damaged by typhoon Hato, no buses were damaged this year by typhoon Mangkhut.

The Director of Maritime and Water Affairs Bureau, Susana Wong Soi Man, reported that her department will improve the drainage pump system

in the Inner Harbor area to improve the flood drainage. Wong remarked that the water supply operated normally during the typhoon. However, problems occurred in buildings that were affected by power cuts in the electricity network. In total, 21 buildings did not have water supply during the typhoon. Fifteen of them had their water supply resumed as of 3 p.m. yesterday.

"Regarding rumors, there were several different rumors being spread. Investigations of these rumors are still being

carried out, and we hope to announce the results to the residents as soon as possible," said Wong Sio Chak, Secretary for Security.

Wong said that, "this time, the liberation army need not be bothered with cleaning up the trash."

Ma Io Kun, Unitary Police Service (SPU) Commissioner-General, informed that the "Taishan nuclear power station issued an alert according to the country's standards. There were no reports of any incidents or problems whatsoever."



## GAMING

# Typhoon shutdown to cost casinos USD186m

MACAU casino stocks retreated after Typhoon Mangkhut forced a 33-hour shutdown of the world's biggest gambling hub, a halt that's estimated to cost operators as much as USD186 million in revenue.

Nearly all casinos in the enclave reopened at 8 a.m. yesterday, after a government order shuttered their doors at 11 p.m. Saturday night as the storm approached. The Bloomberg Intelligence index for Macau casinos fell as much as 2.1 percent in early yesterday trading in Hong Kong, with Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. and SJM Holdings Ltd. leading losses.

The casino shutdown is expected to cost Macau from 1.1 billion patacas

to 1.5 billion patacas in lost gaming revenue, estimated Union Gaming Securities Asia Ltd. analyst Grant Govertsen. Industry employees said it was the first time Macau shut down gambling since licenses for casinos were given out in 2002.

The storm disruption is expected to dampen casino revenue in Macau, with Govertsen and other analysts lowering the hub's outlook. September's revenue growth rate could be affected by as much as 7 percentage points, said Govertsen, who almost cut in half the firm's previous forecast of a 15 percent increase. The storm's impact is likely to cut third-quarter revenue growth by 2 percentage points, to 12 percent, he

wrote in a note.

"This robs the month of one important weekend day," which typically generate significantly higher gaming revenue than midweek days, Govertsen said in an interview. It will take a day or so for traffic to return to normal given how many flights and ferries were canceled, he added.

The shutdown is the latest blow to Macau casino operators after a rebound for the industry that began more than two years ago. Investor worries are growing over a pullback in spending by big gamblers as China faces an economic slowdown and questions tied to the trade war with the U.S.

Shares of Galaxy dropped as much as 4.6

percent Monday, with SJM tumbling as much as 3.9 and Wynn Macau falling as much as 3.2 percent. Casino shares fared worse than the benchmark Hang Seng Index, which declined as much as 1.8 percent.

"Investor sentiment could remain weak and volatile for now, given macro uncertainties and likely earnings revision by the street, exacerbated by this typhoon/suspension news," JP-Morgan analyst DS Kim wrote in a note Sunday. "September could be a month to forget."

Kim also lowered September's gaming revenue growth forecast to low-single digits from a previous 13 percent estimate. The casino shutdown will also slow down this quarter's revenue growth to 10 percent from the firm's current estimate of 14 percent, the note said.

Still Ben Lee, a Macau-based managing partner at Asian gaming consultancy IGamiX,

said the decision to shut the casinos was the right choice to ensure employees' safety and noted the industry is "still in positive growth territory." Lee also expects to lower his gaming outlook for the hub.

Junket operators and other industry officials had expressed relief at the shutdown, praising the government's decision.

"This is the first time in Macau history that all casinos halted operations, to ensure the safety of employees," said Stephen Lau, president of Power Macao Gaming Association, an organization that represents casino workers. "We are seeing the government and casino operators no longer just put profit over the employees' interest."

Casinos in Macau have had 25 straight months of growth, boosted by high rollers and the opening of flashy new resorts on the Cotai peninsula. Operations were

disrupted last summer by Typhoon Hato, which caused 10 deaths, according to Xinhua. While casinos continued to operate during that storm, the government estimated the economic loss to Macau amounted to 12.6 billion patacas (\$1.6 billion).

Casino stocks tumbled last week after Deutsche Bank lowered its forecast for revenue growth in Macau. It cut its 2019 outlook by more than half, to 4 percent growth from 11 percent previously, citing concerns about the VIP segment and saying Macau is at the start of a downward earnings revision cycle.

Morgan Stanley, however, wrote last week that casino shares may be poised for a 50 percent rebound. Based on the last cycle that ended in July 2012, shares are set to recover on the back of improving earnings, it wrote in a note, helping a two-day rebound in the benchmark casino gauge. **MDT/Bloomberg**



People hold an umbrella as they brave the wind during a No. 10 Hurricane Signal raised for Typhoon Mangkhut in Hong Kong

## Mangkhut drifts into China as HK lowers warnings

**TYPHOON** Mangkhut is losing power after making landfall in China and leaving Hong Kong with roads blocked, buildings damaged and low-lying areas flooded. The death toll in the Philippines rose to more than 50.

More than 2.45 million people have been relocated and over 48,000 fishing boats returned to ports in China's Guangdong province as of 5 p.m. on Sunday, when Mangkhut made landfall, according to Xinhua News Agency. A 40,000-ton-category vessel with 73 people on board was blown off its anchoring at Huizhou port this morning, China's Central Television reported.

Mangkhut, which is set to weaken as it passes over inland areas of South China, brought heavy winds and rains to Hong Kong, blowing out apartment building windows and toppling scores of trees.

The Hong Kong Observatory reported Mangkhut was the most powerful cyclone to hit the city since 1979, packing maximum sustained gusts of 195 kilometers per hour (121 mph).

About 213 people had sought medical treatment in the city's hospitals. In the Philippines, President Rodrigo Duterte appeared on television to pledge aid to storm-hit regions.

Images of a residential apartment and an office building with their windows blown out circulated on social media in Hong

Kong. A crane fell off a building at a construction site, the Mingpao newspaper reported. Fallen trees forced closures of roads and a tunnel. The government said 1,219 people have sought sanctuary in 48 temporary shelters set up in various districts. Residents in the flood-prone Tai O village and Lei Yue Mun were evacuated as sea levels continued to rise.

Almost 900 flights were canceled in Hong Kong on Sunday. In China, all flights at Guangzhou International Airport were scrapped through yesterday morning.

Cathay Pacific Airways said it now expects a gradual return to scheduled flight operations, but there'll still be delays and some cancellations.

Electricity to 7,000 customers were disrupted in several districts across the city, according to power utility CLP Power Hong Kong Ltd. In China, power disruptions affected 168,700 users in Guangdong, with 81,900 people still without normal service, Xinhua reported.

Schools in Hong Kong will be closed for a second day today, while some of the city's bus and railway services remain suspen-

ded. The government aims to complete its clean up of major roads by 5 a.m. local time on Tuesday, said the city's commissioner for transport during a briefing yesterday.

Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam urged companies to show understanding and adopt a flexible approach to staff who have difficulties getting back to work. Hong Kong Disneyland and Hong Kong Ocean Park were shut for clean-up.

Hong Kong Airport is trying to get business back to normal. More than 1,400 flights had been canceled across the region,

according to Flight Aware. Cathay Pacific Airways said it expects a gradual return to scheduled operations, but there will be continued delays and some cancellations.

**■ Mangkhut was the most powerful cyclone to hit Hong Kong since 1979, packing maximum sustained gusts of 195 kilometers per hour**

On Saturday, the typhoon tore across the Philippines' northern island, killing more than 50 people, many of them in landslides, according to the government. An estimated 5.7 million people were affected by the storm.

President Rodrigo Duterte appeared at a televised Cabinet meeting following an aerial inspection of the affected areas and pledged funds following an for the recovery. Food supply is sufficient and prices are stable even in affected areas, Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez said at the meeting.

Availability of cheap rice should be ensured to avoid price spikes, Lopez said, adding that supermarkets have also agreed to sell grain from the government's food agency.

"Agriculture is badly hit," Francis Tolentino, an adviser to Duterte, said earlier by phone.

Impacts of the storm were felt as far away as Taiwan, where high waves caused one death, according to the island's government. Heavy rains and winds knocked out power for a short period in more than 12,000 homes. **MDT/Agencies**



**L**AWYER Sérgio de Almeida Correia on Friday announced his candidacy for president of the Lawyers Association (AAM), making his bid public during a press conference held at his office.

Correia made a 16 bullet point declaration at the press conference that ended with a commitment to rigor, competence and transparency of the legal profession.

"I want an Advocacy with no conflicts of interest; one which fulfills its social responsibility," he said. "I want a loyal, forthright and courageous legal practice. A rigorous practice and accountable to citizens."

"Because this is the way that women and men are free. And it is with these [principles] that a serious and respected legal community is built. In any language. In any part of the World. In Macau as well."

Almeida Correia, who holds a PhD in political science, has been regularly in the public eye with sharp comments on politics and legal affairs both on his blog and as a commentator for Radio Macau's Contraponto talk show. He also often offers his comments and critical views to the local press, including the Macau Daily Times.

The current president, Jorge Neto Valente, said recently in an interview with Radio Macau that "the time has come for a total renovation of the AAM's board," hinting he is not wanting to run for another mandate. Valente has been at the helm of the barrister's association

# Sérgio Correia running for president of Lawyers Association

for decades.

However, in a change of tone Friday, Valente said that it was not yet time to disclose whether he intends to submit his candidacy once again.

Valente explained that he could not endorse Correia's bid until the other candidates are known, adding only that it is "healthy" to have competition for the leadership role.

■ **Jorge Neto Valente recently said, 'the time has come for a total renovation of the AAM's board'**

The elections for the AAM board will be held in the first fortnight of December. The deadline for list submission is October 31.

In the previous elections vote participation rate was over 50 percent or about 200 votes casted.

As of today Sérgio de Almeida Correia is the only candidate for the post. **PC/DB**



Sérgio de Almeida Correia



A flag-raising ceremony is held at the Golden Lotus Square for the National Day celebrations last year

## Au Kam San questions Lotus Flower Square land title

**L**AWMAKER Au Kam San has written to the government inquiring about the land title for the four Golden Lotus Square land plots.

Ahead of his question, Au highlighted another case concerning Macau residents' right to demonstrate.

According to Au, in July, the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) denied the notification of demonstration for a protest which was planned at Lotus Square, after explaining that the Golden Lotus Square land plot had been leased for another purpose.

Citing the city's law, Au said: "Golden Lotus Square is an unrestricted place where tourists and residents can enter, linger, take photos and rest. There are no doubts about

this being a space open to the public." For this reason, Au believes IACM should not have denied the notification.

The square is often used for high-level government events and celebrations, such as last year's National Day celebrations, which counted the presence of senior officials from the mainland.

Au pointed out that the land plots used to belong to The Sociedade de Turismo e Diversões de Macau, SA (STDM). Later, the government borrowed the land from the company, promising to pay for the land with other land plots.

"If the problem is not solved, that means the four lands are still owned by STDM. Golden Lotus Square [...] was leased in 1994. Next year, it will be 25 years since the lands were first leased," said Au.

The lawmaker asked the government whether it was waiting for the land rights to expire so the government authority could take it back.

"If the land cannot see its development being complete [...], the temporary outsource can become a permanent outsource. When the deadline approaches, the government can announce the invalidity of the land title, and therefore take it back unconditionally," Au said.

## Craft market applications open

**S**TALL registrations for the upcoming "Tap Seac Craft Market" in November are open until October 5. The market will have a total of 220 stalls, showcasing cultural and creative brands.

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) welcomes applicants from Macau, Malaysia and Singapore. The market will be held from November 16 to 18 and November 23 to 25.

According to a statement, stall registration is free and can be made on behalf of a group or individual. If the number of eligible applications exceeds the original allocated quota, stall operation time will be assigned by drawing lots.

The IC reminds applicants that they must submit all the required documents and the completed application form to the bureau's Department for Promoting Cultural and Creative Industries.

Beginning in 2008, the "Tap Seac Craft Market" has been a platform for local cultural and creative practitioners to display and sell their products.

It has become a local fixture and has attracted local and overseas creative talents, who showcase their creativity and handcrafted products.

There will be simultaneous music performances and craft workshops held for the public.

## PROPERTY WANTED FOR SALE OR RENT

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### FOR RENT



#### Office - Dynasty Plaza

(Ref: 18070685)  
3,500 sq.ft. HKD 72,000

This spacious commercial space is immediately available for rent in the NAPE area of Macau. The former lawyer's office is well suited for any commercial tenant looking for a convenient park-side work space, including architectural firms, law firms and design companies. Viewing available upon request.



#### Soi Cheung, Taipa Village

(Ref: 18090530)  
700 sq.ft. HKD 12,800

Cute one bedroom apartment situated in the centre of Taipa village. Open plan kitchen with sleek white cabinets incorporating a built in electric cook top and small oven, good size free standing fridge/freezer. Separate shower room with plenty of built in storage. Charming double bedroom with small balcony overlooking the village rooftops. Reverse cycle air conditioners in every room. Available from October 2018.



#### High Floor B Unit in The Buckingham

(Ref: 18090687)  
1,433 sq.ft. HKD 21,800

Unique 2 bedroom fully furnished apartment with private terrace. Open plan kitchen with built in appliances. Two bathrooms one en suite. Views of Cotai Strip, China & Macau. Convenient location in central Taipa.



#### Lakeview, Macau

(Ref: 18060680)  
3,430 sq.ft. HKD 30,000

Bright and spacious 3 bedrooms, 1 dressroom and 1 utility room apartment in Macau. Furnished Partly. Front balcony with the great view of Macau skyline and Nam Van Lake. Convenient location, close to Grand Lisboa and Senado square.

### FOR SALE



#### Hellene Garden, High Floor Carnation Court

(Ref: 18085559)  
1,663 sq.ft. HKD 9.8M  
Rate: HKD 5,893

Beautiful apartment in the Hellene Garden complex. Located on high floor. Nicely renovated with an open kitchen and two balconies (one facing the sea and another facing the hills). Three beds one with en-suite. The property is being sold with one parking space.



#### Kam Lai Kuok

(Ref: 17035512)  
1689 sq.ft. HKD 7.5M  
Rate: HKD 4,440

Central Macau, wonderful three bedroom apartment with two bathrooms and modern great size kitchen. Spacious balcony although as been built in could easily be opened up again very easily. The apartment comes with a parking space in the same building which is included in the asking price.



#### Jou Fai Kuok, St Pauls Ruin's Macau

(Ref: 18055556)  
627 sq.ft. HKD 3.9M  
Rate: HKD 6,347

One bedroom apartment in Heritage Area of Macau. A five minute from the Ruins of St Pauls. Renovated 3 years ago. Good size master bedroom with built in wardrobes. Modern shower room with built in under counter cabinet. Well equipped kitchen. S shaped living / dining area with small nook for desk.



#### 4th Floor Car Park, The Manhattan, Taipa

(Ref: 18095560)  
HKD 1.63M

Car park space available for Sale in the Manhattan, Taipa. Great location on the 4th floor. Good size space. Asking price HKD1.63 million



#### Old Taipa, Nam Long (I Unit)

(Ref: 18095561)  
516 sq.ft. HKD 4.38M  
Rate: HKD 4,488

Fully renovated apartment with a bright street view situated on the edge of the popular Taipa Village. The original two bed layout has been converted into a large one bedroom configuration that can easily turn back into two. The building features a newly renovated lobby and common areas completed in August 2018.



#### The Manhattan, Unit D, MID - High Floor - TAIPA

(Ref: 18045551)  
2,305 sq.ft. HKD 18M  
Rate: HKD 7,808

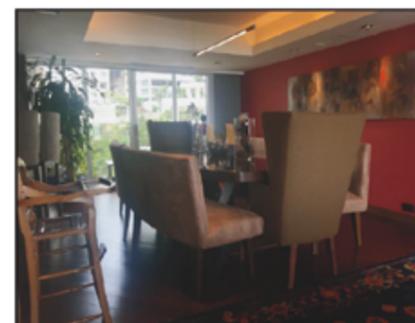
Four bedroom apartment in an great location. High quality finishes and furnishings. Perfectly located, close to super markets, restaurants, cafes, shops and walking distance of the Cotai Strip. One car park for sale, asking HKD1.5 million.



#### One Central, Tower 7-Macau T7

(Ref: 18045554)  
2,700 sq.ft. HKD 36M  
Rate: HKD 13,333

Located in the One Central complex this property offers stunning views across the South China Sea towards Hong Kong. Floor to ceiling windows across one wall makes the living / dining room bright and spacious. The master suite enjoys a separate bath & shower as well as two basins.



#### Choi Long Meng Chui, Taipa

(Ref: 18045555)  
3,398 sq.ft. HKD 21M  
Rate: HKD 6,180

Fabulous apartment with stunning open views across to Macau. Originally four bedrooms converted to three bedrooms with three bathrooms, two en suite. The open plan dining area at the back of the property has another balcony with a view of the original University of Macau. Two parking spaces (one covered and the other open).

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# Consulate of Indonesia celebrates 73rd anniversary of independence

A ceremony for the 73rd anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Indonesia was held last Friday at the MGM Macau integrated resort.

Remarks by Tri Tharyat, Consul General Republic of Indonesia in Hong Kong and Macau highlighted the cooperation between Macau and Indonesia.

"For Indonesia, Macau is a very interesting autonomous region to cooperate with as it has an advanced tourism sector which contributed to almost one third of its GDP in 2017, as the report of World Travel and Tourism Council describes. The contribution will always grow as Macau is poised to be the richest place on earth with a per capita GDP of USD143,116 in 2020," said Tri Tharyat. "Indonesia has approximately 52 million people of middle class, and affluent consumers whose consumption accounts for 43 percent of total household consumption. This growing middle class is [a great] potential market that offers various investment opportunities for Macau

investors to tap." "However, current bilateral cooperation between the two sides has not demonstrated its fullest potential as those two predictions tell," said Tri Tharyat.

The Indonesian Consul General hopes to see an increased number of visitors to the upcoming Trade Expo Indonesia on 24-28 October 2018 to tap opportunities in trade and investment.

In Tri Tharyat's words, "coupled with the Greater Bay Area Initiative, Macau may become even more attractive to Indonesia as it also offers another connected 70 million new consumers to tap in Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Dongguan."

The Indonesian diplomat believes that Macau can take advantage of two initiatives: as one of the world's centers of tourism and leisure, and as a commercial and trade cooperation service platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

Earlier, Macau's Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam visited Indonesia for the Asian Games 2018, and Tam



Sonia Chan (left) and Indonesia's consul general in Hong Kong and Macau, Tri Tharyat

also met Indonesian Minister for Tourism, Head of Creative economy Agency and other government principal officials to discuss potential cooperation in tourism and education.

"We agreed that the visit would be followed by tangible measures and [action] in the near future, such as provision of scholarships to Indonesian tourism high school students and student-exchange, as well as

working opportunities in Macau for Indonesian skilled workers. Thus, Indonesia can learn how to improve its tourism industry as Macau has done," said the Consul General.

Currently, there are around five thousand Indonesians in Macau with the vast majority working as domestic helpers.

The Indonesian consulate provides consular services to these Indonesians three times a week

in Macau.

"The consulate is also ready to work with the Macau government in improving protection, including following up the planned Mutual Legal Assistance [MLA] between Indonesia and Macau," said Tri Tharyat.

Current statistics show 200,000 Indonesian people visit Macau each year, outnumbering those travelling from Macau to Indonesia who number only around one thousand.

"In the years to come, as our economies grow steadily, we certainly look forward to continue to welcome a lot more tourism from Macau," Tri Tharyat remarked.

Secretary for Administration and Justice Sonia Chan also said "the Macau SAR and Indonesia have long enjoyed strong economic, and social and cultural ties. [...] With the strong support of the Central Government [...] we look forward to expanding the mutually beneficial cooperation between Macau and Indonesia along the path of development." JZ

AD

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**Time:** 9:00 - 10:30am (Reception: 8:45am)  
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# It's crunch week again for Nafta with US and Canada at odds

Josh Wingrove

U.S.-Canada trade talks are poised to come to a head this week, as negotiators bear down on their next deadline amid President Donald Trump's threats to cut his largest export market out of the deal.

High-level negotiations are expected to resume this week in a bid to reach a deal for Canada to remain in the three-nation North American Free Trade Agreement, a Canadian government official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. Congress is pressing for Canada to be kept in Nafta, after the U.S. and Mexico struck their own deal last month.

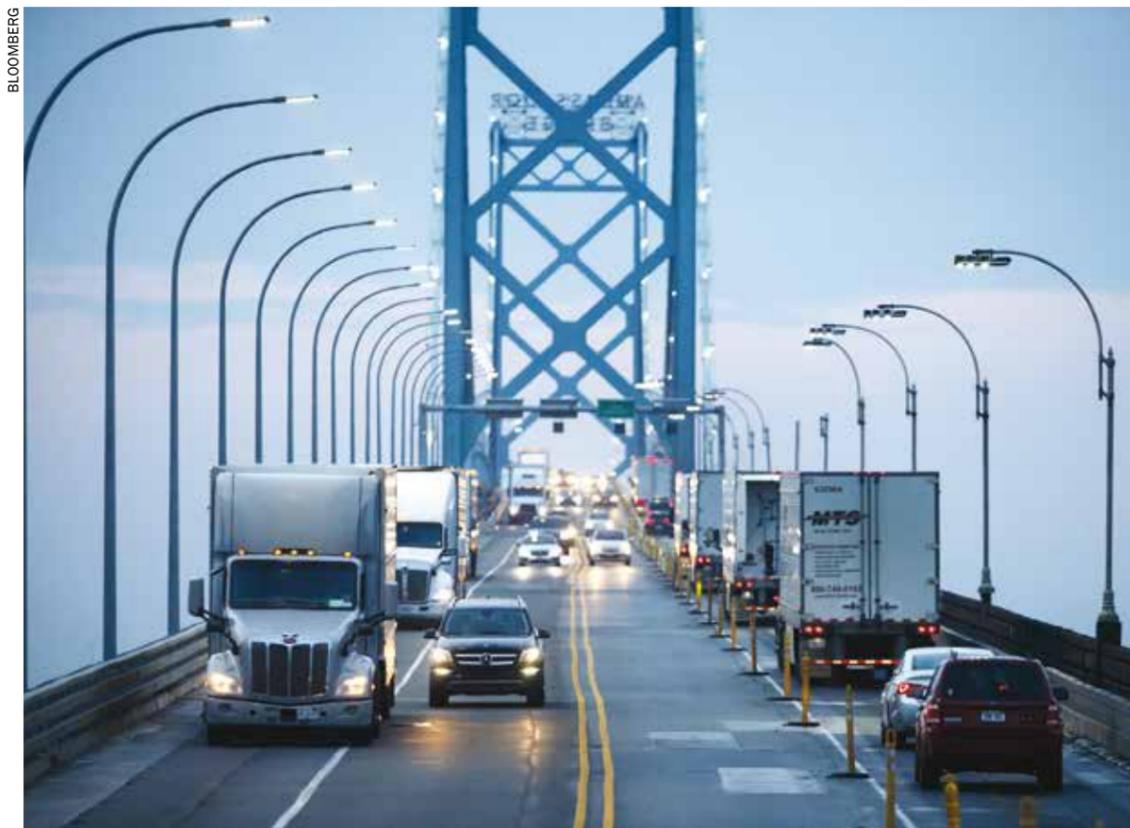
Time is running out to reach an accord that can be signed before Mexico's president-elect takes office. There were no high-level talks scheduled yesterday, and the middle of this week - probably Thursday - is considered the next deadline to reach a handshake deal that could be converted into legal text by the end of this month, the official said.

The Trump administration - facing a fight with China, falling approval ratings and upcoming midterm elections, among other issues - has begun to show more flexibility and the progress of talks picked up last week, two officials familiar with negotiations said. Whether it will be enough is the major question.

"What has surprised me is looking at the conciliatory position of the U.S. on a lot of issues," said Laura Dawson, Director of the Wilson Center's Canada Institute in Washington. The U.S. has dropped some of its most high-profile demands, but she stopped short of making any bets. "They're closer now than they have been; that's all I've got."

## CONGRESS VIEW

If the countries fail to get a deal this week, they'll be at a crossroads. Trump has threa-



Commercial trucks and passenger vehicles drive across Ambassador Bridge on the Canada-U.S. border in Ontario, Canada

tened to proceed without Canada, but Congress has warned he can't do that on the current U.S. legal path, which was for a three-country deal. House Speaker Paul Ryan and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi last week called for Canada to be included. Trump has also threatened to apply tariffs to Canadian auto exports to the U.S.

"It should be trilateral," Pelosi, whose Democrats are poised to potentially take control of the House of Representatives, said Friday. Asked about a Mexico-only deal, she said: "I just don't think that is in the interest of this hemisphere to be able to prevail in the global marketplace."

## STICKING POINTS

Canada is offering certain concessions, such as on dairy, in exchange for keeping parts of the current deal it deems essential. Here are the core remaining issues:

**Dispute panels:** Anti-dumping panels contained in Nafta's Chapter 19. U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer has long despised them and sees them as an assault on sovereignty and wants to kill them; Canada calls this a red line issue, and sees them as an essential arbiter in a trade pact with a country 10 times its size.

**Cultural exemptions:** Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau doesn't want to open the door to U.S. takeovers of Canadian TV networks, or a flood of U.S. content.

**Dairy:** This is probably Canada's big bargaining chip. It's not in Nafta now but the U.S. is seeking more access to Canada's protected market. Trudeau has said he'll bargain here.

**Cross-border shipping:** The U.S. wants Canada to raise its so-called de minimis level, under which cross-border shipments are shipped duty-free.

**Pharmaceuticals:** The U.S. and

Mexico agreed to 10-year patent protection for biologic drugs, but Canada wants a shorter period. Longer patent protection raises drug costs, and Canada is eyeing expanded public funding for pharmaceuticals.

**Intellectual Property:** Mexico and the U.S. agreed to tougher protections here. It's a sticking point, but there have been scant signs that Canada sees this as a core issue.

The U.S.-Canada deal won't substantially change any of the autos agreement already struck by the U.S. and Mexico, officials familiar with talks have said. Autos had been the biggest sticking point in earlier talks. In other words, two of the subjects Trump talks about most - cars and dairy - are resolved or within grasp.

## NEXT STEPS

The countries have been close to a deal for weeks, but remain at loggerheads. This

week, Canada's parliament returns from its summer break, squeezing Canadian bandwidth. Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland, who is Trudeau's Nafta minister, is scheduled to be in parliament today and will host a summit in Montreal beginning Friday. A Canadian cabinet meeting is also scheduled for Tuesday, one Canadian government official said.

The official confirmed that Thursday is a target for any agreement this week - but also stressed Canada doesn't think it's a hard deadline. Trudeau has said as much publicly, saying so-called deadlines have come and gone in talks.

"We will do the work needed and try and get there as quick as we can, but we are going to make sure that we are doing what is necessary to get the right deal for Canadians," Trudeau said Sept. 13.

A spokesman for Lighthizer didn't respond to a request for comment. Without a deal this week, there's likely little hope that text of a trilateral pact can be published by Sept. 30 - though Nafta talks have already blown through several deadlines, and wouldn't necessarily collapse if they miss that one. If text isn't published by then, a deal probably can't be signed before Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador takes office as Mexico's president Dec. 1.

Then the next step would be up the U.S. - it could extend the clock a bit for further talks, or ramp up fights with Canada and Congress by trying to go ahead with Mexico only, possibly begin an exit of the existing accord and proceed with auto tariffs on Canada. All that would be a dramatic escalation of trade tensions with Canada, the U.S.'s second-biggest trading partner and top export market.

It may not come to that: a deal could be reached or talks could continue. But even if there is a deal, it's not over. It will almost certainly be up to the next U.S. Congress to pass it, a process through which Trump's threats to quit the current deal will continue. The Nafta saga isn't over yet.

**Bloomberg**

## corporate bits

### UM ADMITS 343 STUDENTS THROUGH PRINCIPAL RECOMMENDATIONS



Some 343 outstanding students have been admitted by the University of Macau (UM) through the Principals' Recommended Admission Scheme, who will all receive scholarships.

Among them, 45 are ranked No. 1 in their secondary school classes. Mainland students admitted by UM this year scored an average of 17 percent higher than the admission marks required by tier-one universities for their respective provinces and cities, according to the a press release the university issued.

For the 2018/2019 academic year, UM received 10,495 applications for bachelor's degree programmes - the highest number in ten years - and 2,045 have been admitted.

Meanwhile, five students will receive the University of Macau Grand Lotus Scholarship; 91 will receive the University of Macau Golden Lotus Scholarship; 137 will receive the University of Macau Silver Lotus Scholarship; 110 will receive the University of Macau First Year Scholarship.

Recipients of the University of Macau Grand Lotus Scholarship and the University of Macau Golden Lotus Scholarship are eligible for direct admission to the Honours College in their first year of study.

Compared to last year, UM this year admitted twice the number of outstanding students from Guangdong province and Hong Kong.

UM also added that it admitted several outstanding students from Congjiang county, in an effort to "support China's poverty alleviation policy."

Kana Nishizawa

# China's stocks sink past lowest level seen in USD5 trillion crash

CHINA'S sinking stock market reached an unwelcome milestone, with the Shanghai Composite Index closing at the lowest level since 2014, erasing the last traces of its recovery from a boom that turned into a USD5 trillion bust.

The Shanghai gauge dropped 1.1 percent to 2,651.79, below its January 2016 bottom. Back then, officials had just introduced and then hastily scrapped a disastrous circuit-breaker program as they grappled with one of the market's worst-ever routs.

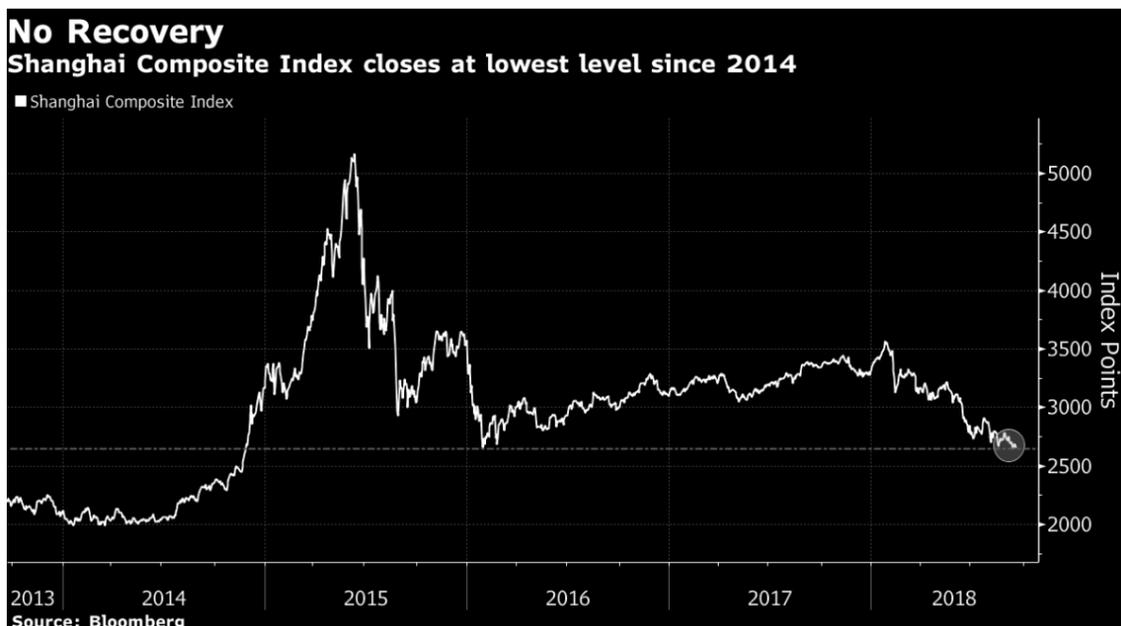
While it's been a slower burn this time round, the steady losses show that sentiment toward Chinese equities hasn't recovered from the 2015-2016 crash. Turnover is dwindling and some companies are finding themselves cut off from equity financing, forcing them to raise more debt. The benchmark index is heading for a fourth quarter of losses, its longest string of declines since 2008. The malaise in Chinese equities contrasts with gains for global stocks. The MSCI All-Country World Index is up 21 percent since Nov. 27, 2014, while the

S&P 500 Index has handed investors a 40 percent rally.

Trade tensions with the U.S. are exacerbating investor concern. With President Donald Trump telling aides to proceed with additional tariffs on Chinese products, the Chinese government is considering declining an offer of talks, according to a Wall Street Journal report, which cited officials with knowledge of the discussions.

"It's hard to buy Chinese stocks even if they sell down" given the trade war and weak company fundamentals, said Toshihiko Takamoto, a Singapore-based money manager at Asset Management One. "Even if the valuation gets cheaper, there's a reason for that. It's hard to find factors that would spark a sharp rebound."

A weaker yuan also makes the nation's shares less attractive. China's currency has fallen almost 7 percent since the end of March amid



speculation the government was trying to counter the impact of U.S. tariffs.

This year's hefty declines - the Shanghai gauge is down 20 percent in 2018 - ends a period of relative stability for the stock market that began with the appointment of

Liu Shiyu as the top securities regulator in early 2016 after his predecessor Xiao Gang was blamed for the crash. Under Liu, the stock index climbed 32 percent from the end of February 2016 though its high in January this year.

The latest plunge in Chinese equities will likely increase the appeal of other speculative assets such as property, undermining the government's efforts to make the stock market a steady base for companies to raise funds. **Bloomberg**

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LOU JIWEI

# Top official says Beijing should target goods needed by US

Joe McDonald, Beijing

ONE of China's most prominent figures in global finance says Beijing should press Washington to end their tariff battle by clamping down on exports of goods needed by American companies, according to news reports yesterday.

The comments by Lou Jiwei, a former finance minister and chairman of China's sovereign wealth fund, follow reports regulators are squeezing American companies by slowing down customs approvals and stepping up environmental and other inspections.

Also yesterday, an official newspaper called for more aggressive measures to "make American pain worse" following tariff hikes by both sides on USD50 billion of each other's goods.

Beijing is considering Washington's invitation last week to revive talks on their fight over Chinese technology policy and plans for state-led development of global champions in robotics and other fields. American officials say those violate Beijing's market-opening commitments and worry they might erode U.S. industrial leadership.

Speaking Sunday at an economics forum, Lou said Beijing should disrupt supply chains of American companies that rely on China's vast manufacturing industries, the website Sina.com reported.

China's "counterattack strategy needs to restrict exports to the United States as well as [imports of] U.S. goods," Lou was paraphrased as saying.

"Only knowing the pain of fighting will stop the war and cause [the United States] to negotiate seriously," said Lou.

Lou was finance minister through 2016 and serves as chairman of China's 1.9 trillion yuan (\$290 billion) National Social Security Fund, which manages assets of government pension plans. He is a former chairman of China's sovereign wealth fund, the China Investment Corp.

The Chinese government said last week it welcomed Washington's proposal for more talks, though neither side has given any indication it is willing to compromise. Communist lea-

ders see their industry plans as a path to prosperity and global influence.

China wants talks based on "mutual trust," said a foreign ministry spokesman, Geng Shuang. He didn't answer directly when asked whether Beijing would back out if U.S. President Donald Trump goes ahead with a proposed tariff hike on \$200 billion of Chinese goods.

If an increase goes ahead, "China will have to take necessary countermeasures," said Geng at a regular daily briefing.

Chinese authorities have yet to confirm what steps aside from retaliatory tariffs they might take. But they have threatened "comprehensive measures" as Beijing runs out of imports for penalties due to its lopsided trade balance with the United States.

Other commentators have suggested Beijing use its holdings of U.S. government debt or target American companies in China.

The Global Times, published by the ruling Communist Party, warned that China sees the tech-

nology conflict as a long battle.

"China will choose the most favorable and powerful way to counterattack," said the newspaper, which is known for its nationalist and confrontational tone. "We are looking forward to a more beautiful counterattack that will make American pain worse."

**The comments by Lou Jiwei, a former finance minister and chairman of the sovereign wealth fund, follow reports regulators are squeezing American companies**

Sina and other outlets did not indicate whether Lou suggested specific products or industries Beijing might target.

Last week, the American Chambers of Commerce in China and in Shanghai reported 52.1 percent of more than 430 companies that responded to a survey said Chinese authorities are subjecting them to "qualitative measures" including slower customs clearance and increased inspections and bureaucratic procedures. **AP**

## Report: Trump going ahead with plans for new tariffs

**PRESIDENT** Donald Trump is going ahead with plans to impose new tariffs on about USD200 billion of Chinese imports, The Wall Street Journal reported over the weekend.

Both sides were preparing to hold new talks on their tariff dispute. Last week Trump told reporters such a move could come "very soon."

The Journal cited unnamed people familiar with the matter who said the tariff level will likely be set at about 10 percent, below the 25 percent announced earlier this year.

The two governments have already imposed 25 percent tariffs on \$50 billion of each other's goods. Beijing has issued a list of another \$60 billion of American products for retaliation if Trump's next tariff hike goes ahead.

White House spokeswoman Lindsay Walters declined comment on the timing of a possible announcement, but said: "The President has been clear that he and his administration will continue to take action to address China's unfair trade practices. We encourage China to address the long standing concerns raised by the United States."

The Chinese foreign ministry said last week that it was invited to hold new talks. Envoys from the two countries last met Aug. 22 in Washington but reported no progress.



Beijing has rejected pressure from the United States to roll back plans for state-led development of Chinese global champions in robotics, artificial intelligence and other fields.

Washington, Europe and other trading partners say those plans violate China's market-opening commitments. American officials also worry they might erode U.S. industrial leadership.

Forecasters have warned that the worse-

ning conflict between the world's two biggest traders could cut up to 0.5 percentage point off global economic growth through 2020 if all threatened tariff hikes go ahead.

China has tried without success to recruit Germany, France, South Korea and other governments as allies against Washington. Some of them have criticized Trump's tactics but many echo U.S. complaints about Chinese market barriers and industrial strategy.

**C**HINA yesterday urged Sweden to respond to its complaints about the alleged mistreatment of a Chinese family removed by police from a hotel in Stockholm.

The foreign ministry and China's embassy in Stockholm have asked Sweden to investigate the case but have yet to hear back, ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told reporters.

"We once again urge Sweden to take seriously our concerns and take concrete measures to ensure the safety and legal rights and interests of Chinese tourists," Geng said, adding that the family had been "brutally abused by Swedish police."

Reports said an elderly couple and their son were removed from the hotel on Sept. 2 after they arrived a day before their booking and refused the staff's requests to leave.

Police were called and removed the group, at one point carrying the father out of the door by his arms and legs.

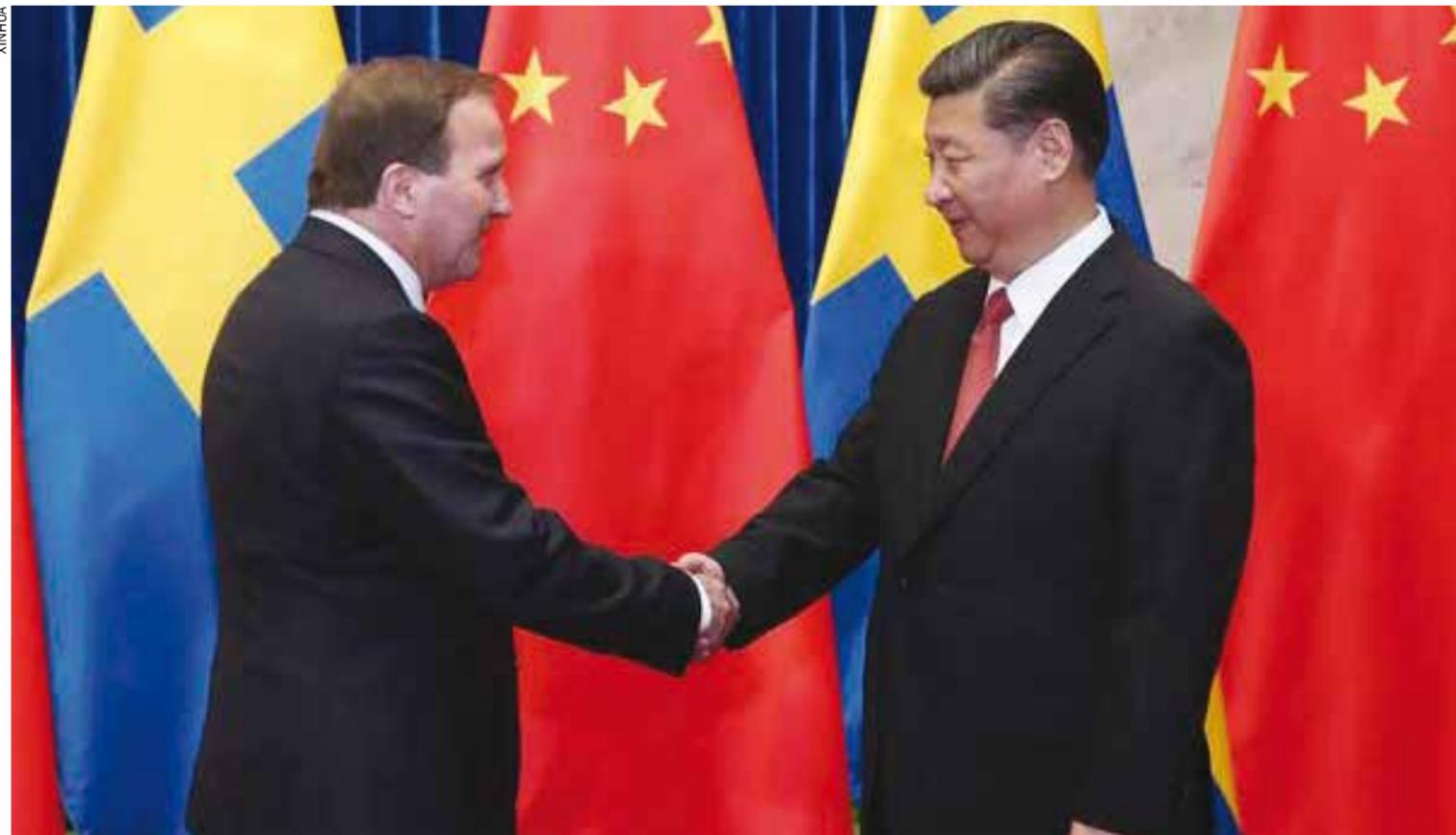
A statement on the Chinese Embassy's website posted Saturday said its citizens were asking for "punishment, apology and compensation in time."

"The Chinese Embassy in Sweden is deeply appalled and angered by what happened and strongly condemns the behavior of the Swedish police," the statement said.

The Swedish Embassy in Beijing posted on its microblog Sunday that it had been made aware of the accusations against the police and an independent investigation into the incident would be conducted to determine whether there had been "negligence or illegal behavior."

In Stockholm, however, Chief Prosecutor Mats Ericsson said an investigation was closed on

# China complains to Sweden over tourists' treatment



President Xi Jinping meets with Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven in Beijing in 2017

Sept. 7 after concluding that police had done nothing wrong.

"This is very normal [when you have] disorderly behavior," he was quoted as saying by the Aftonbladet newspaper, one of Sweden's largest.

"Police have the right to remove a person from one place to another," he said.

Citing a police report, the tabloid said two people were lying

on a sofa in the hotel lobby and refused to leave the premises at about 1:45 a.m. About 25 minutes later, a police patrol decided to remove them and the two people started screaming, reportedly about "human rights."

The incident comes amid low-level tensions between Stockholm and Beijing over China's detention of a Chinese-born Swedish national on suspicion

of leaking state secrets.

China has rebuked Sweden for demanding the release of Hong Kong-based bookseller Gui Minhai, 53, who was taken off a train by police in eastern China on Jan. 20 while in the company of two Swedish diplomats with whom he was traveling to Beijing.

A Swedish court on Friday also found a man guilty of spying for

China by gathering information on Tibetans who had fled to Sweden and sentenced him to 22 months in jail.

That came during a visit to Sweden by the Dalai Lama, the exiled Tibetan Buddhist spiritual leader whom China labels a dangerous separatist. China routinely demands foreign nations bar him entry to deny him a platform to speak. **AP**

# Beijing calls for borderless research to promote AI development

**A** little more than a year ago, China released an aggressive plan to become the world's leading artificial intelligence player. But with its technological dependence on the U.S. laid bare, it's now promoting a softer approach, calling for all nations to join hands to develop the technology.

Chinese leaders, including Vice Premier Liu He, joined business mogul Jack Ma and executives from Google at the World Artificial Intelligence Conference in Shanghai to support a borderless approach to AI research. He called for foreign investment in the country and pledged to foster "an environment of free thinking" to support development.



The tone struck by He is a far cry from the aggressive plan issued by the State Council last year with the aim of China becoming the world leader in AI by

2030, in part through government support. While He's comments contained few specifics, the softer approach comes after Shenzhen-based ZTE

Corp. was crippled by U.S. penalties and as trade tensions between the nations build.

"We're hoping that all countries, as members of the global village, will be inclusive and support each other so that we can respond to the double-edged sword effect of new technologies," He told attendees through a translator. "AI represents a new era. Cross-national and cross-discipline cooperation is inevitable."

The comments echoed those of President Xi Jinping, who said in a letter to the conference that China was willing to share the benefits of AI with other countries.

The summit was used by several U.S. companies to

show off their dedication to developing AI in China. Microsoft Research Asia and Amazon Web Services both announced new labs in Shanghai, while Google's Jay Yagnik showed off slides of the company's AI activities in the country. The search giant, a unit of Alphabet Inc., is a key sponsor of the event.

Google Chief Executive Officer Sundar Pichai was invited to the conference but declined to attend. The company's Beijing research center and its plans to release search products in China that conform to the country's censorship laws have faced a strong backlash from U.S. lawmakers.

Some of the most stri-

dent comments at the summit came from leaders of China's two biggest technology companies. Ma Huateng, chairman of Tencent Holdings Ltd., cited Google's launch of Chinese research centers as proof that the country needed a global approach to AI.

Jack Ma, the chairman of Alibaba Group Holding Ltd., said China's rules, systems and way of thinking needs to be reformed, including how its industries and regulators adapt to technology.

"Governments should not care whether the taxi industry should be substituted," Alibaba's Ma said. "Governments should pay attention to whether road safety is good and if people will be killed in traffic accidents. Whether one industry is substituted by another should be determined by the market." **Bloomberg**

AP PHOTO



A motorway connecting Pyongyang to Nampo, a city and seaport located on the west coast of North Korea

## KOREAN CRISIS

# When Moon meets Kim: Can roads pave way to denuclearization?

Eric Talmadge, Pyongyang

**REUNIFICATION** Highway runs all the way from the North Korean capital of Pyongyang to the Demilitarized Zone that divides the North from South Korea, 170 kilometers away. It starts under a giant concrete arch depicting two women in traditional gowns reaching out to each other and holding up a map of a unified Korea. Road signs along the way show the distance to Seoul, though it's impossible to actually drive there.

The highway is one of the best in North Korea. It's paved — a rarity in the North. It's broad and visibility is generally good. But it's also riddled with cracks and potholes. Lanes aren't marked well, if at all. At night it's pitch black, unless there are oncoming headlights. If it were on the South side, it wouldn't be one of the best, it would be among the very worst.

Could fixing it help pave the way to denuclearization?

When South Korean President Moon Jae-in travels to Pyongyang this week for his third summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, he will have two major tasks: He needs to keep Pyongyang's talks with Washington on denuclearization from breaking down so that his own efforts at rappro-

chement can continue, and he needs to speed up a series of inter-Korean cooperation and engagement projects to keep frictions with the North low and his domestic critics at bay.

With each summit, the stakes get higher. It's still unclear what Kim, riding a wave of successes in his debut on the world stage and fresh off a major celebration marking North Korea's 70th anniversary, intends to do with his nuclear weapons. And pressure is mounting in the administration of President Donald Trump for quick and concrete progress.

Moon's gamble has consistently been to pursue increased engagement on such things as joint projects to improve roads, railways and the North's decrepit electricity grid with the big-ticket items that generally get all the headlines — denuclearization and a formal peace agreement for the Korean War, which ended in 1953 with what was intended to be a temporary armistice.

Moon's approach hinges on the belief that better inter-Korean relations will naturally lower tensions and that joint projects to improve the North's infrastructure are an investment in Korea's future that has the potential to benefit both sides significantly in the long term.

Kim has been all ears.

His push this year to pursue better relations with the North's neighbors, resulting in a flurry of summits with Moon and Chinese leader Xi Jinping and his meeting with Trump in June, was based on his claim that he had sufficiently built up his arsenal of long-range missiles and nuclear weapons and could shift his primary focus to improving the domestic economy.

## ■ The Reunification Highway is one of the best in North Korea

Fixing the country's infrastructure is a big part of that, and the reason why is telling.

Since assuming power after the death of his father in late 2011, Kim has allowed a market-based economy to grow significantly. The North remains decidedly socialist, and the role of the central government in economic planning and policies continues to be key. But the role of markets and capitalist-style entrepreneurialism has also become an established fact of daily life and an important income source for the regime.

Better roads and railways, and the ability to move goods and people quickly and reliably, would help such economic activity grow.

Kim has been surprisingly open about the sad state of his country's transportation system. In his first summit with Moon, he expressed his "embarrassment" about the "poor transit infrastructure." That same month, he conveyed his "uncontrollable grief" over the death of dozens of Chinese tourists whose bus plunged off a bridge near the city of Kaesong, which is close to the South Korean border.

Proposals to boost the North's infrastructure go way back. They were an important part of the South's "Sunshine" policies of the late 1990s to 2009, when the North conducted a nuclear test that sent relations into a rapid downward spiral. Seoul declared the policies a failure the following year, but Moon has wasted no time in trying to revive them.

In their first meeting, Moon laid out his plans for North Korean development on a USB memory stick.

Ultimately, South Korea wants to see a high-speed train linking its capital of Seoul to Pyongyang and farther north to Sinuiju, an important trade hub on the Chinese border. The price tag is a reported USD35 billion. By the

time the summit was over, both sides had agreed to work together to improve the roads and railways in what is called the eastern transportation corridor, and from Pyongyang to Sinuiju.

How far they will get remains to be seen. Similar plans have been kicking around for years, if not decades. Connecting the rail systems was on the agenda of a North-South summit in 2000 as well.

Moon's vision goes well beyond Korea's borders.

At an event last month, he said he wants to see the establishment of road and rail links with the North to deepen regional economic integration with China, the Russian Far East and even Mongolia. He said he wants this to get underway before the end of the year.

The biggest obstacle, however, might be the United States.

The U.S.-led United Nations Command, which monitors activity around the DMZ, blocked plans for the North and South to conduct a field study of the North's railroads last month. The plan was to run a train along a railway linking Seoul to Sinuiju.

The command reportedly refused to approve the plan because Seoul did not supply enough details.

Officials in Washington have also expressed concern that Seoul may be moving too fast and undermining support for trade sanctions that the U.S. sees as one of its best means of keeping the pressure on Pyongyang high. The Trump administration says it will keep its "maximum pressure" policy and sanctions in place until the North demonstrates it is serious about denuclearization. **AP**

THAILAND

# New party leaders report to police over online charge

**L**EADERS of a new Thai political party that strongly opposes military rule appeared before police yesterday to hear charges over a Facebook video broadcast that authorities allege violated the law.

Future Forward party leader Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit said he and the two other party members asked to submit written statements to police in 45 days and refused to provide statements because it was the first time they had seen details of the charge.

Acting on a complaint filed by the ruling junta, police in August charged the three with violating a section of the law that makes it a crime to spread false information or information that damages the country's stability online. They face a maximum five-year prison sentence if convicted.

The charge involves a June



The leader of the political party named Future Forward Party, Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit

29 Facebook live video posted on the pages of Thanathorn and the party. Thanathorn said in the video he criticized the ruling junta for recruiting veteran politicians to join political parties that support it.

The Thai junta has kept a

tight lid on dissent since it seized power from an elected government in a 2014 coup, repeatedly detaining critics and delaying promised elections. It most recently said elections would be held next year.

Critics accuse the junta of

rigging the electoral system so that it can maintain control of the country even after the election.

Thanathorn said he views the police charge as intimidation by the ruling junta to silence its opponents and limit free speech. He said he will not stop being critical of the junta.

"We can't stop ourselves from righteously expressing our opinions. If we do that it would mean that we're afraid," Thanathorn said after he met with officers of the Technology Crime Suppression Division. "And if we're afraid, the junta wins."

The junta has eased some restrictions on political activities to allow parties to conduct basic functions ahead of planned elections but they are still barred from campaigning.

The Future Forward party is a new grouping featuring young politicians. **AP**

## Refugee camp landslide leaves one dead, seven missing

**A** disaster response official says a landslide at a refugee camp in northern Thailand has left one person dead and seven missing.

The official in Mae Hong Son province said yesterday that 12 people were injured at the Mae La Oon refugee camp, which houses about 9,000 people, mostly members of the Karen ethnic minority from Myanmar.

The official said the Sunday night landslide completely destroyed six shelters and partially damaged seven, affecting 654 people from 120 households.

He said it was caused by heavy rain and forest runoff. The camp, recognized by the United Nations, sits in a hilly area around the banks of a river.

The Bangkok Post newspaper, citing a report by the provincial governor, said the fatality was a 2-year-old girl.

AD



### BBAM @ St. Regis Breakfast

Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Guest Speaker: **Keith Morrison**

Professor at University of Saint Joseph in Macau

**REWIRING MACAU'S ENGLISH**  
Problems of non-native English speakers

! ? , punctuation  
adjective  
**ENGLISH**  
@ \ , verb  
noun } subject &

Venue: Silk Room, Level 5, The St. Regis Macao, Cotai

- 7.45 am: Registration
- 8.00 am: Sit-down for breakfast
- 8.15 am: Presentation and Q&A session
- 9.00 am: Close

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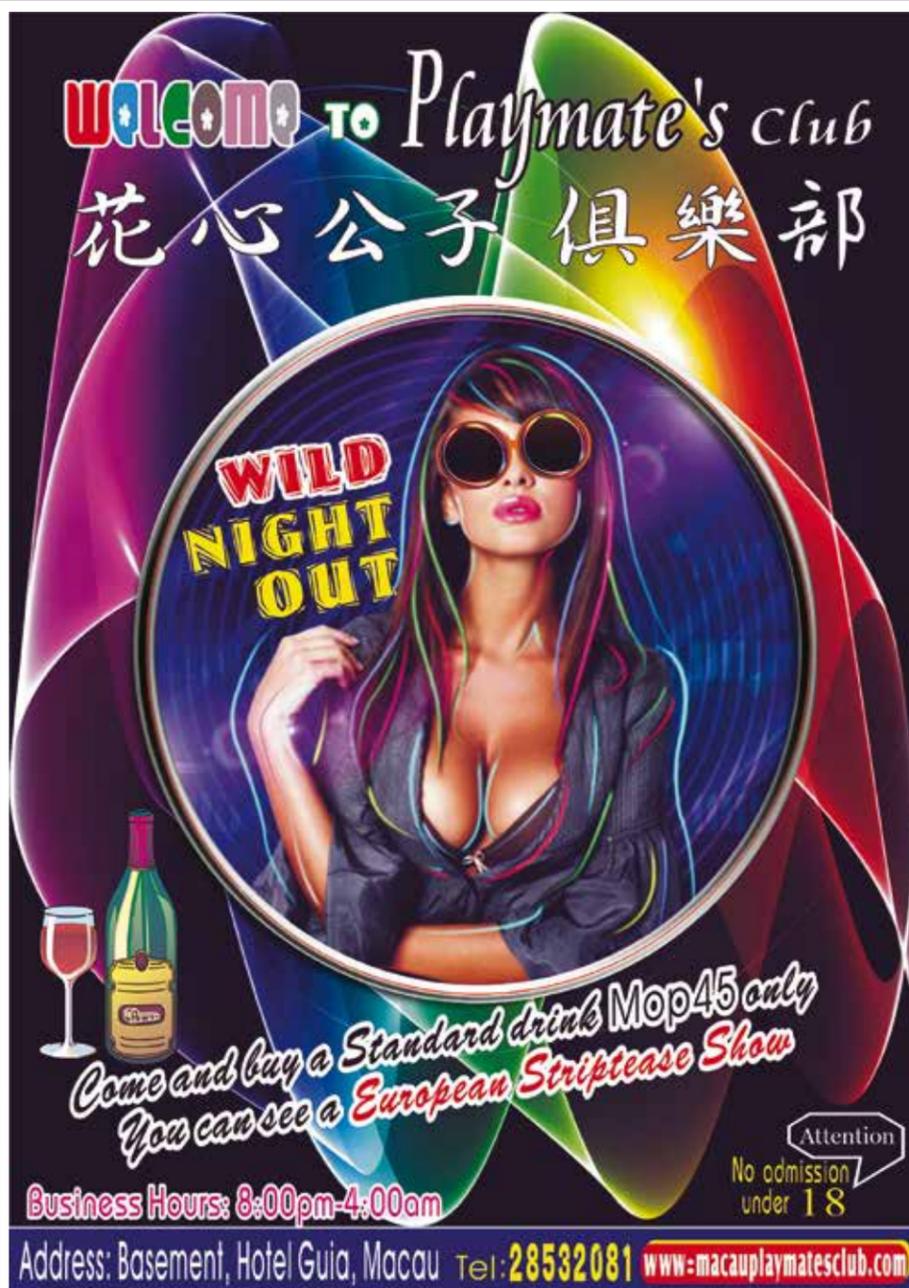


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Chuck Burton, Wilmington (N.C)

**W**ITH Wilmington cut off from the rest of North Carolina by still-rising floodwaters from Florence, officials plan to airlift food and water to the city of nearly 120,000 people as rescuers elsewhere pull inland residents from homes threatened by swollen rivers.

The spreading disaster claimed additional lives yesterday [Macau time], with at least 17 people confirmed dead, and the nation's top emergency official said other states were in the path this week.

"Not only are you going to see more impact across North Carolina [...] but we're also anticipating you are about to see a lot of damage going through West Virginia, all the way up to Ohio as the system exits out," Brock Long of the Federal Emergency Management Agency said on Fox News.

In Wilmington, the state's eighth-largest city, residents waited for hours outside stores and restaurants for basic necessities like water. Police guarded the door of one store, and only 10 people were allowed inside at a time.

County commission chairman Woody White said officials were planning for food and water to be flown into the coastal city.

"Our roads are flooded," he said. "There is no access to Wilmington."

About 115 kilometers away from the coast, residents near the Lumber River stepped from their homes directly into boats floating in their front yards; river forecasts showed the scene could be repeated in towns as far as 250 miles inland as waters rise for days.

In Anson County, east of Charlotte, a train derailed yesterday, but it wasn't clear whether it was storm-related or if anyone was injured. Several cars of a CSX train derailed in Anson County, east of the state's largest city of Charlotte, WBTV reported.

The derailment led to at least one road closure. Officials have reported flooding caused by Tropical Storm Florence in Union County, located between Charlotte and Anson County.



Coast Guard Road leading to the south end of Emerald Isle is seen after Hurricane Florence hit Emerald Isle, North Carolina

USA

# Swollen rivers near record levels as Florence looms

Florence was still massive, despite being downgraded to a tropical depression. Radar showed parts of the sprawling storm over six states, with North and South Carolina in the bull's-eye.

Meanwhile, halfway around the world, Typhoon Mangkhut barreled into southern China on Sunday after lashing the Philippines with strong winds and heavy rain that left dozens dead. More than 2.4 million people were evacuated from China's southern Guangdong province ahead of the massive

typhoon, the strongest to hit the region in nearly two decades.

In North Carolina, fears of what could be the worst flooding in the state's history led officials to order tens of thousands to evacuate, though it wasn't clear how many had fled or even could.

President Donald Trump said federal emergency workers, first responders and law enforcement officials were "working really hard." As the storm "begins to finally recede, they will kick into an even higher gear." "Very Professional!" he declared in a tweet.

The storm's death toll climbed to 17 as authorities said a 3-month-old child was killed when a tree fell on a mobile home in North Carolina. Three people died in weather-related traffic accidents, officials said.

Victor Merlos was overjoyed to find a store open for business in Wilmington since he had about 20 relatives staying at his apartment, which still had power. He spent more than \$500 on cereal, eggs, soft drinks and other necessities, plus beer.

"I have everything I need for

my whole family," said Merlos. Nearby, a Waffle House restaurant limited breakfast customers to one biscuit and one drink, all take-out, with the price of USD2 per item.

Kenneth Campbell had donned waterproof waders intending to check out his home in Lumberton, but he didn't bother when he saw the Coast Guard and murky waters in his neighborhood.

"I'm not going to waste my time. I already know," he said.

As rivers swelled, state regulators and environmental groups were monitoring the threat from gigantic hog and poultry farms located in low-lying, flood-prone areas.

The industrial-scale farms contain vast pits of animal feces and urine that can pose a significant pollution threat if they are breached or inundated by floodwaters. In past hurricanes, flooding at dozens of farms also left hundreds of thousands of dead hogs, chickens and other decomposing livestock bobbing in floodwaters.

Some stream gauges used to monitor river levels failed when they became submerged, but others showed water levels

rising steadily, with forecasts calling for rivers to at or near record levels. The Defense Department said about 13,500 military personnel were assigned to help relief efforts.

Authorities ordered the immediate evacuation of up to 7,500 people living within a mile of a stretch of the Cape Fear River and the Little River, about 160 kilometers from the North Carolina coast. The evacuation zone included part of the city of Fayetteville, population 200,000.

Near the flooded-out town of New Bern, where about 455 people had to be rescued from the swirling flood waters, water completely surrounded churches, businesses and homes. In the neighboring town of Trenton, downtown streets were turned to creeks full of brown water.

The rain was unrelenting in Cheraw, a town of about 6,000 people in northeastern South Carolina. Streets were flooded and Police Chief Keith Thomas warned people not to drive, but the local food and gas store had customers.

"As you can tell, they're not listening to me," he said. **AP**



The Cape Fear River as it continues to rise in the aftermath of Florence in Fayetteville, N.C.

## what's ON



## OPEN FUTURE

TIME: 2pm-7pm (closed on Sundays)

UNTIL: September 22, 2108

VENUE: Creative Macau Gallery, Macao Cultural Centre

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 3282

## 3RD LANTERN FESTIVAL

TIME: All day

VENUE: Promenade outside of One Central Macau and Wynn Macau

UNTIL: October 15, 2018

ADMISSION: Free

ORGANIZERS: One Central Macau and Wynn Macau

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8896 0779

## MACAU'S FIRECRACKER INDUSTRY – NEW WORKS BY LIO MAN CHEONG

TIME: 12pm-8pm

UNTIL: October 5, 2018

VENUE: Taipa Village Art Space

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2857 6118

## TREASURE OF SACRED ART OF ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY

TIME: 10am-5pm daily (closed on Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

VENUE: St. Joseph's Seminary and Church, Rua do Seminário

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

## Offbeat

## ARGENTINA SEIZES COSTLY FILM EQUIPMENT STOLEN FROM HOLLYWOOD



Argentine authorities said Friday that they had seized about USD3 million in cameras, lenses and other film equipment stolen in Hollywood and New York.

Security Minister Patricia Bullrich said that officials worked in conjunction with the FBI, the New York Police Department and the U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires in the operation called "Hollywood Stolen."

Argentina's Federal Police said in a statement that it became aware of an NYPD investigation related to the matter two years ago.

Police said they then collaborated to infiltrate the film production underworld and follow suspects, tap their phones and film their movements until they found the equipment that had been reported stolen in the U.S.

Authorities said they carried out 10 raids last week and were able to break up a criminal gang that stole the equipment from Hollywood producers and rented it on the black market to companies for the production of movies and TV commercials in Argentina.

Dozens of cases with costly cameras marked with the word "seized," as well as tripods, lights and other professional film equipment were displayed at a news conference in the capital of Buenos Aires.

Argentine Federal Police Chief Nestor Roncaglia said 17 people are being investigated.

## TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Portuguese Soap Opera
15:50	Cartoons
16:35	Portuguese Comedy
17:45	Portuguese Soap Opera
18:30	Miscellaneous
19:35	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	TDM Interview
21:50	Documentary
22:25	Portuguese Serie - Liberty 21
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Miscellaneous
00:25	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:10	RTPi Live

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

13 SEP - 19 SEP



## THE PREDATOR

ROOM 1

2:30, 4:30, 7:30 9:30pm

Director: Shane Black

Starring: Boyd Holbrook, Trevante Rhodes, Jacob Tremblay

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 107min



## THE EQUALIZER 2

ROOM 2

2:30, 4:45, 7:15 9:30pm

Director: Antoine Fuqua

Starring: Denzel Washington, Pedro Pascal, Ashton Sanders

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 121min



## WHEN I GET HOME, MY WIFE ALWAYS PRETENDS TO BE DEAD

ROOM 3

2:30, 4:45, 7:15 9:30pm

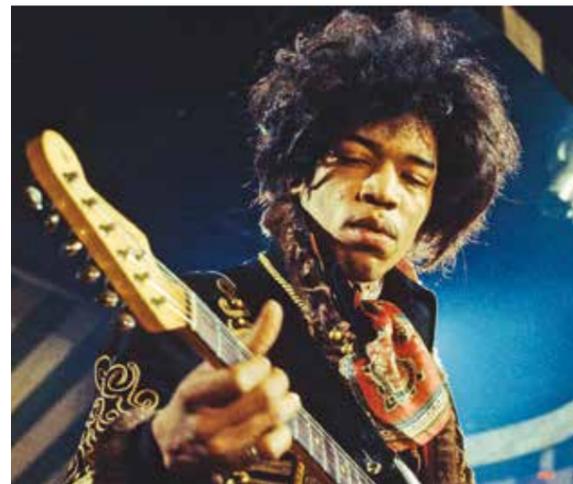
Director: Toshio Lee

Starring: Nana Eikura, Ken Yasuda, Sumika Nono

Language: Japanese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 115min

## this day in history



## 1970 ROCK LEGEND HENDRIX DIES AFTER PARTY

Guitarist Jimi Hendrix has died after collapsing at a party in London.

Police say there was no question of foul play. A number of sleeping pills were found at the house in Notting Hill Gate and they have been taken away for analysis.

Hendrix, 27, was born in Seattle, Washington, but rose to fame in Britain with his band the Jimi Hendrix Experience.

He will be remembered as a key figure in the music world who transformed electric guitar-playing using distortion, feedback and sheer volume to create a revolutionary new sound.

Hendrix had been staying in London since cutting short a European tour with his band after bass player Billy Cox fell ill with stress and exhaustion.

They were among the headline acts at the three-day Love and Peace Festival at Insel Fehmarn in Germany.

The concert was not an entire success. A torrential downpour meant Hendrix postponed his performance by a day and the audience was disrupted by fighting and gunfire between rival German motorcycle gangs who eventually burned the stage to the ground.

It was after this performance the group returned to London and Hendrix sent Cox back to the United States to convalesce.

James Hendrix was part black, part Cherokee Indian and part Mexican. He left school early, having developed a keen interest in music but unable to read it.

He joined the army as a paratrooper but was discharged due to injury and took up work as a session musician.

He was spotted by former Animals' bass player turned manager Chas Chandler who persuaded him to move to London in the autumn of 1966. He changed Hendrix's stage name to "Jimi", and introduced him to drummer Mitch Mitchell and bass player Noel Redding to form the Jimi Hendrix Experience.

The band's first single 'Hey Joe' spent 10 weeks in the UK charts, reaching number six in early 1967.

They enhanced their reputation with flamboyant stage performances. With his long wiry hair and colourful clothes Hendrix kept audiences enthralled with his improvised solos often playing the guitar behind his back or between his legs.

Their performance of 'Wild Thing' at the Monterey International Pop Festival in June 1967, in which Hendrix played the guitar with his teeth, confirmed their success in the US. The Jimi Hendrix Experience became one of the most popular and successful touring acts in the world.

After the Hendrix Experience disbanded he continued performing with a range of musicians - including a memorable rendition of Star Spangled Banner at the Woodstock Festival in 1969.

In 1970 the Jimi Hendrix Experience re-formed and were in the process of recording a new LP when he died.

His final public performance in Britain was with American band War at Ronnie Scott's club in London last week.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

A coroner recorded an open verdict on the death of Jimi Hendrix.

The inquest heard he had taken nine sleeping pills but there was no evidence of drug addiction.

The guitarist's father, Al Hendrix, a landscape gardener, was the sole beneficiary of the will, estimated to be worth in the region of \$500,000. He set up a company, Experience Hendrix, with the aim of preserving his son's musical legacy.

On his death in 2002, the company was inherited by his step-daughter Janie. But Jimi's brother Leon claimed he had been unfairly written out of the will and launched a lawsuit in 2004 to try to overturn it.

In 2003 a survey by the Rolling Stone magazine named Jimi Hendrix the greatest guitarist in rock history.



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Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates after scoring his first goal for Juventus

FOOTBALL

# Ronaldo has sights on Champions League after drought breaker

Daniella Matar, Milan

JUVENTUS 2, SASSUOLO 1

**A**FTER finally getting off the mark for Juventus in the league, Cristiano Ronaldo has his sights set on his favorite competition: the Champions League.

Ronaldo was under pressure after three games without scoring for Juventus since his move from Real Madrid, but he broke his mini-drought with two goals in yesterday's 2-1 win over Sassuolo in Serie A.

Next up for Juventus and Ronaldo is a trip to Valencia on Wednesday as the Champions League kicks off this week.

"I feel like that's my home. It's the competition that I love the most," Ronaldo said. "Let's hope we have some luck, it will be a di-

fficult group but I can't wait."

Juventus has won the Serie A title for the last seven seasons — and the league and Italian Cup double for the past four — but has struggled to transfer that domestic supremacy to the European stage.

Juventus hasn't won Europe's premier club competition since 1996, although it has reached the final twice in the past four editions. Splashing out a Serie A record 112 million euro (then USD131.5 million) for Ronaldo, the five-time Ballon d'Or winner, sent out a message of its intent to go one step further this time around.

Ronaldo certainly revels in the Champions League. Not only has he won the trophy four times in the past five seasons, but he is also the competition's leading scorer with 120 goals.

And he appears to be getting into his stride at Juventus at just the right time.

His first goal was a simple tap-in but that appeared to unburden Ronaldo, who had played nearly 320 minutes of competitive football for Juventus without scoring, and he doubled his tally 15 minutes later.

That second goal showed the understanding that is developing between Ronaldo and his new teammates. Douglas Costa sparked a swift counterattack and picked out Emre Can, who spotted Ronaldo's run and set up the Portugal forward for a diagonal shot.

Valencia knows what a scoring threat Ronaldo can be: he scored 15 goals in 18 appearances against them for Real Madrid.

Also in Group H are Swiss team Young Boys and Manchester

United — the club with which Ronaldo won his first Champions League title in 2008.

**GOALLESS**

While Ronaldo may have found his scoring touch, two Serie A clubs have yet to find the back of the net.

Bologna and Frosinone have not scored in four matches and each club has one point, having played out a 0-0 draw last month.

Yet those clubs aren't last in the Serie A standings as they each have two more points than Chievo Verona, which was deducted three points for false accounting.

**COSTA'S UGLY EPISODE**

Juventus looked brighter when Douglas Costa was introduced shortly after the hour mark and he started the move which led to

the Bianconeri's second goal.

However, the Brazil international faces at least a three-match ban after being sent off in stoppages after video review spotted he spat at Sassuolo midfielder Federico Di Francesco.

Shortly before the spitting incident Costa had also raised an elbow at the same player and attempted a head-butt.

"I was ugly, I am aware of that and I apologize to everyone for that," Costa said in an apology posted on Instagram. He notably did not mention Di Francesco in his message.

**VAR PROBLEMS**

More than a year after its inception in the Italian league, video technology is still causing issues.

Torino was furious when it had an early goal incorrectly disallowed during Sunday's 1-1 draw at Udinese.

Television replays showed Alex Berenguer was onside when he headed in but as the whistle had already been blown, VAR could not be used.

"Last year we were punished in so many matches and we didn't do anything because they told us that we need to wait for the system to grow," Torino director Gianluca Petrachi said. "But now? This year I expected something different.

"The referee blew the whistle right when the ball was going into the goal without even waiting for the action to be completed. We had 400 meetings in which it was always told to us that you can't blow the whistle while the ball is going into the goal ... I'm for VAR in every sense but if we have it and we don't use it, making shoddy errors, I don't know what to think."

Inter Milan was also upset during a 1-0 loss to Parma when opposing defender Federico Dimarco appeared to handle the ball when clearing off the line against Ivan Perisic.

Referee Gianluca Manganiello communicated with the VAR official but opted not to view the footage and waved play on.

Dimarco — who could have been sent off — went on to score the winner. **AP**

GOLF

# Angela Stanford wins Evian for first major title

**A**NGELA Stanford ended her long wait for a first major title when her 3-under 68 was enough to win the Evian Championship by one shot Sunday after long-time leader Amy Olson made double bogey on the 18th.

At age 40, and 15 years after she was runner-up at the U.S. Women's Open, Stanford's wild final

few holes gave her a 12-under total of 272.

Olson missed a six-foot putt for bogey on the 18th to force a playoff, while Stanford waited near the green signing autographs for dozens of young spectators.

Stanford, who got the last of her five LPGA Tour titles in 2012, put her hands to her mouth on hearing she had won, and

was in tears during television interviews.

Stanford earned a USD577,500 check for making her 14th career top-10 finish in majors a winning one.

Olson carded a 74 to fall into a four-way tie for second place with fellow Americans Austin Ernst (68) and Mo Martin (70), and Sei Young Kim (72). Martin barely missed

with a birdie chance on the 18th to face Stanford in a playoff.

After Olson was outright or joint leader all day — briefly with Stanford at 13 under with four holes to play — she three-putted to end the week with a career-best result.

The 26-year-old Olson's best finish in an LPGA event was tied for seventh in 2014. **AP**



opinion

**Our Desk**  
 Daniel Beitler



**CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM  
 AFTER MANGKHUT**



The response of the Macau government to what was undoubtedly the strongest Pacific typhoon of the year deserves to be commended, especially in its effective and timely communication during the extreme weather phenomenon. But it also shows just how underprepared we were last year, when typhoon Hato, of a similar strength, paralyzed Macau for days.

Hato played the defining role this weekend in how the city prepared for the incoming tropical storm. That was evident after the passing of a milder typhoon in the middle of last week, when residents stocked up on water, food and other essentials; a precaution that was extended to Mangkhut.

Communication was key to the government's response this time. Lessons were learnt from Hato and updates were issued by the government every few minutes, keeping the public and media informed of developments, warnings and incidents, and helping to squash rumors.

The Macau Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) warnings earlier in the week gave advance notice to the incoming super typhoon, also providing timelines for the anticipated hoisting of signals.

Days earlier, social media was rife with netizens sharing the latest typhoon trajectory map and advice on what, and how much of what, to stock up on.

The plethora of information kept the natural disaster ahead at mind and, unlike in Hato, nobody woke up on Sunday morning to the unexpected.

That contrasts to the near radio silence from the SMG in the day or so before Hato, when it fell to traditional media and social media to put out the warnings.

This time the bureau kept up with its counterparts in Hong Kong and on the mainland; a sensible course of action since it is obviously far better to be cautious and wrong than complacent and right.

Moreover, typhoons are much easier to predict than most other natural disasters and can be monitored with a reasonable degree of accuracy a week in advance or more. That means there is little scope for a weather-monitoring facility to be caught by surprise when it comes to typhoons.

The danger lies in the confidence instilled by Mangkhut and the tendency to slip back toward complacency. Even on Sunday, the streets were far from empty. Foolhardy locals and tourists were photographed and filmed braving winds that exceeded 170 km/h for pleasure.

What is needed is a cautious kind of optimism; somewhere between respecting the destructive power of natural disasters and conviction that Macau can endure even the strongest of winds.

With any luck, Mangkhut will mark the end of this year's peak typhoon season, and the city can move forward into next year with this sense of cautious optimism.

According to the Hong Kong Observatory, the development of the El Niño, or the warmer phase of ocean temperature oscillation, is expected to take hold by November this year, replacing the La Niña phase thought to constitute a greater landfall threat to China.

That might make typhoons in the next two to seven years milder than what we saw in 2017 and 2018.

That's not cause for complacency, but might give the public a much-needed confidence boost – that, with the right preparations, typhoons don't have to cost lives.

**THE SURVEY FINDS 2M US TEENS  
 BUZZ ARE VAPING MARIJUANA**

A school-based survey shows nearly 1 in 11 U.S. students have used marijuana in electronic cigarettes, heightening concern about the new popularity of vaping among teens.

E-cigarettes typically contain nicotine, but results published Monday mean 2.1 million middle and high school students have used them to get high.

The devices are generally considered a less dangerous alternative to regular cigarettes, despite little research on their long-term effects including whether they help smokers quit.

The rise in teenagers using them has alarmed health officials. Last week, the Food and Drug Administration gave the five largest e-cigarette makers 60 days to produce plans to stop underage use of their products.

Nearly 9 percent of students surveyed in 2016 said they used an e-cigarette device with marijuana, according to the report in the journal JAMA Pediatrics. That included one-third of those who ever used e-cigarettes.

More than 20,000 students took the survey.

**Needle-in-strawberry  
 scare spreads across  
 Australia, New Zealand**

Rod McGuirk, Melbourne

**PUBLIC** fears about sewing needles concealed inside strawberries on supermarket shelves have spread across Australia and New Zealand as growers turn to metal detectors and the Australian government launches an investigation to restore public confidence in the popular fruit.

The government of Queensland state, where the contamination scare started last week, offered a 100,000 Australian dollar (USD72,000) reward for information leading to the arrest of the person responsible for inserting needles into strawberries after six brands – Donnybrook Berries, Love Berry, Delightful Strawberries, Oasis, Berry Obsession and Berry Licious – were recalled.

The scare had spread across the nation by yesterday, with needles reported found in strawberries in all six Australian states. No injuries have been reported.

Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt ordered the national food safety watchdog to investigate Queensland's handling of the needle scare.

He directed Food Standards Australia New Zealand to investigate whether there are supply chain weaknesses that need to be fixed.

"The job is very, very clear. Protect the public and keep them safe," Hunt told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

Both of New Zealand's major food distributors, Foodstuffs and Countdown, announced on Mon-

day they are taking Australian strawberries off their shelves because of the scare.

New Zealand imports Australian strawberries when they are out of season locally from April to September, and both chains say the home-grown product will be on supermarket shelves soon.

Queensland Strawberry Growers Association vice president Adrian Schultz said what had started as a single act of "commercial terrorism" had brought a multimillion-dollar industry to its knees.

**■ The scare had spread across Australia by yesterday, with needles reported found in strawberries in all six states**

"I'm angry for all the associated people, it's the farmers, the people who supply them, the packaging people, the truckies with families to support, who suddenly lose their jobs [...] it's far-reaching," Schultz said.

Major Australian supermarket chains Coles and Aldi have pulled all

strawberries from their shelves across Australia except in Western Australia state as a precaution.

But Western Australia police announced Monday that the first suspected needle contamination case has been reported in locally grown fruit.

A man in the town of York reported to police that he found a needle in a sink after washing strawberries.

The report came after a 7-year-old girl in South Australia state found a needle in a Western Australia-grown strawberry on Saturday.

Western Australia Health Minister Roger Cook said the needle could have been inserted in the fruit after it arrived in South Australia.

Strawberry Growers Association of Western Australia president Neil Handasyde said growers had received requests from major retailers and insurance companies to scan fruit for needles.

"As an industry we are sure that [the needles] are not coming from the farm, but we're trying to get confidence into consumers that when they buy [...] strawberries, that there isn't going to be anything other than strawberries in there and they're safe to eat," Handasyde told ABC.

"Industry are looking at lots of different ways of tackling this issue. There's been metal detectors purchased and tamper-proof packaging looked at," he said.

Handasyde said he paid AUD20,000 for a metal detector for his berry farm. **AP**



Station	Air quality	Icon
Roadside	80-100 Moderate	☹️
High Density Residential Area	50-70 Moderate	☹️
Ambient	80-100 Moderate	☹️

SOURCE: DSI/MG

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**USA** With Wilmington cut off from the rest of North Carolina by still-rising floodwaters from Florence, officials plan to airlift food and water to the city of nearly 120,000 people as rescuers elsewhere pull inland residents from homes threatened by swollen rivers. **More on p15**



**USA** President Donald Trump's eldest son is appearing to mock a woman's sexual assault allegations against his father's nominee for the Supreme Court. Christine Blasey Ford, a college professor, has come forth with an allegation that Brett Kavanaugh, the president's nominee (pictured), assaulted her at a party more than 30 years ago.



**RUSSIA** A candidate in Russia's Far East said he is starting a hunger strike over alleged irregularities in a gubernatorial race. With 95 percent of the ballots counted, Andrei Ishchenko of the Communist Party (pictured) had a 5 percent lead over the candidate from a pro-Kremlin party in Sunday's runoff vote for governor of the Primorye region. But election officials reported a few hours later that, with all the votes counted, the Kremlin party's candidate was on top.



**WIKILEAKS** "I, Julian Assange, hereby grant full authority to my friend, Israel Shamir, to both drop off and collect my passport, in order to get a visa," said a letter, which was obtained exclusively by The Associated Press. The Nov. 30, 2010, missive is part of a much larger trove of WikiLeaks emails, chat logs, financial records, secretly recorded footage and other documents leaked.