

MORE VISITORS COMPARED TO WEAKEST AUGUST
 Visitor arrivals increased 18.7 percent y-o-y and 12.2 percent month-to-month in August 2018 to reach a total of 3.4 million



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CSI: LUCK OF THE TABLES RUNS OUT WITH FRIENDS



P7 CRIME

TRUMP TO UN: SECOND NORTH KOREA SUMMIT LIKELY SOON
 Confronting the dangers of N. Korea's nuclear threat, President Trump arrived at the United Nations striking a far less ominous tone than a year ago



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SEPARATIST PARTY BANNED

HK hardens crackdown on liberty, rule of law

P11



The government's actions may be unconstitutional and could be challenged for violating Hong Kong's right to freedom of association under the city's laws, barristers said after the banning of the National Party, founded by Andy Chan (pictured).

Gabriel Tong: Lawyers Association can do more to defend Macau's law

P2 MDT INTERVIEW



WORLD BRIEFS

SINGAPORE Singapore's competition watchdog has fined ride-hailing giant Uber and its regional rival Grab 13 million Singapore dollars (USD9.5 million) for a merger in Southeast Asia that the agency says has driven up fares and reduced competition in the market.

INDONESIA A teenager who survived 49 days adrift at sea after the wooden fish trap he was employed to mind slipped its moorings says he ran out of food within a week and survived on fish and seawater he squeezed from his clothing. More on p13



MALDIVES strongman President Yameen Abdul Gayoom conceded that he lost Sunday's election to his challenger, longtime lawmaker Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, in a speech broadcast live on television yesterday. More on p13

INDIA Five suspected militants and a soldier were killed in two days of fighting near the highly militarized de facto frontier that divides the disputed region of Kashmir between India and Pakistan, India's army said yesterday.

More on backpage

IFT launches program with FERRANDI Paris

IFT is partnering with FERRANDI Paris – The French School of Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management to launch an exchange program for undergraduate students next year. In each academic year, both institutions will make two study places available for students of the partner institution. The actual number of students on exchange will be confirmed and decided annually. IFT students will be able to apply for a study exchange place in any one of the following programs at FERRANDI Paris: Bachelor of F&B and Hospitality Management, and Bachelor of Culinary Arts and Entrepreneurship.

HK lecturer stresses need for mainland support

Hong Kong has been encouraged to appreciate the importance of mainland China's support. In his column in Oriental Daily News, Chan Wai-keung, a lecturer in humanities and social sciences at Hong Kong Polytechnic University, questioned how Hong Kong would be able to face big disasters without the country's support. "The heads of Macau people are a bit clearer. [In] the aftermath of the disaster [Typhoon Hato], [Macau] had to ask for help from the Liberation Army to solve the difficulties. Macau people know deeply the importance of having the country saying it's got [Macau's] back," wrote Chan. "The Hong Kong government did not ask for help from the Liberation Army. Therefore, [if Hong Kong] wants to complete the works [to recover from Typhoon Mangkhut], I am afraid that at least one month is needed," said Chan.

MASTV license extended for 15 years

The government has extended the license of Companhia de Televisão por Satélite MASTV for another five years, according to a dispatch published yesterday in the government official gazette. MASTV was launched in 2004. According to the 2004 contract, MASTV is to pay an amount equivalent to 1.5 percent of the gross operation income, or somewhere between MOP100,000 and MOP500,000 per year, as operation expenses to the Macau government. Besides MASTV, Macau has one free television station, one paid station and five satellite stations, providing a total of 157 television channels.

Gabriel Tong: AAM can do more to defend Macau's law

Julie Zhu

FORMER lawmaker Gabriel Tong believes that the Macau Lawyers Association (AAM) can do more to defend Macau's law.

Contacted by the Times yesterday, Gabriel Tong, who is also the current dean of the Faculty of Law of the University of Macau, said that AAM "has done some work [to defend Macau's law], but it can do more."

"There are many aspects needing improvement. I wrote articles before talking about Macau's judiciary procedures. [...] I think these [improvements] do not necessarily have to be done today or tomorrow, but must follow some standards: impartiality, fairness, and market adaptation," said Tong.

In the former lawmaker's opinion, Macau's lawyers still have a lot of room for improvement.

"After all, our [lawyers' association] development period is not that long, [...] but the difficulties we have been encountering are a lot," said Tong.

Questioned by the Times regarding AAM's upcoming presidential election, Tong hopes that the future president can be someone capable of leading Macau's lawyers.

When Tong was asked about the announcement of lawyer Sérgio de Almeida Correia as a candidate for AAM president, Tong refused to comment on



Gabriel Tong

specific election candidates.

"I know about [that announcement], but I have few comments. I still don't know who will run for the presidency. I think it's better [for me] to keep a neutral stance," Tong stated, adding, "I don't want to comment on the overall election either."

"I have spent quite a long period in the lawyers' industry. I hope they will not be influenced by the kinds of different opinions they receive, and hope they can make their own judg-

ments. So [...] before the election, I [will not] say some words to give people a feeling that [I] have a specific preference."

Not only did Tong refuse to offer his opinion on individual candidates for the AAM presidency, he also did not comment on current AAM president Jorge Neto Valente, having explained that "it is improper to comment on someone who will possibly run for the presidency."

When talking about his personal expectations for the future

president, Tong said, "I hope [the future president] has leadership capabilities, and can lead Macau's lawyers when facing great changes in the society, therefore moving forward. Of course, all lawyers have to choose based on their own judgments."

Tong hopes that the future president can be someone capable of leading Macau's lawyers

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 election, the participation rate was over 50 percent, with about 200 votes cast.

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

EDUCATION

UM students win psychology awards with locally themed studies

FOUR students from the University of Macau's (UM) Department of Psychology won the best student poster awards for their senior honors thesis poster presentations at the 2018 American Psychological Association (APA) Convention. The APA is one of the oldest and most respected psychology associations in the world.

This is the first time undergraduate students

from UM's Department of Psychology have received the best student poster awards at the APA Convention, according to a statement from the university.

The students' supervisor is Professor Brian Hall from the same department. The poster presentations are part of Professor Hall's ongoing public health research program in Macau, and all the projects and data originated in the MSAR.

The posters presented by Yang Xinyu, Lao Chao Kei and Yip Sheung Yan at the convention concerned Macau's large population of Southeast Asian migrant workers. They were titled "HIV/Syphilis rapid testing uptake correlates among Southeast Asian migrant workers", "Psychometric properties of the PHQ-9 and the GAD-7 among female Filipino domestic workers" and "Validation of the PTSD

Checklist-5 for Filipino domestic workers", respectively.

Yang and Lao both received first prize, while Yip received second prize in the student poster award contest from the Division of International Psychology (Division 52).

Meanwhile, Xiong Ying Xin's poster was titled "An exploration of disaster and social media exposure on PTSD: A study of Typhoon Hato

in Macau, China". Xiong received first prize in the Division 56 (Trauma) student poster awards.

More than 100 undergraduate and postgraduate students submitted posters to this year's convention. All the award-winning students come from UM's Global and Community Mental Health Research Group under the Department of Psychology, and are also members of the Honors College.

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ECONOMY

Visitor arrivals up compared to weak Hato August

VISITOR arrivals increased 18.7 percent year-on-year and 12.2 percent month-to-month in August 2018 to reach a total of 3.4 million, according to the latest information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).

The significant year-on-year rise in August is partly due to the impact of Typhoon Hato last year. In the immediate aftermath of the typhoon, the city's transportation infrastructure was not able to function properly and the Macau Government Tourism Office suspended tour groups from traveling to the MSAR during the last week of the month.

Accordingly, in August 2017 visitor arrivals edged down 0.6 percent year-on-year to about 2.8 million, though gross gaming revenues appeared to be unaffected.

This August, overnight visitors and same-day visitors grew by 16.3 percent and 21.6 percent year-on-year to reach 1.8 million and 1.6 million respectively.

The average length of stay of visitors dropped by 0.1 days year-on-year to 1.2 days, with that of overnight visitors and same-day visitors holding at 2.2 days and 0.2 days respectively.

Analyzed by place of origin, visitors from mainland China increased by 25.3 percent year-on-year to top 2.5 million in August 2018, with almost 1.1 million coming from neighboring Guangdong province. Visitors from Hong Kong (556,000) and Taiwan (94,000) increased by 5 percent and 1.7 percent respectively, however those from South Korea (66,000) decreased by 12.6 percent. Visitors from the United States (13,000), Australia (5,000), Canada (5,000) and the United Kingdom (4,000) registered year-on-year growth.

In the first eight months of 2018, visitor arrivals reached 23.2



million, up by 8.9 percent year-on-year, with overnight visitors (12.2 million) and same-day visitors (11 million) growing by 8.4 percent and 9.4 percent respectively. The average length of stay of visitors held steady year-on-year at 1.2 days, with that of overnight visitors (2.2 days) rising by 0.1 day and that of same-day visitors (0.2 days) remaining unchanged.

Over the course of the first eight months of the year, visitors from mainland China numbered 16.4

million, up 14.2 percent from the same period in 2017, while those from Taiwan increased by 0.7 percent to 720,000. Meanwhile, visitors from South Korea (550,000) and Hong Kong (4.1 million) dropped by 5.8 percent and 2.4 percent respectively.

Visitors from the United States (127,000), Australia (57,000) and Canada (47,000) recorded year-on-year increases, whereas those from the United Kingdom (37,000) saw a decline.

MGTO PLATFORM TO SHOW PROVISIONAL GOLDEN WEEK STATISTICS

THE MACAU Government Tourism Office (MGTO) has updated its online platform used to indicate local tourism statistics, including provisional and historical data for the two Golden Weeks, Chinese New Year and National Day on October 1. The tourism data platform shows historical data about

visitation during the Golden Weeks as provided by the Statistics and Census Service, as well as provisional data for the current year provided by the Public Security Police Force. According to a statement issued by the MGTO, provisional Golden Week statistics are only available during the Golden Weeks.

Macau able to weather economic downs, says Secretary

THE Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, said that Macau is capable of enduring fluctuations in the health of the world economy, according to a statement released by the Office of the Secretary for Economy and Finance.

Since last month, Leong has been leading other government principal officials within his secretariat, visiting approximately 30 associations that include business, youth, women and other sectors.

Moreover, they have also been meeting with some of the city's scholars and experts in the aforementioned fields.

Several industry representatives pointed out that the trade war between China and the U.S. is causing fluctuations in the global financial market, and that since Macau's economy is highly export-oriented, it can easily be influenced by external economies.

In view of this, the representatives further suggested to Leong that the SAR government should prepare to embrace the changes occurring in the financial market.

In turn, the Secretary expressed his agreement, stressing that Macau's economy had just entered a stable phase and is currently enjoying favorable con-

ditions, following a prolonged economic adjustment period over the past 26 months. However, the Secretary noted that this trend may be subject to variations due to external factors.

Leong believes that the Macau SAR government has a solid financial capacity, good income and expenditure, a reliable indexation system and a stable financial system, which allow both the Macau SAR government and its financial system to cope with fluctuations in the financial markets.

Leong added that, in view of the current uncertainties in the world economy, the MSAR government and all social sectors have been working to strengthen the sense of alertness.

Given that adequate diversification of Macau's economy has always been a priority, the Secretary pointed out that fostering organic synergy between adequate diversification of the local economy and participation in the national construction, as the principle of "responding to national needs and enhancing the advantages of Macau" is a major task for the Secretary for Economy and Finance, with emphasis on the role of Macau as a service platform for trade co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

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MGS to kick off on November 13

THE Macau Gaming Equipment Manufacturers Association (MGEMA), Nam Kwong Culture and Creativity Industry Co. Ltd (Nam Kwong Group), and China National Machinery Industry International Co. Ltd (CNAICO) will co-organize the sixth MGS Entertainment Show to reflect the latest developments in Macau on November 13 at the Venetian Macao.

The 2018 MGS Summit Opening Ceremony will also be held on the same day.

The event will provide a plat-

form for gaming, entertainment, technology, and leisure for industry professionals from all over the world to exchange ideas and create business opportunities.

The MGS Entertainment Show will focus on leisure technology, fashion and creative industries, eSports, gaming equipment, integrated resorts, procurement, and security systems.

MGS will mainly discuss the opportunity in Japanese integrated resorts, the potential for emerging markets and the future of gaming equipment

production.

The Global Digital and Entertainment Future Summit 2018 will discuss topics such as planting game IPs into entertainment facilities, blockchain, and the development of electronic entertainment and eSports.

“With the increasingly clear positioning of Macau as a World Center of Tourism and Leisure, the organizers have decided to change the Chinese name of MGS from 澳門娛樂展 [Macau Entertainment Show] to 澳門休閒科技展 [Macau Leisure

and Science Show] after thoughtful consideration,” said Jay Chun, president of MGEMA.

“For this year, we [will] see a lot of new technologies, besides the traditional ones. Now, we are more diversified. We have some new technology topics, we have some interest in the conference, we have very international standard eSports, and we also have some manufacturers – they are coming with new products that were launched this year,” said Chun.

“We are more focused on the technology side than it traditio-

nally used to be. eSports is a very good topic,” said Chun. “We will also be bringing a lot of amusement, eSports, and non-gaming related products will come more and more.”

For the seminars, the Director of the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau and some lawmakers will be invited to discuss their opinions regarding the gaming concession.

This year is also the first time that MGS will be co-organized by MGEMA, Nam Kwong Group and CNAICO.

According to Chun, MGEMA’s first co-operative venture with Nam Kwong Group and CNAICO will be for three years.

“We start with three years, and after three years we will review that,” said Chun.

Xiaodong Song, Associate General Manager of Nam Kwong Group said, “The three organizers will work together to make MGS an important platform showcasing the latest technological development[s], means of travel and travel packages.”

A representative of CNAICO, Ang Cui, also remarked that together with the other parties, CNAICO will “spend three to five years making MGS the top and most professional one-stop platform for entertainment and technology, combining exhibitions, conferences, competitions and education in the Asia-Pacific region.” **JZ**

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ONE SHOT NEWS



Chief Executive Chui Sai On (front, center) poses for a group photograph with guests attending the opening ceremony of the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Guinea Bissau in Macau. Businessman Chan Meng Kam (front, right) was last month appointed as the Portuguese-speaking West African country's new honorary consul.

CE thanks public for role during Mangkhut

In two public letters, Chief Executive (CE) Chui Sai On thanked the general public and the civil service team for their efforts to reduce Typhoon Mangkhut's impact on Macau, both in his personal capacity and on behalf of the government, the Government Information Bureau informed. In the letters, the CE thanked the community

for efforts that contributed to the minimization of Typhoon Mangkhut's negative impact on Macau, noting that everyone showed a "strong display of perseverance and mutual solidarity," highlighting the resilience and virtues of the city's population in challenging times. These contributions from civil society and public ser-

vice aided the good results and fast responses obtained, he said, also noting that the response to the "first-ever official evacuation alert for people living in low-lying areas to move to safety" was "proof of an increased level of understanding regarding public emergency situations." While commenting on the good results, Chui also em-

phasized the need to continually improve and move ahead with plans to better the government response mechanism to public emergencies. Typhoon Mangkhut was the strongest storm to impact Macau this year, bringing adverse weather conditions and severe flooding to several of the city's low-lying areas. **RM**

Rosário arrested in crypto fraud

Local businessman Frederico dos Santos Rosário has been arrested by the Judiciary Police (PJ) for suspected fraud involving cryptocurrency investments with local investors, the PJ informed.

According to information from a PJ spokesperson heard by TDM Radio yesterday afternoon, on August 1, Rosário filed a complaint with the police, saying he had been tricked into a cryptocurrency investment scheme.

The PJ investigation concluded that the businessman is, in fact, a partner of Dennis Lau, the Hong Kong investor whom Rosário was complaining about. Both had colluded in a scheme to attract investors in Macau, and are potentially guilty of having misled the local investors while claiming that the scheme was a "low-risk investment with high profits."

Rosário was bailed out of police custody last night for a sum of MOP50,000. He is now obliged to present himself at the police station on a weekly basis.

The case involves a total of 71 victims and a total of MOP14.2 million that has gone missing. The scam allegedly promised the investors that they would receive a monthly return of 25 percent.

Following a disagreement between the partners, last month Rosário announced that he was filing a lawsuit against Lau for defamation.

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CRIME

Luck of the tables runs out with friends



Renato Marques

A 45-year-old woman from the mainland lost all her casino winnings while trusting a friend to transfer the money to her bank account, the Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesperson informed yesterday during a joint press conference held at the Public Security Police Force (PSP) venue. According to the information disclosed by the spokesperson, the woman, who arrived in Macau to try her luck at the local casinos, could not believe her further luck when she found a man who offered her HKD300,000 to play without asking for anything, besides returning the same amount.

The woman immediately gambled the money and obtained a total of HKD565,000, almost double the amount she had played.

Fulfilling the original agreement, she sought out her friend and returned the HKD300,000 that she had received from him.

After receiving his money, the man offered to help her transfer the remaining money into her account on the mainland, an offer that she accepted.

After a while, believing that everything was perfect, she returned to the mainland.

To her surprise, the following day she realized that her winnings had not been transferred into her bank account and her alleged friend had scammed her.

She returned to Macau on September 13 to file a complaint with the PJ.

After identifying the suspect with the help of the casino surveillance cameras, the police commenced a search for him and caught him on September 22 as he was trying to re-enter Macau through the border gate checkpoint.

He was presented to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) charged with breach of trust.

In a separate case also reported by the police, a local man aged 31 was caught after robbing a restaurant where he was a regular customer.

According to the PJ spokesperson, the incident occurred on September 18 when the owner of the shop noticed that the money from the cash register had disappeared while the shop had been closed for lunch break (from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.).

According to the owner, who immediately made a complaint to the PJ, MOP7,500 was missing.

Using video surveillance cameras, the PJ found that a restaurant regular had hidden inside the venue while it was closed for break time.

After taking the money from the cash register he managed to escape through a window.

On September 22, the PJ finally caught the thief while he was re-entering Macau from the mainland through the border gate checkpoint.

Upon questioning, the man admitted to the crime and said he needed to repay a gambling debt.

During the investigation, the police also discovered that the man had a record of similar crimes and had been sentenced to eight years imprisonment in 2009. He had been released from jail in 2017 after serving his sentence.

In another story, the PSP spokesperson informed that two local men had been detained after being found guilty of appropriating lost property.

The case was reported to the police on September 19, when a local man was at a karaoke venue located at Rua de Francisco Xavier Pereira in central Macau.

The man told the police that he had to leave the venue for a few

minutes to withdraw money at an ATM machine. At the time, a friend was sitting with him at one table where he had two mobile phones.

Upon returning to the karaoke place, he realized that his friend had changed tables and the phones were no longer there.

The venue staff had no idea about the whereabouts of the mobile phones. The victim cal-

led the PSP, who reviewed video surveillance footage with the venue staff and found that two suspects took the phones.

Street surveillance camera footage showed that the two suspects then took a taxi.

The police contacted the taxi driver who remembered the two customers, because they had asked to be dropped off in different locations (Areia Preta and

Fai Chi Kei).

While investigating the area on September 20 at around 11 p.m., the police found the two suspects.

They confessed to finding and taking the phones and selling them in Gongbei, Zhuhai for the equivalent of MOP2,800.

According to the victim, the phones were valued at MOP10,000 each.



Phone and WeChat Scams continue to grow

ACCORDING to the Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesperson, despite constant warnings, scams taking place over phone calls and WeChat conversations continue to occur, targeting residents and non-residents alike.

During yesterday's press conference, the PJ reported that a non-resident woman had been caught in a scam over an investment.

On September 23, she told the police that she had met a man over WeChat in November 2017, and that they had been chatting until April 2018.

The man claimed to be a staff member at a banking institution at that time, and offered to help to invest her money in a profitable business.

In June, the woman accepted the offer and transferred HKD40,000 to him, but after some time she lost contact with him and never saw any return from her investment. She then filed a com-

plaint with the PJ.

In a separate story, a local woman aged 55 claimed to have lost a total of RMB120,000 through a phone scam.

Thinking she was speaking to a friend who had changed his phone number, the woman recorded a new number under her alleged friend's name. She was called the next day, when he claimed that he had been arrested in the mainland and needed money to bail him out.

The woman transferred money to the man on three different occasions, amounting to a total of RMB120,000.

On September 22, after not hearing from the person for several days, the woman called the friend's original number and realized that she had been scammed. She presented the complaint to the PJ. **RM**



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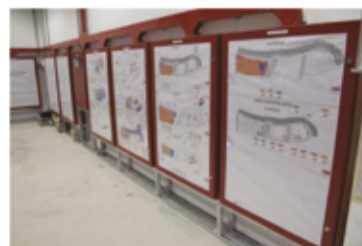


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BLOOMBERG



Oil traders say USD100 coming as OPEC strains to fill Iran gap

MAJOR oil trading houses are predicting the return of USD100 crude for the first time since 2014 as OPEC and its allies struggle to compensate for U.S. sanctions on Iran's exports.

With Brent crude already jumping to an almost four-year high yesterday, that's exactly the kind of price surge President Donald Trump has been seeking to prevent by pressuring the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to raise production. Yet the cartel and its allies gave mixed signals at a meeting in Algiers on Sunday, ultimately showing little sign they would heed U.S. demands to rapidly push down crude prices.

OPEC's reticence, combined with signs of accelerating supply

losses from Iran, created a bullish mood the annual gathering of the Asian oil industry, traders, refiners and bankers in Singapore yesterday.

"The market does not have the supply response for a potential disappearance of 2 million barrels a day in the fourth quarter," Mercuria Energy Group Ltd. co-founder Daniel Jaeggi said in a speech at the S&P Global Platts Asia Pacific Petroleum Conference, known as APPEC. "In my view, that makes it conceivable to see a price spike north of \$100 a barrel."

HARSHER SANCTIONS

When Trump in May announced plans to reimpose sanctions on Iran's oil exports, the market estimated a cut of about 300,000 to 700,000 barrels a

day, said Trafigura Group co-head of oil trading Ben Luckock. However, the consensus has now moved to as much as 1.5 million barrels daily as the U.S. is "incredibly serious" about its measures, he said.

Iran's production "is going to be significantly less than it was, and probably lower than most people expected when the sanctions were announced," Luckock said at the APPEC event. He sees \$90 oil by Christmas and \$100 in early 2019.

Brent crude, the benchmark for more than half the world's oil, rose 2.5 percent to \$80.56 a barrel at 11:40 a.m. in London, after earlier jumping to the highest level since November 2014.

OPEC isn't just grappling with U.S. sanctions cutting Iranian supply. Output in Venezuela is

also slumping due to an economic crisis. The biggest source of new global supply, U.S. shale, is also experiencing growing pains as pipeline bottlenecks and workforce issues hamper growth.

OPEC WAITS

For all these urgent supply pressures, the world's largest oil producers adopted a sit-back-and-wait approach at their meeting in the Algerian capital on Sunday. Saudi Arabia, Russia and the United Arab Emirates insisted they had the spare capacity to satisfy the market's needs, but wouldn't tap it preemptively.

"Our plan is to meet demand," said Saudi Energy Minister Khalid Al-Falih. "The reason Saudi Arabia didn't increase more is

because all of our customers are receiving all of the barrels they want." The kingdom does expect to pump more in September and increase again in October, he said, without pledging specific volumes.

Major oil companies took some solace from OPEC's assurances. While the group didn't take action on Sunday, it seems set on making sure the market doesn't get too carried away, said Mark Quartermain, Royal Dutch Shell Plc's vice president for global crude oil trading and supply.

Oil at \$100 may not be sustainable in the longer-term because demand may be threatened by the U.S.-China trade war and supply, especially from the U.S., was seen sufficient in the next 12 months, said Janet Kong, BP Plc's head of trading in Asia.

SPIKE, CRASH

Wall Street bankers and hedge funds also saw some caveats to the bullish mood.

Francisco Blanch, head of commodities research at Bank of America Corp., said in a note to clients on Monday that signals from OPEC mean "the likelihood of an oil spike and crash scenario akin to the one observed in 2008 has increased."

A decade ago, Brent crude surged to nearly \$150 a barrel, only to crash just months later as high fuel prices and the global financial crisis triggered a slump in demand. This time, the deepening trade war between the U.S. and China threatens economic growth in Asia and turmoil in emerging countries could amplify the impact of higher prices on global demand growth.

Bank of America's main scenario is for oil prices next year of around \$80 a barrel, according to the note. Citigroup Inc. sees crude at that level in the fourth quarter, but sees risks that it will go higher.

"Balances are precarious and the lack of spare capacity could see crude pricing well above \$90 or even \$100, should all of the potential risk in the market materialize," analysts including Ed Morse said in the note. **MDT/Bloomberg**

corporate bits

GEG HOLDS MOONCAKE DONATION, LANTERN-MAKING ACTIVITY



Galaxy Entertainment Group held a mooncake donation activity and organized volunteers to make lanterns with members of the Association of Parents of the People with Intellectual Disabilities of Macau (AFEDMM)

in the hope of sharing the festive joy throughout Macau.

Maintaining the tradition of gifting mooncakes to team members during Mid-Autumn Festival, GEG gave away 20,000 boxes of Asian Heart

mooncakes. GEG would like to wish team members and their families a happy Mid-Autumn Festival.

"Mid-Autumn Festival is one of the traditional Chinese festivals [and] GEG, as a Chinese-owned enterprise, values Chinese traditions," said Buddy Lam, senior vice president of public relations. "Mid-Autumn Festival is a time to express blessings. Therefore, GEG would like to deliver the best festive wishes to the Macau community by giving out mooncakes and making lanterns with the members of AFEDMM. Moving forward, GEG will expand its range of community services to continue spreading love and care across Macau."

CEM DELEGATES PARTICIPATE IN CEPSI TO EXPLORE DEVELOPMENT OF POWER INDUSTRY



An eight-member delegation of Companhia de Electricidade de Macau (CEM) attended the 22th Conference of the Electric Power Supply Industry (CEPSI 2018), which was held at the Kuala Lumpur

Convention Centre (KLCC) in Malaysia last week.

Being an important event for the power industry in Asia, CEPSI is organized biennially by the Association of the Electricity Supply In-

dustry of East Asia and the Western Pacific, as well as member countries or regions by turns.

CEPSI aims to provide a platform for knowledge exchange and cooperation for the power industry in the Asia-Pacific region.

Over 1,500 power-related delegates from more than 30 countries attended this year's conference, including corporate executives, analysts, consultants, engineers, industry professionals and government officials etc., to discuss and exchange views on the hot topics of global concern such as digitalization, smart future, Big Data, sustainability and energy trilemma.

TRADE WAR ESCALATES

Beijing says it won't hold talks unless Trump stops threats

CHINA dashed prospects for a near-term resolution to the trade war with the U.S., warning President Donald Trump his threats of further tariffs are blocking any potential negotiations.

The response, which came just over an hour after the U.S. imposed new duties on USD200 billion in Chinese goods yesterday, underscores a deepening gulf between both governments in a dispute that observers say is less about a row over a bilateral goods deficit and increasingly about a U.S. desire to put the brakes on China's economic ascent.

Trump has repeatedly threatened higher tariffs on the remaining Chinese imports should Beijing retaliate against the latest round. As China has said that step is certain, the stage appears set for yet another escalation of the trade war. China canceled talks that were scheduled for this week, and is digging in by prepping stimulus measures to cushion the economy.

"The door for trade talks is always open but negotiations must be held in an environment of mutual respect," according to a white paper carried by the state-run Xinhua News Agency. Negotiations "cannot be carried out under the threat of tariffs."

Whichever side is right, the hardening rhetoric is increasingly giving way to actions that are hurting the world economy, Fitch Ratings said in its latest global outlook.

"The trade war is now a reality," Fitch chief economist Brian Coulton said in the release. The ratings firm downgraded its world growth forecast for 2019 by 0.1 percentage point to 3.1 percent and warned of further downside risks.

Hong Kong stocks fell, while volumes across Asia were thinner than average due to holidays in the largest markets, China and Japan. The latest round of U.S. duties took effect just after midnight Washington time yesterday (midday in Beijing) on a list of products ranging from frozen meat to television components. China is poised to retaliate with tariffs on USD60 billion in U.S. goods, a move that Trump has said would spur new duties on another \$267 billion in Chinese imports.

In announcing the rates for the retaliatory duties last week, the government in Beijing said the tariffs would be effective as of 12:01 p.m. local time on Sept. 24.

If the president follows through on the escalation threat, U.S. tariffs would cover all goods the nation imported from China last year, risking an escalating conflict that could upend the supply chains of multinational



companies.

China on Saturday called off planned trade talks with U.S. officials with a move by the U.S. State Department to sanction China's defense agency and its director on Thursday contributing to the decision, according to people familiar with the situation. There's a growing consensus in Beijing that substantive talks will only be possible after U.S. midterm elections in November, the people said.

Efforts at diplomacy have failed, with no breakthroughs since high-level talks began in May. Trump has warned that the 10 percent tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese goods will rise to 25 percent in January if Beijing refuses to offer concessions.

Still, the U.S. remains open to talks, Lindsay Walters, deputy White House press secretary, said in an emailed statement.

"President Trump has an excellent relationship with President Xi and our teams have been in frequent communication since President Trump took office," Walters said. "We remain open to continuing discussions with China, but China must meaningfully engage on the unfair trading practices."

Neither side has backed down since the tit-for-tat tariff war began in July when the U.S. imposed duties on \$34 billion of Chinese goods. Another \$16 billion of goods were included in August and China retaliated in kind to both moves.

Companies complain that the time frame between the announcement of the latest levies and implementation of the tariffs on thousands of products is too short. A protracted trade war will fuel inflation in the U.S., particularly as tariffs are added to categories such as furniture, apparel and technology, according to analysts at Bloomberg Intelligence.

Here's Where Tariffs on \$260 Billion of Goods Are Biting in U.S. "Retailers are already facing a tidal wave of tariffs. This latest tranche is a tsunami," said Hun Quach, vice president of international trade for the Retail Industry Leaders Association. "With thousands of consumer products included, little warning, and no time to prepare, businesses are

left scrambling."

Beijing's latest tariffs include an additional 5 percent duty on about 1,600 kinds of U.S. products including computers and textiles and an extra 10 percent on more than 3,500 items including chemicals, meat, wheat, wine and liquefied natural gas.

Asked this month if Beijing's planned retaliation was a guarantee that Trump would go ahead with the next round of duties, White House trade adviser Peter Navarro said on NPR's Morning Edition that "the president was crystal clear in his statement: if China retaliates, the process will move forward on the additional amount."

China canceled talks for this week, and is digging in by prepping stimulus measures to cushion the economy

Edward Alden, senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, said there was a chance the trade war could spiral out of control but that there is "a window for serious negotiation."

"The Trump administration must get its position straight though - what does it want from China, and who is empowered as a negotiator by President Trump to bring the deal home? Unless that happens, serious negotiations will be impossible and the likelihood of continued escalation increases," Alden said. **Bloomberg**

World shares fall on reports China-US trade talks put off

SHARES have fallen in Asia and Europe after China reportedly rebuffed a plan for talks with the U.S. on resolving their dispute over trade and technology.

THE DAY IN ASIA: Hong Kong's Hang Seng index fell 1.6 percent to 27,499.39 and Australia's S&P ASX 200 edged 0.1 percent lower to 6,186.90. India's Sensex gave up 1.5 percent to 36,296.80. Shares rose in Singapore but fell in Thailand and Indonesia. Markets in Japan, South Korea, Shanghai and elsewhere in the region were closed for national holidays.

CHINA-US-TRADE: China and the U.S. pressed ahead with another tariff hike on each other's products. There was no sign that proposed trade talks between Washington and Beijing would go ahead.

KEEPING SCORE: Germany's DAX fell 0.4 percent to 12,382.50 and the CAC 40

in France lost 0.3 percent to 5,479.86. The FTSE 100 in Britain lost 0.2 percent to 7,472.33. The futures contracts for the Dow Jones industrial average and the S&P 500 both fell 0.2 percent, auguring a slow start on Wall Street.

ANALYST'S VIEWPOINT: "The weekend headlines have not been a blessing for 'risk sentiment,'" Stephen Innes of OANDA said in a commentary. He added, "the optimist in me is siding on 'this too shall pass,' but with markets closed in Japan, China and South Korea as a large part of Asia celebrates the Mid-Autumn festival, it impossible to gauge sentiment in these drastically diminished liquidity conditions."

WALL STREET: Wall Street capped a milestone-setting week Friday with a mixed finish for the major U.S. stock indexes and the second all-time high in two days for the Dow Jones Industrial Average.



ge. The S&P 500 index dropped 1.08 points on Friday to 2,929.67, just under its latest all-time high set a day earlier. The Dow gained 0.3 percent to 26,743.50, thanks largely to gains in Boeing and McDonald's. The Nasdaq composite lost 0.5 percent, to 7,986.96. The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies gave up 0.5 percent to 1,712.32.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude picked up USD1.48 cen-

ts to \$72.26 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It gained 0.7 percent to settle at \$70.78 a barrel Friday in New York. Brent crude, used to price international oils, added \$1.96 to \$80.20 per barrel.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 112.66 yen from Friday's 112.60 yen. The euro climbed to \$1.1770 from \$1.1752. The British pound rose to \$1.3124 from \$1.3072. **MDT/AP**

HONG KONG

Gov't bans pro-independence party in unprecedented decision

David Tweed

HONG Kong's government issued an unprecedented ban against a pro-independence political party that it has called a risk to national security, raising concerns over tolerance of dissent in the Asian financial hub.

"The Hong Kong National Party has a very clear agenda to achieve its goal of Hong Kong being made an independent republic," John Lee, the city's security secretary, said at a briefing yesterday. The party could use force to achieve its goal and had spread "hatred and discrimination" against Chinese visitors to Hong Kong, he said.

The decision risks fanning fears the city's administration wants to set a precedent for clamping down on other opposition groups, eroding Hong Kong's autonomy under the "one country, two systems" framework in place since Chinese rule began in 1997. It may also lay the groundwork to revive a shelved national security law prohibiting secession and subversion.

The ban represents the latest attempt to squelch the small movement that sprung up after mass "Occupy Central" protests in 2014 failed to win any democratic reforms. In 2016, the Chinese government reinterpreted local law to ban such activists from public office. Local officials this year barred a legislative candidate because she supported "self-determination."



Andy Chan, leader of the National Party

"The decision could have a chilling effect that stifles democratic debate on a topic that is not an illegal act per se under current legislation," said Chris Ng, a convener of the Progressive Lawyers' Group, which promotes democracy and the rule of law in Hong Kong.

The government's actions may be unconstitutional and could be challenged for violating Hong Kong's right to freedom of association under the city's laws, Ng said. Local journalists were calling him to ask if it would be illegal to publish an article by Andy Chan, Ng said, adding that he told them it would be legal as long as Chan said he wasn't acting as a member

of the National Party.

The ban came ten days after the National Party submitted a case to the government arguing why it shouldn't be suppressed. "I can't comment at the moment," Chan said yesterday in a text message.

It was unclear whether Chan would take legal action to oppose the ban. Earlier this month, he dropped an appeal against a previous government decision to stop him from running in 2016 legislative council elections because he couldn't afford to fight on, the South China Morning Post reported.

Hong Kong police had threatened to ban the National Party

in July, accusing it of taking concrete steps toward realizing the city's independence. China later warned the Foreign Correspondents' Club that it risked repercussions for hosting Chan to speak about the potential ban. The club's members include journalists from Bloomberg and other news organizations.

The FCC invitation prompted pro-Beijing protesters to gather outside the club's premises, and criticism from Hong Kong's former leader. China's foreign ministry accused the FCC of abusing the former British colony's right to free speech by giving Chan a platform.

At the lunch, Chan denounced

China as a "colonial master," and compared the administration's effort to ban his party to campaigns to suppress political opposition in democratically run Taiwan and China's regions of Tibet and Xinjiang.

Chan wrote to the U.S. Department of State in September, calling on Washington to suspend the differential treatment on trade between Hong Kong and mainland China under the U.S.-Hong Kong Policy Act. Chan said such a move would be warranted due to the erosion of the city's autonomy and freedom under Chinese rule.

■ The decision risks fanning fears the city's gov't wants to set a precedent for clamping down on other opposition groups

Kurt Tong, the U.S. Consul General in Hong Kong, dismissed Chan's call and reaffirmed the "very good relationship" between Washington and the city's government, the South China Morning Post reported. During a visit to Hong Kong last year, President Xi Jinping warned that any challenge to China's rule was "an act that crosses the red line, and is absolutely impermissible."

China's central government firmly supports Hong Kong's right to punish any crimes that endanger national security, the official Xinhua News Agency reported yesterday, citing a spokesman from China's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office in Beijing. **Bloomberg**

HOTTER THAN CANNABIS

Chinese truck maker surges most in world

A heavily shorted Chinese truck maker has emerged as the surprising winner among global stocks this month, trouncing cannabis growers and technology shares.

Sinotruk Hong Kong Ltd. has jumped 69 percent in September, the top gainer on the MSCI All-Country World Index, as optimism about its parent's new chairman overshadowed a pessimistic outlook for the industry.

Shares were boosted by speculation that Tan Xuguang, who was appointed head of China National Heavy Duty Truck Group



Co. on Aug. 31, will lift the company's performance through acquisitions and

restructuring, according to Wayne Fung, an analyst at CMB International Securities Ltd.

"Tan has a good track record of overseas acquisitions," Fung said.

The company had a net cash position of 10 billion yuan (USD1.5 billion) at the end of June, he said. Calls to Sinotruk's Hong Kong office went unanswered.

Adding to the positive sentiment was news last week that Volkswagen AG's MAN unit, which has a stake in Sinotruk, agreed to create a joint venture to manufacture heavy-duty trucks.

There are a lot of skeptics still around. Short interest accounts for 35 percent of Sinotruk's free float, the most among almost 500 Hong Kong-listed stocks, according to IHS Markit

data. Short covering probably accounted for some of the rally, Fung said.

The stock slid 8.5 percent as of 1:23 p.m. in Hong Kong. Investors should be cautious, according to Toller Ma, an analyst at Guotai Junan Securities Co. in Hong Kong.

"Its shares are overpriced as any restructuring is still uncertain," Ma said.

The market is too optimistic on the joint venture and management changes, according to Morgan Stanley, which reiterated an underweight rating on the stock and trimmed its price target. **Bloomberg**

TRUMP AT UN

Second summit with North Korea likely 'quite soon'

Jonathan Lemire
& Zeke Miller, United Nations

CONFRONTING the dangers of North Korea's nuclear threat, President Donald Trump arrived at the United Nations yesterday striking a far less ominous tone than a year ago, announcing he likely will hold a second summit with Kim Jong Un "quite soon."

Twelve months after Trump stood at the rostrum of the U.N. General Assembly and derided Kim as "Rocket Man," the push to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula is a work in progress, although fears of war have given way to dreams of rapprochement. The president's bellicose denunciations of Pyongyang have largely given way to hopeful notes.

"It was a different world," Trump said of his one-time moniker for the North Korean leader. "That was a dangerous time. This is one year later, a much different time."

He added that preparations are underway by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo for a second presidential meeting with Kim "quite soon."

Trump arrived at the U.N. earlier yesterday for a meeting on the global drug trade, ahead of a sit-down with South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who comes bearing a personal message to Trump from Kim after their inter-Korean talks last week.

Trump and Moon are expected to sign a new version of the U.S.-South Korean trade agreement, one of Trump's first successes in his effort to renegotiate trade deals on more favorable terms for the U.S. Even so, some U.S.



Guterres and Trump at the UN General Assembly in New York yesterday

officials worry that South Korea's eagerness to restore relations with the North could reduce sanctions pressure on Kim's government, hampering efforts to negotiate a nuclear accord.

The nuclear threat was on the agenda at Trump's first meeting in New York, a dinner with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Manhattan on Sunday night. Abe stands first among world leaders in cultivating a close relationship with the president through displays of flattery that he has used to advance his efforts to influence the unpredictable American leader.

"We have our eyes wide open," Pompeo told NBC's "Meet the Press" on Sunday. "There is a long ways to go to get Chairman Kim to live up to the commitment that he made to President

Trump and, indeed, to the demands of the world in the U.N. Security Council resolutions to get him to fully denuclearize."

Trump, redoubling his commitment to "America First" on the most global of stages, will stress his dedication to the primacy of U.S. interests while competing with Western allies for an advantage on trade and shining a spotlight on the threat that he says Iran poses to the Middle East and beyond.

Scores of world leaders, even those representing America's closest friends, remain wary of Trump. In the 12 months since his last visit to the U.N., the Republican president has jolted the global status quo by pulling out of the Iran nuclear deal, starting trade conflicts with China and the West and embracing

Russia's Vladimir Putin even as the investigation into the U.S. president's ties to Moscow moves closer to the Oval Office.

Long critical of the United Nations, Trump delivered a warning shot ahead of his arrival by declaring that the world body had "not lived up to" its potential.

"It's always been surprising to me that more things aren't resolved," Trump said in a weekend video message, "because you have all of these countries getting together in one location but it doesn't seem to get there. I think it will."

Nikki Haley, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, told reporters in a preview of Trump's visit that the president's focus "will be very much on the United States," its role and the relations

it wants to build.

"He is looking forward to talking about foreign policy successes the United States has had over the past year and where we're going to go from here," she said. "He wants to talk about protecting U.S. sovereignty," while building relationships with nations that "share those values."

■ Trump arrived at the U.N. earlier yesterday for a meeting on the global drug trade, ahead of a sit-down with South Korean President Moon Jae-in

In his four-day visit to New York, Trump will deliver major speeches and meet with representatives of a world order that he has so often upended in the past year. On Monday he participated in a Global Call to Action on the World Drug Problem and later was to meet with Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi and French President Emmanuel Macron, in addition to Moon.

Trump's address to the General Assembly comes Tuesday, and on Wednesday [ECT] he will for the first time chair the Security Council, with the stated topic of non-proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. The subject initially was to have been Iran, but that could have allowed Iranian President Hassan Rouhani to attend, creating a potentially awkward situation for the U.S. leader. **AP**

INDIAN OCEAN

French boat rescues injured Indian sailor from yacht

A French ship yesterday rescued an Indian sailor who was injured in the remote southern Indian Ocean when his sailboat lost its mast in a storm during a round-the-world solo yacht race, officials said.

India's defense minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, tweeted that it was "a sense of relief to know that naval officer" Abhilash Tomy was "rescued by the French fishing vessel. He's conscious and doing okay." She said the ship would take Tomy to a nearby island by evening



The distressed yacht, Thuriya, with Indian sailor Abhilash Tomy on board, floats in the southern Indian Ocean

and an Indian navy frigate would then take him to Mauritius for medical attention.

Indian navy spokesman Capt. D.K. Sharma said Tomy, 39, was sailing in a solo around-the-world sail-

boat race called the Golden Globe Race.

Started in 1966, the competition involves circumnavigating the globe without any modern technology except satellite communications. This year's race began in France on July 1.

"He has been pulled out on a stretcher by a French fishing vessel. He is conscious and is in safe hands," Sharma said. "He's resting in the sickbay of the ship."

Sharma said the rescue operation involved the Royal Australian Navy, the French vessel and India's navy.

Australian officials earlier said the French fisheries patrol boat Osiris headed 740 kilometers to Tomy after his yacht, Thuriya, lost its mast on Friday.

The yacht was in Australia's search and rescue zone 3,500 kilometers southwest of the Australian city of Perth and 3,000 kilometers southeast of the French island of Reunion, said Australian Maritime Safety Authority search and rescue officer Phil Gaden.

He said Tomy had an injured back.

"We do know he's got a very severely injured back and we believe that he's very restricted in his ability to maneuver. We also know he's having difficulty keeping fluids down," Gaden said.

Tomy had been keeping in contact with rescue authorities through text messages, but batteries on his two devices were running low, Gaden said.

Another sailor in the Golden Globe Race, Irishman Gregor McGuckin, also lost his mast on Friday near Tomy and will also be rescued, Gaden said. **AP**

MALDIVES

President Yameen concedes loss to opposition candidate

Bharatha Mallawarachi, Male

MALDIVES strongman President Yameen Abdul Gayoom conceded that he lost Sunday's election to his challenger, longtime lawmaker Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, in a speech broadcast live on television yesterday.

Speaking in the Maldives' native language, Dhivehi, Gayoom congratulated Solih and said, "I know I have to step down now."

The concession and the results were a surprise to Maldives' opposition, who had feared Yameen would rig the vote in his favor. Since getting elected in 2013, Yameen had cracked down on political dissent, jailing rivals — including his half brother and the Maldives' first democratically elected president — and Supreme Court justices.

The election commission released provisional results earlier yesterday showing Solih had won the South Asian island nation's third-ever multiparty presidential election with 58.3 percent of the vote. The commission said voter turnout in the country of 400,000 people was 89.2 percent.

After Solih claimed victory just after midnight, his supporters flooded the streets, hugging one another, waving the Maldivian



Supporters of Maldives' opposition presidential candidate Ibrahim Mohamed Solih celebrate their victory in Male, the capital city

flag, cheering and honking horns in celebration.

Solih, 56, was a democracy activist during decades of autocratic rule and a former Parliament majority leader. He became the Maldivian Democratic Party's presidential candidate after its other top figures were jailed or exiled by Yameen's government.

Party leader and former President Mohamed Nasheed, in

exile in Sri Lanka, had hoped to run again but was disqualified because of an outstanding prison sentence in the Maldives.

India and China, jostling for influence in the Indian Ocean, had been watching the election closely.

India's foreign ministry issued a statement saying it looked forward to working with Solih's new government "in further

deepening our relationship."

The Maldives' economy, historically tied to its famed luxury tourism sector, grew under Yameen, in part due to aid and investment from China. China's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment yesterday, a public holiday.

Solih campaigned door to door, speaking at rallies about human

rights and the rule of law, a message that resonated with voters who saw signs the Maldives was slipping back to autocratic rule, just a decade after achieving democracy.

Ahamed Fiasal, a 39-year-old IT business owner who voted for Solih, said the election result was surprising because "no one thought that Yameen would lose like this. He had all the power — the judiciary, the police, the security forces under him. It seemed he might rig the election even at the last minute and would win somehow or the other."

In his victory speech, Solih called the election results "a moment of happiness, hope and history," but said he did not think the election process had been transparent.

A police raid on Solih's main campaign office the night before the election was seen as a worrying sign that Yameen would attempt to "muzzle his way" to re-election, according to Hamid Abdul Gafoor, an opposition spokesman and former Maldives lawmaker now based in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The European Union had said that it was not sending election observers because the Maldives had failed to meet the basic conditions for monitoring. The U.S. had threatened to sanction Maldivian officials if the elections were not free and fair.

The State Department congratulated the people of the Maldives for having a peaceful, democratic vote. A statement from spokeswoman Heather Nauert noted the reported opposition victory and urged "calm and respect for the will of the people" as the election process was being concluded. **AP**

Indonesian teenager rescued after drifting 49 days at sea

AN Indonesian teenager who survived 49 days adrift at sea after the wooden fish trap he was employed to mind slipped its moorings says he ran out of food within a week and survived on fish and seawater he squeezed from his clothing.

Aldi Novel Adilang told The Associated Press yesterday that he turned on a lamp every time he sighted another ship and can't remember how many passed by "unaware of my ordeal."

The Indonesian Consulate in Osaka, Japan, said the 18-year-old was rescued by a Panamanian-flagged vessel off Guam on Aug. 31, about 1,200 miles (1,920 kilometers) from his original location, and

returned to Indonesia with officials earlier this month.

He was employed since age 16 in the one of the world's loneliest jobs: lamp lighter on a rompong — a wooden raft with a hut on top that's lit at night to attract fish — moored about 125 kilometers off the coast of North Sulawesi.

The coastline is not visible from the fishing rafts and the numerous rompong are miles apart, said Adilang's mother, Net Kahiking. Supplies including food and fuel for a generator are dropped off about once a week. The minders, who earn USD130 a month, communicate with fishing boats by hand-held radio.

"I was on the raft for one month and 18 days. My food ran out after the first week," said Adilang. When it didn't rain for days, "I had to soak my clothes in the sea, then I squeezed and drank the water."

The boy's father, Alfian Adilang, said the family is overjoyed at his return but angry with his employer. It was the third time the teen's raft had drifted. The previous two times it had been rescued by the owner's ship, the boy said.

The rafts are anchored with ropes and Aldi Adilang said strong friction caused them to break.

"I thought I will never meet my parents again, so I just prayed every day," he said.



In this undated photo, 18-year-old Aldi Novel Adilang sits on the deck of a Panamanian-flagged vessel, MV Arpeggio after being rescued in the waters near Guam

Adilang's portable radio, known as a handy-talky or HT in Indonesia, would prove to be a lifesaver.

"It was early morning on Aug. 31 when I saw the ship and I lighted up the lamp and I shouted 'help' using the HT," he said.

"The ship had passed about one mile but then

it turned to me. Might be because I used the English word," he said. "Then they talked on the HT."

The MV Arpeggio, which rescued Adilang off Guam, contacted the Indonesian mission in Japan when it docked in Tokuyama and officials

from the Osaka consulate collected him on Sept. 6, the consulate said in a statement. He returned to Indonesia on Sept. 8.

Adilang, who is the youngest son of four siblings, said he no longer wants to work on a rompong.

"My parents agree," he said. **AP**



MANDELA

A life of soaring symbolism, now harnessed by UN

Christopher Torchia, Johannesburg

NELSON Mandela's South African journey from anti-apartheid leader to prisoner to president to global statesman — the “Long Walk to Freedom” of his autobiography title — is one of the 20th century's great stories of struggle, sacrifice and reconciliation. Now the United Nations is seeking to harness its soaring symbolism.

The unveiling of a statue of Mandela, born 100 years ago, with arms outstretched at the U.N. building in New York yesterday opened a peace summit at the General Assembly, where world leaders will once again address the planet's pressing problems: war, poverty, disease, migration and climate change. It was done amid a massive security operation in a city where Mandela was welcomed by exultant crowds in 1990, a few months after he walked out of a South African jail, ending 27 years of imprisonment under the country's white minority government.

“South Africa will be free,” Mandela said during that visit, and indeed, he became the country's first black president in its first multi-racial elections four years later. His death in 2013 at age 95 brought a global outpouring of grief and tributes.

But there is something of a distinction between the main global perception of Mandela — the moral colossus whose resolve and generosity of spirit, tactical as well as genuine, inspired people in Colombia, Northern Ireland and other places struggling with seemingly intractable

conflicts — and a growing body of opinion at home that he and his party were too quick to accommodate South Africa's white minority, which lost political control but still dominates industry in one of the world's most economically unequal societies.

Despite South Africa's sense of unfinished business, it is a country enormously proud of the tall, charismatic orator with a broad smile and ironclad principles whose image and words were banned by his former captors, rendering him virtually invisible to the outside for decades. Mandela's universality means that he also belongs to the world, which has wrestled with a fresh set of economic and political ruptures of late.

In July, former U.S. president Barack Obama traveled to Johannesburg and spoke about how Mandela, by offering the possibility of “moral transformation,” means as much to the globe as he does to South Africa.

“At the outset, his struggle was particular to this place, to his homeland — a fight to end apartheid, a fight to ensure lasting political and social and economic equality for its disenfranchised non-white citizens,” Obama said. “But through his sacrifice and unwavering leadership and, perhaps most of all, through his moral example, Mandela and the movement he led would come to signify something larger.”

The United Nations is declaring 2019-2028 as the “Nelson Mandela Decade of Peace,” and a declaration being adopted at Monday's peace summit iden-

tifies the personal qualities that made him a transcendent humanitarian — “humility, forgiveness and compassion” — and connects them with U.N. goals, including disarmament, human rights and poverty alleviation.

It also warns of “challenges to the primacy of multilateralism,” a catch-all term that could refer to trade disputes between the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump and other countries, or the European Union's Brexit challenge, or other pressures testing the idea of shared values on which the U.N. was founded after World War II.

The declaration's signatories recognize “that the world has changed significantly since the founding of the United Nations,

and acknowledge that global peace eludes us to this day,” it says. But the tone is hopeful — “we must make the impossible possible” — and the document singles out South Africa for praise, remembering the country's dismantling of its nuclear weapons program toward the end of apartheid and Mandela's appeal for the “total elimination of nuclear weapons.”

Mandela's plea is no closer to reality, and other elements of his legacy are under threat. In 2016, South Africa said it was withdrawing from the International Criminal Court, though a South African court later ruled against the move to pull out of the Hague-based tribunal, which was launched in 2002 and

pursues perpetrators of the world's atrocities. Mandela had been a strong advocate for the court's creation.

The shine has come off the “rainbow nation” that was internationally admired in its early post-apartheid years during Mandela's presidency. South Africa struggles with fallout from allegedly massive corruption under former president Jacob Zuma, and a contentious debate about land reform reflects the frustrations of many in the black majority who think their country has let them down since they got the right to vote.

Still, it has one of the biggest economies in Africa, as well as a relatively robust judicial system and civil society.

“For all our shortcomings and simmering tensions, our country was truly inspirational, and it still is. In recent years it had become harder to sell the South African miracle, as our detractors would point to rampant corruption, cronyism, and the masses who are yet to share in the dividends of peace,” Shannon Ebrahim, foreign editor for the Independent Media Group in South Africa, wrote in a column.

The U.N.'s honoring of Mandela, Ebrahim said, again gives South Africans a chance to inspire the world.

Monday is also a public holiday in South Africa, Heritage Day, introduced when Mandela was president to celebrate the country's cultural diversity.

According to accounts, Mandela wanted to be seen as a normal human being with both flaws and virtues, and not as an icon or legend. In 2007, he spoke at the dedication of a statue in his likeness opposite the Houses of Parliament in London, and his talk about the symbolism, not the man, seems equally apt for the new statue at the United Nations.

“We trust that the statue will be a reminder of heroes and heroines past,” Mandela said, “as well as an inspiration for continuing struggles against injustice.” AP



Nelson Mandela and former UN chief Kofi Annan arrive together at the 5th annual Nelson Mandela Lecture at the Linder Auditorium in Johannesburg, South Africa, in July 2007

TANZANIA

Burials begin as deaths from capsized ferry rise to 224

Fred Ooko & Geoffrey Kaviti, Ukara Island, Tanzania

RELATIVES wept in grief at the mass burial in Tanzania of many of the 224 people who drowned when a ferry in capsized on Lake Victoria.

Colorfully painted coffins were lined up to go into graves on Ukara Island. Grieving family members places wreaths of flowers on the coffins.

The overloaded boat tipped over Thursday as it got to about 50 meters from the island's dock. People carrying their goods from a busy market day prepared to disembark, unbalancing the ferry which turned over. Horrified fishermen and others watched from the shore.

One survivor said he is still searching for his daughter.

"My child might have been found, but I have not seen her," said Magesa Chibuga, in Swahili. "I am therefore waiting for this ferry to be lifted from the water so that I can see whether she is there or

not. But I am feeling very bad. I thank God I have found my wife, but the child is still missing. So God has every plan."

Chibuga described how he survived when the boat capsized.

"I heard people shouting 'Accident, accident!' I was seated with my bag. I put it on my chest, removed my phone and put it in my bag, and then jumped. After I jumped, I found a lifesaver, grabbed it and that's how I escaped."

Identifications have been made for 172 people who died in the boat tragedy, Tanzania's Minister of Works, Transport and Communication Isack Kamwelwe said. The bodies of 37 others have not yet been identified, he told the broadcaster. At least 40 people were rescued, officials said.

Tanzania's Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa led mourners at the funeral service.

"Our country has been hit by a big tragedy. We lost brothers, relatives and friends. Our call is for us to be united during this hard time and understand that our countrymen have been left by

beloved parents, brothers, sisters, children and friends in this big tragedy," he said. "So we need to console them instead of feeding them with bad words. Let's leave the government and relevant authorities to do their work."

Adla Bakari said she lost her son and neighbors.

"We are coming for the burial," said Bakari. "This ferry has killed our people. If we tell them not to overload the ferry, they don't listen to us, just like last Thursday. We urge the government to take care of us. Otherwise we will be finished like that."

On Saturday rescuers found a survivor two days after the tragedy. The man was identified as an engineer of the ferry who had locked himself in the engine room. Video footage showed the man, barefoot and head lolling, being carried quickly along a busy street by medical workers and military personnel as a siren wailed. His condition was not immediately known.

No further survivors were likely to be found and search efforts had ended, Defense Minister Venance Mabeyo told reporters at the scene. He said officials would continue working to identify the dead. However, the total number of deaths may never be known as no one is sure how many people were on the overcrowded ferry, which officials said had a capacity of 101. AP



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what's ON



MONKEY KING

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

Venue: Sands Cotai Theatre

ADMISSION: MOP380, MOP480, MOP680, MOP980, MOP1280

COTAI TICKETING: (853) 2882 8818

KONG SENG TICKETING: (853) 2855 5555

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

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

TIME: 12pm to 8pm

UNTIL: October 5, 2018

VENUE: Taipa Village Art Space

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2857 6118

SCULPTURE – A JOURNEY, EXHIBITION BY ANTÓNIO LEÇA

TIME: 3pm-8pm (Mondays)

12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)

UNTIL: October 21, 2018

VENUE: A2 Gallery, Albergue SCM

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550 / 2852 3205

MANDARIN'S HOUSE

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (last admission at 5:30pm; closed on Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

ADDRESS: No. 10, Travessa de António da Silva

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8820

Offbeat

MILLIONS WORTH OF COCAINE FOUND IN BANANAS GIVEN TO TEXAS PRISON



Authorities say bananas donated to a Texas prison turned out to have nearly USD18 million worth of cocaine hidden inside the boxes.

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice says in a Facebook post that the drugs were found in two pallets of bananas that were donated because they were already ripe. The donation arrived last week.

The department says sergeants who picked up the boxes found a bundle of a white powdery substance under the bananas. U.S. customs officials were called to the scene, and authorities say 540 packages of cocaine were found in 45 boxes of bananas.

The department says federal officials and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection are investigating.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	O Concerto para Auxílio ao Ciclone Sandy
16:50	Festividades de Macau - Bolo Lunar
17:20	A Essência
17:35	A Cidade na Ponta dos Dedos
17:45	Regresso a Sizalinda
18:30	TDM Desporto (Repetição)
19:35	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	TDM Entrevista
21:50	Viajante da Música
22:20	Liberdade 21
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Filhos da Nação Sr.2
00:25	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:10	RTPi Directo

cinema



CINETEATRO

20 SEP - 26 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



JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN

ROOM 2

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

Director: David Kerr

Starring: Emma Thompson, Olga Kurylenko, Rowan Atkinson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 88min

GOLDEN JOB

ROOM 3

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

Director: Chin Ka-lok

Starring: Michael Tse, Jerry Lamb, Eric Tsang

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 90min



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

ROOM 3

7:15pm

Director: Toshio Lee

Starring: Nana Eikura, Ken Yasuda, Sumika Nono

Language: Japanese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 115min

this day in history



1950 SEOUL IN UN HANDS

United Nations forces have taken control of the South Korean capital Seoul, three months after it fell to North Korea, the US Army has announced.

The US 7th Infantry Division and South Korean 17th Regiment have crossed the Han river and captured the North Korean stronghold on South Mountain, the spokesman said.

US Marines have also reached Duk Soo palace in the centre of the city and are within 600m (1,969ft) of the main railway station.

North Koreans strongly resisted the UN advance near the station and American and South Korean units suffered many casualties, but opposition in other areas is reported to have been light.

US Air Force planes from the American aircraft carrier Sicily supported the ground attacks all day, targeting North Korean defences with jellied petrol bombs and rockets.

Major General Edward Almond, commander of the X Army Corps, told reporters the combined assault had been key to the UN's success.

The general said: "Co-ordination of air, tank and artillery, and infantry fire-power made possible the seizure of the enemy's defences with minimum losses."

He added that the UN advance from the west after the landings at Inchon on 15 September had cut off important North Korean supply routes and forced them to retreat.

North Korea's defences were crucially breached when tanks from the American 1st Cavalry Division, which had entered Seoul from the west, linked up with US infantry who had fought their way from the east.

The troops joined forces at the 274m (900ft) South Mountain after it was captured in a surprise attack.

The North Korean Peoples' Army have been in control of Seoul since 26 June, just 24 hours after they invaded South Korea.

The UN condemned the offensive and US troops arrived to bolster South Korean resistance just days later.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Korea was divided after the Japanese withdrawal at the end of World War II - which left the USSR occupying the north of the country and the US the south. The border was the 38th parallel.

The invasion of South Korea took the international community largely by surprise - despite years of increasingly bloody frontier incidents.

The re-capture of Seoul from the North Koreans did not signal the end of the conflict and in November 1950 troops from Communist China entered a war which would eventually cost two million lives.

Fighting in Korea did not stop until the signing of an armistice on 27 July 1953.

But a peace deal has never been reached and American troops remain stationed in the de-militarized zone between North and South Korea.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You need to start something new today - it's in your blood. Try to dig deeply into your well of ideas, as there's a good one that's been dormant for far too long. Push forward and have fun!

Taurus April 20-May 20 Today is all about communication, so make sure that you're keeping the flow moving with grace and speed. You should find that it's easier than ever to pass along the most important info.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You just aren't sure what to think - which is a rarity for you! It's a good time to let things proceed on their own while you try to make up your mind one way or the other. Let the process go on its own.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You need to deal with an important personal issue today. Don't panic - it's not the end of the world; in fact, you should find that you've got what it takes to turn it into a real asset!

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You're feeling a sense of power and control that may be new to you. It's a great time for you to get your people to rally around a new cause or to just cease fire long enough to celebrate something wonderful.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You've got to get better organized - and yes, that is possible! See if you can get your people to rally around a cleaning effort, or maybe you could just tackle your filing system once and for all.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 The smaller things in life are more important than you realize today - so make sure that you're focused on the details! It may be hard with everything going on in your life, but it's a mental health break.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Control is a problem for you, and today you have a new opportunity to let go. See if you can find a good way to just ease into your new situation without having to know everything ahead of time.

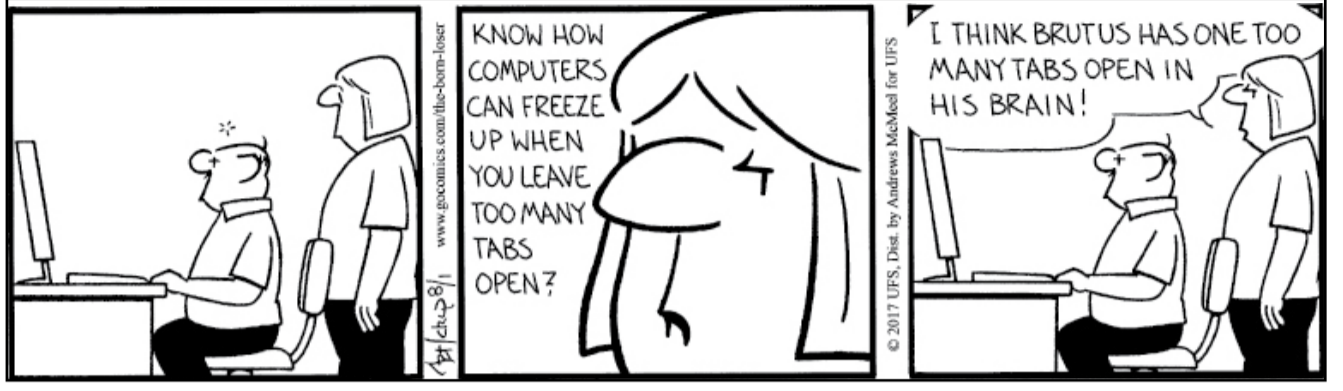
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You and your colleagues or family members are out of sync, but it's not the end of the world. You just need to step up and make sure that they don't see this rough patch as a symbol of anything bad.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You need to avoid the temptation to take offense today - someone lets fly with a comment that can be taken in many different ways. You are much better off assuming they mean it to be harmless.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You need to get out in the world and work your muscles! Some kind of exercise is vital - but don't overdo it, of course! You just need to make sure that you're on top of your fitness.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Try not to worry too much about your romantic situation today - you are in a good place, and whether you're single or seeing someone, you can expect things to get a lot better by the end of the day!

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized by difficulty: Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard. Each category contains a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION. It lists weather for various cities in CHINA and the WORLD.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Injectable diazepam, in military lingo; 5- Breast-supporting undergarment; 8- Japan's first capital; 12- Hwys.; 13- Place to sweat it out; 15- Served perfectly; 16- List-ending abbr.; 17- Shake like ___; 18- Prefix with plasm; 19- Squirt gun; 22- Hosp. readout; 23- Night school subj.; 24- Trompe l'___; 26- Infected; 29- Phases; 31- CD-___; 32- Join; 34- Sensitive spots; 36- Small amounts; 38- Welcome; 40- Chinese weight; 41- Cleft; 43- Chest or closet material; 45- Heston's org.; 46- Lady of Spain; 48- Biases; 50- Diner's card; 51- Before, to Burns; 52- Attorney's org.; 54- Mutually destructive; 61- Take ___ your leader; 63- Examine account books; 64- Mai ___; 65- Common street name; 66- Attempts; 67- Rat-___; 68- On a single occasion; 69- Barbie's beau; 70- 20th letter of the Hebrew alphabet;

Down clues and 'Yesterday's solution' crossword grid with filled-in words.

A large crossword puzzle grid with some numbers and letters pre-filled.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

Bayern toasting Bundesliga dominance ahead of Oktoberfest

Ciaran Fahey, Berlin

BAYERN Munich's rivals appear to have thrown in the towel already. "Bayern's superiority is striking," Schalke general manager Christian Heidel said after his team lost to the defending Bundesliga champions on Saturday. "The way they played, I can't imagine them losing another game." Bayern was supposed to have had a tough start against Hoffenheim, Stuttgart, Bayer Leverkusen and then Schalke, last sea-

son's runner-up. But the team's confidence is booming after winning every game comfortably since its loss to Eintracht Frankfurt in the German Cup final in May. "It can go on like that," Bayern sporting director Hasan Salihamidzic said. Ominously for Bayern's rivals, the Bavarian powerhouse has not lost during Oktoberfest for the last eight years. The 185th edition of the beer-festival in Munich started Saturday and will run until Oct. 7.

While they may indulge themselves by wearing the traditional leather pants of the region, the players will have to resist the temptations of the jugs of wheat beer at the festival - at least until the last Sunday. "Until then they can maybe drink a radler," Salihamidzic joked, referring to beer watered down by non-alcoholic soda. Bayern coach Niko Kovac said the players know what is expected of them during Oktoberfest. "If they go there, they will certainly be recognized and that

won't go down well. We'll have time to go there, but now we still have to get points," Kovac said. Bayern, which is going for a record-extending seventh straight title, next hosts Bavarian rival Augsburg on Tuesday, before traveling to second-place Hertha Berlin on Friday. A win against its closest rival could see Bayern open up a five-point lead after six matches. **'DEATH THREAT'** Hoffenheim said it was shocked by the animosity displayed

by Borussia Dortmund fans toward its billionaire backer, Dietmar Hopp, in the 1-1 draw on Saturday, when fans displayed what the club called a "death threat" against him. Dortmund fans rolled out a huge banner showing Hopp's head in crosshairs over the words "Hasta la vista, Hopp" across a large section of the guest block at the stadium in Hoffenheim. A similar banner, only much smaller, caused a stir 10 years ago. Dortmund chief executive Hans-Joachim Watzke apologized for the banner. Hopp is a target for Dortmund fans after initiating legal proceedings against more than 30 of them for alleged obscenities during a game last season.

HERTHA HERO

It took some time, but Ondrej Duda finally seems to have arrived at Hertha in his third season at the club. The Slovakia midfielder sealed the 4-2 win over Borussia Moenchengladbach on Saturday, taking his goal tally to a league-leading four in four games. Duda only made three league appearances - 67 minutes altogether - in his first season at Hertha after joining from Legia Warsaw in 2016, while he scored one goal in 17 appearances last season.

GOETZE'S FALL

Mario Goetze, who scored Germany's World Cup-winning goal in 2014, has yet to play for Dortmund in the Bundesliga this season. The 26-year-old Goetze was left out of the squad altogether for the game at Hoffenheim, a decision that coach Lucien Favre said was purely sporting. **AP**

AMERICAN FOOTBALL | OBITUARY

Tommy McDonald, speedy Hall of Fame receiver, dies at 84

TOMMY McDonald, the small, speedy and sure-handed receiver who teamed with quarterback Norm Van Brocklin to help the Philadelphia Eagles win the 1960 NFL championship, has died. He was 84. His death was announced yesterday by the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Details were not disclosed. McDonald was a two-time All-American from Oklahoma who played 12 NFL seasons for five teams and was a six-time Pro Bowl selection. When he retired in 1968, he ranked second in league history in touchdown catches, fourth in yards receiving and sixth in receptions.

But the 5-foot-7, 175-pound McDonald had to wait 30 years before becoming the smallest player inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. "Oh, baby!" McDonald shouted in Canton, Ohio on Aug. 1, 1998. "Do I look excited, like I just won the lottery or the jackpot? Yes! I'm in the Hall of Fame!" His induction speech was equal parts hysterics and histrionics. McDonald told jokes and tossed his 25-pound bronze bust in the air. He pulled out a radio and danced to disco music - all on the steps of the hallowed hall. "Tommy McDonald lived life like he played the

game of football. He was charismatic, passionate and had fun," Hall of Fame President and CEO David Baker said. "He was such a character. Heaven is a happier place today." In seven seasons with Philadelphia, the durable McDonald had 287 receptions for 5,499 yards, with a per-catch average of 19.2 yards. He had 66 touchdowns in 88 games, and No. 25 went to the Pro Bowl five straight seasons (1959-63). "Tommy McDonald played the game with a passion and energy that was second to none," said Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie. "He will be remembered as one of the most

exciting players ever to play his position, but what really separated him and made him so unique was the infectious personality and charisma that he brought to his everyday life. He had a genuine love for this team, for the Philadelphia community, for the fans, and, of course, his family. He was a man of character, both on and off the field, who exemplified all the qualities that we hope to represent as an organization. "He was a champion, a Pro Football Hall of Famer, and one of the most genuine individuals I have ever met. On behalf of the Philadelphia Eagles, I would like to express our



Hall of Famer Tommy McDonald in 1962

deepest condolences to the entire McDonald family." He was traded to Dallas in 1964 and dealt the next season to the Los Angeles Rams. Determined to show he could still be a force in the league, McDonald had a solid season with a career-best 67 receptions for 1,036 yards and nine TDs and earned another trip to the Pro Bowl. A running back at Oklahoma under Bud Wilkinson, McDonald was an All-American in 1955 and 1956. He never experienced a loss with the Sooners, winning 31 straight games, part of Oklahoma's 47-game run. **AP**

opinion

Our Desk

Renato Marques



EDUCATION NEEDS TO BE EDUCATED

Various cases and claims of sexual abuse have been in the news over the last couple of months.

From the case involving a kindergarten and some of their staff members, to several cases reported by the police, and now recent statements from the Deputy Director of the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) on homosexuality and pre-marital sex, one common theme arises – something really went wrong in our education.

If sexuality in general is seen as a “taboo” topic in many societies, we seem to be very far from progressing education and providing accurate information to younger generations on this very important topic.

It is a sensitive matter and it needs to be addressed with care and, above all, with intelligence.

To do so, in my opinion, we need to once and for all put aside a bunch of assumptions. The first one is that children are “ignorant.”

No, they are not ignorant, and, in fact, they probably have been researching such topics more often than those who are supposed to “teach them,” or in other words, help them fully understand.

Other assumptions that we need to address and put aside are those generated by “popular or religious beliefs.”

We should not teach our children about the details of sexuality and sexual relationships in terms of “sins,” but rather address the topic from the perspective of safety, in both personal terms as well as legal terms.

What children need to be aware of is how to protect themselves from unhealthy and unsafe relationships. By unhealthy, I do not mean only physically, but mentally too.

But worse than that, as I mentioned, we do not seem to be progressing in any way with this topic and we have people that are in positions of high responsibility stating things like: “Students do not have the capability to assess their own sexuality,” and that “young women should refrain from having sexual intercourse before marriage because their future husbands might not like it.”

This kind of speech, besides the “preaching” style, is definitely not what we want, just as we cannot decide the sexuality of our sons or daughters.

Instead, we should teach them about the problems they might encounter in unsafe or unlawful relationships, as most of the issues we have been hearing about in the last few months have happened in relationships that, in the eyes of the law, are unlawful even if consented to.

To clarify, the legal age in the region for consensual sexual relationships is 14 years old (not 16) and any relationship between people under 14 years old is considered unlawful, even if both parties consent and are underage.

The case gets even more serious if one of them is over the age of 14, in which they can be a defendant in the case, although the case would still be handled by the juvenile court.

In summary, I would just like to state the obvious. The great majority of these problems are happening with teenagers aged 13 years or below, proving that sexual matters must be addressed much earlier than that. To postpone sexual education until high school because of a perceived need to have “more maturity” to understand the topic as we have been doing in our schools does not solve any problems – in fact, it is contributing to the creation of the problem.

THE GERMAN BUSINESS CONFIDENCE BUZZ HOLDS UP AMID TRADE WORRIES

Business confidence in Europe’s largest economy fell only slightly in September despite worries about trade disputes that could harm growth.

The Ifo institute survey of the outlook among business executives in Germany eased to 103.7 points from 103.9 in August.

Ifo institute head Clemens Fuest said Monday that the reading shows the German economy remained “stable, even if uncertainty is growing.”

Germany’s economy is heavily dependent on global trade, and businesses have been unsettled by new tariffs imposed by U.S. President Donald Trump and the retaliation by China and other trade partners. Europe’s economy has lost some steam recently amid worries about that and a potential collision between Italy’s populist government and the EU over rules limiting deficits and debt.

Mystery around disappearance of Chinese star Fan Bingbing



X-MEN star Fan Bingbing’s Beijing management office is dark and abandoned. Her birthday passed almost unremarked in China’s hyper-adrenalized social media environment.

For one of China’s best known stars and a rising Hollywood actress, Fan’s vanishing is stunning, coming amid vague allegations of tax fraud and possibly other infractions that could have put her at odds with Chinese authorities.

Fan has starred in dozens of movies and TV series in China and is best known internationally for her role as Blink in 2014’s “X-Men: Days of Future Past,” a cameo in the Chinese version of “Iron Man 3,” and star turns on the red carpet at Cannes as recently as May. She was booked to star with Penelope Cruz in the Hollywood film “355” and has a role in the upcoming Bruce Willis-Adrien Brody feature “Air Strike.”

Yet for nearly three months, Fan hasn’t been seen or heard from in public in any verifiable way.

One of China’s wealthiest entertainers, Fan pulled down tens of millions of dollars for her roles, along with handsome sums in appearance fees and product endorsements. Some of those contracts may have landed her in hot water with the authorities.

Fan’s name has been mentioned in reports about a reportedly common entertainment industry practice – an actor having a public contract stating an official

salary and a private contract detailing the true, much higher payday. A talk show host, Cui Yongyuan had said in May that Fan had such an arrangement – which allegedly helps facilitate tax evasion – and revealed details that sparked a public outcry. Cui later apologized.

At Fan’s management office in Beijing’s Dongcheng district, doors are locked, the lights are out and a calendar hanging alongside posters advertising Fan’s film appearances is still turned to July. A worker at an office across the hall said she couldn’t remember the last time she’d seen anyone enter the company premises.

Fan turned 37 on Sept. 16, but only a handful of entertainment notables sent greetings online, a stark break from the past when her birthday celebrations were lavish, well-attended affairs, marked last year by a public marriage proposal from boyfriend Li Chen.

An automatic birthday greeting on her once-active account on Weibo, China’s main microblogging service, was apparently deleted by persons unknown.

Shi Shusi, a columnist and commentator on Chinese popular culture, suggests Fan’s high profile was her undoing, having made her a target for officials wishing to set an example for would-be tax cheats amid China’s slowing economy.

“Such a famous actress and no one knows her whereabouts. And no authorities have made any clarifications. This is the real suspense,” Shi said.

Fan’s disappearance even brought a message of concern from Hu Xijin, editor of the Global Times tabloid known for its hard-line pro-Communist Party nationalist opinions.

“A timely clarification and public notification of Fan Bingbing’s status would also be beneficial to setting the record straight internationally,” Hu wrote on his Weibo account on Sept. 15.

Back in June, Fan’s production company denied Fan had ever signed a “yin-yang” contract, so named because of its dual natures. Fan, her production company and her agent could not be reached for more recent comment. Police rarely acknowledge such investigations are taking place until a conclusion has been reached.

Her disappearance had come as Chinese authorities seek to rein in high salaries for actors that can eat up much of the cost of a production. In June, regulators capped star pay at 40 percent of a TV show’s entire production budget and 70 percent of the total paid to all the actors in a film.

Though China has become the world’s second-largest film market, authorities keep tight control on local productions, exercising final say over choice of cast, director and script. If Fan had stepped on official toes, it would be a simple task to retaliate by destroying her career, with Chinese authorities wielding broad powers to detain, interrogate and accuse citizens out of the public eye. **AP**

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

WORLD BRIEFS



IRAN Amid wails and vows of revenge, thousands of Iranians yesterday attended a mass funeral service for victims of a weekend attack targeting a military parade that killed at least 25 people.

YEMEN The U.N. humanitarian chief has warned that the fight against famine is being lost in Yemen, which is already facing the world’s worst humanitarian crisis with 75 percent of its 29 million people in need of assistance.



SYRIA Russia announced yesterday it will supply Syria’s government with sophisticated S-300 air defense systems after last week’s downing of a Russian plane by Syria forces responding to an Israeli air strike, a friendly fire incident that stoked regional tensions.

TANZANIA Relatives wept in grief at the mass burial in Tanzania of many of the 224 people who drowned when a ferry in capsized on Lake Victoria. *More on p15*



LITHUANIA Pope Francis warned against historic revisionism and any rebirth of anti-Semitism that fueled the Holocaust as he marked the annual remembrance for Lithuania’s centuries-old Jewish community that was nearly wiped out during World War II.

ITALY yesterday tightened criteria for migrants receiving humanitarian protection as its populist government deepened its crackdown on those seeking asylum. A new law, in the form of a government decree approved by Premier Giuseppe Conte and his Cabinet, also permits authorities to suspend evaluation of asylum requests for migrants judged “socially dangerous”.