



MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE POSTPONED TO 2020

P5



LAM REVIEWS ASSEMBLY WORK

Agnes Lam yesterday made an evaluation of her first-year as a lawmaker, saying she wants to 'listen to the people'

P7



BAN OF LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE CRITICIZED

Lau Siu-lai, stripped of her seat in the Hong Kong legislature last year, has been barred from running again next month

P11



MON. 15
Oct 2018

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HKD 10.00



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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS



SOUTH CHINA SEA Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte and Vietnam's prime minister have discussed efforts by their countries to delineate their maritime boundaries in the disputed South China Sea, most of which is claimed by China.

INDONESIA Torrential rains triggered flash floods and landslides on the Indonesian island of Sumatra, killing at least 27 people, including a dozen children at a school. [More on p13](#)

MALAYSIA Charismatic Malaysian politician Anwar Ibrahim won a by-election for a parliamentary seat with a landslide victory in a grand political comeback to help him prepare for his eventual takeover from Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad. [More on p12](#)



RUSSIA Kremlin opposition leader Alexei Navalny has been released from jail after serving 50 days on two consecutive sentences for organizing unsanctioned protests. The protests were against a Russian government plan to raise the eligibility age for state pensions, which has since been signed into law.

NEPAL Internet providers have begun blocking thousands of pornographic websites as part of a government directive aimed at stopping sexual violence. [More on p12](#)

More on backpage

Wong oversees financial intelligence unit

P3 MACAU



Shinzo Abe renews pledge to change Japan's charter to boost troops

P13

Grand Prix promotions held in Hong Kong



A promotional campaign in Hong Kong for the Suncity Group 65th Macau Grand Prix was inaugurated on the weekend drawing, according to a statement from the Macau government, a large number of residents and visitors. The Macau Grand Prix Organizing Committee participated in the two-day promotional event, staged by the Macau Government Tourism Office on October 13 and 14, holding several activities as well as displays recounting history of the event. Visitors had the chance to get an up-close look at the Dallara Volkswagen Formula 3 car with which Portuguese star Antonio Felix da Costa rocketed to victory on Macau's famous Guia street circuit in 2016, as well as a Lotus Evora sports car manufactured by British automotive company Lotus Car that competed in the 2017 Macau Touring Car Cup.

HK Secretary unaware of mega bridge opening

Hong Kong's Secretary for Transport and Housing has said that he is unaware of when the mega-bridge linking the city to Macau and Zhuhai will open to general circulation. According to the South China Morning Post, Frank Chan Fan said that he has "no idea when the bridge will open up." The Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB) is still awaiting the green light from the central government in Beijing, the Secretary added.

Fund-raising for Indonesia's quake-tsunami victims continues

Lynzy Valles

LOCAL international church, Jesus Alive Ministry (JAM), held a "Day of Prayer & Fundraising for the Victims of 2018 Sulawesi Earthquake and Tsunami" yesterday, raising MOP5,280 in the one-hour event.

Attended by some 30 local Indonesians and representatives from Filipino churches and various other organizations, the Christian community gathered to spend time in worship and prayer.

According to the organizer, Gilbert Humphrey, also known as Beto Bebeto, the donations will be in the form of goods that will be donated to Palu and Donggala cities, which have still not recovered from the devastation.

To date around 2,000 people have been reported killed since the tremor struck on September 28, with hundreds still missing and more than 70,000 people still living in evacuation centres or displaced across the devastated provinces.

"We felt straightaway that we were impacted as well. One of our members, who goes to our church in Hong Kong, all nine family members of hers died in the quake-tsunami. Although this [the raised funds] will not help her family, [...] every event in her family's life



Yosa Wariyanti



Beto Bebeto

kind of stirred our hearts and we thought we had to do something," explained Bebeto.

Meanwhile, the organizer had also hoped that there would be more local residents participating in the event, yet acknowledged the generosity of their donations.

"I expected to have more [local residents attend]. Maybe because things like this don't happen often in Macau, so you don't really feel the kind of urge straightaway," said Bebeto, while noting that there were also some local residents who offered donations before the fundraising event.

JAM church is collaborating with Jakarta-based Christian channel, Pijar TV, who will visit to distribute the donations, while also documenting the

relief efforts in a report as a follow-up on the funds being donated from Macau.

The prayer-fundraising event included some singing and dance performances from local Indonesian migrant groups.

Meanwhile, Yosa Wariyanti, president of the Indonesian Migrant Workers Union, said that the community's alliance has raised over MOP17,000 in the past two weeks of fundraising efforts.

Different Indonesian migrant groups have been raising awareness and funds for this cause by appearing in different areas throughout the city including the Three Lamps square and in the mosque.

According to Wariyanti, the

fundraising event will be held until the last Sunday of this month.

"My member's families were affected but [missing people] have been found, but another friend's family is still missing," Wariyanti explained.

"The alliance joined with an Indonesian organization [based in Indonesia], who will help us send the money to the villages [we aim to help]," she said.

Wariyanti implied that the group is also struggling to reach out to local residents in promoting their fundraising initiatives.

"For our community, we do not yet have support from local residents. We don't know how to ask them, or who and where to ask," she added.

ASK THE VET

by Dr Ruan Du Toit Bester



AN INTRODUCTION TO DOG HEARING

External Ear

There are two parts to your dog's external ear. The pinna and the external ear canal. The pinna, or the ear flap, gives each breed of dog its distinctive look. The ear flap is made up of cartilage which gives the ear strength. The coned shape structure of the ear delivers sound to the external ear canal. The external ear canal also called the auditory canal picks up the sound and sends it down the canal to the ear drum. This canal runs down the side of the head diagonally and then horizontally into the head.

Middle Ear

The middle ear includes the tympanic membrane, or eardrum, and the tympanic cavity. The ear drum is a thin tissue that separates the external ear from the middle and inner ear. Once the sound reaches the ear drum it vibrates through air vibration and sends it to the

tympanic cavity. The tympanic cavity contains auditory ossicles which are three small bones that vibrate with noise. These bones are the malleus, the stapes and the incus. These bones are connected and are located just behind the ear drum to the window of the inner ear. Unless the ear drum is ruptured, the middle and inner ear is not visible. To keep the ear pressure normal, the middle ear is connected to the pharynx by the eustachian tube. This allows air to pass in and out from the pharynx to the middle ear.

Inner Ear

The inner ear is located by the petrous temporal bones of the skull. It contains cilia, which are tiny hair-like strands that are responsible for changing sound impulses into electronic impulses. The inner ear houses a bony labyrinth or osseous that contains fluid filled membranes. There are three structures

that are in the inner ear: the cochlea, vestibule and three semicircular canals. The cochlea contains nerves that pass on the sound impulses that are responsible for hearing. The vestibule and the semicircular canals are tissues that are responsible for equilibrium and balance maintenance. The cochlea, the vestibule and the semicircular canals are full of cranial nerves which transmit sound and balance to the brain.

Deafness

When puppies are born they are not able to hear. Their eardrums are closed until they are 10 days old. They can start to hear sound in about 14 days. At 4 weeks their inner ears are fully developed and a veterinarian can then check for deafness. Deafness results in the damage to the ear drum, the middle and inner structures or the nerves. Disease, trauma or certain drugs can cause deafness in your dog.



Deafness can also be hereditary and can affect certain breeds such as Dalmatians, Boston Terriers, Rottweilers and Border Collies.

Hope this info helps
Till next week
Dr Ruan Bester

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RENATO MARQUES



Wong Sio Chak

Wong Sio Chak to oversee Financial Intelligence Office

THE government's Financial Intelligence Office (GIF), an entity created back in 2006 in compliance with international standards of the legal framework against money laundering and terrorist financing, has now moved under the authority of the Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, the Executive Council announced Friday. Until now, the GIF was under the authority of the Secretary for Economy and Finance.

The measure, with immediate effect, places the office under the Security Chief but maintains the exact same duties and competences, Wong said during a public event on Saturday.

In a statement issued by the Government Information Bu-

reau, the Secretary explained there are currently two financial intelligence services models followed internationally: one in which the service is under the authority of the economic department, and another in which police services handle such matters.

Wong says that the reallocation of the GIF to the Secretariat of Security aims to "strengthen cooperation between the Office and the relevant authorities responsible for the law enforcement, to further strengthen the efficiency in preventing and combating financial crime."

Restating that the Office will retain the same competencies and will remain unchanged in such matters, the Secretary added that the GIF will strictly follow all the international legal

regimes and practices regarding work in this field. The Secretary also noted that the office had already previously been operating under international cooperation mechanisms and assured the continuation of this to maintain its independence, professionalism and collabora-

tion with counterparts in other countries and regions.

The GIF is the government entity responsible for the collection, analysis and dissemination of information relating to the reporting of suspected money laundering or terrorist financing transactions. **RM**

'NOBODY IS ABOVE THE LAW' ON AU KAM SAN CASE

QUESTIONED AS to whether a defamation case was being prepared by the Judiciary Police (PJ) against lawmaker Au Kam San, for comments Au made to a local newspaper where he claimed the police unlawfully wiretapped a citizen, the Secretary responded: "At the moment, it is not appropriate to comment on the case. The PJ is analyzing the situation."

Wong noted that he believes that relevant information "will soon be released." "The important thing is to explain that Macau is a region that follows the rule of law and all citizens are equal before the law," Secretary Wong noted. "Any person has the right to resort to the law, it is a fundamental principle and a core value of Macau," he added.

HONG KONG

PLA garrison quietly deployed in post-Mangkhut clean-up

OVER 400 soldiers from the Hong Kong garrison of the People's Liberation Army were quietly deployed for the first time on the weekend to help remove trees felled in country parks during the passage of Typhoon Mangkhut last month.

The soldiers joined staff from Beijing's Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Hong Kong and hundreds of employees of state-owned enterprises to clean up a 100-kilometer hiking trail.

Typhoon Mangkhut struck the coastal areas of Guangdong Province and the two

special administrative regions on September 16, more than four weeks ago. According to Hong Kong authorities, the typhoon felled more than 46,000 trees as it passed by the city, many of which remain uncleared.

The PLA garrison in Hong Kong may be deployed upon request of the Chief Executive and after approval from central authorities. The garrison is required to return to its barracks immediately after the operation's conclusion. In the case of last weekend the Hong Kong government says it did not request such assistance.

According to the South China Morning Post, Secretary Matthew Cheung tried to explain the situation as voluntary community service, adding that local authorities had not requested it.

The newspaper cited the Hong Kong official as saying that residents of the city of 7.5 million should not "read too much into" the involvement of the PLA as it was "intended for Hong Kong's good."

"The [Hong Kong] government did not interfere with their activity. We did not play any role," Cheung said, according to the SCMP. "Our police, disciplined ser-

vices, and our colleagues also took part in voluntary services. These things happen, so do not read too much into this. The government did not ask the PLA for help."

Meanwhile, the government said that the clean-up efforts did not represent an official call for assistance, but rather a volunteer effort organized by the Liaison Office. It remains unclear whether the Office was in communication with the local government regarding the deployment, as Hong Kongers were not warned in advance.

The deployment of the



PLA soldiers were deployed to Macau in the aftermath of Typhoon Hato

PLA garrison for initiatives other than "community services" has not occurred before in Hong Kong.

It follows a similar deployment in Macau last year in the aftermath of Typhoon Hato, when Chief Executive Chui Sai On requested assistance from the garrison to help clean the streets and expedite the restoration of

public services.

In Macau, the assistance extended by the PLA garrison in the aftermath of Hato was generally well received by locals, even as it sparked concern in neighboring Hong Kong. The deployment was conducted within a few days of Hato making landfall and lasted for about 48 hours.

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GREATER BAY AREA

Youth Forum's five sessions explore future opportunities

THE five parallel sessions of the "Youth Forum on Jointly Building the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area" were held simultaneously on Saturday, with topics related to the legal systems of the Greater Bay Area; innovation, entrepreneurship and employment; social security; cultural exchanges and cooperation; and transport connectivity.

The five secretaries of the local government attended these sessions to exchange views with youth representatives from the Greater Bay Area and discuss the opportunities and challenges of multi-disciplinary collaboration.

The Secretary for Administration and Justice Sonia Chan said in her session that the "one country, two systems" policy is the main advantage of the Greater Bay Area, as compared to other bay areas, though she also admitted that one of the foremost challenges to the formation of the Greater Bay Area are the different social and legal systems, according to a statement from the Macau government.

Chan also expressed her hope



that interactions and exchanges could enhance young people's knowledge of the legal systems of the Greater Bay Area, so that they can be well equipped to seize the opportunities arising from regional integration.

Meanwhile, Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong used his speech to encourage young people to "maintain self-confidence and ability for employment and developing businesses, broaden their in-

ternational perspective, keep up-to-date regarding the development of the nation, and be well equipped with innovative thinking and skills."

According to the government statement, he also said that the

government will take a more proactive role in training young people to engage in the economic opportunities of the Greater Bay Area.

Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak said that the Greater Bay Area would bring about new challenges to social security. In addition to inter-city police cooperation, Wong called for cooperation between community organizations and residents in order to maintain the security of the region.

Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam said that the Greater Bay Area is "rich in cultural heritage, with unlimited vitality and potential," according to the government statement.

Secretary Tam stressed that the Macau government is committed to promoting youth exchange in the Greater Bay Area, especially mutual learning concerning culture and creativity. It is hoped that such exchanges will contribute to the nourishment of talented individuals who hold "a sense of patriotism and social responsibility."

The Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo do Rosário pledged that the local government would press ahead with infrastructure connectivity regarding a one-hour commuting radius. The efforts mentioned by Rosário include building a new Guangdong-Macau crossing checkpoint and exploring the possibility of accessing railway networks on the mainland.

Science Center plans to improve quality of exhibits

THE Macao Science Center (MSC) plans to update its museum exhibits to encourage visitor interaction and to improve the overall learning experience.

The change in exhibits relates to recent technological developments. According to Oscar Leong, Education and Exhibits Controller at the Science Center, the museum plans to update the exhibition hall to improve interactivity and variety; for instance, by introducing Virtual Reality elements to display popular science concepts.

"[Visitors] can learn about science [and] at the same time they can interact with other visitors. Most importantly, visitors will be able to feel that there is a great connection between knowledge and real-life applications" said Leong.

Leong added that the city's Science and Technology Development Fund plans to cooperate with the



Science Museum to set up a disaster prevention and mitigation exhibition hall inside the museum.

The Science Museum is also strengthening its external walls to better defend against typhoons.

From January to September this year, the number of visitors to the Macao Science Center exceeded 550,000, similar to last year.

A report published by the Times last year noted that

visitor equipment at the MSC, such as apparatus for simple scientific experiments, was often faulty or non-functional. When questioned, MSC claimed that the center receives over 900,000 visitors annually, so the number of defaced or broken exhibits is reasonably high.

"When the attendance usually peaks during public holidays, so does the number of exhibits found damaged afterwards," the

Center stated.

The Center also added that it strives to "put in more effort in repairing the out-of-order exhibits." Such efforts include increasing manpower for repair and maintenance after festivals and public holidays.

"We will follow up closely with our Exhibits Department to ensure that all exhibits are functioning properly," MSC pledged at the time.

Gov't aims to collect more opinions ahead of Policy Address

THE government has announced that in preparation for the 2019 Policy Address, it will be collecting opinions from citizens until October 25, the Office of the government's spokesperson announced in a statement.

According to the statement, the initiative follows "positive results obtained last year with the gathering of opinions," and aims to offer more options for residents to express their opinions this year, "in order to stimulate the attention of the whole society on the development of Macau." In the statement, the government adds that, "The active participation with views and suggestions by the population about government's policy will allow the government to listen in a wider manner to the voices of the different sectors, in order to achieve the consensus

of society on significant topics to promote the sustainable development of the economy, quality of life of the population and local social and economic stability."

In order to facilitate the collection of opinions, the Office of the Chief Executive has launched a micro-site on its official webpage (<http://www.gce.gov.mo>) as well as in the mobile phone application, "where the public can present their views and opinions." Opinions can also be presented by more traditional methods such as phone lines or the post service.

This year, the government has also created promotional materials such as videos and public messages to be broadcast via TV, radio, newspapers and social networks, aiming to increase public interest and stimulate participation. **RM**



Forum Macau Ministerial Conference postponed to 2020

THE 6th Ministerial Conference of the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries has been postponed to 2020.

Last week, Chief Executive Chui Sai On presided over a plenary session of the Committee for Development of the Commercial and Trade Cooperation Service Platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries where he announced the delay. Originally, the conference was planned to take place this year.

Forum Macau organizes a ministerial conference every three years in Macau. So far, five conferences have been held: October 2003, September 2006, November 2010, November 2013 and October 2016.

At the end of each ministerial conference, an updated Strategic Plan for Economic and Trade Co-operation is approved. The resulting documentation sets out a plan for economic and trade cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries for the following three years.

National Security Committee holds first plenary

THE National Security Committee, which is headed by the Chief Executive, held its first plenary meeting recently.

The development of systems and mechanisms for safeguarding national security was discussed during the meeting, outlining the direction of future efforts in that matter.

In addressing the meeting, the Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, pointed out that it was the Macau SAR's constitutional obligation to safeguard national security as specified in Article 23 of the Basic Law, and that this obligation had been acknowledged by the enactment of the National Security Law in 2009.

The Chief Executive added that the goal of the National Security Committee was to better implement the National Security Law – an important step for further fulfilment of the SAR's constitution-

nal obligation, and for upholding President Xi Jinping's major principle of "comprehensive national security".

Chui put forward three suggestions for the future work of the National Security Committee. First, he said that the National Security Committee should coordinate all efforts in strengthening Macau's systems, mechanisms and legislation with regard to national security so as to continuously improve Macau's overall capability in that matter. Chui also stated that all relevant departments should take proactive measures to prevent and combat different types of illegal activities that may harm national security or social stability.

Second, Macau should stand firm on its political principles and raise the awareness of "comprehensive national security," which was based on the core idea

of the people's safety. The government should take a forward-looking approach to preventing risks of all kinds and properly safeguard national security and social stability.

Third, education in national security should be strengthened, namely via different types of publicity and education campaigns in the community and in schools. In particular, awareness about the legal aspects of national security should be promoted in the wider community so that residents would abide by the law and fulfil their legal obligations.

During the meeting the vice president of the National Security Committee and Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak – along with the Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan – briefed members about the work done so far by the government, in the field of national security.

AD

Oktoberfest Macau at MGM 2018

The annual Oktoberfest Macau at MGM will once again rock the town in October this year. To mark its 10th anniversary, the event will take place at MGM's newest resort hotel, MGM COTAI, with a more spacious environment for bigger crowds. Guests can experience the most authentic bierfest outside of Germany in the 11-day Bavarian party.

With Macau celebrating the 2018 Macao Year of Gastronomy, MGM aims to enhance the city's gastronomic development with its cultural and entertainment elements as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy. Once again, this year's event will be partnered with the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Hong Kong and the German Macau Business Association, and will be supported by the Macao Government Tourism Office.

In the past nine years, MGM has welcomed 127,473 beer lovers with 123,750 liters of beer and nearly 40,000 kilograms of roasted pork knuckles and chickens. MGM captures the essence of the festivities through the traditional German food and beverage, entertainments and decorations, delivering the most authentic Bavarian party atmosphere to Macau. The beloved Høgl Fun Band will once again fly over from Munich for several nights of dynamic live performances. Löwenbräu, one of the six genuine German Oktoberfest brews, is definitely one of the highlights. With the traditional German gastronomiles, Bavarian patterned beer tent and ceiling wreaths, as well as a wide range of carnival game booths, all of these will craft Oktoberfest Macau at MGM a guaranteed fun and alive event that is just like the Munich Oktoberfest.

Ticket Reservation & Details
Date: September 17, 2018 – October 29, 2018
Phone: +853 8802 2666
Email: oktoberfest@mgm.mo
Website: <https://www.mgm.mo/en/cotai/entertainment/oktoberfest-2018>
Ticket Counters: MGM COTAI and MGM MACAU

Oktoberfest Macau at MGM October 18 – 29, 2018 (excluding October 21)
6pm – 12am MOP170

Industry Day October 20, 2018 11am – 3pm MOP100
Family Day October 28, 2018 11am – 3pm MOP170

MGM is hosting Oktoberfest from October 18 to 29 (excluding 21). We are giving away a total of 10 sets of entry tickets and F&B coupons. Readers will have to correctly answer today's question for a chance at winning.

Each prize set includes:

Oktoberfest entry tickets x 2	\$340
F&B coupons	\$100
Total set value	\$440

Today's Question:
What band is coming to play in the festival?

Please email your answer to:
oktoberfest2018@macaudailytimes.com
along with your name and contact details

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Lovely bright two bedroom apartment, nicely furnished.



Office For Rent

(Ref: 18090200)
1,200 sq.ft. HKD 18,000

Leal Senado Square. Located in the Centre of Macau. Commercial office space. 2 Private Executive Offices. Open Plan meeting room / reception. Private bathroom & small meeting room. Walk up 2nd Floor. Currently furnished. Possible to rent with or without furniture.



Car Park, The Manhattan, Taipa

(Ref: 1505507RT)
HKD 2,000

Single Car park available for rent in Manhattan, A4-12

FOR SALE



Cattleya Court, Ocean Gardens, Taipa

(Ref: 18095562)
1,024 sq.ft. HKD 7.98M
Rate: HKD 7,792

Very nice apartment in the popular Ocean Garden development. This mid-floor apartment is recently painted, bright and has nice green views. It is available for immediate occupation and will suit a young couple or family. It's both a great home and investment. A car park is available separately if required.



Hellene Garden, High Floor Carnation Court

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

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



Coloane Village (Investment Property) - Coloane

(Ref: 16095490)
664 sq.ft. HKD 4.25M
Rate: HKD 6,404

Located in the quiet village of Coloane. Renovated 8 years ago this apartment needs no further investment. Two bedrooms; a double & single size. Shower room with built in cabinets. Compact kitchen. Small balcony. Close to bus stop, village square, cafes and post office.



Old Taipa, Nam Long (I Unit)

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

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



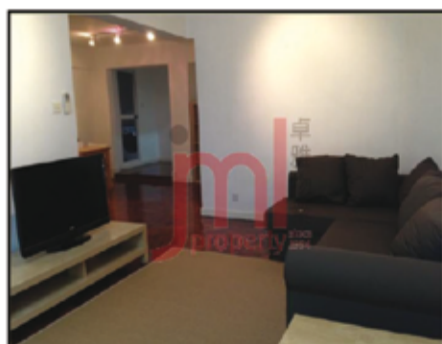
Taipa, Supreme Flower City

(Ref: 13105367)
2,060 sq.ft. HKD 17.88M
Rate: HKD 8,679

This apartment has been fully renovated into a 3 bedroom apartment (Original a 4 bedroom). 2 bathrooms with one being en-suite, fully renovated with a western finish. This apartment is situated underneath the fire escape floor and therefore benefits from having no neighbors overhead resulting in low noise.

FOR RENT

Office: (853) 2835 2699



New Nova Park, Taipa

(Ref: 18055556)
627 sq.ft. HKD 3.98M
Rate: HKD 6,347

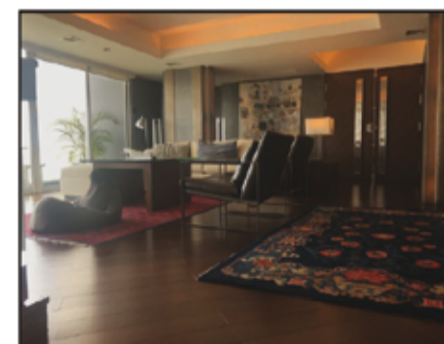
One bedroom apartment in Heritage Area of Macau. A five minute from the Ruins of St Pauls. Renovated 3 years ago. Good size master bedroom with built in wardrobes. Modern shower room with built in under counter cabinet. Well equipped kitchen. S shaped living / dining area with small nook for desk.



ONE CENTRAL, TOWER 7 - MACAU T7

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

The second floor with three excellent size double bedrooms, two with en suites shower rooms and one with a guest bathroom adjacent to one of the guest bedrooms furnished with double beds, bedside tables, table lamps, artwork and have plenty of wardrobe. The master suite enjoys a separate bath & shower as well as two basins.



Choi Long Meng Chui, Taipa

(Ref: 18045555)
3,398 sq.ft. HKD 21.00M
Rate: HKD 6,180

Four bedrooms converted to three bedrooms with three bathrooms, two en suite. State of the art open plan kitchen with entertainment counter and plenty of room for casual dining, built in appliances with a separate utility area. The living space with beautiful dark hardwood floors, built in television cabinet and separate snug/reading area all with fabulous views, and lovely balcony.

Email: Info@JMLProperty.com

Contact Property Consultants Today.

Juliet Risdon (English Speaker)

+853 6680 9804 / Juliet@JMLproperty.com

Agnes Lam makes positive assessment of first year at AL

RENATO MARQUES



Renato Marques

AGNES Lam yesterday made an evaluation of her first-year as a lawmaker at the Legislative Assembly (AL) and of the work developed by the group she represents - Macao Civic Power - in support of her lawmaker duties.

Not wanting to “grade her work” on a 100-point scale, the lawmaker said, “Better you grade me, as a student, I do not grade myself. I rather the ‘teachers’ tell me what they think about [my work],” she said. “We are trying our best to communicate with our voters and the general public and citizens. I want to listen to the people, and, actually, we have listened to some already and they have already told us they want us to do [more].”

Remarking on the areas that Lam thinks she can improve upon or do more in the upcoming legislative year, the lawmaker said she would focus more upon the ‘systematic issues’ in Macau, explaining that sometimes there are cases brought individually by one citizen and that they have been handled each as isolated cases, but afterwards, “from time to time we realize that we are receiving repeated cases [which reveals] there is a systematic problem [and not an isolated one].”

To tackle those issues, the lawmaker said a different approach will be taken. “Whenever we have a case [we] should look at it and try to figure out if it is a ‘systematic issue’ or an ‘isolated case’ to see if we should

launch an investigation or start a dialogue with the government.”

Another topic, which Lam proposes to improve this year, is concerned with law proposals. “In the first year I tried to understand the system and how effective my suggestions would be. But I think in order to make my suggestions more effective we need to push them and submit [proposals or reviews] even to the government. We are not doing that yet, so I think we should include this [this year].”

During the press conference held at Lam’s Office, the lawmaker also said she had noticed that during the past year she had addressed mostly topics on infrastructure and city planning, which she supported with the fact that the year’s AL session had been marked from the start by the effects and the aftermath of Typhoon Hato and its consequences to the city, and the highlighting of existing flaws at several levels.

Still, she considered that her efforts in that field were “successful in calling people’s attention [to these problems],” adding, “I think the government took many of my suggestions seriously,” specifically in regards to alerts to populations in low-lying areas of the city to evacuate in an emergency.

“I cannot say I invented all those things, but I was one of those pushing [them] onto the agenda,” she concluded.

Another topic in which Lam believes her suggestions were well received was regarding the restructuring of the former Civic

and Municipal Affairs Bureau, specifically the recommendation program for the body’s members: “Now they have adopted it and doing it already, so this might be the case I can consider I was successful, but there are a lot of others in which I didn’t do well.”

From an annual report of her work as a lawmaker, Lam mentioned that she had received a total of 177 contacts from citizens involving around 1,000 people in total. Of those, the lawmaker said they have already processed 166 cases that were either forwarded to the government or that resulted in some kind of legal advice.

As the lawmaker mentioned, some of these cases also nee-

ded further investigation to be reported to the government as, she noted, “we realize sometimes it is one case coming from one person but which reveals a larger problem which we need to investigate to make a proper enquiry to the government.”

Topping the list of the cases handled by Lam’s office (24) are housing issues followed by transportation (23) and urban/city issues (22).

Such cases have resulted in submission to the AL of 46 written enquiries as well as five spoken enquiries and 18 topics addressed in the agenda.

During the legislative year of 2017/2018, Lam also submitted one debate proposal to the AL.

‘FINAL YEAR OF THE CE SHOULD NOT CHANGE AL’S PACE’

QUESTIONED ON the topic of the soon to start legislative year be the last of Chui Sai On as Chief Executive and her expectations for this final year, lawmaker Agnes Lam said, “I hope the work that we already have planned does not stop somewhere until the next Chief Executive and then we need to [re]design and discuss again and take another five years [to develop]. I don’t want this to happen.” Another of the aspects she noted is that because Chui comes, originally, from the social welfare sector and he is sensitive to such topics, “We noticed that this sector is one of those that developed more over the last 10 years with a lot of subsidies

and started a lot more programs to help the minorities,” adding, “there is still one more [minority] group that needs help which is the parents of special needs students. These people need something urgently from the government because we cannot just call on the parents to sacrifice themselves [more] to train those students,” she added. Commenting on one of the new laws that the AL will start to address when it resumes this week, the so-called “Wiretapping law,” Lam said that what the AL must grant is that, “we must assure [that the law] does not interfere with the personal freedom and personal rights [of people].”

People’s Court and Macau to strengthen judicial cooperation


On the last day of their visit to mainland China, the delegation of the Macau Legislative Assembly was received by Zhou Qiang, Chief Justice and President of the Supreme People’s Court of China. The Macau delegation expressed to Zhou Qiang that the principles of One Country Two Systems, of Macau people governing Macau with a high degree of autonomy, have been fully implemented. In turn, Zhou said that the People’s Court will actively strengthen judicial communication and cooperation with Macau, and will jointly create an environment with a good rule of law for the construction of the Greater Bay Area along with Macau, in addition to providing effective judicial services and guarantees for the promotion of the Belt and Road construction.

730 litter cases recorded since Mangkhut

A total of 730 cases of littering have been recorded since typhoon Mangkhut struck the city until October 7. Last week, the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) noted that some local residents are still illegally discarding trash. In particular, domestic waste and large pieces of furniture have been discarded on public streets between September 18 and October 7. All of these cases were prosecuted by IACM. The bureau claims it has strengthened inspections around the city and said it will continue to prosecute violations. The bureau also called on the public to properly manage their trash.

Thefts on buses already surpass 2017

Around 200 cases of theft from buses were recorded between January and the end of last week, a figure that already exceeds the total number of cases recorded in the whole year of 2017, according to the Judiciary Police. Twenty more occurrences have already occurred compared to 2017. Due to the frequency of theft on buses, the PJ took special action on Thursday, having deployed 20 investigators to conduct awareness campaigns in the busiest areas of the Macau Peninsula, including San Ma Lou and Rua do Campo. The PJ has also called upon the public to raise their level of alertness regarding bus thieves.





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Italy emerges as creeping concern among finance chiefs in Bali

Alessandro Speciale, Birgit Jennen

AS if trade wars, rising interest rates and slowing global growth weren't enough, the world's finance chiefs are zeroing in on another source of concern: Italy.

The populist government's rule-busting budget plans and accusatory rhetoric against its European partners have repeatedly cropped up among ministers and central bankers at the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in Bali. Italian Finance Minister Giovanni Tria, at his IMF debut, had his work cut out trying to reassure colleagues that his country is committed to the euro and will put debt on a downward path.

The heightened attention on the euro zone's third-biggest economy is a sign that, almost 10 years after the start of the region's sovereign debt crisis, the bloc remains fragile in the eyes of investors and observers. The fact that Italy is in crisis just as the European Central Bank considers slowly withdrawing stimulus is compounding that risk.

"The very first thing is to calm down with the tone," ECB President Mario Draghi told reporters on Saturday in Indonesia. "I'm confident that the authorities - and by the way, all parties, not



The Italian national flag flies above an entrance to the Piazza del Campo in Siena

only Italy - all parties will in the end find a compromise solution and agreement."

Italy's plight isn't on the official meeting agenda and hasn't been discussed at Group of 20 and Group of Seven sessions. Yet on the sidelines, it has been one of the most-discussed issues, according to participants who asked not to be named because discussions aren't public.

Most conversations involved puzzled requests for clarity on the government's plans and on whether it will wage an all-out

confrontation with the European Union.

The confusion is justified. The two coalition partners - the anti-immigration League and the anti-establishment Five Star Movement - have defied investors and international institutions as they vie for voters' attention by hinting at radical measures.

On Friday, Tria - an economy professor with no previous political experience - had to rebut rumors that the Italian treasury would take a stake in beleaguered

national carrier Alitalia and support Italians who buy the country's debt. Amid the noise, the spread between Italian and German bond yields rose this week to the highest level in five years.

"People read very carefully what is decided on the budget and what happens in the real economy," Bank of Italy Governor Ignazio Visco said late on Friday.

While the details of Italy's byzantine politics may escape the world's economic and financial elite in Bali, one fact is widely

understood: government debt is equivalent to 132 percent of economic output. The only euro-area nation with a higher burden is Greece, which almost slid out of the currency union amid a financial meltdown in 2015.

Should borrowing costs rise further, the sustainability of that debt could be in doubt. That would cripple Italian banks, the biggest holders of the bonds, and bring about a new crisis for the euro.

For now, European partners see the debt as sustainable, at least in the medium term, according to three people familiar with the issue. "We should not over rush into panicky conclusions," Dutch central bank governor Klaas Knot said Thursday in an interview. "The rhetoric is definitely worrying, but I think as central bankers we should always look at the facts" and "the fundamentals in Italy are not all that bad."

The European budget review process is due to start on Monday, and EU Commissioner for Economics Affairs Pierre Moscovici, who has sparred with Italian government leaders in recent days, and Tria have both made conciliatory noises. Still, IMF delegates from around the world - and particularly Italy's neighbors - are keeping a watchful eye.

"There are two big topics which cause concern," Swiss Finance Minister Ueli Maurer said in an interview. "One is trade restrictions between China and U.S. and how these can be eliminated. The second issue is related to the high levels of debt in developing countries like Argentina - or a country like Italy." **Bloomberg**

MGM sports-betting chief expects to see wagering in stadiums

Christopher Palmeri

MGM Resorts International executive Scott Butera envisions a day when teams put sports-betting parlors inside their stadiums to make it easier for fans to place wagers.

"The conversion rate from sports fan to sports bettor is very high," Butera said in an interview. "That's your most robust customer."

Butera, who joined Las Vegas-based MGM as president of interactive gaming in June, said he's been talking to leagues and individual teams about deals, such as the three-year agreement MGM signed with the National Basketball Association in July to be the league's official gambling



Scott Butera

partner. As part of that accord, the NBA shares game data with MGM and both the company and the league cross-promote each others' brands online.

A U.S. Supreme Court decision in May that allowed states outside of Nevada to approve sports betting has initiated a flurry of deal-making be-

tween casino operators, online betting companies and sports marketers. Putting a betting parlor in a stadium would require changes in state laws, which to date have limited such betting to casinos, racetracks and in some cases online.

Butera, who previously ran Foxwoods, the Connecticut casino owned

by the Mashantucket Pequot tribe, said he sees more Native American casino operators embracing sports betting. Traditionally, Indian tribes have opposed online wagering out of fear it would take business from their land-based casinos. On Monday, MGM signed a deal to offer sports betting at the United Auburn tribe's Thunder Valley Casino Resort near Sacramento, California, should the state allow it. Butera said he envisions more deals with tribes in California and other states.

"There's a lot of interest in sports betting," Butera said. "Figuring out how it unfolds is the question. I'm in it every day, and it's going to be an evolution." **Bloomberg**

HONG KONG

USD4 billion border project reportedly running late

A USD4 billion border crossing between Hong Kong and Shenzhen will be delayed until the middle of next year as a key contractor, Leighton Contractors (Asia) Ltd., encounters problems, the South China Morning Post reported.

The border control point in the northeastern New Territories was due to be finished this year, the SCMP reported yesterday.

Hong Kong's government this month suspended Leighton, part of Australia's CIMIC Group Ltd., from tendering for public works for 12 months over "construction issues" at a subway station. That was part of the fall-out from a safety investigation that

also led to a management shake-up at railway operator MTR Corp.

Labor disputes have triggered delays at the border project, the SCMP cited one unnamed source as saying. An unnamed government spokeswoman referred to bad weather. Telephone and email messages left with Leighton's offices in Hong Kong were not immediately returned.

Leighton is the main contractor on a HKD7.1 billion (\$910 million) passenger terminal building at the Liantang-Heung Yuen Wai border crossing, the SCMP said. The overall HKD33.7 billion project was originally budgeted at HKD25 billion, the SCMP said. **AP**



Prospect of Trump-Xi talks raises hope for thaw in trade war

Christopher Bodeen,
Martin Crutsinger

WITH China and the United States opening the door to a meeting next month between Presidents Xi Jinping and Donald Trump, hopes are rising for a potential easing of tensions in the trade war between the world's two largest economies.

Worries about the increased tariffs the two sides have imposed on each other's goods contributed to a dizzying bout of volatility in financial markets this week. The higher tariffs raise costs for companies in both countries, and economists say that if they remain in place indefinitely, they could depress economic growth.

A Xi-Trump meeting, if it happens, would take place during a summit of leaders of the Group of 20 biggest global economies in Argentina in late November.

"I don't think any decision has been made in regards to a meeting," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told reporters Satur-

day in Bali, Indonesia, where he's attending global finance meetings.

Still, Larry Kudlow, Trump's top economic adviser, said in Washington on Friday that preparations for the talks were under way.

"It looks like there will be a meeting in Buenos Aires at the G-20," Kudlow said in an interview with CNBC. "We are looking at it. The Chinese are looking at it. Preparations are being made. I can't say 100 percent certainty, but there is no question everybody is looking at it."

Kudlow said that so far, the administration viewed China's negotiating offers as "rather unsatisfactory" but that "maybe talks between the two heads of state will bear fruit."

Asked if China would need to make specific concessions for such a meeting to take place, Mnuchin said, "To the extent that we can make progress toward a meeting I would encourage that and that's something we're having discussions

about, but for the moment there's no preconditions. The president will decide on that."

The trade feud has been fueled by U.S. accusations that China engages in cyber-theft and coerces foreign companies into handing over technology in return for access to the Chinese market, as well as by Trump's anger over China's trade surplus with the U.S. It is far from clear that the U.S. might be preparing to consider lifting penalty tariffs on about USD250 billion of Chinese products.

Mnuchin repeated the Trump administration's determination to achieve a more balanced trading relationship that does not require foreign companies to form joint ventures to transfer technology to gain market access.

Lu Kang, a spokesman for China's Foreign Ministry, offered no specifics Friday but said, "I have also seen the relevant reports."

The Wall Street Journal and the Washington Post have cited officials as saying Trump has de-

cidated to proceed with a meeting with Xi.

Global indexes bounced back sharply Friday after their recent plunges, on word of the possible presidential meeting, along with strong Chinese export data. Japan's Nikkei 225 index gained 0.5 percent to 22,694.66 after a nearly 4 percent loss on Thursday.

Reports that Mnuchin has advised against labeling China a currency manipulator — a status that could trigger penalties — were also seen as easing tensions. The Chinese currency has been falling in value against the dollar in recent months, raising concerns that Beijing is devaluing its currency to make Chinese goods more competitive against U.S. products.

In his comments in Bali, Mnuchin did not say what the forthcoming Treasury report, set to come out next week, will conclude about China's currency practices. In the past, Treasury has placed China on a watch-list but found that Beijing did not

meet the threshold to be labeled a currency manipulator.

Mnuchin met Thursday with Yi Gang, head of China's central bank. "I expressed my concerns about the weakness of the currency," Mnuchin said.

He said that in the discussions he had with the Chinese, they had made clear that they didn't see a further weakening of the Chinese yuan as being in their interests.

Concerns have been raised that China, the largest foreign holder of U.S. Treasuries, might start dumping its holdings as a way to pressure the United States in the trade dispute. But Mnuchin said this possibility didn't concern him because it would be contrary to Beijing's economic interests to start dumping its Treasury holdings.

"That would be very costly for them," Mnuchin said.

China's surplus with the United States widened to a record \$34.1 billion in September as exports to the American market rose 13 percent from a year earlier to \$46.7 billion, down slightly from August's 13.4 percent growth. Imports of American goods increased 9 percent to \$12.6 billion, down from August's 11.1 percent growth.

Beijing's exports to the United States have at least temporarily defied forecasts they would weaken after being hit by punitive U.S. tariffs of up to 25 percent.

September marked the second straight record Chinese monthly trade surplus with the United States. Export numbers have been buoyed by producers rushing to fill orders before American tariffs rose. But they also benefit from "robust U.S. demand" and a weaker Chinese currency, which makes their goods cheaper abroad, Louis Kuijs of Oxford Economics said in a report.

The Chinese yuan has lost nearly 10 percent of its value against the dollar this year. That prompted suggestions Beijing might weaken the exchange rate to help exporters. But that might hurt China's economy by encouraging an outflow of capital. The central bank has tightened controls on currency trading to prevent further declines. **AP**

REPORT

Insurers can help tackle share-backed loan risks

CHINA is encouraging insurers to invest in listed companies and help cut liquidity risks connected with the pledging of firms' shares to secure loans, the China Securities Journal reported on Saturday, citing a senior official with the banking and insurance regulator.

The government welcomes insurance companies making financial and strategic investments in quality, private, listed companies, the official newspaper cited Ren Chunsheng, of the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission, as saying. The insurers can play

a "more flexible" role in cutting share-pledge risks, Ren said at a forum.

The report didn't give more details on the issue from Ren, who's head of the regulator's insurance asset management department.

Share pledges, where company founders and

other major investors put up stock as collateral, have emerged as a pressure point in China's debt-laden economy, especially as the stock market tumbles. Top regulators discussed the risks at a meeting in August, saying that further efforts are needed to ensure stability.

Regulators will also revise rules to scrap sector restrictions on insurers' private equity investments in a bid to boost the supply of long-term capital to the economy, Ren was cited as saying by the newspaper, which is affiliated with the official Xinhua News Agency.

Officials are seeking to

direct more insurance funds to small businesses and key projects that support state strategies, and will encourage insurers to participate in the financial derivatives market and set up units for debt-for-equity swaps, the report cited Ren as saying, without providing details. **Bloomberg**

Activists criticize Hong Kong's ban of legislative candidate

ACTIVISTS are protesting Hong Kong's disqualification of a legislative candidate on the grounds that she advocated self-determination for the Chinese territory. Lau Siu-lai, who was stripped of her seat in the Hong Kong legislature last year, was barred by the government on Friday from running in a Nov. 25 election.

Hong Kong authorities are trying to quash pro-independence voices ahead of the election. Chinese President Xi Jinping and other officials have warned separatist activity will not be tolerated.

The pro-independence Hong Kong National Party was banned in September by authorities who invoked a 1997 national security law for the first time.

Pro-democracy activists complain Beijing interferes in Hong Kong's affairs in violation of its promise of a "high degree of autonomy" when the former British colony returned to Chinese rule in 1997.

Some have called for more autonomy or outright independence for this prosperous business center of 7.5 million people.



Lau Siu-lai

Authorities said Lau's statements in 2016 in support of self-determination were illegal. Lau dropped that call from her election platform, but the Election Affairs Commission said her views hadn't really changed. The decision "amounts to the

political screening of candidates Beijing does not like," said Hong Kong Watch, a human rights group, in a statement.

"The decision is in breach of the right to stand in free and fair elections," the group said.

A group of pro-democracy le-

gislators said in a statement that the government is "trying to use fear against dissident voices."

The Hong Kong government defended Lau's disqualification as consistent with the Basic Law, the territory's de facto constitution.

"Advocating independence" is "inconsistent with the constitutional and legal status" of Hong Kong, a government statement said. It pointed to Article 1 of the Basic Law, which says Hong Kong is an "inalienable part" of the People's Republic of China.

On Friday night, Lau and a dozen pro-democracy activists protested outside the Hong Kong government headquarters and marched to the office of the territory's chief executive, according to The South China Morning Post newspaper.

Lau, a university sociology teacher, accused the government of using disqualification to make sure pro-establishment candidates win.

"What people will this administration allow into politics? Is it only those who kneel before them?" the Post quoted Lau as saying.

Lau complained election authorities "completely twisted" her views from 2016.

Protests erupted in 2014 after China's ruling Communist Party said it would decide who was allowed to run for Hong Kong's leadership.

Lau won a Legislative Council seat in 2016 but was barred by a court from taking her seat after she and other pro-independence members altered the wording of their oaths of office. Lau was permanently stripped of the seat last year.

Lau is the ninth person since then to be disqualified from running for office. **AP**

Beijing preparing for all risks in currency policy, PBOC's Yi says

CHINA'S central bank is considering a range of risks in its currency policy, including a worst-case scenario, Governor Yi Gang said.

As the yuan inches closer to the psychologically important level of 7 per dollar amid rising trade tensions with the U.S., the People's Bank of China governor told Bloomberg in an exclusive interview that the Chinese currency is at a "reasonable and equilibrium level."

"The yuan's volatility is normal," Yi said yesterday in Bali, Indonesia, on the sidelines of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank's meetings. "The currency has a flexible exchange rate mechanism, which now shows two-way fluctuation."

"For the full year, the yuan will stay in a reasonable range against the backdrop of an appreciating dollar," he said.

Yi's comments come days before U.S. Treasury

Secretary Steven Mnuchin is set to release a report in which he could label China as a currency manipulator and as a trade dispute between the world's two biggest economies shows no signs of abating. The tariff war is weighing on investor sentiment, prompting a sell-off in financial markets last week, and undermining the outlook for global growth, which the IMF downgraded for the first time in two years.

Yi said he had "very good talks" with Mnuchin in Bali, without elaborating.

In a key policy report in August, the PBOC referred to a "bottom-line mindset" in its currency policy. Yi explained yesterday that this means "we have to think thoroughly about all sorts of risks, prepare for the rainy days and for the worst scenario."

For now, the exchange rate is "relatively stable" and the yuan "is strong among developed coun-

tries and developing countries," he said. The strong dollar and interest rate hikes by the U.S. Federal Reserve have made conditions "a little tight" and "capital has been flowing out of some developing nations," he said.

The yuan has tumbled more than 9 percent against the dollar in the past six months, making it one of Asia's worst performers, on the back of tighter U.S. monetary policy and a worsening domestic outlook.

"China is, in fact, in a very good situation, with the overall volatility not big," he said, adding the fluctuation is "basically similar" to the currencies in developed nations and much smaller than those in developing economies.

"Economic growth, employment, inflation and the two-way fluctuation of the yuan are within reasonable range," he said.

On monetary policy, Yi reiterated that the stance

is "prudent and neutral." "China's monetary policy needs to consider international factors, but our principle is to prioritize domestic conditions when plotting monetary policy," he said.

Yi took over as governor in March as the central bank shifted to a more growth-focused path, with four reductions in the reserve ratio this year and additional measures to funnel credit to businesses.

At the IMF annual meetings in Bali, Yi has leveraged his longstanding links to global economic leaders and fluent English skills to resume constructive talks with the U.S. and build allies with nations on the global trade supply chain.

"Over the last few days, I've talked to more than a dozen countries," Yi said on an international banking seminar panel hosted by the Group of 30. "They all felt the negative impact on their economy"



from the trade war, he said.

Yi told delegates at the seminar the nation is seeking to solve trade tensions with the U.S. constructively and will continue to open up its services industry, especially the finance sector. Even so, China is preparing for a protracted conflict, he said.

"We prepare for the worst. You see a lot of people in China now are preparing for the trade tension to be a prolonged situation," the governor said. "We have a very sincere view that we should seek a constructive solution - not only for us, but our neighbors in the supply chain and for

the world."

Yi said China's current-account surplus has been narrowing over the years and will likely drop below 1 percent of gross domestic product this year. There are parts of trade between China and the U.S. that aren't being reflected in the data, such as U.S. subsidiary companies that produce and sell in China, he said on the panel.

In a statement to the International Monetary and Financial Committee, Yi said China won't use the currency as a tool to deal with the trade conflicts, with authorities continuing to let the market determine the exchange rate. **Bloomberg**

BANGLADESH

Newspaper editors protest digital security law

Julhas Alam, Dhaka

AN influential body of newspaper editors in Bangladesh on Saturday criticized the government for a new digital security law that they say will stifle constitutionally protected freedom of speech and curtail press freedom.

Members of the Editors' Council told a news conference in the nation's capital, Dhaka, that they were not pleased that the bill was made a law despite their objections.

President Abdul Hamid approved the bill, known as the Digital Security Act, despite promises by three Cabinet ministers and an adviser to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that they would address the journalists' concerns about some disputed provisions.

Shyamal Dutt, editor of the Bhorer Kagoj daily, said protesters would form a human chain in Dhaka on Monday to demand changes to the law.

The Editors' Council had postponed a street protest last month after the country's information minister said officials would look into the journalists' concerns.

"There is a Parliament session soon. We hope they will keep their promises and change some provisions," Dutt said at Saturday's news conference. "Our points are very clear, but they did not keep their promises."



Bangladeshi journalists cover proceedings outside a court in Dhaka

Talking to The Associated Press after the news conference, Dutt said that the council was not against any cyber security law, but that keeping any ambiguities in the law that would hurt press freedom is not acceptable. "We will continue to protest," he said.

Observers say the law is part of a broader campaign to silence critics in Bangladesh, and reflects a worrying trend in fledgling Asian democracies.

Journalists in Nepal are combating a similar law, part of an expansive rewriting of that country's civil and criminal codes meant to define the parameters of Nepal's new cons-

titution.

Such laws in Nepal and now in Bangladesh, where democracy was restored in 1990 after a military dictator was ousted, could make it more difficult for journalists to expose corruption.

Bangladeshi journalists are taking particular umbrage with a section of the law that authorizes up to 14 years in prison for gathering, sending or preserving classified information of any government using a computer or other digital device. The journalists say publishing such information is a way to hold officials accountable. The section evokes the sentiment of a British colonial-era law about

protecting official secrets.

The law also authorizes prison sentences of up to three years for publishing information that is "aggressive or frightening" and up to 10 years for posting information that "ruins communal harmony or creates instability or disorder or disturbs or is about to disturb the law and order situation."

■ The law also authorizes prison sentences of up to three years for publishing information that is 'aggressive or frightening'

Human Rights Watch said the law would be ripe for abuse, in part because it would empower police to search or arrest suspects without a court order.

Prime Minister Hasina has defended the law, saying it was meant to protect the country from propaganda and misinformation.

"Journalism is surely not for increasing conflict, or for tarnishing the image of the country," she said earlier. **AP**

years until 2003.

He was freed in 2004 but was once again convicted for sodomy in 2015, charges that he said were concocted to destroy his political career.

Angered by a massive corruption scandal at a state investment fund, Mahathir made a political comeback and the two men forged an alliance that paid off in the May 9 national election.

Mahathir, the world's oldest leader at 93, has said he expects to be in office for at least two years and will keep his promise to hand over power to Anwar.

"Attention should focus on what [Anwar] would do in parliament and his relationship with those in government," said Bridget Welsh, a political science lecturer and Southeast Asia expert at John Cabot University in Rome. **AP**

MALAYSIA

PM-in-waiting Anwar wins parliamentary by-election

CHARISMATIC Malaysian politician Anwar Ibrahim won a by-election for a parliamentary seat with a landslide victory on Saturday in a grand political comeback to help him prepare for his eventual takeover from Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad.

Anwar was designated as Mahathir's successor after the two men set aside a bitter feud and joined hands to capture a stunning victory in May's general election.

Anwar couldn't participate in the election due to a sodomy conviction — a charge that he alleged was politically motivated —



Anwar Ibrahim (right) holds his wife after winning the by-election

but he was freed and received a royal pardon days after the polls.

The Election Commission said Anwar received 31,016 votes for the parliamentary seat in the

southern coastal town of Port Dickson, defeating six other candidates. His closest rival secured only 7,456 votes.

Anwar said his huge margin of victory was

unexpected and called it a "convincing" win.

"This to my mind is an important milestone, a vote of confidence for the government and the reform agenda, and the prime minister personally," he said.

Anwar, who will be sworn in as a lawmaker in parliament on today, reiterated his pledge to focus on parliamentary reforms.

Once a high-flying member of the former ruling coalition, Anwar was convicted of homosexual sodomy and corruption after a power struggle with Mahathir, who was prime minister for 22

NEPAL

25,000 websites blocked in pornography ban

NEPALESE internet providers have begun blocking thousands of pornographic websites as part of a government directive aimed at stopping sexual violence, officials said yesterday.

The government issued new criminal and civil codes this year that include regulations against the use, broadcast and publication of pornographic materials with punishment for violators of up to one year in prison.

Min Prasad Aryal of the Nepal Telecom Authority said yesterday that more than 25,000 websites have been blocked under the campaign.

"This is only the start, but a very good start," Aryal said, adding that a team of officials are monitoring internet service providers to ensure the order is followed.

He said those providers who refuse or fail to comply face a fine of up to USD4,200 and risk losing their operating license.

Internet service providers say they are complying with the government order but say it would be impossible to weed out and block all such sites.

"We are following the government order and have blocked the list of websites that was provided. However, it is not practical and technically not possible to block every pornographic website," said Binay Bohra of Vianet Communications.

Bohra said they feared that with the new law service providers could easily be punished.

Media rights groups have also expressed concern at the blanket ban of websites.

"This opens up the path for the government to block any websites in the future, saying they have obscene content. This order was issued without clarifying what is obscene and why or without doing any proper study," said Taranath Dahal, who heads the Freedom Forum, a Nepal-based media rights group.

Dahal said there should be clear regulations from the government on what content is considered obscene and what aged users should be barred.

The government issued a similar ban in 2011, but this time there are more serious punishments for violations. **AP**

JAPAN

Abe renews pledge to change country's charter to boost troops



Shinzo Abe (center, standing) reviews members of Japan's Self-Defense Force

JAPANESE Prime Minister Shinzo Abe renewed his pledge yesterday to push for a revision to the country's war-renouncing constitution, in which he wants the military explicitly mentioned.

Speaking before a field of about 4,000 troops, Abe said that a revision is needed to give his troops sense of pride.

"You have gained public trust with your own hands," Abe, wearing a tuxedo, told the troops in his address. "Now it's time to fulfill our responsibility as politicians to accommodate an environment where all Self-Defense Force can accomplish their duties with sense of pride."

About 260 tanks and other military vehicles and 40 war-planes were exhibited at the event.

Re-elected as head of his ruling party last month and with up to three more years as Japan's leader, Abe is determined to pursue his long-sought charter amendment.

Many Japanese conservatives see Japan's U.S.-drafted constitution as a humiliation imposed after their World War II defeat.

When the Self-Defense Force was established in 1954, public opinion was initially divided over its role, but today the force has gained support for its largely noncombat contribution in international peace keeping efforts and disaster relief.

Abe wants to add a clause to Article 9 of the constitution, which bans the use of force in settling international disputes. He wants to explicitly permit the existence of Japan's military.

Opponents say such a revision is not necessary because the defense force is widely recognized in and outside the country as Japan's military and its constitutionality is no longer an issue.

Abe's ruling Liberal Democratic Party has continuously expanded the force's international role by loosening interpretations of Article 9. In 2015, his government passed a defense law allowing Japanese troops to defend U.S. and other allies in case of foreign attack, a fundamental change from its self-defense only policy.

Two-thirds approval is needed in both houses to propose a revision, which would then be subject to a national referendum. Media surveys have shown most voters care more about their pay, education costs and the economy than a constitution revision. **AP**

SINGAPORE

Large foreign inflows are growth risk, deputy PM says

Michelle Jamrisko

CAPITAL inflows are proving to be just as much a curse as a blessing, with the potential to harm economic growth, Singapore's deputy prime minister said.

"There's too much short-term capital flows dictating the future of countries," Tharman Shanmugaratnam said in an interview with Bloomberg Television's Haslinda Amin at the sidelines of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund meetings in Bali, Indonesia. "And countries have to respond by tightening policy far more than is warranted by domestic circumstances just to defend their currencies, and what suffers is growth."

The deputy prime minister was speaking in his capacity as head of a G20 committee looking at how to reform the global financial system. The group released a report in Bali on Friday with proposals on how to boost cooperation and improve resilience in markets.

His comments come against the backdrop of a volatile week for finan-



Tharman Shanmugaratnam

cial markets and a year in which emerging economies have been pummeled because of rising U.S. interest rates and a stronger dollar.

Large capital inflows aren't necessarily something to "cheer" about, Shanmugaratnam said. Governments should "think hard" about macro-prudential policies to smooth the flow of funds toward productive use, he said.

As opposed to the last financial crisis when all countries faced the same disaster at once, the current slowing in the global economy means "growth is being eroded by stealth -- one country

at a time, one episode at a time, one liquidity squeeze at a time," he said. Even as today's global economy remains "very healthy," it will turn, he said.

The deputy prime minister also said investors shouldn't focus solely on the current-account deficit to assess the risk of an economy, including in nation's like Indonesia and Argentina, calling it "a very narrow metric of a country's sustainability and its health." What's important is whether a country has an inviting business environment and has solid economic fundamentals, he said.

India, Indonesia and the Philippines have been among the hardest hit in Asia in the global rout that's hit emerging markets, with their current-account deficits often cited as a key reason. Each has had to undertake policy tightening measures this year, with Indonesia and Philippines being the most aggressive, with interest rate hikes of a 150 basis points each since mid-year.

Asked on his views ahead of a U.S. Treasury report assessing foreign currencies, Shanmugaratnam said China's currency has performed more or less in line with fundamentals over the past five to 10 years. The world's No. 2 economy has undergone gradual liberalization of the currency and capital account and overseen a yuan that's increasingly controlled by market forces, in his view.

As for the timing of the next crisis, Shanmugaratnam declined to stage a guess. "The next crisis will come, and we've got to be prepared for it," he said. "We've got to be prepared for it especially outside the banking sector." **Bloomberg**

INDONESIA

27 dead in floods, landslides on Sumatra island

TORRENTIAL rains triggered flash floods and landslides on the Indonesian island of Sumatra, killing at least 27 people, including a dozen children at a school, officials said Saturday.

A flash flood with mud and debris from landslides struck Mandailing Natal district in North Sumatra province and smashed an Islamic school in Muara Saladi village, where 29 children were swept away on Friday afternoon, said local police chief Irsan Sinuhaji.

He said rescuers retrieved the bodies of 11 children from mud and rubble hours later.

The National Disaster Mitigation Agency's spokesman, Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, said rescuers and villagers managed to rescue 17 other children and several teachers on Friday and pulled out the body of a child on Saturday near Aek Saladi river, close to the school.

A video obtained by The Associated Press showed relatives crying besides their loved ones at a health clinic where the bodies of the children were lying, covered with blankets.

Nugroho said two bodies were found early Saturday from a car washed away by floods in Mandailing Natal, where 17 houses collapsed and 12 were swept away. Hundreds of other homes were flooded up to 2 meters high, while landslides occurred in eight areas of the region.

Four villagers were killed after landslides hit 29 houses and



flooded about 100 buildings in neighboring Sibolga district, Nugroho said.

He said flash floods also smashed several villages in West Sumatra province's Tanah Datar district, killing five people, including two children, and leaving another missing. Landslides and flooding in the neighboring districts of Padang Pariaman and West Pasaman killed four villagers after 500 houses flooded and three bridges collapsed.

Both North and West Sumatra provinces declared a weeklong emergency relief period as hundreds of terrified survivors fled their hillside homes to safer ground, fearing more of the mountainside would collapse under continuing rain, Nugroho said, adding that dozens of injured people were rushed to nearby hospitals and clinics.

Seasonal downpours cause frequent landslides and floods each year in Indonesia, a chain of 17,000 islands where millions of people live in mountainous areas or near fertile flood plains. **AP**

Venezuelan doctors on US Navy mission to help compatriots

A dozen Venezuelan doctors volunteered to join the USNS Comfort as the Navy hospital ship visits three South American countries that are struggling to cope with a flood of migrants from crisis-wracked Venezuela.

The doctors all live in the United States, but they wanted to help fellow Venezuelans who have fled widespread shortages of food and medicine amid an economic collapse that has pushed millions of people into poverty.

"This is like a Band-Aid" that will provide only temporary relief, said Dr. Marco Bologna, a cardiologist who now lives in Florida, where he is a member of the Venezuelan American Medical Association. "But it is the right thing to do and it helps us to do something for our country."

The Comfort has been described as a threat by Venezuela's socialist government and it will not visit that country during its 11-week tour of Latin America. The ship sailed from Norfolk, Virginia, on Thursday.

It will spend several days at two Colombian ports, one of



The Navy hospital ship USNS Comfort

which is just a one-hour drive from the border with Venezuela. The ship will also dock at ports in Ecuador and Peru, two other nations that are now home to hundreds of thousands of struggling Venezuelans. It will wrap up its tour in the Central American country of Honduras.

U.S. officials said the itinerary was designed with several local needs in mind, including the plight of Venezuelan migrants who

are desperately seeking health care. A report published this month by a group of Venezuelan civil society groups estimated 20,000 doctors have left Venezuela since 2012.

"Each of the countries that we will spot was closely consulted. We have worked closely with them to ensure that we are providing the right care, at the right time, and at the right locations," said Coast Guard Rear

Adm. Steven Poullin, director of operations at the U.S. Southern Command. "Obviously one of the factors that we considered was the Venezuelan crisis and the opportunity to treat Venezuelan migrants."

According to the United Nations, 1.9 million Venezuelans have left their country since 2015. The most recent migrants have little money for transport and many have been trying to reach their destinations on foot, in perilous journeys that can take several weeks.

The Venezuelan American Medical Association said it has been working with the Southern Command for several months to prepare the mission. It said more than 1,000 civilian doctors applied to serve on the ship, but there were spots for only a dozen volunteers on board the vessel, whose crew of 300 is made up mostly of Navy personnel.

One of the applicants who got left out was Gabriel Pinedo, a Venezuelan doctor who now delivers mail in Orlando, Florida, because he hasn't been able to have his degree validated in the United States.

Pinedo said he is currently applying for asylum in the U.S. and his lawyer told him that it would not be wise to leave the country. "It is frustrating not to be able to go," he said. "I already saw myself there."

The Comfort is equipped to attend to 750 patients a day during its South American journey and doctors on the ship will be able to perform 20 surgeries a day.

The ship's visit to South America comes just weeks after the U.S. put financial sanctions on Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's wife. President Donald Trump has described Maduro as a dictator and said that "all options" are on the table when it comes to restoring democracy in Venezuela, including military intervention.

Venezuela's government allowed a Chinese hospital ship to visit the country in September, but it has refused humanitarian aid from Western countries, arguing that such offers are just ploys for meddling in the country's affairs.

The Venezuelan doctors on the Comfort said they would like to see officials open a "humanitarian channel" that would allow medicine and food to be delivered into the country regularly.

"What we are doing here has a limited scope," said Dr. Rafael Gottenger, a plastic surgeon on the mission. "But it is good to be able to help your people." AP

AD



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Buffer zone brings fragile calm to Syria's rebel-held Idlib



In this file photo posted on the Twitter page of Syria's al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front on April 25, Nusra Front fighters stand on their vehicles and wave their group's flags as they tour the streets of Jisr al-Shughour, Idlib province

Bassem Mroue, Beirut

A month after Russia, Turkey and Iran came together in a last-ditch effort to avert a potentially catastrophic Syrian government offensive in Idlib, they appear to have succeeded in creating a buffer zone around the northern rebel-held province, defusing tensions in a major flashpoint region.

The deal has for now averted a government offensive on the last major opposition stronghold in Syria, where tens of thousands of militants, including foreign jihadis, live alongside 3 million civilians and opposition fighters. But if the truce falls apart, the fighting could cause massive displacement and bloodshed.

The Sept. 17 agreement called for setting up a demilitarized zone 15-20 kilometers deep and stretching along the front lines around Idlib, including parts of the provinces of Latakia, Hama and Aleppo.

Days ahead of an Oct. 10 deadline, Turkey-backed rebels and an al-Qaida-linked alliance pulled their heavy weaponry back from the front lines in accordance with the deal struck between the Russian and Turkish presidents. By Monday, all "radical terrorist groups" are also to pull back. At an unspecified date, Turkish troops and Russian mi-

litary police plan to begin conducting coordinated patrols and monitoring with drones along the DMZ's boundaries.

Some jihadi groups have remained at their posts in the area, but for now they appear keen to avoid any confrontation with Turkey, activists say.

Hours before the deadline for them to pull out, there were reports of an exchange of fire between rebel fighters and government forces. An editorial in the pro-government Al-Thawra newspaper on Sunday said "The time for decisiveness has come in Idlib."

Here's a look at what to expect next:

TEMPORARY REPRIEVE

Syrian President Bashar Assad said earlier this month that the Russia-Turkey deal is a "temporary one" and that his government's ultimate goal is to restore control over all of Syria. He described Western objections to an offensive in Idlib as "hysterical."

Most observers believe plans for a government offensive are simply on hold and that Assad's forces will eventually retake the province — by force if need be. Amid the myriad rebel groups and hard-core jihadis in Idlib, there are concerns that any of a number of factions could trigger renewed fighting.

Those in the opposition fear the deal could end up like last year's so-called de-escalation zones implemented in central and southern Syria, where government forces used temporary cease-fire agreements to regroup and then launch devastating offensives.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported yesterday that government forces shelled rebel areas in the DMZ, causing material damage and wounding a child. Rebels stationed in the DMZ lobbed missiles at government forces in Jurin, killing at least two soldiers Saturday, the Observatory said.

International aid agencies working in northwestern Syria warn of dire consequences for millions of civilians if the Russia-Turkey deal doesn't result in a sustained reduction of violence in the overcrowded province.

Turkey, which supports the Syrian opposition, has deployed hundreds of soldiers to 12 observation posts that ring Idlib following a de-escalation agreement reached last year with Russia and Iran, both of which are allied with the government. That effectively positioned Turkey as a protector of the province and any government offensive risks leading to a direct clash between Syrian troops and Turkish forces.

REBEL INFIGHTING

Most rebel groups, including a Turkey-backed alliance known as the National Liberation Front, have accepted the deal on a demilitarized zone.

At least two jihadi groups, however, have rejected it, but most of their positions are deep inside Idlib, far from the front lines with government forces. These are the al-Qaida-linked Horas al-Din, which described the deal as a "great conspiracy," and the Ansar al-Din Front.

Another jihadi group, the Turkistan Islamic Party, which is mostly made up of Chinese fighters, has not left its positions in the town of Jisr al-Shughour on the edge of the DMZ.

"It is clear that there will be a confrontation eventually because [jihadi factions] are not the type of groups who surrender easily," said Bassam Haji Mustafa, a senior official with the Turkey-backed Nour el-Din el-Zinki, one of 15 that form the National Liberation Front. He added that most people in Idlib support moderate rebel groups backed by Turkey and some Western nations.

Unlike the Islamic State group, whose fighters were able to melt into the desert after major defeats, Haji Mustafa said jihadis in Idlib are surrounded on all sides and have no place to go.

Rami Abdurrahman, who heads the Observatory, said last month that some 183 trucks full of ammunition and weapons arrived in Idlib, bringing in Turkish weapons to the National Liberation Front. He said the weapons are for possible use against jihadi factions in case they want to undermine Turkey's plans in Idlib.

"We are heading toward a confrontation for sure," Abdurrahman said, adding that Horas al-Din and Ansar al-Din have some 3,500 fighters in Idlib.

■ The deal has for now averted a government offensive on the last major opposition stronghold in Syria

THE AL-QAIDA WILD CARD

The largest and most powerful armed group in Idlib is the al-Qaida-affiliated Levant Liberation Committee, known by the Arabic acronym HTS, a rebel alliance formerly known as Nusra Front.

The group has not said whether it will comply with the deal, but it withdrew its heavy weapons from the demilitarized zone. The group's fighters are still on the front lines and it is unclear whether they will leave the area today.

Analysts say the alliance could splinter if it decides to confront Turkish troops or the thousands of Turkey-backed opposition fighters, with whom it has clashed before.

Ahmad al-Ahmad, who heads the opposition's Syria Press center, said Syrian members of the al-Qaida-linked group are not looking for confrontation with Turkey and its allies.

Al-Ahmad said the group's leader, Abu Mohammed al-Golani, and the Syrian members are close to the Turkish side, while the foreign fighters are opposed to the deal.

Abu Yaqzan al-Masri, an Egyptian religious judge affiliated with the al-Qaida-linked group, warned against the rebels giving up their weapons after the Russia-Turkey deal was reached. He said the group's opponents will attempt to spark infighting to rid the area of jihadis and preserve the deal.

Turkish presidential spokesman Ibrahim Kalin signaled on Sept. 20 for the first time that if necessary, Turkey may use military action to remove the Levant Liberation Committee from the Idlib demilitarized zone in coordination with Russia. AP

what's ON



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

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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

MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

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sky shows)

MOP80 (Planetarium 3D dome or 3D

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

VENUE: Sands Cotai Theatre

ADMISSION: MOP380, MOP480, MOP680, MOP980, MOP1280

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Offbeat

SEXUAL HISTORY SURVEY SENT TO FIFTH-GRADERS DRAWS COMPLAINTS

A survey that asked fifth-grade students in Vermont about their sexual history, preference and gender identity has drawn complaints from parents.

The survey sent to Windsor Elementary School students was conducted by WISE, a nonprofit domestic violence prevention and advocacy group, WPTZ-TV reported.

A notice was sent to parents allowing them to opt their children out of the survey, but parent Vanessa Beach said she never received it.

While she doesn't oppose topics on gender identity and sexuality being discussed, Beach said she feels the survey questions were inappropriate for her daughter's age group.

"My daughter is 10. So are all the other kids who took this," Beach said. "A sexual partner at 10 years old would be called sexual abuse."

A WISE representative said the survey questions were created with University of New Hampshire researchers with whom the group is sharing the collected data.

Beach said she told the school and WISE about her concerns. School administrators and WISE officials said they are working to address parents' complaints. Students are told that they are not required to take the test and can choose not to, a WISE official said.

Beach said she appreciates other work WISE does to raise awareness about domestic violence.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Portuguese Soap Opera
15:50	Cartoons
16:15	Portuguese Comedy
19:00	Portugal Fashion
19:35	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	You, Me & Apocalypse
22:00	Funny Things To Know
22:25	Portuguese Serie - Liberty 21
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Documentary
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:30	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

11 - 18 Oct



VENOM

ROOM 1

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

Director: Ruben Fleischer

Starring: Tom Hardy, Michelle Williams, Riz Ahmed

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 112min



DESTINATION WEDDING

ROOM 2

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

Director: victor levin

Starring: Keanu Reeves, Winona Rider

Language: Cantonese (Chinese, english)

Duration: 130min



PROJECT GUTENBERG

ROOM 2

9:15pm

Director: Felix Chong

Starring: Chow Yun Fat, Aaron Kwok, Zhang Jingchu

Language: Cantonese (Chinese, english)

Duration: 130min

JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN

ROOM 3

7:30pm

Director: David Kerr

Starring: Rowan Atkinson Emma Thompson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 88min

this day in history



1964 KHRUSHCHEV 'RETIRES' AS HEAD OF USSR

Nikita Khrushchev has unexpectedly stepped down as leader of the Soviet Union.

The official Soviet news agency, Tass, announced that a plenary meeting of the Communist Party Central Committee had accepted Mr Khrushchev's request to depart "in view of his advanced age and the deterioration of his health".

Mr Khrushchev, who is 70, took over as First Secretary of the Central Committee soon after Stalin's death.

He has held the role of both party leader and prime minister since 1958. These posts will now be divided with 57-year-old Leonid Brezhnev heading the Soviet Communist Party, while 60-year-old Alexei Kosygin, will take the post of prime minister.

The news has come as a shock to Soviet diplomats in London who were unaware that their leader might be unwell.

Governments of Western Europe have also been taken aback and fear the new leadership might shift away from Mr Khrushchev's policy of peaceful co-existence with the West.

A flamboyant character, Mr Khrushchev is described in the Times newspaper today as "the most colourful leader world communism has produced".

He took over from Joseph Stalin when he died in 1953.

In 1955 he began the first of several visits abroad to improve Soviet relations with the rest of Europe, America and Asia.

His first stop was Yugoslavia where he apologised in person to Marshal Josef Tito for Stalin's attack on Yugoslav Communism in 1948.

His denunciation of Stalin in 1956 in what's known as the "secret speech" to the 20th Party Congress gave Soviet satellite states such as Poland and Hungary new hope of more political freedom - which were soon crushed by Warsaw Pact troops.

During this speech, he also laid down the foundations of his foreign policy, moving away from the belligerent approach to capitalism and towards co-existence and competition.

For Western leaders, his brash and extrovert sense of humour was a refreshing change from the stern image of previous Soviet public figures.

He courted socialist parties abroad and encouraged cultural exchanges.

But his temper sometimes got the better of him - like the time he famously hit the table with his shoe during a United Nations debate in 1960 - and he was quick to warn of the USSR's nuclear weapons capability in his speeches in the international arena.

His leadership will also be remembered for bringing the world close to nuclear war by placing Soviet nuclear missiles in Cuba during the 1962 Cuban missile crisis.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The following day the Soviet government reassured the West it would continue the policy of peaceful co-existence.

It also indicated Nikita Khrushchev's departure was certainly not voluntary and criticised his "hare-brained scheming, bragging and phrase-mongering", without actually naming him.

There had been a growing opposition to his failed agricultural and industrial policies, quarrels with China, and his humiliating climb-down over the Cuban missile crisis.

There was also a feeling he was trying to create a cult of personality - much like his predecessor Stalin - in taking on the two roles of prime minister and head of the Communist Party.

Mr Khrushchev lived the rest of his life away from the public eye in Moscow and at his country dacha as a special pensioner of the Soviet Government.

In 1970 his memoirs were published in the United States and Europe, but not in the Soviet Union.

He died on 11 September 1971 but was denied a state funeral and interment in the Kremlin wall, and is buried at Novodevichy Convent Cemetery in Moscow.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Someone needs your help -- but they may not know how to ask you. Make sure that you're really paying attention as you move through the day, as you can score bonus karma points!

Taurus April 20-May 20 You finally get that one friend or family member who's been so odd lately -- and the explanation is likely simpler than you would have thought. Just reach out and let them know you're savvy.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You need to really hunker down and focus on communication today -- in all its creative forms. Your energy is better spent on poetry than on drafting that email to get a new job.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You need to enjoy what you've got today -- your energy is terrific, and almost anything you choose to do should make life sweeter and more enjoyable for you and your people. Go for it!

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Nothing is quite clear today -- you need to take a big step back before you can make sense of anything. That could work to your advantage, though, as you may spot details you'd never have seen otherwise.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Not much gets done today -- which could mean that you just need to deal with a backlog later. There's nothing wrong with that, especially as fighting too hard against today's pace could result in moving backward!

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You need to stay flexible and enjoy life's little treasures -- there's no sense in walling over every little thing that goes wrong today! All should return to balance soon, and no one knows that better than you.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Your artistic license just got renewed -- make the most of it! All this great energy should make you a hit with your colleagues or friends, as long as you're free with your ideas.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Try something totally new today -- it could be almost anything! Your personal energy is somewhat restless and seeking new inspiration. A new friend, a random website or even a cloud can give it to you!

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You have got to make social connections today -- though not necessarily new ones. Reach out to old friends (even old flames, possibly) to see if you've still got anything to talk about.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Take a chance on that new volunteer opportunity or charity pitch, even if it doesn't quite seem right -- you can always back off later if it falls apart. You need to give back on a day like today.

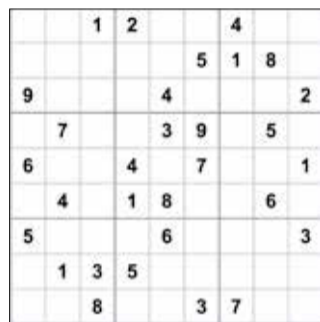
Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You've got to rethink things a bit -- but your great energy helps you do just that with ease. See if you can get your friends to pitch you new ideas for transformative activities. Use them all!

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom

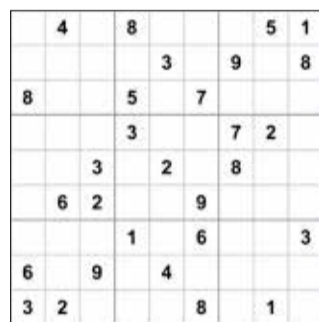


SUDOKU

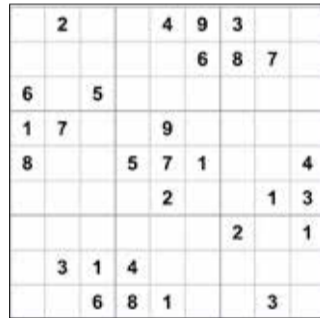
Easy



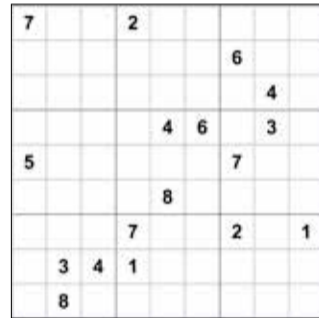
Easy+



Medium



Hard



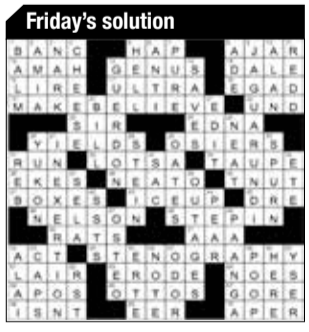
WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Rows include CHINA (Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, Urumqi, Xi'an, Lhasa, Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming, Nanjing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Hangzhou, Taipei, Guangzhou, Hong Kong) and WORLD (Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York).

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Deli offerings; 6- Monetary unit of Cambodia; 10- Vietnam's Dinh Diem; 13- Change; 14- Latin being; 15- Eye drop; 16- Horselike African mammal; 17- Que ___?; 18- Final notice?; 19- Figure skater Lysacek; 20- Snappy comebacks; 22- And others, in Latin; 24- Lipton rival; 28- Raved; 31- Otic; 32- Vast chasm; 34- Distress signal; 36- Galileo's birthplace; 37- Opposite of post-; 38- Baby's ring; 41- UFO pilots; 42- Kansas city; 44- Female rabbit; 45- Lion sounds; 47- Gullible; 49- Drink of the Gods; 51- Agreement; 53- Cavalryman; 56- Vacuum bottle; 59- Hastens; 61- Nick and Nora's pooch; 64- In order (to); 65- Wave-related; 66- Active one; 67- Border; 68- ___ barrel; 69- Photo ___; 70- Highly ranked competitor in sporting events; 71- Infected;

DOWN 1- Labyrinth; 2- Parisian pupil; 3- Ready to hit; 4- Triple; 5- Lady of Sp.; 6- Say again; 7- The wolf ___ the door; 8- Canadian gas brand; 9- Get to know; 10- Kan. neighbor; 11- Moo goo ___ pan; 12- Leftover; 15- Even chance; 20- Washed lightly; 21- Some like it hot; 23- Go the distance; 25- Judge or juror; 26- Bridge positions; 27- ___ poor Yorick; 29- Lauder of cosmetics; 30- Stupid me!; 32- Bellowing; 33- Contradict; 35- Some mattresses; 37- Liquid measure; 39- Long, long time; 40- Horse shade; 43- Hindu incarnation; 46- Where documents are preserved; 48- Biblical verb ending; 50- Concluded; 52- Affirmatives; 54- Down source; 55- Give guns again; 57- Took the train; 58- Merlin, e.g.; 60- Kill; 61- Tumult; 62- Dip in liquid; 63- French possessive; 65- ___ out (dress up);



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AD

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FOOTBALL

A friendly for China and India has billions interested

John Duerden

WHEN the world's most heavily populated countries meet on the football field for the first time in 21 years, there's destined to be billions of people interested in the outcome.

And that's just in China and India. Football's two biggest sleeping giants meet on Saturday for the first time since 1997. Representing about one-third of the world's population, India and China both show signs of growing strength in their domestic leagues, though international success has been limited.

It is the Indian national squad's first visit to China and a chance to see if India has closed the gap on the stronger teams from the continent. The so-called international friendly in Suzhou, near Shanghai, is a big deal for Stephen Constantine, the English coach guiding India's team.

"You play for India," Constantine told a media conference before his squad left for China. "If



China's national football team coach Marcello Lippi

you play chess or backgammon, you take it seriously. You are representing 1.4 billion people. I can't tell you the importance that I put on these games, friendly or no friendly."

Both teams are preparing for the Asian Cup in January in the United Arab Emirates. India has qualified for only the second time since 1984. This time In-

dia has been grouped with the host nation as well as Bahrain and Thailand. With three teams possibly able to progress to the knockout stage, India is hopeful of doing just that.

"We are capable of getting out of the group," Constantine said. "It won't be easy but that is our aim."

Playing China, a country that

has never won the Asian Cup but did reach the final in 2004, should give the Indian players a good idea of the standard expected in January. India has never beaten China in international football, but seems to be closing the gap.

"China is obviously a good side," Constantine said. "They play some good football. It's going to be a difficult game for us but these are the games that we have to play under pressure. They are a great indication of where we are and how far we need to go."

Constantine returned to India for a second stint in charge of the national team in January 2015 and has led the squad from No. 173 in FIFA's world rankings to No. 97, which is 21 places behind China. India secured a spot at the Asian Cup by winning its group in qualifying and Constantine had a chance to look at young players in September's South Asian Cup.

Football is growing in popu-

larity in India. The national team's last home game attracted a capacity crowd against Kenya in Mumbai in June. The India Super League started in 2014 and was expanded from eight to 10 clubs this season and the average attendance of just over 20,000 is second only to the Chinese Super League in Asia.

China's domestic competition has improved in recent years after large investments on foreign stars and coaches that lifted the average attendance to 24,000 so far this season. While Guangzhou Evergrande won the Asian Champions League in 2013 and 2015, the growing strength of the domestic competition hasn't yet fed through to the national team despite Marcello Lippi, the 2006 World Cup-winning coach, taking over in 2016.

China missed out on qualification for the 2018 World Cup and the team was criticized in September for a 1-0 loss to an inexperienced Qatar team and then a 0-0 stalemate with Bahrain. Lippi, who recently announced his retirement after his contract expires at the end of the Asian Cup, said he had some concerns about the condition of his players.

"If the Asian Cup starts next week, I would be really worried, but we still have time to improve," Lippi said. **AP**

AD

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50 years after fists: Who would listen, who would care?

Eddie Pells

TWO men stood together, utilizing the worldwide platform that only the Olympics can provide, to call attention to the struggle they shared with fellow Americans during a divisive, seemingly intractable period in their country's history.

In 1968, sprinters Tommie Smith and John Carlos raised their black-gloved fists on the medals stand.

In 2018, skier Gus Kenworthy and his boyfriend, Matt Wilkas, made their own calculated statement when they kissed at the bottom of a ski slope.

Smith and Carlos had a captive global audience of hundreds of millions to create international headlines thanks to limited choices in a growing TV culture. Today's athletes — even when armed with a powerful message of inclusion or social injustice, a la Kenworthy or the polarizing Colin Kaepernick — face different obstacles. They are communicating to groups fragmented by cable TV, social media and the various echo chambers that define today's public discourse.

And so, even though the Olympics have morphed into a mass-media extravaganza beyond what anyone could've imagined when Smith and Carlos raised their fists 50 years ago, on Oct. 16, 1968, it's hard to envision anything replacing that as the most significant protest in the history of the Olympics, and sports in general.

"Back then, Carlos and Smith were 'The Story' and you couldn't really avoid it," says Washington State professor Scott Jedlicka, who recently



In this 1968 file photo, U.S. athletes Tommie Smith (center) and John Carlos stare downward as they extend gloved hands skyward



John Carlos (left) and Tommie Smith pose for a portrait

gave a lecture to a group of sports historians about the complexities of the Mexico City Games. "Today, not only would it perhaps be forgotten a lot more quickly, but it would also be spun up in so many different ways to drive up meaning and message about the protest's significance."

As true back then as it is today, very few people tune in to a sporting event expecting, or particularly interested in, a lesson about civics or social inequality. Many would prefer for athletes to stay inside the lines.

As images of their defiantly raised fists slowly filtered across the globe, Smith and Carlos were widely vilified, and kicked out of the Olympics by their own country's federation. Both men suffered personally and professionally upon their return to the United States.

Neither has expressed regret about what they did.

"Yes, indeed, it was worth it," Smith said in an interview aired on BBC this month.

Carlos' words from 50 years ago still resonate in many corners today: "White America would not understand," he said that night. "They recognize me only when I do something bad, and they call me 'Negro.'"

If the reaction to the sprinters, over weeks, and months and then years, was a slow-moving tsunami, the reaction to Kenworthy and Wilkas was more like a fast-moving, then quickly extinguished, wildfire.

Though their kiss was picked up by TV cameras, it didn't start trending until the images were redistributed via social media. It was a purposeful and powerful gambit by Kenworthy, who used his Twitter and Insta-

gram accounts throughout the Pyeongchang Games to help bring LGBT issues to the fore.

Images of the kiss went viral, but the nature of 2018-style social media made the episode a juicy morsel for a news cycle. It was quickly overrun by outrage over Korean dog meat farms and politically charged rants about Ivanka Trump's visit to Pyeongchang.

Part of this might be a sign of progress — the image of gay athletes kissing doesn't evoke the same response now as it would have 20, or 50, years ago, Jedlicka says.

But another part "speaks to the fact that you don't have the media gatekeepers you had in 1968," said John Koch, who teaches a course called 'Rhetoric, Sports and Society' at Vanderbilt.

"It used to be the media had

the sole responsibility of what was salient, worthy of seeing," Koch said. "Twitter users have that same ability now."

That's what has helped Kaepernick, in many ways, become this generation's Smith and Carlos.

When the quarterback first kneeled to protest racial and social injustice during the national anthem, it went completely unnoticed during a preseason NFL game and only gained traction through the powers of social media. From there, his message has been filtered and re-filtered through everything from tweets by President Donald Trump to ads run by his corporate supporter, Nike.

Most poignantly, sports has become a central part of the (hashtag)MeToo movement in the wake of the Larry Nassar sex-abuse scandal, which exposed the physician as the molester of hundreds of young female athletes, including members of the U.S. Olympic gymnastics team.

The hashtag in "(hashtag)MeToo" says all we need to know about the medium through which some of the most heart-wrenching calls to action have come.

It reinforces the words of Marshall McLuhan, the renowned intellectual who famously declared "The medium is the message" — a nod to the idea that the way information is disseminated is every bit as important as the information itself.

In 1968, Smith and Carlos felt the sting of social injustice and knew they could draw attention to it on the Olympic medals stand.

Fifty years later, athletes have more outlets at their disposal to point out similar problems of inequality. But once they use them, the myriad of platforms can help turn one story into a slow-moving Kaepernick tsunami and relegate another to a Kenworthy-Wilkas news minute. **AP**

Scolari inspiring Palmeiras and leaving 7-1 behind

Mauricio Savarese, Sao Paulo

IT was the middle of a July summer night in Cascais, a seaside Portuguese city, when Luiz Felipe Scolari's cell phone rang. His first thought was one of his children might be in trouble. Instead, it was an invitation to come home. Back to Brazil.

"I was a little scared at first," Scolari said in August at his introduction at Palmeiras, the Sao Paulo club he led to their only South American crown

in 1999. "I was talking to other national federations, but I went back to bed and could not sleep. Now I am happy to be here."

Scolari left Brazil in 2014, in shame. He was coach of the national team when it was annihilated by Germany 7-1 that year in the World Cup semifinals, in Brazil. The coach known as Big Phil moved to China shortly after the debacle, promising to avoid Brazil for as long as possible.

Palmeiras sought the 69-year-old Scolari be-

cause it was in trouble. A team with some of the best players in South America, including winger Dudu, midfielder Lucas Lima, and Colombia striker Miguel Borja, was lagging sixth in the Brazilian championship and struggling in the Copa Libertadores.

Coach Roger Machado, who played under Scolari at Gremio in the 1990s, was fired by the same executive who called Scolari in the middle of the night. Palmeiras fans were happy with Big Phil's return. Adversaries

were happy, too; they thought the move was doomed to fail.

Scolari made Palmeiras' defense more reliable with Luan and Gustavo Gomez. Lucas Lima, a reserve under Machado, was given more minutes. Striker Deyverson, deemed as too unstable, became a safe option when Borja was having an off day.

With 10 matches to go in the Brazilian championship, Palmeiras leads by three points, and is in the semifinals of the Copa Libertado-

res against Boca Juniors. Scolari and Palmeira are out of contention only in the Brazilian Cup, where they were stopped in the semifinals.

Today [Macau time], Palmeiras plays fifth-place Gremio, Scolari's boyhood club, a team that is also in the Copa Libertadores semifinals. The coach said: "It is probably one of the most difficult games we have until the end of the Brazilian championship." In other words, Scolari is right where he wants to be. **AP**



Miguel Borja celebrates with coach Luiz Felipe Scolari after scoring the penalty spot his side's second goal against Chile's Colo Colo

opinion

Views on China

David Fickling, Bloomberg

BLAME THE TRADE WAR FOR CHINA'S LUXURY SWOOP

China just dealt a blow to the global luxury goods industry. You can blame the trade war for that. The crackdown on the daigou trade — in which tourists, friends and relatives buy high-value products overseas and send them back into the country to avoid China's hefty sales and import taxes — has sent shares in luxury houses tumbling. After LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton SE told investors last week that officials were inspecting such grey imports at Chinese airports, stocks in a host of high-end companies fell by 5 percent or more. The announcement crystallized swirling fears in the industry by putting official confirmation on something that's been the subject of rumor on Chinese social media for the past week or so.

China now accounts for about a third of luxury sales, and contributed about three-quarters of spending growth in the sector in the eight years through 2016. The question is: Why would officials choose this moment to antagonize its aspirational citizens? The best explanation relates to two aspects of China's trade tensions with the U.S.

Firstly, there's the fact that the daigou trade is vast. Chinese tourists spent about USD762 a head on shopping while overseas in 2017, according to Nielsen Holdings. While that's just a quarter of their total outlays on holiday, when spread across 131 million trips, it represents about \$100 billion of foreign goods being brought in under the counter. If anything, that possibly understates things: A great deal of the daigou trade is done by non-tourists, such as Chinese students in Melbourne buying vitamins and baby formula to send by post to contacts back home.

Even before the current clashes with Washington, President Xi Jinping had made increasing the quantity of goods coming into the country a key objective, with an import expo scheduled in Shanghai next month. Encouraging Chinese consumers to buy more from overseas serves a dual purpose, further narrowing the country's \$350 billion trade surplus with the world and simultaneously nudging it along the road to rebalancing from industrial-led to consumption-led growth.

Of course, searching bags and imposing swingeing sales taxes on people trying to bring whisky, cosmetics and bags through Shanghai airport isn't going to make that trade disappear overnight. Even after pruning its dizzying list of 1,500 import tariffs in July, China still levies a 17 percent sales tax that's far higher than rates elsewhere in Asia, as well as special consumption taxes for a range of "sinful" products such as alcohol, tobacco, high-end goods and cars.

Still, any shift in that \$100 billion shopping bill from off-the-books daigou imports to official transactions in Chinese shops will serve to narrow the trade surplus. If just a third of the annual total could be made official, the surplus would shrink by 10 percent.

There's a second-order benefit too. Like the U.S., China has been cutting income taxes to butter up its population for the fight ahead. That's left it facing an impossible trilemma as it tries simultaneously to increase spending and reduce its deficit against the backdrop of a slowing economy. The reduction in import tariffs makes that worse, cutting a further 60 billion yuan from the budget, according to Deloitte.

If China's luxury spending could only be brought onshore and formalized, that black hole could be much more easily filled. Sales taxes alone on half of the daigou trade would be sufficient to cover the reduction in import tariffs; add on consumption taxes, which have an array of different rates as high as 56 percent, and the government will be well ahead.

Trying to plug imbalances in China's fiscal and trade balances by heavy-handed inspections of returning tourists is a clumsy way of doing public policy, and it's more likely to fail than succeed. While luxury goods are famously inelastic in price — meaning that raising their cost by bringing the trade onshore shouldn't reduce demand by much — Chinese consumers often favor products brought in from overseas because of perceptions about quality and counterfeiting. That means locally bought equivalents aren't a perfect substitute for imports.

That's little consolation to the luxury boutiques of Tokyo, Seoul, Paris, Milan and Hong Kong.

THE UK FANS FLOCKED TO TV TO WATCH BUZZ PRINCESS EUGENIE'S WEDDING

The royal wedding of Princess Eugenie and Jack Brooksbank was a big hit in terms of British TV viewership. ITV said Saturday that it added roughly 2.1 million viewers during its extended morning program that showed live coverage of Friday's wedding at Windsor Castle.

ITV was the only U.K. broadcaster that showed the entire service live from St. George's Chapel.

Competitors BBC and Sky News

showed snippets of the wedding and the crowds thronging the streets of Windsor outside the castle.

BBC blamed a failure of its voice recognition system for a subtitle that briefly referred to Eugenie's "beautiful breasts" rather than her "beautiful dress" as she walked up the stairs to the chapel. Eugenie is the granddaughter of Queen Elizabeth II and ninth in line to the British throne.



Saudis reject threats as stocks plunge after Trump comments

Jon Gambrell, Dubai

SAUDI Arabia warned yesterday it will respond to any "threats" against it as its stock market plunged following President Donald Trump's warning of "severe punishment" over the disappearance of Washington Post contributor Jamal Khashoggi.

Trump made a point of visiting the kingdom on his first overseas trip as president and has touted arms sales to Saudi Arabia. But both the White House and the kingdom are under mounting pressure as concern grows over the fate of the veteran journalist, who hasn't been seen since he entered the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul on Oct. 2.

Already, international business leaders are pulling out of the kingdom's upcoming investment forum, a high-profile event known as "Davos in the Desert."

"The kingdom affirms its total rejection of any threats and attempts to undermine it, whether by threatening to impose economic sanctions, using political pressures or repeating false accusations," the statement published by the state-run Saudi Press Agency read. "The kingdom also affirms that if it receives any action, it will respond with greater action, and that the kingdom's economy has an influential and vital role in the global economy."

The statement from the world's top oil exporter came after the Tadawul exchange in Riyadh dropped by 7 percent at one point during the week's first day of trading, with 182 of its 186 listed stocks showing losses by the early afternoon. The market clawed back some of the losses, closing down 3.5 percent for the day.

Turkish officials say they fear Saudi agents killed and dismembered Khashoggi after he entered the consulate, saying they have audio and video recordings of it that they have not released. The kingdom has called the allegations "baseless," but has offered no evidence the writer ever left the consulate.



Trump told CBS' "60 Minutes" that the consequences of Saudi Arabia being involved would be "severe." "There's something really terrible and disgusting about that, if that was the case, so we're going to have to see," Trump said. "We're going to get to the bottom of it and there will be severe punishment." However, Trump in the same interview said: "As of this moment, they deny it and they deny it vehemently. Could it be them? Yes."

Other stock exchanges in the Mideast saw far less volatility yesterday. U.S. markets have been rattled by rising interest rates, signs of a slowdown in the global economy and the U.S.-China trade dispute.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has aggressively pitched the kingdom as a destination for foreign investment. But Khashoggi's disappearance, and suspicions he may have been targeted over his criticism of the crown prince, have led several business leaders and media outlets to back out of an upcoming high-profile investment conference in Riyadh.

Trump also said "we would be punishing ourselves" by canceling arms sales to Saudi Arabia, which his administration touted on his first overseas trip. The sale is a "tremendous order for our companies," and if the kingdom doesn't buy its weaponry from the Uni-

ted States, they will buy it from others, he said. Trump said he would meet with Khashoggi's family.

American lawmakers in both parties have been more critical of Saudi Arabia, with several suggesting officials in the kingdom could be sanctioned if they were found to be involved in Khashoggi's disappearance and alleged killing.

Khashoggi, who was considered close to the Saudi royal family, had become a critic of the current government and Prince Mohammed, the 33-year-old heir apparent who has shown little tolerance for criticism.

As a contributor to the Post, Khashoggi has written extensively about Saudi Arabia, including criticism of its war in Yemen, its recent diplomatic spat with Canada and its arrest of women's rights activists after the lifting of a ban on women driving.

Those policies are all seen as initiatives of the crown prince, who has also presided over a roundup of activists and businessmen.

Trump has repeatedly criticized Saudi Arabia and King Salman over rising global oil prices. Benchmark Brent crude now trades above \$80 a barrel and U.S. gasoline prices have risen ahead of the midterm elections.

Earlier this month, Trump suggested Saudi Arabia's king "might not be there for two weeks" without U.S. military support. AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	45-65 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	30-50 Good
Ambient	50-70 Good

WORLD BRIEFS



INDIA Twelve people were feared dead in a cyclone shelter swamped by a landslide caused by heavy rains in eastern India, officials said Saturday.

SYRIA A month after Russia, Turkey and Iran came together in a last-ditch effort to avert a potentially catastrophic Syrian government offensive in Idlib, they appear to have succeeded in creating a buffer zone around the northern rebel-held province, defusing tensions in a major flashpoint region. More on p15

TURKEY At least 22 migrants, including children, have been killed in a truck accident yesterday, Turkey's official news agency said.



SOMALIA is marking the first anniversary of one of the world's deadliest attacks since 9/11, a truck bombing in the heart of Mogadishu that killed well over 500 people.

POLAND Police used tear gas and a water cannon against right-wing extremists who were trying to block the first equality parade in the city of Lublin in eastern Poland.



GERMANY Bavarians were voting yesterday in a state election that was expected to deal the prosperous region's long-dominant conservative party a stinging setback, with unpredictable consequences for German Chancellor Angela Merkel's (pictured) federal government.

PORTUGAL A weakened hurricane Leslie slammed into the coast of Portugal, leaving 27 people injured as it uprooted trees, brought down power lines and smashed store windows with gusting winds and heavy rain.