

### MACAU-KOTA KINABALU ROUTE OPENS

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### HKD DROPS MOST SINCE 2016

Hong Kong's dollar weakened the most since February 2016, unwinding some of last week's jump

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### IRAN WARNS OF 'WAR SITUATION'

The re-imposition of U.S. sanctions was greeted with air defense drills and a statement from Iran's president Rouhani

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## IMPORT FAIR BEGINS

# Xi vows to open China's consumer market

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## OPEN HOUSE

# Architects list 50 historic and contemporary buildings, sites

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## WORLD BRIEFS

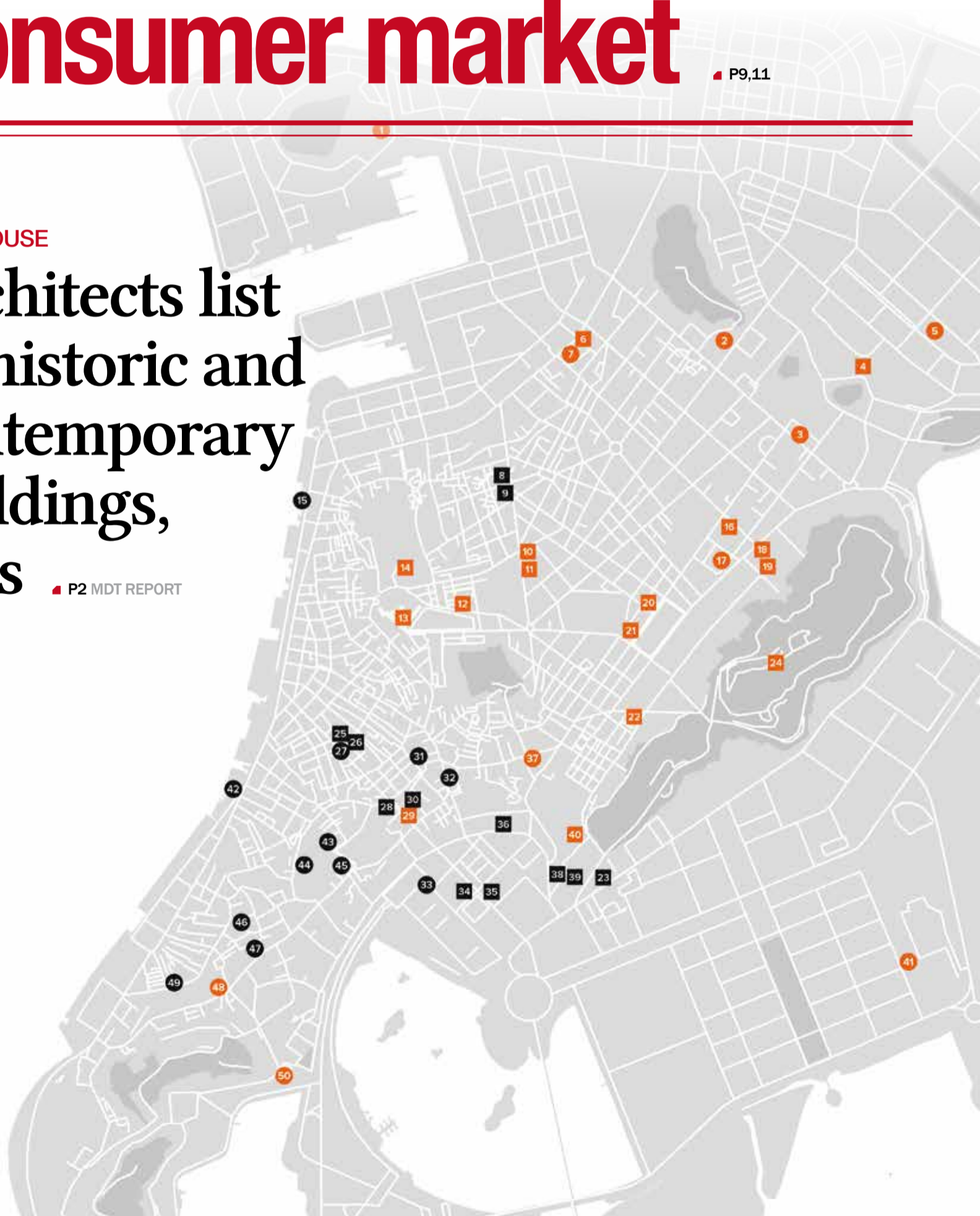
**AUSTRALIA-INDONESIA** Indonesian and Australian ministers signed an agreement to strengthen government economic exchanges yesterday as the neighboring countries work toward forging a bilateral free trade deal.



**MYANMAR** Lawyers for two Reuters journalists sentenced to seven years in prison in Myanmar for possession of official documents are appealing the verdict, the news agency said yesterday. Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo had been reporting on a military-led brutal crackdown on the Muslim Rohingya minority when they were arrested and charged with violating Myanmar's colonial-era Official Secrets Act.

**INDIA** Villagers in northern India have crushed a tiger to death with a tractor after it killed a man, despite the tiger living in a wildlife reserve, officials said yesterday.

More on backpage



# Open House to promote city's architecture, urban culture



Nuno Soares

## Lynzy Valles

**O**PEN House Macau (OHM) is slated to make its debut in the city on November 10 and 11, with a mission of promoting architecture and urban culture in the city.

Initiated by a non-profit organization, Curb – Center for Architecture and Urbanism, the two-day event will allow the general public to visit 50 buildings that are not ordinarily accessible by the public.

OHM is a member of the renowned Open House Worldwide, which includes over 40 cities in four continents.

According to the curator, Nuno Soares, the main idea of the event, being the first in Asia, is to

democratize architecture.

“Architecture is for everyone [...] so we want the entire community to be able to celebrate the architectural history of Macau, visit these buildings and to be able to start to engage with like-minded people who are also interested in our architectural heritage,” Soares, who is an architect and urban planner, told the Times.

“We don’t want to turn these buildings into museums. They should be part of the living city and be used [as part of] daily life,” he added.

The event will accommodate three kinds of visits: free visits, guided visits and commented visits, which involve experts or private building owners who will

speak about the designated building.

With a slogan of “architecture beyond walls,” one of the purposes of the initiative is also to speak about the architectural features of the buildings and the motivations behind the establishment of the buildings.

“We want to create a platform for the building owners [and] users to share their experiences and their interests with the visitors,” Soares explained.

Macau has many layers of architectural culture; thus Soares deemed that it is significant for the region to understand the “untold architectural history,” noting that there is a lack of architecture books on the city.

The 50 buildings were classified

under five periods including Chinese vernacular, neo-classical, modernist, contemporary and art deco.

“So this isn’t focusing on Chinese and Portuguese architecture, but focusing on the culture of Macau, which is very rich, very complex and multi-layered,” the architect explained.

“This will give the visitors the key to start to understand a bit of the reality around them. Many don’t have this classification, but in Macau we find that it is important because [...] we don’t have that many books on architecture Macau and it is not extensively researched,” Soares added.

However, the scholar defended that it is normal in some countries and cities not to have extensive

research on particular topics and that many books contain knowledge that is built on a series of events.

“We will create one more brick in this wall of knowledge. Instead of complaining that we don’t have information, we want to build up that information; expand what exists and initiate what doesn’t exist. It’s our contribution to this architectural history of Macau,” said Soares.

He hinted that amongst the 50 buildings would be the Leal Senado building, which will open its library and Nobel Room over the weekend.

“We don’t have that many books on architecture in Macau and it is not extensively researched.”

NUNO SOARES  
ARCHITECT

OHM is intended to be an annual event and it is eyeing an extension into Taipa and then to Coloane in its next installment.

Pre-registration is required, and organizers said that they are set to release the list of the buildings soon.

Over 100 volunteer applications have been received for the event. Volunteers will engage with visitors to enable them to uncover the architectural history of Macau.

Bringing the idea to the SAR took some two years, as a one-year pre-qualification with the organizers in London was needed, along with needing permission to host the event in Macau.

Victoria Thornton, president and founder of Open House Worldwide, will be in attendance at the debut in Macau.

## EDUCATION

# Scholars discuss integrated resorts in Japan

**T**HE sixth module of the Global Leadership Development Programme Series: International Integrated Resort Management, co-organized by the University of Macau’s (UM) Asia-Pacific Academy of Economics and Management

(APAEM) and Faculty of Business Administration (FBA), is now open for enrolment. With a theme of ‘Contextual Mindset in Integrated Resort’, the program will take place in Macau from November 30 to December 3. Davis Fong, director of UM’s

Institute for the Study of Commercial Gaming, as well as associate professor Ricardo Siu and assistant professor Morris Liu from the FBA, will be the keynote speakers.

The four-day module will focus on the current development of inte-

grated resorts in Japan. Participants will have the opportunity to learn theoretical knowledge about gaming and casino management, gaming law, gaming marketing, gaming mathematics, and international integrated resort manage-

ment. In addition, participants can join the Seventh World Business Ethics Forum and visit integrated resorts and gaming companies in Macau to learn about their operation and management model.

This module is specially

designed for senior executives working in international integrated resorts or the gaming industry, senior government officials, and scholars, researchers, senior consultants, and administrative personnel in related fields.

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF (DIRECTOR) Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com  
MANAGING EDITOR Paulo Barbosa paulo.barbosa@macaudailytimes.com  
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Eric Sautedé, Leanda Lee, Severo Portela

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Daniel Beitler, Emilie Tran, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Julie Zhu, Juliet Risdon, Lynzy Valles, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Viviana Segui  
DESIGNERS Eva Bucho, Miguel Bandeira | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES Associated Press, Bloomberg, Financial Times, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua | SECRETARY Yang Dongxiao arry@macaudailytimes.com

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

SECRETARY Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

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HKZMB

# Passenger growth at Hong Kong checkpoint

**P**ASSENGER numbers at the Hong Kong checkpoint of the newly opened 55-kilometer sea bridge across the Pearl River estuary reached an all-time high on Saturday, as authorities scrambled to prevent the chaos of the previous weekend.

Some 78,300 passengers had crossed the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge's (HKZMB) Hong Kong checkpoint as of 8 p.m. on Saturday, reported South China Morning Post, citing the city's Immigration Department.

This figure narrowly beat the 78,000 passengers recorded on October 28, the Sunday of the first weekend after the bridge's

inauguration on October 23. Last Saturday, around 59,000 people crossed the Hong Kong checkpoint.

However, even as passenger numbers continued to rise, congestion on parts of the bridge network remained a challenge.

The SCMP reports that hundreds of travellers were waiting in long queues at the mainland checkpoint of the bridge, but most were seated on a bus bound for Hong Kong in about 20 minutes. Many of the travelers belonged to mainland tour groups.

In Hong Kong, passenger flow throughout the terminal remained orderly and not overly congested, reported the SCMP. There

were no reports of long queues on the Macau side, where more visitors are expected to favor the Border Gate crossing.

Last weekend's congestion marked a strong improvement over the previous weekend,

## NEW CROSSINGS RECORD SET ON HKZMB

**AS OF** 5 p.m. on Sunday, more than 60,000 people had crossed the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge Zhuhai port, 90 percent more than the previous Sunday. The majority of the port's users are visitors coming in tour groups. One tour group from Jiangmen complained of poor management

and insufficient capacity, having been made to line up for more than two hours before waiting to cross from Zhuhai and take the bus to Hong Kong. The Hong Kong port also recorded the highest number of crossings on Sunday, with more than 90,000 crossings registered.

when thousands of passengers were stranded for hours waiting to get on the bridge. The travel chaos led some to express concerns about coach operators' ability to cope with passenger demand.

The bridge's opening ceremony was presided over by Chinese President Xi Jinping, who traveled to Zhuhai for the occasion. The ceremony had been announced suddenly last month, with little information provided to coach operators beforehand.

At the time, a representative of coach operator One Bus Hong Kong Macau, which runs land-based shuttle services between the two special administrative regions, stated: "This is a mega project. [...] At such short notice and without any details, how can we make the necessary [logistical] arrangements? It will cause chaos and great inconvenience to the passengers."

However, the 24-hour shuttle bus service - nicknamed the "golden bus" for the color of its vehicles - is adapting. The operator has increased the number of buses in its fleet from 120 to 138 and now rents another 20 to 30 vehicles from other companies during weekends, the SCMP reported.

## Broad money supply continues to grow

Macau's broad money supply continued to grow in September with a stable share of patacas, as broad monetary supply grew by 10.3 percent year-on-year to MOP626.4 billion. According to statistics published by the Monetary Authority of Macao, the currency in circulation grew 3.2 percent month-to-month whereas demand deposits dropped 5.3 percent. Resident deposits grew 0.7 percent from the preceding month to MOP610.5 billion while non-resident deposits also rose 3.3 percent to MOP244.2 billion. Meanwhile, public sector deposits with the banking sector increased 2.1 percent to MOP223.7 billion. As a result, total deposits in the banking sector grew 1.6 percent from a month earlier to MOP1,078.4 billion. Domestic loans to the private sector grew 2.7 percent from a month ago to MOP491.5 billion.

## Call for toilet paper in public bathrooms

Lawmaker Mak Soi Kun once again is drawing the public's attention to public bathrooms, in particular in relation to toilet paper. In his written inquiry to the government, Mak pointed out that 26 out of 81 local public bathrooms do not have accessible facilities. Kun further claimed that upon inspection, the city's public bathrooms were found to lack toilet paper, causing inconvenience to users. He requested an explanation from the government.

# DHL Express expands investment in China to tap trade growth

**G**ERMAN logistics titan DHL Express will step up its investment in China to seize new business opportunities as the country reforms and opens up.

"We are the witness, participant and beneficiary of China's reform and opening-up drive," said Wu Dongming, CEO of DHL Express China and managing director of DHL-Sinotrans International Air Courier Ltd.

The popularity of cross-border e-commerce and China's steady economic expansion bode well for the international express industry, and DHL will invest more in developing infrastructure in China, he said.

DHL opened its Zhuhai, Guangdong gateway on Friday to boost the effi-



**■ The company opened its Zhuhai gateway on Friday to boost the efficiency of its international logistics express delivery west of the Pearl River**

ciency of its international logistics express delivery west of the Pearl River, as the newly opened Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge eases transport between the mainland and the two special administrative regions.

According to Wu, the 55-kilometer bridge is expected to reduce the time needed for express transportation between Hong Kong and the west of the Pearl River from four hours to 45 minutes. A new air cargo service route between Shenzhen, Guangdong and Leipzig, Germany also opened on Friday.

Wu sees huge business potential in Guangzhou and Shenzhen, two pioneer cities instrumental in China's drive to reform and open up, which are

home to many trade-oriented high-tech firms and cross-border e-commerce platforms.

DHL Express is expanding a logistics hub in Hong Kong, which will have a stock area of about 50,000 square meters and improve cargo management efficiency by 50 percent.

China is the biggest market for DHL-Sinotrans International Air Courier Ltd, a joint venture of DHL and Chinese logistics giant Sinotrans, established in 1986. As the country's biggest international express service provider, DHL-Sinotrans' business enjoys a double-digit annual compound growth rate and now covers about 400 cities nationwide. **MDT/Xinhua**

## Woman injured due to personal relationship issue

A local woman, aged 25, has been arrested for assault, after she deliberately dragged another local woman, aged 28, with a car. The accused and the victim are the current girlfriend and the ex-girlfriend of the same local man, respectively. On Saturday, the accused spotted the victim inside her boyfriend's car, in the front passenger seat. The accused entered the vehicle and began driving it, after a brawl with the victim, who was dragged for about two seconds, or roughly ten meters, sustaining injuries to her head. The victim is currently in ICU, where she remains in critical condition.

# AirAsia kicks off city's first direct flight to Kota Kinabalu

Lynzy Valles

**A**IRASIA officially inaugurated the SAR's first direct flight to Kota Kinabalu yesterday, marking the airline's second Malaysian route and the seventh international destination from Macau.

This is the budget carrier's third route to Kota Kinabalu this year after launching routes from Bangkok and Kunming.

According to Celia Lao, CEO of AirAsia Hong Kong and Macau, the route has been planned for a long time due to public demand.

"We could not find a good timing [to launch flights] from Kota Kinabalu to Macau [before]. At that time, the Macau market wasn't mature enough, which is why we have been planning this route for a long time," said Lao, implying that the launch of this route was intended to coincide with that of the Kuala Lumpur route.

"Since the infrastructure is ready [...] we can bring in passengers not just from the Pearl River Delta. [...] We see that



Celia Lao, CEO of AirAsia Hong Kong and Macau

it's a good timing, this route has been requested by passengers for a long time," she added.

The flight will operate four times a week on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

Guests from Tawau, Sabah and Kuching, Sarawak can also fly to the SAR using the AirAsia Fly-Thru service for seamless transit via Kota Kinabalu.

"We expect that this route will be another successful route because it's unique. There are no other carriers flying from Macau to Kota Kinabalu," Lao said.

"We can see in the passenger mix that there are Malaysians [flying to Macau] from the Sabah side, so we expect that in this route, we can achieve 70 percent of [that]," she added.

She said AirAsia could offer daily flights if the demand is high.

Meanwhile, Malaysia CEO Riad Asmat noted that Kota Kinabalu is its second largest hub in Malaysia after Kuala Lumpur and pledged to continue to grow its network from the Malaysian city.

The budget carrier will launch a Krabi route on December 1.

It is also set to launch a Cebu City route on February 8, offering promotional fares starting from MOP288.

Lao did not reveal whether the carrier would launch more flights next year, in addition to the Macau-Cebu route.

"We have many hubs now [...] and it really depends on the market demand. It's hard to say how many we can launch [next year] but if the market is there, why not? We are prepared to launch more flights from Macau," said Lao.

## TURKISH FLIGHT REMAINS A POSSIBILITY

**ERIC FONG**, director of the Marketing Department of Macau International Airport Company Ltd., noted that Southeast Asia is an important source market for Macau, given the growth of air passenger travel. According to statistics, passengers of the Southeast Asia market posted a year-on-year

growth of 11 percent in the first three quarters of 2018. Fong added that the airport will continue to upgrade the electronic check-in service in the future. Regarding whether Turkish Airlines will open a route to Macau, Fong said that the airport has been in talks to implement the route next year.

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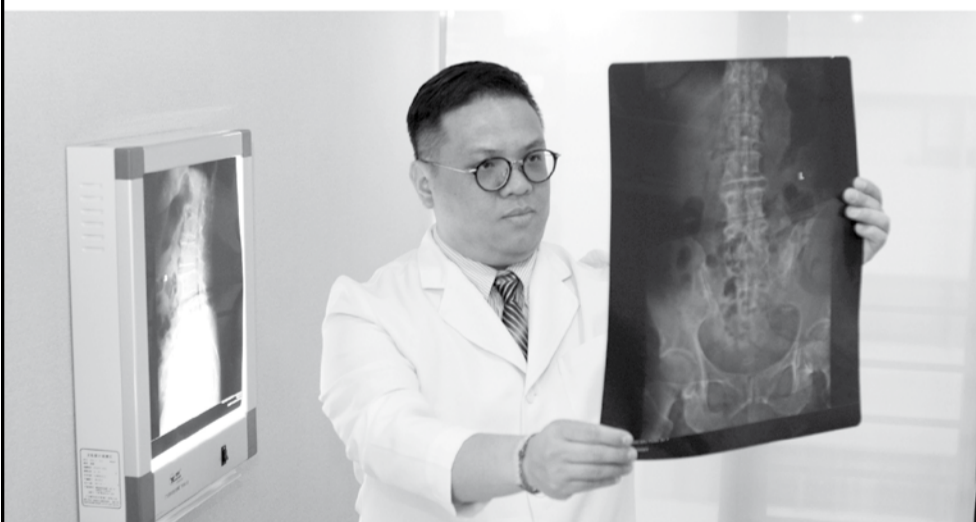
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# Lawmaker calls for Cathay data breach follow-up

**L**AWMAKER Lei Cheng I has called for the Macau government to follow up on a recent data breach at Cathay Pacific Airway Ltd that affected more than nine million passengers.

In a written inquiry, Lei called upon the local government to follow up with the Hong Kong government on the breach and its impact on Macau residents.

The information exposed in the Cathay hack includes names, nationalities, birthdates, phone numbers, emails, physical addresses, passport numbers, identity cards and frequent-flier programs, as well as historical travel information.

On Friday, Hong Kong's government said that it was "highly concerned" about the incident and has asked the airline to "fully cooperate" with the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data on a compliance check.



Lei also urged Macau's Personal Data Protection Office to publish statistics on assistance requests related to the data breach.

The lawmaker said that cases of personal data breach, including incidents invol-

ving travel agencies, have been increasingly reported in Hong Kong in recent years.

Macau's current Personal Data Protection Act was approved in 2005. Lei noted that there is a necessity

to amend Macau's personal data protection act as it has been in effect for many years.

In addition, Lei proposed that enterprises should report to government departments when data breach incidents occur.

## CRIME

# Four charged with covering up arson suspect

Julie Zhu

**F**OUR people have been charged with absolving an illegal worker from criminal liability in an arson case, the Judiciary Police (PJ) reported yesterday during a press conference.

Three of the accused are local residents: a 38-year-old contractor and self-proclaimed Macau businessman

surnamed Lei; a 34-year-old local renovation worker surnamed Lam; and a 31-year-old local renovation worker surnamed Lei. The fourth is a 46-year-old unemployed man and mainland resident surnamed Lin.

On the night of October 30, the police received a report from the Fire Services Bureau (CB) about a fire at a facility under renovation

at Taipa Ocean Garden. The report indicated that the fire might have been caused by the renovation workers.

According to the PJ, on October 31, the 38-year-old contractor Lei brought two workers to the PJ, who admitted their liability for the fire accident.

One of the workers, 31-year-old Lei, told the police that he had discarded a cigarette butt and triggered the fire alarm. His fellow worker, Lam, claimed to have witnessed Lei's actions.

However, during its investigation, the PJ found out that neither worker was in Macau when the accident

occurred. The contractor later admitted to the police that he had found these two local residents through an intermediary – the mainlander, Lin – to cover up for the real perpetrator.

On November 1, the PJ found Lin, who admitted to his involvement.

The PJ believes that the actual suspect is likely to be an illegal worker, which could be the reason behind the stories fabricated by the four men. The two workers did not reveal the payment for the cover-up. The real perpetrator is still at large.

Losses caused by the fire were not calculated as of press time. However, a PJ spokesperson indicated a small loss, since only a few papers were burnt.

Data from the CB for the first quarter of 2018 shows that 18 fire alarms were triggered by cigarette butts.

# Mother accused of assaulting son

**A** 37-year-old local mother has been transferred to the prosecution authorities for assaulting her four-year-old son, the PJ reported during the same press conference.

The suspect and the victim live in the government's affordable housing project flat in Coloane.

On November 2, the boy was found with several bruises on his body. The mother told the police she had beaten him because he had played with fire at home and burnt the sofa.

The police investigation showed that some of the boy's bruises were likely to have been sustained while he played with the fire.

According to police records, the mother had previously beaten her children in 2017 as well. The beatings were triggered by her children playing with fire at home and by neighbors complaining about the children's behavior.

# Hong Kong Literary Festival says tickets still available



**T**HERE are still a few tickets available for the 2018 Hong Kong Literary Festival, which runs until Sunday, November 11 at its new location at the Tai Kwun Centre for Heritage and Arts.

This year's event will examine keystone themes such as feminism, LGBTQ+ issues and travel. Organizers have invited writers specializing in a variety of subjects, including music, history, politics, science fiction, poetry and the environment.

Notable sessions this year include the Wall Street Journal's Tom Wright, who will be talking about "Billion Dollar Whale"; Jonathan Miller, Asia Correspondent for Britain's Channel 4, discussing his new biography on Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte; Hong Kong-born singer-songwriter Emmy the Great; memoirist and novelist Cheryl Strayed, author of "Wild"; and Irvine Welsh, author of cult classic "Trainspotting."

## Irvine Welsh, author of cult classic 'Trainspotting' is among the invited

The Festival is also holding several workshops for participants this year, including one that discusses how to start a podcast and a "Beginners' Writing Workshop". For more advanced writers and editors, there will be sessions titled "Literary Editing Workshop" and "Based on a True Story: Writing Workshop".

The organizers aim to attract 10,000 visitors to this year's Literary Festival, doubling the approximately 5,000 who attended in 2017. Part of the reason for setting up shop at the Tai Kwun Centre for Heritage and Arts – a Hong Kong arts and culture hub – is the new venue's capacity for much larger audiences.

Festival director Phillipa Milne says that bringing the Festival together under a single roof has allowed organizers to build "more of a festival atmosphere" and allow writers to mingle more freely with visitors.

The Festival's themes this year align with the topical feminism and #MeToo movements, reflecting on current affairs that have ensnared celebrities and public figures the world over.

"While we are a literary festival and the focus is on books, we want people to know that we are also about ideas and conversations," Milne told the South China Morning Post.

## MONEY EXCHANGE GANG ON THE RUN AFTER ROBBERY ATTEMPT

**A MAINLAND** man has been injured by a gang who tried to rob him of HKD1.8 million cash, according to the PJ. On November 3, the victim and a mainland woman won HKD1.8 million from a casino in Taipa. The two, intending to send the money (in RMB) back to mainland Chi-

na, planned to exchange the cash with a money exchange gang. When the gang and the victim met in the victim's hotel room, a gang member attempted to take the funds by force. While the robbery attempt was ultimately unsuccessful, the victim sustained minor injuries.

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# Jack Ma labels trade war 'most stupid thing'

**B**ILLIONAIRE Alibaba co-founder Jack Ma called fighting over trade senseless and decried once again a widening conflict between the U.S. and China.

China's richest person - who warned just last month that a trade war could last two decades - argued it was pointless to target goods because the Asian nation was on its way to becoming a major buyer of foreign products. Indeed, it's services - such as those on the internet - powering job growth, not old-school manufacturing, the outgoing Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. chairman told a business forum yesterday.

Ma, whose online commerce empire is China's largest corporation, has been a vocal opponent of tit-for-tat tariffs imposed on hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of U.S.-Chinese goods. Donald Trump is now exerting pressure on the Asian nation to wind back its USD423 billion trade surplus with the world.



Jack Ma

While the American President has floated the possibility of a deal when he meets his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, in coming weeks, the two countries remain far apart on everything from market access to government support for state-run enterprises.

"Trade war is the most stupid thing in this world," Ma said at the China International Import Expo in Shanghai. Xi, who addressed attendees

in the morning, is touting the forum as a major showcase of the country's purchasing power.

Ma's comments come as Alibaba is on the verge of kicking off its most important annual shopping event - Singles' Day on Nov. 11 - an online bargains extravaganza that often has a heavy foreign commerce component.

While Alibaba gets most of its revenue from domestic commerce, Ma and his fellow

executives have championed China as a destination for foreign-made products - American or otherwise. The company hosts major brands like Nike and Urban Outfitters on sites such as Tmall Global that showcase international merchandise for local consumers.

"It is the greatest challenge for China" to transform itself into an importing nation, Ma said. But that's also "the greatest opportunity for the world."

In October, Ma told World Trade Organization delegates that the Geneva-based body has come under threat from Trump's efforts to re-cast the international trading system in a way that he says will be more balanced toward the U.S. The American president has this year targeted allies and adversaries alike, threatening tariffs on all of China's exports, proposing levies on European car-makers and saying he could leave the WTO, which he has described as "unfair." **Bloomberg**

## GAMING

# Genting Malaysia falls most on record amid higher casino levies



Effie Chew

**G**ENTING Malaysia Bhd. suffered its worst one-day fall on record as most analysts downgraded the stock after the government announced Friday that casinos' annual fees and duties on gross income will be raised.

The Malaysian casino operator tumbled as much as 30 percent, the biggest drop since its 1989 listing. Its parent Genting Bhd. fell as much as 12 percent, the most since 1998. Genting Malaysia was down 20 percent as of the midday break in Kuala Lumpur while Genting traded 3.8 percent lower.

Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng announced in his budget speech Friday that the annual fees for casino licenses will be increased to 150 million ringgit (USD36 million) from 120 million ringgit. He also said the duties on casino gross income will rise to 35 percent from 25 percent previously.

Brokers including Affin Hwang Investment Bank, AllianceDBS Research, Nomura, Public Investment Bank, TA Securities and UOB Kay Hian downgraded Genting Malaysia following the tax hikes.

While a gaming tax increase had been an ongoing risk, the market had only factored in a 5 percentage point tax rise, Nomura Research analysts Tushar Mohata and Rahul Dohare wrote in a note Monday. They cut Genting Malaysia's rating to reduce from buy and its price target to 4.20 ringgit a share from 6.50 ringgit. The tax hikes will dent the company's net income by 600 million ringgit to 700 million ringgit for 2019 and 2020, Mohata and Dohare said. **Bloomberg**

# HKD drops most since 2016 as rate gap widens again

Tian Chen

**H**ONG Kong's dollar weakened the most since February 2016, unwinding some of last week's jump, as a widening interest-rate gap made it more lucrative to borrow the currency to buy the greenback.

The city's currency dropped 0.24 percent to HKD7.8357 per dollar as of 4:55 p.m. local time. That came as the cost

to borrow one-month money in Hong Kong's interbank market - known as Hibor - slid for a 10th straight day. It's now the cheapest since April 2008 when compared with U.S. rates.

Shorting the Hong Kong dollar has been a popular carry trade this year, repeatedly driving the city's currency to the weak end of its trading band. The city's de facto central bank has intervened, helping

to push borrowing costs higher and prompting lenders to increase the mortgage-linked prime rate for the first time in more than a decade, but Hibor has now declined back to levels last seen in June.

"Liquidity is loose again as seasonal factors, such as quarter-end effects and bets on a prime rate hike, got out of way," said Carrie Li, an economist at OCBC Wing Hang Bank Ltd. "However, room for

further drop in Hibor is limited, and it will likely rise again toward the year-end. Therefore, carry trades shorting the Hong Kong dollar aren't that intense, and the currency won't likely slide to the weak end of the trading band soon."

The one-month Hibor fell 6 basis points to 1.04 percent yesterday, widening its discount to dollar funding costs on Nov. 2 to 127 basis points. The Hong Kong dollar advanced the most since September last week amid a rally in the city's stock market. The currency is allowed to trade within a band of HKD7.75 to HKD7.85 against the greenback. **Bloomberg**

## corporate bits

### SANDS CHINA VOLUNTEERS AT CARITAS BAZAAR



A group of around 110 Sands Cares Ambassadors manned a game booth on Saturday and Sunday for the 49th Caritas Macau Charity Bazaar at Nam Van Lake Nautical Centre. Sands China said in a state-

ment that 2018 was its eighth consecutive year of fundraising at the annual charity event.

At the bazaar's opening ceremony, Mark McWhinnie, Sands China's senior vice

president of resort operations and development, presented a MOP 200,000 ceremonial cheque to Caritas Macau Secretary-General Paul Pun.

The gaming operator has contributed over MOP4.5 million to the non-profit organization since 2004. The funds go towards Caritas Macau's operational expenses and its efforts to develop and implement social services in the community.

Visitors to the booth won prizes including hotel stays at The Parisian Macao and tickets to its Eiffel Tower; first-class ferry tickets on the Cotai Water Jet; and Sands Resorts Macao food and beverage vouchers, theatre tickets and Qube kids' play zone tickets.

### SJM SPONSORS SJM THEODORE RACING FOR SIXTH YEAR RUNNING



Sociedade de Jogos de Macau (SJM) will remain the title sponsor and official partner of SJM Theodore Racing for the sixth consecutive year.

Mick Schumacher, Zhou Guanyu, Ralf Aron, Robert Shwartzman and Marcus Armstrong will fly the flag for SJM Theodore Racing

at the Guia street circuit from November 15 to 18, in an attempt to secure a record ninth Macau Grand Prix title for the team.

The "SJM Macau & Partners" Facebook has also launched the "Win an Exclusive Visit to SJM Theodore Racing Garage" game for fans to join in the celebration of this motorsports carnival.

Until November 8, fans aged 18 years and above can visit the "SJM Macau & Partners" Facebook page and complete a few simple steps for a chance to win a visit to the SJM Theodore Racing garage at the Macau Grand Prix paddock on November 17.

# Two scholars due to speak at Harvard barred from leaving country



So much for reform: Visitors holding a Communist Party flag in front of a display commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Reform and Opening-Up policy

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

A researcher at a prominent Chinese think tank repeatedly targeted by the Communist government said yesterday he and the organization's director have been barred from leaving the country.

Jiang Hao told The Associated Press on that he and director Sheng Hong were due to attend a symposium at Harvard University this month marking the 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening policy.

Jiang said he was given no explanation by authorities when he was stopped at the airport on Saturday, but Sheng was told it was a matter of national security when he was turned around on Thursday.

The two work for the Unirule Institute of Economics, which advocates for market-style economics and constitutional democracy and has been repeatedly harassed by the communist authorities. It has been evicted from its office space, had its license pulled and seen its website and

social media accounts shut down.

The symposium's website lists four prominent Chinese scholars as speakers at the event scheduled for Monday at Harvard's Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies.

Its poster features a photograph of former paramount leader Deng Xiaoping, the architect of the reform and opening policy whose legacy current President Xi Jinping is seen as diminishing in order to elevate his own status as China's most powerful leader since Mao Zedong.

Jiang said nearly 20 Chinese scholars had been invited to attend the symposium, some of whom had already arrived in the U.S.

"But some of them have changed their minds by choosing not to go due to reasons that are obvious," he said, pointing to official disapproval of the academic gathering.

Unirule was founded in 1993 and has published reports critical of the government, including one saying major Chinese state-owned companies are unpro-

fitable and receive large public subsidies.

Unirule has also championed freedom of expression and due process and conducted symposiums on sensitive subjects such as the Chinese civil war that brought the communists to power in 1949.

■ The two work for the Unirule Institute of Economics, which advocates for market-style economics and constitutional democracy

Since taking over the ruling Communist Party in 2012, Xi has relentlessly attacked liberal intellectuals, rights lawyers and other members of civil society, silencing much of the independent discourse that had begun to find its voice under his predecessors.

Xi has demanded the entirely state-controlled media put the interests of the Communist Party first and has warned about the infiltration of liberal Western values such as freedom of speech into the educational system. AP

TAIWAN

# New performing arts center billed as largest in world

A sprawling complex of four theaters billed as the biggest performing arts center in the world has opened in southern Taiwan.

The National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts houses a 1,981-seat concert hall, a 2,236-seat opera house, a play house and a recital hall under a single roof covering 3.3 hectares (8.2 acres).

The center, which opened last month, was built over eight years at a cost of NTD10.7 billion (USD350 million) on the site of a former military barracks in Kaohsiung, a southern city of about 2.8 million people.

The design by Dutch architecture firm Mecanoo reflects the port city's tro-

pical location and maritime links. It includes an undulating white roof and a large public space with hoists and other cargo ship features.

"I think what is really unique is this roof, what was inspired by the banyan trees with the crown," said Francine Houben, the creative director of Mecanoo. "I had to create a really new public space specifically for Taiwan, for Kaohsiung, that catches the wind of the ocean and the ventilation of the tropical space."

The concert hall has the biggest pipe organ in Asia with 9,085 pipes. Built by a German manufacturer, its asymmetric design recalls bamboo.

"I have played many organs both in Taiwan and abroad, but this one is the biggest and the best," said organist Liu Hsin-hung.

The center also includes an outdoor amphitheater.

He Wen-jhang, a 62-year-old retired physics and chemistry teacher who lives nearby, said he prefers to the art center to another real estate development.

"Coming here to exchange views greatly influences citizens' temperament," He said. "In the past, people only rushed to factories to make a living. But now, we have a place to relax and chat to each other. This has a big impact on Kaohsiung's cultural aspect. A positive impact." AP



Handout photo of the National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts designed by Dutch architect Francine Houben seen in Kaohsiung in southern Taiwan



Xi looks at the big picture

# Xi promises market opening as import fair begins

Joe McDonald, Shanghai

**P**RESIDENT Xi Jinping promised to open China's growing consumer market wider at a fair designed to help counter charges that Beijing abuses the global trading system. But he offered no response to U.S. and European complaints about technology policy and curbs on investment.

The China International Import Expo, held at a Shanghai convention center, is part of efforts to develop China-centered trading networks while resisting pressure to roll back industry plans that Washington, Europe, Japan and other governments say violate its market-opening obligations.

"It is our sincere commitment to open the Chinese market," Xi said in a speech to a VIP audience that included Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev.

Xi promised to cut costs for importers and improve consumer spending power to help boost imports. He made no mention of the standoff with President Donald Trump over Chinese plans for state-led development of technology industries.

But in an indirect reference to Trump's "America first" policies and threats of import controls, Xi appealed to other governments to "jointly safeguard free trade."

Some 3,600 companies from 152 countries selling everything from Egyptian dates to German factory machinery are attending the five-day event at the cavernous convention center that bills itself as one of the world's biggest buildings.

Prime ministers and other senior officials of governments

including Egypt, Pakistan and Vietnam also were attending the fair. The United States — China's biggest trading partner — did not send a high-level envoy.

Xi's government is emphasizing the promise of a growing consumer market of 1.4 billion people to help deflect the complaints that it subsidizes fledgling technology suppliers and shields them from competition.

Business groups say China still hampers access to industries including finance and logistics. They say regulators are trying to squeeze foreign competitors out of promising fields such as information security.

Xi promised steps that might address such complaints if carried out, including easing restrictions on foreign competitors in finance, education, telecoms and health care. He gave no details or a timetable but said the ruling party already was carrying out changes promised over the past year.

Businesspeople and economists welcomed the promises but said Beijing needs to act promptly to dispel concern about the cooling, state-dominated economy.

The speech "is at least a tacit acknowledgement that much needs to be done," said the chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce in China, William Zarit, said in an email. "We will see if this leads to the timely sweeping reforms needed for a fair and reciprocal bilateral commercial relationship."

The ruling Communist Party is trying to restore public confidence after economic growth sank to a post-global crisis low of 6.5 percent over a year earlier in the last quarter. The country's stock market has sunk 25

percent this year, becoming the world's worst performer.

Xi acknowledged some Chinese industries face "growing risks" but said efforts to shore up growth are already paying off.

China's USD12 trillion-a-year economy is "a sea, not a small pond" and can withstand shocks," he said.

"A storm can overturn a small pond, but not a sea," he said. "After more than 5,000 years of hardship, China is still here. Facing the future, China will always be here."

China has cut tariffs and announced other measures this year to boost imports, which rose 15.9 percent in 2017 to \$1.8 trillion. But none addresses U.S. complaints that prompted Trump to impose penalty tariffs of up to 25 percent on \$250 billion of Chinese imports. Beijing has responded with tariff hikes on \$110 billion of American goods.

The fair lets Beijing show it is "making efforts to boost imports," said Rajiv Biswas, chief Asia economist for IHS Markit. But a deal with Washington "will require significant measures by authorities to reduce bilateral trade imbalances and to protect U.S. intellectual property rights," he said.

Chinese leaders have rejected pressure to scale back plans such as "Made in China 2025," which calls for state-led creation of global champions in robotics and other fields that might challenge U.S. industrial leadership.

Last week, Trump and Xi had what China's foreign ministry called an "extremely positive" phone conversation. They plan to meet during this month's Group of 20 gathering of major

economist in Argentina, but private sector analysts say a breakthrough is unlikely.

**It is our sincere commitment to open the Chinese market.**

XI JINPING

Already the No. 1 market for its Asian neighbors, China is seeking to expand commerce by building ports, railways and other infrastructure across 65 countries from the South Pacific through Asia to Europe and Africa. The Shanghai expo also gives Beijing a chance to repair its image as a positive for global development following complaints that projects it sponsors under its "Belt and Road" initiative leave host countries with too much debt, with too little

work goes to local companies.

Exhibitors at the event included U.S. automakers and technology suppliers — Microsoft founder Bill Gates attended — European pharmaceutical and clothing brands, African tea exporters and Japanese electronics manufacturers.

At a stand for Nicolas Correa SA, a Spanish factory equipment maker, salesman Carl Che showed off a milling machine the size of a bus that can cost 1-5 million euros (\$1.2-6 million). Exhibitors at the event included U.S. automakers and technology suppliers, European pharmaceutical and clothing brands, African tea exporters and Japanese electronics manufacturers.

At a stand for Nicolas Correa SA, a Spanish maker of factory equipment, salesman Carl Che showed potential customers a milling machine the size of a bus that can cost 1-5 million euros (\$1.2-6 million). Che said Chinese manufacturers of wind turbines, aircraft and nuclear power equipment have bought 406 of the machines since 2003 and the company is looking to expand to food, health and other industries.

The expo is "a good chance to show ourselves to the whole of China," said Che. "Today, we received five customers who are very interested. It is just a matter of price."

The China agent for Metal Shark Boats, a New Orleans-based builder of heavy duty vessels for law enforcement and fire agencies, had two 13-meter-long (40-foot-long) patrol boats sitting in metal cradles.

It has sold five boats to China's customs agency and the company is marketing itself to environment and other regulators, said Sherman Ge, chairman of Shanghai-based Breeze Tech.

The expo also highlights the blurring of lines between Chinese and foreign industry as Chinese companies expand abroad.

Exhibitors promoting imports into China included Sweden's Volvo Cars, a unit of Chinese automaker Geely Holding; General Electric Appliances, part of China's Haier Group in 2016, and California-based solar supplier MiaSole, part of Beijing-based Hanergy Group. **AP**



Big shots: Bill Gates (right) talks with World Bank President Jim Yong Kim



A Chinese man walks along a street in Colombo, Sri Lanka

## SOUTH ASIA

# Rivals China, India cautiously watch Sri Lankan crisis

Emily Schmall, Colombo

**C**HINA and India are closely watching the constitutional crisis in Sri Lanka, which has been a battleground in their struggle for geopolitical supremacy in South Asia.

Chinese and Indian diplomats have been careful not to overtly take sides in the political turmoil, which has seen President Maithripala Sirisena oust Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, replace him with former strongman Mahinda Rajapaksa, and suspend Parliament.

Wickremesinghe, meanwhile, has holed up at the prime minister's residence and insisted he is Sri Lanka's rightful leader.

The caution exercised by the Asian giants stands in contrast to calls from Western diplomats for Parliament to immediately be summoned for a floor vote on Rajapaksa's appointment and underscores the economic and military importance the countries place on the Indian Ocean island nation.

"They're hedging their bets," said Bharath Gopalswamy, director of the Atlantic Council's South Asia Center. India and China "both have stakes in the global system and want to play a bigger role, so they have to signal they'll work with whomever."

For China, Sri Lanka is a critical link in its massive Belt and

Road Initiative, which aims to use infrastructure projects to expand trade across a vast arc of 65 countries from the South Pacific through Asia to Africa and Europe. It has handed out billions of dollars in loans for Sri Lankan projects over the past decade.

Located just 23 kilometers (14 miles) off its southeast coast, India sees Sri Lanka as a bulwark in its military defenses to ward off potential Chinese incursions and also sees the island as a key partner for regional trade. India has grown wary of China's economic influence over Sri Lanka and was troubled by a 2014 port visit from a Chinese submarine and warship.

Sri Lanka's ties to both nations date back thousands of years. It was a stop along China's old Silk Road trade routes, where merchants picked up pepper, cinnamon, ivory and pearl.

Sri Lanka traces much of its genealogy and culture to India, with folklore saying the island's majority Sinhalese are descendants of an Indian prince banished there 2,000 years ago.

The nation's minority Tamils, meanwhile, are in part the descendants of more than a million tea and rubber plantation workers brought to Sri Lanka from southern India by British colonial rulers in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Yet that hasn't always led to smooth relations. During Sri Lanka's decadeslong civil war, which pitted Tamil rebels against the government, India intervened in the 1980s by sending a peacekeeping force that quickly found itself engaged in battle with the rebels. They were asked to withdraw a few years later amid allegations of abuses against Tamils.

China filled the vacuum left by India, providing military assistance that helped the Rajapaksa-led government defeat the rebels in 2009. In 2012, China helped block a UN Human Rights Council resolution demanding that the Sri Lankan government investigate war crimes. It would later pass, but it prompted little action by Rajapaksa, who was in power from 2005 to 2015.

China is partly involved in the current crisis because of tensions over the billions of dollars of loans it has given to build a network of highways, the Hambantota seaport and airport in Rajapaksa's home district, and other projects. The most iconic of these has been the USD1.5 billion port city being built on reclaimed land off Colombo's coast.

Sri Lanka's debt more than tripled during Rajapaksa's presidency, Sri Lankan Central Bank figures show.

New Delhi and other international critics have called the loans a debt trap.

Central bank figures, however, show that Sri Lanka's debt to India stood at 145 billion rupees (about \$19.9 billion) in 2017 versus 135 billion rupees (about \$18.5 billion) owed to China the same year.

Rajapaksa's defeat at the polls in 2015 was partly a reaction to all of that debt, said Gopalswamy, the analyst.

## For China, Sri Lanka is a critical link in its massive Belt and Road Initiative

Likewise, Wickremesinghe, prime minister from 2015, saw his popularity begin to wane last year after his government handed over operations of the Hambantota port to a Chinese company in a 99-year lease.

"From a democracy perspective, there's been huge public resentment because the quality of these projects is questionable, there's little parliamentary scrutiny and no one knows where this money ends up," Gopalswamy said.

Responding to public outrage over the lease, China in July offered Sirisena a nearly \$300 million grant that the president said could be used "for any project of my wish."

With so much at stake, the Chinese ambassador to Sri Lanka, Cheng Xueyuan, was among the first to congratulate Rajapaksa after he was appointed prime minister on Oct. 27. But that day, Cheng also visited Temple Trees, the official prime minister's residence, where Wickremesinghe has been holed up since his ouster.

China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said that Cheng's visits to rival prime ministers was simply part of China's policy of maintaining "friendly exchanges will all parties in Sri Lanka," repeating China's routine assertion that it doesn't interfere in the internal affairs of other countries.

But after the surprise win of an opposition candidate in the Maldives who campaigned on a promise to reduce China's role in the Indian Ocean archipelago nation, Sri Lanka's strategic position has increased. If projects in the Maldives are canceled, Sri Lanka would be China's main Indian Ocean link between Asia and the Seychelles, off the coast of East Africa.

A spokesman for Sri Lanka's new government, Kehaliya Rambukwella, said Rajapaksa had spoken to Chinese officials about revising the terms of the Hambantota port lease.

New Delhi doesn't have many options for how to respond to the crisis, said G. Parthasarathy, a retired Indian diplomat and an expert on Sri Lanka affairs.

"We would like to see South Asia integrated much more closely with India, so we cannot be seen as taking sides," Parthasarathy said, adding that India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted both Rajapaksa and Wickremesinghe in separate visits to New Delhi last month.

The day after his ouster, Wickremesinghe met with Colombo-based diplomats from the U.S., Britain, Australia, the European Union and India, among others. Many issued statements calling for the country's constitution and democracy to be respected. Sirisena held his own meeting with foreign diplomats on Oct. 29.

Wickremesinghe said he hasn't received any official support from foreign powers, nor has he sought any.

"I agree with them that the constitution must be followed," he said.

Since the crisis began, constitutional scholars have argued over whether Sri Lankan law allowed the president to remove the prime minister and appoint someone new.

Sirisena yesterday [Macau time] ordered Parliament to reconvene Nov. 14 for a confidence vote on Rajapaksa. China and India will be closely watching to see if the vote eases or exacerbates the crisis. **AP**

COLD FRIENDS

# Cuban president meets North Korea's Kim Jong Un in Pyongyang

**N**ORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel — both hoping to get out from under U.S. economic sanctions — have agreed to expand and strengthen their strategic relations, North Korea's state media reported yesterday.

Diaz-Canel, who is in Asia on his first international tour since assuming office in April, arrived in Pyongyang with his wife on Sunday. He was met at the airport by Kim, who joined him on the ride into the city past flower-waving and cheering crowds.

North Korea's state media reported the two held talks at the Paekhwawon State Guest House and stressed their shared socialist history and vowed continued solidarity. The official media offered few specifics, but said the talks proceeded in a "comradely and friendly atmosphere."

The meeting with Kim could be seen as a shot across the bow for Washington, which has run



Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un at a welcome performance in Pyongyang

into increasing difficulty in its efforts to wrest significant progress from the North on the denuclearization issue.

Pyongyang, which has also

been quietly cozying up to Moscow recently, has been hardening its rhetoric ahead of a meeting in New York later this week between Secretary of State Mike

Pompeo and the North's main negotiator, Kim Yong Chol.

Over the weekend, Pyongyang used its official media to criticize the U.S. for its continued

support of sanctions — a political tool Washington has also used extensively on Cuba and Russia — and hinted it may resume nuclear development if Washington doesn't change its tune.

Sanctions-busting has been high on Diaz-Canel's agenda.

While in Moscow, Diaz-Canel discussed a nearly USD50 million arms deal with Russia and won a similar vow of expanded political, economic and military ties from Putin. The two then issued a joint statement denouncing U.S. "interference into domestic affairs of sovereign nations."

The U.S. economic embargo on Cuba, initially imposed in 1958 and subsequently expanded, has remained in place. Russia faced an array of crippling U.S. and EU sanctions over the annexation of Crimea and its support for separatist rebels in eastern Ukraine.

Diaz-Canel was to leave Pyongyang on Tuesday and visit China, Vietnam and Laos.

MALAYSIA

## Ex-state chief charged as graft crackdown widens

**T**HE former leader of a resource-rich eastern Malaysian state was charged yesterday with allegedly receiving bribes for the award of timber concessions amid a widening crackdown on abuse by former officials.

Musa Aman, who was chief minister of Sabah state on Borneo island from 2003 until the ouster of scandal-tainted Prime Minister Najib Razak's government in May's general election, is the latest high-ranking official to be prosecuted.

Musa, 67, was detained yesterday by the anti-graft agency before being taken to court.

He pleaded not guilty to 35 counts of corruption for allegedly receiving a total of USD63.3 million in Hong Kong and Singapore through proxies between 2004 and 2008 in exchange for timber contracts. He was released on bail and faces up to 20 years in jail for each offense.

Musa told reporters la-



Former chief minister of Sabah state on Borneo island, Musa Aman arrives at Kuala Lumpur High Court yesterday

ter that these were old cases and that he had been cleared by the previous government.

"I don't know whether this is politically motivated [...] I will fight this case to clear my name," he said.

His lawyer, Amer Hamzah Arshad, said in a statement that the "timing of the charges smell of selective prosecution" because the high court is due to rule in two days on a suit by Musa challenging the legitimacy of the

new Sabah government.

Musa initially won the state election, held at the same time as the May 9 national polls, with a razor-thin majority and was sworn in as chief minister, but some lawmakers defected and he was later asked to step down but refused. The leader of the then opposition party was later sworn in as chief minister and Musa claimed he was unconstitutionally removed.

Sabah and neighboring Sarawak on Borneo are rich in natural resources such as oil, gas and timber but are among the poorest states in Malaysia.

Najib, his wife, his former deputy and two other ex-senior government officials were earlier charged with corruption and the government has warned that more may be hauled to court.

Najib has accused the new government of seeking political vengeance. **AP**

AUSTRALIA

## Third shark attack off tourist island in seven weeks



Cid Harbour, in north Queensland, Australia

**A** shark critically injured a man yesterday near an island harbor on Australia's Great Barrier reef where two tourists were mauled on consecutive days in September, officials said.

The man suffered "significant leg and wrist injuries" when he was attacked near Cid Harbor on Whitsunday Island off the Queensland state coast, a Queensland Ambulance statement said.

The victim was taken by helicopter to the Mackay Base Hospital, 100 kilometers to the south, where his condition was listed as critical, Central Queensland Helicopter Rescue Service said in a statement.

Whitsunday is the largest

island in the Whitsunday Islands group, a major international tourist attraction popular with scuba divers and sailors where shark attacks have been rare.

A 46-year-old tourist, Justine Barwick, was attacked on Sept. 19 while swimming from a yacht in Cid Harbor and is recovering. A 12-year-old tourist, Hannah Papps, was attacked in the same harbor the next day, losing a leg.

The last shark attack in the Whitsunday Islands before the latest spate occurred in 2010 off Dent Island when a 60-year-old woman survived severe lacerations to her buttocks and major blood loss. **AP**

## IRAN-US

# President Rouhani warns of 'war situation' as sanctions resume

Nasser Karimi  
& Amir Vahdat, Tehran

IRAN greeted the re-imposition of U.S. sanctions yesterday with air defense drills and a statement from President Hassan Rouhani that the nation faces a "war situation," raising Mideast tensions as America's maximalist approach to the Islamic Republic takes hold.

The sanctions end all economic benefits America had granted Tehran for its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, though Iran for now continues to abide by the accord that saw it limit its enrichment of uranium. While at the moment not threatening to resume higher enrichment, Iranian officials in recent months have made a point to warn the controversial process could resume at any time, faster than before.

The new American sanctions particularly hurt Iran's vital oil industry, a crucial source of hard currency for its anemic economy. Its national currency has plummeted over the last year, sending prices for everything from mobile phones to medicine skyrocketing.

"Today, Iran is able to sell its oil and it will sell," Rouhani vowed as the sanctions kicked in.

However, the noose of American sanctions appeared to be tightening. Iranian officials, meanwhile, reported a cyberattack targeting the country's communication infrastructure, blaming the purported attack on Israel.

Iranian state television aired footage of air defense systems and anti-aircraft batteries in two-day military maneuvers underway across a vast stretch of the country's north. It included

AP PHOTO



Face/off: Trump vs Rouhani



surface-to-air missiles shooting down a drone.

The drill was to continue through today. Iranian army Gen. Habibillah Sayyari said both the national army and the country's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard were taking part in the exercise.

Rouhani, meanwhile, pledged to government officials in comments aired on state TV that Iran would overcome the sanctions.

"We are in the war situation," Rouhani said. "We are in the economic war situation. We are confronting a bullying enemy. We have to stand to win."

He further stepped up the rhetoric, comparing Iran's situation in the 1980s war against Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein with the current one and President Donald Trump's move to reinstate U.S. sanctions.

"Yesterday, Saddam was in

front us, today Trump is front of us. There is no difference. We must resist and win," he said.

Iran is already in the grip of an economic crisis. Its national currency, the rial, now trades at 150,000 to one U.S. dollar, down from when it traded around 40,500 to USD1 a year ago. The economic chaos sparked mass anti-government protests at the end of last year which resulted in nearly 5,000 reported arrests and at least 25 people being killed. Sporadic demonstrations still continue.

Rouhani separately said leaders from "four powers" met with Iran on the sidelines of the September meeting of the United Nations General Assembly to try to save the deal, including brokering a possible meeting with Trump. He did not name those countries, but was likely referring to China, France, Russia and Britain, which along

with Germany made up the world powers involved in the 2015 nuclear deal.

"This issue does not require a mediator," Rouhani said, blaming America for unilaterally pulling out of the accord.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi also predicted the sanctions will actually work against America's interests.

"Many countries from Europe to Russia and China have opposed the sanctions," Ghasemi told journalists, adding that Iranians "have experienced more extensive sanctions" and that they are "not a new issue."

The United States says the sanctions are not aimed at toppling the government, but at persuading it to radically change its policies, including its support for regional militant groups and its development of long-range ballistic missiles.

However, Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani and John Bolton, the president's national security adviser, both have made public statements supporting overthrowing Iran's theocratic government.

Also yesterday, Iran's Telecommunication Minister Mohammad Javad Azeri Jahromi and his deputy, Hamid Fatahi, both tweeted about a cyberattack targeting the country's communications infrastructure, without elaborating. They blamed Israel for the attack and both referenced Stuxnet, which destroyed thousands of centrifuges involved in Iran's contested nuclear program in 2011. Stuxnet is widely believed to be an American and Israeli creation, though neither country has acknowledged being behind the attack.

**We are in the economic war situation. We are confronting a bullying enemy. We have to stand to win.**

HASSAN ROUHANI

Israel's Foreign Ministry declined to comment on the Iranian claim. Last week, Gen. Gholam Reza Jalali, the head of country's military unit in charge of combatting sabotage, said Rouhani's cell phone was tapped recently.

Israel's Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman welcomed the newly restored U.S. sanctions in a tweet, saying they will deal a "critical blow" to Iran's military presence around the Middle East.

The Trump administration's decision to restore sanctions "is the sea change the Middle East has been waiting for," he said. **AP**

## CAMEROON

## Separatists kidnap 78 pupils in restive northwest

**ARMED** separatists have kidnapped at least 78 students and their principal from a Presbyterian school in Nkwen village in Cameroon's restive northwest region, a governor said yesterday.

The kidnapping late Sunday took place near Bamenda, the capital of the troubled English-speaking region, according to Governor Deben Tchoffo.

A video purportedly of the kidnapped children has been released on social me-

dia via men who call themselves Amba boys, a reference to the state of Ambazonia that armed separatists are trying to establish in Cameroon's northwest and southwest regions.

In the video, the kidnapers force several of the young male students to give their names and the names of their parents. The children say they were kidnapped late Sunday by the Amba boys, and they don't know where they are being held.

The men who identify themselves as the kidnapers say they will only release the children when they achieve what they want.

"We shall only release you after the struggle. You will be going to school now here," say the men who identified themselves as Amba boys. While the video could not be independently verified, parents have been reacting on social media saying they recognize their children in

the video.

Hundreds have been killed in Cameroon's Anglophone regions in the past year, where violence between armed separatists and the military have increased since a government crackdown against protesters in the northwest and southwest regions who claim that as the English-speaking minority they are marginalized by the French-speaking government.

Violent separatists took up arms to destabilize the

Anglophone regions to win independence for the areas they want to declare a separate state, which they call Ambazonia.

Last week separatist militants attacked workers on a state-run rubber plantation in restive southwestern Cameroon, chopping off their fingers because the men had defied an order to stay away from the farms.

An American missionary also died in the northwest region around Bamenda after he was shot in the

head amid fighting between armed separatists and soldiers in northwestern Cameroon.

The turmoil in Cameroon comes as President Paul Biya, who has led since 1982, easily won a seventh term last month in an election that the United States says was marked by irregularities. The government did away with presidential term limits several years ago, part of a trend in Africa that has dismayed many. **AP**

MIDDLE EAST

# SoftBank CEO decries journalist's death, defends Saudi fund

Yuri Kageyama, Tokyo

**S**OFTBANK Group Corp. Chief Executive Masayoshi Son denounced yesterday the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, but defended the Japanese technology giant's investment fund, which includes Saudi money, as work that needs to be finished.

Speaking at an earnings news conference, Son called the death an attack on "a precious life but also on journalism and the freedom of speech."

Son is partnering with Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and about half of his USD100 billion Vision Fund, established in 2016, comes from the kingdom. The fund has been investing in various companies, solar projects and artificial intelligence.

Khashoggi, a 59-year-old columnist for The Washington Post, was killed at the Saudi



SoftBank Group Corp. Chief Executive Masayoshi Son

Consulate in Turkey on Oct. 2, although details are still unclear.

"It is a reality a horrible act has happened. But we cannot just turn our backs on our work,"

Son said. He said the investment in his fund came from the Saudi "people."

Khashoggi vanished after entering the consulate in Istanbul to

pick up paperwork he needed to get married. His Turkish fiancée was waiting for him outside. A critic of the Saudi crown prince, Khashoggi had been living in exile in the United States.

## ■ Son is partnering with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and about half of his USD100 billion Vision Fund

Son said he met with the prince and other Saudi officials during a recent visit and urged a thorough investigation. He said he prince had expressed concern about the killing.

The Japanese tycoon said no-

thing has been decided about a planned second phase for the Vision Fund, pending the results of the investigation.

"It is too early to say and we need to approach this cautiously," he said.

SoftBank reported July-September profit of 542.6 billion yen (\$4.8 billion), up almost five-fold from the previous year, helped by better results at U.S. wireless Sprint and British IoT company ARM.

Quarterly sales rose 7 percent to 2.38 trillion yen (\$21.1 billion).

SoftBank's sprawling empire of technology investments encompasses telecommunications, financial-technology, solar energy, ride-booking services and the Pepper companion robot.

It also has stakes in Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba and in Uber.

Son had not commented earlier on Khashoggi's death. He started his news conference by addressing the killing, appearing more somber than usual.

But after the first few minutes, he switched the subject to the Japan Series win by the company's professional baseball team, the SoftBank Hawks.

"I want to express my gratitude, especially to the fans," he said. AP

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## what's ON



## GUDETAMA IN MACAU

TIME: 4pm-9pm (Mondays to Fridays)  
11am-9pm (Saturdays to Sundays)

UNTIL: November 4, 2018

VENUE: Anim'Arte NAM VAN

ADMISSION: Free

## CHAPAS SÍNICAS - STORIES OF MACAU IN TORRE DO TOMBO

TIME: 10am-6pm (closed on Mondays and public holidays)

UNTIL: December 7, 2018

VENUE: Archives of Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2859 2919

## ASSEMBLAGE OF TREASURES - EXHIBITION OF THE MACAU MUSEUM COLLECTION FOR CELEBRATION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY

TIME: 10am-6pm (ticket booth closes at 5:30pm; closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: February 24, 2019

VENUE: Macau Museum

ADMISSION: MOP15 (free admission on Tuesdays and on the 15th of every month)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

## BEYOND THE SCENERY: EXHIBITION

COMMEMORATING THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSING OF WU LI

TIME: 10am-7pm (last admission 6:30pm; closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: November 11, 2018

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

## Offbeat

## DOG'S DAY: PLAYER'S PET QUARANTINED ON LANDING IN AUSTRALIA



No matter what Lamar Patterson does for the Brisbane Bullets on the basketball court, he can expect to be dogged by questions about Kobe.

The ex-Atlanta Hawks player flew into Brisbane with his French bulldog placed inside his hand luggage and ran afoul of Australia's quarantine laws.

The Bullets recruit was briefly detained after landing in Brisbane on Thursday with his dog, Kobe.

The 27-year-old Patterson, who has played seasons in Turkey, Italy and China, cleared customs at the airport. But Kobe was kept in quarantine and was sent home Friday, Australia's agriculture department said.

Officials said the cabin crew on Patterson's Qantas flight from Los Angeles failed to notice that the dog was on board without an import permit.

The Bullets, who play in the National Basketball League, say it was an innocent mistake, not a deliberate attempt to flout Australia's strict quarantine laws.

Patterson said the only reason a well-behaved Kobe was discovered was because he barked at customs search dogs at Brisbane airport. And Patterson was surprised by all the fuss.

"If this is big news then Australia is an amazing place to live at," Patterson told a news conference on Friday. "It was on my ticket that I was travelling with a pet, even my return ticket. It was a miscommunication with the airlines."

## TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Mistura Fina
15:50	Os Craques do Pingue-Pongue
16:15	Interview - Santana Lopes
17:15	A Cidade na Ponta dos Dedos
17:30	Depois do Adeus - Fim
18:30	Contraponto (Repeat)
19:35	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	News
21:15	TDM Sports
22:25	Filha da Lei
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Magazine Chanpeons League 2018/2019
00:25	Telejornal (Repeat)
01:10	RTPi Live

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

01 - 08 Nov



## GOOSEBUMPS 2: HAUNTED HALLOWEEN

ROOM 1

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

Director: Ari Sandel

Starring: Madison Iseman, Wendi McLendon, Jeremy Ray

Language: English

Duration: 112min



## HALLOWEEN

ROOM 2

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

Director: David Gordon Green

Starring: Jamie Lee Curtis, Judy Greer, Will Patton

Language: English

Duration: 130min



## HUNTER KILLER

ROOM 1

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

Director: Donovan Marsh

Starring: Gerard Butler, Gary Oldman

Language: English

Duration: 112min

## PERFECT WORLD

ROOM 3

4:45, 9:30pm

Director: Kenji Shibayama

Starring: Takanori Iwata, Hana Sugisaki, Kenta Sui

Language: Japanese (Chinese/ English)

Duration: 112min

## this day in history



## 1999 AUSTRALIA REJECTS REPUBLIC

Australians have rejected a proposal to break ties with the British monarchy and become a republic.

In the landmark referendum to decide whether Australia would replace Queen Elizabeth with a president, the "no" votes led 54.87% to 45.13% in the final count.

All six states voted against the proposal, Victoria by the narrowest margin of 50.16% to 49.84%.

Any change needed the backing of an overall majority of the country's 12 million voters as well as a majority of the states.

The result was greeted by wild cheering at a monarchist campaign rally in Sydney's Darling Harbour, where 200 people popped champagne corks in celebration.

Prime Minister John Howard said the Australian people had clearly rejected the republic proposal.

"The government will now turn its attentions to those things which directly affect the lives of Australians," he said.

But opposition leader Kim Beazley promised to keep the republic issue alive.

"The referendum was quite clearly lost because of the way it was set up, setting up one form of republic against the other," he said.

"Nothing will ever kill off the republican movement. Nothing will kill it until it succeeds."

Under the republican proposal, a president would have been elected by members of both houses of parliament, and not in a direct election.

A widespread distrust of politicians - as much as strong pro-monarchist sentiment - was seen as fuelling the rejection of a republic.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

During her first visit to Australia after the referendum - in March 2000 - the Queen hinted in a speech that the time might come when Australians would vote to replace her as head of state.

"Whatever the future may bring, my lasting respect and deep affection for Australia and Australians everywhere will remain as strong as ever," she said.

In June 2001 the Australian Republican Movement revealed plans to resurrect their campaign for the Queen to be replaced as head of state.

The Commonwealth, comprising countries formerly in the British Empire, has 54 members from Africa, Asia, the Pacific region and the Caribbean.



**YOUR STARS**

**♈ Aries**  
Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
Now is a great time for you to get started on something new — maybe a work project, or an improvement around the house. See if you can get your friends to pitch in, as your leadership skills are stronger than ever.

**♉ Taurus**  
April 20-May 20  
Sometimes you need to take the day off — not because you're exhausted, but just because you feel like it! Today brings a wave of sweet laziness your way that should make you feel happy inside.

**♊ Gemini**  
May 21-Jun. 21  
Start moving early — and keep on throughout the day! It's all about action for you right now, and you should find that the more you do, the more interesting your life becomes. Enjoy!

**♋ Cancer**  
Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
Can you stay home today? You may need to for one reason or another, and that's a good thing — your energy is best spent on home improvement or family relations. If you must go out, take someone close.

**♌ Leo**  
Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
It's a great day — and your happy energy makes those around you feel a little lighter! Enjoy what you've got and make sure that you're sharing it with your people. Your social life is limitless!

**♍ Virgo**  
Aug. 23-Sept. 22  
You get a deeper glimpse into an important issue today — most likely by accident! Take this new perspective and run with it, though, as you can make a lot of progress before anyone even notices.

**♎ Libra**  
Sep. 23-Oct. 22  
You've got great energy today — so make the most of it! You need to make sure that you're moving forward, and that you're taking along those of your people who seem to be less energetic.

**♏ Scorpio**  
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21  
You can't decide between two equally appealing choices. That's not the worst kind of problem in the world, but it is frustrating. Find an oracle that is meaningful only to you and get the answer.

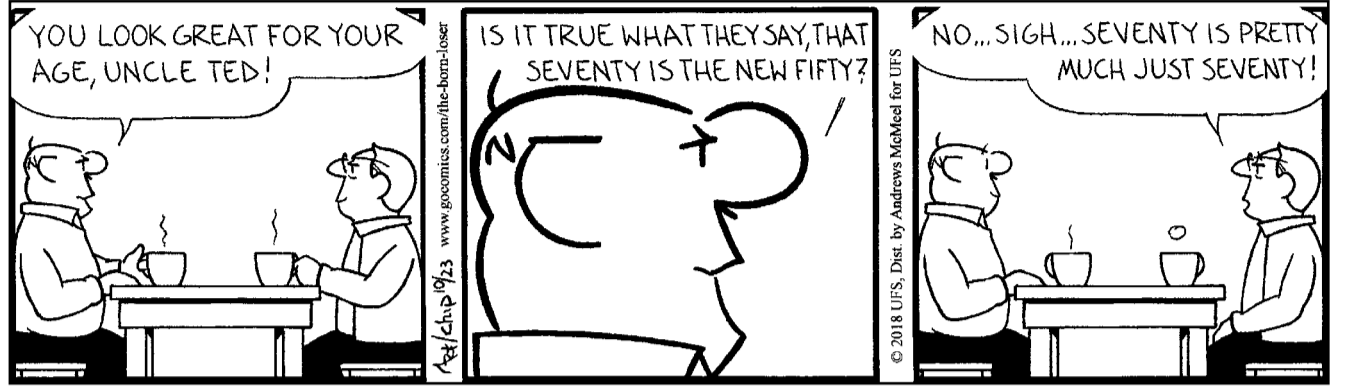
**♐ Sagittarius**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
Try to enforce fair play today — though that may be much easier said than done! Focus on your own part of the world before branching out and making things right for the world as a whole.

**♑ Capricorn**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
Try to get started with something totally new and exciting — your energy is perfect for beginnings! A new romance, a new job or even a move to a new environment may be in the cards.

**♒ Aquarius**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
You need to try a different approach to this problem — and your mental energy should help you find the key. It likely comes from a different cultural tradition, so draw on your knowledge to dig something up.

**♓ Pisces**  
Feb. 19-Mar. 20  
Your mate or business partner is behaving weirdly today — it's best to talk to them right away to find out what's up. Things can get better, but it is likely going to take a lot of work from both of you.

**THE BORN LOSER** by Chip Sansom



**SUDOKU**

**Easy**

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

**Easy+**

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

**Medium**

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

**Hard**

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

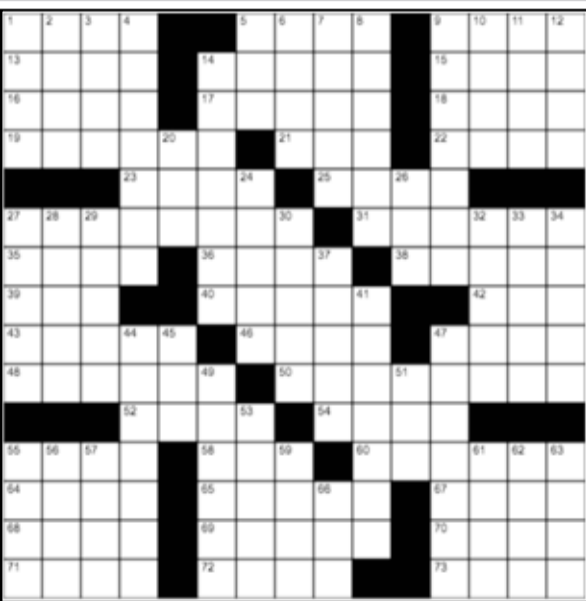
**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	2	12	cloudy
Harbin	-6	4	clear
Tianjin	4	13	cloudy
Urumqi	-3	8	clear/cloudy
Xi'an	4	9	drizzle/overcast
Lhasa	0	13	clear/cloudy
Chengdu	9	14	drizzle/clear
Chongqing	10	13	drizzle
Kunming	9	20	cloudy
Nanjing	15	17	drizzle
Shanghai	17	21	drizzle
Wuhan	9	13	drizzle/moderate rain
Hangzhou	17	20	drizzle
Taipei	22	26	drizzle
Guangzhou	20	29	cloudy
Hong Kong	23	27	cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	-1	2	sleet/drizzle
Frankfurt	4	16	clear/cloudy
Paris	8	20	drizzle
London	8	16	drizzle
New York	6	21	heavy rain/drizzle

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS:** 1-King of the Huns; 5- Ripped; 9- Gumshoes; 13- "Barton Fink" director; 14- Distributed cards; 15- Describes a gently cooked steak; 16- Not kosher; 17- Alternate; 18- Takes advantage of; 19- Flowing water; 21- G-8 nation; 22- So-so grades; 23- Baseball stats; 25- Neb. neighbor; 27- Wooden panel; 31- Come out; 35- \_\_\_ time (never); 36- Intestinal sections; 38- One of Chekhov's "Three Sisters"; 39- Rocker Ocase; 40- French textile city; 42- \_\_\_ a chance!; 43- Evade; 46- 554, in stone; 47- Woe \_\_\_; 48- Layers; 50- City of northeast Scotland; 52- Quick sharp bark; 54- Cross letters; 55- Name of 12 popes; 58- Circle of flowers; 60- Weather map line; 64- Formerly, once; 65- City on the Ruhr; 67- Cheerful; 68- Tabula \_\_\_; 69- Departing; 70- \_\_\_ to differ; 71- Actress Deborah; 72- "\_\_\_ quam videri" (North Carolina's motto); 73- Engine parts;

**DOWN:** 1- Performs; 2- Legal wrong; 3- Lustful look; 4- Hell; 5- Vietnamese New Year; 6- Pearl Harbor locale; 7- Like non-oyster months; 8- Online brokerage; 9- Truckdriver; 10- Naturalness; 11- Algonquian language; 12- Cong. meeting; 14- Place of residence; 20- Bodybuilder's pride; 24- Not hollow; 26- Parisian pal; 27- Merchandise; 28- Leaning; 29- Run up; 30- I cannot \_\_\_ lie; 32- Wash lightly; 33- Garden figure; 34- Consumed; 37- "The dog ate my homework," e.g.; 41- Latter part of the day; 44- Morning light?; 45- Summer on the Seine; 47- Stupid; 49- Claim; 51- Monopoly quartet; Abbr.; 53- Mexican money; 55- Enliven; 56- Dies \_\_\_; 57- The Beatles' "Back in the \_\_\_"; 59- Egyptian goddess; 61- All \_\_\_ & the 40 thieves; 62- Up and \_\_\_; 63- Torn clothing; 66- Vane dir.;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

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



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	<p><b>Kapok Court, Ocean Gardens</b> Taipa <b>2 Bedroom Apartment</b> Fully Furnished HKD 16,900 / 1,200 sq ft Ref: 18100690</p>	<p><b>Macau One Central High Floor</b> Macau <b>Two Bedroom Apartment</b> HKD 23,000 / 1,269 sq ft Ref: 18100693</p>	<p><b>Macau Square Office Space</b> Macau CBD <b>Central Air Conditioning</b> Include Management Fee HKD 21,000 / 837 sq ft Ref: 18100691</p>	<p><b>Apartment B, Sakura Court</b> Ocean Garden <b>4 Bedroom Apartment</b> Carpark included HKD 35,000 / 3,700 sq ft Ref: 18040674</p>

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" THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

# PSG coach Tuchel needs more backing in drive for discipline

Jerome Pugmire, Paris

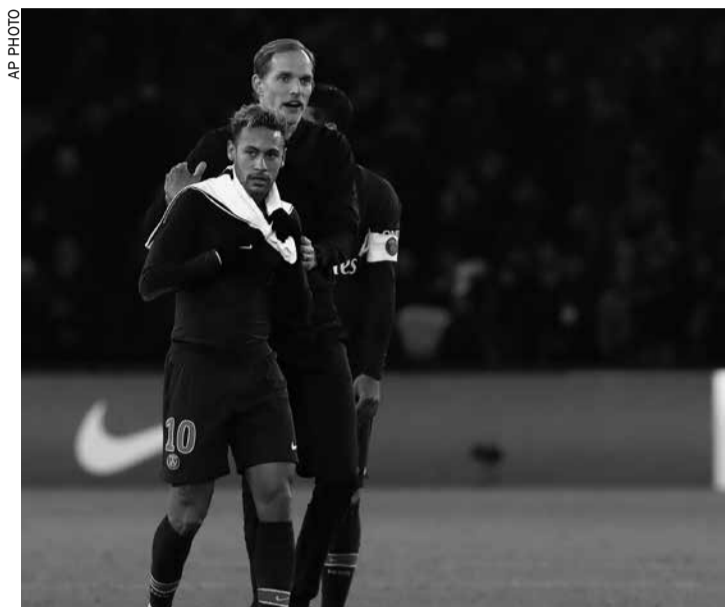
**O**NLY days after he stood up to key players for turning up late to a team talk, another incident underlined how Paris Saint-Germain coach Thomas Tuchel needs greater backing from his club over disciplinary issues.

Tuchel felt let down by midfielder Marco Verratti, who was stopped by police for driving over the alcohol limit late Tuesday or early Wednesday. "It's not possible to do that two days before a match, what he did isn't good," Tuchel said after Friday's 2-0 home win against Lille. "In my opinion it's something for the club to regulate. The club needs to regulate this because I need to control the dressing room and sporting things."

Tuchel already has his hands full in the Champions League, and he can't afford being distracted by player ill-discipline. But twice within the space of a few days, his patience was tested. This, with a huge game coming up at Napoli on Wednesday [Macau time], when defeat could leave PSG perilously close to elimination from the Champions League group stage.

The previous weekend, Tuchel left out star striker Kylian Mbappe and midfielder Adrien Rabiot for turning up late to a pre-match team talk before the game at Marseille.

Five days after being dropped, Mbappe arrived at the stadium for Friday's home game against Lille wearing a



Thomas Tuchel congratulates PSG's Neymar (left) after winning the match between PSG and Lille

face mask from a Netflix series. So did Neymar, walking ahead of him.

With Tuchel at pains to insist the French league is not too easy for PSG despite 12 straight league wins, star players arriving wearing masks before playing against a team sitting No. 2 in the league sends out the opposite message — and one of domestic complacency.

Would they do the same for a big game in the Champions League, for example?

What Tuchel really needs is a better response on the field in big matches. Key players lacked composure against Napoli in a 2-2 home draw last month, scraping a draw late into injury-time. It left PSG on four points from three matches, with Champions League runner-up Liverpool still to visit PSG.

Similar frailties, in terms of attitude, were exposed last season against defending champion Real Madrid in the last 16. A little more than a week before the first leg in Madrid, Neymar threw a lavish birthday party with about 250 guests present, including the club's president Nasser Al-Khelaifi and then-coach Unai Emery.

Videos of the players partying and dancing late circulated on social media. The videos angered Sochaux captain Florian Tardieu, who said it was a lack of respect since PSG was playing Sochaux in a French Cup game 48 hours later. Emery said at the time: "It's good for our collective mindset to have shared this moment with Neymar." Then his team lost 3-1 in Madrid and 2-1 at home.

There was a perceived lax code of conduct behind the scenes at times last season, with striker Edinson Cavani and midfielder Javier Pastore rebuked by captain Thiago Silva for returning late from the mid-season winter break.

Tuchel is not the only coach who has been faced with star power at PSG. In previous seasons, star striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic was allowed days off to go hunting in Sweden.

Complacency has also been a problem.

In 2017, PSG routed Barcelona 4-0 at home.

Then, two days before the return leg, the club released a video on YouTube called "Supper Club" with four players sitting around a table. As they ate pizzas and slurped soft drinks, former midfielder Blaise Matuidi and Verratti were joined by Julian Draxler and Thomas Meunier.

They discussed the game ahead.

"The first 20 minutes are going to be tough, eh Marco? The field is really big," Matuidi said.

Draxler told Matuidi "You will need to run a lot" and they both laughed when Matuidi retorted: "I'll need you to as well."

The casual tone smacked of taking Barcelona lightly. PSG lost 6-1, becoming the first team in Champions League history to go out after winning the first leg by four goals. Tuesday night will be another test of PSG's composure on the biggest stage. **AP**

## Djokovic returns to No.1 in rankings after 2-year absence



Novak Djokovic is back at No. 1 in the ATP rankings after a two-year absence — and the first man in nearly two decades to rise to the top spot after being outside the top 20 in the same season. Djokovic moved up from No. 2 to overtake Rafael Nadal yesterday. When the 31-year-old from Serbia fell to No. 22 in May after beginning the year with a 6-6 record while recovering from surgery on his right elbow, it was his lowest ranking since he was 22nd in 2006 as a teenager. Djokovic has gone 43-5 since, including Grand Slam titles at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open. Marat Safin went from No. 38 to No. 1 in 2000.

## Solari making his case to stay as Real Madrid coach



After only two games, Santiago Solari is making Real Madrid fans forget about the search for a new coach. And Madrid may very well give it up if he keeps succeeding. Solari has done well since taking over from Julen Lopetegui, pleasing players and fans, and increasing his chances of taking over the squad permanently. Discussions about Antonio Conte and Roberto Martinez have faded since Solari took control and quickly put Madrid back on track. In his short time in charge, Solari boosted the squad's confidence and got the victories that had eluded the team. The former Madrid player arrived with the club in crisis and enduring a run that included five losses in seven matches in all competitions, including a demoralizing 5-1 loss to Barcelona at Camp Nou.

## Salah statue in Egypt criticized for poor resemblance

A bronze statue of Mohamed Salah unveiled yesterday at an international youth gathering in Egypt has been criticized for its poor resemblance to the Liverpool striker. The statue depicts Salah with a disproportionately large head and small arms stretched in the celebratory pose the 26-year-old Egyptian took in the latter part of last season. The figure, made by artist Mai Abdullah, has Salah's trademark curly hair and is standing on what appeared to be a pot for plants. "The negative comments will not frustrate or have an effect on me, but I do hope that people would learn the art of police and respectful criticism," Abdullah wrote in response to a wave of ridicule on social media networks. Last year, Cristiano Ronaldo had a bust unveiled that was also criticized for its lack of a resemblance.

### MMA

# Mayweather to fight Japanese kickboxer Nasukawa in December

**FLOYD** Mayweather is planning on fighting Japanese kickboxer Tenshin Nasukawa on Dec. 31 in Saitama, north of Tokyo.

The 41-year-old Mayweather is 50-0 in his boxing career but has never fought professionally under MMA rules. Although he did have a lucrative win over MMA fighter Conor McGregor last year.

Japanese promoter the RIZIN Fighting Federation on Monday said rules and the weight class for the bout have not been set.

"We still have some work to



Mayweather shakes hands with Japanese kickboxer Tenshin Nasukawa

do," said Nobuyuki Sakakibara, the RIZIN chairman.

The 20-year-old Nasukawa, speaking at a news conferen-

ce alongside Mayweather, called it "probably the biggest event of my life so far."

He also vowed to end

Mayweather's long string of victories.

"Nobody has defeated my opponent in the past, and I would like to be the man who makes history," Nasukawa said, speaking through an interpreter. "My punch can change history. And I will show that to you. So please stay tuned."

Mayweather sat calmly and then praised his young opponent.

"I think he's young, very strong and very fast and he undefeated so it's obvious he's doing something right," Mayweather said. **AP**

opinion

World Views

Lionel Laurent, Bloomberg

THE BIG SHORT'S EISMAN HAS A POINT ABOUT BREXIT

Money manager Steve Eisman famously predicted the 2007-2008 blowup of the mortgage debt bubble, one of the few to believe that such a "black swan" event was possible. A decade on, the "Big Short" star is back with a bearish bet against two unnamed British banks that he thinks would suffer from a no-deal Brexit.

While this is hardly black swan territory, given how many other people are preparing for Britain and the EU to fail to agree departure terms, it's still worth paying attention to Eisman.

His warning, at a conference in Dubai over the weekend, is preaching to the converted in many ways. The U.K. is shaping up to be the world's least popular country for equity investors over the next 12 months, according to surveys by Bank of America Corp. Shares of Royal Bank of Scotland Group, Barclays Plc and Lloyds Bank Plc have fallen by between 2 and 18 percent since the Brexit vote.

Even so, there may still be some complacency in the European financial markets – both in Britain and elsewhere – that hasn't been adequately priced in.

First off is the "no deal" question. Hopes have been increasing over the past few days for some kind of deal between the U.K. and Europe that would cement future trade ties and somehow answer the question about how to avoid a hard border between Ireland and Northern Ireland. But these might yet be dashed.

While getting Brussels and Westminster to agree is hard enough, getting a deal past a fractious and rebellious U.K. parliament may well prove impossible. That's the eventuality that Eisman is betting on, and it's not a crazy wager. Analysts at UBS Group AG, the Swiss bank, also describe the chances of British lawmakers rejecting an agreed deal as "non-zero."

And while Eisman has chosen to home in on two banks, the threat to the broader financial industry is considerable too. Banks reliant on the smooth running of exchanges, clearing-houses and cross-border derivatives trades will attest to that, hence their expensive planning for the worst-case scenario. And this is taking place at a difficult time for the once dull world of derivatives clearing, which has become a flashpoint between the U.S. and the EU as Brussels tries to increase its global oversight.

Plus there's the risk to Britain's lenders of what monetary policy the Bank of England might follow – whether we end up with a no-deal Brexit or an amicable divorce. There will be pressure to keep the money taps open to counteract any economic damage. If history is a guide, lower interest rates would lead inevitably to more margin erosion for U.K. banks.

It's important to note that Eisman is not predicting systemic chaos. Big British banks have financial cushions such as revenues earned abroad in U.S. dollars, as well as balance sheets that can protect market share and absorb loan losses. Perhaps he has smaller listed banks in mind that are less well-prepared. As he says, the prospect of a hard-left Labour government winning power under Jeremy Corbyn is even more alarming. But as a corrective against this week's bout of political optimism in the U.K., it's a useful intervention.

THE TROPICAL STORM XAVIER BRUSHES BUZZ MEXICAN COAST WITH WIND, RAIN

Tropical Storm Xavier is bringing heavy rains and gusty winds to Mexico's central Pacific coast, though it's expected to head out to sea and avoid a direct hit on land.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center says the storm was centered about 170 kilometers west-southwest of Manzanillo, Mexico, on Monday morning and was headed northwest at 6 kph. Tropical-storm-force winds

extended as far as 185 kilometers from the center.

The storm had maximum sustained winds of 95 kph, but is expected to start to weaken. Tropical-storm-force winds extend outward up to 185 kilometers.

Forecasters say it's likely to bring 1 to 3 inches of rain to parts of Guerrero, Michoacan, Colima and Jalisco states.

INDONESIA

Crashed plane saw airspeed snags on four flights



Rescuers inspect part of the landing gears of the crashed Lion Air jet

INDONESIA called on Boeing Co. to fix its 737 Max aircraft, saying the Lion Air plane that crashed in the Java Sea last week had faulty airspeed readings during its last four flights.

The Southeast Asian country's National Transportation Safety Committee, which is charged with finding the cause of the crash that killed 189 people, is collecting data on what happened during the prior malfunctions and what recovery efforts were made, it said in a statement yesterday. The agency gleaned the information on the plane's previous flights from the flight data recorder retrieved from the wreckage last week.

The body asked the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board "and Boeing to take necessary steps to prevent similar incidents, especially on the Boeing 737 Max, which number 200 aircraft all over the world," it said in the statement. A spokeswoman for Boeing in Singapore declined to comment.

While search teams scouring the waters managed to bring up the flight data recorder, the cockpit voice recorder is still buried in the seabed where the plane plunged on Oct. 29. The audio device may be crucial to unraveling what happened during the flight's final moments. In particular, it may help explain why the crew asked to return to base minutes into the journey.

"We have said there's a technical problem but we also want to know what they were discussing in the cockpit and what they were doing," Soerjanto Tjahjono,

chief of Indonesia's NTSC, told reporters on Monday. "Cockpit voice recorder and flight data recorder are both important to reveal the truth in this case."

With the data recorder in the hands of investigators, the NTSC has recovered about 69 hours of flying data by the crashed jet during its last 19 trips.

Because Flight JT610 lasted only a few minutes, the voice recorder is also likely to include at least some audio from the previous night's trip from Denpasar, Bali to Jakarta. The aircraft experienced problems on the flight from Bali with sensors used to calculate altitude and speed. The instruments were checked by maintenance workers overnight and the plane was cleared to fly, according to Lion Air.

Even with modern GPS tracking, planes need to calculate their precise speed through the air. To determine airspeed - which can vary substantially compared to the speed over the ground due to winds - aircraft rely on Pitot tubes which measure the air rushing into them. By comparing that pressure against the ambient air pressure - which is obtained by what are known as static ports - aircraft can determine airspeed. If either of the pressure sensors are blocked, it can cause erroneous readings.

Indonesia's rescue agency said Sunday that wreckage spotted by divers had turned out to be only the skin of the Boeing Co. jet rather than the main fuselage. Strong underwater currents

in the Java Sea off Jakarta and a muddy seabed have complicated a week-long hunt that's involved dozens of ships and hundreds of specialist personnel.

As the 270-square-mile search for debris widened over the weekend, Indonesian authorities broadened a review of Lion Air's operations, including the airline's standard operating procedures and flight-crew qualifications. That followed the discovery of defects on two other Boeing 737 Max 8 planes - both operated by Lion Mentari Airlines - during checks on six aircraft of that type.

The inspection of plane debris indicated the aircraft didn't explode mid-air before plunging into the Java Sea, Tjahjono said earlier yesterday.

"The aircraft broke apart under the impact of hitting the water at high speed and it didn't break apart mid-air," Tjahjono said. "The engines were still running at high RPM." Lion Air jet's final plunge may have reached 600 miles per hour.

President Joko Widodo has asked airlines to make passenger safety the highest priority, and the government had already ordered a review of Lion's repair and maintenance unit and suspended several managers.

The transport ministry is coordinating with airport authorities, navigation operators and airlines among others to ensure airworthiness at all airports in Indonesia is well maintained, according to Transport Minister Budi Karya Sumadi. **Bloomberg**

Station	Air quality
Roadside	45-65 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	20-40 Good
Ambient	45-65 Moderate

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

**CAMEROON** Armed men have kidnapped at least 78 students and their principal from a Presbyterian school in Nkwen village in Cameroon's restive northwest region, a governor said yesterday. **More on p11**



**POLAND** Donald Tusk, the head of the European Council, was questioned yesterday in his native Poland for a parliamentary investigation into a pyramid scheme that cheated thousands of Poles out of their savings during his time as prime minister.

**GERMANY** Chancellor Angela Merkel insisted yesterday that she can work well with any potential successor as leader of her party, including a one-time rival seeking a comeback after a decade-long absence.



**FRANCE** Two buildings collapsed in the southern city of Marseille yesterday, leaving a giant pile of rubble and beams. Fire services said two people were lightly hurt.

**MEXICO** A big group of Central Americans pushed on toward Mexico City from a coastal state yesterday, planning to exit a part of the country that has long been treacherous for migrants seeking to get to the United States.



**ARGENTINA** A battery of corruption allegations and criminal charges against former President Cristina Fernandez hasn't fazed a strong band of hard-core backers, who have helped make her a leading - if undeclared - contender to regain power in next year's elections.