



EXTRA QUOTA FOR SARS

An extra quota is being planned for HK and Macau drivers going to mainland China via the HKZMB

P4



D-DAY FOR THERESA MAY

Prime Minister Theresa May is trying to persuade her divided Cabinet to back a draft Brexit deal with the EU

P15 UK



RUTTER: 'HICKMAN IS FAVORITE TO WIN GP'

Ahead of the Motorcycle GP, the Times spoke to eight time champion Michael Rutter and his teammate Peter Hickman

GP SUPPLEMENT

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS



ASEAN Leaders of Southeast Asian nations have again pushed back an agreement on a pan-Asian free trade deal amid a whirlwind of diplomacy yesterday at their annual summit. More on p13

CAMBODIA A court has charged 18 people, including 11 pregnant women, with violating laws against surrogate births. A spokesman for the court said the 11 women and four other people were charged with surrogacy and human trafficking. Three more people were charged with conspiracy but did not appear.

INDONESIA Ten Indonesian fishermen arrested in Hawaii are accused of trying to smuggle nearly 1,000 shark fins to Indonesia. They had been working on a Japanese-flagged boat and were headed home via Honolulu when airport security workers found shark fins in their luggage.



BANGLADESH Authorities said they are ready to begin repatriating some of the more than 700,000 Rohingya Muslims who have fled from army-led violence in Myanmar since last year, but refugees scheduled to leave said they would refuse to go because of fears for their safety.

More on backpage

AHEAD OF NEW RULES IN JANUARY

49 smoking lounges already approved

P3



Executives, experts discuss gaming industry future and challenges

P2-3 MGS ENTERTAINMENT SHOW



GP SUPPLEMENT INSIDE

MGS

Gaming suppliers foresee further growth in product distributions



Ken Jolly

LEADING gaming suppliers in the SAR are assertive about continuously producing innovative systems in their slot machines and table games into the future, despite a much-lowered forecast for the city's gaming revenue in 2019.

The gaming suppliers believe that a slowdown in the VIP market is occurring, yet the mass market remains competitive, thus not hurting their purchase orders.

"I don't see the overall market [seeing] any negative impact to it. Obviously [aside from] the geopolitical things that are going on, but I think it's a strong market," Ken Jolly, vice president & managing director of SG Gaming Asia commented.

SG Gaming provides a series of casino products and services to all six gaming operators in the city.

Speaking to the Times on the sidelines of the MGS Entertainment Show, Jolly stressed that as the mass market remains competitive in the city, all concessionaires and sub-concessionaires are fighting for their market share – having the need to keep the latest slot product on the floor.

"We're continuing to develop products. We're bringing new products in all our range. [...] We do a lot of work every year on developing their [casinos] systems and doing more updates, particularly in the junket area," the executive explained.

According to him, the firm is aware that there are some VIP rooms working with high denomination machines and seeing "great results."

"That means one part of the market might be a bit slow but there are parts of the market that [are] typically going well,"

he said.

The executive also said that the company is set to release new themed-products in the city by 2019, including James Bond-themed slot machines with which the company has a licensing deal.

Meanwhile, Aristocrat, an Australian gambling machine manufacturer, continues to invest in the local market.

According to its Sales & Business Development Director – Asia Pacific, Lloyd Robson, Macau remains one of its largest markets, amongst its 10 to 12 different markets in the Asia Pacific region.

"Without a shadow of a doubt, Macau is one of our largest ones. Maybe a little different to what it was three or four years ago [...] but it's still a massive part of our business," said Robson.

Yesterday, the company launched one of its newest slot machine products, "Goldstack 88," at the MGS Entertainment Show, hoping that it will be placed in the market by February 2019.

According to Robson, the company is just awaiting approval from the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau.

Commenting on whether gaming machine suppliers will be affected by the slowdown of the city's gaming revenue, the executive said, "We haven't had any indication from the casino that we're looking to scale back purchasing. So I guess time will tell."

"At this point in time, purchasing habits of casinos are very much where they were 12 to 18 months ago, which would indicate to me that they [are] still confident moving into next year," Robson added. **LV**

MGS ENTERTAINMENT SHOW

SMEs need to be more competitive,



Hester Cheang, Jay Chun, Wilfred Wong, Chan Tze Wai and Hubert Wang

Lynzy Valles

GAMING executives have called on local small and medium enterprises to be more competitive, while taking opportunities presented by the Greater Bay Area.

Although gaming operators are making significant purchases from local SMEs, supporting them in response to the government's initiatives, officials believe that there is still a need for these SMEs to put themselves on par with competitors from the neighboring region.

At a forum at the MGS Summit 2018 yesterday, two casino operators echoed these sentiments regarding the need for local SMEs to find their own path towards di-

versification.

Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd., emphasized that the gaming operator provides a procurement academy for these SMEs, with around 50 to 60 suppliers being trained yearly as a step to assist them in cultivating business startups.

"While we are very happy to place orders with local SMEs [and] to procure locally, it is very important that in this day and age, where there is global competition, for them to stand on their [own two] feet," said Wong.

"This competition from all over the world is going to exist forever and therefore, we cannot confine ourselves or limit our horizons to

the Macau environment," he added, encouraging local startups to explore opportunities in the city's neighboring regions.

Meanwhile, Hubert Wang, senior vice president of Finance and chief financial officer at MGM China Holdings noted that local SMEs could be used to help diversify the SAR's economy – particularly in helping build the city's culture and arts sector.

Although Wang said that passion remains a key factor in starting up a business, he also said that it does not suffice to establish a long-lasting business in the SAR, citing that only up to 5 percent of businesses are successful after three years of operation. **▶▶**

MGS

Operators pledge to increase product offerings

GAMING operators have pledged to provide more differentiated products to their consumers in a bid to boost tourism development in the Greater Bay Area.

In a session held yesterday as part of the MGS Summit 2018, representatives from three gaming operators expressed their continuous interest in diversifying the development of the tourist market.

Maggie Ma, chief government affairs officer at Melco Resorts & Entertainment, noted that it is their goal to narrow the gap between Macau and Hong Kong in order to further attract tou-



Aspect of the MGS Entertainment Show

rists.

"This is a general trend. I believe that [the] integrated resorts [will] differentiate [our] products and will go beyond our previous efforts," adding that integrated resor-

ts would work closely with the government to increase their competitiveness.

"The Macao Government Tourism Office encourages [us] to stand on a higher level to see the big picture.

We are a team and we need to communicate with each other and make use of current platform so as to provide more differentiated products and features," said the executive. **▶▶**

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gaming executives say

"Startups not only require passion, because we know [the] failure ratio of startups is quite high, [...] but we need planning and how to make things good; we need strategies," said Wang.

According to Wang, the city's diversification path itself needs to be diversified. "Macau has a limited area of land and therefore we need to make [the best of] every project. We need to focus on culture and arts," said Wang.

"In the past, we had casino operators [that are] now transforming to [become] integrated resorts. It is the diversified product mixture. [...] We need to go beyond those limitations and focus on the industrial supply chain," the executive added.

Wang pledged that MGM would continue its engagement with the 600 local SMEs with whom it is currently working.

Commenting on diversification, Wilfred Wong noted that there is a need to change the mindset of the young entrepreneurs, encouraging them to engage with enterprises in the Greater Bay Area.

"I think the locals prefer

to stay in Macau, instead of doing more business in other regions, so we need to change the mindset. [...] Our role is to send tourists to the communities," said Wong, citing the provision of shuttle buses by gaming operators.

"SMEs also need to play their role and need to sharpen their competitiveness to maintain the tourists. They need to work on their own to strengthen competitiveness [...] especially when it comes to the Greater Bay Area," he added.

Since the SAR benefits from

its geographical location, Wong believes that business operators can benefit from the SAR's diversified culture and continue to aim to become one of the international market centers.

"The young people in Macau need to work harder in the Greater Bay Area. If not, it's going to be the Guangdong [entrepreneurs] that will get the opportunities in the market. How can these SMEs respond to the need of the Greater Bay? We need to work harder on that," Wong added.

SANDS CONFIRMS BUDGET INCREASE FOR SCC REBRANDING

PRESIDENT OF Sands China Ltd., Wilfred Wong, has confirmed that there is an increase in the budget for the rebranding of Sands Cotai Central into The Londoner. Initially it was announced that the rebranding project would cost some USD1.1 billion. "There has been an increase in the scope of the works. As we plan, we look at different public areas, different designs, we

feel that there is a need to upgrade some of [these] refurbishments in order for us to remain competitive," said Wong on the sidelines of yesterday's forum. "It's two years away, so we're looking ahead and we're very happy to invest in the future of Macau," he added. Wong added that different projects would commence at different dates, with the first one kicking off after Chinese New Year.

According to Ma, enhancing young talents would also increase the competitiveness of the city's entertainment offers, adding that cultivation of the younger generation has also been a priority in the Greater Bay Area.

"I do believe that other integrated resorts will follow the same trend, to have more interactions [with the youngsters]. We need to keep moving forward and to make changes and [...] cultivate our trend in young talents. I think the young people need to look broader and look for more opportunities," said Ma.

Echoing the same sentiments, Jason Ni, executive director at Wynn Macau, hoped that its two integrated resorts could further work with local students to gain a better understanding of what it offers.

Commenting on the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, Ni, who is also a professor, said that the bridge would spur tourists to change their traveling routes, along with the number of tourist arrivals in Macau.

In this matter, Ni is looking into the customers' behavioral changes and making adjustments

according to the tourist needs.

Meanwhile, Serene Chia, vice president of SJM Cotai's Brand Development and Marketing, implied that integrated resorts should understand the city's national objectives to fully embrace their participation in the Greater Bay Area.

Although it is still too early to comment on whether there is an increase in the number of tourist arrivals at its integrated resorts, Chia said that the SAR needs to be able to handle and control the capacity of its visitors to avoid any congestion or inefficiency in the city's transportation

system.

"Any inefficiency in transportation in the city is not going to make the city attractive for both residents and tourists. I believe authorities in the transportation department [are] working hard to find the balance between [these] business objectives and city planning objectives," said Chia.

The executive added that "this whole destination is not going to work and we will see more negative feedback," if the city fails to find its balance between offering a better transportation system for both tourists and residents. **LV**

TOURISM OFFICE DISCUSSES LUGGAGE RESTRICTION WITH DSAT

THE DIRECTOR of the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO), Helena de Senna Fernandes, has said that the Transportation Bureau's (DSAT) is determined to solve the luggage limit issue for passengers traveling on the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge. Speaking yesterday at the summit, the official said that the bureau had met with the DSAT to discuss concerns regarding

the luggage and cash restrictions. "Some issues cannot be solved immediately," said the tourism chief. "But they will work on that to solve some part of the problem and Macau will take the proactive initiatives to solve those issues. [...] I believe here will be some breakthroughs." According to the official, both the MGTO and DSAT discussed the matter on Tuesday.



Alexis Tam (center) toured casino smoking lounges yesterday

Alexis Tam satisfied with approved smoking lounges

Julie Zhu

SECRETARY for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam is satisfied with the operation of the new casino smoking lounges following his visit to smoking lounges in two local casinos yesterday.

Together with the Health Bureau (SSM) director, Lei Chin Ion, and the director of the Tobacco Prevention and Control Office, Tang Chi Hou, Tam paid a visit to Studio City's mass market smoking lounges and to the Venetian Macao's VIP room smoking lounges.

"My colleagues and I are satisfied with both the mass market lounges and the VIP room lounges," said Alexis Tam, adding that "especially in the VIP rooms, the difference between the pressure inside the lounge and the pressure outside the lounge is four to five times higher than our requirements. In the mass market smoking lounge, it is two to three times higher."

"In 2019, no Macau casinos will have smoking areas. They can only provide high standard smoking lounges approved by the government," said Alexis Tam, according to whom this means that "starting from January 1, all casino mass and VIP rooms will ban smoking."

According to SSM statistics, as of September 28, 27 of the city's 47 casinos had submitted applications for the creation of a total of 404 smoking lounges.

Alexis Tam explained that the approval procedure involves the work of several governmental departments, therefore it requires a long period for the whole process.

"If the application was submitted after September 28, then, due to an abundant amount of work needed for the procedures,

casinos will not be able to set up high standard smoking lounges on time," Alexis Tam explained.

According to Tam, casinos which did not submit their applications before September 28, will have to completely ban smoking starting from January 1 until their smoking lounges are approved.

As reported by Tang Chi Hou, 49 of the aforementioned smoking lounges have been approved already, with more than 200 applications of the 404 being requested providing supplementary documents.

49 smoking lounges have been approved already

Regarding these more than 200 applications, the SSM believes that the approval cannot be issued before January 1, 2019.

As of yesterday, the SSM had received applications for a total of 437 smoking lounges (404 before September 28). The 33 new applications submitted after September 28 were submitted by six casinos.

Casinos that have already gained SSM approval for their current smoking lounges can continue to apply to set up more smoking lounges.

SSM approval is the last governmental step for each smoking lounge. Once the SSM approves the application, it means that the corresponding smoking lounge can be put into operation.

Before the SSM inspection and approval, casinos are required to pass an inspection by both the Fire Services Bureau and the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau.

CE to deliver 2019 Policy Address today

The Chief Executive, Chui Sai On (pictured), will deliver the Policy Address for the Fiscal Year 2019 today at the Legislative Assembly. The session will start at



3 p.m. and will be followed by a press conference at the Government Headquarters at 5 p.m., at which Chui will answer questions from the media. Tomorrow, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., Chui will attend a plenary meeting of the Legislative Assembly to explain the policy program and to answer questions from lawmakers. The public can watch and listen to the Policy Address and subsequent press conference – and the following day's question and answer session with Assembly members – via a live broadcast on the television channels and radio service of public broadcaster TDM. The Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, will be the first of the five secretaries to present their 2019 policy guidelines to the assembly (22-23 November). She will be followed by the Secretary for Economy and Finance (November 26-27), the Secretary for Security (November 29-30), the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture (December 3-4) and the Secretary for Transport and Public Works (December 6-7).

IFT students hold 'Running Food' event



The "Running Food" Food Orientating Charity event, organized by a group of Institute For Tourism Studies students who are currently studying in the Bachelor of Science in Tourism Event Management, was held on November 11 with the aim of promoting the historical cuisines of Macau as well as enhancing the SAR's image as a Creative City of Gastronomy. The event included a competition in which teams of four to six people competed to complete as many activities as possible during the day. The activities exposed the participants to the relationship between Macau and traditional Portuguese cuisine. The event raised MOP15,000 for beneficiary organization Macao Special Olympics, a non-profit initiative that helps people with intellectual disabilities realize their potential.

AD

Quota for cars entering mainland through HKZMB may increase

THE Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB) Authority will consider increasing the quota for Hong Kong and Macau cars that enter mainland China over the HKZMB.

According to a report by Macao Daily News, the information was revealed by the deputy director of the authority, Yu Lie.

"If you [Hong Kong and Macau drivers] come to mainland China, we can set up an extra quota for you, but we will not increase the quota for mainland cars," said Yu, explaining that in Macau and Hong Kong "road regulations, transportation regulations and laws, air quality and environment requirements [...] might be different from mainland China [so it will be difficult for the SARs to absorb more mainland cars]. Once your



cars enter mainland China, and since it is a big place it can absorb the vehicles really quickly."

The bridge opened officially on October 24. In Yu's opinion, the bridge has been operating smoothly and has formed a one-hour life cycle among the three regions.

However, despite the overall good grade he gave to the HKZMB, Yu still expres-

sed concerns about the Macau port.

Ever since the bridge was opened, in the vicinity of the Macau port, endless traffic pressure has been reported.

Yu, who also shares this opinion, noted that since the bridge's opening, there have, on average, been approximately 1,000 vehicles using the Macau port, which is below the original

design plan capacity for the Macau port.

However, Yu believes that the utilization of the bridge will continue to increase as the three regions keep enhancing the regional economic development and exchange of human resources.

In addition, Yu also looks forward to an increase in the quota of cars riding between Hong Kong and Macau.

ART

Animal-themed exhibition opens at Albergue



SOME 50 works featuring conventional pets and other small animals are on display at the Albergue SCM gallery until December 9. An opening ceremony for the exhibition was held last night in the patio area of Albergue SCM, counting the attendance of around 50 people.

The animal-themed exhibition is a collaboration between two local artists,

Fanny Lai and Wong Sio Kuan. Titled "Pet Moments – Fanny Lai and Wong Sio Kuan Joint Exhibition", the displayed works are mostly paintings and pen sketches of different breeds of cats and dogs, as well as other small animals like foxes, rabbits, squirrels and chipmunks.

Fanny Lai started painting in 2014 and has since participated in several local exhi-

bitions. Self-taught through books and the internet, Lai has taken a fancy to depicting animals, portraits and scenery in her works, which are generally colorful, cheerful and pleasing to the eye.

Wong Sio Kuan is an art lover who has been passionate about painting since he was a child. Today he enjoys sketching, especially with a ball-point pen, presenting diversity in terms of skill and visual impact. Wong has participated in many collective exhibitions in Macau from 2012 to the present day and has published catalogs listing his animal paintings and sketches.

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Review of the Government's Work in 2018

(TRANSLATED VERSION)

Participated in development of the Greater Bay Area

Chief Executive (CE) Chui Sai On attended the first plenary meeting of the leading group for development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area

Inauguration of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge

CE led a delegation to visit nine cities of the Greater Bay Area

The MSAR's Five-year Development Plan was adjusted by adding the contents related to the Greater Bay Area

Established the Working Committee for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area

Disaster prevention and mitigation for a safe city

- Commenced formulating a ten-year plan for disaster prevention and mitigation (2019-2028), and continued establishing a long-term mechanism for disaster prevention and mitigation;
- Completed revising the scales for typhoons and storm surges;
- Continued improving the General Contingency Plan and Special Contingency Plans;
- Pressed ahead with formulation of the Civil Protection Framework Law;
- Set up 16 emergency shelters;
- Commenced construction of stormwater pumping stations and intercepting drains in the Inner Harbour;
- Began operation of 601 cameras of the phase 2 and 3 of the Urban Closed Circuit Television ("CCTV") Surveillance System for Macao.

Building a liveable city

Optimised transportation

- Effective in controlling vehicle growth with a minus-one percent motor vehicle growth recorded during the first 10 months;
- Implemented equipment installation for LRT trains, and orderly conducted relevant testing;
- Increased parking spaces as of this October:

about 6,400 light vehicle parking spaces

about 2,600 motorcycle parking spaces

Environmental protection

- Number of days with acceptable to good air quality level during the first half of the year reached 96 percent;
- Launched a scheme to subsidise equipment and vehicles for the recycling industry;

Increased the total number of electric vehicle charging spaces to 170

Public housing

- 28,000 residential units to be built in four phases in the New Urban Zone Area A
- Commenced tendering procedures for phase-one design for the public housing development in the New Urban Zone Area A;
- Completed feasibility study of the site on Avenida Wai Long of Taipa;
- Implemented amendment to the Home-Ownership Scheme Housing Law;
- Completed consultation on the legal system governing temporary housing and replacement apartments due to urban renewal.

Smart city

- Initially completed and commenced operations of the Government's cloud computing centre and big data platform;
- Gradually achieved results in digitising administration, transport, tourism and healthcare services.

Optimised infrastructure

- Completed the expansion work at the northern part of the Macau International Airport passenger terminal;
- Completed the preliminary design of the fourth Macao-Taipa cross-harbour bridge;
- Implemented the Ka Ho Tunnel construction project.

Administration and Justice

Progress in administration

- More than 70 public services have been fully digitised;
- Implemented functional restructuring, completed restructuring 11 public departments, and newly established four departments and entities.

Optimised municipal services

- Commenced operation of the new Patane Municipal Market Complex;
- Commenced operation of the Seac Pai Van Commercial Centre and Public Activity Centre.

Optimised legal systems

Legislation for major bills

Establishment of the Municipal Affairs Bureau Maritime Area Management Framework Law

Major bills passing the first reading at the Legislative Assembly

- Amendment to the Judicial Organisation Framework Law
- Amendment to the Law of Use and Protection of the National Flag, National Emblem and National Anthem
- Amendment to the Chief Executive Election Law
- Arbitration Law
- Tax Concession Scheme for Building Redevelopment
- Legal System Governing Taxi Services
- System for Professional Qualification and Licensing for Medical Workers

Economic Sustainability

Stable economic development

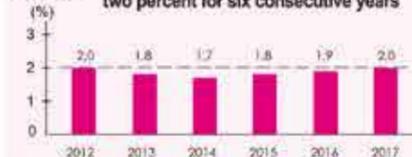
Achieved positive economic growth for nine consecutive quarters



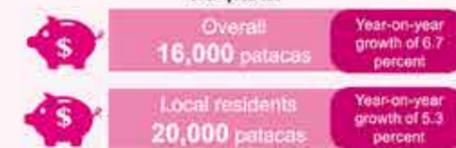
Inflation rate remained at a low level for nine consecutive quarters



Unemployment rate remained at or below two percent for six consecutive years



Increase in median monthly income in the 3rd quarter



Platform between China and PSCs

- Achieved new progress in developing Macao as a Renminbi clearing centre for Portuguese-speaking countries;
- Facilitated development of Macao as a Portuguese-speaking countries food distribution centre.

Gaming industry

- Strengthened regulation and promote healthy development of the sector;
- Strived to urge gaming operators to reinforce non-gaming elements;

Gross gaming revenue (GGR) during the first three quarters was 224.06 billion patacas, a year-on-year growth of 15.9 percent

Support and assistance for SMEs

- Commenced assessment procedures for "Time-honoured Local Shops";
- Launched the one-stop cross-boundary e-commerce service;
- During the first 10 months, the SME Assistance Programme has approved grants of up to 257 million patacas, a year-on-year increase of 24 percent;
- As at the end of October, the SME Subsidy Scheme for Installation of Anti-flooding Platforms has approved 11 cases; and the SME Subsidy Scheme for Installation of Anti-flooding Gates and Water Pumps has approved 511 cases, involving a total subsidy amount of about 18.42 million patacas.

Securing Employment

- Enhanced occupational health and safety education and monitoring;

Improved labour laws and regulations

Legal Framework	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Labour Relations Law for Part-time Labour
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minimum Wage
Revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Labour Relations Law
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Employment Agency Law

Nascent industries

- Continued hosting large-scale quality conventions;
- Launched the Community Cultural and Creative Production Subsidy Scheme and the Specific Subsidy Scheme for Brand Building;

Continued perfecting laws and regulations governing specialised financial businesses

Legal System Governing Financial Leasing Business
Interest Subsidy Scheme on Bank Loans to Enterprises, etc.

An accumulation of more than 100 enterprises have registered in the Guangdong-Macao Traditional Chinese Medicine Science and Technology Industrial Park

Continued improving people's livelihoods

Healthcare and sports

- Digitised healthcare vouchers and extended validity of vouchers to two years
- Planned to establish the Macao Academy of Medical Specialists;
- Commenced operation of the Ilha Verde Health Centre;
- Completed construction of the Ka Ho Rehabilitation Hospital;
- Published the Survey on Sports Venues in Macao 2017.

Social security

- The Non-mandatory Central Provident Fund System came into effect, officially implementing a two-tier social security system;
- Increased the birth allowance under the Social Security Fund to 5,000 patacas

Elderly and the Underprivileged

- Old age allowance increased by 12.5 percent to 9,000 patacas
- Implemented the Legal System for Protection of Rights of the Elderly;
- Adopted the temporary disability allowance scheme as a long-term measure;
- Commenced operation of the new Ka Ho Nursing Home providing more than 200 places for residential care services

Education and talent cultivation

- Completed more than 80 percent of the Ten-year Development Plan for Non-tertiary Education (2011-2020);
- The Tertiary Education System came into effect, and the Tertiary Education Foundation and the Tertiary Education Council were established;
- Completed compiling the talent demand lists for seven industries, including convention and exhibition, food and beverage, hotel, retail, gaming, financial services and construction

Youth

- Successfully held a youth forum on the joint development of the Greater Bay Area
- The Thousand Talents Programme achieved significant results with more than 3,300 participants;
- A plaque unveiling ceremony was held for the national-level mass innovation space at the Young Entrepreneur Incubation Centre.

Culture and Tourism

- Initiated the Macao Year of Gastronomy 2018, to promote Macao as a Creative City of Gastronomy;
- Implemented the Arts and Cultural Studies Subsidy Scheme;
- Macao's tourism receipts reached 32.92 billion patacas (excluding gaming receipts) during the first two quarters, representing year-on-year growth of 21 percent



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ExCo forwards temporary housing regime to AL

Renato Marques

THE Executive Council (ExCo) has concluded the discussion over the bill that aims to establish the legal regime of the temporary housing and trade housing units, a bill that will now be sent immediately to the Legislative Assembly (AL).

The ExCO spokesperson, Leong Heng Teng, said yesterday at a press conference that the bill is instrumental to the establishment of urban renewal plans in several areas of the city. The proposal reportedly follows studies undertaken by the Urban Renewal Council and includes inputs from the public consultation.

There will be a series of restrictions to the applications. As Leong explained, "these restrictions aim to allow access to a temporary house or a trade housing units for those



that really need those housing units."

From the bill, and as a first restriction, all the cases where the owners of the housing units are commercial companies will be excluded, as the application of the law is exclusively directed to individual people.

Additionally, the bill applies to those that require temporary housing while their unit building is being rebuilt (in the cases where the rebuild is possible in the same location). When this is not possible, to such property owners, property owners will be compen-

sated and given the possibility of acquiring a house in a different location.

Restrictions were also enforced in what concerns the number of houses that can be acquired or rented under this law. In this sense, one person can only be allocated one unit for trade, regardless of the number of units that he or she possessed and which would be affected by urban renewal projects. The same applies if two house owners are married.

One of the most anticipated outcomes regarding the bill was the pricing for both the rentals and the sales of the trade units, a fact that was far from being clarified.

As the spokesperson explained, "This is a matter to be decided by the Urban Renewal Council and that requires a further and more complex study as well as in what concerns the value of the compensation to [be awarded]," he said, noting that the bill has now been sent to the AL. He also noted that such amounts would be proportionate to "market prices for the units of the same kind and in the same area," values that would be then set by a dispatch of the Chief Executive.

Regarding the Pearl Horizon buyers, as in the other cases, each unit owner (independently of how many units it was promised they would acquire from the Pearl Horizon development) would be able to acquire only one unit from these government-built projects.

It is proposed by the ExCo that this law will enter into force on the day immediately following its publication in the Official Gazette.

Heritage buildings with updated information and detail

THE Executive Council (ExCo) has concluded discussion over the administrative regulation that promotes changes to the list of heritage classified buildings and protection areas.

As the government's spokesperson Leong Heng Teng noted yesterday, the Council has concluded the analysis of the project, which aims to provide more detail as well as to clarify the information regarding the building and sites.

Leong noted, "the project for administrative regulation did not add any new items, but the list [of the 128 classified buildings] was properly updated according to the established criteria and current situation."

Most of the changes promoted had to do with the designation of the buildings and sites, both in their Chinese and Portuguese names. In this chapter, a total of 90 changes were performed to the Chinese names and 82 to the Portuguese de-

signations.

In addition to these, a total of 22 graphic representations of the sites and buildings in the cartographic records were updated. The vice president of the Cultural Affairs Bureau, Leong Wai Man, said that the changes have "the purpose of clarifying and avoiding confusion with other buildings and places with the same name. [...] We also added more information, such as the former use of the building or the service which is being provided there at the moment."

Examples of such changes could be seen, for instance on the "Saint Paul's Ruins" that from now on will be classified as "Ruins of the Saint Paul's College (old Church of Mater Dei, churchyard and staircase)."

It is proposed by the ExCo that the new list of names and information will enter into force from January 1, 2019.

AL PLENARY

Lawmakers to debate LRT project

THE Legislative Assembly (AL) passed three debate motions on topics concerning the Light Rapid Transit (LRT) yesterday. The three debates were proposed by Agnes Lam, Leong Sun Iok, and a joint proposal by Ng Kuok Cheong and Au Kam San. All the debates will be conducted in the same session of the AL, advised the Assembly's president, Ho Iat Seng.



Agnes Lam proposed the government should suspend or change the LRT project. Ng and Au's joint proposal called on the government to publicize the detailed procedures behind all kinds of difficulties, mistakes and changes within the LRT project, as well as

to clarify the LRT's development plan.

Leong's debate motion asked the Transportation Infrastructure Office to disclose the overall plan and budget of the LRT before the office conducts the next phase of construction.

Leong says that the LRT risks becoming the "biggest white elephant of the century." During yesterday's plenary session, lawmaker Pereira Coutinho supported

Leong's proposal. "The proposal was very well presented by lawmaker Leong Sun Iok. The project's budget passed from MOP4.2 billion [in 2007] to MOP14.2 billion [in 2012]. I was told that with MOP8 billion you could go to the moon," he ironized.

Also yesterday, a proposal by Pereira Coutinho to refuse the proposed location of the hazardous materials depot was rejected.

Tap Seac Craft Market opens tomorrow

The Tap Seac Craft Market will be held on two consecutive weekends on November 16 to 18 and November 23 to 25 at the square in central Macau. The craft market will feature an array of diverse activities and products across some 220 booths of participants from Macau, Hong Kong, mainland China, Taiwan, South Korea and Malaysia. The cultural and creative products include handmade accessories, leather products, drawings, home furnishings, creative potted plants and natural handmade products, amongst others. In addition, the craft market will offer 38 creative handicraft workshops to teach participants specific skills, and will host 40 musical performances from local and foreign artists. The market is open on the abovementioned dates from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Fridays and from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

Five drug dealers arrested, 2.2kg of heroin seized

Four Malaysians and one Hong Kong resident have been arrested for cross-boundary drug trafficking, the Judiciary Police (PJ) reported on Tuesday. PJ seized 2.2kg of heroin and 3.1kg of methamphetamines as part of the arrest. The drugs are estimated to hold a street value of MOP10.9 million. The five drug dealers were spotted after another Malaysian drug dealer was arrested on Tuesday morning at the Macau airport. After the PJ found this first suspect at the airport, the police authority conducted an inspection of all flights arriving in Macau. On the second flight from Kuala Lumpur to Macau, the PJ found the aforementioned five suspects.

Victory Garden's children playground reopens

The children's playground at the Victory Garden will reopen to the public tomorrow. The children's playground had sustained damage due to its many years of use. The Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau replaced the slides, swings, rocking horses and other facilities. In addition to the repairs, the bureau added climbing, balance equipment, and children's educational facilities to enrich the variety of facilities, therefore meeting the needs of children of different ages. A stone wash basin was also added to the site.



Business Luncheon

Thursday 22 November
with

Guest Speaker: **Duncan Pescod**

Chief Executive Officer of West Kowloon Cultural District Authority

West Kowloon: Challenging the idea of Hong Kong as a cultural desert

West Kowloon will not only be a world-class platform for international artistic talent but also a place to incubate and showcase Hong Kong's own unique creativity and culture – while breaking boundaries to create a cultural district that successfully balances culture and commerce for their mutual benefit.

West Kowloon CEO Duncan Pescod discusses the vital role the emerging district will play in determining the cultural landscape of Hong Kong in the 21st century; providing a vibrant creative hub that will redefine not just the geography of Hong Kong but also its place on the global stage

Venue: The Pamirs Ballroom, Level 4
Sheraton Grand Macao Hotel, Cotai Central

- 12:30 Drinks
- 12:55 Lunch
- 13:30 Presentation
- 14:30 Close

Strict No-Show/Late Cancellation Policy applies for this event
Deadline to book and request vegetarian menu: Friday 16 November

Members – MOP/HKD 420 | Non-Members – MOP/HKD 600

Complimentary self-parking for all guests
Inquiries and RSVP to
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Three stars elude Thailand's best chefs in latest Michelin Guide



Siraphob Thanthong-Knight

THE latest Michelin guide for Thailand expanded the list of starred restaurants in Bangkok and recognized one in Phuket for the first time, but none won the top accolade of three stars.

Sühring, which serves modern German food in the capital, moved up from one to two stars, joining Indian restaurant Gaggan, French eatery Le Normandie and European restaurant Mezzaluna in the latter category. Some 23 restaurants achieved or retained one star, including PRU in Phuket and Bangkok street food vendor Jay Fai.

A debut Michelin guide to Thailand's best restaurants was rolled out last year for Bangkok, long a food-lover's paradise for everything from street stalls to fine dining. The latest version goes beyond the capital to assess eateries in the southern tourism

hot spots of Phuket and Phang Nga, part of the country's efforts to keep attracting visitors.

The goal is to cover the whole nation by 2021 under a five-year agreement with Michelin, the Tourism Authority of Thailand said in July. While tourism growth has waned recently after a slide in Chinese holidaymakers, the industry still makes up about a fifth of the economy.

"We have to get away from mass tourism and promote what's unique about us and that's food - it's art," Tanes Petsuwan, deputy governor for international marketing at the tourism authority, said yesterday at a briefing in Bangkok about the latest guide.

Indian restaurant Gaggan, which was set up by Kolkata-born chef Gaggan Anand, has also been voted Asia's best restaurant for the past four years.

French tiremaker and pub-

lisher Michelin introduced the guide in Thailand as part of a broader effort to boost the company's appeal in Asia, judging that the popular restaurant reviews will help position its brand as high quality.

Cities in Asia such as Tokyo, Hong Kong, Macau, Seoul, Shanghai and Singapore also get the Michelin treatment.

The company's reviewers anonymously award stars based on criteria such as quality of ingredients, flavor, cooking techniques and the personality of the chef in the cuisine he or she creates.

Three stars are given to restaurants where the food is exceptional and "worth a special journey," two stars are given to those "worth a detour," while one star is awarded to establishments considered to be good restaurants in their category. **Bloomberg**

GAMING | US

Cleveland Cavaliers owner selling Detroit casino in USD1b deal



Quicken Loans founder Dan Gilbert

BUSINESSMAN and Cleveland Cavaliers owner Dan Gilbert has reached a USD1 billion agreement to sell the Greektown Casino-Hotel in downtown Detroit, one of the city's three casinos, companies involved in the deal announced yesterday.

Gilbert's Detroit-based JACK Entertainment said it planned to sell the casino to Pennsylvania-based Penn National Gaming and New York-based VICI Properties. The deal requires state and federal regulatory approval. JACK Entertainment said it's also "continuing a strategic assessment for its remaining gaming properties" in other states.

Gilbert bought Greektown Casino-Hotel more than five years ago. Under the sale agreement, Penn National will acquire the operating assets of Greektown for about \$300 million and VICI Properties will acquire the land and real estate assets for about \$700 million.

In a statement, Gilbert and his companies said they plan

to use some proceeds from the sale for investment in Detroit real estate and business development. Gilbert already has a major real estate presence in Detroit and has been a key player in the revitalization of the city's downtown.

The sale, he said, "will allow that strong trajectory to continue and provide additional capital to continue our strategic investments in our Detroit real estate and business initiatives."

The sale is expected to be finalized in 2019. During the sale process, plans call for the casino and hotel to remain open. JACK Entertainment said Greektown employees are expected to get compensation and benefit packages at least at current levels.

Penn National owns, operates or has ownership interests in dozens of gambling and racing facilities around the country. JACK Entertainment also owns and operates such properties in Cleveland, Cincinnati and Baltimore as well as racing facilities in Ohio and Kentucky. **AP**

corporate bits

GUEST BARTENDERS SERVE 800 COCKTAILS IN CHARITY EVENT



Four Seasons Hotel Macao hosted a charity event, Cocktails for a Cause, on November 9, with the aim of raising funds in a fun and engaging fashion. Local socialites and personalities gathered at Splash of Four Seasons to raise funds via a friendly

competition of creative cocktails among seven guest bartenders.

More than 800 cocktails were served on the celebrated evening. After three hours of friendly competition and rallying for their creative cocktails, Manuel Pires,

Chairman of the Executive Committee of TDM, won the title of Champion Bartender of Cocktails for a Cause.

The seven guest bartenders raised over MOP100,000 combined, and the funds will be donated to Four Seasons' annual Run of Hope charity run program.

The charity run event has a "Superhero" theme this year in celebration of its tenth year benchmark, and to applaud the everyday heroes in the on-going fight against cancer, including cancer patients and their families, and medical professionals. Participants are encouraged to dress up as their favorite superheroes and will have the chance to win best costume prizes.

SJM THEODORE RACING BY PREMA JOINS SJM IN VISIT TO LOCAL COMMUNITY



SJM Theodore Racing by Prema, amidst their heavy schedule preparing for the Macau Grand Prix, visited the Kam Pek Community Centre in Macau on Tuesday to spend time with the local community, according to a statement from SJM.

SJM Theodore Racing by Pre-

ma CEO Teddy Yip Jr, racing drivers Guanyu Zhou, Ralf Aron, Marcus Armstrong and Robert Shwartzman visited the Kam Pek Community Centre in the Inner Harbor area, and spent quality time with over 100 members of the Macau Association of the Hearing Impaired and of

Macau Special Olympics at the "Hi! My Racing Heroes!" charity event.

Organized by the SJM Volunteer Team, the event aims to inspire the children, as well as to bring laughter to the members by playing games together. The participants also received autographed postcards from the drivers.

"We are delighted to spend a wonderful time with the members of the Association of the Hearing Impaired and of Macau Special Olympics. Our appreciation also goes to SJM and their volunteer team for the invitation, which enables us to have the opportunity to give something back to the local community while racing in Macau, making our trip in Macau a very meaningful one," said Teddy Yip, according to the statement.



Venezuelan-born Carolina Jane, representing Spain in the Miss Earth 2018



Venezuelan-born Andrea Diaz, Miss Chile

Venezuelan beauty queens to dominate Miss World in China

Manuel Rueda & Eva Vergara

WHEN the Miss Universe beauty pageant takes place in a few weeks, Chile will be represented by a slender brunette who has a killer smile and speaks Spanish with an unmistakable Venezuelan accent.

Andrea Diaz was born and raised in Valencia, Venezuela, where from the age of 12 she learned to sway her hips and glide gracefully down catwalks at a local modeling academy. At 19, she won a pageant organized by her hometown's baseball team and became a goodwill ambassador for the squad.

But Diaz's career changed course in her twenties as she moved to Panama and then Mexico for modeling jobs, which are now scarce in crisis-wracked Venezuela. Three years ago she settled down in Chile, where most of her family has also relocated.

"I represent the new Chile," the 26-year-old said as she was training at a local gym in Santiago for the upcoming competition. "This is an inclusive country where immigrants come in search of opportunities."

As thousands of people leave Venezuela each day to escape food shortages and an inflation rate that is expected to surpass 1 million percent, dozens of would-be beauty queens are also taking flight and finding work as

models and media personalities overseas.

Some are even representing their adopted homelands in international beauty pageants.

Next month, Portugal will be represented at the Miss World competition in China by a former Miss Venezuela participant. And the recently concluded Miss Earth Contest, held in the Philippines, featured two Venezuelan models who competed on behalf of Peru and Spain.

"My dream of being a beauty queen was not going to stop just because I arrived in a new country," said Jessica Russo, who represented Peru in Miss Earth, just a year after moving to that country.

She failed to make it into the finals but said she will now train for more pageants, where she hopes to win a crown for Peru, the country where her mother was born.

"I'm still young," said the 22-year-old. "And I want to be a global spokeswoman for good causes."

Beauty pageants are followed almost as closely as baseball in Venezuela, which has long been obsessed with glamour and good looks. The South American country is a world leader in international pageants, with seven Miss Universe crowns and six Miss World titles.

While critics have described the pageants as misogynous

and antiquated, they are defended by many Venezuelans who say the events have helped hundreds of women from all social classes launch careers as models, actresses, TV hosts and news presenters. One former Miss Venezuela winner even served as a mayor of a district in Caracas and ran — unsuccessfully — for the country's presidency.

But as Venezuela's economy plunges, the country's many pageants no longer offer a direct path to employment. Live fashion shows have ground to a halt, TV productions have slowed down and companies such as fashion brands increasingly refrain from spending money on advertisements.

Giselle Reyes runs four modeling schools for young women in Venezuela that she touts as the "university of beauty." She estimates around 70 percent of her graduates have left the country over the past decade to seek modeling jobs in Mexico, Colombia, the United States and other countries.

"I even have a tough time finding modeling instructors now," Reyes said at a studio in Caracas that is lined with photos of celebrity Venezuelan pageant winners. "People always tell me they will work for me for a few months while they find a way to leave the country."

Even Venezuela's most compe-

titive beauty pageant no longer seems to guarantee its graduates a job in their own country.

The nationally televised Miss Venezuela contest chooses 24 participants each year and puts them through a grueling six-month academy that includes daily gym routines, modeling lessons and pep talks from instructors who sometimes coax their pupils into having plastic surgery.

Next month, Portugal will be represented at the Miss World competition in China by a former Miss Venezuela participant

But at least 17 members of the Miss Venezuela class of 2015 appear to be working abroad in Mexico, Colombia, Turkey and even as far away as India, according to a web search of their social media profiles. The number of 2014 contestants working overseas is similar.

"In the '90s, participating in Miss Venezuela virtually gua-

ranteed you work in modeling or in TV," said Rafael Briceño, a Caracas-based radio host who has given public speaking classes to dozens of Miss Venezuela participants. "Now the local market for models is very small."

Many of the Venezuelan beauty queens who have gone abroad credit their rigid preparation in Venezuela with helping them to succeed. But they also are relieved to be free of the demanding, cookie-cutter beauty standards imposed by pageant organizers at home.

Diaz said that while she was still living in Venezuela, she went to a skin cleansing session that went wrong and left small scars and reddish blotches on both her cheeks. Modeling agencies in Venezuela then started to reject her.

In Chile, Diaz was able to win the national beauty contest despite the rashes, which can be easily hidden with makeup. She was able to participate because her father is Chilean.

"Chile accepted me as I am and helped me to regain the confidence I had lost," Diaz said.

Now, as she readies for the Miss Universe pageant next month in Thailand, the model hopes that the jury doesn't just focus on her physical attributes but sees her as a cosmopolitan woman who has moved around the world in pursuit of her goals. She says that she dreams of becoming a motivational speaker working with youth on self-esteem issues.

"A beautiful woman is not just a woman with perfect skin," Diaz said, "but someone with a heart, with ideas and a sense of purpose." AP

Abe, Pence to visit Australia amid China concerns

Trevor Marshallsea, Sydney

REGIONAL security and the strengthening of ties with Japan and the U.S. will be high on the agenda for Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison when he meets leaders from both countries amid continuing concerns about the growing influence of China in the Asia-Pacific.

Morrison will meet Prime Minister Shinzo Abe tomorrow, when Abe makes a flying visit to Darwin between a summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Singapore and the weekend's meeting of leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation in Papua New Guinea. Abe will become the first Japanese leader to visit Darwin since the bombing of the northern Australian city by Japanese forces in World War II.

Morrison will then hold meetings with U.S. Vice President Mike Pence during the APEC meeting in Port Moresby. Pence will use the northern Australian city of Cairns as his base for those meetings amid concerns over security in Papua New Guinea. It's expected several other APEC leaders will also stay in Cairns.

Trade and investment will be a major focus of Morrison's meetings with Abe, who will use his Darwin trip to also visit Japan's biggest ever foreign investment, the USD40 billion Ichthys gas project in which Japanese firm Inpex is the majority shareholder and operator. The project, which pipes offshore gas from the northwest Australian coast



to Darwin, began its first shipments of liquefied natural gas to Japan last month.

Morrison said he and Abe would also acknowledge those who served in World War II, in a pointed gesture in the northern port city that was bombed by Japanese forces in 1942, with the loss of 250 lives.

"Prime Minister Abe's visit is deeply symbolic and significant and it will build on our two countries' strong and enduring friendship as well as our economic, security, community and historical ties," Morrison said in a statement.

The meeting comes at a time when a key topic for Australia, its second-largest trading part-

ner Japan and other Asian and South Pacific neighbors is how to respond to the growing influence of China, Australia's biggest trading partner.

Australia and Japan are expected to reach agreement in Darwin to facilitate larger and more regular joint military exercises, part of a strengthening of defense and economic ties amid growing uncertainty about American involvement in Asia under the Trump administration.

Negotiations began in 2014 for the Reciprocal Access Agreement, which would make it easier for Japanese and Australian forces to visit either country with equipment for military exercises.

An official from Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs told the Australian Financial Review newspaper this week that the two countries were "at the final stage in discussions" on the agreement, set to become the first pact on visiting forces Tokyo has signed outside of its arrangement with the U.S.

Japan is also expected to welcome Australia's new foreign policy shift toward the southwest Pacific announced last week. Canberra will set up a 2 billion Australian dollar (\$1.4 billion) fund to support infrastructure projects in the region, which fits with Japan's call for alternative sources of investment to China's Belt and Road Initiative.

Morrison will also meet Pence in Port Moresby, where the vice president is expected to deliver a speech at the APEC CEO Summit on Saturday morning continuing Washington's push against China's growing influence. Pence is due to talk just minutes after an address to the forum by Chinese President Xi Jinping. Morrison will also address the gathering.

As the U.S. trade war with China continues, Pence is expected to maintain a hard line against Beijing, following a speech he delivered last month accusing China of stealing U.S. intellectual property, meddling in American elections and suppressing human rights.

Pence is also expected to increase pressure on China over its militarization of the disputed South China Sea, the need to maintain pressure on North Korea to denuclearize and on the fight against terrorism.

Pence's press secretary Alyssa Farah said he would "deliver the message that authoritarianism, aggression, and the disregard for other nations' sovereignty by any nation in the Indo-Pacific will not be tolerated by the United States."

The vice president is also expected to set out Washington's rival vision for the Indo-Pacific, promoting private investment over state-controlled funding to build regional infrastructure, in reaction to Chinese involvement in the South Pacific in recent years.

In an opinion piece for the Washington Post last weekend, Pence wrote: "The United States will work with like-minded nations — from India to the Pacific islands — to advance our shared interests. Together, we will stand up to anyone who threatens our interests and our values. The United States seeks collaboration, not control." **AP**

Missing elite Chinese university alumni spark outcry

STUDENTS and alumni of several Chinese universities are sounding the alarm over the apparent detention of more than a dozen young labor activists who have been missing since the weekend.

Three recent graduates of the elite Peking University have been taken away by authorities, the Jasic Workers Support Group said in a statement late Tuesday. According to the group, eyewitnesses saw one person being "kidnapped" from the Beijing campus, while others in Shenzhen, Guangzhou and Shanghai also disappeared last Friday.

They were involved in a coalition, led by young Marxist activists, that was



Members of the Jasic Workers Support Group pose for a group photo after a campaign promoting worker's rights in Dezhou city in Guangdong

founded this summer to show solidarity with factory workers at Jasic Technology, a welding equipment manufacturer in southern China.

Activists in China are routinely "disappeared" by authorities working for the ruling Communist

Party, which is wary of collective action and potential threats to its authority. The young Marxists, however, are an unusual target because they espouse the same values — socialism, workers' rights and Marxist ideology — for which the party has

itself advocated.

The sudden disappearances all occurred at around 9 p.m. on Friday, the Jasic Workers Support Group said. Three others in Wuhan, including one factory worker, were taken away by police on Sunday, though one was released early the next day.

Peking University students and alumni have expressed alarm after students published accounts online saying that they were beaten on campus by unidentified men who forced a recent graduate named Zhang Shengye into a car on Friday evening.

One fourth-year history student, writing on the Jasic Workers Support Group's website, said he was thrown to the ground

outside of a lecture hall by five people dressed in black.

When he asked them who they were, he recalled, one swore at him and yelled, "If you keep yelling, we'll keep hitting you!" Shortly afterward, a tall, burly man started kicking his head.

The student said he then saw that someone was being dragged into a car that swiftly drove away.

The student who wrote this account could not be reached yesterday. Members of the Jasic Workers Support Group, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said they believe he has been forced to leave campus for the time being.

Yesterday evening, so-

meone who identified himself as a third-year Peking University medical student said in an online post that he had a similar encounter on that same night, when people in dark clothing rushed at him and held him to the ground until he bled.

In a statement posted on an internal Peking University forum, the school's security department said the "situation" on Friday was that of a "police department lawfully taking into custody a criminal suspect [...] who is not a current student, teacher or employee of the school."

A member of the security department confirmed over the phone that the statement came from the university. **AP**

Eric Talmadge, Wonsan

NORTH KOREA

In factory after factory, Kim tries to grow economy

FOR North Korean factory managers, a visit by leader Kim Jong Un is the highest of honors and quite possibly the most stressful event imaginable.

The chief engineer at the Songdowon General Foodstuffs Factory had looked forward to the visit for nearly a decade. His factory churns out tons of cookies, crackers, candies and bakery goods, plus dozens of varieties of soft drinks sold around the country. In its showroom, Kwon Yong Chol proudly showed off one of his best-sellers, a nutrient soup made with spirulina, a blue-green microalgae “superfood.”

“Ever since construction began everyone here had wanted the leader to visit, and this year he did. His visit was the biggest thing that could happen to us,” Kwon, smiling broadly, said of Kim Jong Un’s visit in July. “He ate our instant noodles. He said they were delicious.”

Not all managers have been so fortunate.

There’s a lot on the line for North Korea these days. And Kim means business.

AP PHOTO



A worker monitors the production of bottled beverage at Songdowon General Foodstuffs Factory in Wonsan

INSPECTION TOURS

Though the international spotlight has been on his denuclearization talks with Washington, the North Korean leader has a lot riding domestically on his promises to boost the country’s economy and standard of living. His announcement in April that North Korea had sufficiently developed its nuclear weapons and would now focus on building its economy marked a sharp turn in official policy, setting the stage for his rapid-fire meetings with the leaders of China, South Korea and the United States.

It also set in motion an ambitious campaign of “on-the-spot guidance” trips to rally party officials, factory managers and military troops.

After the announcement of the “new strategic line” and his first round of summits, including his meeting in June with President Donald Trump, Kim embarked on nearly 20 inspection tours around the country in July and another 10 in August, all but one of them to non-military locations. The military inspection rounds are instead being hand-

led by the country’s premier, Pak Pong Ju, who has gone on 18 inspection tours from July, mostly to military facilities.

On-the-spot guidance tours are a tradition Kim inherited from his father and grandfather, the late “eternal General-Secretary” Kim Jong Il and “eternal President” Kim Il Sung.

They date to the late 1940s, when Kim Il Sung began gradually institutionalizing the visits to demonstrate his hands-on leadership and, as invariably portrayed by the North’s media, his deep care and concern for the well-being of the people.

Factories, farms and important industrial facilities are the usual destinations. But Kim Jong Un’s focus on them this year marks a break from excursions in 2017 to nuclear weapons facilities and missile sites.

Reflecting the gravity of his current mission, Kim has shown little patience for cadres who come up short.

On his July tour in the northern part of the country he lambasted

officials at a factory that produces backpacks for students, saying their attitude was “very wrong” and “has no revolutionary spirit.” He then dressed down officials at a power plant that has been under construction for 17 years, criticized people in charge of a hotel project for taking too long to finish plastering its walls and slammed the authorities responsible for building a recreational campsite.

“Looking round the bathroom of the camp, he pointed out its very bad condition, saying bathtubs for hot spring therapy are dirty, gloomy and unsanitary for their poor management,” said an official report of the visit.

THE RESPECTED MARSHAL

Most inspection tours, however, go like Kim’s two-hour visit to the Songdowon processed foods factory.

With a gaggle of cameramen in tow — the tours are always top news in North Korea’s media — the site’s senior manager generally serves as the guide. Mem-

bers of Kim’s entourage frantically take notes as he suggests tweaks of this or that and offers praise or encouragement.

Many factories put up red and gold plaques to commemorate the event. Some have special wall displays made afterward that show the exact path the leader took in little LED lights that can be turned on at the press of a button.

At Kwon’s factory, which has 300 employees and is located on the outskirts of the eastern coastal city of Wonsan, Kim advised managers to improve operations on an “automated, unmanned and germ-free basis, holding aloft the banner of self-reliance.”

Before the obligatory group photo session, the North’s official news agency reported, Kim voiced “his expectation and conviction” the factory would produce more quality foods “and thus more fully demonstrate the honor of being a factory loved by the people.”

But Kim also had a broader point to make.

He told the factory management that they must be prepared to work in a more competitive environment, to modernize and cut the fat. These are special times and they, and basically all managers throughout the country, need to step up their game.

“The Respected Marshal Kim Jong Un pays much more attention to the quality of a product,” Kwon said. “When he came to this factory he gave instructions to maintain a high level of hygiene because food is closely associated with the health of the people, and to keep the highest level of quality of products that people like. He said we must produce products that are world class, and produce a lot of foods that people like.”

Kwon said the pressure isn’t just coming from above.

“The people demand more quality,” he said. “When people look at the product, they must feel like they want to have it. So we are designing things in line with that. We have to satisfy the demands of the people.” AP

North Korean delegation visits South to attend history forum

A five-member North Korean delegation came to South Korea yesterday to attend an academic forum on Japan’s wartime actions, as the rivals continue reconciliation efforts despite stalemated U.S.-led nuclear diplomacy.

The North Koreans are among 300 people from nine countries who are taking part in Friday’s forum near Seoul. The meeting with discussion Japan’s forced mobilization of laborers in the region during World War II and how to boost exchanges

now among Asia-Pacific countries.

The North Koreans are led by Ri Jong Hyok, vice chairman of the Korea Asia-Pacific Peace Committee. Participants from other countries including South Korea, Japan and China, are mostly civilian

scholars and former officials. Ex-Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama, who has been apologetic about Japan’s past wrongdoing, will represent the Japanese side, according to organizers.

The forum is organized by Gyeonggi province,

which surrounds Seoul, and a South Korean civic organization. The South Korean government has said it has no plans to meet with the North Koreans during their four-day visit.

Anti-Japanese sentiment runs deep in both Koreas because the Korean Peninsula was colonized by Japan for 35 years before its division at the end of World War II in 1945. However, the Koreas have rarely taken joint steps to tackle history and other

issues stemming from the colonization because of their decades-long split.

Relations between the Koreas have improved this year, with the North entering disarmament talks with a vague promise to achieve complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. U.S.-North Korea talks have reported little recent progress as skepticism has grown over whether the North is truly committed to disarmament. AP

Southeast Asian-centered trade deal set for further delays

LEADERS of Southeast Asian nations have pushed back yet again an agreement on a pan-Asian free trade deal amid a whirlwind of diplomacy yesterday at their annual summit.

In convening talks among the leaders of countries participating in the plan, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said a final agreement on the deal, which is expected to encompass nearly half the world's population and 40 percent of world trade, will be pushed back until 2019.

Lee's comments confirmed earlier expectations that the 16 countries in the plan, called the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, or RCEP, would not meet their goal of finalizing the accord this year.

The trade talks followed scores of bilateral meetings among the leaders and talks on other issues such as regional security, how to keep peace in the South China Sea and the crisis over hundreds of thousands of ethnic Rohingya Muslims who have fled to Bangladesh from Myanmar to escape violence.



During the meetings in Singapore, Lee has championed the region's commitment to free trade and a multilateral approach to sorting out the issue — in contrast with President Donald Trump's "American First" preference for bilateral trade deals and distrust of international institutions.

"We are meeting at a critical time. Protectionism and anti-globalization sentiments are on the rise. This can have a devastating impact on the regional as well as

the global economy, and business confidence in Asia is already being affected," Lee said.

"It's important that we redouble our economic integration efforts and maintain a free, open and rules-based multilateral trading system which has underpinned our growth and prosperity," he said.

Trump withdrew from a Pacific Rim trade initiative, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, just after taking office last year. That trade

pact is due to take effect on Dec. 30. The U.S. is not part of the RCEP initiative, which includes China, India, Australia and most other Asian economies.

Lee said participating countries had finished five of seven chapters in their agreement and shown "strong political will" in finishing it. He warned that further delays in reaching an agreement would damage the RCEP's credibility.

"We are now at the final stage

of negotiations. With a strong momentum generated this year, I am pleased to note that the RCEP negotiations are poised for conclusion in 2019," he said.

The 10 Association of Southeast Asian Nations members include Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Earlier earlier, the ASEAN leaders met with their counterparts from Australia, China, South Korea, Russia and Japan.

Managing conflict in the South China Sea is a perennial concern; China is pitted against its smaller neighbors in multiple disputes in the sea over coral reefs and lagoons in waters crucial for global commerce and rich in fish and potential oil and gas reserves.

While in Singapore, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang has sought to reassure China's neighbors.

"We have found the way to properly manage and defuse differences, for example, on the issue of the South China Sea in the past years," Li said, adding that the situation was moving toward "greater stability" with progress toward a single draft text on a code of conduct in the sea. He reiterated Beijing's hope to have a final agreement within three years.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said such a code was needed "at all cost" to prevent dangerous miscalculations. AP

AD

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UKRAINE

Hungarian minority threatened by new education law



Children from the Hungarian community attend class at the Velyka Dobron High School in Velyka Dobron

Pablo Gorondi, Chop

THE Hungarian minority in western Ukraine is feeling besieged.

A new education law that could practically eliminate the use of Hungarian and other minority languages in schools after the 4th grade is just one of several issues threatening this community of 120,000 people in Transcarpathia, a Ukrainian region that in the past century has been part of Hungary, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union.

In February, the headquarters of the minority's biggest political organization, the Transcarpathian Hungarian Cultural Association, or KMKSZ, was firebombed. More recently, mysterious billboards have appeared in the region accusing its politicians of separatism. And a dispute has erupted over the legality of the community acquiring dual Hungarian citizenship.

The incidents have left many worried that even as Ukraine strives to bring its laws and practices closer to European Union standards, its policies for minorities seem to be heading in a far more restrictive direction.

"There is a sort of purposeful policy, which besides narrowing the rights of all minorities, tries to portray the Hungarian minority as the enemy in Ukrai-

nian public opinion," said Laszlo Brenzovics, the only ethnic Hungarian in the Ukrainian parliament. He called the separatism charges "extraordinarily absurd" and a means to distract from Ukraine's domestic problems.

Brenzovics' party, the KMKSZ, has launched its own campaign with bilingual billboards reading "Let's not allow peace to be destroyed in Transcarpathia!"

"This is a peace campaign to calm the mood," said Livia Balogh, a party official in Chop, a once-booming railroad city of 9,000 people on the border with Hungary. "Hungarians here are mostly surprised and tense but also angry that the minority card is being played."

With a presidential election expected in March, Ukraine is also facing an ongoing armed conflict on its eastern borders with Russian-backed separatists. Officials say the new language rules in education, to be implemented over several years, serve a unifying purpose.

"Education is the fundament to social cohesion, which is also the fundament of security in the country," said Anna Novosad, a senior official at Ukraine's Ministry of Education and Science. She attributed Russia's annexation of the Crimean peninsula in 2014 partly to the disintegration

and linguistic isolation of the local, mainly Russian-speaking population from the rest of Ukraine.

"This is something that we would like not to repeat in the western part of our country," Novosad said.

Vasyl Filipchuk, a Ukrainian diplomat and chair of the board of the International Center For Policy Studies in the capital Kiev, said the anti-Hungarian campaign was being used to distract voters.

"It's artificial, manipulative technology" to overshadow the real problems of the people — corruption, lack of jobs and lack of economic prospects, Filipchuk said, adding that the use of patriotic, nationalistic rhetoric is "very dangerous."

Some of the issues have triggered a diplomatic dispute between Ukraine and Hungary, with Hungary blocking Ukraine's talks on integration with the European Union and NATO until the language stipulations in the education law are revised. In early October, Ukraine expelled a Hungarian consul after a secret video surfaced of Ukrainian Hungarians taking the oath of Hungarian citizenship. In response, Hungary expelled a Ukrainian consul.

Almost all members of Ukraine's Hungarian minority live in

Transcarpathia — called Zakarpattia Oblast in Ukrainian and Karpatalja in Hungarian. The last census, from 2001, counted 151,000 Hungarians, but unofficial estimates now see around 120,000.

Some of the issues have triggered a diplomatic dispute between Ukraine and Hungary

Scores have emigrated to Hungary and western Europe, driven in part by Ukraine's economic crisis and facilitated by the possibility of acquiring dual Hungarian citizenship, which comes with a European Union passport.

It's a community that is still strongly tied to Hungary — everyone seems to set their watches to Hungary's time zone, an hour behind Ukraine's.

Jozsef Kantor, principal of a high school with some 700 students in Velyka Dobron, a villa-

ge near Chop with a majority Hungarian population, acknowledged that a more modern education law was needed. Still, he lamented the "much harsher and unfavorable education law" now proposed.

At Kantor's school, which is undergoing renovations paid mostly by subsidies from the Hungarian government, Ukrainian language and literature are the only classes not taught in Hungarian. National authorities seem open to developing Ukrainian language textbooks which would take into account the fact that many Hungarian children enter school without speaking much, if any, Ukrainian.

Many of the school's graduates are taking advantage of having an EU passport to get their higher education in Hungary or elsewhere abroad.

"What affects us negatively is that many of them don't come back," Kantor said. "Ultimately, if this continues for 20 or 30 years, there's a risk that the intellectual class among Hungarians in Transcarpathia will shrink significantly."

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, who has made a name for himself in Europe through his unrelenting anti-immigration and nationalist policies, has made supporting the estimated 2.2 million Hungarians living in neighboring countries — lands that Hungary lost after World War I and the disintegration of the Austro-Hungarian Empire — a key objective.

Subsidies totaling some USD60.1 million have been given to institutions, businesses and families abroad since 2017, and Brenzovics, the lawmaker, said the payments have helped establish 3,000 new businesses.

Officials have simplified steps for Hungarians abroad to acquire dual Hungarian citizenship. An initial goal of adding 1 million dual citizens — on top of Hungary's population of some 10 million — was achieved nearly a year ago.

Orban's efforts have created a political windfall. In April's elections, over 95 percent of voters casting ballots by mail — mostly from neighboring countries — backed Orban's coalition led by his Fidesz party, helping him to a third consecutive term.

In Chop, teacher Zsuzsanna Dzapko, a Hungarian whose husband's family is Russian-Ukrainian, has accepted the fact that the best educational prospects for their 11-year-old daughter Rebeka — who speaks all three languages and is a talented singer and musician — are across the border.

"I don't have hopes that she'll come back, because as a Hungarian folk singer in this country, she wouldn't have much of a future," Dzapko said in a small apartment shared by three generations. "We hope the times will change, the winds will change and the laws will change, as well." **AP**

UK

D-Day for May as she seeks backing for draft Brexit deal

Jill Lawless, London

BRITISH Prime Minister Theresa May will try to persuade her divided Cabinet that they have a choice between backing a draft Brexit deal with the European Union or plunging the U.K. into political and economic uncertainty.

May called a special Cabinet meeting after negotiators from Britain and the EU broke a months-long logjam and reached agreement on divorce terms, including a plan to keep the border between Ireland and Northern Ireland open after Brexit.

Pro-Brexit lawmakers in May's Conservative Party — including some members of the Cabinet — say the agreement will leave Britain tethered to the EU after it departs and unable to forge an independent trade policy.

May's supporters argue that the deal is the best on offer, and the alternatives are a chaotic



“no-deal” Brexit that would cause huge disruption to people and businesses, or an election that could see the Conservative government replaced by the left-of-center Labour Party.

Former Foreign Secretary William Hague warned “ardent Brexiters” that if they shoot down May's deal, it could lead to a change of government and a new referendum and “Brexit

might never happen at all.”

Failure to secure Cabinet backing will leave May's leadership in doubt and the Brexit process in chaos, with exit day just over four months away on March 29.

If Cabinet supports the deal, it needs approval from the EU at a summit in the next few weeks. Then May will need to win backing from Parliament — no easy task, since pro-Brexit and pro-EU legislators alike are threatening to oppose it.

The main obstacle to a withdrawal agreement has long been how to ensure there are no customs posts or other checks along the border between the U.K.'s Northern Ireland and EU member Ireland after Brexit. Britain and the EU agree that there must be no barriers that could disrupt businesses and residents on either side of the border and undermine Northern Ireland's hard-won peace process.

The proposed solution involves a common customs arrangement

for the U.K. and the EU, to eliminate the need for border checks, with some provisions that are specific to Northern Ireland.

The solution is intended to be temporary, but pro-Brexit politicians in Britain fear it may become permanent, hampering Britain's ability to strike new trade deals around the world.

Pro-Brexit former Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said the agreement would make his favored option, a loose Canada-style trade deal with the bloc, impossible. He tweeted: “Cabinet must live up to its responsibilities & stop this deal.”

Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party, which props up May's minority government, said it would oppose any deal that leaves Northern Ireland subject to different rules to the rest of the U.K. after Brexit.

DUP chief whip Jeffrey Donaldson said the proposed deal threatens “the constitutional and economic integrity of the U.K.”

“That is not something we can support,” he told the BBC.

May also faces growing opposition from pro-EU lawmakers, who say her proposed Brexit deal is worse than the status quo and the British public should get a new vote on whether to leave or to stay. AP

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what's ON



"WE ARE ARTISTS MADE IN MACAU" MARKET

TIME: 2pm-9pm

UNTIL: November 25, 2018

VENUE: Albergue SCM

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550 / 2852 3205

Macau Giant Panda Pavilion and Pavilion of Rare Animals

TIME: 10am-1pm & 2pm-5pm daily

VENUE: Seac Pai Van Park

ADMISSION: MOP10 (Pavilion of Rare Animals)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0087

ASSEMBLAGE OF TREASURES

TIME: 10am-6pm (Last admission 5:30pm; closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: February 19, 2019

VENUE: Macau Museum (Mount Fortress)

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

Discover Macau: Museum of Taipa and Coloane History

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (last admission at 5:30PM; closed on Mondays)

ADDRESS: Rua Correia da Silva, Taipa

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

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

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITION OF MACAU VISUAL ARTS 2018

TIME: 10am-9pm

UNTIL: November 18, 2018

VENUE: Tap Seac Gallery Temporary Exhibition

Gallery of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

Offbeat

ROMANIAN MAN RETURNS USD107,000 FOUND IN SECONDHAND CUPBOARD

A Romanian man was surprised to find 95,000 euros (USD107,000) stashed inside a secondhand cupboard he'd bought — and promptly returned the money.

Adela Stanici told The Associated Press this week that her husband, a construction worker, had recently bought the cupboard from a popular online site.

Days later, as she was making dinner, husband Samuel yelled: "come and see what I've found," a metal box in the cupboard stuffed with 500-euro notes.

She said the pair counted the money together: "We were shocked. We couldn't sleep all night."

"We thought it might be a trap, a setup, and we knew we had to get the money back to where it came from," the mother of four said by telephone.

The husband traveled from their home, in the western village of Bichigi, to the city where the owner lived. The man revealed the cupboard had belonged to his recently deceased father.

Stanici said the man, who requested anonymity, "had no idea" about the money.

He traveled to their village without knowing how much money there was. "When he saw (it), he couldn't believe it."

She said he rewarded them for their honesty, without saying how much he gave them.

TV canal macau



13:00 TDM News (Repeat)

13:30 RTPi News

15:50 Zig Zag

16:40 Interview - André Lourenço e Silva

17:10 Who wants to be a millionaire

19:00 TDM Entrevista (Repetição)

19:35 Os Nossos Dias Sr.2

20:30 Telejornal

21:15 Montra do Lilau

21:50 LiteraturAqui

22:25 Filha da Lei

23:15 TDM News

23:50 Curso de Cultura Geral Sr.2

00:45 Telejornal (Repeat)

01:30 RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

15 - 21 Nov



FANTASTIC BEASTS: THE CRIMES OF GINDELWALD

ROOM 1

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

Director: David Yates

Starring: Eddie Redmayne, Johnny Depp, Jude Law

Language: English

Duration: 130min

THE CURED

ROOM 2

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

Director: David Freyne

Starring: Sam Keeley, Ellen Page, Tom Vaughan-Lawlor

Language: English

Duration: 130min

HICHKI

ROOM 3

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

Director: Siddharth P Malhotratiqua

Starring: Rani Mukerji

Language: Hindi (Chinese/ English)

Duration: 112min



CODE BLUE

ROOM 3

2:15, 7:00 pm

Director: Masaki Nishiura

Starring: Yamashita Tomohisa, Aragaki Yui, Toda Erika

Language: Japanese (Chinese, English)

Duration: 112min

MY HERO ACADEMIA

ROOM 3

4:45, 9:30 P.M.

Director: Kenji Nagasaki

Language: Japanese (Chinese, English)

Duration: 112min

this day in history



1985 ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT SIGNED

Britain and the Republic of Ireland have signed a deal giving Dublin a role in Northern Ireland for the first time in more than 60 years.

Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said it brought new hope of ending the violence in Northern Ireland.

But Treasury minister Ian Gow - one of Mrs Thatcher's closest political allies - has resigned in protest at the deal which is also opposed by the Ulster Unionists.

In a letter, Mr Gow told Mrs Thatcher the government's change of policy on Northern Ireland would "prolong and not diminish the agony of Ulster."

The Anglo-Irish Agreement was signed by Margaret Thatcher and Irish Prime Minister Garret FitzGerald at Hillsborough Castle in County Down, Northern Ireland.

It sets up a framework for regular conferences between British and Irish ministers to discuss matters affecting Northern Ireland.

However, if a devolved government were established in Northern Ireland, matters transferred to its power would no longer fall under the remit of the conferences.

That is being seen as an inducement for unionists who want to remain part of the United Kingdom and keep Dublin at bay.

But, for the first time, the British Government has officially committed to promoting legislation for a united Ireland if a majority is in favour.

The deal has been met with anger and bitterness by the majority loyalist community in Northern Ireland.

The 15 Ulster Unionist MPs have accused Mrs Thatcher of treachery and have said they will resign unless a referendum is held on the agreement.

However, opposition leaders at Westminster have pledged their support and the government seems certain to secure a big majority when the deal comes up for approval.

Irish MPs also have to approve the agreement which will be reviewed after three years.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Thousands turned out for demonstrations led by unionist MPs against the agreement.

Ian Gow was among Conservatives who set up an anti-agreement group in 1986 to fight the case for keeping the status quo in Northern Ireland.

In July 1990 Mr Gow was killed by a bomb planted at his home in Sussex by the IRA.

The Anglo-Irish agreement followed a failed attempt in 1973 to set up a power-sharing executive of nationalist and unionist politicians and an all-Ireland Council.

No deal accepted by all sides was reached until the Good Friday Agreement in April 1998 which created the Northern Ireland Assembly and new cross-border institutions.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You're almost compelled to move forward, even though success seems unlikely. You need to slow down. As uncomfortable as it may be with a drive like yours, you'll get further if you conserve your energy now.

Taurus April 20-May 20 If ever there was a day to take things personally, this is it. There's plenty to hurt your feelings and ruffle your feathers over. But on the flip side, there's even more to make your heart swell if you choose to focus on it.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You're not feeling the ripple effect so much as the hint of dangerous undercurrents. You want to keep your finger on this. The moment it turns into a rip tide is the moment you take a bath.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 These days, you can't afford to put anything off for later. You need to deal with things as they come up. If you need some incentive, imagine all the people out there drooling over your source of income.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You're the financial butcher today. It's hard to muster much gusto for what you have to do. That's understandable. You don't need enthusiasm, you just need to get the job done.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You don't have anything left over to put on any finishing touches. In fact, you need to remove some, not add them. Being creative will have to wait until saving money is less critical.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 If being at home only reminds you of better times, then it's not a good place to be in. On the other hand, it could be all the incentive you need to renew your efforts to get things back in balance.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Some are hunkering down, staying safe until conditions improve, but that's not how you choose to wait for the storm to pass. Implementing new plans makes sense to you, as long as it doesn't take much of an umbrella.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Being focused on money is certainly not unusual. If anything, it has only intensified with time. The only thing that's shifted is your angle. Make perfecting penny pinching your new goal.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 If you've been working hard and results have been good, the money should follow. Right? Well, maybe. You can impress everyone the world over and still not see a dime. Today, working hard is its own reward.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Wallowing in your woes becomes more tempting by the day. Don't give in to it. Those who survive this difficult period will do it by staying organized and disciplined.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You need to find some direction. Your efforts are like seeds blowing in the wind. They'll find a place to take root, but where will you be by then? If you're not sure, ask the advice of a natural born leader.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for 'ACROSS' and 'DOWN'. Includes a 'Yesterday's solution' grid with filled-in words.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

List of useful telephone numbers including Emergency calls, Fire department, PJ (Open line), PJ (Picket), PSP, Customs, S. J. Hospital, Kiang Wu Hospital, Commission Against Corruption (CCAC), IACM, Tourism, and Airport.



Real estate advertisement for JML Property, featuring 'FOR SALE' and 'FOR RENT' sections with details for properties like Hellene Garden, Ocean Garden Elm Court, Lakeview, and Taipa, Nam Long.

OLYMPICS

Majority of Calgary voters say 'no thanks' to 2026 games

CALGARY'S bid to host the 2026 Winter Olympics was rebuffed yesterday [Macau time] when local voters said "no" in a nonbinding referendum.

Unofficial results showed that 56 percent voted against bidding for the Olympics. Results showed that out of 767,734 eligible voters, 304,774 cast ballots and 171,750 of those voted against the Olympic bid.

The city council is expected to address the results on Monday, but there is little doubt the bid seems dead. The council has already shown skepticism, with eight of 15 members voting on Oct. 31 to scuttle the public vote. Ten votes were required for the vote not to be held.

The defeat is a huge blow to the International Olympic Committee, which has only two candidates officially declared: Stockholm, Sweden, and a joint Italian bid from Milan and Cortina D'Ampezzo. Both bids also face opposition and financing problems.

Three other cities withdrew earlier this year — Sapporo, Japan;

AP PHOTO



Sion, Switzerland; Graz, Austria — and Turkey's Erzurum was eliminated last month by the IOC.

The IOC was left in a similar spot for the 2022 Winter Olympics when numerous bidders withdrew. Only two unlikely cities expressed final interest, with Beijing, China, winning narrowly

in an IOC vote over Almaty, Kazakhstan.

The host for 2026 will be selected by the IOC in a vote on June 24 in Lausanne, Switzerland.

The Canadian Olympic Committee said in a statement it was disappointed by the results. Calgary was the host for the 1988

Winter Olympics.

"The opportunity to welcome the world to Canada, where people can experience the uniting power of the Games and within our nation's culture of peace and inclusion, would have offered countless benefits to all," the statement said. "This would have

been a unique opportunity for Canadians to be leaders in fulfilling the promise of a renewed vision for the Games."

The results won't be declared official until Friday. But the opposition was already celebrating.

"I think that people had enough of the establishment, telling us what to do, what to think," local councillor Sean Chu said.

Mary Moran, CEO of Calgary 2026, called the issue "very divisive" and said it was time "to put that behind us."

"We really wanted this dream for Calgary to host the Olympic and Paralympic Games," Moran said. "We learned so much about our community. We learned so much about each other."

The Alberta government made its funding of a bid conditional on holding a vote and provided USD2 million to pay for it.

"We fought many, many obstacles along the way," said Scott Hutcheson, board chair of Calgary 2026. "We had three government partners that stepped up with billions of dollars to invest in this dream."

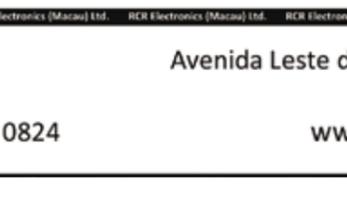
Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi voted for continuing with a bid. Calgary 2026 was hampered by last-minute negotiations over a cost-sharing agreement between the federal, provincial and city governments. **AP**

AD



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GOLF

Snedeker back at Australian Open for first time since 2007

BRANDT Snedeker hasn't played the Australian Open since 2007 but the memory of his costly mistake in the final round hasn't faded.

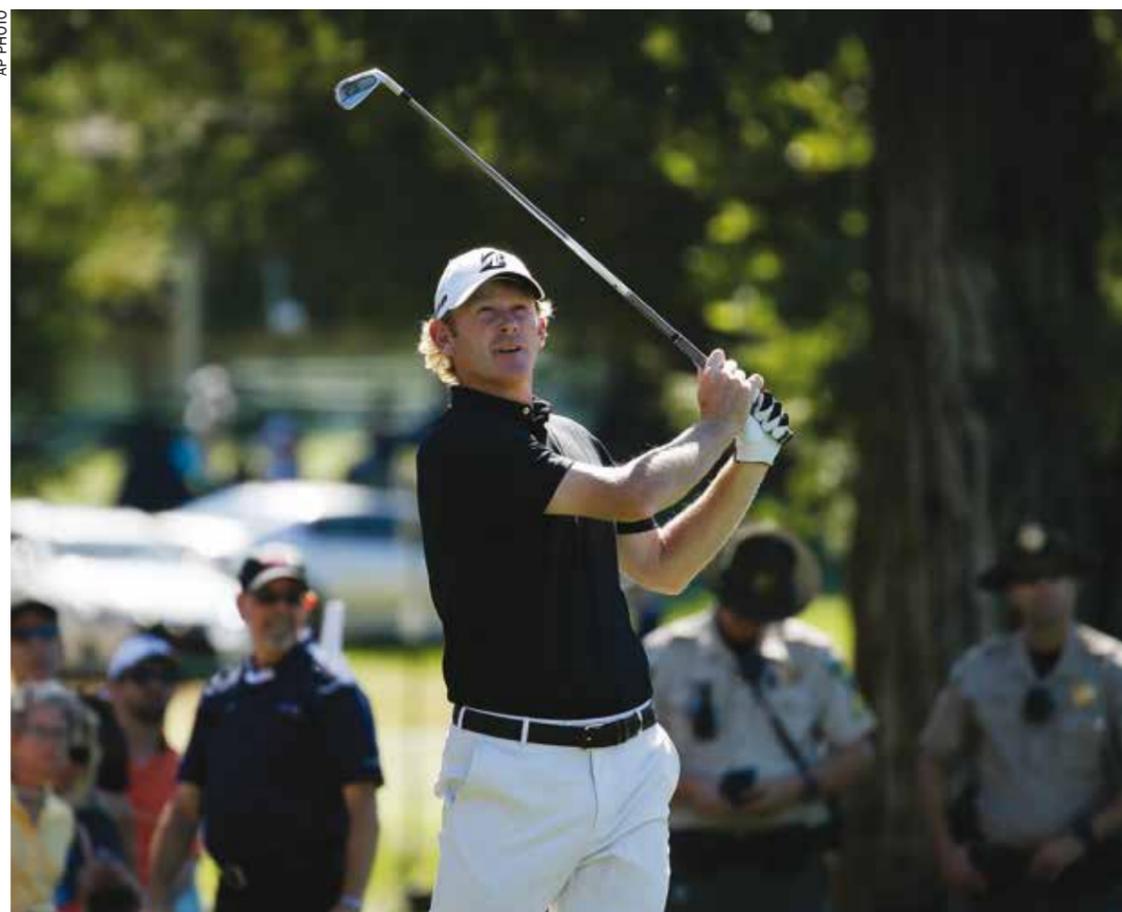
Snedeker lost by a shot to Craig Parry when he called a penalty on himself on the 14th hole of the final round at The Australian Golf Club because the ball moved as he tried to shift some twigs around it.

"It was a no-brainer penalty," Snedeker said.

A nine-time winner on the PGA Tour, Snedeker is joined by fellow Americans Matt Kuchar, who won last week's PGA Tour event in Mexico, and Keegan Bradley in the field this week at The Lakes, just down the road from The Australian.

"Really cool undulations, and the green complexes here are very difficult," Snedeker said after playing nine holes on the course for the first time. "It's one of those places where you have to put the ball in the right spots on the greens to give yourself chances. If the wind blows, though, it's going to be survival."

Missing from the Open this year are two of Australia's top players, Jason Day, whose wife is expecting a baby, and Adam Scott. Jordan Spieth, a two-time champion, has also decided not to travel Down Under this year, and the field is one of the



Brandt Snedeker in Napa, California

weakest for the tournament in years.

Geoff Ogilvy, who won the Australian Open at The Lakes in 2010, was quoted as saying in Golf Australia magazine that he's disappointed the tour-

namment, first played in 1904, isn't what it was back in the days when Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player, Arnold Palmer and Greg Norman were adding their names to the Stonehaven Cup.

The prize money of 1.25 million

Australian dollars (USD903,000 and AUD225,000 (\$163,000) to the winner this year can't compete with other tournaments around the world.

"We are now playing the Australian Open for less money

than when I turned professional two decades ago," Ogilvy said. "It was a big tournament back then. Played towards the end of the northern hemisphere summer it was surrounded by a few other big events. So players from elsewhere could bring their families and make the long trip worthwhile. It made sense."

Ogilvy said the increasing investment in rival tours means players and sponsor money is going elsewhere.

"The economic clout of the PGA Tour has done much to ruin so many events held outside the United States," Ogilvy said. "Only those in the Middle East and maybe the HSBC event in China have been able to compete financially."

Kuchar yesterday said the Australian Open's history, and not the prize money, is a reason he's in Sydney.

"It adds to the allure of coming and playing and trying to put your name on that list of champions," Kuchar said. "It is a national Open [...] golf's such a big part of sport and people's lives in Australia."

The Australian Open field should improve next year when it is moved to the week before the Presidents Cup at Royal Melbourne. The 2019 Open is scheduled Dec. 5-8 at The Australian.

Traditionally, many of the top U.S. and International players in the Presidents Cup come to Australia a week early to get over jet lag and acclimatize to the Australian conditions.

The Australian Open will be the first qualifying tournament for next year's British Open at Royal Portrush, with the top three players not already exempt earning spots. **AP**

FOOTBALL

Premier League hires Discovery's Susanna Dinnage as CEO

THE English Premier League hired broadcasting executive Susanna Dinnage as chief executive yesterday [Macau time], making her the most powerful female executive in global sports.

Dinnage will leave her role as global president of Discovery's Animal Planet brand early next year to succeed Richard Scudamore running the world's richest soccer competition.

Scudamore was CEO from 1999 to 2014 when he was promoted to executive chairman. The new structure will see the league have a separate CEO and non-executive chairman again, but the latter position has yet to be filled

"It represents the pinnacle of professional sport and the opportunity to lead such a dynamic and inspirational organization is a great privilege," Dinnage said. "With the support of clubs and the team, I look forward to extending the success of the league for many years to come."

The appointment of Dinnage highlights the league's focus on broadcasting, as most of its revenue comes from selling television rights. She started her career at MTV Networks and spent the last decade at Discovery.

"We had a very strong field, but Susanna was the outstanding choice given

her track record in managing complex businesses through transformation and digital disruption," said Chelsea chairman Bruce Buck, who played a role in the appointment. "She is a leading figure in the broadcasting industry, a proven business executive and a great developer of people."

Scudamore has overseen the value of the Premier League's broadcasting rights soaring 12-fold to more than 8 billion pounds, with Comcast-owned British pay-TV operator Sky the league's biggest TV partner.

While running Discovery's British operation last year, Dinnage threatened to remove their

portfolio of channels from the Sky platform in a row over costs.

"Pay television needs to be about more than just films and football," Dinnage said. "The consumer can't be expected to fund all of Sky's investments and get less and less choice in return."

Dinnage will not have to negotiate a rights deal with Sky for a couple of years. Sky, which has aired the Premier League since its inception in 1992, signed a new deal in February worth 3.579 billion pounds to show 128 games per season from 2019 to 2022.

Scudamore's longevity highlighted his ability to avoid major rows be-



tween the clubs, with 14 out of 20 Premier League teams having to agree on any changes to the rules.

Dinnage has to maintain that same unity between the smaller teams and powerful wealthy clubs, including Liverpool and Manchester rivals City and United, who have been pushing for a greater slice of foreign television revenue.

She will also have to navigate the league through uncertainty as Britain prepares to leave the European Union in March, with there being big question marks about English clubs' access to players from the continent if free movement of labor ends. **AP**

opinion

Girl About Globe
Linda Kennedy



FOR EDITION 11 OF 11.11,
EXPECT LYCHEE SCONES

In years to come, Singles' Day might feature The Tmall Tearooms. An 'Olde Sweet Shoppe', and 'Hosier & Draper' could be among shopkeepers. Buyers would have to queue online.

It would be a Very British Way of Shopping.

Here's the basis of this prediction. The 10th edition of Singles' Day has just passed. The turn of a decade usually brings celebration but the big Singles' Day is next year – edition number 11 of 11.11.

And it will likely be the first Singles' Day after Brexit.

Singles' Day, lest you didn't notice, is China's annual shopping super-binge on 11th November, and is so called because the strokes of the date, 11.11, look like lonely figures.

It began in a mainland university, as one-measure of solace to three-measures of party for unattached young men. It flourished – and spread through dorms across the country but it wasn't until e-commerce titan, Alibaba, started developing it in 2009, promoting it on its Tmall platform, that Singles' Day was on its way to becoming the biggest shopping event in the world. This year, US\$30.8 billion of sales took place over 24 hours.

Yet the day is not well known outside China. Did you, British scroller, do any Singles' Day bargain-hunting? And, hey, Euro-swiper, any Singles' Day offers in your inbox?

In the UK, Black Friday might be seen as the retail precedent. Black Friday, coming up on November 23, was an alien shopping event no one had heard of, and which has never quite taken off.

Singles' Day's fate might have been the same: an obscure import. And slightly awkward. Do I really want to go with the girls to a Singles' Day spa package? Sure, it might sound feminist to mark a day that doesn't revere being linked with a man, but it's from mainland China. That undermines its feminist cred. Will they keep a single file on me?

Shopper, Singles' Day is different. Singles' Day, ironically, could be the perfect partnership for post-Brexit Britain.

You see, Alibaba's strategy going forward is to move Singles' Day out of China and attract more international singles' action. But it's not just targeting consumers.

Jack Ma, entrepreneur and founder of Alibaba, last year went to Detroit, Michigan, seeking to persuade American 'Mom and Pop' stores to sell on Tmall.

US-China trade tensions scuppered that plan, Ma said recently. But after Brexit, Britain needs to look to China. And the British equivalent of the 'Mom and Pop' store is the traditional high street shopkeeper: the grocer and fruiterer, the haberdasher, the fishing tackle maker, the purveyor of scones.

Britain's high streets are under threat, with thousands of shops closing down. So why don't British shopkeepers sell to China on Tmall on Singles' Day? They could thrive in Chinese cyberspace. Old favourites would become more Chinese, by necessity. Lychee scones. Green Afternoon Tea. As for sweets of yore, Mint Imperials are a bit redolent of the British Empire, so why not reference Chinese expansion plans? Mint Belt and Roads. Spangles are fine – they sound like sequins.

Ok, that doesn't leave high streets in place in UK towns. But think. The Chinese love British-made TV like Downton Abbey. And Chinese tourists flock to Bicester outlet village in the U.K. Why shouldn't they head to British high streets where they have shopped, in their billions, online? Copies of Austrian, Italian and Swiss town have been constructed in China. Replicas of traditional old British high streets could be built exactly where they once were and Chinese tourists will come shopping. The British High Street will be back. In a single stroke.

THE DANISH SHIPPER: US-CHINA TRADE
BUZZ WAR HITS CONTAINER TRADE

Danish shipping group A.P. Moller-Maersk is warning that trade tensions between the United States and China could weigh on business.

The company said a brewing trade war between the two had created uncertainty and could "reduce global container trade by 0.5 to 2.0 percent during 2019-2020".

Maersk's share price was down 1 percent in afternoon trading in Copenhagen.

The warning came as the company said thir-

d-quarter revenues increased 31 percent to USD10.1 billion from \$7.7 billion a year earlier. That helped Maersk post a net profit from continuing operations of \$191 million against last year's loss of \$112 million.

Chief Executive Soeren Skou said yesterday that the financial performance was helped by an emergency bunker surcharge and synergies related to the 2017 acquisition of German container shipping company Hamburg Sud.

Israeli defense
minister resigns over
Gaza cease-fire deal



Aron Heller, Jerusalem

ISRAELI Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman abruptly resigned his post yesterday in protest over a cease-fire reached with Gaza militants, in a move that rocked the Israeli political scene and seemed likely to bring about early elections.

Lieberman termed the cease-fire ending two days of intense fighting "surrender to terrorism," and said he could no longer serve a government that endorsed it. Lieberman had demanded a far stronger Israeli response to the most intense round of rocket fire against Israel since a 50-day war in 2014, but appeared to have been overruled by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

His resignation delivers a major blow to Netanyahu's coalition government and sparked immediate calls for early elections. Lieberman said he hoped that in the coming days a date would be set for a new vote. The opposition parties joined his call.

The government could technically survive without Lieberman's Yisrael Beiteinu faction. But with elections currently set for November 2019, it's unlikely to last that long in lame-duck form.

Lieberman's resignation will take effect in 48 hours and Netanyahu will take over on an interim basis.

Residents of southern Israel had greeted news of the cease-fire with anger as dozens of protesters in the rocket-battered town of Sderot chanted "Disgrace!" at what they saw as the government's capitulation to

violence and its inability to provide them with safety.

Recent months have seen sporadic rocket attacks as well as militant infiltration attempts and a wave of incendiary kites that have destroyed Israeli crops.

Netanyahu presented the decision to step back from a full-blown conflict as a unified one made by his Security Cabinet and based on the military's recommendations. But Lieberman and Education Minister Naftali Bennett, another hard-line member of the Security Cabinet, later expressed reservations, saying they favored a stronger response.

■ Lieberman's
resignation
delivers a
major blow to
Netanyahu's
coalition gov't
and sparked
calls for early
elections

Netanyahu defended his actions at a memorial ceremony for Israel's first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion.

"I see the big picture of Israeli security that I cannot share with the public," he said. "Our enemies begged for a cease-fire and they know well why. I cannot detail our plans for the future. We will dictate the time and circumstances that are right for Israel and are right for the security of our people."

"In times like these, leadership is not doing the easy thing. Leadership is doing the right thing, even if it is hard. Leadership is sometime facing criticism," he added.

The Israel-Gaza frontier remained quiet overnight. Palestinian militants had fired 460 rockets and mortars into Israel in a 24-hour period, while the Israeli military carried out airstrikes on 160 Gaza targets. Seven Palestinians, including five militants, were killed. In Israel, one person was killed in a rocket strike and three were critically wounded.

With air raid sirens wailing throughout southern Israel and the explosions of airstrikes thundering in Gaza, the two sides had appeared to be on the verge of their fourth war in a decade. Instead, Gaza's Hamas rulers abruptly announced a cease-fire and Israel's Security Cabinet ended a seven-hour discussion with an apparent decision to hold its fire.

The news was greeted with celebrations in Gaza, with Hamas declaring victory in the latest round of violence, which was triggered by a botched Israeli raid on Sunday that left seven Palestinian militants and a senior Israeli military officer dead.

Hamas has staged near-weekly border protests since March in an effort to lift the Israeli-Egyptian blockade imposed after the Islamic militant group seized control of the coastal strip in 2007. The blockade has ravaged Gaza's economy, and Israel refuses to lift it unless Hamas disarms, a demand rejected by militant group, which is pledged to Israel's destruction. AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	70-100 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	55-75 Moderate
Ambient	70-100 Moderate

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

YEMEN An airstrike by the Saudi-led coalition killed at least seven civilians in Yemen's rebel-held port city of Hodeida, Yemeni security and medical officials said yesterday.



GREECE Civil servants in Greece walked off the job yesterday in a 24-hour strike to protest austerity measures, demanding wage and pension increases as well as the abolition of all legislation as part of the country's international bailouts.

ITALY Borrowing costs nudged higher yesterday after the populist government resubmitted draft budget proposals without the significant changes sought by the European Commission.

FRANCE A man who doused himself with wine and tried to self-immolate on a train and waved a phone showing images of armed combatants is being held by French police on a potential terrorism charge.



US Having spent a fortune to help elect Democrats this fall, former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg declared lifetime allegiance to the Democratic Party and outlined an aggressive timeline for deciding whether to run for president.

COLOMBIA Authorities moved homeless Venezuelan migrants to a soccer field filled with yellow tents and cots Tuesday, as the number of migrants fleeing their nation's economic and humanitarian calamity has risen.