



DETAILS OF CASINO ENTRY BAN BILL PASSED
More than 14,000 employees of the casinos will be regulated by this law once it comes into effect

▲ P2-3 AL PLENARY



CHUI APPROVAL RATING REBOUNDS
The approval rating of Chui Sai On rebounded in 2018 from all-time low a year ago, shows the latest annual report from the HKU

▲ P6



CAN CHINA BOOM FOR ANOTHER 40 YEARS?

▲ P12-13

WED. 19
Dec 2018

T. 16°/ 21° C
H. 70/ 95%

facebook.com/mdtimes
+ 11,000

N° 3195
MOP 8.00
HKD 10.00

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報®

Times

FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Goldenhuys EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

Greater Bay Plan

\$238/3.5GB

Like Wherever You Like

Notes: CTM reserved the right to make the final decision in case of any dispute.

“THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’”

WORLD BRIEFS



CHINA The chairman of Huawei challenged the US and other governments to provide evidence for claims the Chinese tech giant is a security risk as the company launched a public relations effort to defuse fears that threaten its role in next-generation communications. Ken Hu complained accusations stem from “ideology and geopolitics.” He warned excluding Huawei from fifth-generation networks in Australia and other markets would hurt consumers by raising prices and slowing innovation.



MALAYSIA An Indonesian woman due to begin her defense next month in her trial for the murder in Malaysia of Kim Jong Nam suffered a setback yesterday when a judge rejected her bid to secure statements given to police by seven witnesses. Siti Aisyah’s lawyer, Gooi Soon Seng, said he will appeal the High Court’s ruling that the statements were privileged.



THAILAND Police in Thailand say their investigations found that a boat that sank in July in rough weather off Thailand’s southern resort island of Phuket, killing 47 Chinese tourists, didn’t meet regulatory standards.

More on backpage

RE-EDUCATION IN XINJIANG

Forced labor in camps linked to US firm

▲ P9



AP PHOTO

Gaming revenues on the way up

▲ P4 FORECAST

ON THE LAWMAKERS' AGENDA

THE EXAMPLE OF LUXEMBOURG José Pereira Coutinho listed a series of advances in Luxembourg to illustrate the fact that, in comparison, Macau is lagging behind. He pointed out Luxembourg's free public transportation for people under 30 years old, the minimum wage of approximately MOP18,000, the language skills of the residents, and its democracy. "I have said so much already. We need to stop a bit and think, because the Macau SAR has been established for nearly 20 years, but we [Macau] are becoming more and more different from Luxembourg, which also has 600,000 people. What's been the biggest failure in the past 20 years? And what can be done to make up for it and improve Macau residents' life quality?" Coutinho asked.

HEARINGS Au Kam San believes that the Macau government is not willing to be subjected to residents' criticism, as the local government does "not even dare to use a little powerful supervision tool [hearings]." Au said that "hearing[s] and having the right to call government officials and witnesses [...] in order to investigate malpractices of both the government and government officials is the most important mechanism of the AL in supervising the government. However, in Macau, how come [a hearing] has never been successful launched?" Au's previous motion for a hearing concerning the LRT was rejected at the AL.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION Angela Leong and Mak Soi Kun have called on the government to better protect the environment. Leong proposed that Macau promote the use of electric vehicles. Mak suggested that Macau should work with Hengqin to build a better ecological environment for birds. "Ecological security is an important part of national security. Protecting the ecological environment can't wait a single second. Has the government always been pursuing ecological protection? Or has the government done nothing?" Mak asked.

AL PLENARY

Casino entry ban bill passed



Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong (top, center) at the plenary session

Julie Zhu

The detailed articles regarding the banning of casino employees from entering casinos while off-duty were passed at the Legislative Assembly (AL) yesterday.

In total, more than 14,000 employees of casinos will be regulated by this law once it comes into effect.

Previously, lawmakers were worried about creating a negative image of the gaming sector's employees. The

same concerns were expressed by lawmakers yesterday.

"I believe that, for a certain period, the law can have an effect at preventing employees from being trapped as gamblers. However, many people worry about the ac-

tual practice of the law," said Angela Leong, adding "this bill has some practical difficulties in terms of its implementation."

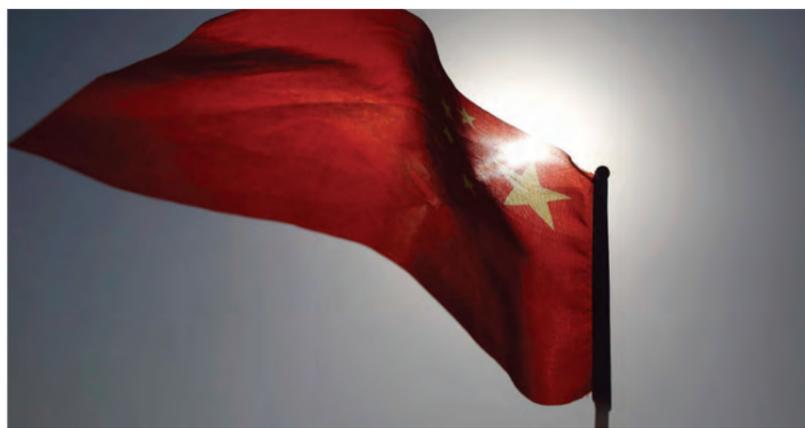
As she expressed, casino employees are only able to implement the law using

FLAG & ANTHEM LAW

Gov't to adopt milder definition of disrespect

Following amendments suggested by the 1st Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly, the government's new flag, emblem and anthem bill will drop proposed penalties for mild forms of disrespect toward the national anthem, including for those who fail to stand or lose their composure during its rendition.

The Standing Committee was yesterday discussing an amendment to the law on the national flag, emblem and anthem, which would build on provisions already in place in Macau, including those under Annex III of Macau's Basic Law,



"National Laws to Be Applied in the Macao Special Administrative Region".

The latest bill is in response to China's National Anthem Law, approved by the Central Government late last year, which requires an update to

laws of the Special Administrative Regions of Macau and Hong Kong.

After discussing what type of behavior should warrant a fine from Macau authorities, the group of lawmakers in the 1st Standing Committee led by Ho Ion

Sang has settled on only severe and deliberate acts of disrespect.

Intentionally changing the lyrics or music of the anthem in a public place will constitute an offence, as will other forms of obvious disrespect. Fines

may also be applied when national symbols are used for commercial purposes or for "undue ends," such as private funerals, or when the national flag is deliberately altered, damaged, stepped on or set alight.

The penalties, still under discussion, may include a maximum three-year prison sentence or a 360-day fine.

Previously, the bill had proposed harsher penalties for a wider range of behaviors. It had also required those present to stand in respect while the national anthem was played, but this raised objections from lawmakers who considered it unfair to apply to people with physical disabilities.

This bill will be submitted to the Legislative Assembly next year for further consideration. **DB**

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

+ 4 Million page views
PER MONTH

Thank You!

+12,000 like us on facebook.com/mdtimes



MacauDaily 澳門每日時報
Times

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

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

SEND NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND PRESS RELEASES TO: NEWSROOM@MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM WEBSITE: WWW.MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM.MO

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

SECRETARY Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

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

Advertisement advertising@macaudailytimes.com

For subscription and general issues:

general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

amid supervision doubts

simple observation when identifying whether or not a patron is a casino employee.

“Are there other effective measures? Will the government build a smart city, and enhance law enforcement through new technologies?” Leong asked.

“I have reiterated in the past that, when the entry regulation is implemented, the supervising party and the gaming operators [both] need to bear great responsibilities,” said Leong.

The lawmaker stressed that workers banned from entering will likely face emergency situations requiring them to enter a casino while off-duty.

José Pereira Coutinho also criticized the law for going against principles of equality. He further expressed concern for officers from the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) and other supervising parties, related to heavy workloads as a result of pressure from the large number of people banned from entering the casinos.

“If there are not enough people to conduct the supervision,

how can the authorities implement the law?” asked Coutinho.

In response to lawmakers, Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong claimed that the law would not tarnish the image of casino employees. “I have never wanted the law to create any discrimination against workers,” defended the Secretary.

According to Leong, the DICJ, together with gaming operators, will conduct an extensive promotional campaign in order to help workers learn about the implementation of the law. In addition, Leong noted that the entry ban will not affect the careers of any party concerned.

“I want to reiterate that this law was never intended to affect the careers of people who enter casinos,” said Leong, adding “we will not consider such things.”

Regarding whether new technologies might be applied to support law enforcement, Leong noted that the government will consider this when they become available.

Meanwhile, DICJ Director Paulo Martins Chan argued that the law will not influence the employment of the affected workers.

“[Many people] worry they might lose their job once they violate the law. This law simply sets up a penalty. Besides this [penalty], [the law] will not lead to workers losing their jobs,” said Chan.

The DICJ director also highlighted that the law will come into effect one year after its publication in the government official gazette, which means that a transition period of one year will be given to residents before the law’s official implementation.

The one-year grace period is meant to allow the parties concerned to get familiar with the law, and for the government authority to conduct seminars explaining the law to the public.

In addition, the DICJ director remarked that it is easier for a gaming employee to become addicted to gambling if they watch other people gamble.

After the law comes into effect, the government will establish a 24-hour hotline in the hope of implementing the law more effectively.

Chan also admitted that there is a shortage of human resources responsible for casino supervision.

“The law is absolutely established with the aim of res-

possible gaming. The law [is expected] to prevent people from becoming addicted to gambling,” said Chan. “I believe that the majority of gaming employees will obey the law. In this bill, it is written that, under some special occasions, [gaming employees] can inform the stationing supervisor in order to enter the casino with a proper reason. However, such special occasions will be few. We still hoped that there could be some flexibility, hence why we made this arrangement.”

FOUR BILLS GIVEN GREEN LIGHT

FOUR BILLS related to the government budget and civil servants were passed at the Legislative Assembly yesterday. The four bills are the law for the 2019 budget, the bill for the exercise of offshore activity, the updating of retirement pensions, and the amendment of the civil servants’ statute. In the 2019 budget, the government expects a consolidated income of MOP122.385 billion, an increase of MOP14.35 billion or 13.3 percent compared to 2018. The general consolidated budget expenditure for 2019 is MOP103.34 billion, representing

an increase of MOP2.23 billion compared to 2018. The amendment of the civil servants’ statute will give civil servants’ more annual leave flexibility once the law comes into effect. The amendment also increases the maximum number of leave days that can be accumulated and enjoyed in a year. The new law also means that civil servants will need their supervisors’ approval in order to take an annual leave. Lawmaker José Pereira Coutinho is worried that such a change may give higher officials more power and harm civil servants’ rights.

AD

ACCURATE, TIMELY & COMPETITIVE TRANSLATIONS

Languages:
ENGLISH, CHINESE,
PORTUGUESE, JAPANESE,
KOREAN, SPANISH,
FRENCH, ARABIC,
RUSSIAN

Services
TRANSLATIONS,
PROOFREADING, COPYWRITING,
DATA INPUT, NEWS MONITORING

We translate +10,000 words a day



Contact: Ms. Amy Yang
Email: amy@ktranz.com.mo
Tel: +853 2871 6081/2 Fax: +853 2871 6084

GAMING

Brokerages revise December GGR higher on mass strength

BLOOMBERG



GAMING analysts have forecast higher gross gaming revenue (GGR) for this month than November, when they amounted to nearly MOP25 billion.

Brokerage Sanford C. Bernstein increased its forecast for the city's gaming revenue this month to 12 to 15 percent year-on-year, slightly higher than its previous forecast of 8 to 10 percent, citing strong channel checks in the mass market segment.

"This assumes that average daily revenue for the remainder of the month will be in the MOP775 million to MOP825 million range, which is below the current run rate for the month," said the firm.

"We had initially thought that VIPs were a driver of the upside surprise, however, our recent conversations with junket operators and casino operators, along with additional data points, have led us to revise our thinking and mass was stronger than we had initially expected," the team noted.

According to data it published, the brokerage said that the city's GGR was about MOP13.8 billion so far this month, which could mean that its average daily revenue will amount to MOP862 million.

The brokerage found that the current volume in the VIP market was trending slightly higher than last month.

"Both segments have benefited from events, including several days of Jay Chou's The Invincible Concert Tour held at the Venetian [Macao]," Sanford C. Bernstein analysts wrote.

Meanwhile, Japanese brokerage Nomura is estimating a GGR of between MOP25 billion to MOP26 billion – some 10 to 15 percent higher than a year ago.

According to their data, GGR averaged about MOP843 million per day last week and MOP878

million per day the week before.

"Assuming December GGR per day is flat sequentially versus the average in November, we estimate GGR for the month will be around MOP25 billion to MOP26 billion," analysts noted.

So far, Nomura has said that the average daily GGR in the mass-market segment is about 4 percent or 5 percent higher than in November, while volume in the VIP market is about 3 percent higher.

Figures from the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau show that revenue in December last year stood at nearly MOP23 billion, a 14.6 percent increase compared to the year before – which represented a total accumulated gross revenue of MOP266 billion for 2017.

If the forecasts are correct, the city's GGR will total over MOP301 billion in 2018, representing growth of approximately 13 percent year-on-year.

2018 MACAU GAMING REVENUE BY MONTH

Month	Revenue in MOP millions	Year-on-year variance (%)
Jan	26,260	+36.4
Feb	24,300	+5.7
Mar	25,950	+22.2
Apr	25,728	+27.6
May	25,489	+12.1
Jun	22,490	+12.5
Jul	25,327	+10.3
Aug	26,559	+17.1
Sep	21,952	+2.8
Oct	27,328	+2.6
Nov	24,995	+8.5
Dec	-	-
Total	276,378	+13.7

SOURCE: MACAU GAMING AND INSPECTION BUREAU

UM marks decade of responsible gambling campaign with symposium

THE University of Macau (UM) Institute for the Study of Commercial Gaming (ISCG) yesterday held the Responsible Gambling Symposium 2018, marking the start of the 10th anniversary of the city's push for responsible gaming.

The symposium was divided into two parts. The various keynote topics included a summary of and an outlook for local responsible gambling policies, as well as an exploration of new trends in gambling activities. In addition, a number of discussion sessions were held for experts and scholars from Macau and neighboring Asian countries and regions to exchange ideas on the planning, practice, and future development of responsible gambling.

The event attracted experts and scholars from the



ISCG director and lawmaker Davis Fong

United Kingdom, Canada, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Mainland China, Hong Kong and Macau. During the event, partici-

pants reviewed current po-

licies and put forward new strategies for preventing gambling disorder in Macau and other parts of Asia.

Lawmaker and ISCG director Davis Fong said at the event that when the government decided to end the monopoly in the gaming industry in 2002, the general public thought that the city was immune to

gambling addiction.

As part of the academic circle, Fong felt obliged to figure out whether it was true and conducted a survey in 2003. According to

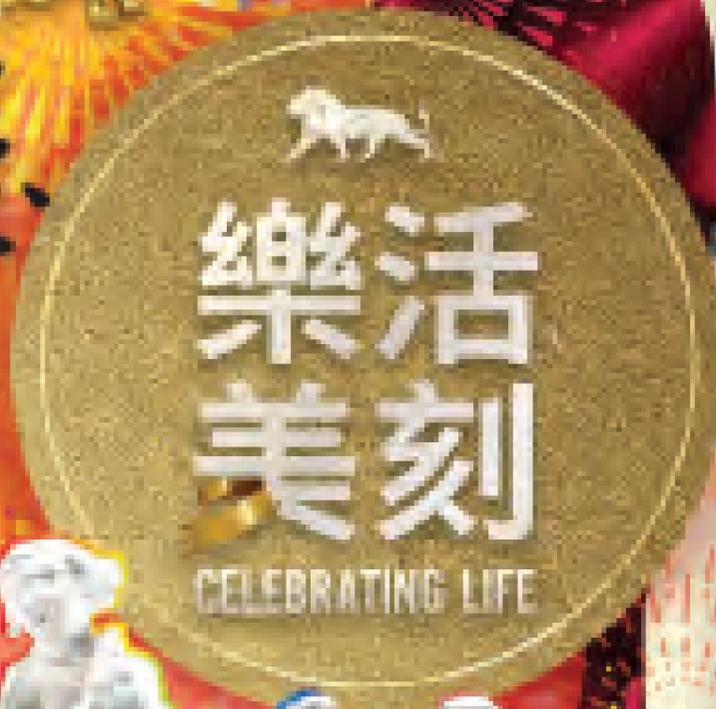
Fong, it was found in the survey that approximately 1.78 percent of the local population became pathological gamblers because of gambling activities. Based on this result, the Macau SAR government launched various measures to combat the prevalence of the addiction.

According to UM Rector Yonghua Song, surveys on the gambling tendencies and behavior of Macau residents show that the prevalence of gambling disorders has gradually declined from its peak at 6 percent in 2007 to 2.5 percent in 2016. The proportion of Macau residents who are concerned with responsible gambling has also increased from 16.2 percent in 2009 to 63.7 percent in 2017.

The first series of activities comprising the Responsible Gambling Awareness Week in Macau was co-organized in 2009 by the Social Welfare Bureau, the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau, and the ISCG. This marks the 10th year in the push for responsible gaming.



肥家
屋
潤



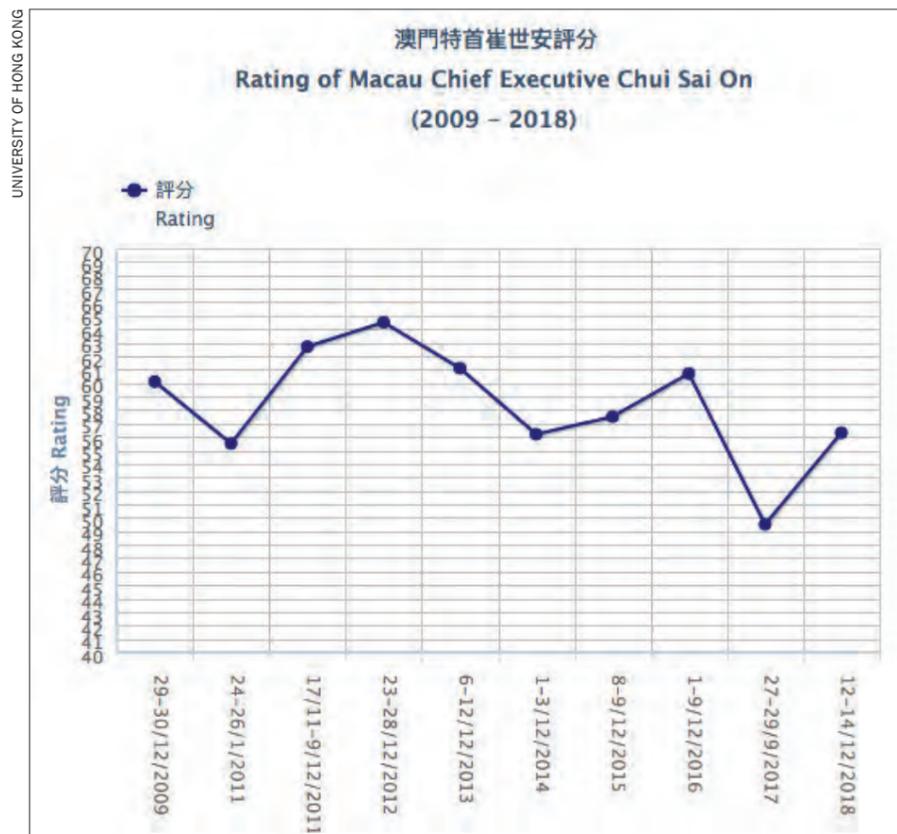
2019



Great moments are only complete with family and friends.
This festive season celebrate love, celebrate life at MGM.

Learn More





Chui's approval rating rebounds in time for Beijing duty-visit

CHIEF Executive Chui Sai On's approval rating rebounded in 2018 from the all-time low seen in the previous year, according to the latest annual report from the University of Hong Kong. The news comes just as the Chief Executive was wrapping up his visit to Beijing where he held separate closed-door meetings with President Xi Jinping and Premier of the State Council Li Keqiang, to report on the MSAR's development and its role in promoting the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area.

The report surveyed approximately 500 Macau people and asked them to express the extent of their support for the chief executive using a scale of 0-100, with 0 indicating absolutely not supportive, 100 indicating absolutely supportive and 50 representing a stance midway between the two extremes.

Chui's approval rating stood at 56.3 as per the mid-December 2018 survey, marking a considerable 6.8 point improvement over the 49.5 seen in October 2017.

Last year's report came just a few weeks after typhoon Hato struck Macau, when support for Chui dropped more than 10 points to reach an all-time low, breaching the 50 percent mark for the first time.

The University of Hong Kong also found that Chui would fare better this year in a hypothetical general election, with just shy of 30 percent of respondents saying they would vote for him. Meanwhile, 53.9 percent said they would not vote for Chui and 16.3 percent said they were unsure.

In September 2017, only 21.4 percent said they would vote for Chui in a hypothetical election, while 65.6 percent said they would not and 13 percent did

not know.

Meanwhile, general satisfaction with the overall performance of the Macau government broadly increased this year when compared with 2017, yet still remained lower than it was in 2016.

The proportion of respondents "very satisfied" or "quite satisfied" with the government's performance stood at 5.8 percent and 34.9 percent respectively this year, compared with 2.2 percent and 22.8 percent in September 2017, and 5.3 percent and 38.7 percent in December 2016.

However, there was little change in the extent to which respondents trusted the Macau government, with 8.7 percent and 40.2 percent responding that they highly trusted or quite trusted authorities respectively in 2018, compared with 10.1 percent and 38.2 percent respectively in 2017. Trust in the Central Go-

vernment was unchanged compared to previous years, with 62 percent holding a positive opinion and just 18.3 percent a negative one.

Chui wrapped up his visit to capital yesterday, after presenting to state leaders his report on Macau's situation, including its social and economic progress. Chui said that the central government had fully affirmed the SAR government's work over the past 12 months.

Xi praised the city's optimization of mechanisms to safeguard national security, its contributions to the development of the Belt and Road initiative, and the strengthening of the city's capacity for disaster prevention and mitigation.

Meanwhile, in a separate meeting, Premier Li called on the SAR government to encourage the local community to actively engage in the city's economic diversification process and in

consolidating the integration of Macau's own development with the country's development.

"I believe and hoped that under the leadership of you and the SAR, the SAR would continue the fine development of Macau, improve social wellbeing, continue to foster economic diversification, and maintain the non-stop solving the different types of problems, which Macau encounters," said Li.

Reporting on his meetings with two of the country's top officials, Chui said that the state leaders paid close attention to the social and professional development of young people in Macau, and that the SAR government would step up its efforts to further advance work related to youth affairs.

Meanwhile, when asked by reporters about the election process for the next chief executive, Chui said he had not discussed those matters in his meetings with state leaders. As outgoing chief executive, the official said he would "strive to ensure the election process for selecting [his] successor ran smoothly." He also pledged to ensure a smooth transition to the next government. **DB**

CRIME

Domestic helper arrested for raping toddler

A domestic helper has been accused of raping a three-year-old boy, the Judiciary Police (PJ) reported on Monday.

The suspect is a 46-year-old woman from the Philippines who was hired by a family living in the Macau Peninsula in August last year. The

family's 3 years and 8 months old son was the victim.

Beginning in October this year, the boy's parents became unable to spend time with their son between 3 p.m. and 9 p.m. as they were looking after their own parents.

During these times, the boy was cared for by the

domestic helper, who picked him up from school and bathed him.

On Dec. 15 while the mother was changing her son's shirt, he told her that the domestic helper had performed oral sex on him.

The suspect admitted to the crime but refused to reveal the details, nor ex-

plain why she committed the offence.

The PJ believes that the suspect raped the victim more than once.

The suspect has been transferred to the prosecution authority under the charge of rape.

Earlier this week, the General Association of Chinese Students of Ma-

cao urged the government to classify the sexual assault of children less than 16 years old as a public crime.

The association believes that the recent frequency of reports of sexual assault against children indicates the need for increased punishment and prevention of such crime.

The current law requires the parents of the victims to report sexual assault cases on behalf of their children. However, the association believes that the traditional Chinese mindset that "family shames should not be spread abroad" means parents are likely to choose to solve matters privately.



GEG's Multifaceted Initiatives Inspire Patriotism

STRIVING to reach all of Macau society with a message of community pride and national identity, Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) has held a variety of engaging and educational events this year. From young members of the Scout Association of Macau to local university students to GEG team members and executives, the patriotic education events brought people from a wide swath of the community together around themes of regional development and national unity.

At a family-friendly event for members of the GEG Staff Social Club and their loved ones earlier, GEG Vice Chairman Francis Lai joined nearly 300 participants in a visit to the Macau Garrison of

the People's Liberation Army for an enlightening, educational and heart-warming encounter with the national military. The group watched the two documentaries "A Stronger Nation with a Strong Military" and "Recovering from Tobacco Use", which highlight the important role the military plays in protecting the security and well-being of the community. The Garrison's exhibits on the history of the PLA provided a military-eye view of recent Chinese history.

With the aim of engaging young people on a deep and meaningful level, GEG invited three Chinese Olympians to an intimate gathering with students from the University of Macau's Ian Chai Woo College earlier this month. Bringing national heroes into

close contact with local young people to discuss the pressures and joys of performing at an elite level, the event's theme of persevering for personal and collective achievement inspired optimism and determination. After the occasion, the UA Galaxy Cinema screened the documentary "The Hong Kong-Macau Bridge" for the university students, who were joined by young people from the local scouting association and students from Pui Ching Middle School Macau, along with their parents. The documentary highlights the challenges and achievements embodied by the ambitious milestone project of building the world's longest sea-crossing passage, which is expected to dramatically enhance Macau's role in the striking example of regional development that is the Greater Bay Area.

On a more competitive note, the 10th annual GEG Macau Cup brought students from local universities and 18 local secondary schools together this spring to test their knowledge of the economic and cultural environment of the Pearl River Delta Region and Greater China. This year, an auxiliary competition brought GEG team members into the program for the first time. Winners from the three categories of contestants (university, secondary school and GEG) visited Beijing in the summer to gain firsthand exposure to Chinese media institutions and government services, as well as the facilities in the Ian Chai Woo Building in Peking University's School of Life Sciences. The program included informative talks on new opportunities arising in 21st-century China, as well as several face-to-face encounters where the leaders of tomorrow could take on wisdom from the leaders of today.



Patriotic education GEG staff participants attend the screening of "The Hong Kong-Macau Bridge" after an enlightening trip to Beijing.



Following the opening of the Hong Kong-Macau Bridge in October, GEG held an intensive seminar exploring Macau's strategic role in the Greater Bay Area. Dr. Ugo Wanda of the China Development Institute spoke to an attentive audience of approximately 100 GEG team members at manager level or above. The scholar elucidated the geographic, political and economic factors affecting the development of the Pearl River Delta Region, which encompasses Macau, Hong Kong and also Guangdong province.

During the seminar, participants enthusiastically exchanged insightful views with one another.

As a proud Chinese company, GEG continues to highlight the importance of shared community values and national pride, looking for new ways to enhance patriotism in Macau. The company will continue to work with local and national organizations to promote national education through engaging experiences for Macau residents from all walks of life.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY MAKING A COMMITMENT



Fed hikes are extremely rare when stocks are this beaten up

Lu Wang

DONALD Trump's hectoring aside, it's exceedingly rare the Federal Reserve raises interest rates when stocks are behaving this badly.

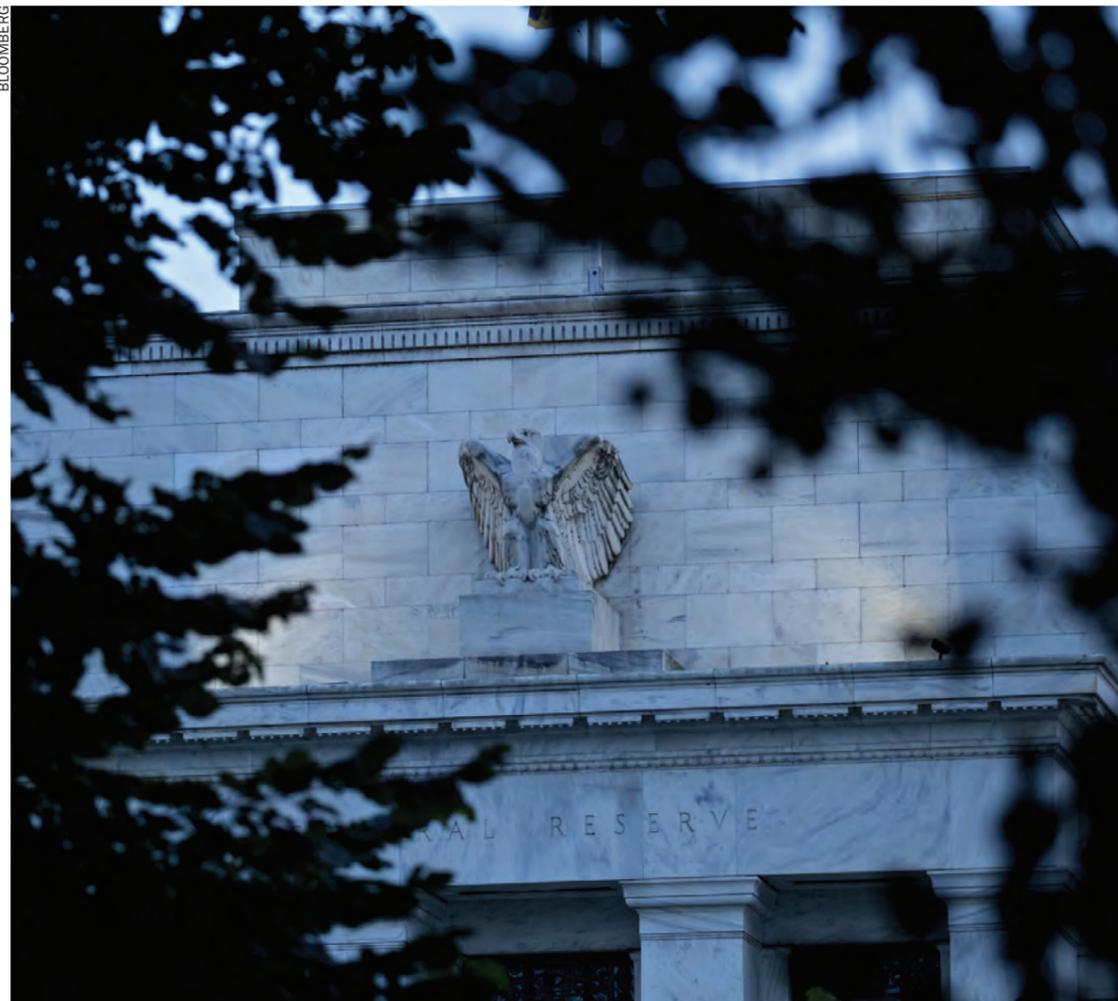
In fact, were policy makers to follow through with their widely expected hike Wednesday, it would be the first time since 1994 they tightened in this brutal a market. Right now, the S&P 500 is down over the last three, six and 12 months, a backdrop that has accompanied just two of 76 rate increases since 1980.

There's no guidebook on how stocks should behave after a decade of easy money and an unprecedented run-up in equities. But the statistic is another lens into the divide between markets and the economy, a split that has beguiled forecasters trying to draw connections between the two.

While half the S&P 500 sits in a bear market and groups like banks and transports tumble day after day, some key economic data bolster the case of hawks. It's one reason investors will be fixated on commentary about financial or market stability, looking for signs that the latest volatility is catching the eye of Fed officials.

"This presents an interesting dilemma for the Fed," said David Rosenberg, chief economist and strategist at at Gluskin Sheff + Associates Inc. "Financial markets are telling them 'no mas,' but the economic data suggest that further tightening remains appropriate."

While the role of markets in the Fed's policy calculus is endlessly debated, the fact is, since 1980, rate hikes have almost always come amid equity buoyancy. On average, the S&P 500 is up 4.1 percent, 6.9 percent and 11 percent over the previous three, six and 12 months when tightening occurs. The exception was in the



The Marriner S. Eccles Federal Reserve building stands in Washington, D.C.

1970s, when the Fed ignored market turmoil to combat inflation that was running at 7 percent a year.

Of course, the economy looks nothing like that now. Consumer prices have stayed below 3 percent for the past six years and at a growth rate of 3.5 percent, it's hard to frame gross domestic product as overheating. The opposite concern seems to be driving equities, with recession mentions getting more numerous in professional commentary.

Stocks buckled again Monday, with the S&P 500 dropping 2.1 percent to its lowest close since October 2017. Futures fluctua-

ted on Tuesday, adding 0.2 percent as of 7:45 a.m. in London.

While a Fed report earlier this month said it viewed financial-stability concerns as moderate - citing commercial real estate, corporate debt and leveraged loans among the potential issues - the rout that's erased USD3 trillion from American equity values has many calling for a pause.

Could stocks be sending a message that the data has yet to reflect? Some strategists think so. They're convinced eight rate increases in three years have been enough for an economy threatened by everything from U.S.-China trade spat to Brexit and a

global growth slowdown.

The Fed is scheduled to announce its decision on Dec. 19 [tomorrow morning, Macau time] at the conclusion of its two-day meeting. All but two of the 89 economists surveyed by Bloomberg predicted a rate increase.

"The Fed needs to deliver on a more dovish stance to avoid disappointing financial markets," said Mark Haefele, chief investment officer for UBS Global Wealth Management. "A rate increase looks likely. But signs of flexibility from the Fed have caused markets to scale back the expected pace of tightening in 2019."

You don't have to go back too

far for a time when market histrionics seem to have weighed on policy. In December 2015, Janet Yellen pushed ahead with the first rate increase of the cycle just two months after the S&P 500's worst drop in four years. Stocks summarily slid into a 10 percent correction and the Fed chair delayed more hikes for a year.

The latest equity sell-off has been bad enough for Fed officials to take notice. Mentions of "financial stability" have increased in Fed commentary to the year's high of 5.7 percent while comments on inflation and employment dropped, according to data compiled by Bianco Research on speeches, statements, minutes or testimonies.

The Fed is scheduled to announce its decision tomorrow morning, Macau time

Last month, Fed chairman Jerome Powell dialed back his aggressive stance after his October remark on rates was blamed for the S&P 500's worst month in seven years.

Still, the bloodletting in stocks probably hasn't gotten to a pitch where the Fed would abandon tightening, according to Bank of America. That Powell went ahead with another increase right after the equity rout in February showed he's less worried about financial markets than Yellen was in 2015, strategists led by Benjamin Bowler said.

"Partly this could be a difference in approach of the individuals and economic conditions," the strategists wrote in a note. However, "With 200 basis points of rate hikes under the Fed's belt today, they are in a better position and are more able to manage policy to the real economy [their job] rather than the market," they said. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

SANDS CHINA HOLDS TRAINING, EDUCATION EVENTS FOR TEAM MEMBERS



Sands China Ltd. recently held three professional training and national education events for its team members as part of the company's efforts to build team members' professionalism, and understanding of

national development and the Greater Bay Area.

Winners of last month's Because We Care Team Member Awards were invited to watch the drama "Confucius 63 Revisited (Macau)" at The Ve-

netian Theatre to enrich team members' interest in Chinese culture.

Earlier this month, team members attended a seminar on the fundamentals of protocol at The Venetian Macao, which aimed to strengthen team members' knowledge of protocol in Chinese foreign affairs, Macau affairs and external affairs.

On a separate occasion, team members viewed a screening of the two-part documentary "Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge" at Cinema Alegria.

According to the gaming operator, it strives enhance the professional skills of its 28,000 team members through various means.

MELCO INVITES LOCAL SMES TO CHRISTMAS FAIR



This festive season Melco Resorts & Entertainment invited over a dozen local SMEs to showcase their goods and services to Melco employees at the company's Christmas Markets

event.

The Christmas Markets fair took place at Melco's employees-only "Heart of House" areas at three of the company's properties, including City of Dreams, Studio

City and Altira Macau from Dec. 5 to 14.

Goods on offer included food and beverages, such as fresh fruits and fine wines sourced from around the world, and handicrafts designed and made locally in Macau, the gaming operator said in a statement.

Participant and local SME representative, Wendy Chu of Wai Tek Handcraft Shop, said, "I am really pleased that Melco invited us to take part in the Christmas Markets fair for its colleagues, providing us with increased exposure and publicity within the community to showcase our handmade products."

Dake Kang, Martha Mendoza
& Yanan Wang, Hotan

CHINESE men and women locked in a mass detention camp where authorities are “re-educating” ethnic minorities are sewing clothes that have been imported all year by a U.S. sportswear company.

The camp, in Hotan, China, is one of a growing number of internment camps in the Xinjiang region, where by some estimates 1 million Muslims are detained, forced to give up their language and their religion and subject to political indoctrination. Now, the Chinese government is also forcing some detainees to work in manufacturing and food industries. Some of them are within the internment camps; others are privately-owned, state-subsidized factories where detainees are sent once they are released.

The Associated Press has tracked recent, ongoing shipments from one such factory — Hetian Taida Apparel — inside an internment camp to Badger Sportswear, a leading supplier in Statesville, North Carolina. Badger’s clothes are sold on college campuses and to sports teams across the country, although there is no way to tell where any particular shirt made in Xinjiang ends up.

The shipments show how difficult it is to stop products made with forced labor from getting into the global supply chain, even though such imports are illegal in the U.S. Badger CEO John Anton said Sunday that the company would halt shipments while it investigates.

Hetian Taida’s chairman Wu Hongbo confirmed that the company has a factory inside a re-education compound, and said they provide employment to those trainees who were deemed by the government to be “unproblematic.”

“We’re making our contribution to eradicating poverty,” Wu told the AP over the phone.

Chinese authorities say the camps offer free vocational training for Uighurs, Kazakhs and other minorities, mostly Muslims, as part of a plan to bring them into “a modern civilized” world and eliminate poverty in the region. They say that people in the centers have signed agreements to receive vocational training.

The Xinjiang Propaganda Department did not respond to a faxed request for comment. A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman accused the foreign media Monday of making “many untrue reports” about the training centers, but did not specify when asked for details.

“Those reports are completely based on hearsay evidence or made out of thin air,” the spokeswoman, Hua Chunying, said at a daily briefing.

However, a dozen people who either had been in a camp or had friends or family in one told the AP that detainees they knew were given no choice but to work at the factories. Most of the Uighurs and



In this satellite image released by Planet Labs, buildings are seen around the Kunshan Industrial Park in Artux in Xinjiang region

US sportswear traced to factory in Xinjiang’s internment camps

Kazakhs, who were interviewed in exile, also said that even people with professional jobs were retrained to do menial work.

Payment varied according to the factory. Some got paid nothing, while others earned up to several hundred dollars a month, they said — barely above minimum wage for the poorer parts of Xinjiang. A person with firsthand knowledge of the situation in one county estimated that more than 10,000 detainees — or 10 to 20 percent of the internment population there — are working in factories, with some earning just a tenth of what they used to earn before. The person declined to be named out of fear of retribution.

A former reporter for Xinjiang TV in exile said that during his month-long detention last year, young people in his camp were taken away in the mornings to work without compensation in carpentry and a cement factory.

“The camp didn’t pay any money, not a single cent,” he said, asking to be identified only by his first name, Elyar, because he has relatives still in Xinjiang. “Even for necessities, such as things to

shower with or sleep at night, they would call our families outside to get them to pay for it.”

Rushan Abbas, a Uighur in Washington, D.C., said her sister is among those detained. The sister, Dr. Gulshan Abbas, was taken to what the government calls a vocational center, although she has no specific information on whether her sister is being forced to work.

“American companies importing from those places should know those products are made by people being treated like slaves,” she said. “What are they going to do, train a doctor to be a seamstress?”

Mainur Medetbek’s husband did odd repair jobs before vanishing into a camp in February during a visit to China from their home in Kazakhstan. She has been able to glean a sense of his conditions from monitored exchanges with relatives and from the husband of a woman in the same camp. He works in an apparel factory and is allowed to leave and spend the night with relatives every other Saturday.

Though Medetbek is uncertain how much her husband makes, the woman in his camp earns 600

yuan (about USD87) a month, less than half the local minimum wage and far less than what Medetbek’s husband used to earn.

“They say it’s a factory, but it’s an excuse for detention. They don’t have freedom, there’s no time for him to talk with me,” she said. “They say they found a job for him. I think it’s a concentration camp.”

New Jersey Republican Congressman Chris Smith, a member of the House Foreign Relations Committee, called on the Trump

Administration Monday to ban imports from Chinese companies associated with detention camps.

“Not only is the Chinese government detaining over a million Uyghurs and other Muslims, forcing them to revoke their faith and profess loyalty to the Communist Party, they are now profiting from their labor,” said Smith. “U.S. consumers should not be buying and U.S. businesses should not importing goods made in modern-day concentration camps.” AP



Muslim trainees work in a garment factory in the Hotan Vocational Education and Training Center (image from CCTV video)

This holiday season, let's go *give*

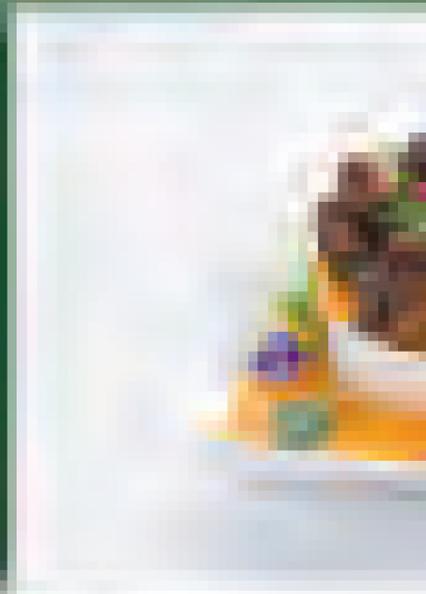
Christmas is a time of joy and celebration, with many of us looking forward to spending the festive season with family and friends. However, for many people, the festive season is a time of hardship and struggle. This is why it is so important to support charities that help those in need during this time. One of the best ways to do this is by donating to a charity that provides support and assistance to those in need. There are many charities that provide support and assistance to those in need, and it is important to choose one that is reputable and has a good track record. One of the best charities to support is the British Red Cross, which provides support and assistance to those in need across the UK. Another great charity to support is the Samaritans, which provides support and assistance to those who are experiencing mental health problems. By donating to these charities, you can help make a difference to the lives of those in need.

There are many ways to support charities during the festive season. One of the best ways is by donating to a charity that provides support and assistance to those in need. There are many charities that provide support and assistance to those in need, and it is important to choose one that is reputable and has a good track record. One of the best charities to support is the British Red Cross, which provides support and assistance to those in need across the UK. Another great charity to support is the Samaritans, which provides support and assistance to those who are experiencing mental health problems. By donating to these charities, you can help make a difference to the lives of those in need.

RECIPE

Spiced lentils, feta and egg with beetroot and peas

This recipe is perfect for a vegetarian or vegan diet. It is a healthy and delicious dish that is easy to make. The lentils are cooked with spices and vegetables, and the feta cheese adds a creamy texture. The egg is cooked on top, and the beetroot and peas add a pop of color and flavor. This dish is perfect for a winter meal or a healthy snack.



RECIPE

Spiced lentils, feta and egg with beetroot and peas

This recipe is perfect for a vegetarian or vegan diet. It is a healthy and delicious dish that is easy to make. The lentils are cooked with spices and vegetables, and the feta cheese adds a creamy texture. The egg is cooked on top, and the beetroot and peas add a pop of color and flavor. This dish is perfect for a winter meal or a healthy snack.

Spiced lentils, feta and egg with beetroot and peas

This recipe is perfect for a vegetarian or vegan diet. It is a healthy and delicious dish that is easy to make. The lentils are cooked with spices and vegetables, and the feta cheese adds a creamy texture. The egg is cooked on top, and the beetroot and peas add a pop of color and flavor. This dish is perfect for a winter meal or a healthy snack.



with Sands Resorts Macao!



...with Sands Resorts Macao!



...with Sands Resorts Macao!

...with Sands Resorts Macao!

CLASSIC

Classic Italian pasta with tomato sauce and meatballs.

...with Sands Resorts Macao!



Modern Italian pasta with pesto sauce and vegetables.

...with Sands Resorts Macao!



AP PHOTO



Can China boom for 40 more years? Those who lived it aren't sure

YOUR opinion about China's the next 40 years of "reform and opening up" has a lot to do with how much you benefited from the first 40. A cross section of citizens - young and old, rich and poor, working and retired - shared divergent views on the policy as President Xi was delivering his speech marking its four-decade anniversary.

Their feelings about Deng Xiaoping's landmark reforms and confidence in China's future largely depended on how much their economic fortunes had risen as a result of its opening. While the policies lifted more than 700 million people out of poverty, the growing wealth gap is becoming an increasingly problematic issue for China's leaders. And as the nation grapples with a slowing economy and trade war with the U.S. - even those who succeeded because of Deng's reforms were cautious about whether the growth could be sustained.

DOUBLE-EDGED PROGRESS

China's reform turned Zhi Xinggen from a rice farmer to auto-parts factory entrepreneur in his village in Jiangsu province. "Farmers in the surrounding villages are no longer worried about food in their stomach, and some are having wealthy lives thanks to the reform," said Zhi, who's in his 60s and owns a small factory.

But progress has been double-edged, made at the "cost of envi-

ronmental pollution" while many farms have vanished. He's been hurt by the country's economic slowdown as weak domestic demand, rising labor costs and difficulty accessing bank loans make it hard to expand his business.

'EVEN BETTER'

Mi Ruiliang, a retired civil servant who plans to watch the speech while at a meeting of his local party branch, said changes brought by reform are "like a dream."

"Before, we would watch the same films, the same operas, again and again for entertainment. Everything was rationed, everything was in scarcity," he said. "I think things will be even better in the next 40 years under the leadership of Xi. That is why the Americans are so anxious."

'LEFT BEHIND'

A bicycle repairman surnamed Hou tells a different story. Hou, who declined to provide his full name, runs a repair stand that's been fixing bikes in Beijing's hutongs - traditional neighborhoods made up of narrow alleyways and run-down homes - for some 80 years. His father opened it before the Communist revolution of 1949 virtually eliminated private enterprise in China. "Reform and opening up' was one step forward, one step back," Hou said. "If you were powerful or able, you could get really rich. Others got left behind."

"There's a movement against

small private businesses now and towards collectivization," he added. "That's just what the policy is."

For example, competition has made business hard, and Xi's campaign tighten to restrictions on small merchants in hutongs makes it difficult for Hou to find parts. Chinese are now also the world's biggest buyers of new cars.

'IRREVERSIBLE' POLICIES

Shanquan Li, a portfolio manager at OppenheimerFunds Inc. in New York, worked at the Development Research Center of China's State Council in the 1980s, participating in economic policy research.

He remains optimistic about China's future, primarily because "China's economic reform and open policy are irreversible," he said. "It is impossible for China to go back to the old economic regime" or to imagine China will close its door after becoming "an important part of the world."

RURAL-URBAN DIVIDE

Qin Jiner, 50, said the benefits of reform have been felt much more in cities than in her village in Hebei province. She makes three times more as a part-time cleaner in Beijing than family members growing corn and wheat back home. This year's harvest only brought in 7,000 yuan (USD1,014) as grain prices declined, she said.

"There is still no heating in the

village and farmers don't have pensions like urban citizens do when they get old," said Qin. Decades into reform, "the younger generation all want to stay in cities, they do not like the countryside."

WORLD STAGE

Futures trader David Chen has lived what many would consider the Chinese dream. Born in the 1960s, he went to college, married, had a child, bought an apartment and worked steadily in finance. "Our generation is quite lucky as we got the good times brought by reform and opening up," he said.

China now grapples with a balance between exerting state control and opening for business with the world. "The Chinese are still not very confident with global competition, as we are not very familiar with foreign countries' practices," he said. State-owned enterprises "are constrained by bureaucratic obstacles and state policies."

LACK OF PURPOSE

Hu Gang, a pharmaceutical researcher in Chengdu, said he's "disgusted" by the government's crackdown on free speech and hasn't watched the news in a year.

"We now have cars, homes and can travel abroad," he said, but "most people feel isolated and lack a sense of purpose besides earning more money." The next 40 years "will not be as good," he said. "The decisions made are of-

ten arbitrary and we concentrate our resources on doing things that may be wrong. My hopes for smooth and speedy economic development are not high, given the situation with the U.S."

'HARDER TO BUILD'

Engineer Liu Yang is a member of the Communist Party and works for a state-owned company in Beijing. He was 10 years old in 1978. The greatest change for the average person has been "materialism," he said. "Life has gotten much better in what we eat, wear, the apartments we live in and how we get around."

Today's development goes "hand in hand" with internal forces hindering China's growth, he said - including rising housing prices and a wealth gap. "Changes will not happen as quickly in the next 40 years, just like it gets harder to build a building the higher up you go," he said.

MODERN LAWS

When Deng began his economic project, finance executive Xu Feng was in first grade. Back then, there was no industrial smog hanging over China's cities.

These four decades have been "the first time in history that China proactively tried to integrate itself with the rest of the world, and get in line for its share of the rewards of modern society," he said. "Whether will we be able to find and continue down the right path depends on if China can abide by the rules and laws" of that society.

'GOING IN REVERSE'

Born in 1982, Huang is from Hubei province and lives in Tokyo. He recalled buying steamed buns using food coupons even in 1992. Like millions of other young Chinese, he's heard the older generation talk about the vast change wrought by the country's opening. "Patched-up clothing and horse-drawn carts became rare, people are able to travel to farther places," he said.

"Some people say that China is going in reverse - I'd say that's true in some respects," he said. "China has to clarify its priorities. Not knowing where we want to go is the greatest crisis for us."

DIRECTION OVER SPEED

Hu Jianzhong, a retired university faculty member, was 20 years old in 1978 when Deng introduced his reforms. "One memory that stands out, out of everything else, is during the first days of the reform, passing a street vendor selling bananas," he said. He paused, but didn't buy one. "I remember my resolve then to become so rich that I could eat bananas to my heart's content," he said.

Development will be slower over the next 40 years, said Hu. "On the first 30 meters of a sprint, you're able to dash at a very high speed, but you will also expend a lot of that energy and lose that pace as you go," he said. "Direction now is more important than speed." **Bloomberg**

CHINA will never pursue hegemony, President Xi Jinping said yesterday as global concerns persist over the country's growing economic influence.

During a speech to mark 40 years of market reforms, Xi repeated China's commitment to a multilateral trading system and further opening of its economy. However, he did not announce any new initiatives to counter a slowing economy and trade frictions with the United States.

The Chinese leader said China would not develop "at the expense of other countries' interests."

China's expanding footprint worldwide — from Asia-Pacific to Africa and beyond through a broad network of infrastructure projects called the Belt and Road Initiative — has led some nations to raise the alarm over what they call China's long arm of influence, which has been criticized for being political as well as economic.

While Xi said China is "increasingly approaching the center of the world stage," he also noted that the country pursues a defensive national defense policy.

"China's development does not pose a threat to any country," Xi said. "No matter how

40 YEARS OF OPEN DOOR POLICY

Beijing will 'never seek hegemony,' Xi says in reform speech

far China develops, it will never seek hegemony."

Xi chronicled at length the country's recent achievements, giving special credit to former leader Deng Xiaoping, whose reforms Xi said saved China from the brink of economic collapse following the tumultuous Cultural Revolution.

Other celebrations of reform and opening up have been criticized by scholars for downplaying the role of Deng, widely considered the architect of the changes, in order to elevate Xi.

This time around, Xi spared no praise for Deng, as he began by remarking on the significance of 1978 — the year Deng implemented his first reforms.

During the ceremony, 100 individuals were recognized as pioneers of reform. The eclectic slate included NBA player Yao Ming, Alibaba founder Jack Ma and Nobel prizewinning scientist Tu



AP PHOTO

Youyou. They received their medals to the tune of "Story of Spring," a patriotic ballad paying tribute to Deng.

Throughout, Xi emphasized the absolute rule of the Communist Party and its upholding of Chinese sovereignty.

"No one is in a position to dictate to the Chinese people what should or should not be done," he said. "We will resolutely reform what can and

needs to be reformed, and we will resolutely uphold what cannot and does not need to be changed."

Xi's speech espoused "above all else," said Julian Gewirtz, an international affairs scholar at Harvard, "the distinctiveness and absolute correctness of China's path under the party's leadership."

"This was a broad attempt to provide a really positive,

confidence-building story of China's past 40 years and its future," said Gewirtz, who has written a book about China's economic reforms.

The address won't assuage concerned private entrepreneurs and foreign businesses, who had hoped Xi would use the occasion to announce concrete industry-opening measures to shift dominance away from state corporations.

China's push to dominate the high-tech industry by 2025 is a sore point with Washington and a contributing factor in trade tensions that have seen the world's two largest economies slap billions of dollars in punitive tariffs on each other's products this year.

In a move welcomed by global stock markets, President Donald Trump agreed Dec. 1 to postpone more U.S. tariff hikes on Chinese imports for 90 days while the two sides negotiate over American complaints about Beijing's technology policy. AP

AD

 **SAN JIAO LING**
公关传播 | PR & Marketing

新商机 始握手
New Business Opportunities
are Just a Handshake Away
www.sanjaoling.com

Follow our DB media channel
www.deltabridges.com



 **MACAUBATS**
RUGBY CLUB 澳門蝙蝠欖球會



KIDS RUGBY, GIVE IT A TRY
通過打橄欖球保持活躍

 macaubats@gmail.com  Macau Bats Rugby

JAPAN

Tokyo to spend more on defense, refit first aircraft carrier

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

JAPAN plans its first aircraft carrier and big increases in defense spending and weapons capability in the coming years, according to new defense guidelines approved yesterday that cite its need to counter potential threats from North Korea and China and other vulnerabilities.

The guidelines approved at a meeting of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Cabinet call for refitting an existing helicopter carrier into a ship that can deploy expensive, U.S.-made F-35B stealth fighters capable of short takeoffs and vertical landings. Japan plans to buy 147 F-35s, including 42 F-35Bs, over the next decade.

The guidelines would replace the current defense plan halfway through and underscore Abe's push to expand Japan's military role and capability to make it "a normal country" in Abe's words. He has long wanted to revise Japan's U.S.-drafted constitution that renounces war and has already broadened the concept of self-defense to allow Japanese personnel to defend allied military forces as Japan increasingly works alongside American troops.

Defense officials say Japan needs higher deterrence and increased missile defense and fighter capability as North's missile and nuclear threat remains unchanged in the absence of concrete steps to dismantle them, and China's maritime activity has grown increasingly assertive. The new guidelines say Japan needs to be well-prepared and to show it can withstand threats, noting the archipelago is prone to natural disasters and its coastline is dotted with vulnerable nuclear power plants.



Heli Destroyer Izumo of Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force

Officials say the Maritime Self-Defense Force's helicopter carrier Izumo, a 250-meter (820-foot)-long, flat-top destroyer that can carry 14 helicopters, is set to be refitted as an aircraft carrier. Japan has relatively little land on which to build runways long enough for conventional F-35s, and an aircraft carrier would be particularly useful in the western Pacific, where Japan tries to defend remote islands, including those disputed with China, and to play a greater role as part of the U.S.-Japan alliance.

A cost estimate for the refitted carrier wasn't given. The work would be done over five years and the ship would carry 10 stealth fighters. The refitting of a second helicopter carrier would follow.

The step is a major shift to Ja-

pan's postwar naval defense, which has lacked aircraft carriers in part out of concerns that they may remind Japan's Asian neighbors of aggression by Japan's wartime navy.

Critics say possession of an aircraft carrier would give Japan a strike capability in violation of its pacifist constitution that limits use of force to self-defense only. Japan, under the new defense guidelines, also plans to possess cruise missiles designed to hit enemy targets, which opponents say could go beyond Japan's pacifist principle.

Defense officials brushed off the criticism, saying Izumo will be a multifunctional warship used as aircraft carrier only when necessary for national defense.

Chief Cabinet secretary Yoshihide Suga said the plan is main-

ly for fighter pilots in case of an emergency at sea and that it "falls within the minimum necessity allowed under the constitution." He said the revised guidelines presented what Japan truly needs to protect the people and portrayed what Japan's future defense should be.

The guidelines say Japan needs to beef up its air defense capability in the Pacific, while expanding surveillance in the area. The Defense Ministry says Japan plans to purchase 105 conventional F-35s and 42 F-35Bs to replace some of its fleet of F-15s.

The big price tag for the jets — a F-35B costs about 10 billion yen (USD90 million) — will drive up Japan's defense spending, which has already climbed steadily for six straight years since Abe took office at the end of 2012. Japan

plans to spend 235 billion yen (USD2 billion) to buy a pair of land-fixed U.S. missile defense system, Aegis Ashore, as well as other American missile interceptors.

The Cabinet, under the guidelines, also approved a new Medium Term Defense Program requiring a record five-year defense spending of 27 trillion yen (\$240 billion) beginning 2019, up more than 2 trillion yen (\$17.6 billion) from an earlier five-year defense budget.

As Japan comes under pressure from President Donald Trump to allow more exports from the U.S., purchases of costly American weapons would be a way to reduce the U.S. trade deficit, while enhancing military cooperation between the allies. Japan's U.S. arms purchases have surged, and the Defense Ministry came under criticism for agreeing too easily to Washington's hefty asking price. The guidelines said Japan will seek more cost-efficient purchase of advance-capability U.S. equipment, while pushing for more joint research and development.

Buying more American weapons, however, would be a setback for Japan's defense industry and its hopes to develop its own replacement of F-2 fighter jets are uncertain. The guideline did not mention whether the F-2 successor would be made in Japan or jointly developed.

The guidelines also called for setting up a unit specializing in space, cyberattacks and electronic warfare, while integrating the ground maritime and air forces to better coordinate operations. Japan should aim for a unified, simultaneous "multi-dimensional and unified defense capability" that breaks away from the conventional concept of ground, maritime and air defense, the guidelines said.

As the fast-aging country faces declining population and workforce, Japan will accept more women to join the self-defense force, postpone retirement age and promote research and development of robotics and unmanned equipment. **AP**

SOUTH KOREA

Three teens presumed dead, seven unconscious at motel

SOUTH Korean fire department officials said yesterday that three teenage boys were presumed dead and seven other boys were being treated for injuries after they were found unconscious at a motel in the seaside town of Gangneung.

An official from Gangwon Fire Headquarters said the cause of the injuries was unclear although gas leakage

was a possibility. He said there were no immediate signs indicating suicide attempts or foul play. The official didn't want to be named, citing office rules.

The official said rescue workers at the scene presumed three teenagers had died based on vital signs. He said seven other boys who shared a room were being treated at hospitals.

Kim Jin-bok, a police official from Gangneung, said the boys were high school seniors from the capital Seoul who were apparently traveling after taking the national college entrance exam last month.

Kim said police officers are investigating the motel's owner, who called police after finding the boys unconscious yesterday afternoon. **AP**



Mary Clare Jalonick, Washington

RUSSIA'S sweeping political disinformation campaign on U.S. social media was more far-reaching than originally thought, with troll farms working to discourage black voters and "blur the lines between reality and fiction" to help elect Donald Trump in 2016, according to reports released yesterday [Macau time] by the Senate intelligence committee.

And the campaign didn't end with Trump's ascent to the White House. Troll farms are still working to stoke racial and political passions in America at a time of high political discord.

The two studies are the most comprehensive picture yet of the Russian interference campaigns on American social media. They add to the portrait investigators have been building since 2017 on Russia's influence — though Trump has equivocated on whether the interference actually happened.

Facebook, Google and Twitter declined to comment on the specifics of the reports.

The reports were compiled by the cybersecurity firm New Knowledge and by the Computational Propaganda Research Project, a study by researchers at the University of Oxford and Graphika, a social media analysis firm.

The Oxford report details how Russians broke down their messages to different groups, including discouraging black voters from going to the polls and stoking anger on the right.

"These campaigns pushed a message that the best way to advance the cause of the African-American community was to boycott the election and focus on other issues instead," the researchers wrote.

At the same time, "Messaging to conservative and right-wing voters sought to do three things: repeat patriotic and anti-immigrant slogans; elicit outrage with posts about liberal appeasement of 'others' at the expense of US citizens, and encourage them to vote for Trump."

The report from New Knowledge says there are still some live accounts tied to the original Internet Research Agency, which was named in an indictment from special counsel Robert Mueller in February for an expansive social media campaign intended to influence the 2016 presidential election. Some of the accounts have a presence on smaller platforms as the major companies have tried to clean up after the Russian activity was discovered.

"With at least some of the Russian government's goals achieved in the face of little diplomatic or other pushback, it appears likely that the United States will continue to face Russian interference for the foreseeable future," the researchers wrote.

The New Knowledge report says that none of the social media companies turned over complete



Russia social media influence efforts ongoing, report says

data sets to Congress and some of them "may have misrepresented or evaded" in testimony about the interference by either intentionally or unintentionally downplaying the scope of the problem.

The Senate panel has been investigating Russian interference on social media and beyond for almost two years. Intelligence committee Chairman Richard Burr said in a statement that the data shows how aggressively Russia tried to divide Americans by race, religion and ideology and erode trust in institutions.

"Most troublingly, it shows that these activities have not stopped," said Burr, a North Carolina Republican.

One major takeaway from both studies is the breadth of Russian interference that appeared on Instagram, which is owned by Facebook and was not frequently mentioned when its parent company testified on Capitol Hill. The study says that as attention was focused on Facebook and Twitter in 2017, the Russians shifted much of their activity to Instagram.

The New Knowledge study says that there were 187 million engagements with users on Instagram, while there were 77 million on Facebook.

"Instagram was a significant front in the IRA's influence operation, something that Facebook executives appear to have avoided mentioning in congressional testimony," the researchers wrote.

te. They added that "our assessment is that Instagram is likely to be a key battleground on an ongoing basis."

The Russian activity went far beyond the three tech companies that provided information, reaching many smaller sites as well. The New Knowledge report details sophisticated attempts to infiltrate internet games, browser extensions and music apps. The Russians even used social media to encourage users of the game Pokemon Go — which was at peak popularity in the months before the 2016 presidential election — to use politically divisive usernames, for example.

The report discusses even more unconventional ways that the Russian accounts attempted to connect with Americans and recruit assets, such as merchandise with certain messages, specific follower requests, job offers and even help lines that could encourage people to unknowingly disclose sensitive information to Russia that could later be used against them.

The Russians' attempts to influence Americans on social media first became widely public in the fall of 2017. Several months later, Mueller's indictment laid out a vast, organized Russian effort to sway political opinion. While the social media companies had already detailed some of the efforts, the indictment tied actual people to the operation and named 13 Russians responsible.

Also notable is the study's find-

ing that WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange was favorably treated in posts aimed at both left-leaning and right-leaning users. The New Knowledge report says there were a number of posts expressing support for Assange and Wikileaks, including several in October 2016 just before WikiLeaks released hacked emails from Hillary Clinton's campaign.

■ The report details how Russians broke down their messages to different groups, including discouraging black voters from going to the polls

The Oxford study notes that peaks in Internet Research Agency advertising and organic activity — or posts, shares and comments by users — often corresponded with important dates on the U.S. calendar, crises and international events.

The researchers from Oxford said that organic postings were much more far reaching than ad-

vertisements, despite Facebook's sole focus on ads when the company first announced it had been compromised in 2017.

Other findings in the studies:

- During the week of the presidential election, posts directed to right-leaning users aimed to generate anger and suspicion and hinted at voter fraud, while posts targeted to African-Americans largely ignored mentions of the election until the last minute.

- Establishment figures of both parties, especially Clinton, were universally panned. Even a tag targeted to feminists criticized Clinton and promoted her primary opponent, independent Bernie Sanders;

- Several posts promoted the Russian agenda in Syria and Syrian President Bashar Assad.

- IRA's posts focused on the United States started on Twitter as far back as 2013, and eventually evolved into the multi-platform strategy.

- Russian activity on Twitter was less organized around themes like race or partisanship but more driven by local and current events and made use of occasional pop culture references.

- Facebook posts linked to the IRA "reveal a nuanced and deep knowledge of American culture, media, and influencers in each community the IRA targeted." Certain memes appeared on pages targeted to younger people but not older people. "The IRA was fluent in American trolling culture," the researchers say. **AP**

what's ON



VESTIGES OF LINES, GUILHERME UNG VAI MENGE ON THE OCCASION OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE 19TH ANNIVERSARY OF MACAU HANDOVER TO CHINA

TIME: 12pm-8pm (Tuesday to Sunday)
3 pm-8pm (Monday)

UNTIL: February 23, 2019

VENUE: Albergue SCM

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550

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

FLEETING SPEEDS

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

UNTIL: December 31, 2018

VENUE: Creative Macau - Center for Creative Industries

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 3282

MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (Except on Thursdays; open on public holidays)

VENUE: Macau Science Center

ADMISSION: MOP25 (Exhibition Centre)

MOP60 (Planetarium 2D dome or 2D

sky shows)

MOP80 (Planetarium 3D dome or 3D

sky shows)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

"STYLE-ENCOUNTER MOMENT"

TIME: 10am - 8pm

UNTIL: December 30, 2018

VENUE: Macau Fashion Gallery

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3341

Offbeat

'TONIGHT SHOW' TO AIR EPISODE IN PUERTO RICO WITH 'HAMILTON'



Actor Lin-Manuel Miranda and TV late night host Jimmy Fallon

Jimmy Fallon's "Tonight Show" will air an episode next year from Puerto Rico including an exclusive performance with Lin-Manuel Miranda reprising his role in "Hamilton."

NBC announced that Miranda and the new touring cast will appear in the episode Jan. 15. The telecast will focus on Puerto Rico's recovery efforts to rebuild and raise awareness after Hurricane Maria massively struck the island in 2017.

The episode will delve into how the deadly hurricane devastated Puerto Rico through widespread damage, but also celebrate the "great spirit and culture" of the people.

Miranda will reprise his lead role in "Hamilton" at the University of Puerto Rico from Jan. 8 to 27. The performances look to raise money for the Flamboyant Arts Fund to benefit the art, artists and arts institutions.

TV canal macau



13:00 TDM News (Repetição)

13:30 Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)

15:00 Mistura Fina

15:55 Zig Zag

17:00 Quem Quer Ser Millionário

19:00 TDM Entrevista (Repetição)

19:35 Os Nossos Dias Sr.2

20:30 Telejornal

21:15 Montra do Lilau

21:50 LiteraturaAqui

22:25 Nome de Código: Sintra

23:15 TDM News

23:50 Curso Cultura Geral

00:45 Telejornal (Repetição)

01:30 RTPi Directo

cinema



CINETEATRO

13-19 Dec



POKEMON THE MOVIE: THE POWER OF US

ROOM 1

2:15, 4:00, 7:45pm

Director: Tetsuo Yajima

Starring: Emily Bauer, Sam Black, Kathryn Cahill

Language: Japanese (Chinese)

Duration: 97min



MORE THAN BLUE

ROOM 1

5:45, 9:30 pm

Director: Gavin Lin

Starring: Jasper Liu, Ivy Chen

Language: Putonghua (Chinese & English)

Duration: 105min



SPIDER-MAN: INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE

ROOM 2

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

Director: Bob Persichetti, Peter Ramsey

Starring: Shameik Moore, Jake Johnson, Hailee Steinfeld

Language: Cantonese

Duration: 117min



MORTAL ENGINES

ROOM 3

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

Director: Christian Rivers

Starring: Hugo Weaving, Hera Hilmar, Robert Sheehan

Language: English

Duration: 128min

this day in history



1984 BRITAIN SIGNS OVER HONG KONG TO CHINA

The British colony of Hong Kong is to be returned to China in 1997 after an historic agreement was signed in Peking today.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher signed the Joint Sino-British Declaration with her Chinese counterpart Zhao Ziyang.

It formally seals the future of Hong Kong, transferring it from a British colony of six million people to communist China in 13 years.

The agreement, which will end 155 years of British rule in the colony, also launches a new era in trade and diplomacy between the two countries.

Chinese president Deng Xiaoping, who pursued the recovery of Hong Kong, greeted Mrs Thatcher.

The champagne ceremony took place at the Great Hall of the People before delegates who helped draw up the agreement, including 101 guests from Hong Kong.

Mrs Thatcher said: "The circumstances are unique. The agreement is unique."

"It is right that we should feel a sense of history, of pride and of confidence in the future."

The declaration outlines Hong Kong will be "restored" to the People's Republic of China with effect from July 1 1997 and will apply for fifty years.

It will be known as the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR).

Rocky negotiations

Britain has agreed to return Hong Kong after guaranteeing it will "enjoy a high degree of autonomy, except in foreign and defence affairs".

And China's principle of "one country, two systems" allows Hong Kong to have a capitalist economy and enjoy existing rights and freedoms.

The Prime Minister later revealed the negotiation process had been rocky.

When Mrs Thatcher last visited Peking in 1982 the atmosphere was hostile as an agreement could not be reached.

Talks restarted in July 1983 and today's agreement, which was finalised only ten days before the 30 September deadline, is being hailed as a diplomatic coup.

Mrs Thatcher will visit Hong Kong tomorrow during her whistle-stop world tour.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

A bloody crackdown by troops on protests in the Chinese capital, Beijing, in June 1989, known as the "Tiananmen Square massacre" soured relations between Britain and China.

The British Government, fearing for the colony's future, responded by granting British passports to 50,000 Hong Kong heads of families, building a new international airport, and introducing a Bill of Rights.

Chris Patten, the last Governor of Hong Kong introduced democratic reforms in 1992 which the Chinese Government opposed.

A series of diplomatic meetings between the two governments in 1995 and 1996 improved relations.

On 1 July 1997 a spectacular ceremony in Hong Kong celebrated a new era in its political life as it transferred to Chinese control.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Keep both feet firmly planted on the ground today -- it's not a good time for fantasies or for too much ambition.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Your ideals are tested today -- but your great energy ensures that you find the right way to deal with this.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Someone isn't revealing their true intentions -- is it you? This could be a bad problem or it could be a silly romantic misunderstanding.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 A work problem is causing you headaches today, but not so much that you can't deal with them forcefully.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 This is a better time for listening than for talking -- though you may need to ask some big questions to get the conversational ball rolling.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 It's a good time for you to step up and try to get your people to see things your way.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You're feeling weirder than you have in a long time -- so indulge this side of yourself while it lasts!

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 A conflict arises out of two opposing ideas. You are firmly in one camp, but you may not be able to see a way out of this tussle.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Your energy is a bit out of sync today, but you can correct it by pinching off your cash flow.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Something big and wonderful comes your way, and you can tell that it's totally justified.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Don't struggle against anything but tyranny today -- the normal roadblocks and whatnot that life presents just aren't worth your energy.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You can see that a group you're part of is going in a bad direction -- but can you articulate the reason why?

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle with numbers 6, 1, 3, 2, 7, 6, 9, 1, 5, 8, 8, 5, 2, 1, 3, 9, 4, 8, 7, 4, 6, 5, 1, 8, 4, 7, 2, 7, 3, 4.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle with numbers 8, 5, 9, 1, 8, 4, 3, 5, 8, 7, 2, 6, 5, 7, 8, 3, 1, 2, 7, 6, 4, 4, 6, 5, 4, 7, 3, 2, 8.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle with numbers 3, 5, 2, 2, 6, 9, 1, 7, 3, 1, 2, 4, 8, 7, 6, 1, 6, 4, 7, 7, 1, 9, 8, 5, 2, 3, 1, 8, 5, 2.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle with numbers 3, 1, 2, 9, 5, 1, 7, 2, 8, 9, 6, 2, 9, 3, 1, 4.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

Table of weather conditions for various Chinese cities: Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, Urumqi, Xi'an, Lhasa, Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming, Nanjing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Hangzhou, Taipei, Guangzhou, Hong Kong.

WORLD

Table of weather conditions for various world cities: Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Inter ___; 5- Eyelid irritation; 9- Of the sun; 14- Eye piece; 15- Scottish refusals; 16- Minotaur's home; 17- Prudent; 19- ___-car; 20- Fuzzy buzzer; 21- Small mountain; 22- General Powell; 23- Gallery event; 25- Vietnam neighbor; 26- Lusters; 27- Physician; 30- Mellow Mel; 31- Actress Graff; 32- Plant juice; 34- Morales of "NYPD Blue"; 35- Saying; 36- Iams alternative; 37- No longer working (abbr.); 38- Refrain in a children's song; 39- Lusitania sinker; 40- Reporter; 42- Game with Skip cards; 43- LAX guesstimates; 44- All told; 48- Shoelace tip; 50- Opposed; 51- Rhyming boxing champ; 52- Maternally related; 53- Located near the navel; 55- "The Crucible" setting; 56- Bird feed; 57- ___ channel; 58- Former Russian rulers; 59- Hardy boy; 60- Just ___;

DOWN: 1- Variety of calcite; 2- Leather shorts; 3- Chronic; 4- ___ live and breathe!; 5- Slowpokes; 6- Put off, as an agenda item; 7- Shout; 8- Ending for legal or Japan; 9- Miserly person; 10- Threatening words; 11- Director Riefenstahl; 12- Env. notation; 13- "Michael Collins" actor; 18- Classic Alan Ladd western; 22- Chili con ___; 24- Big rig; 25- Hasta ___; 27- Killed; 28- Scandinavian capital city; 29- Wine valley; 31- Concepts; 33- Cooking container; 35- Draw a bead on; 36- Peek follower; 38- Values highly; 39- Wait ___ Dark; 41- Muddle; 42- Slovenly; 44- Sacked out; 45- Folded food; 46- Having wings; 47- Pale purple; 48- Collections of anecdotes; 49- Big bash; 50- Prayer ender; 52- Phila. clock setting; 53- Mex. neighbor; 54- One ___ million;

Yesterday's solution crossword grid with filled-in letters.

Large crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-60.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



AD

Real estate advertisement for JML Property, listing various properties for sale and rent in Macau and Taipa, including Sea View Condo, Oosan Garden Elm Court, WA BAO, TAIPA, Va Fat Taipa, Macau Square Office Space, Va Long, Central Macau, Kok Vui Apartment, and Lakeview Mansions.



RRC Electronics (Macau) Ltd. 中葡電子(澳門)有限公司

ELV Systems Specialists
專業的弱電系統

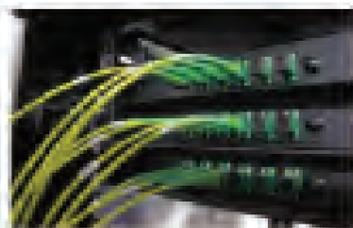


Surveillance Systems
監控系統

Design & Budgets
設計和預算

Intrusion Alarm Systems
入侵警報系統

Project Management
項目管理



Access Control Systems
門禁系統

Maintenance & Service
維修和服務

AV/TV, Telephone & Display Systems
AV/TV, 電話和顯示系統

Risk Assessment & Management
風險評估和管理



Fire Detection & Suppression Systems
火焰偵測和滅火系統

Survey & Troubleshooting Services
檢驗和故障診斷與維修服務

Network & Structure Cable
網絡和綜合佈線

澳門馬場東大馬路25-69號福泰工業大廈12樓B座

Avenida Leste do Hipodromo N.S 25-69, Edif. Industrial Fok Tai, 12 Floor "B", Macau

TEL: + (853) 2822 1341

FAX: + (853) 2822 0824

www.rcc-macau.com

email: contact@rcc-macau.com

CHRISTMAS Party
Dec 24, 2018
聖誕派對

D2 CLUB 男士俱樂部
www.d2club-macau.com

Macau Fisherman's Wharf, Edif. New Orleans III
澳門漁人碼頭新奧爾良 III
Tel: 98330892/3777

WELCOME TO Playmate's club
花心公子俱樂部

WILD NIGHT OUT

Come and buy a Standard drink Mop45 only
You can see a European Striptease Show

Business Hours: 8:00pm-4:00am
Address: Basement, Hotel Guia, Macau Tel: 28532081 www.macauplaymatesclub.com

Attention
No admission under 18

FOOTBALL

Jose Mourinho sacked by Man United after new low in EPL

AP PHOTO



JOSE Mourinho was fired by Manchester United yesterday, two days after English soccer's biggest club reached a new low in its disappointing season by losing to Liverpool in the Premier League.

Assistant coach Michael Carrick will take charge of the team on an interim basis. United said it will appoint a caretaker manager until the end of the season, but didn't say who it will be.

United made its move with the team in sixth place in the league,

19 points behind first-place Liverpool and 11 points off fourth-place Chelsea in the race for Champions League qualification. It is United's worst 17-game start to a league campaign since the 1990-91 season, and the team currently has a goal difference of zero.

Mourinho started his 2½-year tenure at United by winning two titles in his first season — the English League Cup and the Europa League — but failed to win a trophy in his second season and was criticized for the team's pragmatic playing style and his treatment

of some players.

His relationship with Paul Pogba, the club's record signing, appeared broken after leaving the France midfielder out of the team for its last three league games.

Mourinho had also been unhappy that United's board failed to back his wish to sign a central defender in the offseason. United has already conceded more goals in the league than it did in all of last season.

Mourinho's final match in charge was the 3-1 loss at Anfield, after which he said his players were brittle and couldn't cope with the intensity and physicality of Liverpool — historically United's biggest rival.

Mourinho lasted the same length of time at United as he did in his previous job at Chelsea, when he was also fired just before Christmas in his third season. He signed a new contract in January until June 2020 and will reportedly receive compensation of 24 million pounds (USD30 million).

In his six major coaching stints — at Porto, Chelsea, Inter Milan, Real Madrid, Chelsea again and United — Mourinho has only lasted more than three years once. That was in his first spell at Chelsea.

United reached the last 16 in the Champions League, where it will play Paris Saint-Germain over two legs in February and March. **AP**

AD

MAKE-UP
FOR ALL OCCASIONS

- BRIDAL / WEDDINGS • PHOTO SHOTS • PARTY •
- GRADUATION • SPECIAL EVENTS •

MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY!

TEL / WHATSAPP: (853) 6885 3321 | WECHAT: MISS_LZ
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/JULIANACMAKEUPARTIST



New Sunshine Cleaning Services Ltd.

Cleaning Specialists
FREE ESTIMATES

- Residential
- Move In / Out
- One-Time Cleanings
- Window Cleaning
- Office / Home General Cleaning
- Pest Control-Home / Offices
- Marble Crystallization
- Office / Home Carpet Cleaning
- Restaurant / Kitchen Cleaning
- Industrial Garbage Removal
- Grease Trap Pumping
- Portable Chemical Toilet
- Hiring & Daily Cleaning

Call: 2883 3008

Member of General Association of Macao Cleaning Service Industry

仁德 CENTRO MEDICO PEDDER
• 仁德醫療中心 •



We bring high quality of medical service to Macau

General Surgery : Dr. Fok Manson, Dr. Lai Cheuck Swin Edward, Dr. Lau Wing Kee Peter, Dr. Kwong Man, Dr. Nie Fu Zhong, Dr. U Chong San, Dr. Lai Chin Chang

Breast Surgery : Dr. Leong Iat Lun

Urology : Dr. Lo Kwong Yin Richard, Dr. Zhao Yun Qiao

Paediatric Surgery : Dr. Yeung Chung Kwong

Paediatrics : Dr. Zhang Zhiqin

Obstetrics & Gynaecology : Dr. Fong Kuan Jo

Plastic & Aesthetic Surgery : Dr. Lam U Lin

Orthopaedic Surgery & Sports Medicine : Dr. Lam Kum Kuan

ENT : Dr. Cheng Zheng Ang

Cardiology : Dr. Wong Kwok Yiu Chris, Dr. Jin Chuan, Dr. Leong Man Kin

Gastroentero-Hepatology : Dr. Zhan De Juan

General Medicine : Dr. Ng Kam Hong, Dr. Lam Weng Chio

Dietitian : Chan Lai U Joey

Avenida da Praia Grande No. 598, Edifício Comercial Rodrigues 14 e 15 Andar, em Macau.
T: 2832 2298 / 2832 2229 Website: www.peddermacau.com
Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 10:00 - 19:00 Sat 10:00 - 14:00 Sun & PH closed

opinion

World Views
The Editors, Bloomberg

CHINA NEEDS A NEW COMMITMENT TO ECONOMIC REFORM

Forty years ago, Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping launched the most dramatic economic transformation in history by encouraging his countrymen to “emancipate” their minds and “seek truth from facts.” The reforms that followed — he called it socialism with Chinese characteristics — were stunning in their impact. China’s GDP today is more than 80 times bigger than it was at the end of 1978.

If Chinese leaders want to extend that astonishing record of achievement, they’ll need to demonstrate the same kind of courage and far-sightedness. The country’s key officials meet this week to set economic policy for the next year. They need to renew Deng’s commitment to truth from facts, and to bold, market-based reforms.

Over four decades of official support for “reform and opening up,” change has not always been smooth and steady. It has come in waves, stopping and starting over the years, interrupted by periods of resistance and retrenchment.

Deng began by lifting state control of farming and reviving private enterprise. Then progress was cut short by the crackdown following the Tiananmen Square protests. After Deng forcefully recommitted China to reforms in 1992, the country opened itself up to foreign investment, joined the World Trade Organization and embedded itself in global supply chains.

Many would argue that Chinese President Xi Jinping has overseen another period of retrenchment, extending the Communist Party’s influence over all aspects of business and society, shrinking the space for ideological debate, and empowering rather than shrinking the state. But Xi has also emphasized the need for further economic reform. Renewing that priority can be presented as a shift of balance rather than an explicit reversal.

Right now, such a shift would be especially well-timed. Although the party deserves its full share of credit for China’s miraculous resurgence, engaging with outsiders was essential. Since the reforms began, nearly USD1.8 trillion in foreign direct investment has poured into China — bringing new technologies and expertise that were vital in raising productivity. In addition, by allowing China into the WTO, then looking the other way as the country skirted some of its obligations, the rest of the world helped the country grow into a manufacturing behemoth.

All those advantages — flows of capital, information and goods — are now threatened. Foreign businesses are losing patience with the discrimination and barriers to competition they continue to face, and the U.S. and other developed nations fear China’s growth is happening at their expense.

Relations are strained and the situation is difficult. But it is far from hopeless. Merely following through on the ambitious market reforms Xi himself laid out in his inaugural economic plan in 2013 would address many Western complaints.

According to the Rhodium Group and the Asia Society Policy Institute, China has so far made progress in only two of the 10 broad areas that Xi has targeted for change. For example, the government committed in 2013 not to discriminate between private companies and state-owned enterprises — a major bone of contention with the U.S. and others. Yet the latter retain big advantages in taxes, financing and access to cheap land. Fully adopting the principle of “competitive neutrality would give a boost to China’s own private firms, which account for most of the country’s jobs and growth.

In the same way, if China were to eliminate the controversial targets and subsidies of its “Made in China 2025” plan — both of which arguably violate WTO rules — the main beneficiary would be China. Excessive support, as high as 40 percent of total sales in the case of electric cars, has caused waste and overcapacity.

To be sure, further economic reform won’t solve all of China’s problems. As long as the country refuses to liberalize politically, it’ll be viewed with suspicion in the West.

Boldness served China well 40 years ago — better than anybody at the time dared hope. Beijing needs to be bold once more.

[Abridged]

THE EU OFFICIALS, FIRMS MEET AFRICAN LEADERS TO TALK INVESTMENT

European officials and companies are meeting in Vienna with African leaders for talks on increasing investment in the continent.

Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz, whose country currently holds the rotating EU presidency, told ORF broadcaster yesterday that more than 1,000 business people were attending the EU-Africa forum.

Kurz says he hopes this is a “good start signal for more European investment in Africa so that the African continent, when it comes to investment, isn’t just conceded to the Chinese.”



African Union Chairman Paul Kagame, Rwanda’s president, and Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi were among the leaders on hand for the forum.

AP sources: Trump plans to create US Space Command

PRESIDENT Donald Trump is expected to sign an executive order soon, possibly as early as today [Macau time], creating a U.S. Space Command that will better organize and advance the military’s vast operations in space, U.S. officials say.

Vice President Mike Pence will make the announcement at the Kennedy Space Center, in Cape Canaveral, Florida, two U.S. officials said.

Trump’s order is separate from his oft-stated goal of creating a “Space Force” as an independent armed service branch, but it’s considered a step in that direction. The move will launch a long and complicated process, requiring the Defense Department to pull together various space units and agencies from across the military services into a more coordinated, independent organization.

The U.S. Air Force’s existing Space Command would be a key component of the new joint entity, raising space to the same status as U.S. Cyber Command.

The U.S. officials said the order will be signed by the end of the year, but could happen as early as Tuesday. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they we-



ren’t authorized to speak publicly on the matter.

The move would actually recreate a U.S. Space Command, which existed from 1985 to 2002. It was disbanded in the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks so U.S. Northern Command could be established, focusing on defense of the homeland.

Although Space Command went away, its functions did not. They were absorbed by U.S. Strategic Command, and the Air Force retained its lead role in space through Air Force Space Command.

The military has been trying for decades to reor-

ganize and accelerate technological advances in space. Some blame the Air Force for underinvesting in space because it prefers spending on warplanes.

The key goal is to find more effective ways to defend U.S. interests in space, especially the constellations of satellites that U.S. ground, sea and air forces rely on for navigation, communications and surveillance. These roles make them increasingly tempting military targets as China and Russia work on ways to disrupt, disable and even destroy American satellites.

The military’s role in space has been under scrutiny because the United States is increasingly reliant on orbiting satellites that are difficult to protect.

U.S. intelligence agencies reported earlier this year that Russia and China were pursuing “nondestructive and destructive” anti-satellite weapons for use during a future war. And there are growing worries about cyberattacks that could target satellite technology, potentially leaving troops in combat without electronic communications or navigation abilities. AP

UK

3,500 troops to be on standby if no-deal Brexit

BRITISH Defense Secretary said around 3,500 troops will be on standby in support of the government to help deal with any disruptions in the event of a “no-deal” Brexit.

Gavin Williamson says that while the military hasn’t had a formal request to help, “what we will do is have 3,500 service personnel held at readiness - including regulars and reserves - in order to support any government department on any contingencies they may need.”

The comments came as Britain’s Cabinet stepped up preparations for the possibility of a disorderly Brexit.



With 14 weeks to go before Britain’s departure from the bloc, it remains unclear whether the country will leave with a deal or crash out without one - an outcome that risks touching off gridlock at ports and shortages of goods.

The British government has decided to ramp up preparations for a “no-deal” Brexit, saying it must be ready for the possibility of that default option.

Brexit Secretary Steve Barclay says that while the government remains committed to Prime Minister Theresa May’s deal, it needs to be ready in the event it does not come to pass.

Following a Cabinet meeting, Barclay said preparations for a disorderly Brexit need to be “much more of a priority for businesses up and down the country.”

He says with just over 100 days until the March 29 official Brexit date, “a responsible government is preparing for the eventuality that we leave without a deal.” MDT/AP

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

WORLD BRIEFS



YEMEN’s key port city of Hodeida was calm yesterday, hours after a U.N.-mediated cease-fire went into effect between government-allied forces and the country’s rebels, Yemeni officials said. Fighting subsided as the cease-fire took effect, with only the sporadic sound of automatic weapons fire heard in the city, where the port handles about 70 percent of Yemen’s imports.

USA Two Chicago police officers were fatally struck by a train as they investigated a report of gunshots on the city’s far South Side. Eduardo Marmolejo, 37, and Conrad Gary, 31, were pursuing on foot a person heading toward the train tracks when they were hit shortly as the commuter train passed through the area.



VATICAN CITY Organizers of an upcoming Vatican summit on sex abuse prevention are warning that the credibility of the Catholic Church is in jeopardy over the abuse scandal and are urging participants to meet with victims personally before coming to Rome. In a letter sent yesterday to the presidents of bishops’ conferences worldwide, organizers said the church must develop a “comprehensive and communal response” to the crisis.



FOOTBALL Jose Mourinho was fired by Manchester United yesterday after failing to restore its status as a major European force in a turbulent 2½-year spell marked by clashes with players and increasing disgruntlement at the team’s style of play.

More on p19