



NEW MACAU CALLS FOR UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE

New Macau Association is calling a meeting on Sunday to demand universal suffrage in the upcoming Chief Executive election

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WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA Albanian police say they have arrested a Chinese man wanted in his country for illegal earnings as part of an organized crime group.



CHINA Forty-nine people have died and 14 others remain missing since heavy rainfall hit southern China in early June, authorities said yesterday. More than 7,000 houses have collapsed and 300,000 people have been evacuated.

PHILIPPINES The defense secretary says an anchored Filipino fishing boat has sunk in the disputed South China Sea after being hit by a suspected Chinese vessel, which then abandoned the 22 Filipino crewmen.



THAILAND Officials said they discovered 65 ethnic Rohingya Muslim refugees who were shipwrecked and stranded in southern Thailand. The navy took the group away to be processed by immigration officials.

INDIA Authorities in Indian-controlled Kashmir stopped Amnesty International from holding an event yesterday announcing a report on detention of activists in the disputed region under a law that allows people to be held for up to two years without trial.

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AP PHOTO

CHIEF EXECUTIVE ELECTION

New Macau to hold Sunday meeting calling for universal suffrage

Julie Zhu

NEW Macau Association (ANM) is planning a meeting on Sunday in front of Escola Luso-Chinesa Técnico-Professional to demand universal suffrage in the upcoming Chief Executive election. ANM, which made the announcement yesterday during a street campaign in Fai Chi Kei, said that all citizens should be entitled to vote for the city's next top official.

At the meeting, New Macau introduced its campaign against the system for electing the Chief Executive.

"In the past three weeks, we have been conducting a campaign to oppose the small-circle election of the members of the Electoral Committee for the Chief Executive election. We have already done eight street campaigns to explain to residents this unreasonable, undemocratic and closed election," said Sulu Sou, on behalf of ANM.

The election to decide the members of the Electoral Committee is scheduled to take place on June 16. On Sunday, 633 local associations will nominate 350 can-



Lawmaker Sulu Sou (right) and ANM President Kam Sut Leng

didates to run for 340 seats. These associations will also nominate some 5,000 residents to vote for the 350 candidates.

"The upcoming election cannot represent the public opinion of the Macau people," said Sou.

"Associations represent public opinions to some degree,

but not all of them," said the lawmaker. "Macau has 310,400 qualified voters [in the Legislative Assembly]. But they will all be excluded from the election on Sunday. This is completely unreasonable."

"We want to tell the public that the election is related closely to everybody, but this

election is also completely unrelated to anybody," said Sou.

According to ANM's plan, on June 16, it will hold a public meeting at a poll station at the Escola Luso-Chinesa Técnico-Professional.

ANM has already notified the Public Security Police Force (PSP), however, the exact location of the meeting has not yet

been confirmed.

"We sincerely call on residents to participate," said Sou. "Our appeal is hoping that 310,400 voters can have the right to vote, or else we disagree with the existence of the election committee."

According to Macau's election rule, candidates for the CE should be nominated by association members from all sectors.

"How many sectors [do we need] to completely include all Macau residents?" Sou questioned, adding "Macau is a small place; [it] only has around 310,400 voters. We have no need for the small circle election. [...] In today's Macau, this is unacceptable."

"We hope for universal suffrage. We want to tell the 5,000 voters that their votes belong to everybody," he added.

Separately, Sou expressed ANM's concerns over the protests in Hong Kong.

"We attach great attention to Hong Kong's situation. We express our deepest sorrow, even though we are Macau people. We hope that the Hong Kong government can withdraw the bill, and stop the bloodshed. We don't want to see more bloody situations," said Sou.

Police shut down MOP2,000 jaywalking fine rumor

Staff reporter

MESSAGES spread on social media claiming that the police are taking a tougher stance on jaywalking by punishing violators with a fine of MOP2,000, were found to be false yesterday.

In response to an enquiry by the Times, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) denied the fine amount, saying that the legal fine remains MOP300.

The Times received images sent over social media this week supposedly showing that the PSP is "starting" spot checks on roads, and will apply heavy fines to pedestrians illegally crossing roads.

Pursuant to Articles 68 and 70 of the "Road Traffic Law," pedestrians are required to cross roads at specific facilities. A failure to do so will incur a MOP300 fine. As the law has not been changed recently, the pro-

vision is still in effect.

Meanwhile, pursuant to Article 103 of the same law, drivers failing to give way to pedestrians crossing roads, regardless the existence of crossing facility, may be punished up to a maximum fine of MOP2,500. Repeat violators can be fined a maximum of MOP5,000 and banned from driving for two to six months.

The online message's claim about a potential MOP2,000 punish-

ment is incorrect.

The PSP has been carrying out spot-checks at various locations and on several dates, with the latest starting on June 3. Some 31 jaywalkers were prosecuted in the time between then and now.

However, using mobile phones while driving and not fastening seatbelts are more prevalent problems, with many more cases recorded during the same period.

Lawmaker requests alcohol control law timetable

LAWMAKER Lam Lon Wai has submitted an inquiry to the government requesting a timetable for legislation on alcohol age control.

Lam cited a survey conducted in 2018 which determined that 21.7% of youths have consumed alcohol, about 1.3 percentage points more than in 2016.

Lam also cited survey findings that indicate the vast majority of local youth who go out at night, and

to night clubs specifically, have alcohol abuse habits, with the youngest aged only 14 years old.

Lam highlighted that Macau is one of the few regions in the world where regulation relating to an age restriction on the purchase of alcohol does not exist. According to Lam, such regulation is urgently required within Macau.

In addition to asking for alcohol control legislation, Lam also requested tighter re-

gulations on beer and wine consumption.

He asked the government whether it will consider lifting the exemption of beer and wine from consumption tax, and whether it will levy a special tax on alcoholic beverages.

Previously, in 2018, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam said that the government will consult local residents in 2019 in respect to alcohol control legislation. **JZ**

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The underworld of Macau's human resources

Renato Marques

THE lack of human resources and the difficulties in recruiting qualified staff have long been divisive topics in Macau. While some would prefer stricter rules and quotas on any imported workers to protect the interests of local residents, others have been calling for more transparency in the system as well as a faster process for reviewing applications so local companies can remain competitive.

The topic has been repeatedly targeted by the lawmakers during sessions at the Legislative Assembly with the those representing the Macau workers' organizations, namely the Macau Federation of Trade Unions, calling for the enforcement of more restrictions while those with connections to the business sector and small and medium-sized enterprises voicing opposition to restrictions and calling for a system that guarantees companies can recruit the staff they need to operate.

Last week, the Executive Council announced that a bill has been tabled that propo-

ses amendments to several labor relations laws. Among the amendments is a ban on all non-residents seeking employment in Macau while holding a tourist visa.

The bill requires that all non-residents who wish to apply for any non-specialized or domestic work in the region must first obtain a permit through the relevant employer before receiving authorization to stay in the SAR.

In other words, the measure tries to obstruct the practice of directly job seeking; making arrangements between a worker and employer without going through an employment agency.

A POOR REPUTATION

The proposal, which will empower employment agencies in the territory, has left many concerned, not least because of the poor reputation of some firms within the industry.

Strict rules over imported labor coupled with a high demand for staff at Macau's gaming concessionaires has made recruitment a lucrative trade in Macau.

A former HR staff member at an integrated resort, who asked

to remain anonymous, told the Times that human resources do not always manage their own recruitment, especially when it is done on a large-scale and from overseas.

"When you are recruiting a large number of people all at once, especially security and cleaning staff, there is no time to conduct any verifications individually [case-by-case] and personal interviews are not that individualized either," she said. HR departments are usually left to handle the recruitment of local workers, while "the recruitment of overseas workers is a task mainly done by agencies."

A 'FRIENDLY WARNING'

One non-resident worker (TNR), who works as a waitress at another integrated resort, explained the application process in an interview with the Times.

"To work here you need to pay a minimum of MOP20,000 but it depends on the job that you are taking," she said, adding, "in my case I had to pay MOP21,000 to get this job as a waitress from which I earn MOP7,000 a month, so it's like three months' salary."

As she explained to the Times, the 'agency fee' "needs to be all paid in advance and in cash. Before you get inside the company you need to pay the agency and even if there is some problem [at a later stage] this money isn't returned to you."

Asked whether she knows if her employer knows about the agency fee she had to pay, she said: "I can't be sure about that but I think they need to have some communication otherwise they wouldn't know when I'm coming to work or anything, because I never spoke with anyone from the casino [operator] before the day I came to work."

She also told the Times that another pressing concern was that workers hired via this system have almost no guarantees. "We are always afraid, as any small mistake [can mean] you get fired," she said.

Speaking with other staff from the same company, she learned that people believe that there are "bad practices" between employment agencies and some human resources (HR) staff, especially in large enterprises.

For example, she said that a colleague had told her some HR staff would fire workers over

the smallest offences in order to recruit their replacements, who would need to pay their own fee to the recruitment agency.

She said the tip-off had been a "friendly warning" from people working in the company for longer than herself, most of them local workers.

A MIXED REACTION

The measure to prevent tourists from job-seeking generated discussion online among TNRs, who expressed mixed-feelings about it. One social media user expressed approval of the new law, "to avoid TNR scams [experienced by] their fellow nationals [on alleged job referrals] when they come looking for work."

However, others showed more skepticism. "If the law is approved how can employers find job seekers [namely for domestic work]," posed one netizen, with another asking, "Who will clean or take care of their kids?"

Questioned by the Times on the issue, a TNR from Indonesia said, "I don't think it will affect the Indonesians as we [almost] always seek jobs through the [employment] agencies."

"Most of the people when traveling abroad for work need to have already guarantees of a working contract and [at least part of the] formalities taken care of," she added. "I think it would probably affect more the Filipinos as they have the culture of going door-to-door seeking for a job."



Philippine Consul General in Macau Lilybeth Deapera (right) and Macau's Secretary for Administration and Justice Sonia Chan

Filipinos commemorate 121 years of independence

Lynzy Valles

THE Filipino community in Macau celebrated the 121st Proclamation of Philippine Independence, themed "Courage of the Nation, Compassion for the People," to remind the community that independence is "an ongoing process with both challenges and reward."

All 86 posts of the consulate from around the globe celebrated the Philippines' Independence Day, which is commemorated every June 12.

Commenting on the current relationship of the Philippines and Macau, Philippine Consul General in Macau, Lilybeth Deapera remarked, "the relationship between the Philippines and Macau is growing from strength to strength."

The Philippine official said that the region still has an ongoing

dialogue with the Philippines and that the two jurisdictions continuously cooperate on business activities.

"We deeply appreciate the valuable contribution of the Consulate General of the Republic of the Philippines and local Filipino communities to the progress of the Macau SAR in the past two decades," said Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, according to the transcript from her speech.

"With concerted efforts, we look forward to opening up new prospects for cooperation in various aspects for many years to come."

Last week, the government announced that domestic workers are not included in the minimum wage bill, drawing criticism from migrant groups.

According to Deapera, they

were informed by the Labor Affairs Bureau (DSAL) that such decision was dictated by market forces: "From what I understand, there are groups who are studying this aspect. They have made petitions to the government. We've been having discussions with the government, but we were told by DSAL that this is something that is dictated by market forces."

Questioned whether this decision was fair as many domestic workers thought the bill was discriminatory, the official replied, "it's the market forces that dictate and of course the workers also have options to not work here."

Deapera implied that the community should also consider how they could protect their rights.

Another issue that affects the migrants are those who come to

the SAR on tourist visas but then seek employment. The government is considering banning such move, requiring non-locals who plan to work in the SAR to have a work-permit document.

"If they come through the [Phi-

lippine Overseas Employment Agency], we know and we can provide support and protection in a way to them," said Deapera, discouraging Filipinos from coming to the region as tourists to seek employment.

Sonia Chan: No comment on extradition woes

THE Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, refused to comment over the extradition legislation riot in Hong Kong.

Questioned by the press yesterday on the sidelines of the Independence Day celebration of the Philippines hosted by the Philippine Consulate General, the official implied that she did not want to meddle with the neighboring SAR's current matter.

"We are not commenting on the things that are happening in neighboring region," Chan told the press.

With regards to regional judicial cooperation, Chan said that China, Hong Kong and Macau have yet to reach a consensus, and that there is no timetable for such an agreement.

Macau-EU ties remain fruitful at 23rd meeting

Staff reporter

A Macau delegation visited Belgium this week for the 17th annual post-handover meeting, the 23rd edition overall, with the European Union. The first edition was started with the signing of a trade and cooperation agreement between Ma-

cau and the EU in 1992.

At the meeting in the Belgian capital, Brussels, the EU said the Macau SAR is recovering from the economic downturn caused mainly by external factors. Growth is expected to continue this year.

Macau informed the EU of the state of implementation of its Five-Year

Development Plan (2016-2020) and updated the EU on its efforts to diversify the economy. Macau also further familiarized the EU with the Greater Bay initiative.

Macau and the EU pledged to continue working closely on fighting money laundering and terrorism financing. Work will also

be done on the environment.

On EU-Macau cooperation, participants discussed possible continuation of the EU-Macau Cooperation Program in the Legal Field, aimed at promoting the modernization and development of the SAR's legal system.

The two jurisdictions will

continue training Chinese-Portuguese translators and interpreters in order to meet the ongoing demand in Macau.

The MSAR also proposed to market and develop traditional Chinese health practices in the EU.

Both sides pledged to further collaborate in the field of tourism. There was

extensive cooperation in 2018, which was themed the "EU-China Tourism Year". Successful projects included EU-Macau Bridge of Light and the Global Tourism Economy Forum 2018.

The next edition of the post-handover meeting will be held in Macau in next year.

Melco launches Art Macao contribution at Morpheus



Staff reporter

MELCO Resorts & Entertainment opened its Art Macao contribution yesterday at its Morpheus hotel. The opening ceremony was held on the 23rd floor of the hotel tower; a floor normally reserved for diners at its Chinese restaurant, but now open to the public for the five consecutive months of the Art Macao festival.

Melco is contributing 11 art pieces for this festival, with one now being displayed at the Macao Museum of Art. The other 10 pieces are on show at City of Dreams.

Central to the art exhibition is a six-meter tall mega figure by influential American designer, KAWS. This figure is named "Good Intention" and marks Macau's first

encounter with KAWS. The piece carries features of Mickey Mouse, a clown and a skull, and through it, KAWS wants to encourage the reexamination of nostalgia.

On the same level, "Cabane Éclatée" is placed next to KAWS' enormous figures. It was made by Daniel Buren, who creates art with cubic shapes. This piece is an imagination of an exploding hut. The four panels reaching out are the doors of the hut being propelled by an explosion. The glass wall of the hotel tower lets in sunlight and makes the hut shine in various colors.

Moving down to the ground level, visitors will see a corridor decorated with two pieces in blue. On one side are four images painted by Chinese artist Zhao Zhao, who has captured the essence of Beijing's sky from memory.

Nine glass plates by French Mathieu Lehanneur look dark and black, but they're actually deep blue. The art piece is a collection of hi-definition satellite images of the sea taken in nine different locations.

A piece of art that is simultaneously an installation and décor, *Continuel Lumière au Plafond* by Argentine Julio Le Parc reflects light and symbolizes movement.

"We are thrilled to bring such amazing contemporary works of art to City of Dreams to demonstrate world-class creativity to our guests," said Lawrence Ho, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Melco Resorts & Entertainment. "In particular, it is extraordinary to be showcasing many of these works at Morpheus, which is in itself an architectural masterpiece as the wor-

ld's first ever free-form exoskeleton high-rise architectural structure designed by legendary architect Dame Zaha Hadid."

"Through this exhibition and our participation at Art Macao, we look forward to continue contributing to the city's art and cultural development," he added.

The company said it would open another exhibition, also part of Art Macao, at its Studio City property, but details have not yet been announced.

In addition, Melco supports and sponsors the works of two Belgian artists Benoit+Bo in two other projects under Art Macao, including the outdoor art installation *Happy Heads* located in the leisure area in Jorge Álvares Square, and the *Prosperous Years* art exhibition at the Old Court Building.

ADVERTORIAL

GREAT TIMES

Spectacular summer in the city

THE best way to celebrate sunny days is to enjoy a summer holiday together with the family. It's easy to be tempted by travel packages to exotic destinations halfway across the world. But what about stretching your holiday budget to get more value, more time, and maybe even more fun out of your summer plans – all without having to leave Macau?

MGM is, as ever, your go-to destination for exceptional entertainment and unique experiences – and this summer is no different. Both its properties, MGM COTAI and MGM MACAU, are overflowing with fun ideas for you and the family this summer.

Start with the Summer Day Pass that lets you dive right in to exceptional fun under the sun. From now till September 13, this pass lets you enjoy exclusive access to the pool in MGM Macau Vista and inflatable sport games you could possibly want. Choose from the Family Package for 4 guests that's priced at MOP788, or the Couple's Package for 2 guests at MOP588. Need more passes for more people? Just get the Additional Person(s) at MOP200.



For fun that meets entertainment, check out *Fuerza Bruta*, an immersive theater party experience. Show starts from June 14 to August 4 at MGM Theater at MGM COTAI, *Fuerza Bruta* redefines show rules by inviting you to reach out, move about and dance along. The pounding music sets the stage for a mesmerising performance, accentuated by mind-blowing visual effects and lighting. And remember, don't just look ahead because the best part of the show could be happening 360 degrees around you.

If all that playing, laughing and splashing around is making you feel hungry, then look no further than the amazing dining ideas at MGM. At MGM MACAU, where you can feast on authentic Portuguese food at *Rossio's Portuguese buffet*. For those who like to eat responsibly, you'll be pleased to know that to mark World Sustainable Gastronomy Day, *Square Eight* is offering sustainable local sole specialities. *Pastry Bar* is also on board with low-carbon footprint lunch choices.

There are even more dining choices at MGM COTAI. Meat lover, don't forget to visit *Grill 58* for the finest quality organic pork from Soil Association approved farms. If you fancy something even more luxurious, then chow down on the most succulent Boston lobster at *Coast* or *Hao Guo*. If you need a little help cooling down from the summer heat, then don't miss the nutritious double-boiled *Winter Melon Soup* at *Chún*, or drop by *Five Food Road* for fresh reeves shad from Yangtze River.



As you can see, you don't need to travel too far this summer to enjoy yourself to the fullest. Just two destinations right here in Macau – MGM MACAU and MGM COTAI – have almost everything you and your family need to make it a summer to remember. For enquiries and reservations, please call (853) 8802 8888.

Hong Kong risks Occupy 2.0 as protesters

PROTESTERS flooding downtown Hong Kong to stop the government's proposed extradition law effectively presented the city's leaders with an ultimatum: back down, or risk violent clashes that could be worse than the Occupy movement in 2014.

Thousands of demonstrators gathered in the heart of the financial hub yesterday, and some battled with riot police throughout the afternoon to prevent lawmakers from debating the bill. Overwhelmingly young, many protesters wore surgical masks to hide their identities and plastic goggles to ward off pepper spray, which police fired sporadically throughout the day, along with tear gas, rubber bullets and bean-bag rounds.

Hong Kong's government, led by Chief Executive Carrie Lam, says it has no intention of giving in to the protesters' key demand: scrapping the proposed law that would allow criminal suspects to be extradited to mainland China, among other places. Lam has argued the bill is a necessary measure to update the city's rules for dealing with individuals facing criminal charges elsewhere.

"I've never felt guilty because of this," she said in an interview with local broadcaster TVB, her voice cracking and her eyes appearing to well up as she insisted she would never betray Hong Kong.

But the protesters managed to scuttle the debate yesterday, and it's now unclear when legislators will reconvene for 66 hours of scheduled discussions before a vote, which was originally planned for later this month.

"This time some people say peaceful protest is useless," said Suki Fung, 24, catching her breath after

inhaling tear gas. "People think there has to be more of a fight - otherwise it's useless with this government."

For the protesters, the extradition law represents a line in the sand: a dramatic undercutting of local autonomy that will end Hong Kong's status as a safe haven for dissidents fleeing the mainland. They have drawn the support of U.S. lawmakers like House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who called on Congress to reassess Hong Kong's special trading status - a move that risks damaging the city's reputation and pushing more multinationals to locations like Singapore.

"We must fight peacefully, and we must continue," opposition lawmaker Claudia Mo told the crowd. "With all your presence here, we can do it together."

The marchers were well-organized and coordinated, dropping umbrellas from an overhead walkway to provide protection from police and the rain for those in streets below. Others tied metal barricades together to ward off any potential police advancement, and some pulled bricks up from the road to use as potential projectiles.

Volunteers handed out supplies of food, water, umbrellas and masks to fellow marchers. Groups of protesters also formed neat trains to deliver components for barricades. Several people were injured, with ambulances called in.

The demonstrations this week are larger than the so-called Umbrella Movement that occupied part of the city center for more than two months in 2014. Those gatherings elicited fierce responses from police that included firing tear gas at the mostly student protesters, who held up yellow umbrellas for protection. People came out in force to

support them, creating a standoff that lasted 79 days.

Authorities ultimately imprisoned Joshua Wong, a student activist who was the face of the demonstrations, after he was convicted of staging an unlawful rally. He recently was jailed again, this time for contempt of court. Other organizers, including an associate law professor at the University of Hong Kong, were given jail terms.

This week's protests differ from 2014's in important ways, however. The Umbrella Movement called for granting a right - universal suffrage - that Hong Kong's citizens have never had, while opponents believe the extradition law threatens to take away the status as safe haven from Beijing that they have long enjoyed.

Although part of China, the mainland guarantees the former British colony free speech, capitalist markets and English common law under a "one country, two systems" framework.

Lam, a pro-Beijing leader who's been criticized bitterly by democracy activists, now faces a no-win situation.

"If we put a halt to this today, the consequences will only be larger, because when this happens again and again, we'd still use the same method to solve it - that when there are lots of resistance, we would give up," Lam said. "Is this beneficial for Hong Kong? We have to think about it seriously."

Backing down could antagonize China's president, Xi Jinping, who's seeking to bring Hong Kong into greater alignment with the mainland. It could also send what the Chinese government might see as a highly dangerous message to Hong Kong's people: that protest still works.



"It's pretty difficult to see where the government can go from here," said Tim Summers, a Hong Kong-based senior consulting fellow at the Chatham House think tank. "They've got themselves in a corner on this one."

While some opponents have exaggerated the law's importance, he said, "it makes people feel insecure and brings out their lack of trust in the central government and their anxiety about Hong Kong's future."

As the day went on, protests spread from the vicinity of the Legislative Council building, in the city's Admiralty section, and into the

financial district, where hundreds of international companies have their local offices. Organizers say they plan to remain in the streets until the government relents, and some participants chanted, "Persist, Hong Kongers! Fight On!"

There also are signs the protest may spread into the economy as a whole. Aviation workers, a teachers' union, student associations and the Confederation of Trade Unions, a pro-democracy labor group, have called for a large-scale strike.

If the bill gets to a vote, it's highly likely to pass: pro-Beijing legisla-

ANALYSIS

Hong Kong, standing for freedom and justice once

Eric Sautédé, Hong Kong

ON June 9, the march against the government-sponsored extradition bill felt like a recast of the protest held on July 1 2003 against the enactment of a state security legislation that ultimately ended up with the bill being shelved indefinitely, the Secretary for Security resigning and the Chief Executive not being able to finish his second mandate for "personal reasons".

Same main organizer: the Civil Human Rights Front gathering some 50 pro-democratic organizations. Same hot and clear-sky summer day. Same white t-shirts. Same mixed crowd

of families and middle-class residents. Same upbeat mood with a different and yet echoing slogan: "Oppose extradition to China."

Only this time was bigger, double the size actually, with more than one million Hongkongers taking to the streets in an interrupted human flow stretching from as far as Fortress Hill up to the government headquarters in Tamar and lasting for more than seven hours.

Only this time the loud and clear demand expressed by one out of seven residents fell on a deaf ear. Speaking only on the next day, Hong Kong's Chief Executive Carrie Lam pledged to press ahead with the bill and insis-

ted that further delays would only instill "more anxiety and divisiveness in society." As calls for a second rally opposing the bill were starting to be heard, the president announced on June 11 that the bill would have to be adopted by June 20, tabling some 66 hours for debate with extraordinary sessions to be held on every single day of the week whereas the LegCo ordinarily convene only on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Rather than being delayed the legislative process was thus being sped up! All this while the proposed amendments to the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance and the Mutual Assistance in Crimi-

nal Matters Ordinances had been heavily challenged right from the start in February.

The Hong Kong Bar Association had published as early as April 2 a comprehensive review of the amendment bill that had been gazetted on March 29. Many voices from all corners of society soon joined - democrats of course, journalists, NGOs, foreign governments and politicians, businessmen with interests in China, and the many professional associations who felt threatened by the law. The same two main objections were repeated again and again, with various degrees of subtlety: why the rush? And why the absence of effective judicial and/or

legislative safeguards? The Hong Kong judiciary would only be entrusted with checking the adequacy of formalities and ultimately, only the Chief Executive, himself or herself nominated by the central authorities, would be left to refuse case-by-case demands formulated by China's courts.

On June 12, the mood of the crowd converging towards the LegCo had changed. This time around, the objective was not anymore to voice out a disagreement and quietly address it to the government but rather to forbid the convening of the second reading of the bill.

The power struggle had shifted from being symbolic

and argumentative to meddling with the ugly reality of decision making. Inspiration thus came from the Umbrella Movement of 2014. Organizers were many, and even though all progressive in essence, from every segment of society. The Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Union had called for a general strike. The Diocese of Hong Kong had implored the government to withdraw the bill. Even small businesses were closed, in different parts of the territory, with some leaving cardboard on their metal curtain reading "Busy being heroes." And the crowd was young, very young, all dressed in black and geared-up to sustain a siege.

vow to keep fighting



tors enjoy a comfortable majority in the legislature, where many of the seats are held by representatives of business and professional groups. Lam has said China has nothing to do with the extradition bill -- a claim viewed by protesters with skepticism, particularly as mainland officials have backed her efforts.

More is at stake than the orderly functioning of one of Asia's most-important cities. Hong Kong's independent legal system is the foundation of its distinctive status, a

legacy of British rule that has prompted almost 1,400 multinationals to set up regional headquarters in the city.

Preserving that system, along with other elements of Hong Kong's autonomy, was at the heart of the 1997 handover agreement between the U.K. and mainland China.

Hong Kong's government has backed down before in the face of protests, pulling an unpopular national security bill in 2003 and another proposal to require patriotic education in 2012. But authorities

have gotten tougher since the Occupy protests, barring pro-democracy candidates from running for office and banning political parties from advocating Hong Kong's independence. A draft law now under consideration would criminalize disrespect of the Chinese national anthem.

With pro-democracy groups previously in retreat, Lam has "just reinvigorated a dormant movement," said David Zweig, a professor of social science at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

Like many in the city, he's fearful of a true worst-case scenario: an escalation of unrest that tempts China, which maintains a substantial military garrison in Hong Kong, to intervene directly.

"There are certainly people in the crowd who are capable of extreme violence," he said. "If they do that, what's to stop Beijing from saying: We have to go in?"

The vast majority of the protesters, however, appear to be ordinary Hong Kongers: teachers, office workers, retirees and students, many wearied by what they view as a years-long campaign to undermine their city's autonomy. For some of them, this week's demonstrations are being treated as something of a last stand.

"This time the issue is very specific: that we cannot pass the evil law," said Jason Chen, a retired social worker directing pedestrians to the protest outside the Admiralty subway station. "In 2014, it was more general. This is life or death."

Bloomberg

more

Contrary to September 2014, young people knew that the government would not hesitate to use tear gas, rubber bullets and pepper spray against them. If the effective withdrawal of the bill was to be achieved, nothing could be left to improvisation. Mistakes from 2014 would not be repeated if the success of 2003 was to be achieved.

Out of practicality — the LegCo being inaccessible — the second reading of the bill was officially postponed. But as the crowd refused to disperse and evacuate Harcourt Road, tear gas was fired and pepper spray splashed all over. This is unfortunately just the beginning.



The long road since '97

ON July 1, 1997, Tung Chee-hwa, the first chief executive of Hong Kong, declared, "For the first time in history, we, the people of Hong Kong, will be master of our own destiny."

It was the moment that Hong Kong, previously a British colony, was returned to China under the framework of "one country, two systems." The "Basic Law" constitution guaranteed to protect, for the next 50 years, the democratic institutions that make Hong Kong distinct from Communist Party-ruled mainland China.

Despite that promise, Hong Kong's agency has been tested, reinforced and challenged again in the succeeding years, most recently this week, which witnessed what may have been the largest protest since Hong Kong became Chinese territory again.

Here's a look at key events in Hong Kong people's fight to determine their future:

2003 NATIONAL SECURITY

The first major ripple came when Hong Kong's leaders introduced legislation that would forbid acts of treason and subversion against the Chinese government. The bill resembled laws used to charge dissidents on the mainland, and also banned foreign political entities from conducting political activities and establishing relationships with political groups in Hong Kong.

It sparked one of the three largest protests of the post-1997 era. Organizers estimated that half a million people turned out against the bill, which they saw as an affront to Hong Kong's autonomy and rule of law. As a result of the backlash, a member of the chief executive's council resigned in protest and further action on the proposal was halted.

2010 DIRECT ELECTIONS

The Basic Law states that the ultimate aim is for Hong Kong voters to achieve a complete democracy, but 10 years after the handover, China decided in 2007 that universal suffrage in elections of the chief executive could not be implemented until 2017. Some lawmakers are chosen by business and trade groups, while others are elected by vote.

In a bid to accelerate a decision on universal suffrage, five lawmakers resigned. But this act was followed by the adoption of Beijing-backed electoral changes which expanded the chief executive's selection committee and added more seats for lawmakers elected by direct vote. The legislation divided Hong Kong's pro-democracy camp, as some supported the reforms while others said it would only delay full democracy while reinforcing a structure that favors Beijing. It nevertheless marked the first changes to the electoral system since the handover.

2014 UMBRELLA REVOLUTION

Harking back to its promise to allow Hong Kong residents to vote for their leader in 2017, the Chinese government introduced a bill allowing that, but with one major caveat: the candidates must be approved by Beijing. "The Chief Executive shall be a person who loves the country [China] and loves Hong Kong," read the decision by China's National People's Congress.

Pro-democracy law-makers were incensed by the bill, which they called an example of "fake universal suffrage" and "fake democracy."

The move triggered a massive protest of a different kind as crowds occupied some of Hong Kong's most crowded districts for 70 days. The movement's organizers called it "Occupy Central with Love and Peace," but it came to be known around the world as the "Umbrella Revolution" for the yellow umbrellas that protesters used as shields against police pepper spray.

In June 2015, Hong Kong legislators formally rejected the bill, and electoral reform has been stalled since then. The current chief executive, Carrie Lam, widely seen as the Chinese Communist Party's favored candidate, was hand-picked in 2017 by a 1,200-person committee dominated by pro-Beijing elites.

2019 EXTRADITION BILL

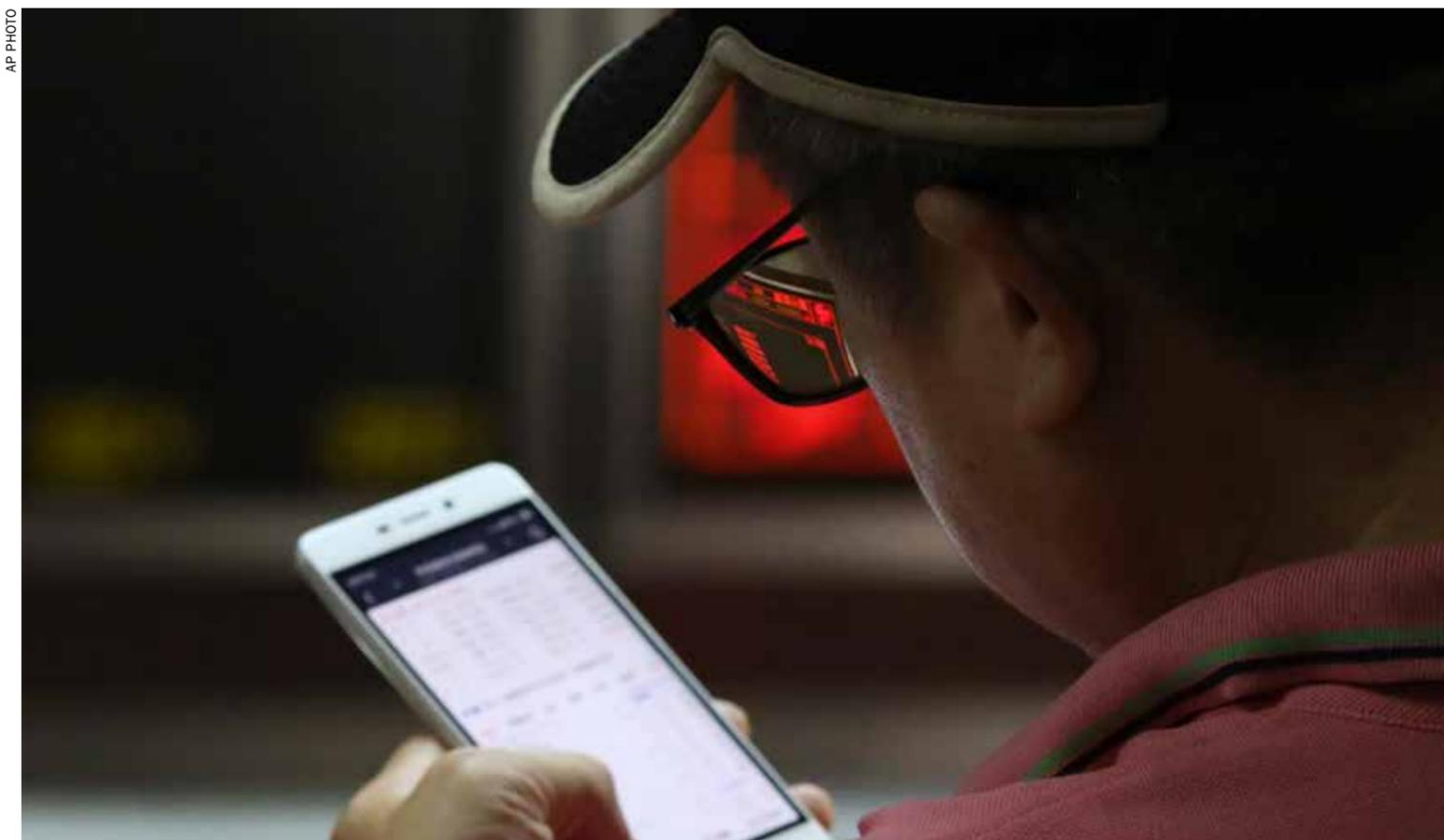
Lam is pushing forward amendments to extradition laws that would allow people to be sent to mainland China to face charges. The proposed legislation triggered a huge protest on Sunday, with organizers putting the turnout at 1 million, and a standoff yesterday that forced the legislature to postpone debate on the bills.

Unease has been growing following a series of events which pointed to Beijing's growing influence on the region, and some residents say this may be their last chance to speak out publicly without threat of arrest at the request of mainland authorities.

Last year, a Hong Kong-based bookseller who had been released from prison in China was seized by Chinese agents while traveling on a train in January with Swedish diplomats. Gui Minhai, a Swedish citizen, sold gossipy books about Chinese leaders and was one of five Hong Kong booksellers who wound up in Chinese custody in 2015.

Then in September, Hong Kong banned the Hong Kong National Party, which advocates independence for the territory, on national security grounds. Shortly after, it denied a visa renewal for Hong Kong-based Financial Times editor Victor Mallet, who had introduced the leader of the party at a Foreign Correspondents' Club event in August.

Lam says the bill will include safeguards to protect human rights, but opponents have decried its potential to erode Hong Kong's rule of law and judicial independence. **AP**



FINANCIAL FALLOUT

Stock analyst spooked by extradition law may leave HK

Benjamin Robertson

HONG Kong's controversial extradition bill has at least one stock-market analyst considering a move out of the city.

Gillem Tulloch, whose GMT Research Ltd. is best known for flagging suspicious accounting at Chinese companies listed in Hong Kong, said in an interview with Bloomberg yesterday that he may move the firm to Singapore or the U.K. He's worried that GMT's critical re-

search makes it vulnerable to false allegations in China that could be used as a pretext for extradition.

Tulloch is one of the first market professionals to publicly float the idea of leaving Hong Kong over concerns that China is eroding legal protections enshrined in the "one country, two systems" framework. While his firm employs just four people and major financial companies have given no indication of reducing their Hong Kong

footprint, the extradition bill's critics have staged mass protests and warned that it could undermine the city's status as an Asian financial center.

"It is just naive to have an extradition treaty," Tulloch said. "It is against the best interests of Hong Kong."

Tulloch founded GMT in 2014, having previously served as research head for Thailand at CLSA Ltd. His firm has moved markets with bearish assessments of companies inclu-

ding Anta Sports Products Ltd. and Sunny Optical Technology Group. Both companies have said GMT's reports were inaccurate.

Tulloch and other critical analysts have faced increased scrutiny in Hong Kong in recent years. Last year the city's Securities and Futures Commission ended a two-year investigation into GMT without taking any action, after a complaint over a 2016 report on a China-based firm, Tulloch

said in a 2018 interview with Bloomberg News. He said he has received legal threats, cease and desist demands, and menacing phone calls since he started the company.

Moody's Investors Service was found to have breached Hong Kong's regulatory code of conduct with a 2011 report on risks at dozens of Chinese companies. Andrew Left, a U.S.-based short seller, was found culpable of market misconduct for a 2012 report critical of Evergrande Real Estate Group Ltd., now called China Evergrande Group, that sent the company's shares down 20% on the day.

If the bill passes, it could have a chilling effect on analysts, according to David Webb, an activist investor who regularly posts critical assessments of Hong Kong-listed firms on his blog.

Webb, who has no plans to leave Hong Kong, said in an interview yesterday that researchers might think twice about publishing unofficial Chinese data out of fear they will be accused of leaking state secrets.

Some firms are already making contingency plans, said Timothy Loh, a lawyer at Timothy Loh LLP. One of his Hong Kong-based asset management clients asked to set up a parallel operating structure outside the city that could be used if any of the firm's directors come under threat from the proposed law, he said, without naming the client.

"The law, if passed, is bound to deter some talented professionals from moving to Hong Kong in the first place," said Webb, who is worried that the number of crimes under its remit will later be expanded. "If they cannot assess the risks they will err on the side of caution and build their careers in other places." **Bloomberg**

Security firm warns businesses of counter protests

HONG Kong-based Steve Vickers & Associates (SVA) advised businesses yesterday to evaluate their risk profiles amid growing unrest in the HKSAR and the possibility of counter protests organized by pro-government forces.

In a statement the company published yesterday, the security and consulting firm recommended that companies in the neighboring region should examine several factors including the possible denial of access to its premises, business disruption and safety and security of employees.

According to SVA, the proposed extradition law

will provoke protests for at least the next week until either its passage or withdrawal as the government shows no sign of abandoning the law.

"Indeed, the attempt to pass this law has injected new vigor into what was a much weakened pro-democratic movement in Hong Kong, hinting at the prospect of significant new protests in the weeks and months ahead," the firm said in a statement.

"Should pro-government groups rally, their involvement would only heighten tensions and provoke conflicts. Serious disruption thus seems likely to conti-

nue for some time, perhaps for at least a week," the firm noted.

It proposed that several disruptions could occur, including a series of protests.

The firm also added that any direct confrontation with the protesters of counter-demonstrations would likely result in violence, recalling the Mong Kok riots.

"There is a risk of a series of running, illegal protests, as tensions rise. This situation could present the risk of significant violence and disruption elsewhere, as in the Mong Kok riots of 2016, but may last for a longer period and extend beyond Admiralty," the firm added. **LV**

HKD11 billion bid dropped on 'instability'

GOLDIN Financial Holdings Ltd. is dropping its successful HKD11.1 billion (USD1.42 billion) bid for a land parcel located in the Kai Tak area in Kowloon, Hong Kong, the company said in a filing to the city's stock exchange.

The firm convened an urgent board meeting Monday, where three executive directors and three independent directors voted to withdraw the tender. In voting against proceeding, the directors cited "recent social contradiction and eco-

nom ic instability" that would negatively affect Hong Kong's commercial property market.

Goldin's chairman, Pan Sutong, disagreed with his fellow board members. He voted to stick with the tender, saying the current situation wouldn't affect the market's long-term growth prospects. Pan also said that he was confident the acquisition would have brought significant synergies to the development of a nearby existing land parcel held by Goldin, and voted against the resolution.

Gao Min, an independent non-executive director, also voted against the resolution. But because a majority of the board voted for it, the bid was dropped. Goldin will forfeit a non-refundable deposit of HKD25 million paid to the Hong Kong government.

The Hang Seng Properties Index slumped as much as 2.6% yesterday, the most in almost six weeks. The broader benchmark was also lower as interbank interest rates jumped amid the unrest. **Bloomberg**

STORIES FROM THE STREETS

Macau journalist says he was attacked by Hong Kong police during interview

Staff reporters

A local journalist from All About Macau said he was attacked by a Hong Kong police officer yesterday while interviewing demonstrators in the neighboring SAR.

The Macau journalist, surnamed Chan, posted news of the attack on his Facebook page. It was subsequently published by his employer.

Chan said that he was in the buffer zone between the police and the demonstrators. He was being assisted by several Hong Kong journalists and ambulance personnel in treating his injuries, which resulted from the pepper spray with which he was sprayed during his interview. While inside the buffer area getting treated for the injuries, Chan was not equipped with a helmet, mask, or glasses and Hong Kong police officers attacked his head, causing injuries to his back and arms.

According to Chan's post, when he was attacked, he had a press badge on his body and he was holding a camera.

"I had my press badge and I was carrying a camera. However, the Hong Kong police authority still used pepper spray on me while I was receiving emergency treatment at the time. I engaged in no action whatsoever that could have had an effect on the police officers or demonstrators. I was not even able to take any action at all, and I was still sprayed by the police," Chan wrote.

After Chan was attacked in the buffer area he escaped to the demonstration area, where demonstrators treated him.

Chan expressed his belief that he was fortunate, as his eyes were not injured. However, he noted that his other injuries will require him to rest for a few days.

Chan went to Hong Kong late on Tuesday night. He was interviewing the demonstrators overnight in Admiralty.

MACAU RETAILERS HEAD TO HONG KONG

Several Macau local shops, including Little Nomad, Júbilo 31 Books, and Something Moon, have responded to Hong Kong's ongoing "No China Extradition" movement, according to a report by Macau Concealers.

One of the shops owners, surnamed Lei, believes that Hong Kong and Macau are united under the 'One Country and Two Systems' policy, and that Macau people should stand up and support Hong Kong out of shared responsibility and morality.



A local journalist show injuries sustained while interviewing demonstrators

In Lei's opinion, the fugitive bill is closely related to the interest of Macau people. She worries that once the bill is passed in Hong Kong, Macau will follow in the same steps to establish such a bill.

Another local resident, surnamed Lam, also participated in the demonstration in Hong Kong yesterday. "The mainland's judicial system itself is not well-established, and they do not even obey that imperfect system," Lam told Macau Concealers.

Another Macau local, surnamed Chan, visited Hong Kong to get a sense of the atmosphere of the demonstration.

"There is not this chance [to protest] in Macau. I will not feel like an outsider in Hong Kong because everybody is going out to the streets. In Macau, if you demonstrate, the police officers will have a one-on-one look at you," said Chan.

RESTAURANT OWNER STRIKES IN SUPPORT

By the entrance of his restaurant, Kelvin Chung hung a piece of paper announcing the restaurant's intention to strike yesterday.

"Hoping to find a breath of freedom," the sign said, adding that the shop would offer free honey green tea at lunch time to boost the city's morale.

His modest Japanese-style grill joined other small businesses that closed their doors to show solidarity with thousands of protesters who blocked government buildings in central Hong Kong, forcing the Legislative Council to postpone debate on highly contentious changes to the territory's extradition laws.

Chung said the legislation is unlikely to have an impact on his restaurant, Delicorner, which offers fried chicken and grilled eel paired with tea. But the 30-year-old said he felt obliged to strike because

he cared about the future of Hong Kong.

"The kind of democracy that we long for should be fearless," Chung said.

The proposed amendments would allow people in Hong Kong to be sent to mainland China to face trial.

Opponents say that would subject people to the mainland's murky judicial system, which has been accused of bringing vague charges against critics of Communist Party rule and holding unfair trials. Many in Hong Kong worry that the changes would erode the semi-autonomous region's rule of law and legal independence.

Chung said his goal is to become a psychological counselor, and he is worried that the extradition bill would prevent him from speaking freely to his clients.

"Maybe the law originally had a good objective," he said, "but the main worry is that mainland Chi-

na's legal system is not trustworthy."

STUDENTS PROTEST BILL IN TAIWAN

Dozens of people protested outside the Hong Kong Consulate in Taiwan yesterday to denounce proposed amendments to Hong Kong's extradition laws.

Hong Kong students sitting outside the consulate in Taipei held posters reading "No extradition to China" and chanting "Hong Kong government, Shame on you."

Ho Wing Tung, a Hong Kong student in Taiwan, said the rule of law won't exist if the legislation passes and she is afraid the "one country, two systems" principle would become a joke.

Dissident Hong Kong bookseller Lam Wing-kee, who left Hong Kong for Taiwan over extradition fears, said the extradition law amendments go against human rights.

HOTELS

New Jersey mandates panic buttons for room cleaners

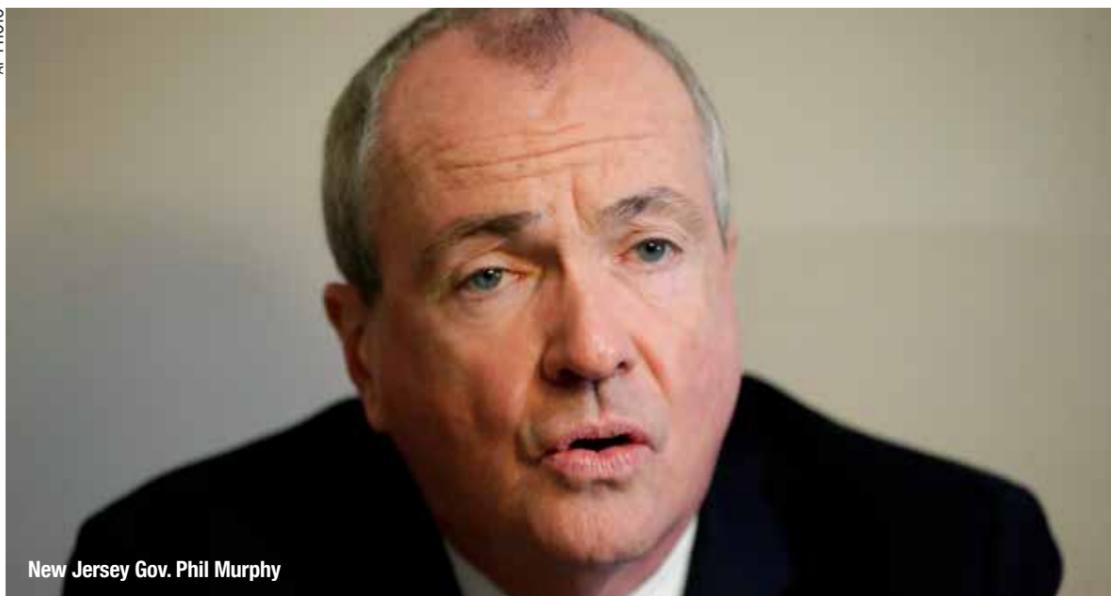
Wayne Parry, Atlantic City

NEW Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy signed a bill Tuesday that he and others said is the nation's first requiring most hotels to provide their workers with wearable panic buttons they can press to summon help quickly in an emergency.

The Democratic governor and several nationwide unions said New Jersey is the first state to mandate the devices, although similar measures are under consideration in Illinois, Florida and Washington state. And some hotel chains including Marriot and Hilton have announced plans to provide the devices to their workers without being forced to by government.

"I am proud to sign panic button legislation to give hotel workers security and the ability to immediately call for help should they need it," Murphy said as he signed the bill, surrounded by one housekeeper from each of the nine Atlantic

AP PHOTO



New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy

City casinos.

The law takes effect in January and applies to hotels with 100 or more rooms.

In 2018, a 51-year-old room cleaner at Bally's casino was pushed into a room by a man who then sexually assaulted her.

"The housekeepers were enraged after that," said Ben Albert, an official with Local 54 of the Unite-Here union.

Several housekeepers interviewed after the signing said they have had instances in which they felt unsafe on the job.

"If you think something is wrong, you can push this and help will come," said Daksha Parikh, a housekeeper at the Tropicana casino. "It's a layer of protection for us. Sometimes it's a long floor of rooms and you may be the only one working there."

"Sometimes they don't have any clothes on when you knock on the door and say, 'Housekeeping,' or they're playing dirty videos on their laptop," she said.

Iris Sanchez, a housekeeper at Caesars, said she opened the door to a room one day only to have two dogs come charging out at her. She's relieved she will be able to summon help at the touch of a button. The devices would automatically contact building security.

"Today the lawmakers in New Jersey stood up with my co-workers and I to say no more to guests exposing themselves to us, soliciting us for sex, and allowing us to be unsafe as we open the door to a guest room, with no idea what is waiting for us behind it," she said. "It's great knowing I'll be able to come home safe at the end of my shift. I can do my job without being worried."

Bob McDevitt, the union's president, said sexual harassment is real in the hospitality industry.

"Our country has been preoccupied with millionaire entertainers being sexually harassed by billionaire owners, but what is being lost in all this are the working women who are far more likely to face this kind of behavior at their jobs," he said. **AP**

AD



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Accused Mar-a-Lago intruder allowed to be her own attorney

Terry Spencer, Fort Lauderdale

A Chinese woman charged with illegally entering President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort will be allowed to act as her own attorney, a judge ruled yesterday (local time) after strenuously trying to talk her out of it as she struggled with legal concepts and spoken English.

U.S. District Judge Roy Altman found Yujing Zhang to be competent and intelligent, granting her request to fire her public defenders and be her own lawyer, as is her legal right. But he also ordered her attorneys to remain on standby, sit in the gallery at all hearings, assist if she requests help and resume their roles if she finds the task too difficult and changes her mind.

Zhang, a 33-year-old Shanghai business consultant, has pleaded not guilty to charges of trespassing March 30 at Mar-a-Lago and lying to Secret Service agents when they confronted her. They say she was carrying a computer, cellphones and other electronics and had additional gear and significant cash in her hotel room, but she has not been charged with espionage. Zhang faces up to six years in prison and \$250,000 in fines if convicted. She is being held without bond.



"I think she is making a very bad decision, but I also think the decision is her own decision," Altman said.

The judge did his best during the hourlong hearing to dissuade Zhang, but she said she had studied Chinese law for a few months several years ago and has done some reading on American law since her arrest. U.S. attorneys typically attend law school for three years and must pass a bar exam. They usually

then work with experienced lawyers before trying cases on their own.

Zhang, dressed in a gray jail jumpsuit with her arms and legs shackled, also insisted that the hearing be conducted without a Mandarin translator, but she struggled at times with the English language, such as when she failed to recognize that "counselor" is a synonym for lawyer. Still, she repeatedly told Altman she understood him.

For his part, Altman repeated himself when it seemed he had doubts.

Altman covered step-by-step how a trial would be conducted: with jury selection, opening statements and closing arguments; witnesses questioned and cross-examined; and evidence presented. He showed her the 3-inch-thick books governing jury instructions and sentencing.

He warned there are complicated rules governing each area.

She would have to follow them, Altman told her, and it would be up to her to object when prosecutors didn't. He said he would not be able to help her.

"I can work it out," she replied. He seemed to surprise her when he told her that prosecutors would give her all the evidence they expected to use to prove her guilt, along with any evidence they have that might show her innocence.

"The government will provide me both the good things and the bad things?" she asked.

"Isn't it an amazing system?" he replied. "That's their obligation under the law."

Giving Zhang one last chance to change her mind, Altman pointed out that her public defenders, Kristy Militello and Robert Adler, are good attorneys and had already done some excellent work on her behalf. And they are free, he said.

"You will sit by yourself," he told her. She stood firm.

When Altman demoted Militello and Adler to standby status, they moved into the gallery, two rows behind Zhang.

Altman ordered them to provide Zhang with law books. He told Zhang to study the books and to read and examine the evidence.

As the hearing ended, the judge set a trial date of Aug. 19, telling Zhang she had two months to prepare. She asked if that date could be changed. Altman said maybe; did she need more time than that?

Zhang said no; she might actually want the trial to start next month.

Altman said to let him know. **AP**

INVESTIGATION

Openings set at Illinois trial in slaying of Chinese scholar

Michael Tarm, Chicago

OPENING statements are set today in the death-penalty trial of a former University of Illinois graduate student charged with kidnapping, torturing and killing a visiting Chinese scholar, a case closely watched by Chinese students across the U.S.

A federal judge moved the trial to Peoria in central Illinois after Brendt Christensen's lawyers said pretrial publicity would have made it impossible for the 29-year-old former physics student to get a fair trial in the Champaign area, where the 45,000-student university is located. The university has more than 5,000 Chi-

nese students, among the largest such enrollments in the nation.

Prosecutors were expected to call their first witnesses after opening statements, scheduled for 9 a.m. CDT.

They allege Christensen, taking advantage of Yingying Zhang's small stature and lack of English fluency, lured the 26-year-old into his car in June 9, 2017. She had just missed a bus on her way to sign an apartment lease off campus in Champaign's sister city Urbana, 140 miles southwest of Chicago.

Although prosecutors haven't indicated how they believe Christensen killed Zhang, they've said they'll introduce evidence of bloodstains in his

apartment bedroom and a baseball bat recovered from the room.

The final selection of 12 jurors and six alternates happened Tuesday. Those who categorically oppose capital punishment or believe it should be imposed on someone convicted of killing without expectation can't serve as jurors in federal death-penalty trials, and weeding them out extended jury selection to more than a week.

If Christensen is convicted, there will then be a death-penalty phase where jurors would decide if Christensen should be executed.

The federal death-penalty case is the first in Illinois since the state struck capital punishment from

its books on grounds death-penalty processes were too error-prone. Some Illinois anti-death penalty activists criticized what they said was the federal government's imposition of a death-penalty case on a non-death penalty state.

The disappearance of Zhang, the daughter of working-class parents in China who aspired to become a professor, prompted a massive search. Zhang's parents travelled from China to join the search.

Christensen was arrested on June 30, his birthday, after his girlfriend wore a wire for the FBI in a bid to capture incriminating statements by Christensen. He later pleaded not guilty to kidnapping resulting



in death. The girlfriend is expected to be the government's star witness.

Zhang's body was never found and one challenge for prosecutors is to prove to jurors she is dead. That could include evidence of her blood in Christensen's apartment and a cadaver-sniffing dog that indicated

a dead body had been there.

Zhang's parents, her brother and boyfriend are in Illinois for the trial. They watched part of the jury selection process in Peoria and some days watching via a closed-circuit TV at a federal courthouse in Urbana. **AP**



US gift to China questions enforcement of N. Korea sanctions

Lolita C. Baldor, Washington

THE meeting between acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan and his Chinese counterpart began with all the hallmarks of a routine staged and scripted session between two uneasy rivals.

First came the posed photo, as the two men shook hands with broad smiles in front of their nations' flags, and then they moved quickly into the hotel conference room, surrounded by staff. There, Shanahan presented Chinese Defense Minister Wei Fenghe with a gift.

But what at first glance looked like a coffee table book was actually 32 pages of photographs and satellite images of North Korean ships getting and delivering shipments of oil. Many of the photos are stamped with dates, times, locations and descriptions, and, according to officials, represent proof that Pyongyang is violating punishing economic sanctions right off China's coast.

"I gave him this beautiful book," Shanahan said a day after his meeting with Wei and his top staff at a national security conference in Singapore. "I said this is an area where you and I can cooperate."

The pointed message from the acting Pentagon chief comes as the Trump administration is at odds with China over a wide range of issues, including trade,

Chinese theft of American technology, the possible sale of U.S. weapons to Taiwan and how to pressure North Korea into giving up its nuclear weapons program.

China agreed to the U.N. sanctions against its ally and neighbor North Korea, but, as the photo book illustrates, appears to be allowing violations to take place.

On one page of the book viewed by The Associated Press, a photo shows the North Korean-flagged oil tanker Kum Un San 3 next to the M/V New Regent, a Panama-flagged tanker, and a number of lines and hoses are draped between the two ships. The photo is dated June 7, 2018.

The U.N., in an October 2018 press release, said the June 7 ship-to-ship transfer was a violation and said it likely involved oil. The U.N. sanctioned the two ships and said they are subject to de-flagging and prohibited from entering U.N. member ports.

Another photo in the book shows the North Korean tanker An San 1, and says it is "offloading refined petroleum" through an undersea pipeline at the terminal in Nampo, near Pyongyang.

Lt. Col. Joe Buccino, a Pentagon spokesman, said Shanahan devised the book to show that enforcement of U.N. sanctions off the Chinese coast is "an area for potential coordination and

collaboration" with the Chinese military.

A U.S. defense official said Shanahan had the photographs and information in the book declassified and bound. Shanahan presented the book to Wei at the start of their meeting, saying he had a gift for the minister, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss a private meeting. The official said Wei initially appeared taken aback at receiving a gift, but when he realized what it was he quickly turned it over to his staff.

During the meeting, Shanahan told Wei that the U.S. and Chinese navies could work together to prevent such violations of the U.N. sanctions, said the official.

"It's actually very clever," said Bonnie Glaser, director of the China power project at the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies. "It's really calling out China. This is a way of telling them that we know what's going on, we have quite a bit of evidence, and here's an opportunity for you to expand cooperation with the United States."

Glaser, who also attended the Singapore conference, said she spoke with members of the China delegation and they described the meeting between Shanahan and Wei as positive and upbeat. No one, she said, men-

tioned the book.

"I think it was probably embarrassing," she said. "They probably thought they were getting something wonderful, that would highlight something positive, not something calling out China for their failure to step up and crack down on North Korea."

China agreed to the UN sanctions against its ally and neighbor North Korea, but, as the photo book illustrates, appears to be allowing violations to take place

The oil and trade sanctions against North Korea have hurt its already struggling economy, and both Russia and China have called for easing them. China isn't likely to want to openly evade the sanctions and face di-

plomatic friction with the United States, but more than 90% of North Korea's foreign trade has gone through China.

The U.N. Security Council in March said North Korea was continuing to defy its resolutions through a "massive" increase in ship-to-ship transfers of petroleum products and coal. The U.S. Navy has been working with a number of countries, including South Korea, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and France, to catch sanctions violations such as ship-to-ship transfers.

Shanahan's meeting with Wei at the Shangri-La Dialogue security conference earlier this month came just the evening before he delivered a speech that denounced China's efforts to steal technology from other nations and militarize man-made outposts in the South China Sea as a "toolkit of coercion." But he also made clear the U.S. wants to work with China on other international issues.

In a brief mention of the book during questions after his conference speech, Shanahan said the two countries must work through their differences.

"Trust is built over time," he said. "Trust is built by working on projects and being shoulder to shoulder. It isn't done by conferences or by policies or by speeches. We need to find areas in which we can grow." AP

Japan premier in Iran as Yemen rebels strike Saudi airport

Amir Vahdat, Aya Batrawy, Jon Gambrell, Tehran

JAPANESE Prime Minister Shinzo Abe landed yesterday in Tehran on a mission to ease tensions between the U.S. and Iran, just hours after Iranian-backed rebels in Yemen launched an attack on an airport in Saudi Arabia, wounding 26 people.

Abe's trip is the highest-level effort yet to de-escalate the crisis as Tehran appears poised to break the 2015 nuclear deal it struck with world powers, an accord that the Trump administration pulled out of last year. It's also the first visit of a sitting Japanese premier in the 40 years since the Islamic Revolution.

But success may prove difficult for Abe, as the Houthi rebel attack on Saudi's Abha regional airport underscored. Separately, the front page of the Iranian daily Farheekhtegan, or Educated, published yesterday morning a picture of a mushroom cloud from a nuclear blast — a reference to America's bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the



end of World War II. "How Can You Trust A War Criminal, Mr. Abe?" the newspaper asked in dual English and Farsi headlines. Hard-line news outlets in Iran immediately picked up the front page from the paper, published by students of Islamic Azad University, which

has campuses across the nation. Abe's plane landed at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport yesterday afternoon where he was greeted by Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif. He was to immediately meet Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and with Iran's Supreme

Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Thursday.

Abe landed just hours after the attack in Abha. The Yemeni rebels, known as Houthis, said they launched a cruise missile at the Saudi airport while the kingdom said 26 people were hurt.

Though there were no fatalities, it was the largest number of civilians to be injured in Saudi Arabia as a result of an attack by the rebels since the start of the Saudi-led war in Yemen more than four years ago.

The rebels' Al-Masirah satellite news channel said the missile hit its intended target, halting air traffic at the airport in the town of Abha in the kingdom's southwest, some 165 kilometers (100 miles) from the Saudi-Yemen border. The war in Yemen, the Arab world's poorest country, has killed tens of thousands of civilians, with most of the deaths blamed on Saudi-led coalition airstrikes, and has pushed Yemen to the brink of famine.

Saudi coalition spokesman Turki al-Maliki was quoted on the state-run Al-Ekhabirya news

channel as saying three women and two children were among those hurt and that eight people were hospitalized while 18 suffered minor injuries.

At least one Yemeni and one Indian national were among those injured in the attack, which al-Turki said struck the airport's arrivals hall between 2 a.m. and 3 a.m.

The Houthis have previously used ballistic missiles to target the Saudi capital, Riyadh, and the airport there. More recently, they have launched bomb-laden drones targeting a key oil pipeline and the southwest city of Khamis Mushait.

A Houthi spokesman, Mohammed Abdel-Salam, said yesterday's attack was in response to Saudi Arabia's "continued aggression and blockade on Yemen." Earlier in the week, he'd said Houthi attacks on Saudi airports were "the best way to break the blockade" of the airport in Yemen's capital, Sanaa, which the Houthis overran in 2014.

Iran is threatening to resume enriching uranium closer to weapons-grade level on July 7 if European allies fail to offer new terms for the nuclear deal. While President Donald Trump says he wants to talk to Tehran, the U.S. has piled on sanctions that have seen Iran's currency, the rial, plummet along with Iran's crucial oil exports. **AP**

AD

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AUSTRALIA

Opposition calls for review of press freedom

Rod McGuirk & Nick Perry, Canberra

AUSTRALIA'S opposition yesterday called for a parliamentary inquiry into press freedom after police raids on a media organization's Sydney headquarters and a journalist's Canberra home seeking to uncover the source of government leaks.

The government, meanwhile, was defending the nation's potent array of security laws, which have come under criticism since the raids last week on Australian Broadcasting Corp. in Sydney and News Corp. Australia reporter Annika Smethurst's home.

Opposition home affairs spokeswoman Kristina Keneally called for the bipartisan Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security to investigate whether the balance between press freedom and national security is right in legisla-

tion passed since the conservative government was first elected in 2013.

She wrote in The Australian newspaper that Australia was an outlier among its Five Eyes intelligence-sharing partners United States, Britain, Canada and New Zealand in not having such oversight.

There was also a "concern that only leaks embarrassing the government merit investigation while those that benefit the government do not," Keneally wrote.

Dr. Rebecca Ananian-Welsh, a senior lecturer at the University of Queensland Law School, said Australia went from having no counterterrorism laws before the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks in the U.S. to having more than any other country in the world, with more than 60 new pieces of legislation and amendments.

There had been no counterba-

lancing laws to uphold human rights or press freedom, she said. And Australia didn't have enshrined rights like the U.S. First Amendment guarantee of free speech.

"We just lack a rights culture," Ananian-Welsh said. "It's there, but it's very weak and has no teeth."

She said taking hard stances on national security had been politically popular and the new laws gave certain government agencies broad powers to do everything from searching metadata without a warrant to coopting telecommunication workers to crack encryption technology.

She said the raids appeared designed to intimidate potential whistleblowers, sources, and journalists.

But she was heartened by the call for an inquiry, she said, and thought that outcry over the raids may help swing the politi-

cal pendulum back toward protecting press freedoms.

Australia's prime minister and communications minister have been meeting with editors and senior media executives to discuss concerns following raids, which police have said were based on concerns that secret information had been leaked.

Media organizations say the raids were aimed as much at intimidating the press.

Former defense lawyer David McBride will appear in a Canberra court today charged with leaking to ABC journalists documents including allegations that Australian troops had been involved in unlawful killings in Afghanistan.

McBride has pleaded not guilty to the charges and argues he acted in the public interest.

The raid on the home of Smethurst, the political editor of Sydney's The Sunday Telegraph newspaper, focused on a 2018 story detailing an alleged government proposal to spy on Australian citizens, which cannot currently be done legally.

No arrests were made as a result of the raids.

Keneally told ABC that the government's "cavalier response" to the raids shows there is a

"very real concern that freedom of the press is under attack in Australia."

Communications Minister Paul Fletcher, whose Sydney office was targeted by demonstrators on Tuesday protesting the raids, did not comment on the likelihood of his government supporting an inquiry as proposed by the center-left Labor Party opposition.

There was also a 'concern that only leaks embarrassing the government merit investigation while those that benefit the government do not'

He said the raids were investigating federal officials for failing to keep information secret, not journalists, and the laws that allowed the search warrants were decades old.

"Of course we understand that journalists are anxious about the events of last week," Fletcher told ABC.

"Press freedom is a bedrock principle in a democracy and we are always open to looking at further improvements to the laws if sober analysis of the evidence suggests that is required," he added.

Australia has no constitutional right to freedom of speech or a Bill of Rights. But the High in Court has ruled there is an implied freedom of political communication within the constitution limited to politics and government issues because a democracy requires such freedom.

But critics argue that successive governments have become more secretive and intolerant of reporting that causes political embarrassment. **AP**

INDIA

Cyclone Vayu poised to hit as year's 2nd major storm

Emily Schmall, New Delhi

INDIAN authorities evacuated tens of thousands of people yesterday as a severe cyclone in the Arabian Sea approached the western state of Gujarat, lashing the coast with high winds and heavy rainfall.

Cyclone Vayu, named after the Hindi word for

wind, was poised to hit the Gujarat coast early Thursday as India's second major storm of the season. Winds gusting up to 170 kilometers per hour were forecast and a storm surge up to 2 meters above astronomical tides, which would inundate low-lying areas, according to the India Meteorological Department.

K. Sathi Devi, the New Delhi-based government scientist in charge of monitoring the cyclone, said a low-pressure system over the ocean was causing water to "get piled up." When the storm makes landfall, so will the accumulated seawater, she said, threatening to flood roads and uproot trees, contaminate drinking water supplies,

and disrupt communications and power supplies.

In the ancient city of Dwarka, where many Hindu pilgrims travel every year to pray at a temple considered the center of Lord Krishna's kingdom, a rescue worker from India's National Disaster Response Force warned children to leave the beach.

After India's home minister, Amit Shah, held a meeting Tuesday with government and military officials, the air force airlifted 40 National Disaster Response Force rescue and relief teams to the western coast.

Both Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi hail from Gujarat.

Modi said on Twitter

that he had "been constantly in touch with state governments" and that he was "praying for the safety and wellbeing" of all those affected.

By midday, rescue team had begun evacuating more than a quarter of a million people in towns and villages likely to bear the brunt of the storm. **AP**

RUSSIA PROBE

Ex-FBI leaders to testify on Russian threat, Mueller report

Eric Tucker, Mary Clare Jalonick & Lisa Mascaro, Washington

HOUSE Democrats angling to spotlight damning allegations from special counsel Robert Mueller's report are focusing today on contacts between the Trump 2016 presidential campaign and Russia.

The House Intelligence Committee has invited two former leaders of the FBI's national security branch to testify about the counterintelligence implications of Mueller's investigation. Mueller did not find a criminal conspiracy between the campaign and Russia but did detail a series of interactions and outreach that have alarmed Democrats and accelerated calls from some in the party for impeachment proceedings and renewed investigations.

Also today, the president's eldest son, Donald J. Trump Jr., is scheduled to testify behind closed doors before the Senate Intelligence Committee, according to two people familiar with the meeting. Senators want to discuss answers



Nancy Pelosi

he gave the panel's staff in a 2017 interview and to another Senate panel in a separate interview that year.

President Donald Trump's former lawyer, Michael Cohen, told a House committee in February that he had briefed Trump Jr. approximately 10 times about a plan to build a Trump Tower in Moscow before the presidential election. Trump Jr. told the Judiciary panel he was only "peripherally aware" of the real estate proposal.

In the House hearing, both ex-FBI officials, Robert Anderson and Stephanie Douglas, retired from the bureau before it launched its investigation into the Trump campaign in summer 2016. By inviting them instead of agents involved in the investigation, Democrats are giving center stage to longtime career officials likely to be seen as more neutral and devoid of the political baggage that accompanies some of President Trump's more outspoken critics, including

former FBI deputy director Andrew McCabe and former agent Peter Strzok. Both were fired last year.

It is unclear whether Republicans will seek to undermine the credibility of the witnesses at today's hearing, or merely try to minimize their testimony by noting that they weren't part of the investigation.

The hearing comes two days after the House Judiciary Committee heard from John Dean, the former White House counsel in the Nixon administration, who described how the Watergate investigation could function as a roadmap for probes into the current president.

It also comes as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has brushed back calls for impeachment, saying Tuesday that "it's not even close" to having enough support.

The House voted 229-191 Tuesday to approve a sweeping resolution that will allow Democrats to accelerate their legal battles with the Trump administration. They're preparing today to hold more Trump officials in contempt

for defying congressional subpoenas.

"We need answers to the questions left unanswered by the Mueller report," Pelosi said on the House floor ahead of the vote.

House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy countered that the Democratic maneuvers are all "just a desperate attempt to re-litigate the Mueller investigation."

Said McCarthy, "It's an impeachment effort in everything but name."

Earlier in the day Pelosi all but ignored questions about impeachment during a policy conference, saying the Democrats' strategy is "legislating, investigating, litigating" — in that order.

Pressed about Trump, she said: "I'm done with him. I don't even want to talk about him."

The far-reaching House resolution approved Tuesday empowers committee chairs to sue top Trump administration officials — Attorney General William Barr, former White House Counsel Don McGahn and others — to force compliance with congressional subpoenas, including those for Mueller's full report and his underlying evidence.

The move makes it easier to sue Trump administration officials and potential witnesses by empowering committee chairmen to take legal action without a vote of the full House, as long as they have approval from a bipartisan group of House leaders. AP

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what's ON



WYNN PRESENTS: GARDEN OF EARTHLY DELIGHTS

TIME: 10am-10pm

UNTIL: October 6, 2019

VENUE: Wynn Macau and Wynn Palace

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 6882 2839

REALITY AND THE 'REAL' - WORKS BY NG MAN WAI

TIME: 10am-7pm (Mondays to Fridays; closed on Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays)

UNTIL: October 6, 2019

VENUE: Macau Museum

ADMISSION: MOP15

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6064

ITALIAN RENAISSANCE DRAWINGS FROM THE BRITISH MUSEUM

TIME: 10am-7pm (No admittance after 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: June 30, 2019

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

STROLLING AND FEELING: WATERCOLOUR PAINTINGS OF LAI IENG

TIME: 10am-7pm (No admittance after 6:30pm; closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: June 16, 2019

VENUE: 3rd Floor, Gallery of Exhibitions 2, Macau Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

2019 BRAND STORY - MACAU ORIGINAL FASHION EXHIBITION II

TIME: 10am-8pm (Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)

UNTIL: June 23, 2019

VENUE: Macau Fashion Gallery

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3341

MASTERPIECES FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF CHINA

TIME: 10am-7pm (No admittance after 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: July 28, 2019

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

Offbeat

DEPUTIES: ALLIGATOR BIT OFF PIECE OF PATROL CAR IN LOUISIANA

Sheriff's deputies in Louisiana say an alligator took a bite out of one of their patrol cars.

WBRZ-TV reports deputies were called Monday to Louisiana Highway 1 in Caddo Parish after someone spotted the gator in the middle of the road.

The sheriff's office says deputies were waiting for wildlife removal experts to arrive when the alligator chomped off a piece of the front bumper. Deputies estimate the alligator was 8 feet (2.4 meters) long.

A photo from the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office Facebook page shows the reptile in grass next to what appears to be the black rectangular grill of the car.

Authorities say the gator escaped before the wildlife removal experts arrived.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Agua de Mar
15:45	Zig Zag
16:20	Santos de Portugal
16:50	Quem Quer Ser Millionario
17:45	Moda Portugal Sr.4
18:20	Amor Maior (Repetição)
19:05	Volta ao Mundo
19:35	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	TDM Talk Show
21:50	Livros com João Guedes
22:00	Todas as Palavras
22:25	Amor Maior
23:15	TDM News
23:50	O Ocidente no Oriente - A Alma Lusa de Hong Kong
01:25	Telejornal (Repetição)
02:10	RTPi Directo

cinema



CINETEATRO

06 - 12 Jun

X-MEN: DARK PHOENIX

ROOM 1

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

Director: Simon Kinberg

Starring: James McAvoy, Michael Fassbender,

Jennifer Lawrence

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 113min

GODZILLA II: KING OF THE MONSTERS

ROOM 1

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

Director: Michael Dougherty

Starring: Kyle Chandler, Vera Farmiga, Millie Bobby Brown

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 131min



DOG'S JOURNEY

ROOM 2

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

Director: Gail Mancuso

Starring: Josh Gad, Dennis Quaid, Kathryn Prescott

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 109min



ALADDIN

ROOM 3

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

Director: Guy Ritchie

Starring: Will Smith, Mena Massoud, Naomi Scott

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 109min

this day in history



1991 YELTSIN WINS FIRST RUSSIAN ELECTIONS

Boris Yeltsin is celebrating victory as Russia's first popularly-elected president.

The 60-year-old reformer and leader of the group Democratic Russia has inflicted a heavy defeat on the Communist Party which has ruled the country since the 1917 Revolution.

Although the result will not be officially confirmed until next week, it is clear Mr Yeltsin has achieved more than the 50% of votes required to avoid a second ballot.

His supporters claim he has secured 60 to 70% of the vote in many of the large Russian cities and up to 90% in his native city, Sverdlovsk.

His allies, Gavriil Popov and Anatoly Sobchak, who stood in the mayoral races in Moscow and Leningrad respectively, have also defeated their Communist rivals.

But the biggest surprise of all is that the people of Leningrad have voted to change the city's name back to the Tsarist St Petersburg - despite a vigorous opposition campaign.

Mr Popov said the elections had been "a great event in Russian history and brought Russia into the family of civilised nations which choose their leaders by direct popular elections".

United States presidential spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said the election was a "historic step for the Russian people and the Soviet Union".

President Yeltsin's mandate, as head of three quarters of the Soviet land mass and 150 million people, could now force President Mikhail Gorbachev to embark on more radical reforms.

He remains President of the Soviet Union, but unlike President Yeltsin he was not elected by the people.

Mr Yeltsin resigned from the Soviet Communist Party last year. He had been a trenchant critic of Mr Gorbachev for not pressing ahead fast enough with political reform and his departure left the Communist Party in disarray.

One of Mr Yeltsin's first tasks as Russian President will be to maintain the delicate political balance between himself and Mr Gorbachev.

Speaking on the eve of the ballot, Mr Yeltsin said his relations with Mr Gorbachev were "businesslike and low-key".

For his part, Mr Gorbachev told reporters that he was prepared to co-operate with anyone the Russians elected.

Mr Yeltsin has chosen as his deputy a former Afghan war hero, Colonel Alexander Rutskoi.

He will also have to improve his shaky international image - beginning with a visit to Washington and President George Bush on 20 June.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

In August 1991 Soviet hardliners staged a coup against President Gorbachev and President Yeltsin emerged as a national hero as he rallied the people from the top of a tank to keep the peace.

In early December, the leaders of Russia, Ukraine and Belarus precipitated the end of the Soviet Union with the formation of the CIS or Commonwealth of Independent States.

Mr Gorbachev stepped down as Soviet leader on 25 December 1991 and Mr Yeltsin became president of independent Russia.

He pushed ahead with a radical programme of reforms but when he met opposition from within his own parliamentary assembly, he chose to break the deadlock by closing it down and then ordering the military to storm the Moscow White House.

In the second half of the 1990s he began to suffer from health problems and underwent heart surgery in 1995.

The unpredictable nature of his character surfaced again and he sacked his entire government twice, until parliament eventually forced him to accept limitations on his powers. He stepped down on 1 January 2000.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
You have to direct your attention outward today — otherwise, things may get weird or difficult. Your energy is best spent helping others instead of focusing on your own personal needs.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
Take in a show of some kind — music, art, performance or whatever floats your boat. Your great personal energy is perfect for absorbing culture, and it's past time to get started!

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
You need to deal with the little errands and tasks that have piled up lately. Things are pretty good overall, but you may find it easier in the future if you handle all that stuff today.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
You get a bit of good news today — and it may bring a friend! It seems that good things come in pairs as far as you're concerned, and that could mean that you're at the center of attention.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
It's budget time again! You may not relish it, but the effects are hard to deny. You should be able to come up with something really great that saves you a lot in the long run if you dive into it.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Your organizational skills are unparalleled, and today brings an opportunity for you to step up and really make a difference! It could be at work or at home, but wherever it is, take over!

Libra
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Life is a little overwhelming today, but not so bad that you need to stay in bed. You may get some difficult news or you may even be bombarded with too much good news. You can bop along with whatever it is, though.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
Your friends are worth their weight in gold today — so let them know! At least one of them needs a lift, and they are surely able to give you what you need once you think to ask them.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Try not to get too far ahead of yourself — things are changing too quickly for even you to catch up! As long as you can find a way to muddle through the day, things should start to look up soon.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
You need to learn a few new tricks today — otherwise, you're likely to fall behind. Your brain is still quite energized, so it's easy for you to tackle even the weirdest stuff with ease.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
You're feeling more down to earth today, which may come as a relief. It's a good time for you to check in with friends or family members who may need you to discuss something delicate.

Pisces
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
It's all too easy to project your feelings onto other people today, so try your best not to assume too much about why people do whatever they do. If anything, you may want to ask them directly.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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Medium

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2			7					5
		4		3				8
	9		6					4
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Hard

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								2

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	12	27	clear
Harbin	7	16	cloudy
Tianjin	13	26	clear
Urumqi	12	22	moderate rain
Xi'an	13	26	overcast
Lhasa	8	20	cloudy
Chengdu	16	24	drizzle
Chongqing	18	29	cloudy
Kunming	14	22	shower
Nanjing	15	23	clear
Shanghai	14	23	cloudy
Wuhan	15	26	cloudy
Hangzhou	15	25	cloudy
Taipei	19	25	heavy rain
Guangzhou	21	28	cloudy
Hong Kong	24	27	shower
WORLD			
Moscow	2	12	cloudy
Frankfurt	9	20	drizzle
Paris	7	18	drizzle
London	5	16	overcast
New York	8	17	drizzle

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1-Sudden misfortune; 5- Birdie beater; 10- ___-Seltzer; 14- Currency of Turkey, and formerly of Italy; 15- Goes it alone; 16- Aforementioned; 17- Baltic feeder; 18- Lock; 19- Cut, old-style; 20- Whole; 22- Sift; 23- Mystical glow; 24- Old Pontiacs; 26- Modern bank card; 29- Certain German; 33- "Goodnight" girl; 34- Emancipated; 35- Mature, as wine; 36- ___ Cong; 37- Come up; 38- Ripe for drafting; 39- Perform in a play; 40- Sphere; 41- Seize; 42- Pronounce through the nostrils; 44- Thin fogs; 45- Remote button; 46- ___-Ball (arcade game); 48- Bicker; 51- Awhirl; 55- As a result; 56- Ruin; 58- Deuce topper; 59- Prefix with conference; 60- It may be cultured; 61- From the U.S.; 62- Sleeps briefly; 63- Farm measures; 64- Delayed;

DOWN: 1- Cartel; 2- Italian resort; 3- City near Provo; 4- Face decoration for a brave; 5- Aromatic compound; 6- Large artery; 7- Open delight; 8- Rock's ___ Lobos; 9- Road curve; 10- Birthplace of St. Francis; 11- Alley; 12- Ukrainian capital; 13- Zip-___-Doo-Dah; 21- Stringed instrument; 22- Auctioneer's cry; 24- V-formation fliers; 25- Genealogist's work; 26- Parlor piece; 27- Writer Jong; 28- Borscht veggies; 29- Influential offering; 30- Grandmas; 31- Excrete; 32- Harvests; 34- Became ice; 37- Came down to earth; 38- Eastern; 40- Sticky stuff; 41- FBI guys; 43- Entertains; 46- Church topper; 47- Murders; 48- Env. notation; 49- Perlman of "Cheers"; 50- Swallow eagerly; 51- Fly like an eagle; 52- ___ la Douce; 53- Depilatory brand; 54- Circular course; 56- Fitness center; 57- Chest muscle, for short;



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



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FOOTBALL

Alex Morgan has five goals as US routs Thailand 13-0

THAILAND was never a real threat to the U.S. national team. Even so, the three-time Women's World Cup champions had no desire to go easy on a lesser opponent in their opening game.

Goals matter in the group stage. And statements matter in soccer's biggest tournament.

"Obviously we have the utmost respect for everyone we play, but it's the World Cup," said captain Megan Rapinoe.

Alex Morgan tied the tournament record with five goals and the United States opened with a historic 13-0 rout of Thailand on Tuesday night. Samantha Mewis and Rose Lavelle each added a pair of goals for the United States, which broke the record for goals and margin of victory in a World Cup game.

Rapinoe, Lindsey Horan, Mallory Pugh and Carli Lloyd also scored. The previous record margin was Germany's 11-0 victory over Argentina in 2007.

Morgan tied Michelle Akers' record for World Cup goals, set in the quarterfinals against Taiwan in 1991. The team's seven different scorers also set a tournament record.

Lloyd, 36, became the oldest American woman to score at a World Cup and joined Germany's Birgit Prinz as the only players to score in five straight World Cup games.

The United States faced criticism over its relentless attack. The Americans led 3-0 at the break and then broke the match open in the second half, with the players celebrating goal after goal.

The Americans meant no disrespect, said Morgan, but they simply wanted to position themselves for a run at a second consecutive title.

AP PHOTO



United States' Alex Morgan (second right) celebrates after scoring her side's 12th goal during the Women's World Cup Group F soccer match against Thailand

"We really just came into the game really wanting to showcase ourselves," Morgan said. "Every goal matters in this tournament and that's what we were working on."

Asked about the lopsided score, U.S. coach Jill Ellis wondered if a 10-0 victory in a men's World Cup would elicit the same questions.

"This is a world championship, so every team here has been fantastic to get to this point. And I think that to be respectful to opponents is to play hard against opponents, and as Alex said, it's a tournament where goal differential is important," Ellis said.

The two teams were the last to kick off in the group stage

for the monthlong tournament. Host France opened the World Cup before a sellout crowd in Paris on Friday night with a 4-0 victory over South Korea.

Ranked No. 1 in the world, the Americans had dropped only one match in their previous 38, a loss to France in Le Havre in January. The team was 7-1-2 overall this year, with six straight wins going into the World Cup.

The last time the Americans played in the sport's top tournament, Lloyd had a hat trick in the first 16 minutes and the United States beat Japan 5-2 in Canada for the trophy.

The U.S. pounced early against Thailand, too, on Mor-

gan's header in the 13th minute off Kelley O'Hara's precisely placed cross. Mewis, Lavelle and Horan were all making their World Cup debuts.

"When you get a deluge of goals like that, it's a good feeling," Ellis said. "It builds confidence."

Thailand, ranked No. 34 in the world, was clearly outmatched even though the team has shown progress on the world stage. Making its World Cup debut in 2015 four years ago, Thailand finished third in its group but earned its first win, a 3-2 victory over Ivory Coast.

At the final whistle, Lloyd and Christen Press were seen consoling the Thailand goalkeeper. Morgan put her

arm around Thailand's Miranda Nild, who was wiping away tears on the field. Nild and Morgan both played college soccer for the California Golden Bears.

"They were disappointed of course, they intended to make an impression in this first match and they were disappointed," coach Nuengrutai Srathongvian said through a translator. "Yes, they are all athletes and they will be resilient. We've got two more games to play and we need to bounce back."

■ The Americans meant no disrespect, said Morgan, but they simply wanted to position themselves for a run at a second consecutive title

The World Cup comes at a time when female players across the globe are seeking better treatment, conditions and pay. The U.S. national team has long championed equal rights, and players collectively filed a lawsuit earlier this year that alleges discrimination by the U.S. Soccer Federation and are seeking pay equitable with that of the men's national team. The players say the lawsuit is on hold while they're in France.

Up next for the U.S. is World Cup newcomer Chile on Sunday in Paris. In the final group match before the knockout round, the Americans will travel to Le Havre to face nemesis Sweden, who they've been grouped with six times in World Cup play. **MDT/AP**

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opinion

World Views

Ben Bland, Bloomberg

HONG KONG'S MOMENT OF RECKONING

Hong Kong is facing an existential threat. A vast protest on Sunday reflects the culmination of angst over changes that are undermining the foundations of the Chinese city's economic prosperity and its distinct identity. How the impasse is resolved has implications not only for this former British colony and global financial center, but for the future of relations between China and the Western democratic world.

When the U.K. handed back control of Hong Kong to China in 1997, Beijing promised the city that it could maintain an independent legal system, democratic freedoms and a "high degree of autonomy" for at least 50 years. This "One Country, Two Systems" formula has underpinned the city's success because it allowed Hong Kong to maintain access to global markets as a separate, law-abiding and free-trading member of the World Trade Organization. But as President Xi Jinping has concentrated more power than any Chinese leader since Mao Zedong, Hong Kong's autonomy — and therefore its economic *raison d'être* — has come under ever greater threat.

The violations of One Country, Two Systems have become so blatant that Western governments have warned the city's success as an international business hub is in danger. Yesterday, the U.S. State Department expressed "grave concern" over the extradition law. "The continued erosion of the 'One Country, Two Systems' framework puts at risk Hong Kong's long-established special status in international affairs," spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus said.

The Chinese government typically dismisses such criticisms as "interference" in its domestic affairs. But the uncomfortable reality for Beijing is that the maintenance of Hong Kong's autonomy is the basis on which the city gets preferential treatment from foreign governments.

The United States-Hong Kong Policy Act set Hong Kong's freedoms and "high degree of autonomy" as preconditions for the continuation of the U.S.'s extensive economic relationships with the city after 1997. If Washington deems that Hong Kong is "not sufficiently autonomous," the law allows the president to suspend by executive order its special treatment.

Diplomats have played down the suggestion that the U.S., or other Western governments, will revoke Hong Kong's special status on a wholesale basis. Such a move would punish the Chinese state-owned companies, tycoons and officials who use Hong Kong as an entry point to the global financial system. It would also undermine the political and economic interests of foreign governments and businesses in Hong Kong, as well as punish local citizens who would suffer from the inevitable financial fallout. Nevertheless, the pressure to enact some form of sanctions will grow if Beijing keeps squeezing.

As China and the West enter a new era of strategic competition, this is about much more than the rights of seven million people and a host of international investors. Hong Kong is on the front line of the global struggle between an ever more assertive Chinese Communist Party and a world based on liberal democratic principles.

The fight over the extradition law has brought into sharp focus the seeming impossibility of integrating two vastly different political and legal systems. In the early years after the handover, when China was weaker, its leadership less assertive and Hong Kong's economy much more important to the country, the contradictions at the heart of One Country, Two Systems were easily papered over.

Now the city, the Chinese government and the rest of the world are facing a moment of reckoning. If the extradition law is enacted, investors, businesses, journalists and NGOs may no longer be able to bank on Hong Kong being a safe place to carry out activities that are forbidden in mainland China. That would beg the question: Why stay?

[Abridged]

THE CHINA'S EXTRADITION LAW SHOULD RESPECT HONG KONG DEAL, SAYS MAY

Theresa May has stepped into the growing crisis over China's controversial plan to change the extradition law for Hong Kong citizens, by saying it was vital this did not breach the joint British-Chinese declaration, agreed at the time of the city's return to China in 1997.

In her first comments since protests started in HKSAR last week, the British prime minister said she was deeply concerned and the UK had a special responsibility to speak out in favor of

freedoms in the former British colony, the BBC reported.

"We are concerned about [the] potential effects of these proposals particularly obviously given the large number of British citizens there are in Hong Kong," May told parliament.

"But it is vital that those extradition arrangements in Hong Kong are in line with the rights and freedoms that were set down in the Sino-British joint declaration."

Jon Stewart lashes out at Congress over 9/11 victims fund



Entertainer and activist Jon Stewart lends his support to firefighters

Matthew Daly, Washington

COMEDIAN Jon Stewart scolded Congress yesterday [Macau time] for failing to ensure that a victims' compensation fund set up after the 9/11 attacks never runs out of money.

Stewart, a longtime advocate for 9/11 responders, angrily called out lawmakers for failing to attend a hearing on a bill to ensure the fund can pay benefits for the next 70 years. Pointing to rows of empty seats at a House Judiciary Committee hearing room, Stewart said "sick and dying" first responders and their families came to Washington for the hearing, only to face a nearly deserted dais.

The sparse attendance by lawmakers was "an embarrassment to the country and a stain on this institution," Stewart said, adding that the "disrespect" shown to first responders now suffering from respiratory ailments and other illnesses "is utterly unacceptable."

Lawmakers from both parties said they support the bill and were monitoring the hearing amid other congressional business.

Rep. Mike Johnson, R-La., predicted the bill will pass with overwhelming support and said lawmakers meant no disrespect as they moved in and out of the subcommittee hearing, a common occurrence on Capitol Hill.

Stewart was unconvinced. Pointing to rows of uniformed firefighters and police officers behind him, he said the hearing "should be fli-

pped," so that first responders were on the dais, with members of Congress "down here" in witness chairs answering their questions.

First and foremost, Stewart said, families want to know, "Why this is so damn hard and takes so damn long?"

The collapse of the World Trade Center in September 2001 sent a cloud of thick dust billowing over Lower Manhattan. Fires burned for weeks. Thousands of construction workers, police officers, firefighters and others spent time working in the soot, often without proper respiratory protection.

Lawmakers from both parties support the bill and were monitoring the hearing amid other congressional business

In the years since, many have seen their health decline, some with respiratory or digestive-system ailments that appeared almost immediately, others with illnesses that developed as they aged, including cancer.

More than 40,000 people have applied to the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund, which covers illnesses potentially related

to being at the World Trade Center site, the Pentagon or Shanksville, Pennsylvania, after the attacks. More than USD5 billion in benefits have been awarded out of the \$7.4 billion fund, with about 21,000 claims pending.

Stewart and other speakers lamented the fact that nearly 18 years after the attacks, first responders and their families still have no assurance the fund will not run out of money. The Justice Department said in February that the fund is being depleted and that benefit payments are being cut by up to 70 percent.

"The plain fact is that we are expending the available funds more quickly than assumed, and there are many more claims than anticipated," said Rupa Bhattacharyya, the fund's special master. A total of 835 awards have been reduced as of May 31, she said.

Stewart called that shameful.

"Your indifference is costing these men and women their most valuable commodity: time," he told lawmakers. "It's one thing they're running out of."

Firefighters, police and other first responders "did their jobs with courage, grace, tenacity and humility," Stewart added. "Eighteen years later, do yours."

House Judiciary Chairman Jerrold Nadler, a New York Democrat whose district includes the World Trade Center site, said a 70% cut — or any cut — in compensation to victims of 9/11 "is simply intolerable, and Congress must not allow it." AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	25-45 Good
High Density Residential Area	20-40 Good
Ambient	20-40 Good

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

ISRAEL The military says it has overhauled its air-raid warning system in order to minimize disruptions to the general population. It has divided the country into 1,700 alarm zones, up from the current 255 zones.



UGANDA A 5-year-old boy vomiting blood became the first cross-border victim of Ebola in the current outbreak on yesterday, while two more people in Uganda tested positive for the highly contagious disease that has killed nearly 1,400 in Congo.



PANAMA A court has ordered former President Ricardo Martinelli to be transferred from jail to house arrest.



FRANCE Six environmental activists have been convicted of theft for removing an official portrait of President Emmanuel Macron to protest his climate change policies.



USA Nursing facilities have failed to report thousands of serious cases of potential neglect and abuse of Medicare beneficiaries even though the federal government requires such reporting, says a watchdog report due today that calls for a new focus on protecting frail patients.