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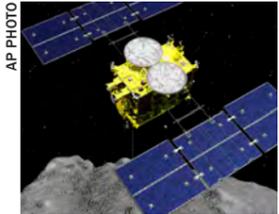
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WYNN RESORTS HAS UNVEILED PLANS TO BUILD A \$2 BILLION EXPANSION OF ITS PROPERTIES IN MACAU, INCLUDING A THEATER AND MUSEUM

ECO WATER BOTTLES TOO SMALL FOR POLICE USE, ADMIT OFFICERS

EMBRAER HAS LANDED IN MACAU FLAUNTING ITS NEW JET, THE LATEST STOP ON THE BRAZILIAN AEROSPACE FIRM'S ASIA PACIFIC TOUR



Space Japanese Hayabusa2 spacecraft landed on a distant asteroid yesterday and collected underground samples that scientists hope will provide clues to the origin of the solar system billions of years ago, Japan's space agency JAXA said. More on p13

China attacked a statement by 22 Western countries at the United Nations urging it to stop holding members of its Muslim population in detention centers, calling the measure necessary for national security and accusing the countries of trampling on its sovereignty. More on p11



Japan Nine deer at a famed park in western Japan have died recently after swallowing plastic bags. Nara Park has more than 1,000 deer, and tourists can feed them special sugar-free crackers sold in shops nearby. The deer may associate the plastic with food.

ASEAN Defense ministers from the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations met yesterday in Bangkok to discuss issues including border controls, terrorism and illegal fishing. ASEAN members have varying priorities, so the ministers focus on approaches to problem solving rather than tackling divisive substantive issues.

US-Afghanistan The U.S. peace envoy to Afghanistan is in Beijing for a previously scheduled meeting, an American Embassy spokesman said, as indications grew of a new momentum in efforts to end Afghanistan's 18-year war and push by China to boost its influence in the region.

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EYES IN THE SKY

1,600 cameras have already cost Macau hundreds of millions of patacas P7



BEREAVED PARENTS CALL FOR STRUGGLE TO GO ON

P9 HONG KONG

times Extra

WHO OWNS THE MOON?

Did the Stars and Stripes flag that astronauts Armstrong and Aldrin planted on the moon signify the establishment of an American colony? Not really. A space lawyer delves into this conversation, inside Extra

times Extra

LAWMAKER WANTS INCENTIVES FOR BUDGET HOTELS

Lawmaker Lam Lon Wai has asked the government for more measures to encourage investors to open budget hotels in Macau. In his written inquiry to the government, Lam said that Macau's approximately 50 budget hotels currently provide 1,700 rooms, which represent less than 5% of all hotel rooms in Macau. "There are not many types of hotels available in Macau to choose [from]. During holidays, hotel rooms are always full, which pulls up the price of Macau's overall hotel rooms, therefore reducing the tourists' interest in staying in Macau longer. This, in turn, aggravates the illegal guesthouse situation," said Lam.

MOP195 MILLION GRANTED TO SUBSIDIZE HOUSING MAINTENANCE

The Housing Bureau (IH) granted MOP195 million in subsidies for the maintenance of Macau's buildings in the first half of 2019, according to a statement released by IH last week. Over MOP7.6 million was granted to 81 applicants seeking assistance for the repair of facilities in the common areas of buildings, including gates, water, electric and sewage facilities. Additionally, over MOP6.9 million in subsidies was approved for other building maintenance programs. Some 60 applications requested building management funds, with the bureau granting MOP140,000 to each applicant for the selection of a management committee and the establishment of a common sinking fund.

NINE TRASH STATIONS AROUND AREIA PRETA IN 2019

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) plans to establish nine trash stations in Areia Preta within this year. The district's trash collection facility has been abandoned since October 2018 due to erroneous usage. The misuses of the facility included throwing out garbage which should not have been left in the trash collector. The trash collection facility at Areia Preta was built at a cost of MOP120 million. Originally, it was expected to have a 25-year service life span. Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo Arrais do Rosário predicted that similar misuse of trash collectors would occur at future trash collection facilities.

MINIMUM WAGE POLICY DISCRIMINATORY, SAYS LEGAL ADVISOR

JULIE ZHU

A legal advisor to the Legislative Assembly (AL) considers the exclusion of disabled workers and domestic helpers from the city's minimum wage policy to be "discriminatory," according to the Second Standing Committee of the AL.

Yesterday, the committee held its first detailed discussion of the city's recently approved bill to raise the minimum wage. The bill will see the minimum hourly wage of MOP32 enforced for all workers, except domestic helpers and people with disabilities.

Speaking to the media, Committee Chairman Chan Chak Mo said that although domestic helpers make money in Macau, their accommodation and food are covered by their employers, implying that they do not need to spend extra money on housing and food.

"If they think MOP4,000, the average income of Macau's domestic helpers, is not enough they can go to Hong Kong, where it [the average wage of domestic helpers] is HKD4,300," said Chan.

"I don't have comments about



Second Standing Committee Chairman Chan Chak Mo

whether MOP4,000 is enough to ensure that domestic helpers can live in Macau," the lawmaker added when pressed by the media.

Regarding discrimination against people with disabilities, Chan explained that the government had previously consulted with social workers who suggested that including disabled workers in the minimum wage policy could weaken their competitiveness.

Currently, the local government subsidizes employers with a maximum of MOP5,000 for each disabled employee they hire.

"The committee does not feel it is discrimination against disabled workers," said Chan.

According to him, some committee members also proposed the establishment of a system to assess disabled workers' ability to work.

"Macau only classifies different

categories of disability, not levels of working ability. An assessment system of disabled workers' working ability will be established sooner or later. It will be decided by the government," said Chan.

The minimum wage law will be reviewed for the first time two years after it comes into effect.

Some committee members proposed that changes to the minimum wage should be made through an administrative regulation in future, instead of through a law amendment. The difference between an administrative regulation and a bill is that the former does not need to undergo lawmakers' discussion and is completely decided by the government.

However, some committee members had different opinions.

In Chan's opinion, not bringing the bill to the AL for the approval of future amendments raises doubts about the government's intentions.

"If there is not a consensus in the Standing Committee for the Coordination of Social Affairs, on what grounds and based on what consensus can the government decide?" Chan questioned.

MUST planetary scientists publish study

A study conducted by a group of professors led by Meng-Hua Zhu, associate professor of the State Key Laboratory of Lunar and Planetary Sciences at Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST), was published in the journal Nature on July 10.

In the study titled "Reconstructing the late-accretion history of the Moon," the team carried out a detailed reconstruction that explains the relative scarcity of highly siderophile (iron-loving)

elements on the moon, and gives new insight into the development and late accretion (growth) history of the moon.

Researchers modeled the impact events that would have brought the material to the earth and moon, validated using the number of actual craters on the moon. They found that because of the moon's smaller size and lower gravity, meteorites that hit the moon left behind relatively less material than those that hit the earth.

Zhu and his colleagues

calculated that the highly siderophile elements would have been retained in the lunar crust and mantle 4.35 billion years ago, later than previously thought and around the time the magma ocean covering the moon solidified. The highly siderophile elements arriving before that time would have been absorbed into the moon's iron core.

Together, these factors account for the discrepancy in highly siderophile elements between the earth and moon. JZ

REAL ESTATE LOAN APPROVALS SOAR 50%

NEW approvals of real estate loans soared more than 50% higher in May 2019 compared with a month earlier, the latest data released by the Monetary Authority of Macao shows.

In May 2019, new residential mortgage loans approved by Macau banks rose by 55.5% month-to-month to MOP3.9 billion. Of which, the resident component, representing 96.4% of the total, grew by 52% to MOP3.8 billion. The non-resident component increased by 309% owing to a relatively low base of MOP142.5 million as its comparison period.

The monthly average of new residential mortgage loans approved between March and May 2019 was MOP3.3 billion,

up by 27.5% from the previous three-month period between February and April.

Meanwhile, commercial real estate loans increased by 57.5% month-to-month to MOP7.5 billion.

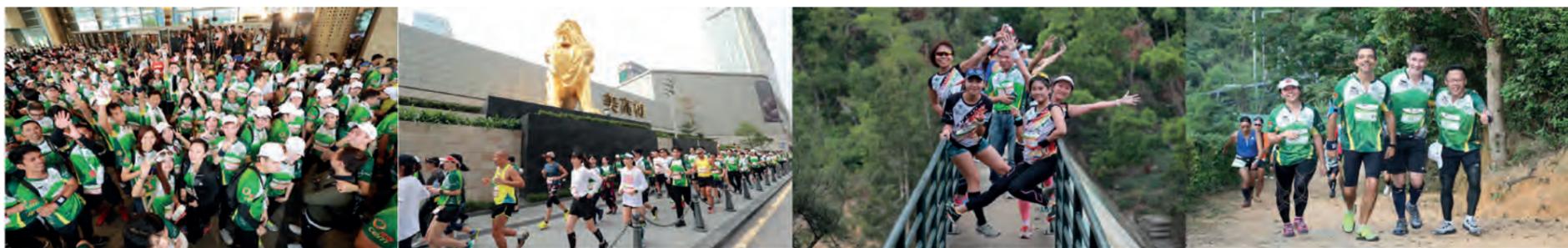
The monthly average of new commercial real estate loans approved between March and May 2019 was MOP5.6 billion, up by 33.5% as compared with the previous period, February to April 2019.

As at end-May 2019, the outstanding value of residential mortgage loans was MOP221.3 billion, up by 0.8% from a month earlier or 14.3% from a year ago. The outstanding value of commercial real estate loans decreased by 4.5% month-to-month or 3.7% from a year earlier to MOP187.6 billion. DB

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TRAILHIKER 2019 SLOTS SELL OUT ON SAME DAY

REGISTRATION for the MGM Macau Eco TrailHiker 2019 had sold out yesterday as of 7 p.m., with all 650 team spaces fully booked.

Online registration for the event opened 9 a.m. yesterday morning. Some 325 teams registered for the 10-kilometer race this year, while 170 and 155 teams signed up for the 20-kilometer and 30-kilometer races respectively.

TrailHiker will be held on November 2 starting from MGM Cotai. The event, which is this year celebrating its 10th anniversary, is committed to promoting wellness, teamwork, environmental awareness and contribution to the community.

Over the last 10 years, TrailHiker has attracted a total of 16,200 participants, according to organizers, who have hiked 270,000 kilometers in total. This is seven times the distance around the equator.

It fundraises for different local charities each year. This year, the proceeds will be donated to two charities with Christian backgrounds, the Cradle of Hope Association (COHA) and the Salvation Army.

ECO WATER BOTTLES TOO SMALL FOR POLICE USE, SAY OFFICERS

STAFF REPORTER

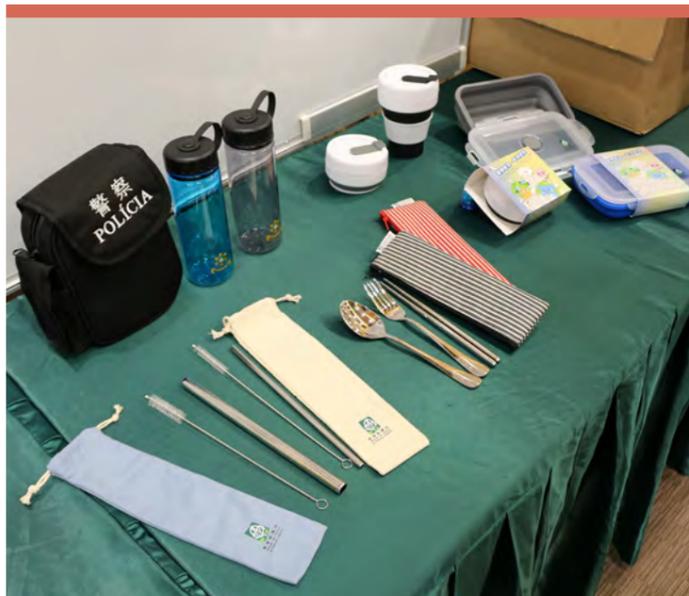
THERE are several reasons that the reusable water bottle distributed by the Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA) has proved unpopular among Public Security Police Force (PSP) officers, but the main reason is that it is too small, concluded some officers in conversation with the Times.

The environmental campaign was initiated in April with the aim of reducing the consumption of single-use plastics used in shop-bought water bottles.

At the time, the DSPA distributed reusable drinking bottles to police officers of the PSP, saying that the items would become part of the daily gear of all police officers.

However, the water bottles have proved unpopular in the force, according to some officers, speaking off the record. The police officers were asked about some of their colleagues having been spotted drinking from bottled water instead of from the reusable bottles.

According to these officers, the police in Macau are generally



Environmentally-friendly equipment distributed to the PSP, including the reusable water bottles that officers say are too small

willing to carry one extra bottle, but the capacity of the bottle is a little too small, especially for those who working in outdoor conditions under the sun.

"It's just several mouthfuls of water," one officer told the Times.

Some officers were spotted carrying their own reusable bottles yesterday, "because they're big-

ger and can take more water."

Another problem with the policy concerns the water dispenser placement around the city, which is lacking in several areas frequented by PSP officers.

"There is nowhere to refill our water bottles," said a police officer. "Many of these dispensers are placed in sport facilities, right?"

According to the "Water Refilling Map" available on the DSPA website, there are a total of 129 water refilling points across the territory.

The police officers were aware of the map, but they didn't think there was sufficient water dispensing facilities.

As shown on the map, the locations of dispensing units are not evenly distributed. For example, there are only two dispensers in the NAPE area, but six across four blocks near the Macau Polytechnic Institute. Meanwhile, an area within a considerable radius of the Camões Garden has none.

Requiring a police officer to move too far away from their work post for water is permitted, according to the officers, but not convenient. An officer said, "we can buy bottled water and refill our bottles, but that doesn't make sense in terms of environmental protection."

The officers also said that the DSPA had not thoroughly explained to the police the exact specification of these bottles, such as whether they could take warm or even hot liquid.

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GAMING

Wynn Resorts unveils plans for \$2 billion art museum in Macau

WYNN Resorts Ltd. unveiled plans for a USD2 billion (MOP16.1 billion) expansion of its properties in Macau, including a theater and museum in the world's largest gambling market.

The Crystal Pavilion complex, which will be adjacent to the Wynn Palace on the Cotai peninsula, will include two hotel towers, interactive sculptures, gardens and a performance space in a glass and steel structure designed by architect Robert A.M. Stern. Construction will begin in 2021, with an opening set for 2024. The company expects to get as much as a 20% return on the investment.

Chief Executive Officer Matt Maddox is pressing ahead with his expansion plans, even with markets skittish over trade tensions with China.

Casino operators there are under pressure to invest in non-gambling attractions by a Chinese govern-

AP PHOTO



ment looking to diversify its tourism industry.

Wynn Resorts is also competing for a license in Japan, which recently legalized casino gambling. The company unveiled an illustration of an urban waterfront resort

in that country on Wednesday as part of presentation to investors at its new \$2.6 billion Encore Boston Harbor resort.

Licenses for Macau casinos are expected to come up for renewal over the next few years, with

Wynn's due in 2022, giving the company an incentive to underscore its commitment. Wynn also plans \$125 million in renovations for its original resort in that Asian gambling enclave.

Wynn projected revenue growth

of 22% through 2021, and 28% higher earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization. The Boston resort could generate as much as \$325 million in profit on revenue of \$1.1 billion within three years, the company said.

The improved performance will come as Wynn gets back on track after the ouster of its founder and former CEO, Steve Wynn, and the subsequent \$60-plus million in fines it had to pay. It also expects that its operations in its three primary locations – Las Vegas, Macau and Boston – will continue to increase, driving its revenue up.

Despite the ambitious outlook, some analysts were expecting higher forecasts, and Wynn Resorts fell as much as 4.4% to \$127.86 in New York time.

“The long-term financial targets released at the 2019 investor day are slightly more conservative than expectations, although the capital allocation commentary should be received positively,” David Katz, an analyst with Jefferies Financial Group LLC, said in a note.

Macau casino revenue in June surprised analysts by growing 5.9% year-on-year to reach 23.8 billion patacas (\$3 billion). The result rounded out the first half of the year at MOP149.5 billion, just 0.5% lower than gross gaming revenue during the first six months of 2018. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

EMBRAER SHOWCASES NEWEST E195-E2 AIRCRAFT IN THE SAR

LYNZY VALLES

BRAZILIAN aerospace firm Embraer has brought its newest Profit Hunter jet – the E195-E2 – to Macau, showcasing the “TechLion” livery that covers the aircraft’s fuselage.

Their newest aircraft is currently on a global demonstration tour, which kicked off in Xiamen on July 8 and will be followed by several stops in China and the Asia Pacific region this month and next.

The E195-E2 is the largest of the three aircraft in the E-Jets E2 family.

The firm described the aircraft as the most efficient single-aisle jet on the market, the ideal aircraft for growing regional business and complementing existing low-cost and mainline fleets.

Speaking to the media yesterday, Guo Qing, vice president of Sales and Marketing for Embraer Commercial Aviation China, said that the aircraft can achieve com-

petitive costs per seat with larger narrow body aircraft but with significantly lower costs per trip, which will enable carriers, especially low-cost carriers, to explore additional secondary markets.

“We are operating in a differentiated segment with a seating capacity of 75 to 150. That’s exactly what Macau needs in order to expand its aircraft network into the second and third tier [Chinese] cities,” said Guo.

“If you look at what is currently operating in the market, it’s above 150-seat capacity. [But] with the right seating capacity of the airplane, we can help Macau link and expand [its] network to smaller cities that are currently not being flown to by either Air-Macau or other operators,” the executive added.

In April, the E195-E2 received type certification from three major world regulatory authorities simultaneously – ANAC (the Brazilian Civil Aviation Agency), the FAA (U.S. Federal Aviation Admi-

nistration) and EASA (European Aviation Safety Agency).

The airplane will enter service with Brazil’s Azul Linhas Aéreas Brasileiras S.A. in the second half of 2019. Spanish airline Binter will also receive its E195-E2 later this year.

According to Guo, the firm is not targeting any specific airlines, yet it stressed that current airline operators in the region have the opportunity to expand their market with the right product to bring passengers to and from the SAR.

The representative refused to disclose the pricing details of the new aircraft.

Currently, eight airlines operate 105 Embraer commercial aircraft in Greater China and Mongolia, which lays a solid foundation for adding the E2s to the market.

Commenting on Embraer’s joint venture with Boeing, Guo remarked, “We are progressing smoothly [...] and we trust the authorities.”



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'Eyes in the Sky' costs 104,000 patacas per case investigated

RENATO MARQUES

THE "Eyes in the Sky" surveillance system introduced in 2016 by security forces in Macau has so far cost the public purse a total of MOP282 million, the Unitary Police Service (SPU) has revealed in a written reply to the Times. The costs tallied so far account for the program's first four phases, which are due to conclude in the first quarter of 2020.

In reply to the Times, Commissioner Joe Cheong added that from September 15, 2016 (the date that the system entered in operation) to May 31, 2019, a total of 2,701 cases made use of surveillance foot-

age from the system in the course of their investigations.

The figures represent a current cost per case of over MOP104,000.

Moreover, the cost per case is not likely to fall in the short and medium-term as more investments are already planned between now and 2023.

Based on the figures presented by the SPU, each camera installed during the first four phases cost the public purse MOP173,768.

However, the deadline for the end of the fourth phase of implementation (the first quarter of 2020) is not the final deadline, the

SPU said. At least two more phases have been planned, with a fifth phase to be implemented in 2022, and more cameras to be put in place during the sixth phase scheduled for the following year.

The SPU said the surveillance system would help prevent and fight crime

According to the plan for the first four phases of "Eyes in the Sky," the project includes the installation of 1,620 cameras at different locations across Macau.

The first phase comprised of the installation of 219 cameras in the vicinities of the eight border checkpoints of Macau. During the second phase, a total of 263 cameras were installed along main roads and at traffic hubs. In the third phase, 338 cameras were installed in "public security black spots," tourist attractions and facilities of high importance.

The second and third phases were enacted simultaneously and were completed in mid-March last year. According to the security authorities contacted by the Times, the 601 cameras

installed during the second and third phases were put into official use on June 30, 2018.

The fourth phase is currently taking place and involves the installation of 800 cameras to be placed "in quiet locations and places where security risks exist," according to the SPU.

This phase has a longer implementation period of about two years, starting from February 21, 2018.

Speaking to the Times, the SPU noted that "when the cameras in all four phases are put into use, the overall layout of the cameras of 'Eyes in the Sky' will be basically completed."

According to the latest update to the plan, the installation of 980 additional cameras is scheduled for the fifth and sixth phases, aiming to "strengthen the deployment of cameras in specific zones, and to enhance the effective use of the system," as well as "deepening and extending the overall layout of the cameras in this project."

The SPU stated that "Eyes in the Sky" will assist police forces effectively and instantaneously in their search for evidence when investigating different types of cases.

The department added that the surveillance system could improve the efficiency of investigations and could help "in an overall manner" in preventing and fighting crime. Questioned on the topic, the SPU revealed that the 2,701 cases in which use of the system was recorded were related to robbery, pickpocketing, theft, arson, drug trafficking, illegal possession of prohibited weapons, assault, appropriation of lost items and fraud, among others.

Nonetheless, reports from the daily joint press conferences organized by the police forces have demonstrated that police have continued make use of surveillance footage from shops and private buildings in order to obtain proof or identify suspects of several crimes occurring in Macau.

HKZMB port building recognized in architecture awards

THE Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB) Hong Kong Port Passenger Clearance Building (HK PCB) has been listed in the Special Mentions of the 2019 Architizer A+ Awards, according to the official website of the awards.

The HK PCB was designed by Aedas Chairman and Global Design Principal Keith Griffiths, Aedas Global Design Principal Max Connop and Richard Paul, partner at Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners (RSHP).

The roof of the two-story

HZMB PCB was designed in the form of a wave to evoke the undulating flow of the surrounding waters. It is supported by a few tree-like structural columns to create an enhanced sense of spaciousness in the arrival and departure halls. Designed with abundant natural light, the PCB is an energy efficient and environmentally friendly piece of infrastructure.

The overall design of the HK PCB is based on the principles of innovation, aesthetics, energy efficiency and

sustainable development.

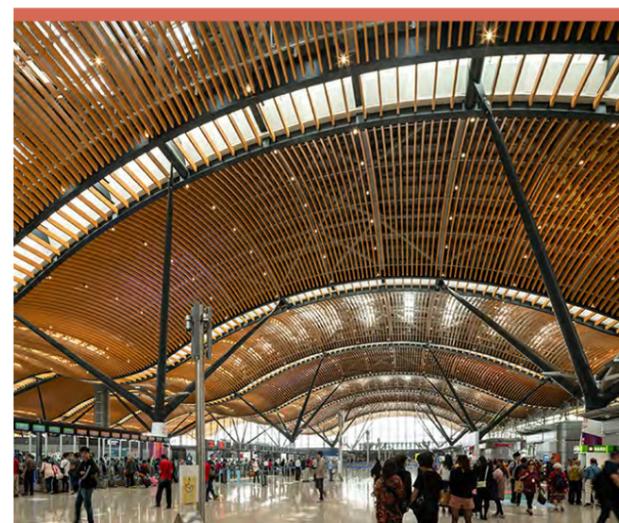
The Architizer A+ Awards program is focused on promoting and celebrating the year's best architecture and products. Its mission is to nurture the appreciation of meaningful architecture in the world and champion products that are integral to bringing great buildings to life.

The Bridge's Macau and Zhuhai boundary crossing facilities were designed by East China Architectural Design and Research Institute, and several awards

were given to the projects. However the awards were primarily given by mainland organizations.

In March, the HKZMB Macau port boundary crossing facilities were awarded the title of "the most-favored façade project" in the AL Survey 2018-2019 during the 25th China Window Door Façade Expo.

The Chinese survey claims that "the most-favored façade project" is well-known for its four criteria, which are how new, special, tall and big the façade is. **JZ**



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Attendees take part in a public memorial for Marco Leung, who fell to his death after hanging a protest banner against the extradition bill

Parents of Hong Kong protester who died urge others to live

THE parents of a Hong Kong man who plunged to his death after putting up banners against divisive extradition legislation urged young people yesterday to stay alive to continue their struggle.

"Every brave citizen who takes to the street is doing so because they love Hong Kong deeply," they said in a message read at a public memorial for their son, Marco Leung, who died on June 14 at age 35. "Only by protecting themselves and staying alive can young people continue to speak up bravely against social injustices."

Young people have been at the forefront of huge rallies against the legislation, which has plunged

Hong Kong into chaos amid wider fears about the erosion of civil rights in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory. Leung's banners demanded a full withdrawal of the bill, which would have allowed suspects to be sent to mainland China for trial.

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam declared her effort to amend the extradition laws "dead" earlier this week but stopped short of formally withdrawing the bills. Activists have vowed to keep up the pressure until she does so. Many are also demanding her resignation.

Pro-democracy activists placed sunflowers and sang hymns at the memorial for Leung. He has been nicknamed the "Raincoat Man"

for the yellow raincoat he was wearing when he died, just hours after Lam announced the indefinite suspension of the bills.

The Rev. Yuen Tin-Yau said at the memorial that Leung wasn't a martyr but that he wanted justice. Yuen urged Hong Kong people to "be courageous and be persistent" in carrying out their peaceful struggle so that Leung didn't die in vain. Apart from Leung, three other young people have reportedly died, including a woman who left a suicide message.

"Mr. Leung's death brought us pain, but this is the way he has spoken out against the authorities. He has already finished what he should do. Today, Hong Kong

people still need to speak up, and they need to speak up with an even louder and stronger voice," Yuen said.

The protests against the proposed extradition legislation have given voice to fears that Hong Kong is losing the freedoms guaranteed to it when the former British colony was returned to China in 1997. Critics fear suspects would face unfair and politicized trials in mainland China, and that critics of the ruling Communist Party would be targeted.

Billy Li, a lawyer who stopped by the memorial after attending court, said he shared the frustration of the protesters.

"Even when you see the young

people break into the legislative building to air their anger, to some extent I can understand their desperation. So I came here because I somehow feel the pathway of Mr. Leung. The responsibility of his death is somehow shared by every one of us, because we could not stop the bill earlier, before the death of Mr. Leung," Li said.

On July 1, the 22nd anniversary of Hong Kong's handover from Britain back to China, a peaceful march drew hundreds of thousands of people but was overshadowed by an assault on the territory's legislative building. A few hundred demonstrators ransacked the building, spray-painting slogans on the chamber walls, overturning furniture and damaging electronic voting and fire prevention systems.

Tens of thousands of people joined the most recent rally on Sunday, seeking to carry their protest message to those in the mainland where state-run media have not covered the protests widely. **MDT/AP**

HONG KONG

China throws support behind Carrie Lam ahead of new protest

CHINA'S top official in Hong Kong said Beijing "fully supports" embattled leader Carrie Lam's efforts to safeguard social order, as protesters vowed to continue the mass marches that have roiled the city.

Beijing trusts Lam and her authorities "to continue to govern effectively in accordance to the law," Wang Zhi-min, the director of China's liaison office in Hong Kong, said at an event in the Asian financial hub yesterday.

China's government still believes in the ability of Hong Kong's police force

to protect the safety of its citizens, he said, attributing violent protests to a small number of people who had become a "chess piece" for foreign forces aiming at stirring up unrest.

Wang's comments are consistent with those made by China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which has repeatedly expressed support for Lam and hinted at the role of "foreign interference" in fomenting Hong Kong's protests. Chinese state media has blasted some demonstrators as "extremists" whose actions threaten to hinder its

economic and social development.

Lam on Tuesday declared "dead" controversial legislation that would allow extraditions to the mainland for the first time and sparked weeks of historic demonstrations. But she stopped short of officially withdrawing the bill, providing a new rallying cry and fresh momentum for a protest movement that has persisted through pouring rain, extreme heat and police crackdowns.

Protest leaders vowed to return to the streets, suggesting Lam's efforts to resolve

the political crisis have backfired. Opponents of the bill are planning another rally on Sunday in the East New Territories district of Sha Tin, which is popular with mainland tourists, in an attempt to show support far from the city center.

Wang said China's stance on the "one country, two systems" framework set up before the former British colony's return to China was unchanged, calling it the "best policy arrangement" for Hong Kong's prosperity and the good of the mainland. **BLOOMBERG**



REAL ESTATE MATTERS

Property tax and an uncertain future?

Juliet Risdon is a Director of JML Property and a property investor. Having established the company in 1994, JML Property offers Investment Property & Homes. It specializes in managing properties for owners and investors, and providing attractive and comfortable homes for tenants.

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This is the final instalment of the three-part series of articles on the 'thrilling' subject of Land and property Tax.

This week we answer the remainder of the most popular questions we are asked by clients on Land and property tax.

12. What do I have to do to register a tenancy agreement?

Requirements are;

An M4 form original signed by the owner of the property

A copy of the owner or tenant ID

A copy of the Agreement

A declaration of submission prepared and signed by the person submitting the documents

The agreement is registered and a Stamp Duty of approx. 0.5% of the total value (Length of lease x rental amount) of the agreement is payable at the time of registration or advised later if more than \$1,000 (this process is currently delayed by 3-4 months as pointed out at the beginning of this article).

13. Anything else I should know?

The Macau Government calculates a nominal interest on overdue payments on a daily basis.

The tax office and outstanding payments office are two different locations.

Tax Exemptions are possible for Macau ID holders paying income tax. For full details check the Macau Gov DSF Website.

New properties enjoy a tax exemption holiday that differs whether the property is located in Macau, Taipa or Coloane.

14. What do I need to do to check if there is any tax outstanding?

Email a copy of the property address and form of ID to someone you trust in Macau, and if you would like JML assistance please send to Finance@JMLProperty.com

A) Change The Address Where Tax Bills Are Sent:

Use an M10 form available from the government website to change the address to which tax bills are sent (Chinese & Portuguese, only). Bills can be sent to your home or office address or again JML are happy to help. Take the M10 form to a notary IN MACAU and have the signature notarized and pass the form to the person representing you in Macau.

If you are outside of Macau, take the form to a public notary, double check that the notary is recognized in Macau, then notarise the signature and send the form to your representative here.

The signature MUST be the same as the one shown on your ID / Passport

B) Register to access Tax Bills Online (In Chinese & Portuguese Only)

Go to the link Macau Gov DSF Website (in Chinese & Portuguese only) to register online. Register your own e mail address to receive updates and reminders from the tax office.

Sign the Registration form and the Declaration forms. The registration form signature must be notarized in Macau. The signature MUST be the same as the one shown on your ID / Passport.

If you are outside Macau, please double check that the notary is recognized in Macau.

That concludes this article. Please let us know if you have any questions and we will be happy to answer you.

AP PHOTO



HSBC KEY TARGET PRONE TO MANIPULATION BY MANAGERS, AUDITORS SAID

HARRY WILSON
& STEFANIA SPEZZATI

HSBC Holdings Plc's auditors cautioned top executives that pressure to meet earnings targets gave managers an incentive to massage their numbers.

The warning contained in the bank's 2018 annual report from Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP focused on Chief Executive Officer John Flint's aim of driving revenue at a faster pace than costs. It has been at the heart of his strategy to improve returns at the lender, whose global network stretches from New York to London to Shenzhen. HSBC's latest annual report was published in February this year.

Flint's goal increased the "incentive for management to override controls to meet targets," according to the auditor's summary, which was on page 211 of HSBC's 322-page filing. In the comments, which haven't been reported before, the accounting firm wrote the measure was vulnerable to misstatement because it was "highly sensitive to small changes." HSBC and PwC in London declined to comment beyond the disclosures.

PwC, the bank's auditor since 2015, performed "a number of incremental procedures which might indicate that revenue or costs were intentionally misstated," it said in the HSBC report. There was no evidence of wrongdoing, according to a person familiar with the matter, who asked not to be identified discussing a confidential topic.

The mounting concerns from the auditors came amid HSBC's most aggressive cost-cutting. At a global leadership summit held in Hong Kong in March, Flint rebuked top managers for missing revenue and cost targets, calling out executives for their "incompetence" and their inability to keep a rein on costs. As HSBC missed that goal in 2018, he reiterated the promise for 2019. "The language seems fairly strong to me," said Joseph Dickerson, banks analyst at Jefferies International in London referring to the PwC comments. "Clearly, the group audit committee has identified this as a key risk and presumably wants to be ahead of the curve. It bears watching."

An analysis of PwC's finding was presented to members of HSBC's

HSBC is working to generate a faster rise in revenue than costs, a metric known as positive jaws

group audit committee in February 2019. The auditor said it performed various tests to assess the impact of the "enhanced incentives," looking at whether revenues and expenses were booked in the correct period and how bonuses had been accounted for.

Around the same time as PwC presented its findings to board members, HSBC launched a new initiative known as "Project Oak" designed in part to encourage managers to take action on costs.

Project Oak has already led to some job cuts. Bloomberg News has reported that HSBC was preparing to make several hundred redundancies in the division which houses its trading and advisory businesses.

The alert from PwC wasn't the first since the accounting firm took over as HSBC auditor four years ago. In the bank's 2017 annual report, PwC said that an earlier set of targets set by Flint's predecessor, Stuart Gulliver, could be at risk of tampering. However, the accounting firm wrote this did not "reflect specific concern about HSBC or its management" -- a caveat that didn't appear in the February commentary.

Under Gulliver's leadership, HSBC had also worked to a target of generating a faster rise in revenue than costs, a metric known as positive jaws. The bank had met the goal in both 2016 and 2017.

Audit firms in the U.K. have faced increased scrutiny of their independence in recent years as questions have grown about

their impartiality, particularly when reviewing the accounts of clients who pay them for services in addition to their role as auditor.

"It strikes me as quite a positive move that they are openly prepared to say this," said Mark Garnier, a British lawmaker and a member of the House of Commons' All-Party Parliamentary Group on corporate governance. "If it means the auditor is being tougher, then that is ultimately a good thing." **BLOOMBERG**

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

ADVERTORIAL



China blasts 22-nation letter criticizing Xinjiang policies

CHINA yesterday attacked a statement by 22 Western countries at the United Nations urging it to stop holding members of its Muslim population in detention centers, calling the measure necessary for national security and accusing the countries of trampling on its sovereignty.

Foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said at a daily briefing that the letter "disregarded the facts, slandered and attacked China with unwarranted accusations, flagrantly politicized human rights issues and grossly interfered in China's internal affairs."

"The Chinese side expressed strong dissatisfaction and resolute opposition," Geng said, adding that China had registered "solemn complaints" with the countries involved.

"We urge these countries to respect the facts, discard prejudice, abide by the purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter, and stop politicizing human rights issues and intervening in China's internal affairs with the Xinjiang issue," he said.

In addition to travel restrictions and a massive surveillance network, China is estimated to have arbitrarily

detained up to 1 million Muslims in prison-like detention centers in Xinjiang, with reports of harsh treatment and poor living conditions inside.

China denies committing abuses in the centers and calls them training schools aimed at providing employable skills and combating extremism.

Geng said Xinjiang has not suffered any new violent incidents for more than two years, proving the effectiveness of the government's approach.

"The happiness ... and sense of security of the people of all ethnic groups have substantially improved, and they sincerely support the government's policies," he said.

While China restricts access and reporting in Xinjiang, Geng said it would welcome a visit by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

"We welcome those who truly uphold the objective and fair principle to go to Xinjiang and look around, but we resolutely oppose any external forces using the Xinjiang issue to interfere in China's internal affairs and undermine China's sovereignty and territorial integrity," Geng said. AP

SHANGHAI

BILLIONAIRE REPORTEDLY ARRESTED OVER CHILD MOLESTATION

PROSECUTORS in Shanghai have formally arrested two people over child molestation allegations, with state media identifying one as a prominent real estate developer.

The case has received prominent coverage in state media, including on national broadcaster CCTV yesterday, highlighting what is believed to be a widespread but underreported crime affecting millions of children in China.

A brief notice on the Shanghai prosecutor's office's microblog said the Putuo district branch had ordered the formal arrest Wednesday of two people, identified only by

their surnames, Wang and Zhou.

The official Communist Party newspaper Global Times identified Wang as Wang Zhenhua, formerly chairman of Seazen, one of China's largest developers. The company announced that Wang's son Wang Xiaosong had been appointed chairman in his place after the father resigned "for personal reasons."

That announcement came on the same day that Shanghai police reported Wang and Zhou had been detained and an investigation opened into allegations that a girl had been molested at a hotel in Shanghai. AP

JOURNEYS OF DISCOVERY

Sands Resorts Macao offers a wealth of experiences to visitors, from entertainment to culture and lifestyle. This month, as Macau Coca-Cola® celebrates its 70th anniversary, visitors to The Venetian Macao can revisit the brand's biggest moments in a journey through time with a special exhibition. Meanwhile, make the most of your visit to Sands Resorts Macao with the new Sands Navigation App

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and Macao through the ages. Additionally, when you spend MOP500 or more at Shoppes at Venetian on or before 31st July, you will have a chance to create your personalised Coca-Cola® 500mL PET bottle with your picture on the bottle label. Spend MOP5,000 or more to receive a Limited Coca-Cola® Aeroplane Chess gift box.

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IN 'THE FAREWELL,' A FAMILY DRAMA STRADDLING EAST AND WEST

JAKE COYLE, NEW YORK

FILM director Lulu Wang knew her pitch for "The Farewell" was unconventional.

She wanted to make an autobiographical drama about the time when, in 2013, her family learned that her grandmother in China, affectionately called Nai Nai, had stage 4 lung cancer and was given three months to live. The grim diagnosis was kept from Nai Nai, a somewhat common approach to death and dying in China.

Wang, whose family had moved from Beijing to Florida when she was 6, had doubts. Still, she reluctantly went along with the well-intended deceit, flying back for a cousin's wedding hurried along as an excuse to reunite the family before Nai Nai was expected to die.

Wang first told the story for a 2016 episode of "This American Life." She envisioned a movie about grief and identity and family, riven with cultural and ethical divides between East and West, parent and child, set largely in her grandmother's hometown of Changchun in northeastern China.

"When I was first pitching it, it's almost like you want to start by saying, 'I know this sounds crazy, but I want to make an American film — meaning tonally American, American financed — that's like 100% Asian or American-Asian cast and 75% in Mandarin with subtitles. Cool, right? Green light? Where's the money?'" Wang recalls, laughing.

And yet "The Farewell" not only eventually got a green light ("About a Boy" producer Chris Weitz happened to hear that "This American Life" episode), but after Wang unveiled it earlier this year at the Sundance Film Festival, it sparked a bidding war. On a wave of teary-eyed responses from moviegoers



Filmmaker Lulu Wang (right) and actress Awkwafina posing in New York

and raves from critics, "The Farewell" emerged as one of the breakthroughs in American independent cinema this year. Even if the movie still eludes classification for some.

"People are like, 'Is it an American film? Is it a Chinese film?' It's an American film as much as I am American," Wang, who lives in Los Angeles, said in an interview in early June.

"The Farewell," which A24 will release in select theaters Friday, stars Nora Lum (aka Awkwafina) as Billi, a stand-in for Wang. One of the co-stars, Nai Nai's sister Hong Lu, plays herself. Several of the locations are where Wang's family drama actually played out. Wang's pa-

rents visited the set, as did (spoiler alert) the real Nai Nai, who at 86 has far outlived her original prognosis but remains in the dark about her family's 2013 scheme.

Wang envisioned a movie about grief and identity and family, riven with cultural and ethical divides

"She would come to set but she didn't really know what we were doing so we had to kind of protect her," says Lum. "It was like 'The Farewell' in real life."

"It's very meta," Wang grants.

As personal as "The Farewell" is to Wang, it has been deeply felt by a broad spectrum of viewers who see in it a reflection of the harmony and discord that hum through the tender, bittersweet relationship between Billi and her grandmother, and, with wide lenses, the celebrations and pains of the extended family. "I wanted to put the grief and the humor all in one frame," says Wang.

The movie has special resonance for many Asian Americans who see in "The Farewell" not just characters and faces seldom found on American screens, but a recognizable familial world that straddles borders. That's especially true for Lum, who was raised in Queens, New York, by her grandmother after her mother, a South Korean immigrant, died when she was 4.

"When the script came to me, it was called 'Grandma' and it was about this very special relationship between a girl and her grandmother that I never thought I would see in a movie — especially one that was Asian-American and so close to home," says Lum. "I had to do this for my grandmother."

This was before Lum's breakout performance in last year's "Crazy Rich Asians," and Wang grants that the "rapper-comedian-influencer I knew from music videos like 'My Vag'" wasn't the obvious choice for such a dramatic role. But she was convinced by a self-taped audition that Lum, who had to improve her Mandarin for the part, could skillfully render Billi's conflicted emotions with subtlety.

"I wanted the part so bad," says Lum. "I hired a voice coach and everything."

Lum's initial fears about things

like crying on camera quickly receded once she was in China for the production.

"There's a lot of questions that come up when you do a movie like this about your own identity, going back home, what is home. Am I Asian there? Am I not Asian enough? Am I not American enough?" says Lum. "These are questions that every Asian-American or any dash-American struggles with their whole life."

Wang has witnessed the emotional responses her film has engendered. In one instance, she recalls seeing audience members hand tissues to a young, sobbing Asian American man.

"This is why we go to the movie theater. It's like a catharsis," says Wang. "That's kind of how I see the movie now. It's a communal grieving of both the literal people that we love and the places and ideas that we have to let go of."

That belief in the power of the theatrical experience might have had something to do with Wang's decision to accept A24's roughly \$6 million offer for the film at Sundance even though Netflix offered more than double that. (As an American-Chinese co-production, her film will also have a release in China.)

At the time of the offers, she called her parents. They had flown to Utah for the premiere. (After the credits rolled, Wang's dad could be heard throughout the theater declaring, "Pretty good!") Wang, whose 2014 debut "Posthumous" didn't find distribution, was prepared for an argument. But her mother encouraged her to look after "her baby."

"I said, 'I want to go with A24. I think that they'll treat the film in a way that will give the film a longer life, a better life,'" says Wang. "In many ways I was really proud of myself. You can ask yourself that question on principle but until you're in that situation you never know what you're going to do. It was in that moment where I realized I don't care about that. That's not how I value my life." (Film review inside Extra) **AP**

Taiwan president heads to Caribbean with US stops

TAIWANESE President Tsai Ing-wen departed yesterday for a four-country state visit to the Caribbean with stops in the United States on the way there and back.

Her delegation is going to Haiti, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and St. Lucia on a 12-day trip. The island nations are among the few that recognize Taiwan instead of China.

Tsai said that she wants to share the values of democracy and perseverance

with Taiwan's friends.

"Our democracy has not come easily and now is facing the threat and technological penetration of foreign forces," she said, in a veiled reference to China.

Tsai will also make what her government is calling "two-evening transit stops" in the United States.

Taiwan does not have diplomatic ties with the United States, but the U.S. provides the self-governing island with military and other support. China ob-

jects to such support as an interference in what it considers its internal affairs.

In the Caribbean, the delegation will promote sustainable development and look for business opportunities for Taiwanese companies, Tsai said.

Taiwan split from China during a civil war that brought the Communist Party to power in 1949. The rival Nationalists set up a separate government in Taiwan, and Tsai has resisted Chinese pressure to re-unite the two. **AP**



Tsai Ing-wen

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



Notices campaigning for a boycott of Japanese-made products are displayed at a store in Seoul

DIPLOMATIC ROW

South Korea seeks US help in bitter trade spat with Japan

KIM TONG-HYUNG, SEOUL

SOUTH Korea is seeking U.S. help in a bitter diplomatic row with fellow American ally Japan over its moves to tighten controls on high-tech exports.

The government said yesterday that Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha discussed the issue with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo by phone and conveyed Seoul's view that Japan's "undesirable" trade curbs could disrupt global supply chains and hurt trilateral cooperation among the countries.

The ministry said Pompeo ex-

pressed an "understanding" of South Korea's position and agreed to help facilitate communication through diplomatic channels among Washington, Seoul and Tokyo.

Tokyo last week tightened the approval process for Japanese shipments of photoresists and other sensitive materials to South Korean companies, which need the chemicals to produce semiconductors and display screens used in TVs and smartphones.

The diplomatic dispute over that has further soured relations long troubled over Japan's brutal colonial rule of Korea before the end

of World War II.

"[Minister Kang] expressed concern that Japan's trade restrictions would not only inflict damage to our companies, but could also disrupt global supply chains and cause negative effects not only to U.S. companies but also to the global trade order," the ministry said in a press release.

"This would not be ideal for the bilateral friendship and cooperation between South Korea and Japan and also the three-way cooperation between South Korea, the United States and Japan," it said.

Kim Hyun-chong, deputy chief of South Korea's presidential Na-

tional Security Office, arrived in Washington on Wednesday and told reporters he would discuss the trade spat with Japan with U.S. officials. His trip came a day after South Korean President Moon Jae-in urged Japan to refrain from pushing the situation to a "dead-end street" and respond to Seoul's efforts to resolve the matter diplomatically.

"I came because there are a lot of bilateral issues between South Korea and the United States to be discussed in meetings with the White House and also the Senate and House," Kim told South Korean reporters at Dulles Internatio-

nal Airport. When asked whether South Korea would ask the United States to mediate in the trade dispute with Japan, Kim said, "That issue will be discussed too."

The deteriorating relationship between South Korea and Japan could possibly complicate U.S. efforts to strengthen three-way cooperation on North Korea's nuclear program and in countering China's growing influence in the region. But it's unclear whether the Trump administration would be willing to intervene.

South Korea's Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy said its minister for trade, Yoo Myung-hee, will head for the United States soon to discuss the Japanese trade curbs. South Korean trade officials plan to visit Tokyo to meet with their Japanese counterparts on Friday. So far, Japan has so far shown no willingness to negotiate. It will likely use the meeting to explain and reaffirm its stance, the ministry said.

According to the ministry's figures, Japanese direct investment in South Korea dropped 51% in January-June from a year earlier, to USD330 million.

Park Tae-seong, a senior ministry official, said the decline was unrelated to Tokyo's trade curbs. He sidestepped questions of whether antagonisms were hurting investment.

South Korea relies heavily on exports and is the world's biggest supplier of computer chips and displays. It sees the Japanese trade curbs as retaliation for court rulings ordering Japanese firms to compensate aging South Korean plaintiffs for forced labor during World War II.

Japanese officials have suggested South Korea is not trustworthy, hinting at security risks and illegal transfers of sensitive materials to North Korea without citing specific cases. AP

JAXA says space probe landed on asteroid to get soil sample

A Japanese spacecraft landed on a distant asteroid and collected underground samples that scientists hope will provide clues to the origin of the solar system billions of years ago, Japan's space agency said.

The Hayabusa2 spacecraft had created a landing crater on the rocky asteroid in April by dropping a copper impactor. It landed inside that crater yesterday and collected samples that scientists believe contain valuable data unaffected by space radiation and other environmental factors.

Hayabusa2 is the first spacecraft to successfully collect underground samples from an asteroid. A similar mis-

sion is planned by the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration on another asteroid, Benu.

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, or JAXA, said data show Hayabusa2 touched down and rose safely after collecting the samples. The moment the success was announced in the command center, everyone stood up, cheered and applauded.

"It was a success, a big success," said Takashi Kubota, a Hayabusa2 project member. "We achieved success in all scheduled procedures."

JAXA said the samples have been safely placed in a container, which will be moved to a capsule for se-

cure storage.

"We obtained pieces of the history of the solar system. We took a historic step," said Yuichi Tsuda, the Hayabusa2 project manager. "Nobody has collected and brought home underground materials from anywhere further than the moon."

Asteroids are rocky remnants left over from the formation of the solar system.

With one of its most critical missions now finished, the next task is to get Hayabusa2 to safely return to Earth with the samples, Tsuda said.

The asteroid, named Ryugu after an undersea dragon palace in a Japanese folktale, is about 300 million kilome-

ters (180 million miles) from Earth. Hayabusa2 is expected to leave the asteroid later this year and return home at the end of next year.

The asteroid, about 900 meters (yards) in diameter, is extremely rocky on its surface and has signs organic compounds, scientists say.

Hayabusa2 made a similar landing at another location on the asteroid in February and collected topsoil samples.

The spacecraft started its gradual descent to the asteroid on Wednesday. In the final landing phase yesterday, it hovered at a height of 30 meters and quickly found its landing marker left from the earlier mission. AP



A monitor shows Hayabusa2 project team members celebrating the spacecraft's second touchdown on an asteroid in the JAXA control room yesterday

CAMBODIA

COURT CHARGES TWO WHO PROTESTED GOV'T CRITIC'S MURDER

A court in Cambodia yesterday formally charged two men in connection with protests marking the third anniversary of the killing of a prominent government critic.

The Phnom Penh Municipal Court brought charges of incitement to commit a felony against two of seven people detained this week in connection with the anniversary of the July 10, 2016, shooting of Kem Ley, court spokesman Kouch Kimlong said.

One of the men, Kong Raiya, was arrested Tuesday for producing T-shirts bearing the image of Kem Ley and wording the authorities charged was provocative. He was convicted on the same charge for anti-government activities in 2016. The other man, Suong Neakpon, was



Suong Neakpean (center) arrives at the Phnom Penh Municipal Court

arrested Wednesday for attempting to take part in a protest with several dozen other people at the site of Kem Ley's killing at a convenience store in Phnom Penh.

The other detainees were released without charges after questioning.

Kem Ley was killed shortly after he spoke on radio about

a report alleging that Prime Minister Hun Sen's family had taken advantage of its connections for financial gain.

His convicted murderer said he acted because Kem Ley owed him money, but it was widely believed that the killing was politically motivated.

Tens of thousands of people joined Kem Ley's funeral in protest of Hun Sen's authoritarian rule, which hardened after the killing with the closure of independent media and a court decision that dissolved the only credible opposition party ahead of a 2018 general election.

On Tuesday, 24 Cambodian and international human rights groups issued a joint declaration calling on the government "to conduct a thorough and effective investigation" into Kem Ley's killing.

"It has been three years since significant gaps were highlighted in the investigation and trial of Kem Ley's case, which need to be remedied through an independent, impartial and effective investigation," said Frederick Rawski, director for Asia and the Pacific of the International Commission of Jurists. "The lack of progress reflects a clear lack of political will by the Cambodian government towards meeting its obligations under international law to fully and impartially investigate a potentially unlawful death and protect the rights to life and to effective remedy." AP

PAKISTAN

TRAIN COLLISION KILLS 20

A passenger train rammed into a freight train at a railway station in southern Pakistan yesterday, killing at least 20 people and injuring 74 others, hospital officials said.

The freight train was stationary when the speeding passenger train struck it at Walhar Railway Station in Rahim Yar Khan, in the eastern Punjab province. Jamil Ahmed, an official in the provincial government, said hospitals declared an emergency.

Twenty people were killed in the train crash and 74 were wounded, with some in critical condition, according to Javed Ah-

med, a physician treating the wounded.

Prime Minister Imran Khan ordered authorities to provide the best possible medical care to the victims and said he was saddened by the news.

Khan ordered Railways Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmad to "take emergency steps to counter decades of neglect of railway infrastructure" and ensure safety standards.

Authorities said Pakistan's army was also taking part in the rescue efforts.

Train accidents in Pakistan are often the result of poor railway infrastructure and official negligence. AP



Officials and volunteers work at a train crash site

AD

Advertisement for Bunny Nights at D2 Club. Features a woman with bunny ears and sunglasses. Text: BUNNY NIGHTS EVERY WEDNESDAY. D2 CLUB Macau Fisherman's Wharf, Edf. New Orleans III. Tel: (853)2872 3777.

Advertisement for Playmate's Club. Features a woman in a circular frame with 'WILD NIGHT OUT' text. Text: WELCOME TO Playmate's club 花心公子俱樂部. WILD NIGHT OUT. Come and buy a Standard drink Mop45 only You can see a European Striptease Show. Business Hours: 8:00pm-4:00am. Attention No admission under 18. Address: Basement, Hotel Guia, Macau Tel: 28532081 www.macauplaymatesclub.com

AP PHOTO



A British Navy file photo of vessel HMS Montrose off the coast of Cyprus

PERSIAN GULF TENSIONS

Britain says Iranian vessels tried to block tanker in Strait of Hormuz

AYA BATRAWY
& AMIR VAHDAT, DUBAI

THE British navy said yesterday it stopped three Iranian paramilitary vessels from disrupting the passage of a British oil tanker through the Strait of Hormuz in a brief but tense standoff stemming from the U.K.'s role in seizing an Iranian supertanker a week earlier.

The incident highlights how fragile maritime security has become through one of the world's most vital energy supply routes as the Trump administration carries out a campaign of maximum pressure on Iran.

Iran recently began breaching uranium enrichment limits set in its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers in response to President Donald Trump's decision to pull the U.S. out of the accord a year ago. He also has re-imposed tough sanctions on Tehran's oil exports, exacerbating an economic crisis that has sent its currency plummeting.

Russia and China, both signatories to the nuclear agreement along with Britain, France and Germany, have called for restraint. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said "freedom of navigation should be ensured in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz."

Iran's Revolutionary Guard denied any incident had occurred in the strait, saying if it had received

orders to seize any ships it would have done so immediately. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, however, had warned on Wednesday of repercussions for the seizure of the Iranian vessel by Britain's Royal Marines in Gibraltar, off the southern coast of Spain a week ago.

The U.K. said in a statement that the British naval vessel HMS Montrose had been accompanying the commercial ship, British Heritage, through the narrow Strait of Hormuz, a crucial waterway for energy shipments. It said three Iranian vessels attempted "to impede" the ship's passage.

"HMS Montrose was forced to position herself between the Iranian vessels and British Heritage and issue verbal warnings to the Iranian vessels, which then turned away," the statement said.

The HMS Montrose is on a three-year mission at the British navy's support facility in Bahrain, the hub of its naval operations east of the Suez Canal.

U.K. Defense Secretary Penny Mordaunt said the government is concerned by the incident and urged Iranian authorities to de-escalate the situation. She thanked the Royal Navy for upholding international law and supporting freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz.

A U.S. aircraft was in the area at the time of the incident and the military has video imagery, a U.S. official said, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss security matters. The U.S. 5th Fleet in Bahrain declined to comment on the incident.

U.S. Central Command spokesman Capt. Bill Urban said CENTCOM was aware of reports of "harassment and attempts to interfere with" the passage of the British Heritage near the Strait of Hormuz by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard's naval forces.

In recent months, the U.S. has sent thousands of additional troops, an aircraft carrier, B-52

international airspace but Tehran says had violated Iranian airspace.

The regional waters where tensions have played out are of global importance. About 20% of all oil traded worldwide passes through the Strait of Hormuz from Middle Eastern producers. Iran has also used the shipping lanes for its own oil exports, but U.S. sanctions have curtailed Tehran's ability to sell its crude internationally.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has asked Mideast allies like Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in past weeks to contribute financially and militarily to a Trump administration proposal called the Sentinel Program — a coalition of nations working with the U.S. to preserve maritime security in the Persian Gulf and keep eyes on Iran.

Despite the latest incident, the overall threat level for non-British ships using the Strait of Hormuz

has not changed significantly, said Jakob P. Larsen, head of maritime security for BIMCO, the largest international association representing ship owners.

"With what we've seen now I'm certain trade will continue in the region," he said from Denmark. "Of course ship owners will take their precautions, and for British interests those would probably be a

little more comprehensive."

Maritime security risk firm Dryad Global described the British commercial vessel that had been at the center of the incident as an oil tanker operated by BP and registered in the Isle of Man. Lloyd's List, a publication specializing in maritime affairs, said Shell had chartered the ship from BP.

Lloyd's List said the vessel, the British Heritage, had diverted from its route to load its 140,000-ton cargo of crude at Basra, Iraq, as planned on July 4, the same day Iran's tanker was intercepted off Gibraltar, a British overseas territory. It said the vessel instead headed to Saudi waters where it had remained for several days.

Since July 2, at least 20 British-flagged ships have sailed through the Strait of Hormuz, according to Lloyd's List Intelligence data.

BP said the company's "top priority is the safety and security of our crews and vessels" and thanked the Royal Navy for its support. The British multinational oil and gas firm declined to comment further.

Shell stopped short of confirming reports it had chartered the tanker, but told The Associated Press in a statement that "safety is our top priority." A spokesman said the company was monitoring the situation closely and expects all vessels it charters to consider relevant Department for Transport guidance on shipping in the area.

The department had already raised its risk assessment to the highest level for maritime security in Iranian waterways, according to Lloyd's List.

The semi-official Fars news agency carried a statement from the Iranian Revolutionary Guard's navy yesterday saying "there were no clashes with alien floats, especially British boats."

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif dismissed the British allegations as "worthless," saying the claims "are being made to create tension," Fars reported.

In recent days, Iran had summoned the British ambassador over what it called the "illegal interception" of its tanker. Rouhani had also warned that Britain would face "repercussions" over the seizure.

The operation to seize the tanker took place at the request of the U.S. Authorities in Gibraltar, assisted in the seizure by Britain's Royal Marines, suspect the vessel was breaching European sanctions on oil shipments to Syria.

Iran has, meanwhile, begun breaching the limits of the nuclear deal, both on the stockpile of low-enriched uranium and the level of uranium enrichment. It also set an early September deadline for world powers to save the agreement, saying it would otherwise take a third step in going beyond the deal's limits.

Iran maintains it is justified in breaching the limitations because the U.S. already broke the deal with its unilateral withdrawal. **AP**

The incident highlights how fragile maritime security became through one of the world's most vital energy supply routes

TV canal macau 

13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Agua de Mar
15:45	Zig Zag
16:20	OndEstá o Tesouro
16:45	Quem Quer Ser Milionário
18:05	Amor Maior (Repetição)
18:50	TDM Talk Show (Repetição)
19:25	Livros com João Guedes (Repetição)
19:35	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Viagens em Série
21:45	Vote in the U.S.A
22:15	Amor Maior
23:15	TDM News
23:50	A Canção de Lisboa
01:10	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:55	RTPi Directo

cinema 

CINETEATRO

11 - 15 Jul



TOY STORY 4
ROOM 1
2:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:15pm
Director: Josh Cooley
Starring: Will Smith, Mena Massoud, Naomi Scott
Language: Chinese
Duration: 109min



SPIDER-MAN: FAR FROM HOME
ROOM 2
2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45pm
Director: Jon Watts
Starring: Zendaya, Angourie Rice, Tom Holland
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 129min



THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2
ROOM 3
2:30, 7:30pm
Director: Chris Renaud, Jonathan del Val
Starring: Patton Oswalt, Kevin Hart, Harrison Ford
Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)
Duration: 86min



ALADDIN
ROOM 3
9:30pm
Director: Guy Ritchie
Starring: Will Smith, Mena Massoud, Naomi Scott
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 109min

this day in history 

1990 YELTSIN RESIGNATION SPLITS SOVIET COMMUNISTS

The populist politician and president of the Russian parliament, Boris Yeltsin, has resigned from the Soviet Communist Party.

The resignation has also led to a declaration from the small but influential radical reform group Democratic Platform that they would also break away.

The split leaves Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev with a party in tatters.

It was thought that Mr Gorbachev had appeased the reformers by ensuring the defeat of hardline conservative Yegor Ligachev in the race for the deputy leadership yesterday.

His favoured candidate, the pro-reform Vladimir Ivashko, was elected instead.

But it was not enough. Within hours of another vote to approve new party rules which still restrict factions operating within it, Mr Yeltsin stood up to address a hushed auditorium.

"In view of my great responsibility towards the people of Russia and in connection with the move towards a multi-party system I cannot fulfil only the instructions of the party," he said.

"As the highest elected figure in the republic, I have to bow to the will of all the people."

He then turned and left the chamber without another word.

Some delegates shouted "Shame", while a few clapped.

Mr Gorbachev, clearly expecting the move, was heard to say, "That ends the process logically," before instructing delegates to withdraw Mr Yeltsin's congress mandate.

The departure of a group of Democratic Platform delegates less than an hour later confirmed the split - the first since the Bolshevik-Menshevik divide which put Lenin in power in 1903.

Among those leaving are the popular new mayor of Leningrad, Anatoly Sobchak, and the mayor of Moscow, Gavrill Popov.

Mr Yeltsin has been a figurehead for radical reform of the party system for the last 18 months, and has been a trenchant critic of President Gorbachev for not going far enough with party reforms.

Despite that, he has remained at the centre of the Communist Party structure. His name was put forward for inclusion in the new Central Committee to be chosen this evening.

His real strength lies in his popular support among ordinary Russian people.

In an opinion poll carried out by the Moscow News newspaper earlier this month he scored an 84% popularity rating, making him by far the most trusted figure on the Soviet political scene.

Courtesy BBC News

Offbeat

DRIVER ESCAPES INJURY WHEN SAGUARO CACTUS PIERCES WINDSHIELD

AP PHOTO



Arizona authorities say a driver escaped injury when his car's windshield was pierced by the trunk of a saguaro cactus during a wreck this week on the outskirts of Tucson.

Pima County sheriff's Deputy Daniel Jelineo said the black sports car struck the cactus while crossing a median.

The broken-off cactus ended up partially inside the car, with the rest jutting over car's hood.

Jelineo said deputies detained the driver for further investigation after observing signs and symptoms of impairment.

The driver's identity wasn't released.

IN CONTEXT

Days later, tens of thousands of demonstrators gathered beside the walls of the Kremlin to voice their opposition to the Soviet Communist Party.

In August 1991, the rivalry between reformist and conservative elements of the congress erupted in an attempted coup against Mikhail Gorbachev.

Boris Yeltsin became a national hero after he mounted a tank to rally the people against the coup.

After the formal collapse of the Soviet Union later in 1991, Boris Yeltsin, who was already president of Russia, found himself at the head of a world superpower.

His presidency was marked by rapid economic and political reform.

He took on the remnants of Soviet conservatism again in 1993, in an armed clash in which the Parliament building was shelled and 100 people died.

He went on to win the first post-Soviet presidential election in 1996, despite plummeting popularity ratings.

In the same year, he underwent major heart surgery, and there were serious concerns about the state of his health.

Amid growing criticism of his erratic behaviour, including several embarrassing gaffes on the international stage, Yeltsin stood down from the presidency on 1 January 2000.

His chosen successor, Vladimir Putin, won the next election a few months later.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You have shown amazing patience with someone who seems to be making the same mistakes over and over again - despite their promises that they would stop.

TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Someone has been desperately trying to get your attention, but you have been so busy focused on other things that you haven't slowed down to notice them by the side of the road, trying to flag you down.

GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

This is a day that offers a lot of great starts and beginnings, but there will be no follow through on any of them - you are going to be just too busy to help lead things into a formative phase.

CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

You have the ability to help the people you care most about today, so use it! And don't worry - it won't be difficult to make some major changes start happening for others.

LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Today, teamwork will only be effective if you put in your fair share of ideas. Do not hide behind the camouflage of other people, hoping their involvement will be enough to get things done.

VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Everyone has two sides to their personality (at least), so today if someone is getting on your nerves, focus on the part of their personality that is most compatible with yours.

LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

It's not universally true that opposites attract, but you've been noticing some hot magnetic energy between two very different (and very single) people in your life.

SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

There is some unpredictable energy flying around your environment today, so beware. Nothing is for certain, and nothing is going to be written in stone.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Don't worry about losing your edge of falling under the spell of your couch. Just because you're not running around crossing things off your list doesn't mean that you aren't getting things done.

CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

One of your long lost friends is going to reappear on the scene very soon, and they will offer you a missing link that will connect you to several opportunities - including greater wealth and a hotter romance.

AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

The best kind of wisdom comes from people who know you well, so if you are feeling the urge to start a new relationship with one of your old relatives, then you shouldn't wait to get started.

PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Tiny details have lives of their own, and if you don't watch them carefully, they'll take you in all the wrong directions. Timing may be an obstacle to overcome, so be aware that last minute delays are possible.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	26	33	thundershower
Harbin	18	31	cloudy
Tianjin	28	34	thundershower
Urumqi	17	24	moderate rain
Xi'an	19	36	clear
Lhasa	12	22	drizzle
Chengdu	19	31	clear
Chongqing	21	30	cloudy
Kunming	17	25	moderate rain
Nanjing	23	31	cloudy
Shanghai	23	28	drizzle
Wuhan	24	31	shower
Hangzhou	22	27	drizzle
Taipei	26	30	overcast
Guangzhou	26	33	thundershower
Hong Kong	27	32	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	10	21	cloudy
Frankfurt	12	29	overcast
Paris	16	30	clear
London	12	25	cloudy
New York	22	28	drizzle

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Orange Bowl site; 6- Bed support; 10- Gene Kelly's "___ Girls"; 13- Singer John; 14- Diner dish; 15- ___ Only Just Begun; 16- Big cats; 17- Suit to ___; 18- Inspiration; 19- Without; 20- Sorry; 22- Abhor; 24- Chooses; 28- All you own; 31- It's a trap; 32- Greek goddesses of the seasons; 34- Grand ___ Opry; 36- Fall prey to a banana peel, say; 37- Plop precursor; 38- Radioactive, metallic element; 41- Tolkien creature; 42- Diary of ___ Housewife; 44- Henpeck; 45- Jewish scholar; 47- Ruckus; 49- On dry land; 51- Maps within maps; 53- Uncovered; 56- Unidentified woman; 59- Tel Aviv server; 61- Space; 64- Middle of QED; 65- In flames; 66- Tyne of "Judging Amy"; 67- Italian noble family; 68- Please, in Potsdam; 69- Tierra ___ Fuego; 70- Back; 71- Bikini blast.

DOWN: 1- "Alice" diner; 2- Homeric epic; 3- Do penance; 4- Malformed animal; 5- ___ and outs; 6- California peak; 7- Wood strip; 8- Away from port; 9- Topic; 10- Paved the way; 11- She raised Cain; 12- Ocean; 15- Expands; 20- To the rear; 21- Golfer Ernie; 23- Son of Isaac; 25- Biblical spy; 26- Singer Lopez; 27- Equinox mo.; 29- Forceps; 30- Actor Wallach; 32- Macho types; 33- Some exams; 35- The continent; 37- Animistic god or spirit; 39- Small battery size; 40- Stable mate; 43- Disk jockey; 46- Advantage; 48- Plato's H; 50- Owl, e.g.; 52- Look of contempt; 54- Best of a group; 55- Pub pastime; 57- Celtic tongue; 58- Group of individual facts; 60- Internet writing system that popularized "pwn3d" and "n00b"; 61- Find the sum of; 62- Actress ___ Dawn Chong; 63- Right-angle shape; 65- Attorney's org.;

Yesterday's solution

A	N	E	W	S	A	T	E	L	A	P			
L	E	A	H	N	A	O	M	I	S	O	D	A	
T	A	R	E	E	A	T	E	N	S				
O	R	N	A	T	E	O	R	G	A	N	I	S	T
T	H	R	U										
O	R	R											
P	E	A											
A	C	T	A										
L	A	I	N	E									
S	P	O	I	L	S								
B	A	D	A	L	O	N	A						
A	R	A	T										
D	O	N	E										
E	N	E											

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>Pearl on the Lough, Taipa 2,055 ft² HK\$16,980,000 4 1/2 2 1/2</p>	<p>FOR RENT</p> <p>Soi Cheung Studio, Taipa Village \$9,000/mth 660 ft² 1 1/2 1 1/2</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>[Taipa] <i>Va Fat</i> 2 1/2 2 1/2 550 ft² \$4,530,000 (ref: 18115566)</p> <p>[Taipa] <i>Manhattan (high floor)</i> 2 1/2 4 1/2 2,305 ft² \$17,980,000 (ref: 18075558)</p> <p>[Taipa] <i>Buckingham</i> 2 1/2 2 1/2 1,439 ft² \$11,770,000 (ref: 19045004)</p> <p>[Taipa] <i>Pearl on the Lough</i> 5 1/2 3 1/2 4,000 ft² \$39,000,000 (ref: 190550065T)</p> <p>[Cotai] <i>One Grantai</i> 4 1/2 2 1/2 2,556 ft² \$25,600,000</p>	<p>FOR RENT</p> <p>[Taipa] <i>Manhattan</i> 3 1/2 2 1/2 1,720 ft² \$23,800/mth (ref: 18110695RT)</p> <p>[Taipa] <i>Nova Grand</i> 2 1/2 1 1/2 986 ft² \$16,000/mth (ref: 19055007RT)</p> <p>[Coloane] <i>Cheoc Van House</i> 3 1/2 2 1/2 \$28,000/mth (ref: 19055009RC)</p> <p>[Taipa] <i>Ocean Gardens</i> 4 1/2 4 1/2 3,700 ft² \$35,000/mth (ref: 18040674)</p> <p>[Macau] <i>San Malo</i> 3 1/2 4 1/2 \$13,000/mth (ref: 19065011RM)</p>
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AP PHOTO



TAYLOR SWIFT SHAKES OFF DRAMA WITH FUN CONCERT PERFORMANCE

IN her first public appearance since discovering her masters were in the hands of someone she's not a fan of, Taylor Swift didn't directly address the issue, but she did play music from that rich catalog, including songs from her groundbreaking sophomore album to her first full-blown pop project to her latest title.

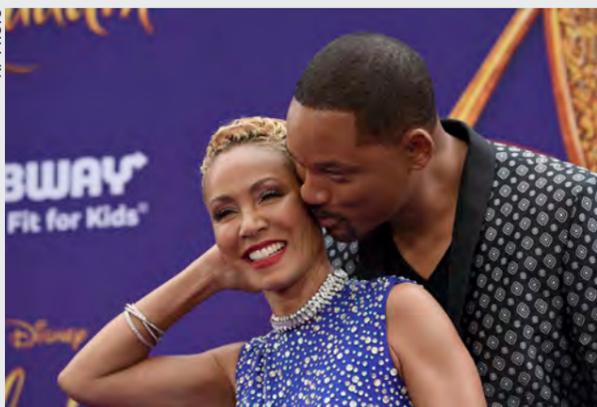
There was one moment, though, where Swift may have called out Scooter Braun and

Scott Borchetta yesterday [Macau time] when she headlined Amazon Music's Prime Day Concert in New York City. When singing her final song, the upbeat hit "Shake It Off," she was extra loud as she uttered the words: "Liars and the dirty, dirty cheats of the world."

Some viewers on social media felt like Swift was throwing shade, but the pop star seemed to shake off the drama with a fun, entertaining performance.

JADA PINKETT SMITH AND WILL SMITH LAUNCH MEDIA VENTURE

AP PHOTO



JADA Pinkett Smith and Will Smith are looking to expand their brands under a new corporate umbrella.

The Hollywood power couple yesterday announced the launch of a new media venture.

According to a statement, Westbrook Inc. will be a cross-platform holding company "formed to execute the Smith family's global content and commerce business strategy."

In a statement, the couple

said Westbrook's mission is "to spread positive ideas, art and products that entertain and empower the greatest number of lives."

Westbrook Studios will serve as the studio home to all new premium TV and motion picture projects. It currently serves "Red Table Talk," the Facebook Watch series featuring Pinkett Smith, Willow Smith and Adrienne Banfield-Norris.

The company will also develop projects as starring vehicles for Will Smith.

CRISTELA ALONZO CALLS HER BOOK A 'MIXTAPE MEMOIR'

CRISTELA Alonzo is telling her story in words and music, what she calls a "mixtape memoir."

The actress and producer's book, "Music to My Years," comes out Oct. 8. She will track her rise from living with her family in an abandoned diner to her fame as creator and star of the sitcom "Cristela," and stand-up performer featured in the Netflix special "Lower

Classy." The link is music and television and how they helped define moments in her life, like how the theme to "The Golden Girls" led to a trip to the principal's office.

In a statement issued yesterday through Atria Books, Alonzo said she wasn't inspired by "ego" but out of a desire to connect her story to others.

"Also," she says of her book, "there's jokes in it."

AP PHOTO



AD



Sheraton Grand
MACAO HOTEL
COTAI CENTRAL

「盛宴」檳城之夜 a night in
PENANG
feast

Savor the authentic flavorsome dishes from Penang, Malaysia - be it from the famous MuSang King durian, typical Asam Laksa, Nasi Kandar or the favorite Satays, Rojak and Cendol, get your palate satisfied by spending a night in Penang, but at Feast!

July 12 - August 11, 2019, 6:00-10:30 PM

Dinner Buffet

Monday-Thursday **438+** Friday-Sunday **488+**
MOP Per adult MOP Per adult

Extra MuSang King durian at MOP258+ per kg

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

HOWARD FENDRICH,
WIMBLEDON

TENNIS

Serena Williams to face Simona Halep in Wimbledon final

SERENA Williams made it look easy in the Wimbledon semifinals. What she really cares about, of course, is what comes next.

That's why she puts in all the work. Why she keeps at it with everything she's already won, everything she's already accomplished.

Williams is once again on the verge of an eighth Wimbledon championship and 24th Grand Slam title, moving into the final at the All England Club with a 6-1, 6-2 victory over an over-matched Barbora Strycova of the Czech Republic yesterday.

Tomorrow, Williams will take on No. 7-seeded Simona Halep of Romania, a 6-1, 6-3 winner over No. 8 Elina Svitolina of Ukraine under a cloudy sky at Centre Court.

It'll be the 11th final at the All England Club for Williams and the first for Halep, whose only major trophy came at the French Open last year.

"I look forward to it," Williams said.

Why wouldn't she? She owns a 9-1 career record against Halep, including a victory in the Australian Open's fourth round in January.

Still, the 37-year-old Ameri-

can also knows that she's been this close to No. 24 before: In 2018, her first season back on tour after the birth of her daughter, Olympia, Williams reached the finals at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open but lost each time.

That has left her Grand Slam total at 23, a record for the professional era and one fewer than Margaret Court accumulated while playing part of her career against amateur competition.

"I have a great job and I love what I do," Williams said, "and I'm still pretty good at what I do, I guess."

Sure, Serena. Just pretty good.

It's been an up-and-down year because of illness and injury, limiting Williams to 12 matches until last week. After a third-round loss at Roland Garros on June 1, she stayed in France for medical treatment and finally felt pain-free while preparing for Wimbledon in England.

"It's definitely a lot better," Williams said. "Every match, I know that I'm improving."

After a three-set struggle against Alison Riske in the quarterfinals Tuesday, Williams was at her dominant best against Strycova, who appeared limited by some sort of issue with her right leg. As it is, the 33-year-old Strycova was the oldest first-time Grand Slam semifinalist in the professional era.

Williams played cleanly, accumulating nearly twice as many winners as unforced errors, 28-10. She was at her usual court-covering best, which helped limit Strycova to 10 winners. And Williams played calmly.

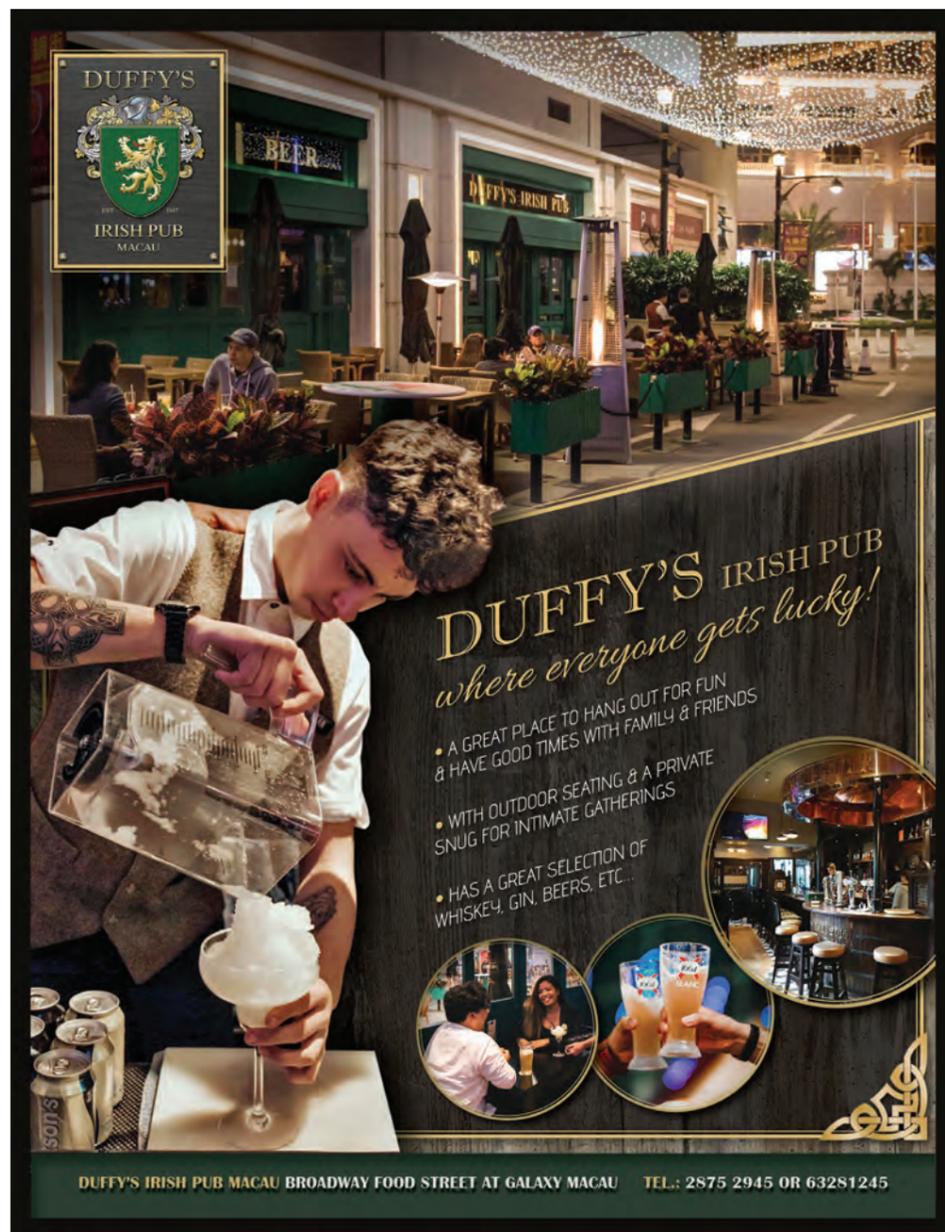
The semifinal's turning point came quickly. Ahead 2-1 in the first set while Strycova served at 30-all, Williams sailed a backhand return way long and let out a cry of "Aaah!"

Maybe that got her going, because she simply took over. **AP**



AP PHOTO

AD



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OPINION

Bizcuits

Leanda Lee



FOREIGN, DARK-SKINNED, FEMALE AND THOROUGHLY EXPLOITABLE

Even though the draft bill to set a statutory minimum wage of MOP32 per hour has been accepted this week in the Legislative Assembly, it continues to divide opinion. Topping the list of controversies are the exclusion of domestic helpers and the disabled. Although some legislators propose to extend the law to the disabled by applying government subsidies to employers, with the exception of Mak Soi Kun fewer are as keen to include foreign domestic helpers under the protection of the law. Although both groups risk exploitation and need community support, being seen to side with a disadvantaged local group is far less politically damaging than being seen to support a relatively larger bunch of low-status foreigners.

An explanation given by the Labour Affairs Bureau for the exclusion of domestic helpers from such protection, because their work does not contribute to profit-making business, makes clear that Macau places economic outcomes and parochial matters way ahead of any other sets of values – be they humanitarian, inclusive, moral, or ethical.

Even this explanation, however, is nonsense. If domestic helpers are to be excluded due to their non-contribution to business profits then why do we protect the wages of nurses, or teachers, or even government officials? Domestic helpers release their employers from the crucial but time-consuming work of maintaining a home and caring for the aged, the infirm, or the next generation of Macau's citizens (our children) so that their employers are free to go out and earn an income, or raise profits, or contribute to the community in other, even non-economic, valuable ways.

No, this is plain informal (cultural) and formal (institutionalized) discrimination of the worst kind: exploitation of the foreign, dark-skinned and female. The legislation says these workers are worth little more than nothing. They can be relegated to a parallel world as a sub-class in our society – virtually slave labour. Our protections, our considerations, and our values do not apply to them.

Macau has hardly increased the minimum acceptable contractual rate for domestic helpers in over 15 years! It was once mentioned in pro-forma contracts put out by the Labour Affairs Bureau as MOP2,500 per month; recently a scholar mooted the rate was MOP4,000; and we now find the rate local employers are instructed to pay will change from MOP2,800 to MOP3,000. It's a moving famine. In addition, the MOP500 living allowance needs a thorough reality check, given the requirements for housing provisions set out in the Chief Executive's Dispatch No. 88/2010 and the increase in rental properties since.

Ip Sio Kai and Song Pek Kei's concerns for inflationary pressures and "negative effects to others", such as "bankruptcy of small and medium-sized businesses" have not played out since the introduction of the minimum wage bill in the property management sector came into force in 2016, and unlikely to do so given the experience of other jurisdictions (economic theory makes no clear predictions) and the small percentage of the workforce (26,600 workers, 6.9% of the employed population) that this new legislation covers. Indeed, it is fair and just to markedly improve the lives of the few who are at the bottom rungs of society.

The wealthier average earner with a monthly median income of MOP17,000 sits in stark contrast to the newly drafted statutory minimum wage of MOP6,656 and the paltry instruction to pay MOP3,000 to a domestic helper. Considering that productivity (the thing behind those profits) measured in GDP per capita is second only to Luxembourg at USD86,355 (MOP695,106 – one-hundred times Macau's minimum wage), it is hard to argue that our economy will suffer from the inclusion of all workers under the minimum wage provisions.

Macau has arrived economically. Macau has grown up and grown wealthy. It is now time to progress and even things out a bit.

North Korea slammed South Korea over its ongoing deployment of high-tech U.S. fighter jets, warning yesterday that it will respond by developing and testing unspecified special weapons of its own to "destroy" the aircraft.

The statement, which also urged South Korea to abandon its "preposterous illusions" for improved ties, comes as Seoul has expressed



hopes that a recent summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will help revive dialogue between the Koreas.

Under its biggest-ever weapons purchase, South Korea is to buy 40 F-35 fighter jets from Lockheed Martin by 2021. The first two arrived in March and two others are to be delivered in coming weeks, according to Seoul officials.

AMAL CLOONEY FAULTS 'COLLECTIVE SHRUG' OVER SLAIN JOURNALIST

AP PHOTO



JILL LAWLESS, LONDON

HUMAN rights lawyer Amal Clooney accused world leaders of failing to protect journalists and responding with "a collective shrug" over the slaying of Saudi writer Jamal Khashoggi.

Clooney, the British government's envoy on media freedom, said at a conference on press freedom that "journalists are under attack like never before," not just while covering wars but for exposing crime and corruption.

"The vast majority of these murders go unpunished,"

she said yesterday [Macau time], adding that "world leaders responded with little more than a collective shrug" to Khashoggi's killing by agents close to the Saudi crown prince.

The Washington Post columnist was killed inside Saudi Arabia's Consulate in Istanbul last year.

According to the United Nations cultural body UNESCO, 99 media workers were killed worldwide in 2018.

The London conference where Clooney spoke was called by U.K. Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt and Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland with the aim of improving protection for journalists around the world.

The gathering announced

the founding of a global fund to provide training, legal support and other resources for journalists in danger zones, administered by the U.N. cultural body. It's unclear how much money the fund will have; Britain committed 3 million pounds (\$3.8 million) and Canada 1 million Canadian dollars (\$760,000).

Politicians, officials, activists and journalists from more than 100 countries

participants but said delegations were expected from nations with dire press freedom records, such as Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

Britain's Hunt told the attendees that "media freedom is not a Western value but a universal value."

"The strongest safeguard against the dark side of power is accountability and scrutiny," he said.

Hunt said countries that silenced journalists and freedom of the press must be made to pay a "diplomatic price." He and singled out China, which routinely censors the internet, as an example of a country where "the situation continues to deteriorate."

Hunt also criticized Donald Trump's verbal attacks on journalists, whom the U.S. president has branded enemies of the people.

"I wouldn't use the language President Trump used, and I wouldn't agree with it," he said. "We have to remember that what we say can have an impact in other countries where they can't take press freedom for granted."

Clooney also took aim at Trump, saying "the country of James Madison" — one of America's founding fathers and a champion of a free press — "has a leader today who vilifies the media." AP

"The vast majority of these murders go unpunished."

AMAL CLOONEY

attended the two-day meeting, but two Russian news outlets were banned.

The British government said Russian news agency Sputnik and state-owned TV network RT were excluded because of their alleged "active role in spreading disinformation."

RT was censured last year by Britain's broadcast regulator for breaking U.K. impartiality rules in its coverage of the poisoning of a Russian ex-spy in England.

RT, formerly known as Russia Today, said "it takes a particular brand of hypocrisy to advocate for freedom of press while banning inconvenient voices and slandering alternative media."

Organizers did not release a full list of conference



Sri Lanka's government yesterday defeated a no-confidence motion in Parliament that accused it of failing to prevent Easter Sunday bomb attacks that killed more than 250 people. The motion against PM Ranil Wickremesinghe was defeated by a vote of 119 lawmakers against to 92 in favor.



Pakistan A radical cleric from Pakistan who traveled to neighboring Afghanistan to battle international forces after the 2001 U.S.-led invasion died yesterday at the age of 94. Family members say Maulana Sufi Mohammad [pictured] died in the Pakistani city of Peshawar, where a funeral will be held later in the day.



US A nationwide immigration enforcement operation targeting people who are in the United States illegally is expected to begin this weekend after it was postponed last month by President Donald Trump, according to two administration officials and immigrant activists.

Persian Gulf The British navy said it stopped three Iranian paramilitary vessels from disrupting the passage of a British oil tanker through the Strait of Hormuz in a brief but tense standoff stemming from the U.K.'s role in seizing an Iranian supertanker a week earlier. More on p15



UK Boris Johnson, the man likely to become U.K. prime minister yesterday denied playing any role in the departure of Britain's ambassador to Washington, who quit after coming under attack from Trump. Politicians from both government and opposition parties accused Johnson of spinelessness for failing to defend envoy Kim Darroch.