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CIVIL PROTECTION DEVELOPS APP TO 'KEEP THE POPULATION INFORMED' AHEAD OF THE START OF TYPHOON PEAK SEASON

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NEW YORK, NEW YORK! SANDS LANDS HEAVY SUPPORT FOR NYC'S CASINO BID

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JOBSEEKERS ATTENDED THE RECRUITMENT FAIR OF INTEGRATED RESORT PROJECT LISBOETA, WHICH IS OFFERING 1,500 VACANCIES

P7

Hong Kong activist Joshua Wong said that Google Inc. warned him about government-backed hacking attempts as the former British colony's historic protests continue to draw global attention - and China's ire. More on p10

AP PHOTO



North Korea yesterday suggested it might call off its 20-month suspension of nuclear and missile tests because of summertime U.S.-South Korean military drills that the North calls preparation for an eventual invasion. The statement by the North's Foreign Ministry comes during a general deadlock in nuclear talks.

AP PHOTO



Philippines Activists welcomed a new law signed by the president that prohibits a range of acts of sexual harassment, but said it puts him in its crosshairs given his history of crude sexual remarks. Philippine officials on Monday belatedly released a copy of Republic Act 11313, known as the "Safe Spaces Act," that President Duterte signed in April. More on p12

AP PHOTO



Pakistan Journalists held nationwide protests to denounce rampant censorship by the country's powerful security services, massive layoffs due to budget cuts and months-long delays in payments of their wages.

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REINVENTING THE WHEEL

CASINO HOPEFULS PRAY FOR POST-2022 OPPORTUNITY P4



COMING BACK KICKING

WUSHU TOURNAMENT TO RETURN WITH KICKBOXING SECTION

P7

58 ILLEGAL WORKERS FOUND IN JUNE

The Public Security Police (PSP) has identified 58 illegal workers in June, according to a statement released by PSP and the Labour Affairs Bureau. The two bureaus inspected over 459 locations, including construction sites, private and commercial buildings, and industry facilities. In total, 426 illegal workers have been found in the first half of 2019.

LAWMAKER WORRIED ABOUT ABANDONED PETS

Lawmaker Pereira Coutinho has written an inquiry to the local government regarding the adoption of abandoned pets. In his inquiry, Coutinho referenced the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM)'s procedures in handling pets delivered to the bureau by residents. He asked the government to explain what why some healthy animals handled by the IAM were not given to animal protection groups to prepare for adoption.

FOREX RESERVES EDGED UP 1.3% LAST MONTH

Macau's foreign exchange reserves amounted to 166.4 billion patacas (USD20.68 billion) at the end of June 2019, according to the latest update provided by the Monetary Authority of Macao. The reserves increased by 1.3% from the revised value of the previous month. Overall, the exchange rate of the pataca declined against the currencies of Macau's major trading partners on a monthly basis. The foreign exchange reserves at the end of June represented 10 times the currency in circulation.

BY-ELECTION COMMITTEE SWORN IN

STAFF REPORTER

THE Electoral Affairs Committee for the by-election of the Legislative Assembly (AL) was inaugurated at a swearing-in ceremony held at the Government Headquarters.

Chief Executive Chui Sai On and O Lam, head of Chui's office, administered the oaths.

Representatives from the administrative, legislative and judicial branches were present to witness the swearing-in, including Chief Prosecutor Ip Son Sang; lawmakers Vong Hin Fai, Wu Chou Kit, Chan Hong and Chan Chak Mo; and Secretaries Wong Sio Chak, Alexis Tam and Raimundo do Rosário.

The Electoral Affairs Committee consists of Judge Tong Hio Fong of the Court of Second Instance, Prosecutor Lai U Hou, President of the Municipal Affairs Bureau José Maria da Fonseca Tavares, Direc-



tor Kou Peng Kuan of the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau, Director Iong Kong Leong of the Financial Services Bureau and Victor Chan Chi Ping of the Government Information Bureau.

Tong, Kou and Chan are also members of the Chief Executive Election Electoral Affairs

Committee.

After the swearing-in ceremony, committee president Tong spoke to the press. He explained that the budget for candidates amounts to 0.004% of the average annual government budget over the last 10 years. "This is the largest amount each candidate can spend on their campaign, but it doesn't mean they

need to use up that amount," Tong emphasized.

The budget for each candidate's election campaign is set at about MOP3.55 million.

Tong noted that the committee's work, especially the work of himself, Kou and Chan, will progress alongside the CE Election Electoral Affairs Committee's work, even though the by-election is a sudden occurrence.

Tong explained that each association eligible for the indirect election should legally nominate 22 members to represent their association. These 22 members will vote in the election.

The committee was made necessary when the previous indirectly-elected lawmaker Ho Iat Seng resigned from his position to prepare his election campaign for Chief Executive.

Ho's resignation means a by-election must be held. The date for the by-election has been set as Nov. 24,

Court rules against stamp duty refund

THE Court of Final Appeal (TUF) has ruled against an appeal made by a claimant for a stamp duty refund relating to a real estate transaction nullified by agreement.

As explained by the verdict, in 2008, the claimant filed an ownership transfer document with the Financial Services Bureau (DSF). The transfer cost was

MOP300,000.

The land concerned was on a long-term lease and had not been used before the transaction. However, the transfer had not been approved by the government either.

At the time of the transaction, the claimant paid MOP9,450 as stamp duty. After valuation of the land, the DSF deemed that

the claimant should pay additional stamp duty of MOP125,000.

Because the land has not been used since then, both parties nullified the agreement. As such, the claimant requested the DSF waive the additional stamp duty. Both the DSF and the Secretary for Economy and Finance refused the request.

The claimant then filed an

appeal to the Court of Second Instance, which ruled in favor of the government, leading to the final appeal to Macau's top court.

In addition to ruling against the claimant, the Court of Final Appeal said that the parties should have gone through judicial procedures to nullify the transaction in the first place.

MEMORY LANE

MDT/Renato Marques



The first formal border crossing between Macau and China was built in 1573. After several modifications and repairs, it finally gave way to the new gate that was erected in 1870 and is still seen in its original location.

During the 1950s and 1960s, the Border Gate was also referred to as the Far Eastern Checkpoint Charlie, with a major border incident occurring in 1952.

Portuguese troops exchanged fire with Chinese border guards in an incident that caused more than 100 casualties.

This historical photo shows the Border Gate as it was in 1994, before the construction of the large immigration building.



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

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

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

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

OFFICE MANAGER Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR

Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

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RENATO MARQUES



Civil Protection develops app to 'keep the population informed'

RENATO MARQUES

THE Civil Protection Task Force yesterday presented a summary of the work done by its constituent departments and groups ahead of the start of Macau's so-called 'peak season' for typhoons.

The Chief of the Unitary Police Service (SPU) Ma Io Kun presented updates on several ongoing disaster-prevention works during yesterday's press conference.

Ma also unveiled two new mobile platforms launched with the aim of better disseminating information to the public. The apps started operating yesterday.

The new internet-based platforms are the "Macao CP Info" app available for iOS and Android systems as well as a WeChat channel

from the civil protection services where important information will be broadcast in future "in order to keep the citizens informed."

Ma said the platforms would broadcast information on typhoons and other events of importance to the public. They are available in the two official languages, Chinese and Portuguese, as well as in English.

In Ma's words, the platforms are the "first step in the creation of an intelligent and safe city."

Meanwhile, evaluating the works of civil protection, Ma said the response of the Civil Protection Action Center to the passage of last year's typhoon Mangkhut - as well as the several tests and drills developed this year - were considered satisfactory.

"The results were satisfactory, but we are still [improving]," said Ma,

adding that this April, the SPU also concluded the Plans of Civil Protection and Evacuation from low-lying areas during Storm Surge.

Regarding one civil protection drill, known as "Crystal Fish," the Commander noted that was the first time such an event has been open to the participation of the public, counting a total of 390 civilian participants.

The Commander also noted that the SPU has collaborated with the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau for the creation of a new textbook to be used in schools on the subject of "Education for Security."

FOUR TO SIX TYPHOONS, HALF WILL BE SEVERE

Questioned on the topic by the media, the acting director of the Macau Meteorological and

Geophysical Bureau, Tang Iu Man, reaffirmed estimates from the start of the year that four to six typhoons will likely come within 800 kilometers of Macau.

"We do not disregard the possibility of having some severe typhoons [this year]," said Tang, "but this would depend on a forecast only possible to do in two or three months' time."

"At this moment, I can only say that there might be a possibility of having two or three severe typhoons entering the South China sea. It is too early to know if they will affect Macau [or not]."

Tang also said that the way the bureau classifies intense rain will probably need to change in future.

"After a preliminary evaluation is our understanding and opinion that such system should be reclassified in a way that could reflect

the different degrees or levels of intense rainfall and its impact on society," Tang said. "The current system cannot respond to social needs. We are going to review it addressing its reclassification."

CASINO CLOSURE DEPENDS ON NEW LAW

Questioned on the possibility of enforcing rules to force the closure of casino operators during severe typhoons, SPU Commander Ma said that would depend on the exact provisions of the Civil Protection Law.

"We want to have this rule clearly established and that is why we need the Basic Law for Civil Protection to be approved, in order to attribute to the Chief Executive the competence to suspend gaming activities," he said.

Before then, Ma could only say, "we believe that the gaming concessionaires would have to take into account the safety of their staff members."

IAM PREVENTIVELY REMOVES 465 TREES

An official of the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) said that the bureau had trimmed over 6,000 trees and completely removed 465 others in anticipation of the peak typhoon season. The official said that the pruning and removal measures were taken to prevent falling vegetation from becoming a danger to the public.

The same official also said that IAM had acquired new equipment to face the increase in waste created by the passage of typhoons. Such equipment includes five trucks and 15 autonomous operation garbage collection boxes.

The respondent also said that the IAM is coordinating to build condominiums management companies to enforce a system in which all garbage collections bins would be kept indoors during typhoons. The garbage would only be taken outside after the typhoon signal eight was lowered.



ENVIRONMENT

DSPA in regular contact with police on reusable bottle initiative

STAFF REPORTER

THE Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA) has told the Times it will remain in regular communication with the Public Security Police Force (PSP) on the effectiveness of their joint reusable bottle distribution campaign.

In April, the DSPA announced that it would distribute reusable drinking

bottles for police officers for daily use.

According to the environment authority, until recently a total of more than 6,000 bottles have been distributed to the PSP.

The campaign is being conducted as a type of experiment, the DSPA said, serving as an example for other government departments on how to reduce the consumption of sin-

gle-use plastic.

Last week, the Times reported that some police officers have found the environmentally-friendly water bottles inconvenient and have chosen not to use them. They said that the bottles were too small and that water-refilling facilities were not sufficient in number, nor strategically located.

The officers also said that it was not convenient

for them to leave their posts to obtain water.

On this, the DSPA said that improvements to the facilities have been ongoing since last year. Negotiations were held with government departments such as the Financial Services Bureau, the Municipal Affairs Bureau and the Sports Bureau, to encourage them to provide adequate water-refilling facilities.

The DSPA also provided information on the installation and maintenance of the facilities, it told the Times.

Meanwhile, as the government often holds large-scale events, the bureau has encouraged its counterparts to reduce the use of disposable plastic bottles on such occasions, as well as during daily operations.

The DSPA explained that guidelines on the installation and maintenance of water dispensers were made public on its website. With regard to the water bill subsidy for the owners of water-refilling facilities, the bureau said it was not in a position to comment.

ANALYSIS

THE FRINGE PLAYERS KEEPING A CLOSE EYE AS 2022 EDGES CLOSER

DANIEL BEITLER

THE current gaming concessions are due to expire on June 2022, but little information has been disclosed by the government regarding how the process will be managed or whether the number of licenses will stay the same. Many will be watching closely for a chance to pry open the 300-billion-pataca (\$37.5 billion) market.

Some analysts have suggested a further liberalization that might see licenses extended to influential businessmen on the fringes of Macau gaming.

One such player is junket boss Alvin Chau, whose Suncity Group was in the news this month after a mainland Chinese media entity accused it of being involved in the running of online casinos and proxy betting services, both forbidden in the Macau SAR.

Both Chau and Suncity strongly denied the allegations, but said they would adopt Macau law for the group's overseas operations in a bid to prevent similar



accusations in future.

In May, Suncity executive Andrew Lo confirmed widely-held suspicions that the junket promoter was interested in bidding for a Macau casino concession.

However, those hopes may have been dashed by the recent media allegations levied by Economic Information Daily, an affiliate of Xinhua news agency.

In response, the city's casino regulator stressed that any violation

of the law by a junket promoter – even if such a violation takes place outside of Macau – could have implications for the suitability of the junket to operate in the SAR.

Pansy Ho, co-chairperson and executive director of MGM, said earlier this month that the basic structure of the gaming concessions should remain the same past 2022, with all six operators receiving a new license.

Speaking to Portuguese news

agency Lusa, Ho said that Macau should be careful not to let the question of the number of licenses overshadow discussion of the actual needs of the territory.

But businessman and former legislator Chen Meng Kam would probably disagree.

He said last year that he was thinking about bidding for his own casino license. He also said that more licenses should be made available and that “Ma-

cau people” should be allowed to compete for one.

Chan's Golden Dragon Group already runs satellite casino hotels under service agreements with SJM Holdings and Melco Resorts and Entertainment.

David Chow of Macau Legend Development, which also operates satellite casinos that rely on the gaming license of SJM, is another candidate. He said that the government should consider granting another two gaming concessions to benefit Macau's overall development.

International players may be interested in the opportunity too – providing that it does not interfere with their designs on Japan.

In 2017, Melco showed its willingness to give up control of a casino resort in Russia to improve its chances of winning a license in Japan. Earlier this year, he bought a 20% stake in James Packer's mostly Australian operator Crown Resorts, a former partner who completed his withdrawal from Macau in 2017.

Others interested in the opportunity include Jay Chun's Paradise Entertainment Group, which provides gaming management services to four local venues, and Genting Bhd, whose Chairman and CEO Lim Kok Thay said he is interested in pursuing both a Macau license and the opportunity in Japan.

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AP PHOTO



Former New York Gov. David Patterson

GAMING | US

Ex-governor to lead Sands' push for casino in New York City

DAVID KLEPPER, ALBANY

FORMER New York Gov. David Paterson is joining Las Vegas Sands to lead the casino and resort developer's push for a casino in New York City.

Voters have already authorized up to three casinos for the nation's largest city, but under state law they can't be approved until 2023 at the earliest.

Paterson, who is joining Sands as a senior vice president, said that there's no reason to wait, and lawmakers should lift the moratorium next year.

"Is it going to happen in 2023 or 2020? Why not start three years earlier?" he said. "This is really a tremendous opportunity to create jobs in New York."

Competition for the lucrative New York City market will be fier-

ce. MGM and Genting Group, which operate existing slot casinos in Yonkers and Queens, respectively, have already proposed turning their facilities into full casinos.

Voters approved up to seven casino licenses in 2013 — four for upstate, the part of New York outside the New York City area, and three for downstate, consisting of the city and its suburbs, including Long Island. Lawmakers agreed to delay the three downstate licenses to give a head start to the upstate facilities, all now open.

In addition to taxes, downstate casino operators will pay a license fee estimated at \$500 million per casino. If allowed to enter the market before 2023, casinos in the city would also have to pay an early entry fee to the upstate casinos.

Paterson, a Democrat who ser-

ved as governor from 2008-2010, began consulting for Las Vegas-based Sands earlier this year.

"I really like the fact that they want to do it right," Paterson said of Sands.

Lawmakers adjourned their 2019 session last month without voting on proposals to speed up the process for licensing casinos in the city. Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who succeeded Paterson as governor, has so far shrugged off talk of allowing early bidding on the licenses.

He sounded a skeptical note again on Monday when asked expanding gambling options in New York.

"I'm not a great fan of the gaming industry, but it's here, it's real, states all around New York are doing it," Cuomo said. "Obviously more people lose in gambling than win, and if there's not

a significant economic benefit to the state, or a region of the state, then I would rather not do it."

MGM hopes to receive a license to convert its Empire City Casino from a slot facility and harness racing track to a full casino.

"Accelerating the conversion of Empire City to a fully licensed casino would immediately create new, well-paying jobs and billions in economic impact that could fund schools in Westchester and across the state," President and CEO Uri Clinton said in a statement Monday.

Genting did not immediately respond to messages seeking comment Monday.

Paterson said it's too early to talk about possible sites for facilities in the city but added that Queens is attractive because of the presence of Kennedy and LaGuardia airports. AP

MINOR INJURIES AFTER ROOF COLLAPSE AT CALIFORNIA CASINO

Eleven people suffered mostly minor injuries when a roof collapsed Monday at a Los Angeles area casino, raining debris into the lobby area, authorities said. The Los Angeles County Fire Department received multiple calls following the collapse around 10 a.m. at Larry Flynt's Lucky Lady Casino in Gardena. Aerial TV images showed rooftop equipment structures that had partially fallen through the roof. Ten people reported minor injuries such as bumps and bruises. One person was hospitalized in moderate condition because of a pre-existing condition. Seven people total were taken to hospitals, fire officials said. The casino was evacuated, and a search-and-rescue team combed the building with dogs. No other victims were found. The cause of the collapse is under investigation.

PENNSYLVANIA ROLLING OUT ONLINE GAMBLING

Pennsylvania is joining the short list of states where online casino-style gambling is available. Parx Casino in suburban Philadelphia and Penn National's Hollywood Casino near Hershey launched online gambling portals to patrons statewide as part of a three-day test watched by state regulators. Nevada, New Jersey and Delaware are the only other states where online casino gambling is legal. A 2017 Pennsylvania law authorized an aggressive expansion of gambling and allowed the state's casinos to operate a full slate of casino-style gambling on websites and mobile applications for a license fee of USD10 million. The two casinos aren't ready to roll out poker, however. American Gaming Association figures show Pennsylvania is already the nation's No. 2 state for commercial casino revenue, behind Nevada, at \$3.2 billion last year.

SPORTS, HORSE BETTING BILL FOR CHEROKEE APPROVED

North Carolina's only federally recognized American Indian tribe could soon offer sports and horse wagering to patrons at its two casinos. The General Assembly on Monday gave final approval to a measure that would give the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians the authority to offer the additional types of betting. The bill now goes to the governor's desk for review, before making a decision on whether to sign it into law. The sports-book option took shape after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a federal law that made most sports gambling illegal last year. State law already lets the Eastern Band offer live poker, slot machines and video-style games. Sneed said the tribe projects an additional USD14 million annually by offering sports and off-track horse betting, of which \$1 million annually would go to state coffers.

Three casinos reportedly testing facial recognition system

JULIE ZHU

THREE casinos are reportedly testing facial recognition systems inside their premises, the director of the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ), Paulo Martins Chan, revealed yesterday.

"Currently, two or three casinos are testing. During their operations, they have to strictly obey the personal data protection law,"

said Chan, who stressed that such equipment must first be approved by the DICJ.

When questioned whether facial recognition will assist the government in enforcing the casino entry ban for employees in the gaming sector, Chan said the government needed more time to study the situation.

"I think it will take time for the parties involved to comprehend the personal

data protection law. If possible, at the preliminary stage, [the system] will be used in a small scale in few places. Then we will be able to see how the laws can oversee the use of the equipment."

Last month, a Bloomberg report revealed that some gaming operators in Macau had introduced artificial intelligence equipment to collect data through concealed closed-circuit television systems,

facial recognition technology, RFID-enabled chips, and specially-designed baccarat tables.

Responding to media enquiries, the DICJ said at the time that facial recognition systems will only be used for security purposes.

In addition to facial recognition equipment inside casinos, Chan also provided an update on the DICJ's response to illegal gambling websites.

According to Chan, be-

tween 2016 and 2018, the DICJ launched an investigation against more than 500 illegal gambling websites, of which more than 300 have been suspended.

The Judiciary Police is the responsible department for matters involving illegal gambling websites.

In addition to the above-mentioned matters, Chan said that the local government is studying the rules governing junket promotion activities.

He explained that the government wishes to propose stricter regulations on junket promoters in regard to, for instance, guarantees and capital.



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MARTIAL ARTS

Wushu tournament to return with kickboxing section

THE Wushu Masters Challenge 2019 will be held from August 1 to 4, featuring a new competition called the Kickboxing Championship of the Greater Bay Area.

In its fourth iteration this year, the event will present a Lion Dan-

ce Championship, Dragon Dance Championship and Wushu Summer Festival amongst others.

The Lion Dance Championship will feature participants from China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam amongst others, as well as athletes from the Dragon Dance Championship.

The Wushu Summer Festival will be held at Tap Seac Square and at Iao Hon Garden, and will feature a series of activities, as announced yesterday in a press conference.

The organizers, the Sports Bureau (ID) and the Wushu General Association of Macau said that the four-day event "not only includes

the essence of martial arts but also brings together cultural characteristics of various places."

President of ID Pun Weng Kun said that he hopes the different Wushu events, which bring together a number of local and foreign Wushu athletes, will allow the event to create exchanges and raise fur-

ther awareness of the history of martial arts.

"First launched in 2016, the Wushu tournament is becoming [more popular] in Macau among both tourists and local residents," said Pun.

With a budget of MOP18 million, the official highlighted that the performances and athletes will come from different regions.

"We've conducted a series of promotional campaigns recently and we have also approached Wushu masters from other places who are looking forward to the event," Pun told the press.

"Each year, we have [to] increase the number of participants. [...] For the competition and activities that will be featured, the scale is bigger. We're working with different [local] departments and associations to conduct different competitions," the official added.

Despite the absence of the Taolu (routine or exhibition) competition in this year's event, Pun is still expecting the event will be successful.

Commenting on the absence of the competition, the official said, "we're giving opportunities to other organizations to organize that tournament. We hope that this year's Wushu event [will] inspire different groups in Macau to organize more events and competitions."

The Kickboxing Championship of the Greater Bay Area will be held in August at Tap Seac Square with athletes from Macau, Hong Kong, Zhuhai, Shenzhen, Guangzhou and Jiangmen amongst other municipalities. **LV**

Lisboeta job fair looks to fill 1,500 vacancies for residents

JULIE ZHU

YESTERDAY, Macau Theme Park and Resort Limited (MTPR) held a recruitment fair for its upcoming integrated resort project, Lisboeta, offering 1,500 vacancies for 180 non-gaming positions.

The 1,500 job vacancies were available for Macau local residents. Staff members for frontline to management levels at multiple departments were recruited at the fair, including corporate marketing, front-of-office, housekeeping, and food and beverage.

Approximately 80 job-seekers, mostly local residents, were at the fair when it opened at 10 a.m.

Brian Tong, a local resident in his 40s, visited the fair seeking a managerial position in the food and



beverage department.

"I have worked in food departments in hotels for more than 20 years. This time, it is the opening of a hotel is interesting and challenging," said Tong, explaining his background and the reason he wanted a job at Lisboeta.

Tong hoped that the company would offer a salary corresponding to the market rate.

Local resident Ana Carmelita Flores submitted her application for the position of ambassador at the fair.

"I have experience working in a hotel. This is my second time looking

for a job," said Flores, who had resigned from her previous job to embrace motherhood.

Flores believes that Lisboeta will offer its employees a competitive salary.

Another local resident, surnamed Lau, returned to Macau from mainland China to develop his career. He expects a prosperous future for themed hotels.

Despite the fact that the fair was mainly aimed at local residents, it still welcomed many walk-ins from non-local residents, who were seen filling out application forms.

According to MTPR, the Lisboeta is expected to open in 2020. It will house three hotels: the Lisboeta Hotel, Maison L'Occitane and Casa de Aigo, offering 820 guestrooms in total.

HERITAGE

UNESCO CONCERNED ABOUT IMPACT OF LAND RECLAMATION

THE UNESCO World Heritage Committee has expressed concerns about the impact of Macau's land reclamation projects on world heritage sites, according to a report by TDM Radio Portuguese.

Earlier, the committee held a conference in Baku, Azerbaijan, during which it mentioned it was worried that land reclamation projects would have a negative impact on Macau as a historical city.

As a result, UNESCO now requires Macau to balance the benefits of the new urban zone plan and the protection of its historic center, which is a world heritage site. The potential impact of new development, including visual impact, should continue to comply with UNESCO guidelines. UNESCO further requested an evaluation of the impact.

The World Heritage Committee also discussed Macau's plan for the new urban zones A

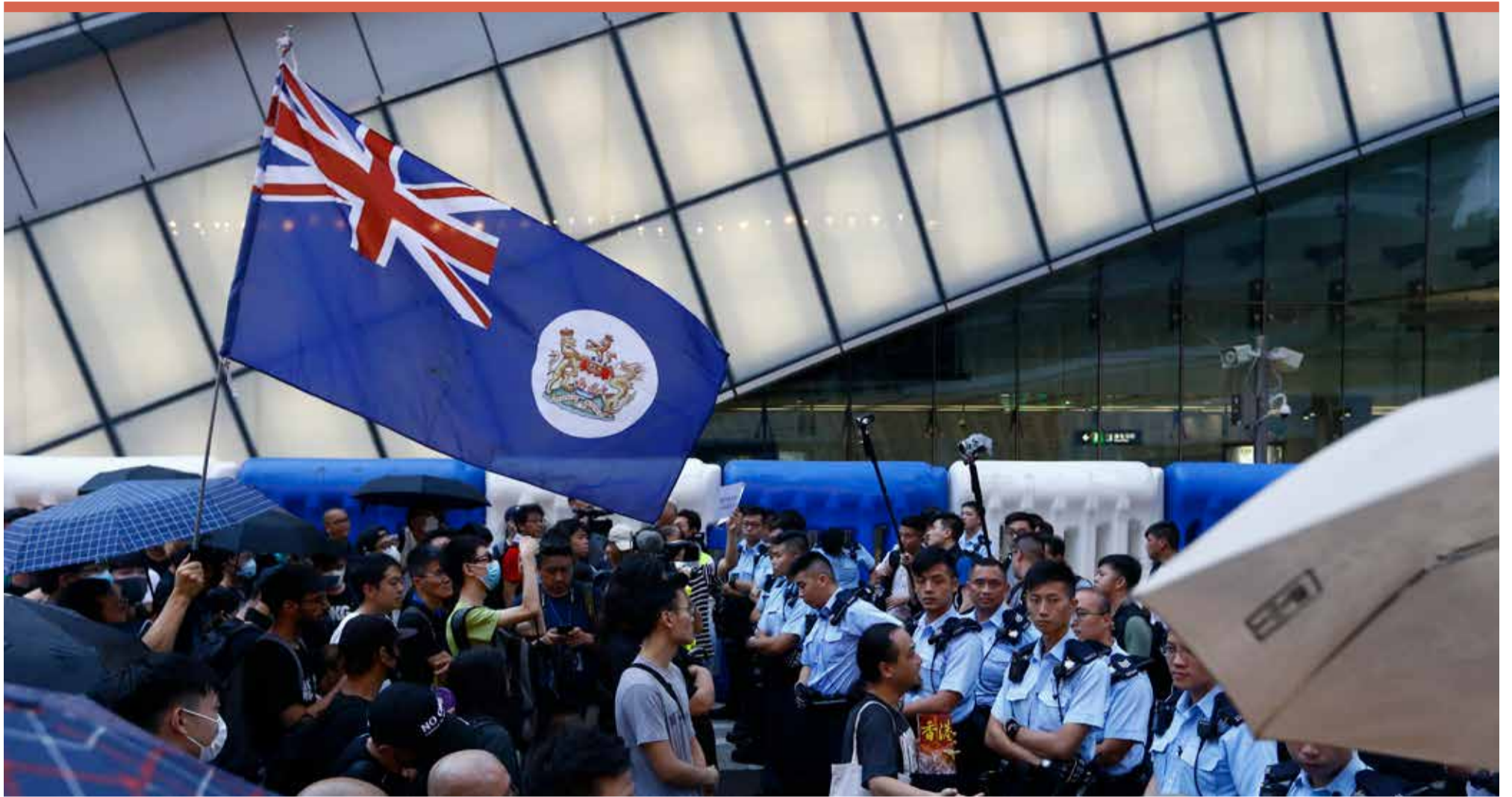
and B, adding that despite the new zones not being within the protected world heritage areas, their plans should still comply with UNESCO's principles and recommendations for the landscape of historic areas.

The committee also discussed the heights of the planned buildings and the universal values of Macau's historical district.

The local government has been preparing to submit two plans to UNESCO, both relating to the development of the new urban zone.

In 2017, UNESCO voiced its concerns about Macau's world heritage protections, in particular, regarding land reclamation.

UNESCO had already expressed its concerns over new urban zone B's plan in 2017. The committee was worried that the projects would damage the view from the east side of Penha Hill. **JZ**



Protesters holding a Hong Kong colonial flag stand off with police officers on July 7

HONG KONG

WHY CHINESE MEDIA REPORTS
FOCUS ON BRITAIN'S COLONIAL PASTQING CAO, DURHAM
UNIVERSITY

OVER recent weeks, mass protests against proposed changes to extradition law in Hong Kong have escalated into a major crisis. In the latest round of protests on July 14, tens of thousands took the streets.

In the West, the media has reported this as a struggle for basic rights and freedoms. In China, coverage has been limited as the protests are perceived to be negative. But in what restricted reporting that there has been, the perspective is very different from the West, and reflects deep-seated Chinese views about colonial interference in Hong Kong.

On July 3, the Chinese ambassador to the U.K., Liu Xiaoming, held a rare press conference on Hong Kong's protests. In reply to a reporter's question, he remarked that "for some in the U.K., Hong Kong is still a colony under the British rule [...] some politicians live in a colonial fantasy". The comment resonated strongly in the Chinese media which sees the British response to the protest as the latest episode of post-colonial meddling in Hong Kong's affairs.

The fact that protesters stormed Hong Kong's legislature on July 1, the anniversary of the handover of Hong Kong's sovereignty from

the U.K. to China, was crucial to the reaction. The violence on the day, and the British response, were intolerable to China, touching on a history China tries to forget – what's known as "a century of humiliation" that began in the 1839 Opium War.

For the Chinese media, Hong Kong's protests are viewed largely through this historical lens of colonialism. For many Chinese people, Hong Kong is associated with the Nanjing Treaty, the first in a series of unequal treaties imposed by Western powers on China which ceded Hong Kong to Britain in 1842. The memory of this is ingrained in the Chinese national psyche through pervasive historiography and school textbooks.

In limited Chinese reports on Hong Kong protests, the ambassador's response to the British government appears widely. Cankao Xiaoxi (Reference News) – China's largest paper by circulation – ran with the headline: "British politician indulging in bygone colonial fantasy." This colonial reference framed the current protests in the lens of historical injustice.

**HK'S HANDOVER:
THEN AND NOW**

The emotive language echoes the sentiments of Chinese media coverage back at the handover in 1997, something I've studied

in my own research. The headline in China's People Daily stated the handover was a "great event for the Chinese nation that will go down in the annals of history forever; the victory for the universal course of peace and justice."

If anything is different from 1997, it's the tone that has become more assertive in 2019. An editorial in the populist Huanqiu Shibao, or Global Times, said that the British foreign secretary, Jeremy Hunt, had made a "toothless threat against China", taunting that "nobody believes the U.K. will send its only aircraft carrier to China's coast [...] this is not the 19th century when the Opium War broke out".

The current reporting contrasts with the more defensive stance 22 years ago when the Chinese media highlighted the Chinese Communist Party's triumph in closing a chapter of colonialism by recovering Hong Kong's sovereignty. But back in 1997, the media also sought to assure the world of China's commitment to the "one country, two systems" model and that Hong Kong's prosperity and lifestyle would be protected.

The current assertiveness reflects China's growing confidence, and its ascent in power relative to the U.K. In 1997, China's GDP was

only 62% of the U.K.'s, but in 2018 it is almost five times the size of the U.K.'s.

**ACCUSATION OF
FOREIGN INTERFERENCE**

The Chinese media blames foreign interference for the escalation of Hong Kong's protests. The Chinese ambassador is reported to "have made strong representations to the British side" and to "have told them to stop interfering." China is particularly sen-

**Accusations of
interference go
hand-in-hand with
mentions of British
hypocrisy**

sitive to links between domestic unrest and foreign organizations, which are seen as a top security threat to its political stability.

Accusations of interference go hand-in-hand with mentions of British hypocrisy. China's Xinhua News Agency quoted the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman saying "there had been no elections nor right to protest under the British rule". Media reports highlighted how Hong Kong's institutions have evolved into an effec-

tive style of government through elections of the chief executive and legislative council. This is often contrasted with how Hong Kong governors were appointed in London under British rule.

Despite the diplomatic row, Anglo-Chinese relations are unlikely to suffer significantly. They have weathered stormy relations in the run up to the 1997 handover and survived subsequent difficulties. Enough political will exists on both sides to maintain productive relations.

Perceptions over Hong Kong will remain wildly different in China and the U.K. for the foreseeable future. The real test, however, is not the perceptions that dictate the daily media coverage, but the wisdom of political leaders to manage real differences in underlying values, assumptions, and institutions.

These differences will only become more apparent. This is because China's policy choices are increasingly being informed by its long tradition of centralized power and bureaucratic control. Solutions to these differences won't be found in words of war amplified by the media, but in a deeper understanding of them amid the rise of China as an alternative world power.

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PRIVATE AVIATION

Four Seasons releases new itineraries for \$163,000 jet trips

FOR some of the world's wealthiest, checking off their travel bucket list just got easier. In April, Four Seasons Hotels & Resorts announced it was in the process of converting a narrow-body Airbus A321LR aircraft to replace its current plane, which premiered in 2015 for lavish group excursions at USD150,000 or more per ticket. This new jet has room for 48 passengers, larger bathrooms, more social areas, and interactive workshops onboard.

Now the hotel giant has released its itineraries, set to take off in 2021.

Two are back by popular demand. The Timeless Encounters journey focuses on vibrant city centers and tranquil islands in nine

destinations, while the International Intrigue trip is a four-continent trek through cultural capitals, remote islands, and the African savannah.

Four Seasons has also designed two brand-new offerings, using feedback from past customers, says Javier Loureiro, director of guest experience at Four Seasons. Repeat jet guests made up 34% of the travelers in 2019.

"Having a private jet really gives you the flexibility to do a more global itinerary," says Loureiro. While guests have the means to do one continent on their own, he says a worldwide trip of this luxury caliber and all its attendant activities would be much more difficult and time-intensive to pull together by themselves.

For instance, one of the new offerings is the Remote Wonders trip, scheduled to take off on Dec. 31, 2020, and end on Jan. 20, 2021. This 21-day journey kicks off with a New Year's Eve party in Dubai before flying to Hoi An, Vietnam, where guests are treated to custom-designed outfits from the city's famed tailors.

Then it's off to Cambodia and Bangkok, followed by a sail through the Seychelles and a trek through the Virunga Mountains in Rwanda to observe gorillas in their national habitat. Guests end the trip with a torch-lit barbecue feast in Tanzania's Serengeti National Park before returning to Dubai.

The other new trip is a 24-day whirlwind from Oct. 5-28, 2021, called Ancient Explorer that star-

ts in Miami, includes a stop in Mexico City for a class by mezcal distillers, then proceeds to explore Easter Island by horseback. That's followed by snorkeling at the Great Barrier Reef and a visit to Koh Samui, Thailand, to learn the art of Muay Thai boxing from professional fighters. Then guests wander the ancient streets of Petra in Jordan to learn about the intricate carvings and rock-cut buildings.

The journey finishes with back-to-back stops at new Four Seasons properties in Greece and Spain, where explorers can check out the Parthenon in Athens or opt for a private flamenco class in Madrid.

"If they tried to do an itinerary like this on their own, it would probably take three months," Loureiro says.

Kate Corey, founder of luxury travel company 6 Degrees, agrees with that sentiment, saying the value of the Four Seasons trips stems from the ability to combine so many stops in a short time frame.

"It's for that top, top, high-end traveler who has the means and values their time over their money, almost," she says.

The ease of travel and lack of logistical work for customers is another huge part of the appeal, says Scott Mayerowitz, executive editorial director at travel website Points Guy. Many of the cities Four Seasons is connecting via private jet would otherwise require lengthy ground transfers.

"This is definitely geared more toward the seasoned traveler, where they are at the point in their lives that they want to check off some places they have never seen before but want to do it with minimal pain to their bodies," he adds.

Mayerowitz expects such private jet trips to become more popular in the coming years, especially as the Baby Boom generation retires. According to a study by Tiburon Strategic Advisors, this generation's wealth is expected to increase to \$40.7 trillion of investible assets by 2027.

Loureiro says Four Seasons plans to slowly increase the number of trips a year, from four to six and possibly, eight.

Competitors in the luxury jet travel space include Crystal Cruises, which offers a Boeing 777 that can be privately chartered for leisure travel and group events, as well as Abercrombie and Kent's private jet journeys, in which 50 guests travel on a chartered Boeing 757 with an executive chef and lie-flat seats.

Still, the length of the trip could be a limiting factor for some, who may not be able to take a month off work, says Michael Holtz, founder and CEO of SmartFlyer travel agency. He thinks the industry will see more week-long private jet trips as the number of these offerings increase.

And there's still that hefty price tag. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

CORPORATE BITS

Altira receives Green Key accolade



Altira Macau has been honored with the Green Key standard of excellence in environmental responsibility and sustainable operations, the gaming operator announced in a statement.

The Green Key ecolabel recognizes commitment from companies in the tourism industry that comply with the rigorous environmental management standards laid out by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE).

Lawrence Ho, chairman and CEO of Melco Resorts & Entertainment, said, "we are delighted that each of Melco's five hotel properties in Macau have been honored with the esteemed Green Key standard, recognizing the company's strategic commitment to making our entertainment and luxury hospitality."

"We will continue to advance the detailed, data-driven understanding of our impact, alongside our range of programs and targets," he added.

Vasco presents new summer cocktails



This summer, Vasco Bar and Lounge at Grand Lapa, Macau is launching a new series of summer cocktails and mocktails, including a summer combo promotion.

According to a statement issued by the hotel, the summer combo includes a canapés platter with two summer cocktail drinks.

As cited in the press release, the hotel is featuring a Salted Caramel Ginger Bread Iced Cappuccino; Cucumber Lemonade with cucumber juice, lemon, lime

and ginger ale, as well as Hi-Energy, a refreshing tropical passionfruit and grapefruit juice topped with Red Bull.

As part of its summer cocktail menu, Vasco has also crafted Fresco Fizz, a lemongrass cocktail consisting of sake; a martini with fresh cucumber, lime, lemon and homemade lemongrass syrup; Vasco Margarita; and Grand Lapa Colada, a sweet pineapple cocktail made with dark rum, cream of coconut, mango liqueur and Grand Lapa Private wine.



GOOGLE WARNS HONG KONG'S JOSHUA WONG OF GOVERNMENT-BACKED HACKERS

IAIN MARLOW & KAREN LEIGH

HONG Kong activist Joshua Wong said that Google Inc. warned him about government-backed hacking attempts as the former British colony's historic protests continue to draw global attention - and China's ire.

The student leader yesterday posted on Twitter a message he said he'd received from Google warning that hackers supported by unspecified authorities may have been trying to steal his Gmail

password and access his data.

"There's a chance this is a false alarm, but we believe we detected government-backed attackers trying to steal your password," the message read. "This happens to less than 0.1% of all Gmail users."

It's not unusual for Google to warn Gmail users about possible break-in attempts, which it says it's been doing since 2012 "out of an abundance of caution." The internet giant pulled its search service from mainland China in 2010, citing censorship as well as con-

cerns about potential state-backed hacks into Chinese activists' accounts.

Representatives for Google didn't immediately respond to requests for comment outside of normal U.S. hours.

Wong, a former student leader, co-founded the small pro-democracy Demosisto party and rose to prominence as the face of the 2014 Occupy movement that brought parts of Hong Kong to a standstill.

After serving a month in jail on

charges relating to his involvement with Occupy, Wong left prison last month and said he would join the current protests, which have seen hundreds of thousands of people march against proposed legislation that would allow extraditions to China.

He said the "chaos" surrounding the movement, including violent skirmishes between police and protesters, underscored how China - which backs Chief Executive Carrie Lam's government - was losing hearts and minds in the city.

He has since joined calls for Lam to resign and helped rally demonstrators, including at tense June 21 protests outside the city's police headquarters, where he demanded that police commissioner Stephen Lo come outside and negotiate.

He also joined July 7 marchers as they walked through Tsim Sha Tsui, an area popular with Chinese tourists, in an effort to reach mainland visitors who live behind China's Great Firewall and are largely blocked from reading news of the protests. **BLOOMBERG**

Mnuchin says trade call with Chinese officials likely this week

TREASURY Secretary Steven Mnuchin said he and U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer may travel to Beijing for trade negotiations if talks by phone this week are productive.

"We expect to have another principal-level call this week, and to the extent we make significant progress, I think there's a good chance we'll go there later," Mnuchin said yesterday [Macau time] at a briefing for reporters at the White House.

The planned phone call would be the second time the top trade negotiators

have spoken since U.S. President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping called a truce in their year-long trade war during the G-20 meeting at the end of June. The leaders agreed to restart talks for a trade deal - which had collapsed in May - but they gave no concrete time-frame to reach a deal.

"I believe you know that the two teams have been in contact," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told reporters in Beijing yesterday, declining to elaborate on when they might speak by phone or meet in person.

Earlier this week, Trump indicated the U.S. tariffs on China were having their intended impact by squeezing China's economy, tweeting, "The United States tariffs are having a major effect on companies wanting to leave China for non-tariffed countries. This is why China wants to make a deal."

Trump's comments came hours after China released figures showing growth in the world's second-largest economy slowed to 6.2% in the second quarter, the weakest pace since at least 1992 when the country began collecting the data.

Meanwhile, Trump last week complained that China wasn't following through on a promise that Xi made at the G-20 meeting to increase purchases of American farming products. China, for its part, has since said it's considering buying more U.S. soybeans, corn and pork as a cooperative gesture but that total volumes will depend on the progress of the trade talks.

During the last detente in December, China had committed to buying over 20 million tons of U.S. soy, pork and corn. After talks fell apart in May, China said it would continue with

the purchases, though it did ask for some shipments to be delayed.

The U.S. expects China to announce significant purchases of American agriculture products, Trump's top economic adviser Larry Kudlow told reporters on Monday, implying that the step is necessary for trade talks between two nations to advance. "We expect China to be announcing shortly some large scale purchases of farm goods and services," Kudlow said.

Despite the trade dispute, Trump said Xi is a friend of his. "I used to

say he's a good friend of mine, probably not quite as close now," Trump told reporters Monday at the White House. "But I have to be for our country. He's for China and I'm for the U.S.A., and that's the way it's gotta be."

Mnuchin also said he's "hopeful" that Congress will approve the USMCA, the successor to the North American Free Trade Agreement. Trump said on Monday that if Democrats block the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement he will resort to "Plan B," without elaborating. **BLOOMBERG**

Beijing asks for 'friendly consultation' in Malaysia dispute

CHINA'S government expressed hope yesterday that Malaysia's dispute with a state-owned Chinese company building two multi-billion-dollar gas pipeline projects can be resolved through "friendly consultation."

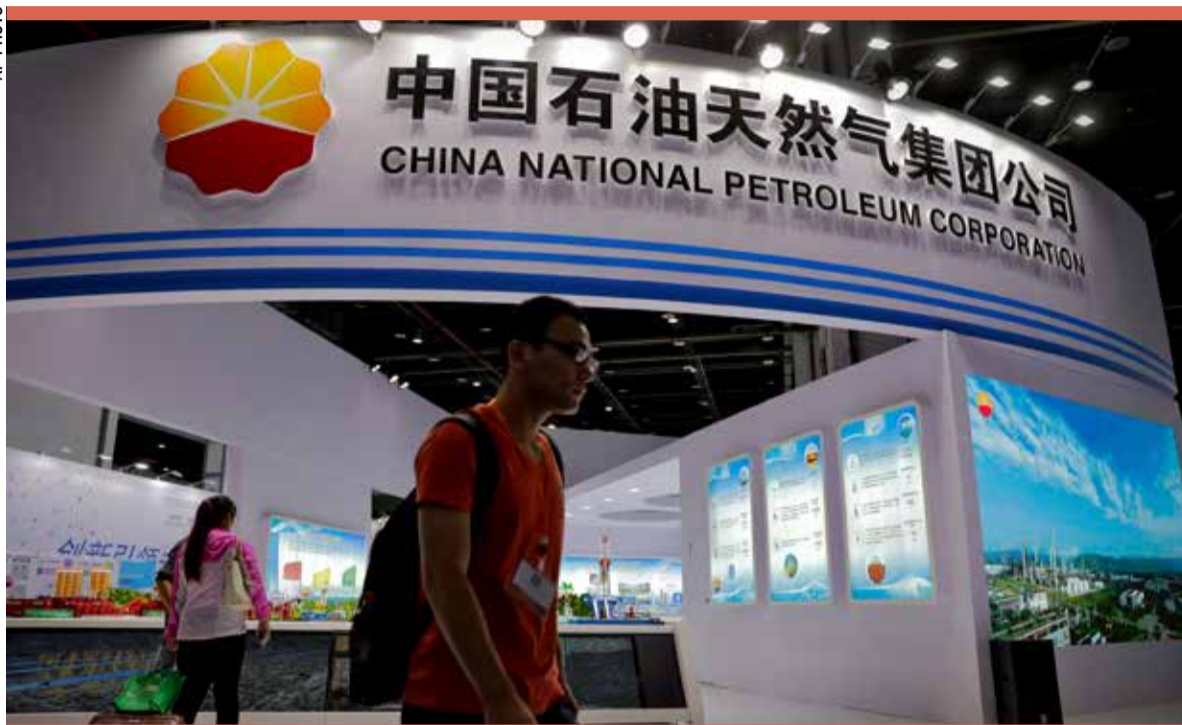
Foreign ministry spokesman, Geng Shuang, said the project being built by a subsidiary of state energy giant China National Petroleum Corp. was "carried out in accordance with the contract."

The comments came a day after Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad confirmed his government had seized over 1 billion ringgit (\$243) from the bank account of China Petroleum Pipeline Bureau as the oil and gas pipeline projects, worth \$2.3 billion, had been cancelled.

Mahathir said Malaysia was entitled to reclaim the money as over 80 percent of the cost had been paid out but only 13 percent of work completed.

"For problems arising in cooperation, the two sides should properly resolve them through friendly con-

AP PHOTO



sultation," Geng Shuang said.

He stressed the two countries enjoy a "long-term friendly cooperative relationship" and that Beijing is confident of working with Malaysia to further deepen economic and trade ties.

Phone calls to the headquarters of CPP and CNPC yesterday weren't answered. The companies didn't immediately reply to questions sent by fax to their offices.

Since taking power after a historic election victory last year,

Mahathir's government has axed or reviewed large-scale infrastructure projects after discovering national debts had surged, blaming it largely on corruption in former Prime Minister Najib Razak's government.

It suspended the two pipeline projects, one in peninsula Malaysia and another in Borneo island, and also a massive rail link connecting Malaysia's west coast to eastern rural states, all which were awarded by the previous government. The three China-backed projects are part of China's Belt and Road infrastructure initiative. In April, Malaysia revived the rail project after the Chinese contractor cut the construction cost by one-third to 44 billion ringgit (\$10.7 billion). Mahathir dismissed concerns that Malaysia's move will strain bilateral ties.

"They took from the government 80 percent of the contract price but they delivered only 13 percent so for the part they have not delivered, the government is claiming back the money," Mahathir said. "I don't see why the Chinese will feel unhappy about it because we are not taking back money for work they have done. We are taking back money for work they haven't done."

The government has said it is investigating whether any money in the Chinese-backed projects was used by Najib's government to repay debts of the IMDB state investment fund. A massive financial scandal at IMDB led to the defeat of Najib's long-ruling coalition in May 2018. He is on trial on multiple corruption charges linked to IMDB. **AP**

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PHILIPPINES

DUTERTE 'SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING' CUTTING TIES WITH ICELAND

JIM GOMEZ, MANILA

PHILIPPINE President Rodrigo Duterte is "seriously considering" cutting diplomatic ties with Iceland, which spearheaded a resolution that asked the U.N.'s top human rights body to look into the thousands of deaths of suspects under his anti-drug crackdown.

Presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo told reporters this week that the Iceland-initiated resolution,

which was adopted by the U.N. Human Rights Council in a vote last week in Geneva, showed "how the Western powers are scornful of our sovereign exercise of protecting our people from the scourge of prohibited drugs."

Duterte told Panelo that he "is seriously considering cutting diplomatic relations with Iceland," Panelo said, adding that the resolution was "grotesquely one-sided, outrageously narrow, and maliciously

partisan."

Human rights groups, however, have lauded the resolution as crucial to helping end the drug killings and bringing perpetrators to justice.

Duterte's threat is the latest show of his disdain for critics of the deadly campaign against illegal drugs that he launched as his centerpiece project after taking office in June 2016. He withdrew the Philippines from the International Criminal Court, a move that took effect in

March, after its prosecutor began examining complaints over the killings.

About 6,600 people, most of them accused of petty drug crimes, have been killed in the crackdown, based on police records. But non-government groups claim a much higher death toll, including many suspects killed by motorcycle-riding gunmen who human rights groups suspect were deployed and financed by police.

Duterte and the police have denied authorizing extrajudicial killings.

The volatile president, however, has repeatedly threatened drug suspects with death in televised speeches and encouraged law enforcers to shoot suspects who fight back. He has warned that the crackdown will be more dangerous for suspects in the final three years of his six-year term.

The U.N. Human Rights Council voted 18-14 with 15 abstentions Thursday to approve the Iceland-initiated resolution, which called on the Philippine government to take all steps to prevent extrajudicial killings and asked the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a comprehensive report on the Philippines.

The resolution called for Philippine government cooperation, "including by facilitating country visits and preventing and refraining from all acts of intimidation or retaliation."

Nicholas Bequelin of Amnesty International said the U.N. human rights body's vote "provides hope for thousands of bereaved families in the Philippines and countless more Filipinos bravely challenging the Duterte administration's murderous 'war on drugs.'"

Panelo has questioned the resolution's validity, saying only 18 nations in the 47-member U.N. body voted for it.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. on Thursday expressed "our solidarity with our true friends who have stood by us in this farce."

"But we will not tolerate any form of disrespect or acts of bad faith," he said. "There will be consequences, far-reaching ones." **AP**

AFGHANISTAN

Radio station closes down following Taliban threats

A local radio station in eastern Afghanistan was forced to shut down after repeated threats from the area's Taliban commander, the head of the station said yesterday.

Ramez Azimi, director of the Samaa station in the city of Ghazni, the capital of eastern Ghazni province, said he had received phone calls as well as written warning notes purportedly from the Taliban commander. The commander was not identified.

Azimi said Taliban insurgents, who control several districts in Ghazni province, threatened them because three of the station's 16 employees are women. The Taliban are against



women's rights to education and work.

Zabihullah Mujahid, a Taliban spokesman, denied the insurgents had

threatened Samaa.

The Taliban currently control nearly half of Afghanistan and are more powerful than at any time

since the October 2001 U.S.-led invasion.

On Saturday, a local radio journalist was killed in neighboring Paktia provin-

ce. The police said it was not immediately clear if the killing of Nader Shah, a newsreader for Radio Gardez, was linked to his work or a personal dispute.

The developments come despite stepped-up efforts by the United States to find a negotiated end to the country's nearly 18-year-long conflict, America's longest war.

Afghan talks that brought together the country's warring sides ended last week in Qatar's capital, Doha, with a statement that appeared to move closer to peace by laying down the outlines of a roadmap for the country's future.

According to Azimi, the Samaa station was closed four days ago. Azimi told

The Associated Press this is its third closure in the past four years. The station was forced to shut down twice in 2015, the first time for a month after which it reopened thanks to mediation by the elders, he said. Later that year it closed again, for nine months.

"At one point, four Taliban fighters came to our home in Ghazni city to threaten me and my brother, who is also working at the station," Azimi added.

Azimi's father, Zarif, a doctor who owns a medical clinic and a pharmacy in the city, says the threats are worrisome.

"I can't stay in Ghazni, I can't let the Taliban harm my sons or any of my family members," he said. **AP**

78 dead in Nepal as flooding wreaks havoc in South Asia

WASBIR HUSSAIN, GAUHATI

MONSOON flooding and landslides continued to cause havoc in South Asia yesterday, with the death toll rising to 78 in Nepal and authorities in neighboring northeastern India battling to provide relief to over 4 million people in Assam state, officials said.

Nepal's National Emergency Operation Center said more than 40,000 soldiers and police were using helicopters and roads to rush food, tents and medicine to thousands of people hit by the annual flooding. Rescuers also were searching for 32 missing people.

In Bangladesh, more than 100,000 people were affected by flooding in the north and forecasters warned that major rivers continued to swell across the country.

Rivers burst their banks in the northern district of Lalmonirhat, marooning villages, news



Indian flood-affected women row makeshift banana rafts to collect drinking water in Pabhokathi village in Assam

reports said, quoting local water board officials.

In the Indian state of Assam, officials said floodwaters have kil-

led at least 19 people and brought misery to some 4.5 million.

More than 85,000 people have taken shelter in 187 state govern-

ment-run camps in 30 of the state's 33 districts, the state disaster management authority said in a statement.

Atiqua Sultana, a district magistrate, said a flooded river washed away a 150-meter stretch of Assam's border road with Bangladesh, flooding 70 villages on the Indian side.

Around 80% of Assam's Kaziranga National Park, home to the endangered one-horn rhinoceros, has been flooded by the Brahmaputra river, which flows along the sanctuary, forest officer Jutika Borah said.

After causing flooding and landslides in Nepal, three rivers have been overflowing in India and submerging parts of eastern Bihar state, killing at least 24 people, said Pratata Amrit, a state government official.

More than 2.5 million people have been hit by the flooding in 12 of 38 districts of Bihar state, Amrit said.

In Bangladesh, at least a dozen people, mostly farmers, have been killed by lightning since Saturday as monsoon rains battered parts of the low-lying country.

Bangladesh, with 160 million people and more than 130 rivers, is prone to monsoon floods because of overflowing rivers and the heavy onrush of water from upstream India.

Monsoon rains hit the region in June-September. The rains are crucial for rain-fed crops planted during the season. AP

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FINTECH

Facebook's new currency plan is under scrutiny in Congress

MARCY GORDON,
WASHINGTON

FACEBOOK'S ambitious plan to create a financial eco-system based on a digital currency faces questions from lawmakers, as it's shadowed by negative comments from President Donald Trump, his treasury secretary and the head of the Federal Reserve.

Congress begins two days of hearings today [Macau time] on the currency planned by Facebook, to be called Libra, starting with the Senate Banking Committee. Meanwhile, a House Judiciary subcommittee will extend its bipartisan investigation of the market power of Facebook, Google, Amazon and Apple.

Trump tweeted last week that the new currency, Libra, "will have little standing or dependability." Both Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Fed Chair Jerome Powell have expressed serious concerns recently that Libra could be used for illicit activity.

The Treasury Department has "very serious concerns that Libra could be misused by money launderers and terrorist financiers," Mnuchin told reporters at the White House on Monday. "This is indeed a national security issue."

Facebook has "a lot of work to do before we get to the point where we're comfortable with it," Mnuchin said.

Already under intense scrutiny from regulators and Congress over privacy and market dominance, Facebook stirred anger on Capitol Hill last month with the unveiling of its plan to create a financial ecosystem based on a digital currency. Senate and House hearings went on the calendar, and the Democratic head of the House Financial Services Committee, which is holding tomorrow's hearing, called on Facebook to suspend the plan until Congress and regulators could review it.

Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., said that Facebook, with some 2 billion users around the world, "is continuing its unchecked expansion and extending its reach into the lives of its users." She called Libra "a new Swiss-based financial system" that potentially is too big to fail and could require a taxpayer bailout.

David Marcus, the Facebook executive leading the project, says in his testimony prepared for the hearing by the Senate Banking Committee that Libra "is about developing a safe, secure and low-cost way for people to move money



An outdoor Facebook sign at the company's headquarters in Menlo Park, California

efficiently around the world. We believe that Libra can make real progress toward building a more inclusive financial infrastructure."

Facebook agrees with Powell's view that the government's review of Libra must be "patient and thorough, rather than a sprint to implementation," Marcus' statement says. "The time between now and launch is designed to be an open process and subject to regulatory oversight and review. In fact, I expect that this will be the broadest, most extensive and most careful pre-launch oversight by regulators and central banks in FinTech's history. We know we need to take the time to get this right."

The planned digital currency is billed as a "stablecoin" backed by deposits in sovereign currencies such as the dollar, euro and Japa-

nese yen — unlike bitcoin, ether or other digital currencies. Promising low fees, it could open online commerce to millions of people around the world who lack access to bank accounts and make it cheaper to send money across borders. But it

Trump tweeted last week that the new currency, Libra, 'will have little standing or dependability'

also raises concerns over the privacy of users' data and the potential for criminals to use it for money laundering and fraud.

To address privacy concerns, Facebook created a nonprofit oversight association, with dozens of partners including PayPal, Uber,

Spotify, Visa and MasterCard, to govern Libra. As one among many in the association, Facebook says it won't have any special rights or privileges. It also created a "digital wallet" subsidiary, Calibra, to work on the technology, separately from its main social media business. While Facebook owns and controls Calibra, it won't see financial data from it, the company says.

Mnuchin's comments came a few days after Trump tweeted: "I am not a fan of Bitcoin and other Cryptocurrencies, which are not money, and whose value is highly volatile and based on thin air. Unregulated Crypto Assets can facilitate unlawful behavior, including drug trade and other illegal activity."

If they want to get into the financial business, Facebook and its

dozens of partner companies in the venture will have to accept the kind of tight regulation that banks are under, Trump said.

Powell, a powerful financial regulator who is independent of the Trump administration, told Congress last week that Facebook's plan "raises a lot of serious concerns, and those would include around privacy, money laundering, consumer protection, financial stability. Those are going to need to be thoroughly and publicly assessed and evaluated before this proceeds."

Facebook's challenges in Washington go beyond Libra. Later today, at a Judiciary subcommittee hearing, Facebook will be among four big tech companies — along with Google, Amazon and Apple — testifying about their impact on the innovation and entrepreneurship of smaller companies. It's the latest chapter in lawmakers' examination of the industry.

"What happens in tech is that one big company grows to control a lot of stuff, and if it's allowed to stay there for too long, it slows down the sector," Timothy Wu, a professor of law, science and technology at Columbia Law School, has said. "Companies like Google and Facebook have come to hold too much power. There's a growing sense that they have too much control over information, news, advertising, even who we are and what's going on."

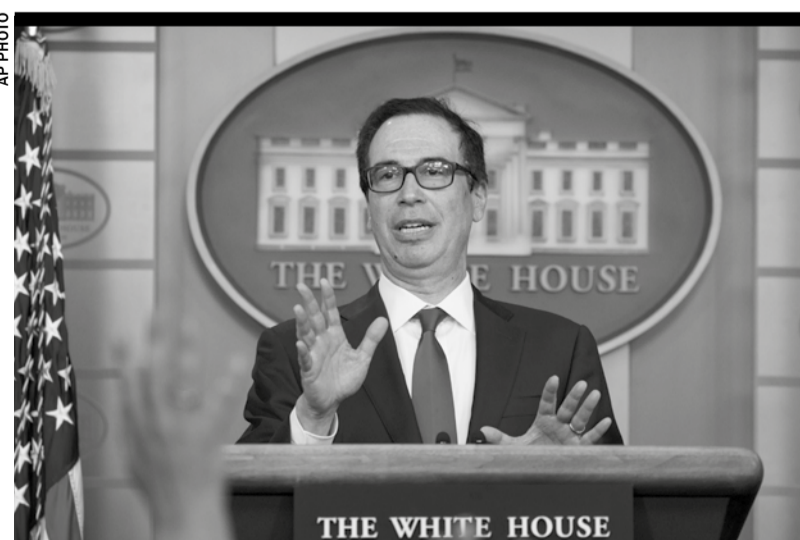
Wu is among the expert witnesses scheduled to appear before the antitrust panel, which also will hear from executives from the four tech companies.

Earlier, it was Google that was on the receiving end of Trump tweet.

Over the weekend, billionaire investor Peter Thiel said the FBI and the CIA should open an investigation to determine if Google had been infiltrated by Chinese intelligence, according to Axios.

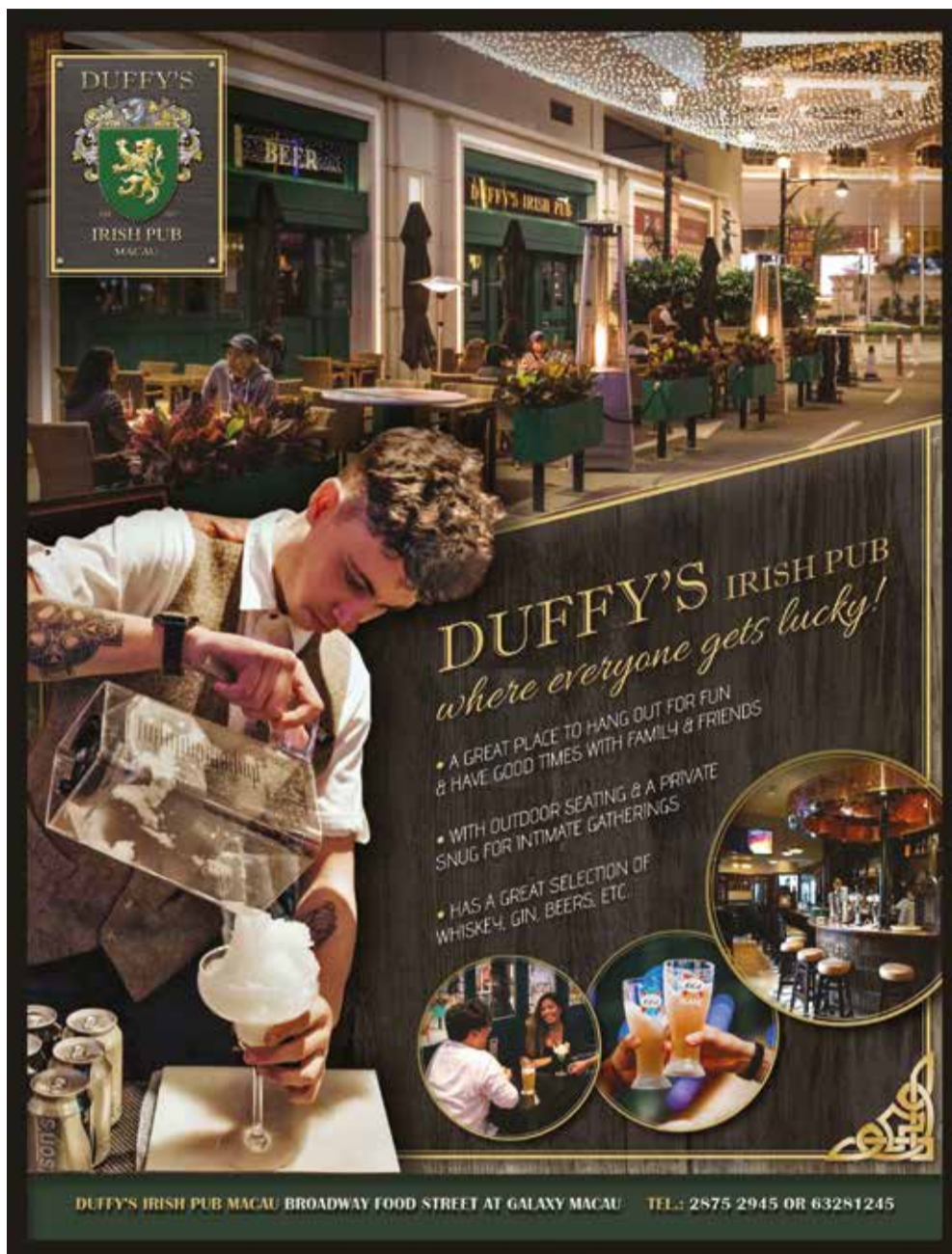
According to the Axios story, Thiel said Google was "engaged in the seemingly treasonous decision to work with the Chinese military and not with the US military."

Before 5 a.m. Eastern, Trump tweeted about Thiel, "A great and brilliant guy who knows this subject better than anyone! The Trump Administration will take a look!" AP



Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin (left) and Fed Chair Jerome Powell have expressed serious concerns recently that Libra could be used for illicit activity

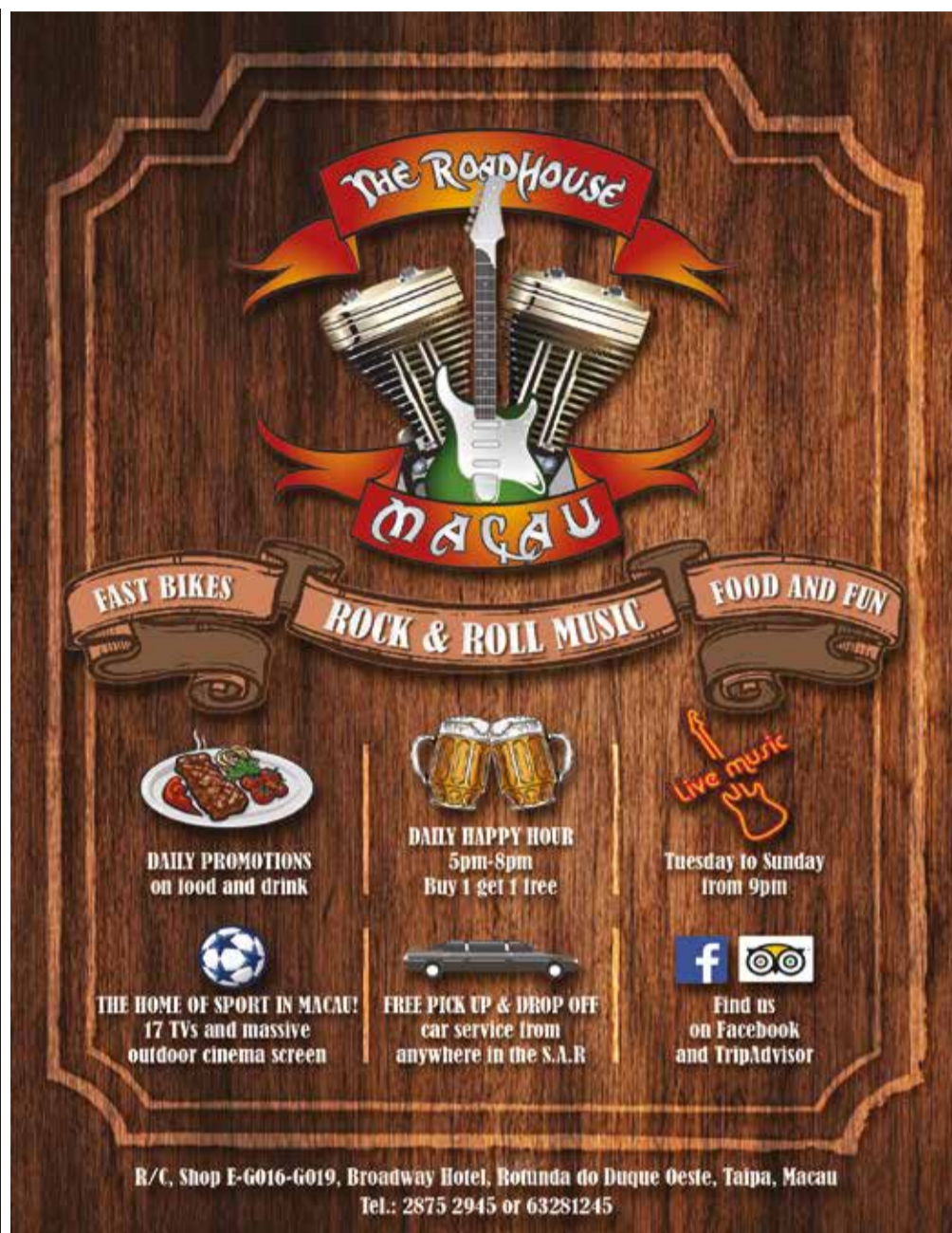
MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



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what's ON



MGM PRESENTS: HUA YUAN EXHIBITION

TIME: 24 hours

UNTIL: September 3, 2019

VENUE: MGM Cotai

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8802 3333

STAMPS AROUND THE WORLD - LIECHTENSTEIN, KINGDOM OF STAMPS

TIME: 9am-5:30pm (Closed on public holidays)

UNTIL: August 31, 2019

VENUE: Temporary Gallery, Communications Museum

ADMISSION: MOP10

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2871 8063

ONENESS: CALLIGRAPHY BY PROFESSOR JAO TSUNG-I

TIME: 10am-6pm (No admission after 5:30pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: September 30, 2019

VENUE: Jao Tsung-I Academy

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRY: (853) 8598 6718

THE GOLDEN AGE OF ARABIC SCIENCE: EXHIBITION FROM 1001 INVENTIONS

TIME: 10am-6pm (Closed on Thursdays)

UNTIL: October 27, 2019

VENUE: Gallery 2, Exhibition Center, Macau Science Center

ADMISSION: MOP25 (several discounts available)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

MASTERPIECES FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF CHINA

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

UNTIL: July 28, 2019

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

Offbeat

WELSH STREET NAMED STEEPEST IN WORLD; NEW ZEALAND LOSES OUT



Gwyn Headley and Sarah Badhan, stand on Ffordd Pen Llech with a certificate from Guinness World Records

A street in Wales has been designated the steepest in the world after a successful campaign by residents.

The title comes at the expense of a street in New Zealand, which has apparently been eclipsed in the steepness sweepstakes.

Guinness World Records said yesterday that the street of Ffordd Pen Llech in the seafront town of Harlech, 395 kilometers northwest of London, has a gradient of 37.45%, two percentage points steeper than the former title holder in Dunedin on New Zealand's South Island.

The Welsh campaign was led by businessman and architectural historian Gwyn Headley. He says he feels "jubilation" now that the street has been recognized.

He says he feels sorry for New Zealand, but that "steeper is steeper."

TV canal macau



13:00 TDM News (Repetição)

13:30 Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)

15:00 Agua de Mar

15:45 Zig Zag

16:20 Sim Chef! Sr1

16:45 Quem Quer Ser Milionário

17:45 Amor Maior (Repetição)

18:15 TDM Sports (Repetição)

19:35 Os Nossos Dias Sr.2

20:30 Telejornal

21:15 TDM Entrevista

21:50 Filhos da Nação Sr.3

22:25 Amor Maior

23:15 TDM News

23:50 Motel Bates Sr.2

00:35 Telejornal (Repetição)

01:20 RTPi Directo

cinema



CINETEATRO

16 - 17 Jul



TOY STORY 4

ROOM 1

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

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 WHITE STORM 2 DRUG LORDS

ROOM 3

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

Director: Herman Yau

Starring: Andy Lau, Louis Koo, Michael Miu

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 86min

this day in history



1987 Ex-GUINNESS BOSS OWES MILLIONS

Former Guinness director Thomas Ward has been ordered to repay £5.2m to the brewing giants.

The High Court heard Mr Ward had acted illegally by failing to disclose a transfer of funds to Guinness's directors during the £2.5bn takeover of drinks company Distillers Group last year.

In his judgement Vice Chancellor Sir Nicholas Browne-Wilkinson said: "Mr Ward has been and is wrongfully in possession of Guinness's money."

He received the cash in what the judge called a "secret agreement" with former Guinness chairman Ernest Saunders.

Thomas Ward, an American lawyer, was a key member of the so-called Guinness War Cabinet that masterminded the lucrative deal.

Mr Ward's lawyers - based in London - said he would appeal against the ruling arguing he received the money legitimately for his "valuable services".

In a 25-page document Sir Nicholas explained Ward's counter claim for payment did not impinge on Guinness's right to recover the £5.2m.

The judge also called for an inquiry into where the money had gone after it was paid through a Jersey company, Marketing and Acquisition Consultants, to Mr Ward. Records show Mr Ward has paid \$4.7m (£2.9m) in US federal and state taxes.

He claims only £1.2m remains unspent in a London bank account. This is to be repaid by Wednesday next week, along with a \$300,000 investment.

He owes a further £500,000 in interest and has also been ordered to pay Guinness's legal fees.

The ruling puts the drinks' giants one step closer to recovering £25m of missing funds uncovered by auditors last November.

After the hearing Mr Ward's solicitors revealed their client is already involved in legal battles with Guinness in the US.

The company is suing Mr Ward over a £750,000 flat in the Watergate complex in Washington, whilst he is claiming unpaid fees from Guinness for his legal practice Ward Lazarus.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

On 23 July the judge rejected an application by Thomas Ward to keep the £5.2m until the appeal had been heard. The appeal was set for 10 August 1987. In August 1990 Ernest Saunders and three others were jailed for insider dealing over the Distillers Group takeover. Thomas Ward's case was not settled until February 1993 when the High Court cleared Mr Ward of stealing the money. At the time the Guinness trials was the most expensive ever legal battle in the British courts, costing over £20m in total.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
You have been adding more new projects and goals than your schedule can realistically contain, so you might find yourself scrambling today. Concentrate on finishing some current projects.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
Even though having a routine in your life might get boring from time to time, you will find a great deal of comfort in knowing what's going on in your daily life for the next few days.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
Keeping life easy and breezy will be a cinch today, especially if you are surrounded by friends who understand how to have a good time. Keep it simple, and keep it low-maintenance - and you'll keep smiling!

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Your insight is needed to help a friend untangle a confusing situation. You don't know all the facts yet - but when you do, you'll immediately know how to proceed.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Just like peanut butter and jelly or Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire, you and your best friend make an excellent combination right now! The two of you create a wonderful energy.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
This tension could cause you to lash out at people who try to push your buttons. It may serve them right, but if you add to the animosity, you aren't really doing yourself any favors.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
If you were a superhero, what would your superpower be? Would you like to fly? Be invisible? How about always being able to find a good parking spot? Give this question some serious thought today.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
With great power comes great responsibility - and you will have to deal with that fact today when your position in a group requires that you make one heck of a tough decision.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
For special insight on your latest quandary, turn to your coworkers or classmates today. You need to consult someone who either is in the same situation you're in or has been there before.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Take these questions one at a time. Do not expect yourself to answer all of them right away - or ever. Just being aware of such issues may be enough to prepare you to take opportunities as they come.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
You are going to be exposed to an avalanche of new ideas, and some of them might confuse you a bit. This mental challenge may feel uncomfortable or strange.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Life just isn't fair all the time, as difficult as that may be for you to acknowledge. It's a messy affair full of selfishness and selfishness. Look at the big picture. As long as you think things are generally equitable, don't worry.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

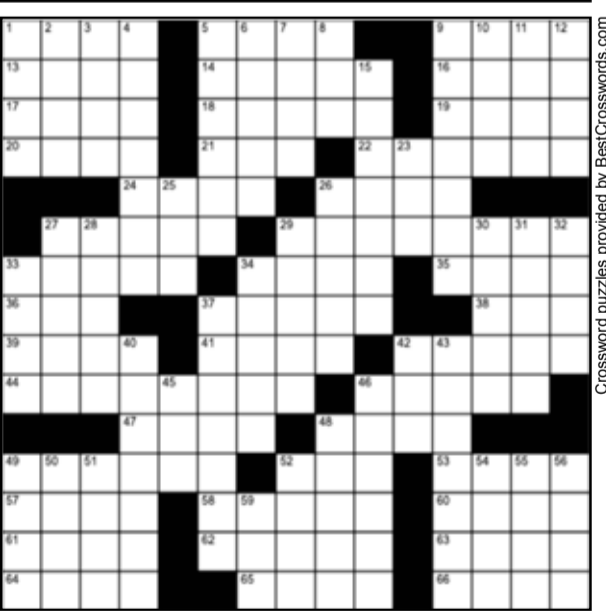
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	24	33	cloudy
Harbin	20	29	thundershower
Tianjin	25	32	cloudy
Urumqi	23	34	clear
Xi'an	25	31	drizzle
Lhasa	12	22	shower
Chengdu	21	27	shower
Chongqing	25	31	drizzle
Kunming	19	26	shower
Nanjing	23	30	cloudy
Shanghai	24	27	drizzle
Wuhan	24	32	cloudy
Hangzhou	24	29	drizzle
Taipei	26	30	cloudy
Guangzhou	27	35	cloudy
Hong Kong	29	33	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	13	20	drizzle
Frankfurt	11	26	clear
Paris	14	26	cloudy
London	11	25	cloudy
New York	22	31	clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1-Riyadh resident; 5- Crew needs; 9- Frolic; 13- Tortoise's rival; 14- Distinguishing characteristic; 16- Change for a five; 17- Not fer; 18- Mezzo-soprano Marilyn; 19- Afternoon affairs; 20- Humming sound; 21- Language suffix; 22- Oddly picturesque; 24- Brontë heroine; 26- Head and shoulders sculpture; 27- Back streets; 29- Captive; 33- Waits; 34- April 1 victim; 35- Decorate anew; 36- Diamond stat; 37- Sports area; 38- Latin word which means "for every"; 39- Section; 41- Campus mil. group; 42- Frothy; 44- Warns; 46- Australian marsupial; 47- Like Hawaiian shirts; 48- Artist Mondrian; 49- Vast seas; 52- Illustrative craft; 53- Glove compartment items; 57- Enter; 58- Distribute; 60- Foil alternative; 61- Bits of thread; 62- Take off; 63- Between ports; 64- Zeno's home; 65- Small songbird; 66- Pre-Easter period;

DOWN: 1- Moby's pursuer; 2- Prego rival; 3- Nev. neighbor; 4- Xylene; 5- Not us; 6- Got out of bed; 7- Describes a gently cooked steak; 8- Transgression; 9- Revolving part; 10- Dedicated to the ___ Love; 11- Signify; 12- Hey, you!; 15- Strong liquor from Mexico; 23- Battleship letters; 25- Affirmative reply; 26- Rodeo horse; 27- Seventh sign; 28- Farewell; 29- Writers of verse; 30- Country in the Himalayas; 31- Tomato blight; 32- Actor Calhoun; 33- Bric-a-___; 34- Palm leaf; 37- Awakening; 40- Capital of Georgia, USA; 42- Napoleon, to Wellington; 43- Breakfast choice; 45- Cyclotron bit; 46- Young cat; 48- Establish as the truth; 49- Look at amorously; 50- Loop; 51- German article; 52- Having wings; 54- Vaulted recess; 55- Hammer part; 56- Show to a table; 59- Actor Ayres;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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



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- [Taipa] Hellene Gardens 3 1/2 2 1/2 1,663 ft² **\$7,950,000** (ref: 19055006SC)
- [Taipa] Hellene Gardens 4 1/2 2 1/2 2,530 ft² **\$20,000,000** (ref: 18035546)
- [Cotai] One Grantai 4 1/2 2 1/2 2,556 ft² **\$25,600,000**

FOR RENT

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- [Macau] San Malo 3 1/2 4 1/2 **\$13,000/mth** (ref: 19065011RM)
- [Coloane] Cheoc Van House 3 1/2 2 1/2 **\$28,000/mth** (ref: 19055009RC)
- [Taipa] Ocean Gardens 4 1/2 4 1/2 3,700 ft² **\$35,000/mth** (ref: 18040674)
- [Taipa] 4 storey Commercial 4,003 ft² **\$108,000/mth** (ref: 17040646)

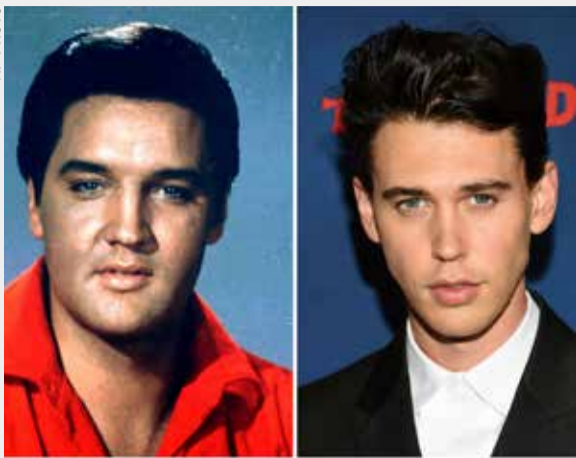
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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

AP PHOTO



AUSTIN BUTLER TO STAR AS ELVIS IN BAZ LUHRMANN-HELMED BIOPIC

BAZ Luhrmann's Elvis Presley biopic has found its King.

After a competitive casting contest, 27-year-old actor Austin Butler (pictured, right) has been cast as Presley. Ansel Elgort, Harry Styles and Miles Teller all reportedly tested for the role ultimately won by Butler, who last year appeared in the Denzel Washington Broadway revival of "The Iceman Cometh."

Luhrmann says in a statement that through "a journey of extensive

screen testing and music and performance workshops, I knew unequivocally that I had found someone who could embody the spirit of one of the world's most iconic musical figures."

Production is to begin early next year on the Luhrmann-directed film. Tom Hanks co-stars as Presley's manager Colonel Tom Parker.

Butler also has a role in Quentin Tarantino's upcoming "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood."

YOUNG 'LION KING' ACTORS HAD BEYONCÉ-SIZE SHOES TO FILL

AP PHOTO



THE pressure was on for young actors Shahadi Wright Joseph (left) and JD McCrary when they got word that they'd been cast as the voices of young Nala and young Simba in "The Lion King." Not only was it an ambitious remake of an iconic film, but it was their first major Hollywood project.

Then they found out that their characters' adult voices would be done by Beyoncé Knowles-Carter and Donald Glover, and it took "just waiting to be king" to a whole new level.

But director Jon Favreau was confident that they could fill the "big shoes" of their adult

voices for the film, which opens nationwide on Friday. Fourteen-year-old Shahadi, for one, had a pretty big advantage: At age 8, she played young Nala in the Broadway production. In fact, casting director Sarah Finn submitted only her name to be considered. Favreau was on board.

"She understood the role, she understood the music and she's got an incredibly powerful Broadway voice," Favreau said.

JD, 11, was less of an obvious choice. He didn't have much of a resume in film work. Favreau said JD broke through as the front-runner when he saw YouTube videos of him singing.

A BOOK TODAY

SCOT HARVATH RETURNS IN 'BACKLASH'

ARussian plane carrying a prisoner in chains experiences engine trouble and crashes in the middle of the woods. It's enemy territory for the captive, who survives, and now Scot Harvath is in the middle of Russia with no hope of escape in Brad Thor's new thriller, "Backlash."

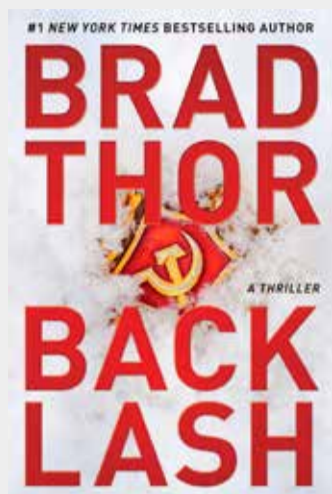
Utilizing his unique set of skills, he goes on the move where he believes he can cross the border into Finland.

In the United States, his colleagues stumble upon a horrible scene, and evidence suggests that Harvath might be responsible. They can't obtain answers from him because he's disappeared.

Harvath's used to being the hunter and not the hunted, but Harvath has

more on his mind than survival. He's wounded and angry, and revenge is the strongest motivation of all.

Readers know what to expect in a Brad Thor novel: non-stop and over-the-top action scenes mixed with insight into the world of special ops. This is Harvath's most personal adventure, and fans and newcomers alike will wonder if this mission will end up being his downfall.



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Belgium's Wout Van Aert (center) sprints to win the tenth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 217 kilometers with start in Saint-Flour and finish in Albi, France

CYCLING

Technology beating romanticism at Tour de France

SAMUEL PETREQUIN, ALBI

WITH all the technology stacked against them, the six breakaway riders at the Tour de France had no hope of making it to the finish without being caught.

Race directors were watching their every move on TV screens set up in their cars, and rival competitors riding behind were informed in instant time of the gap through earpieces. It was a day for a bunch sprint, and it could not be any different.

At the Tour, long gone are the days when bold riders would launch long-range attacks and foil the sprinters at the finish line. The sport has changed so much in the space of 20 years that, on the many long and flat stages peppering the three-week racing program, breakaways have nearly no chance of succeeding.

"A stage victory in the style of Jacky Durand or Thierry Marie? It's nearly impossible on Grands Tours, and even more at the Tour de France," Arkea Samsic team manager Emmanuel Hubert told The Associated Press.

Hubert, a former pro rider, mentioned Durand and Marie, two riders who epitomized the idea of

panache. In the 1980s and '90s, both were capable of launching long-range victorious rides that made them fan favorites.

Such long-haul trips still take place nowadays, but they are almost never rewarded.

Take the six who spent yesterday [Macau time] at the front of the pack in the southwestern Aveyron region. If they had any hopes of reaching Albi ahead of the pack, they quickly found out their grand day out would not feature a happy ending.

There were four climbs on the day's program, but the flat finale gave sprinters a golden opportunity to get a stage win. Tony Gallopin, Michael Schär, Natnael Berhane, Anthony Turgis, Mads Würtz Schmidt and Odd Christian Eiking moved away from the pack soon after the start. With none

of them a threat in the general classification, the peloton was happy to let them go.

But once their lead reached three minutes, the fugitives were kept on a tight leash, with sprinters' teams speeding up the pace at the front of the pack to make sure they would not open a gap too difficult to bridge later in the stage.

A classic scenario then developed. Using all the data available to determine the right time to move, sprinters' teams organized the chase about 50 kilometers from the finish to rein in the audacious group.

"There is so much at stake for the sprinters' team," Cofidis manager Alain Deloeil told the AP. "For them it's nearly a professional mistake if, on a flat stage, they don't bring back the breakaway. They need to set up a sprint for their fast man."

The sport has changed so much in the space of 20 years that breakaways have nearly no chance of succeeding

These scenarios, which also affect racing in the mountains, are a real problem for organizers who need to maintain the excitement over a three-week period. At a closed-door meeting before the race started, Tour director Christian Prudhomme urged riders to be more audacious in their strategies after a somewhat boring start to

the race last year.

Deloeil and Prudhomme are nostalgic for an era when ear pieces and power meters were words still to be invented. They believe riders don't use their instinct anymore, with their eyes glued to screens determining whether they should attack or chase down fugitives.

Team Ineos, the former Team Sky, often relies on data from power meters — the small devices fitted to riders' bikes measuring their power output — when tackling climbs. It's a strategy that produced five Tour victories with three different riders since 2012.

Prudhomme would like to see restrictions on power meters.

"Riders should not have permanent access to their data," Prudhomme told the AP. "In days gone by, Fausto Coppi used to attack Gino Bartali when he noticed the little blue vein coming out on his rival's leg. It was a sign that Bartali was getting tired. And Bernard Hinault waited until Joop Zoetemelk's leg moved aside, because it meant he was tired. And that was the moment Bernard chose to attack."

According to Prudhomme, banning power meters would add a refreshing dose of romanticism to a sport heavily relying on data.

"If riders could not read their power meters, there would be more emotions," he said. "But obviously the biggest teams don't want that."

Stephane Rossetto, a Tour rookie who twice tried his luck over the past 10 days in long unsuccessful breakaways, said many competitors are too conservative in their approach.

"That's modern cycling, and we need to adapt," the 32-year-old said. "Many riders are just looking at their power meter and don't go beyond a certain limit. And with ear pieces, we get the gaps in real time. There is not much room for surprise. Me, I never look at my power meter."

Luke Rowe, a teammate of defending champion Geraint Thomas at Ineos, hit back at Prudhomme's remarks.

"He is living in the Stone Age with comments like that," Rowe said. "I can tell you, from a guy who spends a lot of time riding on the front, you don't ride on power. You ride on feel, you ride on who is in the break, how far ahead they are, on wind direction, terrain. You take all these factors into consideration to see how you are going to ride. You don't stare at power meters."

Boosting Rowe's case, it was the good positioning of Ineos riders at the front of the pack — and not technology — that allowed them to gain around 100 seconds on three dangerous rivals when crosswinds played havoc in the finale of the stage. **AP**

OPINION

Animal Farm

Albano Martins



AN EXERCISE OF PATRIOTISM?

The two-year Chinese sovereign bond issue in Macau will be a good exercise to see how far patriotism will go. I hope I'm not running the risk of spreading false news as our Secretary for Security would not forgive me.

The immediate conclusion: the whole issue will be taken! More for the sake of patriotism, than any economic rationale, unless an abnormal appreciation of the Yuan occurs upon maturity.

It will be a successful issue of only two billion yuan, in fact a mere drop in the Chinese ocean and Chinese aspiration for world circulation of the Yuan, as a reserve and as a global settlement currency!

It will also be another good exercise in patriotism that awaits our people and our banks, and AMCM itself, knowing that the latter will fill in as subscriber of last resort if the demand is not enough.

The little investors do not know anything about swaps otherwise they would have known soon enough how much they would be set to gain, but I anticipate that to be only a little, at best.

Let us then begin this exercise: our local patriot, if he has no yuan, will have to buy them.

So, let's do a simple financial exercise. I hope that I will not err in my calculations, otherwise I will be finally accused.

I already have photos and all my fingerprints taken, even the palms of my hands. I cannot remember if prints of my feet have been taken too, from the last time I accosted a local citizen who had beaten a small animal. Imagine, a police guy, too!

First scenario: Anyone who invests two million patacas in yuan in such Chinese Treasury Bonds placed in Macao at the interest rate of 3.3 percent per annum with interest paid and accrued semi-annually will lose at the end of the two years 6,854.14 patacas if the yuan moves in the two years in the same way it evolved in 2018 alone. According to AMCM's statistics, it depreciated 4.84 percent (my calculations). That there would be the loss of capital.

But, in reality the loss will be much more, because in addition to this capital there is the loss of interest should the funds have been invested in an alternative pataca-based fixed deposit at 2.5 percent per year. At the end he would lose 108,104.14 patacas!

Patriotism is just that: open the shirt, fill the chest and meet a hail of bullets for the sake of the Motherland.

But Patriotism is not an exercise in stupidity for anyone involved! Of course, in this game there will always be "forced" patriots who will expect future allowances for other endeavors.

The moral of the story: if the scenario is this, China should be careful with the invitation it makes to these people of the second system. If a lot of people get involved in this business and in the end lose part of their savings, the social climate will be a mess! And this is the last thing China wants!

Local people do not like to lose, even when playing with beans!

Scenario two. Let's simulate the Yuan at the end of the period moving according to the average of the end-values of the last three years (2016 to 2018), that is, if it appreciates by 0.97%.

Then, there will be no capital loss but a gain of MOP114,837.51 at the end of the application, exceeding the application in patacas in a two-year fixed deposit at MOP13,587.51. In this case the investment would be a good option!

To conclude, the investment in yuan may produce the same amount of income as a risk-free fixed deposit in patacas, should the Chinese Yuan appreciate only 0.22 percent at the end of the two-year period!

Even in a land of the gamble, we must be careful!

'GAME OF THRONES' EARNS A RECORD-BREAKING 32 EMMY NODS

THE BUZZ

HBO's "Game of Thrones" has slashed its way to a record-setting 32 Emmy nominations yesterday for its eighth and final season.

The bloodthirsty saga's total eclipsed the all-time series record of 27 nods earned by "NYPD Blue" in 1994.

The showing by "Game of Thrones" led HBO back to dominance over Netflix, the streaming service that bumped it last



year from its longtime Emmy dominance. Last year's best comedy series, "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" led the pack with 20 bids.

"The Masked Singer" judge Ken Jeong and "The Good Place" star D'Arcy Carden announced top-category contenders at the Television Academy in Los Angeles. The 71st Emmy Awards will air Sept. 22 on Fox.

AUSTRALIAN MODEL SENTENCED FOR AIRLINE FLIGHT DISTURBANCE



Australian-South Sudanese model Adau Mornyang checks in through security for her court case at the Federal Courthouse in downtown Los Angeles

ANDREW DALTON, LOS ANGELES

An Australian model was sentenced yesterday [Macau time] in Los Angeles to community service and probation for slapping a flight attendant and going on an obscene tirade during a flight, with a federal judge saying he believed she was deeply remorseful and did not deserve fines or prison time.

U.S. District Judge Cormac J. Carney sentenced Adau Mornyang to three years of probation and 100 hours of community service.

Prosecutors had sought a month in jail for Mornyang. But Carney said he believed she was truly sorry after she tearfully read a statement in court saying she is now receiving treatment for anxiety and depression brought on by childhood trauma, instead of self-medicating like she did at the time of the flight.

"I've learned to deal with my emotions and trauma in a proper way," Mornyang said as she stood crying with her arm around her lawyer, her usually long hair cropped to a short flattop.

The incident, she said, has "pushed me to have proper medical treatment."

She talked about the humiliation of hearing the

recording of herself during the trial.

"I'll do what it takes to prove to the world that I am not that woman," Mornyang said, and asked the court for "forgiveness, kindness and mercy."

The 25-year-old, a native of South Sudan who migrated to Australia as a refugee at age 10, was convicted of felony interference with a flight crew and misdemeanor assault. She was acquitted of a third count of assaulting an air marshal.

Mornyang was nine hou-

"I've learned to deal with my emotions and trauma in a proper way."

ADAU MORNYANG

rs into a Jan. 21 flight from Melbourne to Los Angeles and had apparently been drinking wine excessively when she began "yelling obscenities and racial slurs and flailing her arms," prosecutors said in their sentencing memorandum.

Her fellow passengers complained to the crew. But she only lashed out more when flight attendants attempted to calm her, and she slapped one of them.

Several air marshals had to come out from undercover to help deal with her, prosecutors said.

Prosecutors said in court Monday that Mornyang's statement of remorse said little about the passengers and crew whose flight she made so difficult.

But Carney welcomed the statement, and he said before sentencing that "I do believe she's remorseful and that she's committed to getting treatment to make sure this never happens again."

Carney said he had often sentenced terrorists, murderers and drug dealers, and that "those people need to be in custody," but not people like Mornyang.

"The trial process was punishment in and of itself," Carney said.

He added that her financial circumstances made the fine that would usually come with this crime untenable.

Mornyang is also required to submit to drug tests and receive mental health counseling throughout her three-year term.

She appeared relieved as the hearing ended. She did not talk to reporters outside court.

"I want you to have a wonderful life," the judge said after handing down his sentence. "I hope I never see you again." AP

G-7 Finance officials from the Group of Seven rich democracies will weigh risks from new digital currencies and debate how to tax tech companies like Google, Facebook and Amazon when they meet this week in the Paris suburb of Chantilly. Those two issues, raised by the impact of the digitalization on the world economy, are at the top of the agenda for the gathering today and tomorrow. More on p14



USA Army Secretary Mark Esper (pictured), Trump's nominee to become secretary of defense, told his Senate confirmation hearing he is troubled by Turkey's decision to defy the United States by acquiring Russian-made air defenses. "It is very disheartening to see how they have drifted over the past several years," Esper said, citing the Turkish's purchase of the S-400 air defense system.



USA Defiant in the face of widespread censure, President Donald Trump insisted that his tweets suggesting four Democratic congresswomen of color return to their countries "were NOT Racist", and he appealed to fellow Republicans to "not show weakness" and to resist a House resolution condemning his words. "I don't have a Racist bone in my body!" Trump exclaimed on Twitter.



Greece A 27-year-old man was charged with murder and rape in the killing of an American scientist who disappeared on the island of Crete and whose body was found in a tunnel formerly used as a storage site during WWII. A Greek man confessed to the "violent criminal act," telling he struck Suzanne Eaton (pictured) with his car and abducted her with "the intention to commit sexual assault."