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A MIGRANT WORKER SEEKING AN ACCIDENT PAYOUT BEFORE HIS VISA EXPIRES WAS HEARD BY THE CITY'S WORKPLACE REGULATOR P3

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THE HIGHER EDUCATION 'POLICE ACADEMY' HAS BEEN GIVEN PERMISSION TO OFFER MASTER'S AND PHD DEGREES P7

China-US Almost three months after their trade talks broke down in acrimony, Chinese and American negotiators meet again in Shanghai this week amid tempered expectations for breakthroughs in their yearlong trade war.
More on p11

Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte has ordered the indefinite closure of popular lotteries run by the government's sweepstakes agency due to alleged massive corruption and said even courts couldn't stop his order. More on p13



Indonesia President Joko Widodo said in an interview that he wants to see the speedy construction of a giant sea wall around Jakarta to prevent the low-lying capital from sinking under the sea, lending renewed backing and a sense of urgency to a slow-moving and politically contested mega project.

India A top commander of a Pakistan-based militant group was killed yesterday during an operation in the southern part of the Indian-administered part of Kashmir, the region's police chief said.



Afghanistan An official said yesterday that the government would hold its first-ever direct talks with the Taliban within two weeks, but the insurgents quickly denied any such meeting was planned and reiterated their opposition to negotiating with government representatives in their official capacity.

More on backpage

CHEATING THE SYSTEM

MACAU ACCUSED OF HIDING BEHIND 'DEVELOPING COUNTRY' STATUS P3



POLICE, PROTESTER BRAWLS BACK IN SAI YING PUN DISTRICT

Clashes erupted for the second straight day after an illegal protest left a dozen injured. Police said they used tear gas to disperse protesters who hurled bricks at officers, in a situation that was "drastically deteriorating"

P9 HONG KONG

GOV'T DENIES CHUI READY TO HEAD NEW INVESTMENT FIRM

The government has denied media reports that Chief Executive Chui Sai On is expected to head a new investment firm after he leaves office.

On Friday, the Executive Council announced that it was proposing the establishment of the new Macau Investment Development Fund Management Company, which would have the purpose of improving long-term public financial resources (more on p7).

According to a report by All About Macau, "it has long been rumored in political circles" that incumbent Chief Executive Chui Sai On would head the new investment firm after he left his post as Macau's top official.

The idea of establishing such an investment firm had been proposed by the Chui administration in the drafting of the city's first Five-Year Development Plan.

However, the Government Spokesperson's



Office has issued a statement to deny reports of Chui assuming a new role following the termination of his duties as Chief Executive.

"Regarding the news published July 27 in a newspaper on the post that Chief Executive Chui Sai On will assume after the termination of his duties as head of the Government of the Macau Special Administrative Region, the Office of the Government voice clarifies that the news has no basis, nor is there any

plan as indicated in the report."

Chui is Macau's second Chief Executive since the 1999 transfer of sovereignty from Portugal to China. He will be formally replaced by his successor, Ho Iat Seng, in December this year.

After serving two terms at the helm of the government, Macau's first Chief Executive, Edmund Ho, now heads a number of local industrial, financial, educational, sports and charity associations and institutions. **DB**

CRIME BOUTIQUE OWNER CHARGED WITH UNDERAGE SEX

STAFF REPORTER

A 30-year-old man has been charged with having sexual intercourse with a 14-year-old girl, the Judiciary Police (PJ) reported.

The PJ told a special press conference that the suspect, surnamed Loi, owns a clothing boutique.

In early July, the girl came across Loi on the Internet. According to what she told the police, she had made it clear to Loi that she was

a minor receiving secondary education. Their initial communication was conducted over text messages.

At approximately 10 p.m. last Tuesday, Loi invited the girl out for a drink. He picked up the girl from her residence in Coloane and drove to a bar in Cotai, where they had drinks until the girl felt drunk and unwell. The girl then asked Loi to drive her back to her place.

On the way back, the girl requested Loi pull up on the side

of the road so she could rest.

Meanwhile, out of worry for his daughter, the father headed to the street to look for her. While passing the car, the father noticed his daughter being intimate with the man, and he intercepted by yelling at them.

The man drove away but was later caught by the Public Security Police, who had been notified by the father.

Police said the suspect was charged with sexual intercourse with a minor.

POSSIBLE TROPICAL STORM TO ENTER SOUTH CHINA SEA

STAFF REPORTER

A tropical cyclone that is expected to begin incubating in the South China Sea this week, may affect Macau even as its current trajectory will take it close to Hainan by Thursday evening.

The Hong Kong Observatory pointed out on its website that there is a weakening anticyclone over Southern China region, and showers

and thunderstorms will thus be more frequent in the next few days.

Meanwhile, a low-pressure area is expected to develop gradually over the central and northern parts of the South China Sea in the middle of this week. Heavier rains, thunderstorms and strong gusts in the coming days are a possibility.

However, the observatory also warned that the weather developments will be

subject to changes.

Forecasts by the Macau Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau predict showers and thunderstorms over the next six days. The week will see cloudy weather with occasional sunshine and strong gusts of wind.

Weather app Windy.com forecasts that a counter-clockwise cyclone will form west of the northern Philippines tomorrow and head west in the South China Sea.

ASK THE VET

by Dr Ruan Du Toit Bester

UPPER RESPIRATORY INFECTION IN CATS

Afeline upper respiratory infection (or URI) is an infection in the upper respiratory tract of your cat and involves areas such as the nose, throat and the sinus area. URI is more common in cats that live outdoors, in shelters, in catteries or in multiple pet households.

The breed of cat that's most prone to URI is the Persian cat although all breeds are at risk of suffering from this infection which is similar to the common cold suffered by humans.

Symptoms of Upper Respiratory Tract Infection in Cats:

- Nasal discharge
- Sneezing
- Discharge from the eyes
- Cough
- Ulcers in the nose or oral cavity
- Fever
- Conjunctivitis
- Lethargy
- Loss of appetite
- Pneumonia
- Dehydration

- Increased salivation
- Difficulty in breathing

Organisms Responsible for Feline Upper Respiratory Tract Infection

Both bacteria and virus can cause upper respiratory tract infection in cats. The 3 viruses mainly associated with this infection are the feline herpesvirus-1 or FHV, feline viral rhinotracheitis or FVR and feline calicivirus or FCV. A bacterial infection known as feline Chlamydia can also result in URI. Other organisms associated with respiratory infections are bordetella bronchiseptica, feline reovirus, mycoplasma, chlamydia and the cowpox virus.

The Spread of the Infection

URI is an airborne infection that can affect healthy cats when they come in contact with infected cats. Objects like feeding bowls, bedding, litter boxes and toys serve as carriers of the infection. Young kittens, unvaccinated cats and cats in catteries or shelters are most susceptible to the infection. An infected pet can spread the virus to other cats through nasal discharge and sneezing.

Factors such as overcrowding, poor sanitation, stress,

malnutrition, age, illness can predispose your pet to this infection.

Prevention of URI

It's difficult to prevent feline URTI especially in catteries or shelters. Managers of shelters and pet owners can reduce the frequency and severity of the infection by ensuring that the shelter or home is properly ventilated and cleaned. There should be a reduction of overcrowding and stress.

A nutritious diet can strengthen your pet's immune system and can reduce the severity of the infection. Sick cats should be isolated and all cats should be regularly vaccinated and de-wormed.

Is URI Contagious?

Feline upper respiratory infection is very contagious and 80 percent of cats that have contracted the infection are contagious for months or years. They become carriers and can spread the disease when they come in close contact with other pets. If these cats become ill or suffer from stress, the infection can flare up again.

Vaccinations aren't totally effective but are recommended by vets as they can reduce the severity of the

infection that develops. Vaccinations also reduce the chance of the infection spreading to other cats. The best way to prevent your pet from contracting the infection is to isolate him from other cats.

Diagnosis and Treatment of URI

The vet diagnoses the infection with the help of a physical examination and conducts tests such as complete blood count tests, urinalysis, swab tests and chest X-rays. If the infection is bacterial in nature, antibiotics can help control it. Decongestants can also help reduce nasal congestion. You should encourage your pet to take in lots of fluids and eat well although his appetite will be adversely affected.

The prognosis in most cats is good. They recover within 8 to 10 days from URI but they remain carriers and can infect other cats.

Hope this info helps
Till next week
Dr Ruan Bester

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STAFF REPORTERS

AMERICAN President Donald Trump has accused the Macau SAR and six others among the world's 10 wealthiest economies of obtaining unfair advantages in international trade after declaring themselves to be "developing countries".

Trump tweeted to express that he was displeased about the World Trade Organization treating China, Macau and Hong Kong - among 27 other jurisdictions - as developing countries. He said that their status afforded them advantages that are intended to support underdeveloped economies only.

"The WTO is BROKEN when the world's RICHEST countries claim to be developing countries to avoid WTO rules and get special treatment. NO more!!! Today I directed the U.S. Trade Representative to take action so that countries stop CHEATING the system at the expense of the USA!" tweeted the U.S. President.

It was made on the sidelines of his actual order which was recorded on the White House's website as a memorandum. It urges for the reform of the 'developing country' status recognized by the WTO.

"There are no WTO definitions of 'developed' and 'developing' countries. Members announce for themselves whether they are 'developed' or 'developing' countries," the WTO website states.

According to the body's regulations, it is legitimate for any member country to object to any other's claim about its status.

However, despite Trump's claim, a jurisdiction that labels itself as a developing country does not automatically benefit from unilateral trade preference schemes.

Macau appears in one single reference in the White House's memorandum, which pointed out that seven of the 10 wealthiest jurisdictions in the world (measured by their respective gross domestic

Trump displeased with Macau's 'developing country' status



BLOOMBERG

product per capita on a purchasing-power parity basis) claimed themselves as developing countries.

Seven of the world's 10 wealthiest economies, Trump said, claim developing-nation status - Brunei, Hong Kong, Kuwait, Macau, Qatar, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates. So do Mexico, South Korea and Turkey, who are all members of the Group of 20 and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Trump said.

As of last year, Macau ranked second in the world in terms of gross domestic product per capita with \$122,489 (MOP990,357), just behind the middle-eastern country of Qatar. Macau is projected to

overtake Qatar as the world's richest place by 2020, on account of faster economic growth created by the gambling industry.

Rufus Yerxa, a former WTO deputy director-general, told Bloomberg there are some provisions in the U.S. trade laws and WTO subsidies agreement that require developed countries to treat developing countries differently in trade investigations.

"It seems like what the Trump administration is saying is that it will not respect those provisions with respect to certain countries that it does not consider to be developing," Yerxa said. "I'm not sure that this has huge commercial significance but symbolically it might be important."

The White House's memorandum moves on to accuse China of abusing the developing country mechanism, since the economy is the world's second-largest in terms of GDP.

"These countries have also consistently sought weaker commitments than other WTO Members in ongoing negotiations, which has significantly stymied progress," the memorandum points out.

In reply to the U.S.'s allegation, Singapore's Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) has argued that Singapore "does not take advantage of the flexibility in negotiating agreements that developing countries in the WTO are allowed."

In the memorandum, Trump made instructions to his trade re-

presentative to urge reform in the WTO. He will also lead his country to press for reform in other international organizations.

He has set out a 90-day timeframe, after which if there is no "substantial progress" as deemed by his representative, the U.S. threatens to stop treating wealthy but self-designated "developing countries" in the manner that they claim to be.

Meanwhile, the trade representative is about to lead a delegation to China in the hope of restarting trade talks halted in May. In response, China's state-owned broadcaster CCTV said in Mandarin that "the U.S. is playing the old trick of threatening and pressurizing just before the two nations are set to have high-level trade negotiations."

DSAL stresses the law protects non-residents after work accidents

RENATO MARQUES

THE Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) has reaffirmed that non-resident workers (TNR) who are victims of work accidents in Macau are fully protected by the local laws.

The bureau made this statement during a meeting on Friday with a Filipino migrant worker and his family, who are seeking compensation following a workplace accident that cost him one of his legs.

The DSAL noted that the meeting with the worker and family was part of the procedures following the

accident, adding that the bureau has a procedure for monitoring the status of the compensation due to the worker by the insurance company.

The worker, Reymond Tagacay, told the Times last week that his process with the insurance company has been delayed due to a pending disability certificate from the Public Hospital.

Tagacay initially brought the case to public broadcaster TDM as a way of alerting the public of his situation, since the hospital told him that the disability certificate would take some 25 days

to issue, while his visa will only last until August 10.

Tagacay states that he applied for the certificate on July 17, two days after being discharged from a long period of hospitalization caused by the accident that occurred on October 31 last year.

The DSAL noted that all TNR are protected under the Decree-Law Number 40/95/M (Employees' Compensation Insurance Ordinance) updated by the Decree-Law Number 6/2015, which states, "The victim is entitled to receive compensation equal to two thirds of their base salary

during the period of recovery from the accident as well as compensation due for the payment of health care expenses."

The DSAL also noted that concurrently, "the worker is also entitled to other compensation for damages if he meets other conditions provided by law."

The bureau clarified the fact that the worker terminated his working contract after the accident does not affect his right to receive compensation, noting that the bureau continues to work on ensuring that he receives lawful compensation.



LYNYZ VALLES

Reymond Tagacay

HO YIN GARDEN PLANNED FOR PATRIOTIC EDUCATION

The Sculpture Park of the Chinese Ethnicities has been relocated to Ho Yin Garden, with the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) planning to open the new park to the public on September 29. Originally located in Grand Taipa Natural Park, the sculptures began being removed in April. In total, the IAM spent 4.1 million patacas on the park's renovation, including the relocation and the establishment of an exhibition hall. Together with Macau's handover memorial pavilion in Ho Yin Garden, the Macau Basic Law Memorial Hall and the Golden Lotus Square, the IAM hopes that the proximity of Ho Yin Garden will become an educative area for the promotion of the Chinese nation's spirits.

HALF OF MACAU'S PRISONERS ARE MAINLANDERS

Approximately 50% of the city's prisoners are mainland residents, according to Cheng Fong Meng, Director of the Correctional Services Bureau. In total, as of June, Macau's prison holds 1,525 inmates. Currently, the utilization rate of the male prison has exceeded 90%, which is close to capacity. Within this year, the bureau will start rebuilding the available space of the prison to add 100 spaces for more prisoners. The project is expected to be completed next year. In addition, the new prison located in Ka Ho began its third phase of construction this month. The bureau is preparing a public tender of the fourth phase.

FURTHER CRACKDOWN ON TELEPHONE FRAUD URGED

Lawmaker Chan Hong has written an inquiry to the local government asking for further actions to crack down on telephone fraud. His inquiry comes after the authorities cracked down on a cosmetics marketing scheme that employed mass phone calls. Chan pointed out that more instances of telephone fraud have been recorded in Macau. However, due to the imperfect law and difficulties in collecting evidence, some of the investigations into the practice have been concluded without any results. Chan wants to know what kind of measures the government authority will take to crack down on phone call tactics and telephone fraud. Chan also asked about the supervision of companies and individuals that handle personal data.

MGM RESORTS PROMISES DECISION ON PROPERTIES BY AUTUMN, SHARES RISE



CHRISTOPHER PALMERI

JIM Murren, chief executive officer of MGM Resorts International, has worked hard to please his cranky shareholders.

He's cut costs, eliminating more than 1,000 jobs. Under investor pressure, he sold most of MGM's properties to a real estate investment trust in a lease-back deal. And he welcomed Corvex Management founder Keith Meister, a Carl Icahn protégé, to his board after the hedge fund built up a nearly 4% stake in the Las Vegas casino company.

Now Murren may be on the verge of unloading the company's most iconic Vegas properties - the namesake MGM Grand and the Bellagio. Since January, Meister and two other board members have been reviewing MGM's real estate holdings, with an eye toward boosting the company's share price.

On a conference call with investors Thursday, Murren said he expects to announce the review's findings by early autumn. The shares rose as much as 7.9% to \$31.68 Friday in New York, the most in almost four years, after the company also reported better-than-expected revenue.

"We have a lot of options in front of us, actually very creative and interesting options," Murren said. "We also know that our

real estate is undervalued in the marketplace."

CASINOS TRANSFORMED

REITs have transformed the casino industry since Penn National Gaming Inc. spun off most of its properties into one in 2013. Since then, Caesars Entertainment Corp. and MGM have also created REITs, and most of the major casino sales have involved them as buyers. Because they don't pay income taxes, REITs can pay higher prices for properties.

In a typical transaction, the casino company continues to manage the property, while paying rent to the new owner.

"We have a lot of options in front of us, actually very creative and interesting options."

JIM MURREN

The jury is still out on whether such deals add long-term value for the casino operators and their investors, however. Penn National, the pioneer in REIT deals, trades at one of the lower multiples in the industry at about 10 times earnings before interest, taxes and depreciation and amortization, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

Investors must be convinced there's long-term value to being a

tenant over an owner. While MGM could see \$6.4 billion in after-tax proceeds from the sale of the two marquee properties, analyst Harry Curtis of Instinet says he's not convinced it's wise.

'DUBIOUS' PROPOSITION

"We are dubious of the potential value creation opportunity," he said in a note last week.

Murren, MGM's CEO since 2008, has dealt with activist shareholders before, including in 2016 when pressure from Land & Buildings Investment Management led MGM to sell most of its casinos to MGM Growth Properties, a REIT the company created and still controls. As a result, Murren has fewer assets left that could be used to boost his stock price.

MGM's return to shareholders since it first sold stock in MGM Growth in April 2016 has trailed that of peers Las Vegas Sands Corp. and Wynn Resorts Ltd., which continue to own their casinos.

MGM has three wholly owned Vegas casinos remaining: Bellagio, the MGM Grand and Circus Circus. MGM Growth Properties already has an option to buy a fourth property, the MGM Springfield in Massachusetts.

MGM also owns about 70% of MGM Growth, a stake worth about \$5.7 billion. But selling or spinning

off that business means the company would no longer collect its share of the dividends the REIT pays out, which amounted to \$333 million last year.

WHAT OF MACAU?

MGM owns 56% of MGM China, worth about \$3.7 billion. But the company is unlikely to unload its investment in the world's largest gambling market, particularly since it gives Murren a calling card as he looks to win a casino license in Japan.

Lastly, there's MGM's stake in CityCenter, a development on the Las Vegas Strip that Murren built. He's sold pieces, such as the mall, but has made it clear he'd like to own it all. MGM's partner, Dubai World, has yet to show interest in selling. MGM's half is worth about \$1.9 billion, according to Joseph Greff, an analyst at JPMorgan Chase & Co.

"We are somewhat cautious here on heightened investor expectations for real estate monetization," Greff said in a research note earlier this month.

In his decade as MGM's CEO, and more than 20 years with the company, Murren has seen his counterparts come and go. After activist investors began circling, Caesars CEO Mark Frissora stepped down in April, and the company was sold two months later.

With investors expecting MGM to take some action this year, doing nothing probably isn't an option. **BLOOMBERG**

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

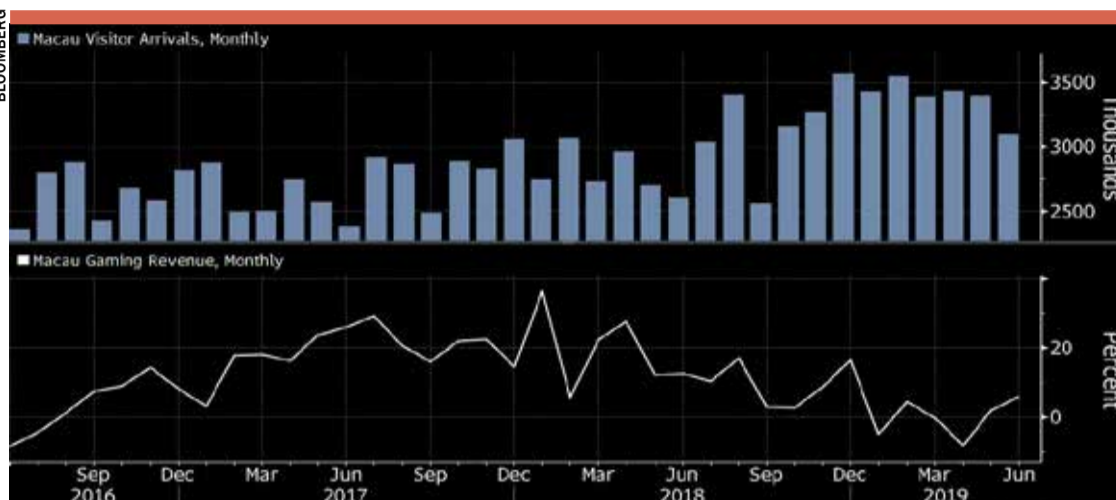
EVEN with the old adage never bet against the house, the odds are beginning to look a bit stacked against Macau's gaming stocks.

It's been a roller-coaster year so far for the industry group. The UBS Macau Gaming Basket, which tracks Hong Kong-listed casino operators including Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. and Sands China Ltd., is hanging on to a 15% gain after massive price swings in recent months including a 19% slump in May. A slide in gaming revenue has hit the region despite record foot traffic.

China's high rollers, a key source of revenue for Macau, are feeling the pinch as their businesses suffer from the ongoing U.S.-China trade war, according to feedback that Las Vegas Sands Corp. has received from its wealthiest gamblers. The firm's second-quarter results for Macau this week fell short of analyst estimates, sending shares lower.

"I won't expect much recovery this year but I might see more meaningful recovery in the first half of next year," said Angela Han Lee, equity research analyst with China Renaissance Securities HK in an interview on Bloomberg TV. "We are seeing more concerns than

Bets off for Macau as VIPs feel trade war crunch



upside here."

While the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau bridge is helping to drive foot traffic to Macau, which saw monthly visitor arrivals hit a record in December after it opened, "all this traffic is kind of low-quality traffic" not spending enough to make up the difference, she said.

Visitor arrivals to Macau were about 21% higher in the first six months of 2019 than in the equivalent period a year

earlier, according to official data provided by the Macau government. At the same time, gross gaming revenue and per capita spending were notably down during the first half of the year.

"The slowdown in the Chinese economy was the major reason why high rollers got hammered. The mass market is kind of supporting but it cannot support that much," said Lee.

Las Vegas Sands president

Robert Goldstein also expressed concerns with the global VIP market on a company earnings call last week. He said that although Macau has not felt much of an impact to date, Sands is hearing worries from high-end entrepreneurs or those who work for companies impacted by the tensions between the U.S. and China. He cited a Chinese customer in Las Vegas who said the trade war is "really impactful." **DB/BLOOMBERG**

LISBOA PALACE OPENING PUSHED INTO LATE-2020

MACAU gaming operator SJM Holdings may be planning to delay the completion and opening dates of its under-construction integrated resort in Cotai.

First reported by Hong Kong newspaper Ming Pao, the completion date of the Grand Lisboa Palace is said to have been pushed back to March 31, 2020, while the opening date will likely fall later that same year.

The integrated resort, casino operator SJM's first foray into Cotai, has been beset by delays for years. It was previously expected to open its doors to the public later this year or early 2020.

It remains unclear what has caused the latest delay.

SJM Holdings Ltd. tumbled as much as 5.4% on Friday after the casino operator sought a loan waiver to extend the completion and opening dates for the resort, reported Bloomberg.

The construction site at the Grand Lisboa Palace has caught fire numerous times since work began in February 2014.

A fire that broke out in April was at least the fifth suspicious case in a series of possible arsons over the past five years. The Judiciary Police said it suspected foul play in the most recent cases. **DB**



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SAMUEL ZELLER



FUGITIVE EXTRADITION

PORTUGAL'S BAR WARNS AGREEMENT MIGHT BE UNCONSTITUTIONAL

RENATO MARQUES

THE Portuguese Bar Association (OA) has expressed several concerns over the agreement signed between the governments of Portugal and the Macau SAR over the delivery of fleeing fugitives.

In a statement issued Friday, the OA noted that the bilateral agreement signed in Lisbon on May 15 - and already formalized in Macau via its publication in the Official Gazette - has the potential to "violate fundamental and structuring principles of our Constitutional and Criminal Law."

The expressed concerns are

in regards to several articles, including one on retrospective criminality, or "the possibility of an [act] that was not previously considered a crime, but which at the time of the request, it is already possible to justify a request for the extradition of a suspect."

The OA is also concerned with the "possibility that, by the application of the agreement, the delivery of the suspect may occur even if the crime for which judicial cooperation is sought does not contain the same characteristics as the punishment [for such crime] in Portugal."

"This allows the delivery of suspects based on investigations or

proceedings pending in the Requesting State that relate to facts that might not be considered as a crime in Portugal, thereby violating the principle of criminal legality as expressed [... in] the Portuguese Constitution."

The OA notes that the agreement thereby "violates fundamental constitutional principles in terms of the application of criminal laws and the restriction of rights, freedoms, and guarantees."

The Bar Association said it was in contact with both the political and the judicial authorities to take the necessary arrangements to ensure that the agreement abides

by the Portuguese Constitution. Questioned by the Times on the topic, local lawyer Sérgio Almeida Correia said, "the only thing I can say is that there was an exaggerated rush to the negotiations and approval of the agreement between the authorities on both sides."

This unfortunately meant that "the structuring principles of the two juridical systems were not properly safeguarded," according to Correia.

"I am pleased that the OA has moved forward with their position, and, at the same time, it's regretful that the Macau Lawyers Association [AAM] does not take

any position at the appropriate time, [nor] take any initiative," said Correia.

In reply to a direct media enquiry on the day the agreement was initially signed, the president of the AAM, Jorge Neto Valente, argued that the agreement would apply to very few cases and implied it was almost unworthy of discussion.

Although at the time few details were known about the agreement, Neto Valente described the situation as a "false issue" because the number of cases in which the agreement would apply was very small.

Then there is the matter that, "as the Secretary already clarified, Portuguese nationals would never be extradited by Portugal to Macau or somewhere else and, because on these [matters] there is always a need for reciprocity, Macau would never extradite any Macau resident who is not a Portuguese [national] to Portugal."

Macao Franchise Expo organizers say space left to grow

THE Macao Franchise Expo 2019 came to a close yesterday, having attracted nearly 180 exhibitors in the retail, food and beverage, and consulting services sectors.

Now marking its 11th anniversary, organizers say that there is still room to grow and enhance the annual exhibition.

"In the future, we will continue to perfect this platform to create even more opportunities for franchises, investments and start-ups, as well as SME business transformation, while

helping SMEs and entrepreneurs in Macau to innovate business models and improve their brand operations," said Irene Lau, president of the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), during the event's opening ceremony.

"Let us work together to create more business opportunities," she added.

In addition, Lau drew attention to the fact that the Macao Franchise Expo was recognized by the Global Association of the Exhibition Industry (UFI) as an "UFI Approved

Event" last November.

It is the first franchising exhibition in the Greater China to receive this honor said Lau, and it serves as a sign of the event's high degree of internationalism and professionalism.

This year, a consultation area was set up to provide advisory services on the regulations and related commercial affairs of the Greater Bay Area cities.

Meanwhile, more than 120 meetings were successfully held in the Business Matching Area, and IPIM organized five Macau pur-

chasing agents to join in nearly 20 business matching sessions with enterprises from Congjiang of Guizhou Province.

The event continues to be held concurrently with the Guangdong & Macao Branded Products Fair. On the first day, 12 agreements relating to food, the purchasing of healthy beverages, brand agencies and strategic co-operations were signed at the Fair, according to organizers, with signatories hailing from Beijing, Shanghai, Zhuhai, Macau and Taiwan. **DB**



Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong tours an exhibition hall at the Guangdong & Macao Branded Products Fair

DANIEL BEITLER



Security force college to offer Master's and PhD degrees

JULIE ZHU

THE Higher School of the Public Security Force of Macau (ESFSM) has been given the green light to offer Master's and PhD Degrees, according to the Executive Council.

On Friday, the council announced three administrative regulation drafts for the higher education regime, the 2019 fiscal year budget, and the supplemental tax regulation and tax information exchange law.

Regarding the amendment of the higher education system regulation, it has been proposed that ESFSM be permitted to organize more courses and issue certificates and degrees - including for postgraduate courses - alone or in collaboration with local or non-local higher education institutions.

The amendment also proposes establishing a school management committee and an academic and teaching committee at ESFSM.

The management committee shall be the highest organ responsible for setting and implementing the school's teaching strategies. Its members include the Secretary for Security, leaders in the security sector, and others appointed by the Chief Executive. The academic and teaching committee shall be the advisory body responsible for setting the academic and teaching matters of each course.

ESFSM's leadership includes one principal and a vice-president, three departments and five divisions. The bill has been advised to come into effect on August 7 this year.

Meanwhile, the 2019 budget bill amendment proposes the establishment of the Macau Investment Development Fund Management Co. Ltd.

The bill further proposes to add MOP60 billion to the general budget of Macau for the 2019 fiscal year, with the relevant amount of investment to be issued from the excess reserves in the fiscal reserve.

Regarding the company's capital, MOP59.88 billion will be subscribed by Macau SAR government, the Macau Trade and Promotion Institute and Macau's Industrial and Commercial Development Fund. Each are shareholders of the company, and will subscribe MOP60 million.

The MOP60 billion will not be included into the amount of basic reserves indicated by the fiscal reserve bill.

In line with the latest international tax standard "tax base erosion and profit turn - Action XIII" on the automatic exchange of information on financial and business activities of multinational corporations, the SAR government proposes to amend the existing income supplemental tax regulations and tax information exchange law system. This corresponds to the third amendment announced on Friday.

The bill proposes that enterprises in Macau that follow the compliance regulations of the final parent entity of a multinational corporation shall be taxed according to the appropriate weaving accounting declaration of actual profits.

The final parent entity must provide Macau's Financial Services Bureau (DSF) with information about the group itself and its member entities, and the DSF will share the information automatically between countries and regions of jurisdiction in which the group is involved.

ADVERTORIAL

SANDS CHINA NEWS

Sands Cares Ambassadors Visit Families in Congjiang County

Part of Sands China's poverty relief efforts in Guizhou province

A group of around 30 Sands Cares Ambassadors visited families in Guizhou's Congjiang County June 22-24, as part of Sands China's ongoing poverty relief efforts in the county and in response to the Macao SAR government's call for targeted poverty alleviation in mainland China.

The volunteers visited 10 families at a village in the mountains, where they shared gift packs containing staple food items like oil, rice, sugar and noodles, and household essentials such as tissues, bedsheets and detergent. The items were contributed by the Sands Cares Ambassadors themselves, who walked along the village and hillside to deliver them to each family, who were very grateful for the visit. Together they chatted, the villagers talking about their daily lives with the volunteers.

The Ambassadors also visited local cultural spots and experienced folk performances and local customs. Sands China plans to organise additional Congjiang tours in the future, with the aim of contributing to the development of Congjiang's tourism industry.

Sands China's poverty relief efforts with Congjiang County are ongoing, and the company was the first integrated resort operator in Macao to purchase goods from the impoverished county, having received three batches of products to date, including items such as chili sauce, mineral water, and local oranges.



Around 30 Sands Cares Ambassadors prepare the essentials items - contributed by the Ambassadors themselves - before visiting families in Guizhou's Congjiang County.



Sands Cares Ambassadors visit families at a village in the mountains of Guizhou's Congjiang County. Together they chatted, the villagers talking about their daily lives with the volunteers.



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Property of the Week



One Central 2 Bedroom – Views Over Nam Van Lake
HK\$13,950,000 1,269 ft² 2 2



Two Bedroom apartment in One Central, Tower 7 overlooking Nam Van Lakes. Fully fitted out to a high standard, en-suite bathroom.

Amazing clubhouse facilities, swimming pool, gym and convenient access to Macau's best known hotspots.

Property Hotlist



The Manhattan –
Luxury Residence In Central Taipa
\$13,600,000
1,720 ft²
3 2



Wa Bao, Taipa
\$7,995,000
1,071 ft²
2 2



4 storey commercial building, Coloane
\$108,000/mth
4,003 ft²



Nova Grand, Taipa
\$2,500/mth
986 ft²
2 1



More Listings

For Sale

- [Coloane] *Hellene Gardens* 3 2 1,663 ft² **\$7,950,000** (ref: 19055006SC)
- [Taipa] *One Central (high floor)* 2 2 1,269 ft² **\$13,900,000** (ref: 19070002)
- [Coloane] *Beautiful 3 bedroom* 3 2 1,665 ft² **\$8,500,000** (ref: 19070001)
- [Taipa] *Nova City* 3 2 1,494 ft² **\$13,980,000** (ref: 17050001RT)
- [Taipa] *Man Fai* 3 2 1,390 ft² **\$8,880,000** (ref: 19065010ST)

For Rent

- [Taipa] *The Manhattan* 3 2 1,720 ft² **\$23,800/mth** (ref: 18110695RT)
- [Taipa] *Ocean Gardens* 4 4 3,700 ft² **\$35,000/mth** (ref: 18040674)
- [Coloane] *Cheoc Van House* 3 2 **\$28,000/mth** (ref: 19055009RC)
- [Taipa] *One Grantai car park* **\$2,500/mth**



Recent Movements

Rented Soi Cheung, Taipa, 1 bed

Rented One Grantai, Cotai, 3 beds



Rented Nice Court, Taipa, 3 beds



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SHAWNA KWAN & FION LI

HONG Kong demonstrators and police clashed for a second straight day as the city's China-backed government struggles to quell growing discontent and amid violent clashes that have marred the historic movement in recent weeks.

Police fired volleys of tear gas at hundreds of black-shirted protesters yesterday in Sai Ying Pun, a residential and business area where the Chinese government's liaison office in Hong Kong is located. Protesters vandalized the liaison building last week, drawing stern warnings from Beijing and sparking fears that China's military would be called in to restore order.

A number of stores in the neighborhood were closed ahead of the tense standoff, as riot police carrying shields marched in rows down a main street. Police said they used tear gas to disperse protesters who hurled bricks at officers, in a situation that was "drastically deteriorating."

Thousands of people initially gathered at centrally-located Chater Garden and marched without a definite plan toward the Admiralty, Wan Chai and Causeway Bay areas that were ground zero for previous mass rallies. They had chanted slogans including "liberate Hong Kong, revolution of our time," "shame on police who beat people" and "return us the right to demonstrate."

The sprawling Sogo department store in Causeway Bay, owned by Lifestyle International Holdings, was closed though the situation in that area remained peaceful.

Meanwhile, as the ferry terminal at Sheung Wan was, according to Macau's Marine and Water Bureau, "not suitable for use" yesterday, sailings between the Macau Outer Harbor, the Taipa Ferry Terminal and

Hong Kong police fire tear gas at protesters in residential area



Sheung Wan were suspended last night.

Yesterday's march came the day after thousands of protesters descended on the suburb of Yuen Long near the Chinese border to condemn a mob attack against train commuters and demonstrators that shocked the city last weekend. A Friday sit-in at Hong Kong's international airport also drew thousands and underscored the economic risk of continued unrest.

Police on Saturday used batons, tear gas and pepper spray on people throwing stones and wielding metal rods. Thirteen people were arrested for their involvement in Yuen Long, Yolanda Yu, a senior superintendent at the Police Public Relations Branch, told reporters yesterday. That march's organizer, Max Chung, had been taken into custody, she said.

"The police's job was to disperse protesters, not to vent their own anger on them," Joe Pang, a 65-year-

-old retired bank manager, said of Saturday's protests as he gathered in Chater Garden holding up a poster that read "Stop the violence."

Nine people were hurt on Saturday, Hong Kong's RTHK reported, while police said four officers were injured.

The government expressed "deep regret" over the march in Yuen Long, which went ahead despite the lack of a permit, and condemned "radical protesters" who charged police cordons, disrupting public peace and challenging the law. About 288,000 people took part in Saturday's protest, organizer Chung told reporters. Police, citing the lack of a permit, wouldn't estimate the size of the crowd.

Police early Sunday said the protesters disregarded the personal safety of residents and the public. The demonstrators used metal poles and self-made shields to attack officers and charge the cordon line - they

even removed fences from roads to form road blocks, according to a police statement.

The former British colony's government is reeling from its biggest political crisis since its return to Chinese rule in 1997. The movement to oppose a bill allowing extraditions to the mainland has expanded to include calls for genuine universal suffrage, an inquiry into excessive force by police and demands for Chief Executive Carrie Lam's resignation.

The unrest has put pressure on Chinese President Xi Jinping to find a solution. Beijing has so far backed Lam's government, in part to avoid setting a precedent in which street protests lead to political change. His government has also accused the U.S. of supporting the demonstrations, a charge the Trump administration has denied.

"Even Carrie Lam's resignation and universal suffrage aren't going to res-

olve the crisis in Hong Kong. The truth is China is having a tighter and tighter grip on Hong Kong and our rights," said Oscar Cheung, an office worker in his twenties, as he stood in Chater Garden Sunday in a black shirt and sunglasses.

With the unrest showing no signs of ending, the city's reputation among investors as a stable environment for business has taken a hit. Local retailers are bracing for poor sales figures as demonstrations keep tourists out of shops and ordinary residents seek to avoid major malls that have been targeted.

Financial Secretary Paul Chan said in a blog post Sunday that many local retail and catering businesses had experienced a "sharp decline" in business, warning that the longer the historic protests go on, the more pressure they will pile on small and medium-sized enterprises.

The Hong Kong government will consider coun-

termeasures to stabilize the economy, Chan said, without providing details.

Ahead of the protest Saturday, fears grew that large groups of black-shirted activists would draw out the pro-establishment mob that had beaten the protesters with sticks on July 21. Police had said some of the assailants arrested later had links to the city's notorious organized crime syndicates, or triads, and denied a permit to the rally on Saturday due to fear of renewed clashes.

Demonstrators on Saturday targeted the police as well as a village where the mob was believed to have originated. Police moved to clear the area late at night after some protesters packed into the narrow streets hurled stones at officers and vandalized a law-enforcement van with personnel inside. A few hundred people engaged in running street battles with officers, who pursued them inside a subway station. **BLOOMBERG**





SINGAPORE IS SPENDING BIG TO FUTURE-PROOF ITS SLOWING ECONOMY

SINGAPORE rose to be one of the world's most advanced cities by using its position as a trading hub to attract technology and investment. Now, caught in the squalls of a shift in global trade and technological change, the nation is pouring money into ideas that could define the way cities are built and run in future, making it a test bed for urban innovation.

The island has few natural resources, hardly any land and faces many of the challenges that beset bigger developed nations such as Germany and Japan - an aging society, resistance to immigration, reliance on global trade. More than a third of the nation's exports go to Greater China or the U.S., putting it on the front line in the trade war and battering its latest export figures.

Economists now see Singapore growth in 2019 around 1.4%, down from 2.2% in June, according to a Bloomberg survey.

On the other hand, Singapore offers political stability - one party has ruled since independence - world-class transportation and infrastructure, a strong financial system, low crime rates, and a location in the center of some of the world's fastest-growing economies.

Here are some of the ways the "little red dot" is trying to get ahead in the race to create the city of the future and reinvigorate its economy.

GREEN SKIES

With 5.6 million people on an island half the size of Houston,

Singapore's urban plan has long been to build up. Most citizens live in high-rise public housing developments that are up to 50 stories tall. As space runs out, the city is also putting more unusual amenities in the air.

As well as the world's highest infinity pool at its iconic Marina Bay Sands hotel, Singapore has rooftop football pitches, parks, vegetable gardens and even a farm with chickens and ducks. The city's prized pangolins and other animals can scamper across a 62-meter (203-foot) "ecological bridge" connecting two nature reserves without being flatted by the traffic on the six-lane highway below.

But the greening of Singapore's buildings goes beyond a space constraint. The 160-foot high Supertrees at Gardens by the Bay, or the plant-swathed Parkroyal Hotel in the central business district are part of a plan by the city state to create a "vertical green city."

The National Parks Board pledged in 2009 to foot the bill for half of installation costs of rooftop and vertical greenery. The aim is to help cut carbon emissions by 36% from 2005 levels by 2030 and by the same time to produce 30% of the city's nutritional needs locally.

SILVER SURFERS

Step aside, millennials. "It's not a matter of age - it's a matter of attitude."

So says Tan Su Shan, group head of institutional banking at DBS Group Holdings Ltd. Southeast Asia's largest bank wants its senior employees to be at the

forefront of training in new digital initiatives.

The bank has hired and trained 80 iPad-toting seniors to assist elderly clients navigate digital banking, said Yeo Wenxian, head of DBS & POSB branch banking. Last year, DBS launched a health and payment program for seniors, complete with a "Smart Sleeve" device that can track daily steps and make everyday payments.

Singapore's median age is set to rise to 46.8 by 2030 from 39.7 in 2015, making the populace more than a decade older than the global median, according to United Nations projections. The government has responded with an array of programs for older citizens, from fitness groups in local parks, to "digital clinics" at community centers for those who want to master smartphone skills.

It won't all be fun though. A longer life could soon mean a longer working life too, with the government expected to raise the retirement age from 62.

AUTOMATION NATION

A limited population with higher wages and fewer young people entering the workforce equals robots. Singapore has its very own micro-city to test autonomous vehicles and a new program for delivering baggage at the city's award-winning international airport -- two symbols of just how much it's betting big on robotics.

The nation's first robot masseuse, Emma, from AiTreat Robotics started work almost two years ago now and Changi airport's autonomous cleaners, developed

by local manufacturer LionsBot International with the Singapore University of Technology and Design, will fan out across the island by year's end.

The airport's automated baggage handlers, developed by ground-handling firm SATS Ltd., are being tested and aim to deliver cargo to and from planes in as little as 10 minutes.

WEATHER OR NOT

One solution to climate change is to make your own climate.

The city state's late founding leader, Lee Kuan Yew, liked to keep things cool in the equatorial nation and today the city's air-conditioned skyscrapers are increasingly connected via mazes of underground passages that keep pedestrians clear of the blistering heat and sudden downpours.

Climate control isn't just for humans. The Cloud Forest biome pampers venus flytraps and eerie epiphytes in a misty world enclosed by 12,000 square meters of glass, including its own Lost World at the top of the dome. Changi's vast Jewel shopping mall has a similar science-fiction feel, with airport trains zipping along raised tracks around the world's tallest indoor waterfall.

The nation's ambitions to control nature go beyond chilling out, though. The city has constructed barrages across the mouths of its main rivers to keep out the sea and create reservoirs of fresh water. And 15 minutes' drive from the bustling business district, it has built a massive detention tank that can divert 15 Olympic pools'

worth of water to prevent flooding from the nation's frequent downpours, operated by automated sensors.

LONG VISION

In a smartphone-addicted world it's no surprise that Singapore is spending billions on fostering digital technology startups and research.

The government plans to build a digital district in the northern suburb of Punggol, where technology companies, startups and the Singapore Institute of Technology can share work spaces to try to foster innovation. It would have a central delivery point for goods to reduce traffic, centralized building management and a district-wide underground vacuum-pipe network to collect waste without trucks.

As a major financial center, one of the focuses of innovation is fintech, and the Monetary Authority of Singapore is doing its part. Officials have created "regulatory sandboxes" that allow selected fintech firms to test out innovations alongside their regulators. Every November it throws a sort of industry party: the FinTech Festival, which attracted 45,000 attendees in 2018, about 50% more than the previous year.

The approach of trying to incubate technology firms from government organizations has even spawned one that's trying to get people to use technology less.

Plano came from a project led by founder Mo Dirani at the Singapore Eye Research Institute. With 5 billion people predicted to suffer from myopia by 2050, Dirani's app is designed to warn parents and modify the behavior of children to stop them from being glued to their phones. That would be a breakthrough indeed.

MDT/BLOOMBERG

TRADE

US-China talks set to resume as neither seems eager for a deal

ALMOST three months after their trade talks broke down in acrimony, Chinese and American negotiators meet again in Shanghai this week amid tempered expectations for breakthroughs in their yearlong trade war.

Two days of talks are scheduled to restart Tuesday after an uneasy truce reached by Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the Group of 20 summit in Osaka, Japan, last month. Deep tensions remain, though, and recent days have brought mixed signals from both sides, with neither showing an urge to compromise.

While China has indicated its readiness to buy U.S. agricultural products, it has also called the U.S. the "black hand" behind anti-government protests in Hong Kong and said Friday an investigation into FedEx Corp.'s claims it mistakenly rerouted Huawei Technologies Co. packages to the U.S. found additional legal violations.

Trump has spoken with tech executives about the ban on selling products to Huawei and potentially easing that prohibition while other U.S. officials played down the possibility of a quick trade deal.

At stake is the health of a global economy weighed down by uncertainty for markets and companies. The International Monetary Fund last week further reduced its estimates for global growth and warned that damage was to some extent "self-inflicted" by prolonged uncertainty caused by the trade war, escalating tensions over technology, and Brexit.

"There is still a huge gap between the two sides on key sticking points," said Robin Xing, chief China economist at Morgan Stanley in Hong Kong. "So far there is still no clear path toward a comprehensive deal."

China's sticking to its three key demands: The immediate removal of all existing tariffs, a balanced agreement, and realistic targets for additional Chinese purchases of American products. No achievements would be made if the U.S. sticks to its existing stance during the Shanghai talks, Taoran Notes, a blog run by

BLOOMBERG



the state-owned Economic Daily newspaper, said Friday.

The U.S. should remove all additional tariffs first if it wants to reach a deal, and equality and respect between the two sides are the only way to reach agreement, it said. China is not afraid of U.S. threats to impose tariffs on an additional \$300 billion of Chinese goods, it said.

US DEMANDS

Among the U.S.'s demands are structural reforms to China's economy, greater protection of intellectual property rights and a more balanced trading relationship. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross on Tuesday said Trump's objective is to get "a proper deal."

Leading the delegation from Washington, U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin "will put forth the view we'd like to go back to where we were last May, where we did not have an agreement but we seemed to

be about 90% of the way there," White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow told reporters on Friday.

The prospects for an agreement are hampered by tensions over geopolitical issues including Hong Kong, North Korea, Taiwan and the South China Sea. Huawei remains a keypoint of contention, with China last week urging the U.S. to block a proposed bill that would stop the Chinese telecom giant from accessing U.S. patents.

Some in the U.S. administration also are concerned that the elevated role of Commerce Minister Zhong Shan in Shanghai may bode ill for the talks. He has a reputation as a tough negotiator and is seen by some on the American side as a hard-liner who could make discussions even more hostile than they have been already.

Though he hasn't named Zhong, Kudlow has warned a number of times in recent weeks

that the inclusion of new "hard-liners" on the Chinese side could complicate efforts to secure a deal, and thus lead Trump to impose more tariffs as he has threatened. Still, such a view is dismissed by China analyst Pauline Loong, managing director at

At stake is the health of a global economy weighed down by uncertainty for markets and companies

research company Asia-Analytica in Hong Kong.

"This is not some minor discussion with give and take on minor issues," she said. "The concessions now needed to clinch an agreement will require decisions at the Politburo Standing Committee level, not at the level of the negotiating team."

The discussions will cover a range of issues, including intellectual property, forced technology transfer, non-tariff barriers, agriculture, services, the trade deficit, and enforcement, according to a White House statement.

"China is not going to make dramatic concessions, so the issue for the U.S. side is whether it wants to accept a practical compromise or resume escalation," said David Dollar, a former U.S. Treasury attache in Beijing, who is now a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington.

On Friday, Trump said China may wait until after the 2020 U.S. presidential election to sign an agreement because Beijing would prefer to reach a deal with a Democrat. "I think that China will probably say, 'let's wait,'" he told reporters in the Oval Office. "When I win, like almost immediately, they're all going to sign deals." **BLOOMBERG**

Taiwan election a choice between peace or crisis, KMT's Han says

ADELA LIN & MA JIE

TAIWAN'S election will be an opportunity for voters to choose cross-strait peace or crisis, said Kaohsiung City Mayor Han

Kuo-yu, who was nominated as the presidential nominee by the opposition Kuomintang party at the national congress yesterday.

Han, whose campaign

slogan is "Taiwan safe, people rich," was selected to challenge incumbent Tsai Ing-wen in the presidential poll in January. Representatives agreed to the nomination unanimously,

said KMT chairman Wu Den-yih.

Han, who favors closer exchanges with China, beat off challenges from Foxconn Technology Group founder and billionaire

Terry Gou, and three other candidates in the party's presidential primary earlier this month. The result was cleared by the party's central standing committee.

Tsai, meanwhile, expressed concern in an NHK interview about China's latest defense report. The white paper released Wednesday demonstrates Beijing's continued military build-up, and Taiwan needs to res-

pond by bolstering its defense capabilities, she said, according to NHK.

Tsai said she was concerned about the crackdown on protesters in Hong Kong, adding that she hopes today's Taiwan will be tomorrow's Hong Kong -- stressing the importance of the guarantees of democracy and freedom of expression, the NHK reported. **BLOOMBERG**



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- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Mr. Leong Vai Tac | Secretary for Economy and Finance of Macao SAR |
| Mr. Win Thein | Chief Minister of Bago Region of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar |
| Mr. Wang Xindong | Secretary General of Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macao Special Administrative Region |
| Mr. Lin Ji | Deputy Secretary General of the People's Government of Guangdong Province |
| Mr. Ma Hua | Deputy Director of Department of Commerce of Guangdong Province |
| Mr. Yap Wei Sin | Consul General of Malaysia in Hong Kong |
| Mrs. Myat Thuzar Than | Consul General of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Hong Kong |
| Mr. Mandala Sukarto Purba | Acting Consul-General of the Republic of Indonesia in Hong Kong |
| Mrs. Nutthia Soontarapa | Acting Consul-General of Thailand in Hong Kong |
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| Mr. Lin Jun | Deputy Mayor of Shanwei Municipal People's Government |
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S. Koreans, Russians returned days after boat drifts to N. Korea

HYUNG-JIN KIM, SEOUL

TWO South Koreans and 15 Russians returned to South Korea yesterday, following 10 days of detention in North Korea after their fishing boat drifted into North Korean waters, officials said.

The crew members were

aboard a Russia-flagged fishing boat when it was detained by North Korea on July 17 after leaving South Korea's eastern Sokcho port a day earlier.

Seoul's Unification Ministry said in a statement the crew arrived aboard the same boat at Sokcho yesterday, a day after they left the North's Wonsan port.

Seoul officials did not immediately explain how they were detained, treated and repatriated, saying North Korea hasn't informed South Korea of its decision to release the crew. The ministry said it learned of the boat's departure from Wonsan on Saturday through various channels that it refused to disclose.

The ministry statement said it "positively" assessed the North's repatriation of the crew members.

In a Facebook message, the Russian Embassy in Pyongyang said the "coordinated work of the Russian diplomatic agency" led to their release. It said the ship's captain was informed of the crew's planned release 3 1/2 hours before

their departure from Wonsan.

An unidentified crew member told Russia's state news agency Tass that the ship was released without being fined. "The full crew is aboard the ship, everyone is feeling well," he was quoted as saying.

The Tass report said the ship was heading to the waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan to catch crabs when it was detained. It cited the North Korean foreign ministry representatives as saying the ship was detained for "violating the rules of entry and stay in North Korea."

Ties between the Koreas remain cool amid a lack of progress in U.S.-led diplomacy aimed at ending North Korea's nuclear program.

Seoul said North Korea is holding six other South Koreans it has arrested in recent years on anti-state and other charges.

Fishing boats drift across the Koreas' eastern sea border in both directions. Yesterday, South Korea's military said a North Korean wooden fishing boat carrying three people crossed the maritime border on Saturday night, prompting a South Korean navy ship to tow it to a South Korean port.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the North Koreans were under an investigation. South Korea typically returns North Korean fishermen unless they are suspected of espionage. But it also lets them resettle in the South if they want, often triggering angry response from the North. **AP**

Myanmar holds repatriation talks with Rohingya refugees

A Myanmar government delegation has met with representatives of hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslim refugees in Bangladesh to discuss creating conditions for their safe repatriation, officials said yesterday.

Myanmar's permanent foreign secretary, U Myint Thu, led a 10-member delegation for the weekend talks in refugee camps in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar region. He said he told the refugees about the preparations being made for their repatriation and agreed to continue talks with them.

"We will continue to discuss with the Bangladesh government at the ministerial level as well as the working level at the joint working group," U

Myint Thu told reporters. "I will be meeting [today] with the Bangladesh foreign minister in Dhaka and then we will continue to discuss further on the repatriation process and at the ministerial level there will be a meeting in New York on the sidelines of the General Assembly"

He said the Myanmar delegation will bring along representatives of ASEAN, a grouping of Southeast Asian nations, for the next round of talks with the refugees.

Buddhist-majority Myanmar has long considered the Rohingya to be "Bengalis" from Bangladesh even though their families have lived in the country for generations. Nearly all have been denied citizenship since

1982, effectively rendering them stateless, and they are also denied freedom of movement and other basic rights.

The long-simmering Rohingya crisis exploded in August 2017 when Myanmar's military launched what it called a clearance campaign in Rakhine state in response to an attack by a Rohingya insurgent group. The campaign led to the mass Rohingya exodus to Bangladesh and to accusations that security forces committed mass rapes and killings and burned thousands of homes.

The violence caused more than 700,000 Rohingya to flee to overcrowded refugee camps in neighboring Bangladesh and elsewhere for safety. **AP**

PHILIPPINES

DUTERTE HALTS LOTTERIES AMID ALLEGED CORRUPTION

PHILIPPINE President Rodrigo Duterte has ordered the indefinite closure of popular lotteries run by the government's sweepstakes agency due to alleged massive corruption and said even courts couldn't stop his order.

Duterte issued the order late Friday telling the national police and the military to immediately close all lottery and gambling outlets of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, or PCSO. Duterte did not elaborate on the alleged corruption and said an investigation would follow.

"The ground is massive corruption," Duterte said in a video message, adding without elaborating that repeated court injunctions on the issue had helped paralyze government and allowed corruption to thrive.

"I will not honor any order from any court stopping us or enjoining us to stop our desire to go into a massive



investigation for the massive corruption that is existing in the PCSO," said Duterte, who has been criticized in the past for actions and threatening remarks that critics feared could undermine judicial independence.

"It's all cheating and the contracts were like crafted in favor of corruption and to favor other corporations and people. I will not allow it," Duterte said without providing other details.

PCSO General Manager Royina Garma said in a statement that the agency would comply with the presidential order but would appeal to

Duterte to resume the lotteries. The lotteries, including the widely popular "lotto" games, generate huge revenues that have been mostly used for public health programs and charity.

One type of game, the small town lottery, was launched in the mid-2000s to stamp out a hugely popular illegal numbers game called "jueteng." In just a year of operation, the lottery generated 3 billion pesos (USD58 million) in revenues and 62,500 jobs for poor workers displaced by a crackdown on "jueteng," PCSO officials said. **AP**

NEARLY 1,400 DETAINED IN MOSCOW PROTEST; LARGEST IN DECADE

NATALIYA VASILYEVA, MOSCOW

NEARLY 1,400 people were detained in a violent police crackdown on an opposition protest in Moscow, a Russian monitoring group said yesterday, adding that was the largest number of detentions at a rally in the Russian capital this decade.

OVD-Info, which has monitored police arrests since 2011, said the number of the detentions from Saturday's protest reached 1,373 by early Sunday. The overwhelming majority of people were soon released but 150 remained in custody, OVD-Info and a lawyers' legal aid group said yesterday.

Crackdowns on the anti-government protesters began days before the rally. Opposition leader Alexei Navalny was arrested and sentenced Wednesday to 30 days in jail for calling for Saturday's protest against election authorities who barred some opposition candidates from running in the Sept. 8 vote for Moscow city council.

Navalny was unexpectedly hospitalized yesterday with a severe allergy attack, his spokesman said.



AP PHOTO

Kira Yarmysh said Navalny, who did not have any allergies beforehand, was taken from the Moscow jail to a hospital in the morning, arriving with severe facial swelling and red rashes. Hours later, she said Navalny was in a "satisfactory condition."

Russian police violently dispersed thousands of people who thronged the streets of Moscow on Saturday to protest the move by election authorities. Several protesters reported broken limbs and head injuries. Police justified their response by saying that the

rally was not sanctioned by authorities.

Along with the arrests of the mostly young demonstrators, several opposition activists who wanted to run for the Moscow City Duma were arrested throughout the city.

Police eventually cordoned off the City Hall and dispersed protesters from the area, but thousands of demonstrators reassembled in several different locations nearby and a new round of arrests began. Russian police beat some protesters to the ground with wide truncheon swings while others tried to push the police away.

Police said the protesters numbered about 3,500 but aerial footage from several locations suggested at least 8,000 people turned out.

Dmitry Gudkov, an opposition figure who was barred from running for city council office in Moscow, was detained yesterday afternoon as he delivered food to some of the Moscow protesters still in jail.

The U.S. Embassy in Moscow yesterday decried the violent crackdown as "use of disproportionate police force" and the Russian presidential human rights council said it was concerned about the police brutality.

Russian President Vladimir Putin stayed away from Moscow over the weekend.

Yesterday, he led Russia's first major naval parade in years, going aboard one of the vessels in the Navy Day parade in St. Petersburg, on the Gulf of Finland. The parade included 43 ships and submarines and 4,000 troops. AP

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USA

1 dead, 11 others shot at community event in Brooklyn

MALLIKA SEN, NEW YORK

LATE night gunfire at a large, outdoor event in Brooklyn killed one man, wounded 11 others and sent hundreds and perhaps thousands of people running for cover.

The shooting erupted just as the crowd at the annual Old Timers Event in the Brownsville neighborhood was beginning to disperse [yesterday] local time, witnesses said.

"There were a lot of people just chilling and having a good time," Kaseem Collins, 19, told the Daily News. Then, when shots rang out, "we all started running," he said. "I ran as fast as I could away from everyone. I thought I was going to get shot."

"I heard shots, and I saw a stampede running toward me," Diamond Perez, 38, told the newspaper.

NYPD Commissioner James P. O'Neill told NY1 that police



do not have a suspect and that it's unknown whether there was more than one gunman. He said 12 people were shot, but that it wasn't clear what led to the gunfire.

A 38-year-old man died with a single bullet wound to his head, a New York City police spokesman said. His identity was not released.

O'Neill said six of the woun-

ded have been released from the hospital. He did not address the conditions of the five others. Hours earlier, a New York City fire department spokesman said some were in serious condition.

The police commissioner said 2,000 to 3,000 people were attending the event next to a playground, and that more than 100 police officers were stationed there.

Mayor Bill de Blasio tweeted early yesterday that the shooting "shattered a peaceful neighborhood event." A 2010 newsletter from the parks department described the Old Timers Event as a celebration of "former members of the center who went on to success and fame in sports and other endeavors" that's grown to include concerts and other events.

"One of the worst experiences of my life," City Council member Alicka Amprey-Samuel tweeted. "How does such a beautiful and peaceful event become overshadowed by tragedy in seconds?"

"It was chaos," Gary Miller, a

60-year-old vendor at the event, told the New York Post. "Shots rang out and the crowd was already dispersing and you heard about 9 to 11 shots and everyone was running and scattering for cover."

Videos posted on social media showed police clearing large groups of people out of the area around the recreation center following the shooting. Photos from local news outlets showed several people taken from the scene on stretchers, including some with what appeared to be minor wounds.

Brownsville is an east Brooklyn neighborhood that's continued to struggle with gun violence, even as New York streets become safer than they have been in decades.

"We will do everything in our power to keep this community safe and get guns off our streets," de Blasio tweeted.

State Sen. Roxanne J. Persaud echoed de Blasio, adding the hashtags "#StopTheViolence" and "#PutDownTheGuns" to her tweets expressing frustration with the shooting, which she called "unacceptable" and "cowardly."

"Our community mourns again. We should be able to have fun in open spaces without fear of violence," tweeted Persaud, whose district includes Brownsville. "Respect your community. We are better than the violence." AP

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what's ON



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TIME: 24 hours

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VENUE: The Venetian Macao, The Parisian Macao, Sands Macao & Four Seasons Hotel Macao

ADMISSION: Free

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TIME: 10am-5pm daily (Closed on Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

VENUE: St. Joseph's Seminary and Church, Rua do Seminário

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

WYNN PRESENTS: GARDEN OF EARTHLY DELIGHTS

TIME: 10am-10pm

UNTIL: October 6, 2019

VENUE: Wynn Macau and Wynn Palace

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 6882 2839

Offbeat

GULP! ARKANSAS PHOTOGRAPHER SNAPS IMAGES OF SNAKE EATING BUG



An amateur photographer has snapped some startling gone-in-a-gulp images of a venomous snake devouring an unlucky bug at Ozark National Forest in Arkansas.

Charlton McDaniel of Fort Smith says he was "fascinated and captivated" to see a copperhead eat a newly emerged cicada at dusk on July 17.

The 42-year-old McDaniel told The Associated Press that he was in the forest for some moonlight kayaking when he noticed a molting cicada.

McDaniel says the snake showed up, and he twice scared off the reptile. McDaniel says he went to his vehicle and when he returned the snake grabbed the insect.

McDaniel says the copperhead became aware of his presence, finished swallowing the cicada and slithered off.

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
16:50	Quem Quer Ser Milionário
17:45	Moda Portugal Sr.4
18:15	Amor Maior (Repetição)
19:00	Volta ao Mundo
19:30	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Banco Asiático De Investimento em Infra-Estruturas
21:50	Livros com João Guedes
22:00	Todas as Palavras
22:25	Amor Maior
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Os Portugueses no Reino de Siam - A Glória De Ayutthaya
00:45	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:30	RTPi Directo

cinema



CINETEATRO

25 -31Jul



THE LION KING

ROOM 1

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

Language: Cantonese

ROOM 1

9:30pm

Director: J Jon Favreau

Starring: Donald Glover, Beyoncé, Seth Rogen

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 118min

TOY STORY 4

ROOM 2

2:15, 4:05, 9:45pm

Director: Josh Cooley

Starring: Will Smith, Mena Massoud, Naomi Scott

Language: Cantonese

Duration: 109min

THE WHITE STORM 2 DRUG LORDS

ROOM 2

5:55, 9:30pm

Director: Herman Yau

Starring: Andy Lau, Louis Koo, Michael Miu

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 86min

CRAYON SHINCHAN 2019

ROOM 3

2:30pm

Director: Masakazu Hashimoto

Starring: Yumiko Kobayashi, Toshiyuki Morikawa, Miki Narahashi

Language: Cantonese

Duration: 100min

THE CONFIDENCE MAN JP - THE MOVIE

ROOM 3

4:30, 9:30pm

Director: Ryô Tanaka

Starring: Yôsuke Eguchi, Masahiro Higashide, Michael Keida

Language: Japanese (English & Chinese)

CHILDREN OF THE SEA

ROOM 3

7:30pm

Director: Ayumu Watanabe

Starring: Mana Ashida, Hiroyuki Ishibashi, Seishû Uragami

Language: Japanese (English & Chinese)

Duration: 110min

this day in history



1968 POPE RENEWS BIRTH CONTROL BAN

Pope Paul VI has confirmed a ban on the use of contraceptives by Roman Catholics in spite of a Church commission's recommendation for change.

Most members of the Pontifical Commission, set up by Pope Paul's predecessor Pope John XXIII, argued it was time for the Church to face the realities of the modern world.

They said that with the increasing emancipation of women and the introduction of safe contraceptives the time had come for the Church to change its position.

However, a minority disagreed and published their own report advocating Church policy remain unaltered.

The papal encyclical letter, entitled *Humanae Vitae: On the Regulation of Birth* - comes after two years of deliberation by Pope Paul.

He withdrew an earlier version after being warned by liberals within the Church it was too uncompromising and likely to alienate many Catholics.

However, the new version is said to differ little from the original.

Pope Paul admitted the ruling on birth control might seem impossible to carry out: "Like all great beneficent realities, it demands serious engagement and much effort," he stated in the encyclical.

If the Roman Catholic Church were to permit the use of birth control "a wide and easy road" to conjugal infidelity would be opened up, Pope Paul concluded.

However, the Pontiff reaffirmed Pope Pius XII's edict that the "rhythm method" - total abstention of sexual intercourse during a wife's fertile period - was permissible.

A possible loophole in Pope Paul's directive is the use of contraceptives for medicinal reasons, such as regulating a woman's periods - one of the major applications of the Pill.

Pope Paul conceded a woman using a contraceptive for health purposes would not be in breach of Church policy, even if such use brought about temporary infertility.

However, the encyclical is still bound to cause dismay among the world's 600 million Roman Catholics - many had been pressing for a relaxation of the church's stance.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Humanae Vitae was the most controversial of seven encyclicals published by Pope Paul VI.

Its uncompromising position on birth control led to protests around the Catholic world and some national Roman Catholic church hierarchies openly modified the statement.

Pope Paul VI was born Giovanni Battista Montini in the Lombardy region of Italy in 1897, the son of a prominent newspaper editor.

He became pope in 1963 and continued the reforms of his predecessor John XXIII.

Pope Paul died in August 1978 and was succeeded briefly by Pope John Paul who died in October 1978.

In 1995 Pope John Paul II supported Pope Paul's view on birth control in his encyclical, *Evangelium Vitae: the Gospel of Life*.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
 Mar. 21-Apr. 19
 Things might not feel like they're moving along as quickly as you would like, which could cause a certain degree of fraying when it comes to your nerves right now.

TAURUS
 Apr. 20-May. 20
 It will be a productive, active day—even if your energy is a bit slow this morning. Don't worry if you can't quite get out of bed, or if the idea of getting dressed seems insurmountable.

GEMINI
 May. 21-Jun. 21
 Do you think someone is not being totally open with you right now? Your instincts are right on. But their tight-lipped status is not due to an inability to trust you.

CANCER
 Jun. 22-Jul. 22
 This morning's news will stimulate your already quick mind, allowing you to come up with many different plans for what you want to do with your day.

LEO
 Jul. 23-Aug. 22
 If you feel your blood pressure mounting today, you should do more than take a deep breath. Take a different attitude towards the situation! There is a funny side to any stressful situation.

VIRGO
 Aug. 23-Sep. 22
 For especially incisive insight on your latest problems, turn to one of your friends today. You need to consult someone who either is in the same situation as you are, or has been before.

LIBRA
 Sep. 23-Oct. 22
 One of your friendships is starting to feel one-sided—and you are not on the right side. Do you feel like you are giving more than you get? Compromising more than they do?

SCORPIO
 Oct. 23-Nov. 21
 If your routine is starting to get boring, resist the urge to create a problem just for the sake of having something to talk about! You need to avoid conflict now more than ever.

SAGITTARIUS
 Nov. 22-Dec. 21
 If you are working on starting or strengthening or shoring up a romance today, you had better take it all the way! Have fun with it. Be over the top. Flirt to a ridiculous degree.

CAPRICORN
 Dec. 22-Jan. 19
 Do you want to try out a new sport or hobby, but you're afraid you'll fail at it? Worrying too much about what might happen is only going to prevent you from trying new things.

AQUARIUS
 Jan. 20-Feb. 18
 Today, you should let your heart push you to get involved more in helping your community become a more supportive, welcoming place. Whatever group of people you feel could be made better.

PISCES
 Feb. 19-Mar. 20
 People are going to respond a lot better to concrete examples than to ambiguous concepts today, so if you are trying to make a point or sell an idea, you'll have to do it with facts and figures.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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EASY+

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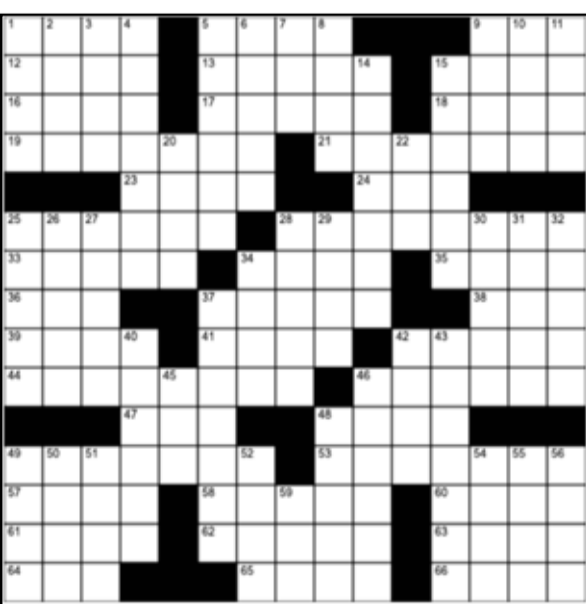
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	27	35	cloudy
Harbin	20	25	thundershower
Tianjin	27	35	thundershower
Urumqi	21	28	shower
Xi'an	24	35	cloudy
Lhasa	11	24	shower
Chengdu	24	34	shower
Chongqing	26	34	cloudy
Kunming	18	24	shower
Nanjing	29	36	cloudy
Shanghai	29	36	cloudy
Wuhan	28	37	clear
Hangzhou	28	38	cloudy
Taipei	26	30	overcast
Guangzhou	26	35	thundershower
Hong Kong	28	33	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	17	22	moderate rain
Frankfurt	21	33	clear
Paris	22	32	clear
London	16	24	clear
New York	18	27	clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1-Zhivago's love; 5- Secluded valley; 9- Play on words; 12- Dedicated to the ___ Love; 13- Speed contests; 15- Aviation prefix; 16- Air fresher target; 17- United; 18- Glass ornament; 19- Accidents; 21- Registers; 23- Sound rebound; 24- Litigator's org.; 25- Hovers; 28- Fully; 33- Riyadh resident; 34- Shampoo additive; 35- Broad valley; 36- Blasting material; 37- Makes like a bird; 38- Scot's topper; 39- Approved; 41- Darn!; 42- Acadia National Park locale; 44- Heaven; 46- Gun; 47- Born: Fr; 48- Bohemian; 49- Line that touches a curve; 53- Person that is no longer popular; 57- Pulitzer winner James; 58- Senior member; 60- ___ podrida; 61- Contented cat sound; 62- Move stealthily; 63- Supermarket section; 64- Long-faced; 65- Culp-Cosby series; 66- Calendar span;

DOWN: 1- Apparatus for weaving; 2- The King ___; 3- Classic cars; 4- Dolt; 5- Mathematical diagrams; 6- Rodeo rope; 7- Environmental prefix; 8- Branta sandvicensis; 9- Rind; 10- Russian range; 11- Agrees tactily; 14- Legislative bodies; 15- On the train; 20- Play beginning; 22- Baseball stat; 25- Setting on the aperture; 26- Sri ___; 27- External; 28- Best of the best; 29- Denials; 30- Have dinner at home; 31- Grassy plain; 32- Arabian republic; 34- [sigh]; 37- Pals; 40- Peril; 42- Floor coverings; 43- Each and every one; 45- Actress Ruby; 46- Grouchy; 48- Lots; 49- Knocks lightly; 50- Rain in Spain?; 51- Dork; 52- Singer Tennessee; 54- Waiting for the Robert ___; 55- Fitzgerald of jazz; 56- Neet rival; 59- Affirmative reply;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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



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FOR SALE

[Coloane] *Hellene Gardens* 3 2 2
 1,663 ft² **\$7,950,000** (ref: 190550065C)

[Taipa] *One Central (high floor)* 2 2 2
 1,269 ft² **\$13,900,000** (ref: 19070002)

[Coloane] *Beautiful 3 bedroom* 3 2 2
 1,665 ft² **\$8,500,000** (ref: 19070001)

[Taipa] *Nova City* 3 2 2
 1,494 ft² **\$13,980,000** (ref: 17050001RT)

FOR RENT

[Taipa] *The Manhattan* 3 2 2
 1,720 ft² **\$23,800/mth** (ref: 18110695RT)

[Taipa] *Ocean Gardens* 4 4 4
 3,700 ft² **\$35,000/mth** (ref: 18040674)

[Coloane] *Cheoc Van House* 3 2 2
\$28,000/mth

[Taipa] *One Grantai car park*
\$2,500/mth (ref: 19055009RC)

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JAY-Z PULLS OUT OF WOODSTOCK 50 PERFORMANCE

JAY-Z'S got 99 problems but Woodstock isn't one: The rap king has pulled out of the 50th anniversary Woodstock festival just weeks before the troubled event is supposed to take place.

Jay-Z will no longer close the three-day festival scheduled for Aug. 16-18, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press on Friday, speaking on condition of anonymity because they weren't allowed to discuss the plans publicly.

The news comes on the same day that John Fogerty, who performed at the origi-

nal 1969 festival with Creedence Clearwater Revival, pulled out of the anniversary event.

Representatives for Woodstock 50 and festival co-founder Michael Lang said they had no comment about Jay-Z and Fogerty's decision to back out of the festival.

Woodstock 50 has faced a series of setbacks in the last few months, including permit denials and the loss of a financial partner and a production company. No venue has been publicly announced and tickets have yet to go on sale.

ANNE HATHAWAY: 'MODERN LOVE' ROLE GAVE HER MORE COMPASSION



ANNE Hathaway says playing a bipolar character in Amazon's new series "Modern Love" affected her emotionally long after she wrapped the role.

Hathaway plays Terry Cheney, a woman navigating romance with bipolar disorder, in an episode of the anthology. The series, based on The New York Times' column of the same name, debuts Oct. 18.

At a Television Critics Association meeting Saturday, Hathaway said the role gave

her a heightened compassion for people with mental illnesses who can't walk away once the cameras stop rolling. She said she hopes telling stories like Cheney's will open up the conversation surrounding mental illness.

After reflecting on her role, Hathaway lightened the mood when she was asked how she feels about her newly announced second pregnancy.

"How do you think?" she replied, smiling.

AMAZON'S NEW 'MAKING THE CUT' IS GLOBAL IN FASHION, COMMERCE

AMAZON Studios Ahead Jennifer Salke told a TV critics meeting Saturday that there's an international field of designers in the upcoming competition series.

That makes them a match for the streaming service's global audience, who serve as viewers and potential customers: Fashion seen on "Making the Cut" will be available to

buy on Amazon.

Salke said the series has an international look. It was shot in Tokyo, New York and Paris, with a catwalk staged in front of the Eiffel Tower.

Heidi Klum, Tim Gunn and Chiara Ferragni are the hosts of the series coming in 2020.

Amazon said the winner gets \$1 million for brand investment.



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Colombian cycling 'beetles' chase Tour winner Bernal's dream

JOSHUA GOODMAN,
ZIPAQUIRA

TOMÁS Moreno sneaks a quick glance over his shoulder before speeding across the white finish line and throwing his hands in the air. It's the 8-year-old's first ever cycling win but he's already looking to follow in the path blazed by Egan Bernal, who hauled himself up from a modest upbringing in this high Andean town outside Colombia's capital to the pinnacle of competitive cycling.

"I want to go to the Tour de France and do everything I can to win," says Moreno, catching his breath after finishing a 1.5-kilometer sprint in a little over five minutes.

He's not the only Colombian child dreaming big these days after Bernal won the Tour de France.

A few blocks away, dozens of young cyclists, some of them on bicycles or dressed in the red, yellow and blue of Colombia's flag, pack into Zipaquirá's "Plaza of Hope" to watch on a giant screen their town's favorite son defend the yellow jersey in Saturday's penultimate stage. Confetti rained on the tear-shedding crowd, which included several of Bernal's relatives and cycling buddies, as he finished with a commanding lead heading into Sunday's traditional procession into Paris.

"He was always disciplined and a hard worker. You never had to tell him to do something twice," said Fabio Rodríguez, who discovered Bernal at the tender age of 8 when against the wishes of his father, a frustrated semiprofessional cyclist himself, he enrolled in a mountain biking class for underprivileged kids run by the city government.

Rodríguez said he realized Bernal would surpass the dozens of other hard-charging youth he's trained in this oxygen-starved town at 2,650 meters (8,700 feet) above sea level when as a teenager he traveled to Europe and immediately racked up a string of impressive cross-country performances before turning to road racing at the relatively late age of 17. "That's when I said to myself he will be the best."

Colombian riders have shined at the Tour before. Luis "Lucho" Herrera in 1984 became the first of 12 Colombians to win a stage victory at the race, while several others have worn the polka dotted "King of the Mountains" jersey. Nairo Quintana, who entered this year's Tour as a favorite to win, finished second overall in 2013 and 2015 and is one of two Colombians behind Bernal in the top 10 of this year's edition.

But none of those memorable races have energized Colombians like the 22-year-old Bernal's

breakout performance as the Tour's youngest post World War II winner.

For days now, Colombians have been glued to their TV sets watching live every move by Bernal and his British team Ineos. Even President Ivan Duque dipped into a downtown cafe amid a packed schedule of events Friday to watch the final minutes of Bernal's historic performance when he took the lead while riding through a violent hailstorm. On Saturday, with Bernal on the cusp of victory, the airwaves filled with news that one mother had named her newborn son after the country's overnight sporting sensation. In Zipaquirá, the town's mayor, smelling victory, unveiled 10 days ago a giant graffiti rendering of Bernal's tiger-like stare.

While little known in Europe and the U.S., Colombia's cycling tradition forms an integral part of the national culture like nowhere else in Latin America. Much of it was written in the same steep hills surrounding Bernal's hometown, from where one of the country's sporting legends, Efraín "El Zipa" Forero, winner of the first-ever Tour of Colombia in 1951, also hails.

With a first-place prize of barely \$10,000 — versus the 500,000 euros Bernal stands to win in France — the two-week Tour of Colombia until recently had been

all but shunned by the sport's top riders.

But it's a showcase for the unique brand of riders known in Colombia as Los Escarabajos — the beetles — for the relentless determination with which they scramble up almost any mountain. Its toughest stage is a 3,265-meter pass known as "La Linea" — "The Line" — a full 500 meters above the highest point on this year's Tour de France — in which riders setting off in a lush, tropical valley must grind their way 13 miles (21 kilometers) up to the freezing, oxygen-starved Andean plateau before embarking on a treacherous, winding descent back into the jungle heat. Bernal finished fourth at this year's Vuelta, as the Tour de Colombia is known in Spanish.

In a country torn apart by rugged topography and a half century of guerrilla warfare the race has managed to bring Colombians together in a way only sports can. And while the popularity of soccer and other sports have overshadowed cycling, live radio broadcasts of the Tour still saturate airwaves nationwide.

"I almost feel like I won too," Santiago Botero, who competed in three Tours and finished first in the mountain classification in 2000, said of Bernal's performance. "Watching Egan, you notice the difference between people who were born at high altitude

and those who just train there."

While all Colombians share in Bernal's triumph, Botero said it especially resonates with poorer Colombians, who frequently come from the same heavily indigenous, neglected mountains from where the champion climbers hail. He said they see in Bernal's success a validation of traditional values such as hard work in one of the world's most corrupt and economically unequal countries. Ironically, it's the beetles' gaunt, stringy physiques — the result of poorly nourished upbringings — that is a source of their aerodynamic strength in the saddle.

As in Europe, the pressure to win in Colombia is huge — and like elsewhere has led to revelations of doping that have tarnished the wholesome image of the sport here. This year, one of the country's premier teams, Postobon, folded ahead of the European season and was suspended by cycling's governing body after two riders tested positive for banned substances within a 12-month period. The World Anti-Doping Agency also suspended the government-run laboratory in Bogota charged with taking the samples of the cyclists and controlling anti-doping in races.

Bernal has been surrounded by cyclists from an early age. While his father's semiprofessional career was a bust his girlfriend, Xiomara Guerrero, is a three-time Colombian mountain bike champion. His 14-year-old brother, Roland, and 8-year-old cousin Nicole Pachón, were among the kids who came out Saturday to the amateur race in Zipaquirá.

But unlike his more privileged European rivals, breaking into the cycling big leagues wasn't easy for Bernal. Growing up his father worked at a security guard, first at a cathedral buried under a salt mine — Zipaquirá's main tourist attraction — and later at a dam while his mother picked stems at a nearby flower farm. They lived in public housing and at first didn't have enough money to pay for a helmet or enroll their son in classes.

The family received help from a Colombian philanthropist, Pablo Mazuera, who sponsors a half dozen Colombian cycling phenoms from in and around Zipaquirá. Mazuera is with his star pupil in France.

But at one point, frustrated with his disappointing results, Bernal stopped training and enrolled in a local university to study journalism. With patience, Mazuera lured him back onto a bike, promising that if after a year he didn't show progress he would fund his entire academic career.

"We always knew Egan had the perfect physique but he wasn't just born a champion," said Martha Cecilia Cortes, who works with Mazuera training the teenage cyclists. "He had to fight to reach his dream."

OPINION

World Views

Ronald W. Chan, Bloomberg

PROTEST DATA BREACHES THREATEN HK'S HUB AMBITIONS

Hong Kong's ambitions to be an international data-center hub are a potential casualty of the city's mass protests. Privacy breaches stemming from a summer of clashes between demonstrators and police threaten to erode confidence in the city as a base for foreign companies to set up storage facilities. To alleviate concerns, the government needs to improve security and regulation in the handling of sensitive data.

Last month, dozens of protesters were arrested after being treated in the emergency ward of a public hospital following battles with riot police. The city's Hospital Authority subsequently denied leaking patient data – despite the discovery of an internal document labeled “for police” that listed names of protesters seeking medical treatment, according to the South China Morning Post. At around the same time, the personal information of more than 800 police officers was hacked and released online.

Data centers are a fast-growing market, valued at \$31 billion globally in 2017 and forecast by Zion Market Research to grow 14% annually to reach \$105 billion by 2026. In Hong Kong, total revenue for data centers is expected to reach \$1 billion this year, with three firms sharing 55% of the market: Japan's NTT Communications Corp.; Sunevision Holdings Ltd., a unit of local developer Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd.; and Silicon Valley-based Equinix Inc.

The Hong Kong government has targeted the industry for growth, and the city has many advantages that make it an attractive location. The former British colony has a common-law legal system that's recognized and trusted across the Western world, and its data-privacy laws are among the strictest in Asia. In addition, Hong Kong sits at the mouth of the Greater Bay Area, a grouping of 11 cities with a population of 69 million and annual GDP of \$1.5 trillion that China plans to develop into an economic bloc. For multinationals, storing data in Hong Kong bypasses red tape and potential legal minefields in mainland China.

Besides its legal system and geographic position, Hong Kong is well equipped with a highly reliable power supply – averaging only 1.5 minutes of unplanned power outages per year, according to one of the city's two main electricity providers. This compares with 17 to 28 minutes in other major cities such as New York, Sydney and London. Consistent power enables strong broadband capacity and an established fiber-optic network. Another boast is Hong Kong's low latency transfer in cloud computing – the speed at which information travels from place to place.

The government has supported construction of data centers, by offering large financial incentives for companies to set up shop and specifying three locations to build such facilities. Unlike technology hubs such as Silicon Valley, these locations were intentionally set aside to accommodate the sector – no small feat, considering the diminishing supply of available land. Last year, Sunevision bought the last designated plot with a winning bid of \$697 million – 45% higher than the estimate of Colliers International Group Inc., the South China Morning Post reported.

The sale highlighted the perceived growth prospects for Hong Kong's data-center business. Companies such as Nvidia Corp. and Digital Realty Trust Inc. are also eyeing Hong Kong for expansion opportunities (though the city's land shortages and red-hot property market may make that easier said than done).

These advantages may count for little unless the government sustains confidence in the ability and willingness of authorities to protect data privacy. The leaking by hospitals of protesters' identities – an apparently blatant privacy breach – caused widespread unease. In the case of the police hack, eight people were eventually charged with dishonest intent and criminal destruction. Still, the ease with which the intrusion took place shocked politicians and the public. Fears of further breaches could scare businesses away.

[Abridged]

Astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson will keep his job as head of the Hayden Planetarium at New York's American Museum of Natural History after the museum concluded its investigation into sexual misconduct accusations against him.

A museum spokesman said in a statement that based on the results of the investigation, Tyson “remains an employee and director of the Hayden Planetarium.”

Tyson was accused of behaving inappropriately with two women in an article published in November on the website *Pa-theos*.

In one episode from 2009, Katelyn Allers, an associate professor of physics and astronomy at Bucknell University in Pennsylvania, said Tyson put his hand under the shoulder part of her dress while exploring her tattoo of the solar system to see if it included Pluto. Allers said the behavior was “creepy.”

The second case involved Ashley Watson, who quit her job as an assistant for Tyson on the Fox TV show “Cosmos” last year after what she said was inappropriate behavior on his part.

Tyson responded to the allegations in a December Facebook post in which denied acting wrongly.



FRENCH WINE VS US TECH PROWESS: NEW TRUMP-MACRON STANDOFF

FRANCE is pushing ahead with a landmark tax on tech companies like Google and Facebook despite U.S. President Donald Trump's threats of retaliatory tariffs on French wine.

That's rattling French vintners, who sold 1.6 billion euros (\$1.78 billion) worth of wine last year to American consumers. But neither Trump nor French President Emmanuel Macron appears ready to back down.

After Trump slammed the “foolishness” of the tax in a tweet Friday and promised reciprocal action, French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said France will implement it anyway.

He insisted that the measure doesn't target American companies, and that “fair and effective taxation on digital activities” is of universal concern. He said France's tax is meant as a temporary measure pending negotiations on an international deal that France wants to work out “hand in hand with our American friends.”

The 3% tax that went into force this week mainly concerns companies that use consumer data to sell online advertising.

It's designed to stop multinationals from avoiding taxes by setting up European headquarters in low-tax European Union countries. Currently, companies such as Google, Amazon, Facebook, Apple, Airbnb and Uber pay very little tax on their significant business in countries like France.

The Trump administration says the tax is discriminatory against U.S. business.

In fact, it targets any digital company with yearly global sales worth more than 750 million euros (\$835 million) and French revenue exceeding 25 million euros (\$27 million). It should affect about 30 companies, based in the U.S, China and Europe — including France.

The revenue threshold is supposed to allow more room for startups. France argues that tech companies are abusing their market dominance, notably through tax avoidance, and preventing others from a fair chance of competing.

Also, the tax only concerns revenues earned in France — not sales in the U.S. or elsewhere.

U.S. Trade Represent-

tative Robert Lighthizer began an investigation earlier this month to determine whether the tax is discriminatory or unreasonable and restricts U.S. commerce. Such a finding would allow Trump to levy retaliatory tariffs.

Trump derided French wines in his tweet, and later said he might hit them with retaliatory tariffs to French. He made a similar threat last year.

About 20% of French wine is sold in the U.S., and the Federation of French Wine and Spirits Exports on Saturday expressed concern about tariffs that could hurt “French players in this market, but also their clients and American consumers.”

The federation urged French and American authorities to pursue dialogue on the tax issue, expressing hope “that they can quickly find a path to follow to prevent these threats from materializing.”

Le Maire said the U.S. “should not mix the two issues,” and noted that European wines already face tariffs in the U.S. as do American wines in Europe. He hopes for an international deal by the end of August. **MDT/AP**

Pakistan Police say they have found the bodies of two transgender women who were tortured and beaten to death.

UK Officials say a British special forces soldier who died fighting the Islamic State group in Syria was killed by friendly fire, rather than in a roadside bomb as previously believed.



Austria Representatives from Europe, China and Russia, which are still committed to the Iran nuclear deal, met yesterday with Iran's representative in Vienna to discuss how to salvage the unraveling accord.



France President Emmanuel Macron says he will hold talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin next month, days before hosting a Group of Seven summit with the leaders of rich democracies.



Poland Opposition left-wing parties have staged a rally against violence in the eastern city of Bialystok where a LGBT rights march was attacked last week by far-right groups.



USA A top White House aide defends President Donald Trump's disparaging tweets about an influential black Democratic congressman and his Baltimore district as a justified response to the lawmaker's criticism of administration border policies.