



THE GAMING REGULATOR IS RESTRICTING THE USE OF INTELLIGENT SURVEILLANCE IN CASINOS, POTENTIALLY USED TO TRACK GAMBLER HABITS P4

MICE SECTOR GROWING FAST DESPITE POOR GLOBAL RANKING P5

THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS BUREAU SAID THAT THE UNITED NATIONS DID NOT OBJECT TO THE HEIGHT OF A CONTROVERSIAL GUIA HILL PROJECT P6

China Tech giant Tencent is in talks with French media company Vivendi to buy 10% of Universal Music Group, whose artists include Ariana Grande, Lady Gaga, U2 and the Rolling Stones.

China allowed its currency to fall further yesterday and accused Washington of destroying the global economic order, fueling fears about increasing damage from their trade war. More on p12

South China Sea A U.S. aircraft carrier has sailed through the disputed South China Sea in the latest show of America's military might amid new territorial flare-ups involving China and three rival claimant states.



Philippines The Department of Health yesterday declared the country's outbreak of dengue to be a national epidemic. It recorded 146,062 cases of dengue from January through July 20 this year, 98% more than the same period in 2018. It said the outbreak caused 622 deaths.

Japan The wife of former Nissan Chairman Carlos Ghosn is protesting restrictions on contacting her husband as he awaits trial in Japan on financial misconduct allegations, calling them a human rights violation.



India The lower house of Parliament was set to ratify a bill yesterday downgrading the governance of the Indian-administered portion of Muslim-majority Kashmir, as an indefinite security lockdown continued in the disputed Himalayan region.

More on backpage

BACKED INTO A CORNER

SONIA CHAN FACES TOUGH QUESTIONS ON DEMOCRATIC REFORM AT THE AL P3



RENATO MARQUES



MACAO FOUNDATION CHIEF PRAISES COUNTRY AT WEBSITE LAUNCH P2



GUANGZHOU FINDING A SENSE OF HUMOR AT 'WATERMELON' CLUB P7

GREATER BAY

MACAO FOUNDATION PRESIDENT USES WEBSITE LAUNCH TO PRAISE CITY'S 'SOCIAL HARMONY'

RENATO MARQUES

THE Macao Foundation (FM) yesterday officially launched a new website seeking to preserve and archive Macau's local culture and history, which will show to the outside world that the SAR has more to offer than just gaming.

The website, the result of work that started back in 2012, would have been impossible to achieve without the support and help of several sectors across society, the president of FM said in the opening of his speech.

Wu noted that over the years, Macau has been known for its gaming industry, but with the efforts of all the institutions and people that collaborated over the creation of the new website, Macau can now also be known for its cultural resources and cultural interchange among different peoples.

In a long speech giving opportunity for Wu to make many references to "the youth," the "love for Macau and the country" and the "importance of Macau in the context of the history of China," the president of the FM appeared to be directing some of his remarks at the current situation in Hong Kong.



In one of those remarks, Wu said, "the history and culture of Macau are its treasures that deserve continuous discovery and disclosure because on them is embedded the 'spirit of the city', which is made of tolerance, pluralism, solidarity and social harmony."

Wu also noted that the "Memória de Macau" (Macao Memory) is a platform that besides being a showcase of historical and cultural elements of Macau, is also a "part of the 'China Memory' project."

Continuing to remark on the importance of the historical background for Macau, Wu added, "presented here today electronically, the documents, maps, pictures, collections, sounds and videos will not disappear with the internationalization of Macau and will be kept within the 'one country, two systems' [constitutional principle]."

"A nation has no future if it loses the memory of its past," added Wu in patriotic fashion, and

"a city only finds its soul if its residents recognize its collective memory."

Closing his speech, Wu remarked once more on the topic of "social stability," as a decisive factor to be cherished by all the residents of Macau.

"The success of Macau comes from the fact that the residents of Macau know their roots, as well as where they stand now and to where they are heading. This is the feeling that allows them to

continue to live in this place and live together with others; keeping social stability and allowing prosperity."

Then, in a speech far less politicized, the former director of the Center for Ethnic and Folk Literature and Art Development of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of People's Republic of China, Li Song highlighted the "amount of work" needed to put the website into force and the contribution of several sectors in Macau, including culture and education, among others.

The former Ministry official praised the work noting that it "opens a new perspective for the study of the culture and history of the city."

The Vice director of the Association of History and Education of Macau, Chan Hou Tong, noted the website as a "great resource to teachers, students, and researchers."

Together with the launching of the website, the FM has launched an exhibition at the Macao Science Center to present some elements of the website and attract visitors to navigate through it. The exhibition will be on display until September 3.

MEMORY LANE

Isabel Canhota and Júlio Bucho

MDT/Renato Marques



Captured from the military fort known as Fortaleza do Monte, these two photos show how the Ruins of St. Paul's and the surrounding areas have changed over the past 40 years. The church façade presides over the landscape in the 1978 historical photo, while today it is overshadowed by residential towers. The northern part of the Inner Harbor district sits behind the Ruins, where much of the day-to-day life of Macau has endured decade-to-decade. This part of Macau was densely populated even back in the late-1970s. In the background, past the stretch of water separating Macau from mainland China, lies Hengqin: seen here in its original 'state of nature' versus the urban metropolis that it now aspires to be. DB

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

+ 4 Million page views
PER MONTH

Thank You!

+13,000 like us on facebook.com/mdtimes



MacauDaily 澳門每日時報
Times

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

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

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

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

OFFICE MANAGER Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com
ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

Advertisement advertising@macaudailytimes.com

For subscription and general issues:
general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd



Secretary Sonia Chan backed into corner over political reform

JULIE ZHU

SECRETARY for Administration and Justice Sonia Chan appeared to back herself into a corner yesterday at the Legislative Assembly (AL), claiming that Macau would not advance with democratic reform, and yet describing the city's Chief Executive elections as "democratic and representative" because of the expansion of the electorate from 300 to 400.

Lawmaker Au Kam San asked Chan if Macau's political reform should be first proposed by the Macau government, and, in particular, by the Chief Executive, instead of being proposed by the Central Government.

Au urged the local government to initiate political reform to achieve universal suffrage for the Chief Executive and AL elections.

Chan avoided answering all of Au's questions. In turn, she presented her own figures, claiming that Macau's election has been more representative and more democratic because there are now 400 members in the election committee of the CE election compared to the previous 300.

"The members are spread across all sectors and balance the interests of all sectors and all classes. It has increased the involvement of democracy," said Chan, adding that "the total voting turnout of this year's election of members to the election committee reached 87.2%, 4.5% more

than in the previous election. It shows the legitimacy of the election."

Chan also mentioned that, in the previous round of reform, "the Chief Executive submitted a report" to the central government for approval of the political reform.

Having heard Chan's reply, Au said "I really want to thank you for your reply, but I don't know how to thank you because you didn't even answer my questions."

"[My question was] whether it will be the Central Government's authorization or the Macau government's authorization initiating the political reform?"

Au elaborated, "apparently, all political reforms start from the Macau SAR government. How can you say it is the Central Government?"

Once again, Chan evaded Au's question, saying, "we can't say if a constitution is good or bad; the most important is that it suits the place and is endorsed by the society."

"Indeed, I don't think you are answering the questions," insisted Ng Kuok Cheong, following Chan's reply.

"You never answered us regarding whether the first step should be the Macau Chief Executive submitting a report to the central government," said lawmaker Sulu Sou, who indicated that Chan had contradicted herself by saying that the authorization lies with the Central Government.

"You are lying to yourself," added Sou. "Around 5,000 people vote for members of the election committee, and then the vote rate is 87 percent, and you think the vote rate is very high and the society highly endorses the vote."

"You are lying to yourself," he repeated. "Macau's election is an election where you know the result without the election happening. [...] Don't you know who will become the Chief Executive? Are you creating a big show and cheating yourself?"

Chan responded that, as the CE election is set to occur on August 25, the "government is currently making every effort to support the development of the tasks of the Chief Executive Electoral Af-

fairs Committee, ensuring that the appointment of the new Chief Executive will be fair, impartial, open and fair."

"Universal suffrage is one kind of democracy, but it is not the only way of democracy," she added.

In a statement later released on the government's media portal, Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, said that the government had no plans for electing the Chief Executive through universal suffrage, nor does it plan to increase the number of directly elected lawmakers.

"In practical terms, the current electoral regime for the election of the Chief Executive and the elections for the AL have shown that it could adapt to the current level

of development of society and the concrete situation of Macao, obtaining confirmation and recognition of the various sectors of Macau society," Chan said, according to the government statement.

Meanwhile, besides not directly answering many other questions during yesterday's session at the Legislative Assembly, Sonia Chan also evaded replying to Pereira Coutinho, who accused the Secretariat for Administration and Justice of having double standards regarding mistakes committed by junior civil servants and high-ranking government officials.

"For a long period, many elementary civil servants were given no chance to correct their mistakes, and have either been dismissed or not renewed for employment because they made a small mistake. The punishment is very strict," said Coutinho. "However, when major officials make mistakes, they are tolerated over and over again."

Coutinho, a directly-elected lawmaker who finds his support base in civil servants, also pointed out that the government had spent a lot of money providing training to public officials, and yet "the training seems to have produced no effect."

Chan replied with some general information related to Coutinho's question, however she did not directly answer the questions.

"Do high ranking civil servants need training? Do the secretaries need training? Does the Chief Executive need training?" Coutinho questioned.

"If an ordinary resident does not know he cannot park at a place, but still parks there, can he be exempted from the fine if he claims ignorance? No, he cannot be exempted," Coutinho added. "How can we accept such an irresponsible government?"

In her reply, Chan stated that there is no guarantee that training will be effective for every participant. According to the Secretary, currently, the local government invites judges and prosecutors to train civil servants in legal matters.

WONG KIT CHENG

EMPLOYERS SHOULD NOT HAVE TO PAY FOR DOMESTIC HELPERS' TRIP HOME

LAWMAKER Wong Kit Cheng expressed her doubts about the reality of employers paying for their domestic helpers' trips back to their home country.

During yesterday's Legislative Assembly (AL), Wong pointed out that criminal cases committed by domestic helpers have been frequently reported in Macau, "leaving many domestic helper employers worried."

She has particular concerns that once the city's new non-local workers employment law comes into effect, the number of domestic helpers will decrease and their salary will increase, which "has

a great influence over working parents."

"We can increase the salary. But it seems the government has not accepted the employers' opinions regarding their [the domestic helpers'] skills, yet, their salaries have been adjusted constantly," said Wong.

"[Salary increase] grants the employees a protection, which is right. But can you [the government] understand, in respect to employers, that since they [domestic helpers] did not even come from their home town to Macau, why then, when they return to their home town, employers must pay for their return fare?" Wong questioned. **JZ**

Gaming regulator clamps down on use of AI in casinos



MACAU'S gaming watchdog has restricted the use of artificial intelligence tools that may help casino operators track gamblers likely to bet big, according to a report by Bloomberg that cited people familiar with the matter.

The Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) has asked casinos in Macau not to install any digital surveillance equipment including cameras or facial recognition system that the regulator hasn't approved, according to people who have seen the July 30 directive but asked not to be named as the document is confidential. The new rules kicked in from Aug. 1, these people said.

Several other media reports were suggesting yesterday that the DICJ was banning all digital surveillance from casinos, as opposed to mandating that it approves such equipment first.

Macau Daily Times at-

tempted to clarify the conflicting reports yesterday, but the DICJ did not respond by press time.

The latest clampdown on casino owners in Macau follows a Bloomberg report in June that showed how operators there were starting to use hidden cameras, face recognition technologies, digitally-enabled poker chips and baccarat tables to track gamblers. These provided data that helped the companies spot who among their millions of customers are likely to lose the most money.

In response to the June report, the DICJ initially said that some equipment suppliers were testing facial recognition technology devices in casinos, but that the suppliers did not install the equipment completely. The bureau clarified that the equipment should be used only for casino security purposes.

The regulator has also directed companies to com-

ply with laws pertaining to personal data. Any video or data used or obtained from these high-surveillance tools is to be kept only by the casino operators, according to these newly issued rules.

The Bloomberg Intelligence gauge of Macau casino operators, which includes MGM China Holdings Ltd., Sands China Ltd. and Wynn Macau Ltd., slipped almost 10% last week amid a broader market sell-off and an unexpected drop in July's gaming revenue, marking its worst weekly fall since November last year.

The new algorithm-driven technology processes the way gamblers behave at the betting table and maps them according to their risk appetite. The higher the appetite for risk, the more likely it is for the customer to lose and the more profit a casino tends to make, sometimes up to 10 times more. **DB/BLOOMBERG**

GAMING

SOUTH SHORE DISCUSSING POTENTIAL SALE OF SUBSIDIARY

AN under-discussion transaction could lead South Shore Holdings to sell a 60% stake in one of its subsidiaries that owns The 13 Hotel in Cotai.

The sale, which is being considered to an associate of a substantial shareholder of the Company for a sum of HKD1.2 billion, would be used to reduce the debt accrued over the course of the hotel's development.

South Shore signed a

memorandum of understanding with the possible investor in January and has renewed the memorandum at least once since. It has not disclosed the identity of the possible buyer.

"Subject to contract, the company envisages that the transaction could extend to a disposal of 60 percent interest in a subsidiary of the company that beneficially owns The 13 Hotel together with its respective bank borrowings of

approximately HKD2,942 million and the interest accrued thereon for a consideration of up to HKD1,200 million," the company said in a filing to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange on Monday.

"As at the date of this announcement, the company has not entered into any definitive agreement in relation to the potential disposal and is still in negotiations with prospective investor(s)." **DB**

AD



旅遊學院
INSTITUTO DE FORMAÇÃO TURÍSTICA
Institute for Tourism Studies

www.ift.edu.mo

Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT), a rapidly growing public higher education institution in Macau devoted entirely to education and training for the tourism and hospitality industry, invites applications for the following full-time teaching posts. *Subjects to be taught in English and/or Chinese. Successful candidates are required to teach in both the daytime and evening programmes/courses.*

Tourism College and Tourism and Hotel School

◆ Assistant Professor in Cultural and Creative Industry Studies
(2 vacancies) – Ref. No. 012/AC/2019

◆ Lecturer in Cultural and Creative Industry Studies
(1 vacancy) – Ref. No. 013/AC/2019

should be able to teach and develop specific subjects/courses:

- in Tourism College: Introduction to Cultural Economics, Introduction to Performing Arts, Arts Administration and Management, Appreciation of Chinese and Western Arts, Performing Arts Marketing, Cultural and Creative Industry, Introduction to Cultural and Heritage Management, Museum Management and Curatorship, Practicum (Drawing), Cultural Event Planning and Management, etc.;

- in Tourism and Hotel School: Introduction to Cultural Economics, Art Administration & Management, Appreciation of Chinese and Western Arts, Introduction to Museum Studies, Art Event Management, Introduction to Visual Arts Industry, Visual Arts Marketing Channels, Art Gallery Operations Management, Visual Arts Marketing Operations, Introduction to Performing Arts, Performing Arts Marketing, Performing Arts Administration, Events and Production Management, Stage Management and Techniques, Concepts of Stage, Lighting and Sound Design, etc.

Tourism College

◆ Assistant Professor in Computer and Management Information System
(1 vacancy) – Ref. No. 014/AC/2019

should be able to teach and develop specific subjects such as Management Information System, Computer Applications and Smart Technologies for Tourism.

◆ Lecturer in Retail Management
(2 vacancies) – Ref. No. 015/AC/2019

should be able to teach and develop specific subjects such as Operations of Service Management, Principles of Retailing, Brand Management, Merchandise Management, Visual Merchandising and Store Design.

Requirements:

Assistant Professor: must have (1) at least a Master's degree in the relevant area and (2) at least 4 years of full-time teaching experience as Lecturer

Lecturer: must have at least a Master's degree in the relevant area

Candidates who do not meet the listed requirements above, or who do not upload supporting documents together with their applications (including graduation certificates, transcripts, service testimonials indicating positions and complete service durations with exact start dates and end dates issued by current/previous employers for the requirements) need not apply for the vacancies.

Annual Taxable Remuneration and Benefit:

Assistant Professor : MOP665,280 - MOP936,320 (salary index: 540 – 760)

Lecturer : MOP529,760 - MOP665,280 (salary index: 430 – 540)

- The current local income tax rate ranges from 7% to 12%. Exchange rate: approx. USD1 = MOP8.
- The position and remuneration offered will be commensurate with academic qualifications, higher education teaching and professional experience.
- For benefits and FAQ, please refer to *Job Vacancies* at IFT website <https://www.ift.edu.mo/visitors/job-vacancies>.

Type of Contract:

Individual Service Contract (個人勞動合同)

Selection:

The selection panel consists of the Directors of Tourism College and/or Tourism and Hotel School, the relevant coordinators and faculty members. Outside members may also be invited. Selection will be based on (1) documentary evaluation, (2) mock teaching and interview.

Application and Documents Need to be Submitted:

Apply **online** at IFT website (<https://www.ift.edu.mo/visitors/job-vacancies>) and submit the following **required** documents in **PDF format**:

- Copies of graduate certificates of all academic degrees awarded, transcripts, testimonials for the academic qualifications required as above
- Service certificates or testimonials issued by current/previous employers, indicating positions and complete service durations (with exact start dates and end dates) for the current/past full-time teaching experiences in tertiary education institutions or relevant full-time working experiences
- Identity card or passport copy
- Full resume
- Cover letter

- List of academic journals or articles published (if available) with ISBN

Applications will not be considered if the required qualifications and teaching experiences are not supported by certificates, testimonials and/or documents listed above or no identity card or passport copies are provided at the time of submission of application.

Application closes on 26 August 2019

- The selected candidates are expected to assume duty in late 2019.
- Final result name list will be announced on IFT website around late autumn of 2019 or earlier.
- Please note that ALL application materials must be received by the closing date (Macao time). Application received by IFT after the closing date will only be included in the next round of recruitment, if applicable.
- Personal data provided by applicants will be kept confidential and used for recruitment purpose only.

For application details, please visit <https://www.ift.edu.mo/visitors/job-vacancies>.

For enquiries, please send to Job Vacancies On-line enquiry

<https://www.ift.edu.mo/visitors/job-vacancies/job-vacancies-on-line-enquiry>.



MICE industry one of the fastest-growing sectors, says IPIM

RENATO MARQUES

MACAU'S Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) industry has been one of the fastest-growing emerging sectors in recent years, the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) informed the Times in its latest update to the development of the sector. According to IPIM, the industry's development strategy of giving "priority to conventions" started to yield results from 2017, when the value of the local MICE industry grew to some MOP3.6 billion. This value represented 0.9% of the general rise in the value of all industries and was accountable for an almost 150% increase when compared with 2015, when the industry was valued at MOP1.4 billion. To boost the region's MICE industry, since 2003, the government has been investing significant resources in an attempt to cultivate "Macao-branded MICE Events," such as the

Macao International Trade and Investment Fair (MIF), the Macao International Environmental Cooperation Forum and Exhibition (MIECF) and the Macao Franchise Expo (MFE). These events have obtained recognition from the Global Association of the Exhibition Industry (UFI) for their standards of quality. But, as IPIM noted, the growth of the industry is not only related to government-hosted events. The number of non-government meetings increased more than 75% between 2014 and 2018; growing from 861 to 1,520 and suggesting an average annual increase of about 11%. Private sector meetings accounted for a total of 93.1% of all meeting held in Macau last year. The number of conventions and exhibitions held in Macau has also been growing steadily in recent years, reaching a total of 1,427 events with participants numbering over 2.1 million in 2018. According to statistics cited by IPIM, the number

of MICE events held in the region in the first quarter of the year increased by 49 year-on-year to reach 377. Extrapolated to the year-end, the total number of MICE events this year might surpass the 1,500 mark. Meanwhile, in the first quarter, the number of participants and attendees at such events increased by about 20% year-on-year. These figures together lead IPIM to assert that MICE development in Macau "is on the right track with steady growth," adding that the results even "exceeded all expectations considering an overall slowdown in economic growth in the region and intense competitive activity [in the sector] within the Asia-Pacific region." Despite the promising review from IPIM, according to the 2018 Statistics Report released by the International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA) there were a total of 39 accredited International Meetings held in Macau. This places the

city 71st worldwide and 17th within the Asia-Pacific region by the number of accredited international meetings held. Questioned on the major developments that contributed to the growth of Macau MICE activity, IPIM noted that one of the major factors was the "increased venue and accommodation capacity and with this a number of new operators actively promoting Macau as a MICE destination." IPIM also said that the sector had benefited from "greater accessibility with the recent development of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge." This is a trend that IPIM believes will continue in the upcoming years due to new developments and venues scheduled to open soon. As for the challenges, IPIM elected the need for "more MICE talent" to join the industry as well as "enhancing the competitiveness of Macau's MICE practitioners" to create a "Strong Macau MICE brand."

ADVERTORIAL

GREAT TIMES

Hua Yuan Art Tour
Immerse in Ink Artistry

Embark on a journey to discover the art of ink in a way you've never experienced before. At the Hua Yuan Exhibition, you can join our Hua Yuan Art Tour that will take you through an immersive multimedia art installation *A Metamorphosis: No End to End* and the ink artistry collection at MGM COTAI. With a wide selection of contemporary art, MGM COTAI houses one of the largest permanent collections in the city and is excited to present this new exhibit that celebrates ink – its history, its pivotal role in Chinese culture, and its ability to transcend time.



The Hua Yuan Art Tour departs daily and is available in multiple languages to make the art more accessible to people of all walks of life. On the tour you'll be guided by our expert and enthusiastic docents, who have been professional trained on the exhibit. With them you'll dive right into the art with a fresh perspective as you gain insight into the artist's technique and inspiration. From beginning to end you'll be immersed in a world of ink that encompasses an array of oriental, classical, contemporary, and modern elements. With garden-inspired projections appearing on large-scale screens you'll be enveloped in the artwork as you experience the way renowned artist Jennifer Wen Ma masterfully transforms ink from a traditional to modern form of expression. Further let yourself be drawn in as LED lights breathe different colours into the installations as they change throughout the day. On this tour, you'll be amazed by the sheer ingenuity and originality of Ma's imagination every step of the way and leave with a deep appreciation for the value of innovative creativity.



Book the Hua Yuan Art Tour through our website now and don't miss out experiencing the beauty of Chinese ink.

Hua Yuan, integrated in the series of activities of "ArtMacao: International Art Exhibition" of the event "Art Macao".

WEATHER, EDUCATION BUREAUS TO REVIVE RAINSTORM WARNING

The Meteorological and Geophysics Bureau (SMG) will revive the first three-tier rainstorm warning after its prior elimination in 2004. Before that, the warning had two tiers to indicate the severity of rainstorm. The revival is required, according to the SMG, because it will fully reflect the actual conditions and thus allow residents and the government will be able to make early preparations. The new warning system will have three tiers: tier 1 suggesting the rainfall may significantly affect daily life; tier 2 suggesting possible floods that will generate safety issues; tier 3 suggesting extreme conditions with possible falling of trees and landslides. A qualifying rainstorm will bring at least 70mm rainfall per hour.

NEW AUTO TRASH COLLECTION USES STAINLESS STEEL TUBES

The automated trash collection system at Areia Preta will be rebuilt, according to the government. The existing one, which is no longer working, was designed for 25 years' use but was broken after only 10 years. The cost of the existing one was MOP120 million. Lawmakers have asked the government if it has measures to better protect the system. In response, the administration said that the new system will be equipped with stainless steel underground tubes, which are expected to be more durable. However, lawmaker Mak Soi Kun urges the government to improve education on trash handling, saying unsorted trash disposal would easily damage the tube.

PROHIBITION ON CE CANDIDATE POLLING IN EFFECT FROM AUGUST 10

The Electoral Affairs Commission for the upcoming Chief Executive (CE) election has reiterated that the official campaign period begins at midnight on August 10 and will run for 14 consecutive days, ending at midnight on August 23. From the start of the campaign period until the day after the election (August 26), any disclosure in the form of polls or results concerning the sole candidate shall be prohibited, the Commission warned, especially through the internet or any mobile communication network applications. No one may, with turmoil, disorder, or gossip, disturb a rally or election campaign. Neither can anyone steal, destroy, tear or in any way render useless or unreadable - in whole or in part - electoral propaganda material or hide it with any material. The Commission also points out that no one can coerce or induce, directly or indirectly or by illicit means, the members of the electorate to vote or abstain from voting, as well as to vote or not to vote for the candidate.

RENATO MARQUES



HERITAGE

IC SAYS UNITED NATIONS DID NOT OBJECT TO GUIA HILL BUILDING

THE Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) told a press conference yesterday that it had explained to the United Nations about the height of the building being built on Calçada do Gaio on Guia Hill, and the international body issued no opposition.

"As per our information, the building was built to this height before the issuance of the Chief Executive's instruction," said Acting Vice President Choi Kin Long of the IC.

"This is the information we have submitted to UNESCO," the specialized UN agency for education, science and culture, the IC official added.

Choi's comment was immediately challenged by a journalist, who cited the claim made by certain concern groups that the developer had rushed the construction to reach its current height, in order to evade the Chief Executive's instruction.

On this, Choi said the bu-

reau had no information on this aspect, stressing "when we were asked to comment on the building, it had been built to the existing height. The construction has also stopped [since]." As a result, the report that the IC submitted to UNESCO contained the information that the bureau had access to.

"With regard to follow-up actions [on the building], UNESCO has given no further comment."

When asked whether the bureau is going to pay compensation to the developer, Choi explained that it is not within the bureau's authority. It only advises on conservation matters.

On the other hand, the IC has also "heard the comments" about conserving the view from Penha Hill. Acting department head of the Cultural Heritage Department, Sou Kin Meng, said that the bureau had also heard comments from the public regarding the view.

Sou introduced that these comments received from the public suggested more restrictions should be in place to govern the dimensions of the view from Penha Hill to the Governador Nobre de Carvalho Bridge.

All of these comments have been considered for the Administrative Decree on the Protection of the Historic Centre of Macau, which the bureau is currently drafting.

The bureau pledges that it has picked up the pace of the drafting process and expects to issue the draft by the end of the year.

At the end of the session, the officials were asked whether the IC plans to publicize the draft, so that the public can have a clearer picture what the provisions will look like.

Making the draft public had been earlier promised by incumbent Vice President Leong Wai Man.

On this, Sou said the IC will follow the concerned procedures and consider the actual need to do so.

The press conference was held to recap the excursion to Azerbaijan for the World Heritage Congress. The bureau also recapped on its work done to promote conservation of Macau's heritage sites. Seminars have been held at schools, associations and police youth camps to promote the knowledge.

AD

advertising@macaudailytimes.com

+50m pageviews per year
www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

Times App
News at hand

Available on the App Store | Get it on Google play

"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"



GUANGZHOU FINDING A SENSE OF HUMOR AT 'WATERMELON' CLUB

If you think what the performers say is funny, laugh out loud; but if it sucks, just heckle them with your applause," said a comedian surnamed Ji, warming up the audience at the beginning of a stand-up comedy show in Guangzhou.

With Ji barely finishing these words, the whole arena burst into applause, playing along with the joke.

A comedy show is held every Saturday night at a small theater called "Xigua," or "Watermelon," located in Yongqing Fang, a century-old alleyway in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou. Three or four stand-up comedians take to the stage one after another and entertain audiences during a 1.5-hour show. This would have been unthinkable a few years ago.

In the metropolis, which has few theaters for stand-up, there are no more than 20 shows a month - in both Mandarin and Cantonese - with the ticket prices generally less than 100 yuan (114 patacas) per show.

"When we first started out, there was one time when we had only two people in the audience, but 10 comedians backstage," Ji told the audience during the show's break. The

ticket sales at the time were rarely enough to support even a single performer.

Now, as China warms to the idea of the stand-up comedy format, that is beginning to change.

MEASURE OF SUCCESS

The stand-up comedy format, which originated in Europe and North America, is quite young in China, with "open mic" shows first appearing in pubs in Beijing and Shanghai in 2009. Audiences in Guangdong came to it much earlier as it was first introduced to neighboring Hong Kong in the early 1990s.

Stand-up generally caters to young people, most of whom are between the ages of 20 and 35.

Dong Jiama, born in 1990 and deeply influenced by Cantonese stand-up comedy, discovered that anybody could perform stand-up when he read about a show at a Guangdong club in 2014. He began to perform onstage himself and eventually started a stand-up club called "Banana" with his friends in 2015.

Though few people - mostly Guangzhou locals - turned up to their first shows, the industry began to garner

more attention after a number of TV shows related to stand-up became popular in China in 2017.

Since then, their audience have steadily grown and now each of their formal performances can attract about 50 audience members on average.

To accommodate the growth, the club has moved its performances from coffee shops, pubs and bookstores to a small theater - a more stable and formal venue for the art form.

With more and more Chinese people spending money on live entertainment amid booming development of the culture industry, Dong and his friends are looking for bigger performance venues. To them, a bigger audience is a measure of their success.

HONING THEIR CRAFT

As one of the Banana club's founders, Fang Yu used to work for a well-known technology company in Shenzhen. His work experience, workplace relationships and overtime work are all fodder for his jokes.

Stand-up material based on reality has become hugely popular among young peo-

ple in China. "All of our jokes come from our own lives and resonate with the audience. Only when you come to the club and participate in the interactions, can you feel its true charm," said Liang Xiwei, a comedian at the club.

Many stand-up comics like to prepare new material for each performance, and they see it as a minimum requirement for the mastery of their art. Though busy with formal performances now, members of the Banana club still hone their craft with their peers, and continue to hold "open mic" events to try out new material before a live show.

Stand-up comedy attaches great importance to originality, but the protection of original material is not easy. The comedians must strike a difficult balance between promoting their shows via the internet and risking having their jokes plagiarized.

According to Dong, there remains considerable room for improvement in the country's stand-up industry. "To attract bigger audiences, we should localize our stand-up, which came from the West in its content, forms and even rhythms," he said. **DB/XINHUA**

MACAU

COURT RULES IN FAVOR OF RESIDENCE CANCELLATION

MACAU'S Court of Second Instance (TSI) has issued a ruling against the renewal of a Hong Kong woman's local residential permit. She had come to Macau on the basis of a family reunion but was later found to be living in Zhuhai with her husband, who is a Macau resident.

Prior to the Court ruling, the Secretary for Security made an administrative decision to stop renewing the permit based on these factors, as well as the woman not spending a sufficient number of days in Macau. Her husband only spent 52 days in Macau between February 2017 and January 2018.

The woman filed an appeal to the TSI. She claimed that she and her husband were forced to move to the mainland due to the high cost of living in Macau. She claims that her condition fits the legal definition of force majeure.

The Court explained in its verdict that force majeure normally applies to happenings where a subject cannot be considered liable. The Court also reiterated that the premise for renewal of a residential permit is residing in Macau.

As the Court did not find any flaw in the administration's decision, the cancellation of the residential permit was ruled lawful. **AL**

SHENZHEN

SIX MILLION BLOCKCHAIN INVOICES ISSUED IN PAST YEAR

APPROXIMATELY 6 million blockchain-based invoices have been issued in the past year since the first invoice was issued in the southern metropolis of Shenzhen, authorities in the city have said.

According to the tax bureau of Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, this type of invoice is issued approximately 44,000 times per day, for a total of approximately 3.9 billion yuan (\$554 million).

So far, more than 5,300 companies in the city have registered to use blockchain invoices.

The use of blockchain-based invoices has been steadily expanding in the tech hub since a number of local restaurants, banks and supermarkets launched the service last August.

The service is now widely used in finance, retailing, catering and hospitality in Shenzhen.

Proponents say it helps to curb malpractice and document forgery in taxation, as well as simplifying procedures.

In March, the tax bureau in Shenzhen and tech giant Tencent announced that blockchain-based invoices had been introduced to the city's transport system, including the metro, taxis and airport shuttles.

This followed a 2018 agreement between the tax bureau and Tencent to open an innovation lab exploring solutions to optimize tax services and prevent the risks posed by cloud computing, artificial intelligence, blockchain and big data. **DB/XINHUA**

HONG KONG

Stock rout enters 10th day, worst streak since 1984

HONG Kong stock investors headed for the exit as economic woes, street protests and China's weak yuan intensified worries over potential outflows from the city.

The MSCI Hong Kong Index closed 0.6% lower, its 10th straight decline a day after a general strike led to traffic chaos, violence, tear gas and flight cancellations in the city. The index pared an earlier loss of as much as 3.2%.

The last time Hong Kong stocks had such a long losing streak was June-July 1984, five months before the U.K. and China signed the Sino-British Joint Declaration for the handover of Hong Kong to China in 1997. A year earlier in 1983, the Hong Kong dollar had been pegged to the greenback.

The benchmark Hang Seng Index - which includes shares of Chinese companies earning in yuan - also pared an earlier decline to close down 0.7%. "The market is quite oversold

after days of declines," said Daniel So, CMB International Securities strategist in Hong Kong, adding that a rebound in U.S. index futures in the afternoon gave a lift to sentiment.

Hong Kong business confidence, already strained by the trade war, faces fresh challenges as street clashes damp spending and deter tourists.

"Investors are still very worried and the situation is not getting better," said Linus Yip, chief strategist at First Shanghai Securities. "The selling pressure is still big. Fears include the escalating trade war, depreciating yuan and the local political situation. I think 25,000 is a key level for the Hang Seng Index, and losing this support level would cause extra selling pressure." The index closed at 25,976.24 on Tuesday.

Mainland stocks were also lower, with the benchmark Shanghai Composite Index

falling 1.6% and the CSI 300 Index dropping 1.1%.

The yuan's plunge past 7 per dollar has intensified concerns about the U.S.-China trade war and prompted the Trump administration to formally label China a currency manipulator. The onshore and offshore currencies recovered some ground yesterday after a stronger-than-expected fixing.

Hong Kong's currency also reflected the sense of anxiety, falling the most in more than three-and-a-half years Monday before climbing as much as 22% Tuesday, the most since mid-June, as the yuan recovered some ground.

Technology firms and developers were among the biggest decliners on the Hang Seng Index. Hang Lung Properties Ltd. fell 5.2% and AAC Technologies Holdings Inc. dropped 2.2%. A Bloomberg gauge of Macau casino stocks slid 1.6%, taking its nine-day loss to 16%. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

HONG KONG

TENSIONS WEIGH ON INTERCONTINENTAL HOTELS



INTERCONTINENTAL Hotels Group Plc reported a slowdown in business travel in China amid a trade war with the U.S. and protests in Hong Kong.

Revenue per available room, a key measure of hotel industry performance, fell 0.5% in greater China in the second quarter, the owner of the Crowne Plaza and Holiday Inn chains said Tuesday. The shares declined as much as 3.6% in London.

InterContinental, which

operates more hotel rooms than any other company, said first-half revenue fell marginally in Hong Kong, which is cleaning up from a general strike as political unrest swells.

"We've seen some slowdown," Chief Executive Officer Keith Barr said in an interview on Bloomberg Television. "It's going to have an impact on business in Hong Kong, but it's a small proportion of our overall business. Hopefully it will be resolved soon."

A decline in corporate tra-

vel in China was balanced by resilient leisure business and an expansion in the number of rooms the company operates. Barr said the effect of the trade war with the U.S. is limited because the hotels in China rely principally on domestic travelers.

Overall, first-half revenue of \$1.01 billion was in line with estimates compiled by Bloomberg, and the company said it's confident about the rest of the year. It boosted its interim dividend by 10%. **BLOOMBERG**

China warns 'those

YANAN WANG
& CHRISTOPHER BODEEN

CHINA warned yesterday that it will be "only a matter of time" before it punishes those behind two months of pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong that have increasingly devolved into violent clashes with law enforcement.

The comments by Yang Guang, spokesman for the Chinese Cabinet's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, are a further indication that Beijing will take a hard line against the demonstrators and has no plans to negotiate over their demands for political reforms.

"We would like to make it clear to the very small group of unscrupulous and violent criminals and the dirty forces behind them: Those who play with fire will perish by it," Yang said. "Don't ever misjudge the situation and mistake our restraint for weakness."

Singling out "brazen, violent and criminal actors" and the "meddling hands behind the scenes" as the focus law enforcement efforts, Yang said, "As for their punishment, it's only a matter of time."

China so far has not visibly intervened in the situation, though it has published a series of strongly worded editorials in state media condemning "violent radicals" and "foreign forces" allegedly inflaming them. Speculation has grown that the Communist Party-led central government will deploy the military to quell demonstrators after Chinese officials pointed to an article in Hong Kong law that allows troops already stationed in the city to help with "public order maintenance" at the Hong Kong government's request.

While Hong Kong authorities have said they don't anticipate any need to bring in troops or police from China to help impose order, the Hong Kong army garrison and police in the city of Shenzhen across the border have both released videos recently of their officers training to disperse groups of people dressed in black and wearing masks and construction helmets like many of the Hong Kong protesters.

A former British colony, Hong Kong was returned to China in 1997 under the framework of "one country, two systems," which promised the city certain democratic freedoms not afforded to the mainland. But some Hong Kong residents feel that Beijing has been increasingly encroaching on their freedoms.

A string of demonstrations began in June against proposed extradition legislation that would have allowed some suspects to be sent to mainland China for trial. While the government has since suspended the bill, protesters have pressed on with broader calls for democratic reforms, an investigation into allegations of police brutality and for the city's leader to step down.



Pro-democracy legislator Fernando Cheung Chiu-hung told reporters Tuesday that Beijing should not make the demonstrations a national security issue because the movement is not targeting the central government, but rather the administration of Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam.

During a "People's Press Conference" held earlier in the day, a protester using the pseudonym Jerry Chan indicated that demonstrators would not attempt to confront the military if it made an appearance.

"I believe the protesters and Hong Kong citizens will 'be water' and know what to do," Chan said, referring to the protesters' philosophy of taking a fluid approach to their demonstrations. "We will go home and sleep."

The three protesters who spoke to reporters said the briefing was intended to counter regular government and police news conferences in which authorities have repeatedly decried violent acts by some pro-democracy demons-

who play with fire will perish by it'



trators. They also apologized for inconveniences caused by a general strike Monday that paralyzed regular workday operations in the city. Major roads and public transit lines were blocked, and at least 77 flights at the airport were canceled.

Protesters challenged law enforcement in at least eight districts on Monday, responding to continuous rounds of tear gas with practiced swiftness. Some started fires outside police stations and hurled bricks and eggs at officers. Hong Kong security secretary John Lee said the damage and violence was "unprecedented" since 1997, with more than 15 police stations or facilities attacked and surrounded.

Echoing language used by officials to criticize their actions, protesters said they "strongly condemn the lawlessness and the inhuman actions done by police." Some police officers have shown "total lack of self-discipline," Chan said, adding that some tear gas

was fired on residential buildings during clashes across several districts Monday.

Many rally participants have chosen to hide their identities because they fear official retribution.

Yang and other Chinese officials repeatedly accused protesters and organizers of seeking to wreck Hong Kong's society and economy and of lacking patriotism.

Hong Kong police say they've arrested 568 demonstrators aged 13-76 since June, and charged them with a variety of crimes, including rioting, which can carry a sentence of up to 10 years.

During an earlier 79-day round of protests in 2014 demanding direct elections for Hong Kong's chief executive, police announced around 1,000 arrests. Eight leaders of the 2014 movement were sentenced this year to up to 16 months in prison on charges of public nuisance offenses, in what critics called an apparent effort to intimidate other activists. AP

ONE SHOT NEWS



Organized assault. Protesters wearing black shirts are attacked by a group of men wielding wooden poles during protests in a Hong Kong neighborhood on Monday night. Other, simultaneous attacks on demonstrators were reported across the city in the early hours of Tuesday, some leading to casualties. The fresh attacks come just weeks after a similarly organized assault on the city's subway was said to have the hallmarks of triad activity.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

MARRIOTT JUMPS INTO ALL-INCLUSIVE RESORTS WITH RITZ-CARLTON DEAL

PATRICK CLARK

MARRIOTT International Inc. is jumping into the all-inclusive resort business, once the domain of specialty companies that offered lodging, food and other services for a single price.

Marriott, the world's largest hotel company, announced plans for two new resorts that will cost more than \$800 million combined to build: a 650-room hotel in Punta Cana, in the Dominican Republic, and a multibranded property on Mexico's Riviera Nayarit that will include the first all-inclusive project in the history of Marriott's Ritz-Carlton. Those projects are part of a bigger push into the segment, designed to help Marriott compete for more development deals and prevent frequent customers from booking stays with competitors.

"What's disappointing to us is when one of our loyal customers says, I want to have an all-inclusive experience in a given destination, and by virtue of the fact that we don't have that offering, it



BLOOMBERG

causes them to go outside of our system," said Tony Capuano, global chief development officer at Marriott.

All-inclusive resorts gained popularity in the second half of the 20th century as companies like Club Med SAS and Sandals Resorts International packaged vacations for bargain-minded travelers. The niche grew, but the

global corporations that came to dominate the hotel industry steered clear. Hyatt Hotels Corp. finally entered the arena with the launch of two new brands in 2013, while Hilton Worldwide Holdings Inc. last year announced plans to expand its all-inclusive offerings.

Bigger players are embracing the model at a time when full hotels are driving new development,

said Bjorn Hanson, a consultant to the lodging and tourism industries. Companies like Marriott have also dedicated more energy to the category as they completed investments in boutique brands and soft-branded collections.

"Resorts are getting more attention now that some of those have worked their way through the pipeline," Hanson said.

About 1,500 all-inclusive resorts tracked by lodging data provider STR generated \$7.9 billion in sales through the first six months of 2019, a 20% increase in revenue from five years earlier. Marriott operates just one of those properties, a Westin resort in Costa Rica added through the 2016 acquisition of Starwood Hotels & Resorts.

Initially, the company is planning all-inclusive resorts under seven of its 30 brands and is expecting developers to opt for multibranded properties like the one in Nayarit, where developer Artha Capital is building resorts under the Ritz-Carlton, Westin and Marriott Hotels flags, as well as a hotel in Marriott's Autograph Collection.

Getting into the all-inclusive game may help Marriott appeal to its 133 million loyalty program members, letting them spend points earned traveling for work to vacation with their families. It also helps the company convince real estate developers to partner with Marriott when building new resorts or rebranding existing properties.

"As we've seen this explosive growth in all-inclusive development, it's been enormously frustrating for us not to get a chance to compete for those opportunities," Capuano said. **BLOOMBERG**

AD



villa frangipani
CLIFFTOP | LUXURY | BALI

20,000 square feet of privacy

At Villa Frangipani impeccable service means knowing when you want to enjoy a private moment.

Whether that is in the Private Spa, your suite, the garden bale, or any other area, our Villa Staff anticipate your needs at all times.

Please visit www.privatevillasofbali.com to get an idea of what we offer.

...wish you could stay forever...

PRIVATE VILLAS
OF BALI

VILLA TIRTA KENCANA • VILLA FRANGIPANI

info@privatevillasofbali.com
www.privatevillasofbali.com
skype: 113.privatevillasofbali
+62 361 8468573

China vows to counter US deployment of midrange arms in Asia

CHRISTOPHER BODEEN,
BEIJING

China said yesterday that it "will not stand idly by" and will take countermeasures if the U.S. deploys intermediate-range missiles in the Asia-Pacific region, which Washington has said it plans to do within months.

The statement from the director of the foreign ministry's Arms Control Department, Fu Cong, follows the U.S.'s withdrawal last week from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, a move Fu said would have a "direct negative impact on the global strategic stability" as well as security in Europe and the Asia-Pacific region.

Fu said China was particularly concerned about announced plans to develop and test a land-based intermediate-range missile in the Asia-Pacific "sooner rather than later," in the words of one U.S. official.

"China will not stand idly by and be forced to take countermeasures should the U.S. deploy intermediate-range ground-based missiles this part of the world," Fu told reporters at a specially called briefing.

He also advised other nations, particularly South Korea, Japan and Australia, to "exercise prudence" and not allow the U.S. to deploy such weapons on their territory, saying that would "not serve the national security interests of these countries."

U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper said in Asia over the weekend that he wanted to deploy midrange conventional missiles in the Asia-Pacific within months. Australian officials said Monday that the locations for the bases were not yet known but their country would not be one of them.

Fu also said China had no intention of joining nuclear weapons reduction talks with the U.S. and Russia, pointing to the huge gap in the size of China's arsenal compared to those of the other two. China has an estimated 290 nuclear warheads deployed, compared to 1,600 for Russia and 1,750 for the U.S., according to the Federation of American Scientists.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has called for urgent arms control talks to prevent a chaotic arms race following the treaty's demise. He also said Monday that Russia would only deploy new intermediate-range missiles if the U.S. does.

China has already shown "maximum restraint" in developing

AP PHOTO



Director of the foreign ministry's Arms Control Department, Fu Cong

its arsenal and stuck to its policy that it would not be the first to use a nuclear weapon in a conflict, Fu said.

"I don't think it is reasonable or even fair to expect China to participate in an arms reduction negotiation at this stage," Fu said. He added that China remained committed to multilateral efforts to reduce nuclear stockpiles, such as the U.N.'s Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, although it has yet to ratify that agreement.

Fu wouldn't elaborate on what countermeasures China was considering taking against the U.S., saying only that "everything is on the table," although he did say China has never and would never take part in a nuclear arms race.

Nor would he say how China might retaliate against countries that hosted U.S. land-based intermediate-range missiles, although China has in past used economic means to retaliate against South Korea over its deployment of a U.S. anti-missile defense system.

Fu dismissed U.S. arguments for leaving the treaty as "pure pretext," saying Washington was merely looking for an excuse to develop new weapons. If Washington truly believes Russia is cheating on the treaty, as it says, then the way forward is to negotiate rather than withdraw, Fu said.

Meanwhile, Washington's argument that it is threatened by China because 80 percent or more of Chinese missiles fall into the intermediate-range category doesn't hold up, since those missiles would be unable to reach the continental U.S.

"So the U.S. would be the least to worry if that is the case," Fu said. "That shows that all of this is nothing but a pretext."

Fu's emphasis on the continental U.S. could serve to imply that the U.S. has no legitimate security interests in Asia, and that Washington's only worry

China had no intention of joining nuclear weapons reduction talks with the US and Russia

should be protecting the homeland — something President Donald Trump may be inclined to agree with, said Sam Roggeveen, director of the International Security Program at Australia's Lowy Institute.

Beijing may also be saying a U.S. intermediate-range missile attack on mainland China could trigger a Chinese retaliatory strike on the continental U.S., Roggeveen said.

"It implies that the ability of either side to hit the other's homeland is a threshold or a ta-

boo," he said.

Defense analysts have long said China's large arsenal of land-based intermediate-range missiles are intended primarily to degrade Taiwan's defenses, target Guam and other key U.S. bases in the region and deny access to the area by the U.S. Navy.

Those are typified by the advanced DF-26 intermediate-range ballistic missile, capable of lofting both conventional and nuclear warheads, the latter to carry out a rapid retaliatory strike, and the DF-21D, which is built to take out an aircraft carrier.

Such weapons are undercutting regional deterrence at the same time as China is boosting its ability to strike the continental U.S. with intercontinental ballistic missiles and hypersonic glide weapons, said Collin Koh, a regional security expert at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.

Fu's argument "can be deemed as disingenuous," Koh said. In terms of Chinese countermeasures, China has never stopped pouring resources into its missile and other programs, so the deployment of a U.S. intermediate-range missile in the region could largely be seen as a "new pretext" for such programs, Koh said.

And while China argues its nuclear weapons are small in

number and purely for defensive purposes, major technological upgrades made by Beijing offer fresh arguments for why it should be included in future treaties, he said.

The INF Treaty signed by Russia and the U.S. in 1987 expired Friday, with Washington saying it withdrew because of Russia's alleged violations of the pact. Russia denies breaching the terms. Some observers say the real reason was a perceived need to counter China's advances in missile technology and restore a balance in light of lingering questions over the effectiveness of anti-missile defense systems.

The end of the INF Treaty comes amid rising doubts about whether the two countries will extend an agreement on long-range nuclear weapons scheduled to expire in 2021 known as New START. Trump said he has been discussing a new agreement to reduce nuclear weapons with China and Russia.

"And I will tell you China was very, very excited about talking about it and so was Russia," Trump told reporters. "So I think we'll have a deal at some point."

Asked about Trump's comments, Fu said he didn't wish to contradict Trump, but repeated that China "has no interest and, frankly, we don't think we are even in a position to participate in a trilateral negotiation aimed at a nuclear arms reduction." AP

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

JOE MCDONALD, BEIJING

YUAN FALLS FURTHER AMID TRADE WAR FEARS

CHINA allowed its currency to fall further yesterday and accused Washington of destroying the global economic order, fueling fears about increasing damage from their trade war.

The yuan declined to 7.0562 to the U.S. dollar before strengthening to 7.0297 in the afternoon. That came a day after Beijing sent financial markets tumbling by allowing the currency to fall to an 11-year low, breaking through the politically sensitive level of seven to the dollar.

The Trump administration responded Monday by officially declaring that China improperly manipulates the yuan's value. That opens the way to possible new penalties on top of tariff hikes already imposed on Chinese goods in a fight over Beijing's trade surplus and technology policies.

The ruling Communist Party's main newspaper accused Washington of "deliberately destroying the rules-based international order" and jeopardizing economic cooperation. It didn't mention Monday's currency decision but accused the Trump administration of using American families as hostages in trade talks.

"One cannot understand how such a big, internationally influential country could be so irresponsible," the People's Daily said.

AP PHOTO



The Chinese central bank denied improperly manipulating the exchange rate. It said the yuan's decline was driven by market forces.

The U.S. decision is "protectionist behavior" that will have "a major impact on global finance," the People's Bank of China said on its website.

President Donald Trump rattled investors with last week's surprise announcement of punitive tariffs on an additional \$300 billion of Chinese imports, effective Sept. 1. That came after a round of talks on resolving their tariff war ended in Shanghai with no

indication of a deal.

"The latest U.S. move will likely harden China's position in trade negotiations," Tao Wang of UBS said in a report.

American officials complain that a weak yuan — also known as the renminbi, or "people's money" — makes China's export prices unfairly low, hurting foreign competitors and swelling Beijing's trade surplus.

Washington's latest moves may be "evidence that the U.S. administration may not really want to reach a trade deal soon," said Wang. "We believe there is an increasing risk to a delay or cancell

lation of the planned trade talks."

Asian stock markets fell for a second day. China's main index lost 1.6% and Australia's was down 2.4%. Markets in Tokyo, Hong Kong and Seoul also retreated.

"Equities are slumping. They will slump more," Rabobank's Michael Every said in a report. "Worry about global trade flows, as a stronger USD rumbles through the real economy and U.S.-China divorce smashes supply chains."

The Chinese central bank governor, Yi Gang, tried to reassure investors, promising in a statement late Monday to stick to commitments "not to use exchange

rates for competitive purposes."

The central bank is "committed to maintaining the basic stability" of the yuan "at a reasonable and balanced level," Yi said.

The People's Bank of China sets the exchange rate each morning and allows the yuan to fluctuate by 2% against the dollar during the day. The central bank can buy or sell currency — or order commercial banks to do so — to dampen price movements.

Yesterday, the yuan's starting exchange rate was set at 6.9683. That would allow the currency to weaken to as much as 7.100 while staying within the 2% trading band.

The dollar's unexpected strength against the yuan could have global repercussions, according to Nick Wall of Merian Global Investors. He said many foreign borrowers need to repay debts in dollars that might become harder to obtain.

"The risks of a further dollar squeeze and more foreign exchange volatility are now quite high," Wall said in a report.

Chinese leaders have promised to avoid "competitive devaluation" to boost exports by making them less expensive abroad. But regulators are trying to make the state-controlled exchange rate more responsive to market forces, which are pushing the yuan lower. AP

AD

ON SALE #JUL/AUG
MACAUCLOSER
生活藝術雜誌 LIVING & ARTS MAGAZINE

LIMITLESS CREATIVITY
創意無限

+ 「藝文薈澳」
特別增刊
ART MACAO
SUPPLEMENT

SAN JIAO LING
公关传播 | PR & Marketing

新商机 始握手
New Business Opportunities
are Just a Handshake Away

www.sanjaoling.com

Follow our DB media channel
www.deltabridges.com

North Korea fires more weapons, denounces US military drills

KIM TONG-HYUNG, SEOUL

NORTH Korea continued to ramp up its weapons demonstrations by firing two presumed short-range ballistic missiles into the sea yesterday while lashing out at the United States and South Korea for continuing military exercises that the North says could derail fragile nuclear diplomacy.

North Korea's fourth round of weapons launches in less than two weeks came amid a standstill in nuclear negotiations and after President Donald Trump repeatedly dismissed the significance of the country's recent tests despite the threat the weapons pose to allies South Korea and Japan and to U.S. bases there.

Experts say Trump's downplaying of the North's weapons display has allowed the country more room to advance its military capabilities as it attempts to build leverage ahead of negotiations, which could possibly resume sometime after the end of the allies' drills later this month.

South Korea's military alerted reporters to the launches minutes before the North's Foreign Ministry denounced Washington and Seoul over the start of their joint exercises on Monday. The ministry's statement said the drills, which North Korea sees as an invasion rehearsal, leave the coun-



AP PHOTO

try "compelled to develop, test and deploy the powerful physical means essential for national defense."

The statement from an unidentified spokesperson said Pyongyang remains committed to dialogue, but it could seek a "new road" if the allies don't change their positions.

"It is too axiomatic that a constructive dialogue cannot be expected at a time when a simulated war practice targeted at the dialogue partner is being conducted," said the statement.

"We remain unchanged in our stand to resolve the issues through dialogue. But the dynamics of dialogue will be more invisible as long as the hostile military moves continue."

Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the two projectiles the North flew cross-country were likely short-range ballistic missiles. They were launched early yesterday from an area near the North's western coast and traveled about 450 kilometers on an apogee of 37 kilometers at a maximum speed of above Mach 6.9 before

landing in waters off the country's eastern coast, the JCS said.

It said the projectiles showed similar flight characteristics to short-range missiles North Korea fired on July 25, which traveled about 600 kilometers during launches the North described a "solemn warning" to South Korea over its plans to continue military drills with the United States.

South Korea's military had said the flight data of the July missiles showed similarities to the Russian-made Iskander, a solid-fuel, nuclear capable missile that is

highly maneuverable and travels on lower trajectories compared to conventional ballistic weapons, improving its chances of evading missile defense systems. The North last week also conducted two test firings of what it described as a new multiple rocket launcher system.

Analysts say the new North Korean weapons, which are fired from vehicles and difficult to detect before launch, would significantly enhance its ability to strike targets in all of South Korea.

Choi Hyun-soo, spokesman of South Korea's Defense Ministry, said the North's launches go against the spirit of a bilateral military agreement reached last year to reduce conventional threats. The office of South Korean President Moon Jae-in said his chief national security adviser, Chung Eui-yong, held an emergency meeting with the country's defense minister and spy chief yesterday to discuss the launches.

Japan's defense minister, Takeshi Iwaya, said the North's efforts to advance its missile capabilities are a serious threat to the region.

North Korea had said it will wait to see if the allied exercises take place to decide on the fate of its diplomacy with the United States and whether to continue its unilateral suspension of nuclear and long-range missile tests, which leader Kim Jong Un announced last year amid a diplomatic outreach to Washington.

South Korea's Defense Ministry has not provided details about the drills, which were expected to be computer simulated and not involve actual combat troops and equipment. AP

Malaysia uses helicopter, dogs in search for missing UK girl

SYAWALLUDIN ZAIN, SEREMBAN

POLICE used a helicopter and sniffer dogs yesterday in an expanded search for a 15-year-old London girl who disappeared from a Malaysian resort over the weekend, with the girl's family saying they believe she was abducted and police saying there was no indication that had happened.

Nora Anne Quoirin's family says they discovered her missing from her bedroom at the Dusun eco-resort in southern Negeri Sembilan state Sunday morning with the window left open, and considered it a criminal matter. Police have said there were no initial signs of foul play.

Negeri Sembilan police chief Mohamad Mat Yusop said the girl's disappearance



AP PHOTO

was still being treated as a missing person case because there was no evidence to indicate she was abducted. He said sniffer dogs picked up the girl's scent within 100 meters from her resort bedroom but the trail stopped there.

The family said in a statement yesterday that they did not believe she just

wandered off on her own.

"Nora's family believe she has been abducted," the statement said. "We are especially worried because Nora has learning and developmental disabilities, and is not like other 15-year-olds. She looks younger, she is not capable of taking care of herself, and she won't un-

derstand what is going on."

"She never goes anywhere by herself. We have no reason to believe she wandered off and is lost," the family said.

Mohamad said the girl's mother had reported that she was only in her undergarments when they put her to bed but it was unclear if she was dressed when she disappeared because nobody saw her leave.

"We have no clues, no evidence to say this case is abduction," the police chief said at a news conference. "We will do our very best. We will not give up hope. We believe that she didn't go far and that she had lost her way."

Quoirin's parents are an Irish-French couple who have lived in London for about 20 years, according to

the Lucie Blackman Trust, a British charity that supports people involved in a crisis overseas.

Quoirin arrived with her family on Saturday for a two-week stay at the Dusun, a small resort located in a durian orchard next to a forest reserve about 63 kilometers south of Kuala Lumpur.

Mohamad said rescuers earlier yesterday repeated their search around the perimeter of the resort because they believed she was within the vicinity.

He said they would now focus on the foothill of the resort near a river, based on the assumption that she would be in a weak state and could head downhill to find water and food.

More than 170 people were involved in the search operation, with a helicop-

ter, sniffer dogs and local villagers aiding in the expanded comb through the dense jungle, Mohamad said, adding that the search would continue through the night.

Haanim Bamadhaj, a resort spokesman, said the Dusun management is baffled by Quoirin's disappearance. Resort staff and even some guests had earlier joined in the search, she said.

"Our resort has been operating for 10 years and we have never even been robbed. We are doing our very best and praying hard," she said.

Following Quoirin's disappearance, she said some guests had canceled their bookings and that the resort had provided full refunds. Access to the resort has been blocked due to the search operation. AP

TRUMP FREEZES VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT ASSETS AMID TENSIONS

JOSHUA GOODMAN & DEB RIECHMANN, WASHINGTON

AP PHOTO



THE Trump administration froze all Venezuelan government assets in a dramatic escalation of tensions with Nicolás Maduro that places his socialist administration alongside a short list of adversaries from Cuba, North Korea, Syria and Iran that have been targeted by such aggressive U.S. actions.

The ban, blocking American companies and individuals from doing business with Maduro's government and its top supporters, took effect immediately Monday and is the first of its kind in the Western Hemisphere in more than three decades, following an asset freeze against Gen. Manuel Noriega's government in Panama and a trade embargo on the Sandinista leadership in Nicaragua in the 1980s.

While the order falls short of an outright trade embargo — notably, it spares Venezuela's still sizable private sector — it represents the most sweeping U.S. action to remove Maduro since the Trump administration recognized

opposition leader Juan Guaidó as Venezuela's rightful leader in January. Critically, it also exposes foreign entities doing business with the Maduro government to U.S. retaliation.

"The apparent goal is to give the U.S. the ability to apply the law beyond its borders to allies of Maduro like China, Russia, Cuba, Iran and Turkey," said Russ Dallen, the Miami-based head of Caracas Capital Markets brokerage. "Should those foreign entities

continue doing business with Maduro they can have their U.S. assets seized."

The executive order signed by President Donald Trump justified the move by citing Maduro's "continued usurpation of power" and human rights abuses by security forces loyal to him.

U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton hinted earlier Monday that far-reaching U.S. action was close at hand. Speaking to reporters on the eve of an interna-

tional conference in Peru to show support for Guaidó, he said that the U.S. was readying measures "that will show the determination that the United States has to get a peaceful transfer of power."

Russia, which has staunchly backed Maduro, denounced the U.S. action. Konstantin Kosachev, the head of the Russian upper house's international affairs committee, said yesterday the move amounts to "international banditry." He added in remarks carried by the state RIA Novosti news agency that it represents an "open meddling into Venezuela's internal affairs."

The measures are likely to exacerbate suffering in an already moribund economy marked by six-digit hyperinflation and a deep, multi-year contraction that surpasses that of the Great Depression in the U.S.

Previous sanctions targeting the South American nation's oil industry, the source of almost all of its export earnings, have already accelerated a crash in oil production that started with Maduro's election in 2013 following the death of his mentor Hugo Chavez.

More than 100 officials and government insiders also have had their U.S. assets frozen and blocked from doing business with Americans. As part of the executive order, Americans or U.S. companies that do business with such individuals face penalties. The same Maduro supporters will also be banned from entering the U.S.

Exceptions will be allowed for the delivery of food, medicine and clothing. Transactions with Venezuela's still sizable private sector do not appear to be affected either. It's unclear how the actions will affect American oil giant Chevron, which last month received a three-month exemption from the U.S. Treasury to allow it to continue drilling for oil with state-run oil monopoly PDVSA.

The Maduro government has yet to respond. But Guaidó celebrated the U.S. action, saying it would protect Houston-based oil company CITGO, Venezuela's most valuable overseas asset, from attempts by Maduro to mortgage its assets.

"Any individual, company, institution or nation that tries to do business with the regime will be seen by the international justice system as collaborating with and sustaining a dictatorship," Guaidó said in a series of late-night Tweets. "They will be subject to sanctions and considered an accomplice to crimes." AP

AD

仁德 CENTRO MEDICO PEDDER
◆ 仁德醫療中心 ◆

We bring high quality of medical service to Macau

- General Surgery** : Dr. Fok Manson, Dr. Lai Cheuck Seen Edward, Dr. Lau Wing Kee Peter, Dr. Kwong Man, Dr. Nie Fu Zhong, Dr. U Chong San, Dr. Lei Chin Chong
- Breast Surgery** : Dr. Leong Iat Lun
- Urology** : Dr. Lo Kwong Yin Richard, Dr. Zhao Yun Qiao
- Paediatric Surgery** : Dr. Yeung Chung Kwong
- Paediatrics** : Dr. Zhang Zhiqin
- Obstetrics & Gynaecology** : Dr. Fong Kuan Io
- Plastic & Aesthetic Surgery** : Dr. Lam U Lin
- Orthopaedic Surgery & Sports Medicine** : Dr. Lam Kun Kuan
- ENT** : Dr. Cheng Zheng Ang
- Cardiology** : Dr. Wong Kwok Yiu Chris, Dr. Jin Chun, Dr. Leong Man Kin
- Gastroentero-Hepatology** : Dr. Zhan De Juan
- General Medicine** : Dr. Ng Kam Hong, Dr. Lam Weng Chio
- Dietitian** : Chan Lai U Joey

Avenida da Praia Grande No 599, Edifício Comercial Rodrigues 14 e 15 Andar, em Macau
T. 2832 2298 / 2832 2229 Website: www.peddermacau.com
Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 10:00 - 19:00 Sat 10:00 - 14:00 Sun & PH closed

MAKE-UP FOR ALL OCCASIONS

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

MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY!

TEL / WHATSAPP: (853) 6685 3323 | WECHAT: MISSJ_23
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/JULIANAC.MAKEUPPARTIST

New Sunshine Cleaning Services Ltd.



Portable Chemical Toilet Hiring

- Regular Units, Flush Units
- Units with Sanitizers, Sinks
- Deluxe Units
- Daily, Weekly or Monthly
- Deliver, Pick-Up & Pump Out of Portable Toilets

FREE DELIVERY

Call: 2883 3008

Member of General Association of Macao Cleaning Service Industry

US senators want Poland to pay victims of Nazi property thefts

WOJCIECH MOSKWA & DANIEL FLATLEY

U.S. senators urged President Donald Trump's administration to pressure Poland, a NATO ally, to resolve demands to compensate Holocaust victims for property confiscated by the Nazis during World War II.

More than 80 senators from both parties signed a letter calling on Secretary of State Michael Pompeo to "act boldly and with urgency to help Poland resolve this issue comprehensively." The move comes four weeks before Trump is due to visit Poland to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the start of World War II, which began with shots fired by a German ship near the Baltic port of Gdansk.

Poland, while seeking to boost the U.S. military presence on its



soil to counter Russian threats, has vehemently rejected calls for a property-restitution law, saying former owners can pursue claims

in court for belongings seized by the Nazis and later held by Communists. Deputy Justice Minister Michal Wojcik said yesterday

that he's "fully calm" because the issue has been resolved.

"It is possible to regain inheritance through the courts - that's

the normal mechanism," Wojcik told public radio. "But this is all about property that has no heirs and Polish law regulates this in an unambiguous way."

Following the Holocaust, many properties that belonged to Jews before the war were left without any heirs. Under Polish law, such assets are transferred to the state and not subject to court proceedings. Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said in May that Polish citizens were the victims of atrocities by German occupiers and "can't bear any responsibility" today.

Poland is the only ex-communist nation without comprehensive legislation addressing claims for property nationalized last century. The World Jewish Restitution Organization has repeatedly called on the country to address property claims by U.S.-citizen Holocaust survivors and their families, and the U.S. Congress last year obliged the State Department to monitor progress in restitution laws.

After Pompeo urged Poland to move forward with legislation in February, the issue became a lightning rod for right-wing groups in the country. **BLOOMBERG**

D2 CLUB PRESENTS

男士之夜
GENTLEMANS NIGHT
時裝秀

F.E.A.T. AN AMAZING
FASHION SHOW

EVERY THURSDAY, 逢星期四

D2 男士俱樂部
www.d2club-macau.com

Macau Fisherman's Wharf, Edif. New Orleans III
澳門漁人碼頭新奧爾良 III
Tel: (853) 2872 3777

WELCOME TO Playmate's Club
花心公子俱樂部

WILD NIGHT OUT

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

Attention
No admission under 18

Business Hours: 8:00pm-4:00am

Address: Basement, Hotel Guia, Macau Tel: 28532081 www.macauplaymatesclub.com

what's ON



PROSPEROUS YEARS

TIME: 10am-8pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: September 25, 2019

VENUE: Old Court Building

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

MGM PRESENTS: HUA YUAN EXHIBITION

TIME: 24 hours

UNTIL: September 3, 2019

VENUE: MGM Cotai

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8802 3333

ONENESS: CALLIGRAPHY BY PROFESSOR JAO TSUNG-I

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

UNTIL: September 30, 2019

VENUE: Jao Tsung-I Academy

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRY: (853) 8598 6718

THE GOLDEN AGE OF ARABIC SCIENCE: EXHIBITION FROM 1001 INVENTIONS

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

UNTIL: October 27, 2019

VENUE: Gallery 2, Exhibition Center, Macau Science Center

ADMISSION: MOP25 (several discounts available)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

AQUATIC BEAUTIES - FLORAL ART EXHIBITION ON ORIENTAL LOTUS FLOWERS

TIME: 10am-7pm

UNTIL: September 6, 2019

VENUE: Macau Tea Culture House

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0087

Offbeat

NO PERFUME, PLEASE: VIENNESE AGAINST SCENTED SUBWAY AIR

Vienna subway travelers have decided that they don't want their train rides to be scented.

The Austrian capital's transport authority tried out four scents, including hints of green tea, grapefruit, sandalwood and melon, in the ventilation systems of four trains on two of the network's five lines last month. It asked subway users to deliver their verdict online.

The authority said Monday that 21,000 people decided they would prefer to live without scent as they commute, while 16,000 supported extending the project.

It said that the air quality in subway cars has already been improved by a ban on eating on trains that was introduced on all lines in January.

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 A Minha Tese

18:15 Amor Maior (Repetição)

19:00 Outras Histórias

19:35 Os Nossos Dias Sr.2

20:30 Telejornal

21:15 Network Negócios

22:00 LiteraturAqui

22:25 Amor Maior

23:15 TDM News

23:50 Afinidades

00:30 Telejornal (Repetição)

01:15 RTPi Directo

cinema



CINETEATRO

05 - 07 Aug



THE LION KING

ROOM 1

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

Director: J Jon Favreau

Starring: Donald Glover, Beyoncé, Seth Rogen

Language: Cantonese

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 FAST & FURIOUS: HOBBS & SHAW

ROOM 2

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

Director: David Leitch

Starring: Dwayne Johnson, Jason Statham, Idris Elba

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 135min

CRAYON SHINCHAN 2019

ROOM 3

2:30, 7:30pm

Director: Masakazu Hashimoto

Starring: Yumiko Kobayashi, Toshiyuki Morikawa, Miki Narahashi

Language: Cantonese

Duration: 100min

THE CONFIDENCE MAN JP - THE MOVIE

ROOM 3

9:30pm

Director: Ryô Tanaka

Starring: Yôsuke Eguchi, Masahiro Higashide, Michael Keida

Language: Japanese (English & Chinese)

CHILDREN OF THE SEA

ROOM 3

4:30pm

Director: Ayumu Watanabe

Starring: Mana Ashida, Hiroyuki Ishibashi, Seishû Uragami

Language: Japanese (English & Chinese)

Duration: 110min

this day in history



1972 ASIANS GIVEN 90 DAYS TO LEAVE UGANDA

The Ugandan leader, Idi Amin, has set a deadline for the expulsion of most of the country's Asians.

General Amin said all Asians who are not Ugandan citizens - around 60,000 - must leave Uganda within 90 days.

The military ruler's latest statement amended his original expulsion order two days ago when he said all the country's 80,000 Asians had to go.

Asians, who are the backbone of the Ugandan economy, have been living in the country for more than a century.

But resentment against them has been building up within Uganda's black majority.

General Amin has called the Asians "bloodsuckers" and accused them of milking the economy of its wealth.

Up to 50,000 Asians in the former UK colony are British passport holders.

In a broadcast, General Amin said he would be summoning the British High Commissioner in Kampala to ask him to arrange for their removal.

The expulsion order has taken Britain by surprise. General Amin overthrew Uganda's elected leader in a military-backed coup last year but the British authorities had regarded him as a man they could work with.

Currently around 1,000 Asians from Uganda settle in the UK each year under an enlarged quota allocation introduced last year.

But a growing number have been attempting to circumvent the system and enter Britain illegally.

Right-wing MPs have warned that letting more Ugandan Asians into the UK could raise racial tensions.

They are urging the government not to take them in.

Conservative MP Ronald Bell said Uganda's Asians had no real links to Britain.

Speaking on behalf of the Monday Club's Immigration Committee, Mr Bell said: "They were either born in India or have retained close connection with India."

"They have no connection with Britain either by blood or residence."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Britain was unable to negotiate a compromise with Idi Amin and eventually about 50,000 Asians were forced to leave Uganda.

Most of those with British passports - around 30,000 - came to the UK.

Many arrived virtually penniless having been expelled without compensation for businesses and property.

Some were also robbed by troops en route to the airport. There were many objections to their arrival - Leicester Council even took out newspaper advertisements warning them not to come to the city.

Idi Amin's rule was one of Uganda's most brutal periods. He was overthrown in 1979 and lived in exile in Saudi Arabia until his death in 2003.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Grab it! Don't be too shy. Now is the time for bold action. You have much more power and influence than you might realize right now...and if you do not use it, you will lose it.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Whatever hesitation you've been feeling about a relationship will disappear today when you get a phone call or an email that sheds some much-needed light on the situation.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Get out of the past today - yesteryear is only relevant in terms of retro-clothing styles, classic movies, architecture, and musical inspirations. It's the future you should be focusing on right now.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Assemble a better plan if you want to move beyond your current phase of life. Enlist help from your most organized friends and learn from the masters!



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

In a group situation today, someone will throw out an unusual idea that might cause the room to fall into an uncomfortable hush...because innovation can make people feel awkward.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Despite the level of frustration that could be involved, determining what is holding you back will be a fun mystery to solve today. Simply take a look at the things you don't need in your life.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Looking forward into life is a great way to aim for positive changes, and living in the moment is always good - but today, it's looking back that will offer you the most reward, entertainment, and insight.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Today you'll be discovering things about yourself that could include a few unpleasant surprises. Nevertheless, this is a productive period for you - many choices will be placed in front of you.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You have been developing a growing understanding of a certain sticky situation, and today you will be able to channel your energy to address it much more effectively than ever before.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Every storm ends, so if today starts to get rough, remind yourself of that fact. There are a lot of dramas going on in your life, although none of them really have the potential to drive you off track.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Beware of a bout of self-doubt to enter your day early on. As soon as you recognize this stinkin' thinkin' for what it is (a whole lot of nothing), you'll be able to carry on with your day in a very productive way.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

It is time for some serious progress, which means it's also time to stop playing around. Today you will need to put away your party shoes and put on your work boots.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	24	29	thundershower
Harbin	21	28	thundershower
Tianjin	24	30	moderate rain
Urumqi	24	35	clear
Xi'an	22	31	shower
Lhasa	11	22	drizzle
Chengdu	21	33	clear
Chongqing	25	30	moderate rain
Kunming	17	26	shower
Nanjing	26	34	cloudy
Shanghai	27	34	cloudy
Wuhan	27	35	drizzle
Hangzhou	27	35	clear
Taipei	26	30	drizzle
Guangzhou	27	36	cloudy
Hong Kong	28	32	drizzle
WORLD			
Moscow	16	20	drizzle
Frankfurt	16	27	moderate rain
Paris	17	25	drizzle
London	15	23	clear
New York	23	30	moderate rain

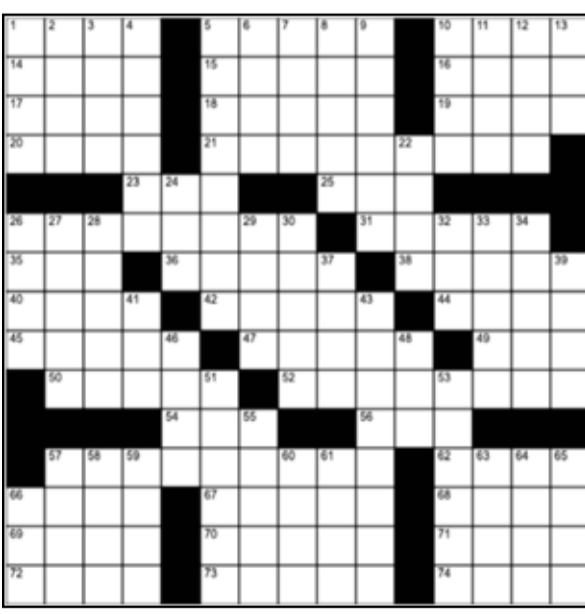
CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Soviet news service; 5- Trades; 10- Land in water; 14- Jazzy James; 15- Dominant; 16- Activist; 17- 100 dinars; 18- In ___ (unborn); 19- Sicilian peak; 20- Roman tyrant; 21- Morning meal; 23- Legendary Giant; 25- Formerly named; 26- Grateful; 31- Country in the Himalayas; 35- Musical talent; 36- Exterior; 38- Beer mug; 40- Riding; 42- Actor Lorenzo; 44- Slangy suffix; 45- VCR button; 47- Mezzo-soprano Marilyn; 49- Having four sharps; 50- Impression; 52- Proximity; 54- Archer's skill; 56- Start to fix?; 57- Polite; 62- Make reference to; 66- Actor Jamie; 67- Stern; 68- When said three times, a 1970 war movie; 69- Talk big; 70- Sister of Clio; 71- Black cuckoos; 72- Not working; 73- Charged toward; 74- Spellbound;

DOWN: 1- Sea swallow; 2- End in ___ (draw); 3- The closest one to us is the sun; 4- Old West watering hole; 5- Uncertain; 6- ___'s act; 7- Fit to ___; 8- Navigation acronym; 9- Oral; 10- New thought; 11- Drunkards; 12- Gave temporarily, holy period of 40 days; 13- Memorable time; 22- Retainers; 24- Ring decision; 26- Drop of water expelled by the eye; 27- Loathes; 28- Got up; 29- Provo's state; 30- Yellowish citrus fruit; 32- School gp.; 33- Lofty dwelling; 34- Big cats; 37- Describes a gently cooked steak; 39- Denials; 41- Writing instrument; 43- Photograph; 46- Nicholas II, for one; 48- Be inaccurate; 51- One or the other; 53- Drink of the Gods; 55- Stiller's partner; 57- Ace, e.g.; 58- Evangelist Roberts; 59- Strongly advise; 60- Algerian port; 61- Court org.; 63- College in New Rochelle; 64- Journey; 65- Big Apple river; 66- U.S. law enforcement agency;

Yesterday's solution

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



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



FOR SALE

Beautiful 3 Bedroom Apartment in Coloane
HK\$8,500,000 1,665 ft² 3 2

FOR RENT

Spacious One Grantai, Cotai
\$23,000/mth 2,122 ft² 3 3

FOR SALE

- [Coloane] *Hellene Gardens* 3 2 **\$7,950,000** (ref: 190550065C)
- [Taipa] *Man Fai* 3 2 **\$8,880,000** (ref: 190650105T)
- [Taipa] *Nova City* 3 2 **\$13,980,000** (ref: 17050001RT)
- [Cotai] *One Grantai* 4 2 **\$25,600,000**

FOR RENT

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

jml property 卓雅物業

(853) 2835 2699
hello@jmlproperty.com
www.jmlproperty.com

f jmlmacau @ jmlproperty

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



VICTORIA'S SECRET HIRES FIRST TRANSGENDER MODEL

VALENTINA Sampaio has become the first openly transgender model hired by Victoria's Secret nearly a year after a top company official was pressured to apologize for implying trans women are off brand.

Sampaio, a Brazilian, has been posting from behind the scenes of a VS Pink campaign to the delight of celebrities who include Laverne Cox.

Cox who is also transgender, posted on one of Sampaio's pho-

tos: "Wow finally!" Last November, marketing officer Ed Razek of parent L Brands Inc., said in a Vogue interview that the annual Victoria's Secret angels TV special would never include "transsexuals" because "the show is a fantasy." He apologized after outrage ensued.

Sampaio was not hired for the show, and the company is rethinking having one at all after ratings sagged last time around.

KIMMEL, 'APPRENTICE' PRODUCER JOIN TO MAKE QUIZ SHOW



JIMMY Kimmel is among Donald Trump's late-night gadflies, while producer Mark Burnett showcased the future president on "The Apprentice." Yet they are going into business together.

Kimmel and Burnett will produce a new ABC game show, "Generation Gap," described by the network as a comedy quiz show that brings family members together to compete as a team.

Asked about the apparent odd-couple pairing with Burnett at a TV critics meeting Monday, Kim-

mel downplayed his role in Trump's election. Observers have suggested that Burnett's "The Apprentice" helped shape public perception of Trump as a leader.

"There's no way Mark Burnett has the vision that he imagined that this monster would one day become president," Kimmel said, echoing the harsh rhetoric he applies to Trump on ABC's "Live with Jimmy Kimmel!" If Burnett is that president, he added, "we should be paying more attention to everything he does."

ABC SAYS 'FRESH OFF THE BOAT' SAILING PAST STAR'S TWEET

ABC says the cast and crew of "Fresh Off the Boat" are ready to get back to work and put star Constance Wu's anti-renewal tirade behind them. ABC Entertainment President Karey Burke said Monday the show's producers have told her everyone involved with "Fresh Off the Boat" took the actress at her word when she apologized.

They have only expressed enthusiasm about starting pro-

duction this week on season six, which debuts Sept. 27. Burke said she'll see Wu at the script reading.

The two haven't spoken since Wu expressed regret for tweeting her disappointment that the show would be back. The "Crazy Rich Asians" star said she was briefly frustrated that its renewal would keep her from a passion project.

Burke told a TV critics meeting she was happy Wu apologized.



AD



FRANCE MACAU
Chamber of Commerce
法國澳門工商會

Connect • Share • Grow



Joint Business Networking Event
AI business and research in Europe – Trends and Developments

Speaker : **Dr. Michela Milano**, University of Bologna, Deputy President of the European Association of Artificial Intelligence
Prof. Maciej Pondek, Upsolly - Product Manager & Machine Learning Researcher, Prof at Wroclaw University of Economics
Waltraut Ritter, Director, Knowledge Dialogues and Vice Chair of ICT Business Council - EuroCham Hong Kong

Introduction:
Macau is hosting this year's International Joint Conference on AI (IJCAI) one of the largest annual gathering of AI experts. www.ijcai19.org

We would like to use this opportunity to host an informal networking event to discuss with European experts and guests about trends and development of AI in Europe. A recent McKinsey report suggests that Europe needs to speed up investment to close the technological gap between China and the US.

Others argue that Europe's strength lies in privacy enhancing AI software and applications, and a focus on citizen-centric AI development. What does it mean for companies using machine learning to increase customer loyalty? How can machine learning be used for real-world systems?

Join us for a lively discussion with our speakers!

Date: Tuesday, 13th August, 2019
Time: 12:00p.m. - 1:30p.m. (Reception: 11:45p.m.)
Venue: Grand Lapa Hotel
2nd floor, Kam Lai Heen

RSVP before 9th August
info@francemacau.com or Tel: (853) 8798 9699

- 2019 FMCC members join @ HKD/MOP250*
- Guests and non-members @ HKD/MOP320*

* Soup, sandwiches and cheesecake lunch provided with coffee/tea.


www.francemacau.com













THE ROADHOUSE
MACAU

FAST BIKES




DAILY PROMOTIONS
on food and drink

ROCK & ROLL MUSIC




DAILY HAPPY HOUR
5pm-8pm
Buy 1 get 1 free


FOOD AND FUN




live music
Tuesday to Sunday
from 9pm



THE HOME OF SPORT IN MACAU!
17 TVs and massive
outdoor cinema screen



FREE PICK UP & DROP OFF
car service from
anywhere in the S.A.R



Find us
on Facebook
and TripAdvisor

R/C, Shop E-G016-G019, Broadway Hotel, Rotunda do Duque Oeste, Taipa, Macau
Tel.: 2875 2945 or 63281245

Nathan Adrian: life before gold medal as he fights cancer

LUIS ANDRES HENAO, LIMA

FIVE-TIME Olympic swimming gold medalist Nathan Adrian says that his success won't be on his mind at the end of his life.

Maybe that would have been him some years ago. But not now, not since his latest race against the clock to beat cancer.

"It has completely changed my outlook. At the end of my time here on Earth, whenever that may be, I don't think that the first thing on my mind is going to be how many gold medals I've had," Adrian told The Associated Press in an interview before his first race at the Pan American Games in Lima.

"I'm actually very confident of that, whereas you know, maybe five or six years ago, my answer to that might've changed a little bit," said Adrian. "So, my priorities are still competing and achieving at the highest level, certainly. But to take a deep breath, or to try to enjoy the company of those around me, that's something that I'm trying to be aware of as much as possible."

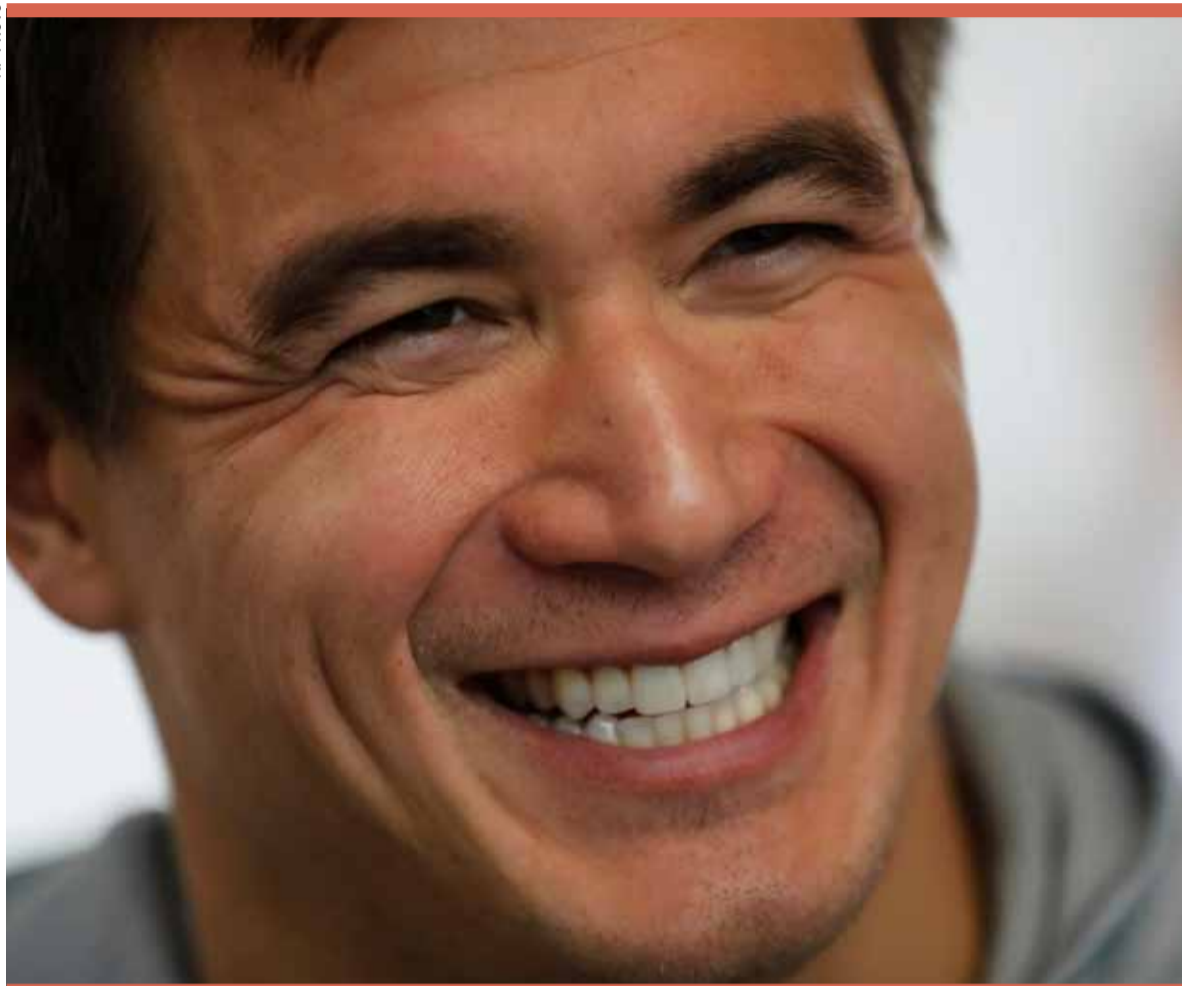
Adrian was diagnosed with testicular cancer in December.

"My reaction was probably what most people experience, a little bit of everything, you know: being scared, being a little bit angry, just questioning why? Like wondering if I had called my mom enough," he said with a smile.

"All sorts of things, and it was just like a roller coaster, like I couldn't really control it, so I just kind of let it happen."

Doctors told him the cancer

AP PHOTO



had been caught early and he began treatment. A month later, he underwent surgery, and he decided to continue to train for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

The 30-year-old recently earned silver in the 4x100-meter medley relay at the world swimming championships in Gwangju, South Korea. The silver medal felt like victory for Adrian, who was competing just months after the cancer diagnosis.

"I'm still in the process of conquering it," he said. "Between a

couple of surgeries, treatment and ongoing surveillance, here we are, a little more than six months later, and I just feel fortunate to compete."

The 30-year-old said that he's also looking forward to his first Pan American Games.

"I feel good. I left the world's about a week ago, and then we're here to compete again...I've never been to a Pan American Games so it's really cool," Adrian told the AP near the tournament's pool. "It's a mini Olympics, so it's

a really special feeling."

At the 2012 Olympics, Adrian won the 100-meter freestyle. Four years later, he earned bronze in Rio de Janeiro. He has four other Olympic gold medals as part of U.S. relay teams.

Adrian has been swimming since the age of 2, and competitively, since the age of 5. The decision to get back in the pool had the backing of his loved ones: among them, his wife, Hallie Ivester; his parents, Jim and Cecilia Adrian; and his siblings, Donella

and Justin, who also swam competitively. Everyone is rooting for him back in his hometown of Bremerton, Washington, where a street was named after him.

"I think [my family] knew how important it was for me to get back to competing just for my own mental and emotional health," he said. "I think for anybody who goes through an adverse health condition, the quicker you can get back to what makes you feel normal, what makes you feel good, the better."

The process has been "really tough," he said. "You get diagnosed, and then you don't really know or have any information besides that you have cancer."

He said the wait seems long until the scans are read because sometimes doctors are backed up.

"And it's tough mentally and emotionally, because you're just like: 'man, maybe this is spread, or maybe we caught it early?'"

Endurance is everything to a swimmer. But Adrian said he's been in touch online with others who endured the same things as he did outside of the pool.

"A lot of my messaging this point has been for men out there: If you feel that something is going on, you have to go see a doctor," he said. "A lot of guys wait. They feel something going on there, and then they wait until their treatment options are a little narrower and the prognosis isn't quite as good. But if they get in there early, and early detection is key, hopefully everyone can live a little bit longer."

Like any race, his goal is to beat cancer in the shortest amount of time possible. His other goals are also clear.

"In the future? Of course Tokyo 2020," he said. "And then for life: probably spending a little more time at home with my wife and a little less time on the road training and competing, once this is all over." AP

SWIMMING

Lochte wins 200 IM at US nationals after 14-month ban

RYAN Lochte won the 200-meter individual medley at the U.S. national championships, fresh off a 14-month ban.

The 12-time Olympic medalist touched in 1 minute, 57.76 seconds on Sunday — 1.07 ahead of runner-up Shaine Casas — to earn his first national title since 2014. Lochte's time was quicker than his time-trial effort of 1:57.88 in the event four days earlier, which didn't count toward qualifying for the national team.

It was the lone victory

and only final of the five-day meet for Lochte, who turned 35 a day earlier. He finished 37th in the 200 freestyle preliminaries, fourth in the C final of the 100 butterfly, and scratched the B final of the 100 backstroke.

Lochte was competing for the first time since the recent end of a 14-month suspension for receiving an infusion of vitamin B-12 above the allowable limit.

Madisyn Cox won the women's 200 IM in 2:10.00 to go with her earlier victory in the 200 breaststroke. She

was suspended last year after failing a drug test, but went to court to get her ban reduced from two years to six months. She argued that her positive test was the result of a legal multivitamin that had been contaminated.

Ally McHugh won the 1,500 free in 16:05.98. She won the 400 free earlier. Erika Brown took the 50 free in 24.71 seconds.

Ryan Held won the men's 50 free in 21.87. Bobby Finke won the 800 free in 7:47.58 to add to his earlier title in the 400 IM. AP

AP PHOTO



OPINION

Macau Matters

Richard Whitfield



SHENZHEN'S NEW EV HORIZON

I subscribe to the electronic newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Institute (rmi.org), which is a well-known, U.S.-based non-profit organization dedicated to researching, consulting, and educating in the field of sustainability, with a special focus on profitable innovations for energy and resource efficiency. A recent issue contains a summary of an excellent report on Shenzhen's path to global leadership in electric logistics vehicles. Shenzhen has clearly taken on a role I have been proposing for Macau for several years. We seem to be losing a race that was ours to win!

Among other pollutants, the internal combustion engine (ICE) is globally responsible for about 15% of man-made atmospheric carbon dioxide emissions, and thus it is a major contributor to global warming. Eliminating ICEs is a key goal in decarbonizing mankind's future and this largely means using electric motors in vehicles. As they are a major part of the global vehicle fleet, it is a good idea to start by electrifying buses, taxis and logistics vehicles.

Through an array of deliberate local government policies and other initiatives, the city of Shenzhen in Southern China was able to increase its fleet of electric logistics vehicles, vans and light/medium trucks from 300 to approximately 62,000 between 2015 and 2018. Their long-term aim is to completely electrify Shenzhen's transportation systems.

Shenzhen achieved these results by providing subsidies for vehicles and charging infrastructure, mandating the number of charging stations for public vehicle to be available in different districts, and reducing electricity prices for recharging and regulating charging service fees. It also nurtured the market to ensure the availability of suitable electric vehicles (about 45 brands are competing in the market) and the emergence of leasing companies to provide vehicles, recharging and maintenance services to logistics companies.

The Shenzhen government has also been very proactive in collecting huge volumes of data about their initiatives and making this data widely available; including their successes and their failures. They want their city to become a reference to help other cities to follow similar and even better paths to transportation electrification. No doubt, they aim to be a source for equipment and consulting expertise for these other cities.

As well as affordable vehicle availability, recharging infrastructure is a key issue, and here Shenzhen has had some missteps that they are in the process of rectifying. In their initial planning Shenzhen assumed that most demand would be for slow overnight vehicle recharging at the outskirts of the city. It turns out, naturally enough, that logistics companies want to do their recharging in the city where they make most of their deliveries, and they favor rapid recharging during the daytime. Rapid recharging puts significant extra demands on the electricity distribution network and drivers need places to relax (such as restaurants) if they are recharging their vehicles during slow daytime periods. They have also found that vehicle recharging infrastructure can be unreliable and drivers need to know about the status and availability of recharging spots before driving to them. Finally, they have experienced many problems with ICE delivery vans occupying recharging spots because they are cheap parking spaces.

While you may argue about the autocratic way that the Chinese cities are run, it is difficult to fault their achievements. (Also, in my experience, local governments in many places seem to rule by fiat, and not really consider the voice of its residents.) In the case of Shenzhen, the city government has a long history of demonstrating the depth and sophistication of its vision and its clear focus on improving its residents' quality of life. One can only wish we had such capable government in Macau.

POLICE CHARGE 72 OVER AUSTRALIAN CLIMATE RALLY

Police arrested dozens of climate protesters who disrupted traffic yesterday in the biggest city in Australia's main coal mining state.

The demonstration was the latest in a series of protests by environmental group Extinction Rebellion to disrupt downtown Brisbane.

Police charged 72 people following the protest, which involved about 300 demonstrators, some of whom sat on roads, Queensland Police Superintendent Chris Stream said.

The protesters, aged between 18 and 73, were charged with offences including public nuisance, disobeying lawful directions and obstructing police, he said.

Stream said he was disappointed to see roads used by emergency services blocked by demonstrators.

"What you have is these protesters committing this unplanned disruptive activity," Stream said.

"Some of these routes are major routes for emergency vehicle routes such as to and from hospitals," he said, adding "that is very, very disruptive."

Protest organizer Laura Lucardie said causing disruption for commuters was the goal of the demonstration.

Lucardie said the protesters were happy to go to jail for their cause and labelled the police response appropriate. She said further protests were being planned.



AP PHOTO

THAI DISSIDENT MUSICIANS CELEBRATE GETTING FRENCH HAVEN

PITCHA DANGPRASITH, BANGKOK

MEMBERS of a Thai folk music group who feared for their lives because of their fiercely anti-establishment songs are celebrating this week after being admitted to France to seek refugee status.

The band Faiyen fled to Thailand's neighbor, Laos, after a military government took power in Bangkok in 2014. Dozens of dissidents, some fearing arrest under a law mandating prison terms for criticism of the country's monarchy, fled to Laos and Cambodia, another neighboring country, but few were able to travel further because of a lack of travel documents or money.

Several dissidents who continued their political activities online after fleeing to Laos were killed or disappeared, spreading fear they had been targeted by Thai royalists.

Faiyen, who lived together in houses in and around the Laotian capital, Vientiane, said they received constant death threats and in recent months issued urgent pleas for help to move to a safer refuge.

Their fear increased after three activists who tried to flee Laos by crossing into Vietnam in January disappeared. According to rights groups they were arrested and secretly extradited to Thailand, but

the authorities in Vietnam and Thailand have denied any knowledge of the affair. Faiyen then began a social media campaign which received widespread attention and support in May.

Faiyen and their supporters said Tuesday that the group's members arrived last week in Paris.

"Faiyen members are now rescued from the acute danger they faced in Laos — to begin new lives in France with the dignity, liberty, equality and sister-brotherhood that they fought for with their lives," Junya Yimprasert, a Thai political exile who helped the group move, said on her Facebook page. "Right now, our plan is to keep pushing the French government for the Faiyen members' political refugee status. We have to show them that if Faiyen were to be sent back to Thailand, there would be nothing waiting for them but death."

Junya acknowledged that attaining refugee status could take months.

She said the group's members would continue their political activism, especially against Thailand's lese majeste law under which offenders face prison terms of up to 15 years for insulting the monarchy.

The band plans to hold a protest in front of the Thai Embassy in Paris to condemn the deaths and disappearances of their fellow

exiles in Laos, followed by a concert on the Place de la République, "a park synonymous with democracy," Junya wrote.

Trairong Sinseubpol, one of the band's members, said in a phone interview that the process of applying for political refugee status took them about two to three months before they were granted permission to travel to Paris. But they were unable to act immediately because they did not have enough money to buy plane tickets. Eventually, they were aided by Miles4Migrants, a charity created to donate frequent flyer miles to book flights that bring refugees to their new homes.

The issue of safety of Thai political exiles was highlighted recently when Pavin Chachavalongpun, a former Thai foreign ministry official who became an outspoken critic of the country, reported that he was attacked in the middle of the night in his home in Japan.

Pavin, who said the unknown assailant sprayed him and his partner with a chemical substance that caused a burning sensation, is an associate professor at Kyoto University. He believes he was targeted for political reasons, but Thai military and government officials deny involvement with attacks on him or any other exiles. AP



AP PHOTO

New Zealand NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said he's absolutely convinced the U.S. will remain in the military alliance and it has made no preparations for an unlikely U.S. withdrawal because doing so would send a signal that it could happen.

Greece Authorities have launched a major search operation on the Aegean island of Ikaria for a British woman reported missing after she went for a morning run and failed to return.

Belgium Prosecutors said yesterday they have reached a settlement worth nearly 300 million euros with a Swiss private banking branch of HSBC over a longstanding fraud and tax dodging case.



AP PHOTO

Russia Powerful explosions at a military depot in Siberia have injured 12 people and left one missing, and forced over 16,500 people to leave their homes, officials said yesterday.



AP PHOTO

UK A British youth court yesterday ordered a teenager be held on a charge of attempted murder for allegedly throwing a 6-year-old boy from a 10th-floor viewing gallery at London's Tate Modern museum.

EU The European Union says its door remains open should British Prime Minister Boris Johnson want to discuss his country's departure from the bloc but it insists that the Brexit divorce agreement cannot be renegotiated.