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NEW IMMIGRANTS TO MACAU STRUGGLE TO 'PARTICIPATE IN LOCAL SOCIETY' A SURVEY BY TWO ASSOCIATIONS SHOWS

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UNKNOWN ORGANIZER CALLS FOR 'HK PROTEST' IN SENADO SQUARE

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SECRETARY ALEXIS TAM MET WITH MACAU ATHLETES ABOUT TO DEPART FOR THE 10TH NATIONAL GAMES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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US-China President Donald Trump bowed to pressure from U.S. businesses and concerns over the economic fallout of his trade war with China, delaying the imposition of new tariffs on a wide variety of consumer products including toys and laptops until December.



China Huawei Technologies Inc. has hired a lobbyist with deep ties to Republican leadership as the Chinese telecom giant finds itself increasingly mired in President Donald Trump's trade war with Beijing.

Thailand A court yesterday dismissed terrorism and other charges against 24 leaders of an extended street protest in 2010 that saw key areas of central Bangkok closed off.

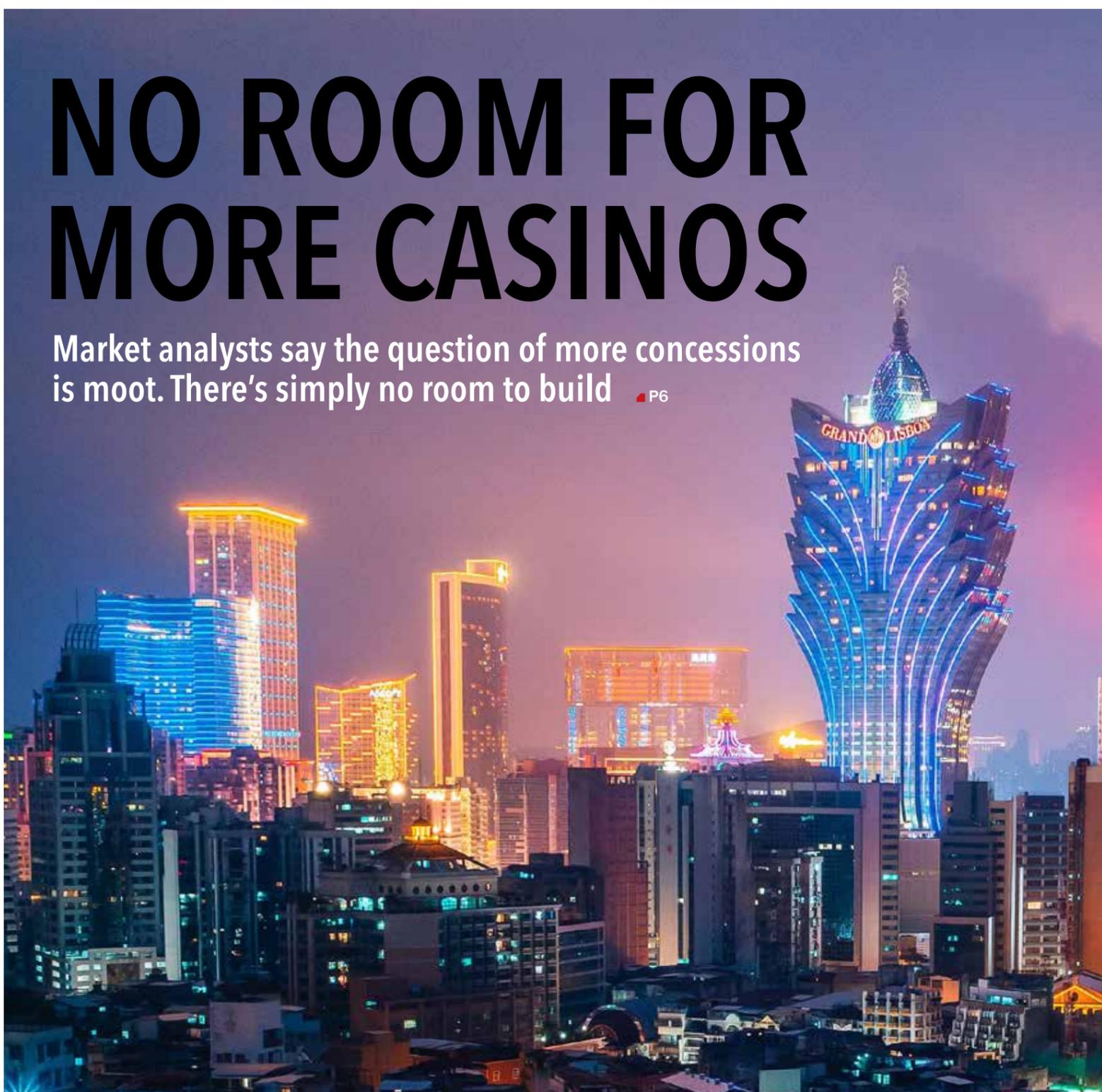


Malaysia Doctors conducted an autopsy yesterday to determine the cause of death of a 15-year-old London teen whose naked body was found nine days after she mysteriously disappeared from a nature resort.



South Korea A representative for K-pop superstar group BTS said yesterday the boy band is taking a break, but it will only be brief. More on p18

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NO ROOM FOR MORE CASINOS

Market analysts say the question of more concessions is moot. There's simply no room to build

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HEALTH BUREAU REFUTES COUTINHO'S ALLEGATIONS



RENATO MARQUES

THE Health Bureau (SSM) has refuted allegations made in March this year by lawmaker José Pereira Coutinho in a letter to the government accusing the Bureau of unlawful behavior relating to the recruitment of nurses and other medical staff at the Public Hospital.

In a written reply to the lawmaker, the SSM noted that the allegations from Coutinho were unfounded, and further noted that the recruitment of health professionals was done according to the instructions of the Chief Executive and with the favorable opinion of the Labour Affairs Bureau.

The SSM also noted that such a need had to do with a "global problem which affects all medical ins-

titutions worldwide," noting that the services have been improving in terms of the ratio of nurse per 1000 inhabitants, from 2.2 in the year 2000 to 3.7 last year.

The Bureau also noted that the current ratio of nurse per bed in Macau is one to six, a figure that surpasses that of both local private medical institutions and the neighboring regions.

The SSM remarked also that currently the services are balanced and there is no urgent need for recruitment, noting that the previous situation that resulted in the hiring of 30 people to perform duties in this field had to do exclusively with the outbreak of flu and did not reflect a long-term need.

The Bureau also refuted the allegations from the lawmaker that

the government had opted for the hiring on non-local workers to pay a reduced salary. The lawmaker had claimed that the reduced salary for non-local medical workers was just one-third of that earned by locals. On this topic, the SSM also noted that the salaries paid to staff are determined according to the job's duties and follow the principle of the "same payment for the same job."

According to statistical data noted in the statement by the Health Bureau and signed by the director Lei Chin Ion, as of the end of March this year, there were a total of 97 non-resident workers on nursing duties in Macau, as well as 1,877 medical assistants in several areas such as nursing, dentistry and other auxiliary health care services.



JAPAN MINISTER HOPES FOR AI COOPERATION WITH MACAU

Chief Executive Chui Sai On met with Japan's minister of state for special missions, Satsuki Katayama, on Tuesday, who is also a member of the upper house of Japan.

The officials discussed cooperation in areas such as business, tourism, culture, education, construction and infrastructure, as well as environmental protection.

The position of minister for special missions has been set up by the Japanese government to cover areas that had not yet been administered by existing ministerial positions. Katayama, for example, is responsible for regional regeneration, legislative reform and gender equality.

Katayama noted that Ma-

cau and Japan have maintained a very good relationship in recent decades.

She is also exploring cooperation between the two jurisdictions in the implementation of technology in daily life.

She explained that Japan has an ageing population. The Japanese government is working to improve aged care by employing artificial intelligence. She is aware of Macau's effort in building a smart city, so she believes the two jurisdictions can have more exchange.

In response, the CE expressed his desire for further cooperation. Meanwhile, there are quite a number of Japanese investments in Macau, the CE pointed out. **AL**

COURTS

Stanley Ho's sister-in-law acquitted of bribery in Hong Kong

A Macau businesswoman and sister-in-law of gambling tycoon Stanley Ho has been cleared of bribery over an initial deposit on an apartment 15 years ago.

Cheyenne Chan was previously charged with bribery involving Wilson Fung, the former deputy secretary of Hong Kong's Economic Development and Labour Bureau between 2003 and 2006.

Yesterday, Chan was found not guilty of offering an advantage to a public servant.

However, Fung was found guilty of misconduct in public office for failing to declare an obvious conflict of interest to the

government.

The case centered on Chan's settling of an initial HKD510,000 deposit on a flat bought by Fung, while he held a senior government post.

According to a report issued by the South China Morning Post, the pair were seen turning towards each other, smiling in the dock, before the guilty verdict against Fung was delivered.

Hong Kong's district judge Douglas Yau Tak-hong said they had been a couple since December 10, 2003.

Since Fung was also married to a senior government official in Hong Kong, the couple went to Macau on 33 occasions and

to mainland China on five occasions.

Fung was remanded in custody ahead of sentencing on September 12. Misconduct in public office is punishable by up to seven years' imprisonment.

According to previous reports, Chan was a former director and shareholder of three airline and helicopter companies.

The District Court formerly heard that Fung accepted HKD510,000 from Chan on Sept. 28, 2004, but did not declare it to the government while handling applications from her companies, which included HK Express' bids for new routes to Guangzhou and Shenzhen. **LV**

CRIME

POLICE SEIZE DRUGS HIDDEN IN BOOK-LIKE BOX

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) has arrested three men in an operation in which two of the men admitted to hiding MOP60,000 worth of narcotics in a container disguised as a book. The container was found in an apartment in the Exterior Harbor area.

The three men were respectively surnamed Liu (31 years old), Li (34) and Lei (30). Liu and Li are from the mainland, while Lei is a local Macau resident. They were charged with selling and using narcotics.

According to the police, intelligence from the mainland police showed that someone had been hired by mainland gangs to sell narcotics in Macau. Liu was later identified by the poli-

ce as a suspect.

Upon Liu's arrival, the police followed him to a hotel in Cotai, where the suspected narcotics transaction was observed. The police immediately arrested the two and found less than a gram of methamphetamine.

Liu brought the police to the apartment in NAPE, where the police found 15 packs of the methamphetamine, traces of magu, and other tools.

It was then that the police spotted the book-like case in which more narcotics were hidden.

The trio has been selling the drugs over the course of a week. Each small packet of drugs was sold for MOP1,500. **AL**

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PSP confirms call to protest HK police action in Senado Square

THE Public Security Police Force has confirmed the existence of a poster that has been circulating on social media since yesterday morning, calling on the public to participate in a stand still protest starting 8 p.m. next Monday in Senado Square.

The silent protest will be conducted to demonstrate opposition towards the conduct of Hong Kong police in the ongoing demonstrations in the neighboring SAR.

The Hong Kong police have been criticized over their failure to stop attacks on protesters as they have been firing tear gas as the demonstration continues in

the neighboring SAR's subway stations.

The poster described that the August 19 activity is "legitimate, rational and peaceful," and there were no "blue or yellow political opinions" in the protest.

As organizers have yet to be identified, the New Macau Association (NMA) has issued a statement to clarify that the gathering is neither organized by the association nor by the democrat legislator Sulu Sou.

The association noted in its statement that local residents have the right to legally express their claims through gatherings and demonstrations, yet the police authorities should be noti-

fied in advance.

However, several netizens on social media were also quick to criticize the protest, noting that such move would bring nothing good to the SAR.

"It is not recommended to participate in the event. [...] The historical background of Macau and Hong Kong is different," one person wrote on social media.

"I strongly oppose this and [I'll] never participate," said another.

According to Article 5 of Law No. 2/93/M on the rights to demonstrate, persons or entities intending to hold a meeting or demonstration in a public place

or a place open to the public are required to notify the Public Security Police Force within 3 to 14 working days prior to the event.

If the protest is political or labor-related, the notification period is reduced to two working days.

Meanwhile, the law also clearly stipulates that it is a criminal offence to interfere with legal assembly and procession.

Article 10 of the law stipulates that the police authorities shall take the necessary measures to prevent the assembly or demonstration from being interfered with by counter-demonstrations that may hinder the participants from exercising their rights freely. LV

Survey shows new immigrants have low participation in local society

JULIE ZHU

A survey published by two local associations has shown that the city's new immigrants struggle to "participate in local society" as a measure of integration in Macau, though are moderately integrated in other respects.

The two associations, Macau New Citizens Association and the Association of People's Hope, conducted a survey between April and August about new Macau resi-

dents' integration into the local community. The survey received a total of 740 valid questionnaires.

Some 13.5% of the new-immigrant respondents emigrated to Macau under the city's skilled professionals immigration and investment immigration program. Other respondents came to Macau under the family reunion policy, half of whom are aged between 35 and 44 years old, and 31.1% of whom are aged between 45 and 54 years old.

About 92% of the respondents live in Macau, while the remainder live in Zhuhai, Zhongshan and Hong Kong.

The majority of respondents work in the hospitality and catering industry, followed by the gaming and other services industry.

The five indicators are participation in society, cultural integration, psychological integration, residential integration and social integration. Of these, cultural integration

(79.4 points) is at the highest level, whereas participation in society (52.3 points) is at the lowest level compared to the other four indicators.

Including the aforementioned two types of integration, all five types have been recorded at a moderate level. Psychological integration, residential integration, and social integration were given 76 points, 70.6 points, and 67.9 points, respectively.

The President of the Association of People's

Hope, Song Pei Kei, has proposed that the government improve its social inclusion policies, for instance by establishing an organization to conduct research on relevant policies. She wants the government to enhance cooperation with social services organizations so as to establish a support centre for new immigrants.

The survey also found that most families have a monthly income between MOP20,000 and MOP30,000, which, the associations believe, shows that new immigrants' income may satisfy their living expenses, and that high-income immigrants can integrate into the society faster and better.

MARKET ALREADY PROTECTS HELPER SALARY, SAYS DSAL

Deputy Director of the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) Ng Wai Han has said that the Macau market has basic protection for domestic helpers' wages. Yesterday, Ng said that the city's minimum wage bill, which is currently under detailed discussion and does not apply to domestic helpers, does not mean that domestic helpers do not have any salary protection. Ng further noted that the local government has never ruled out the possibility of establishing a trade union law. She also said that the Standing Committee for the Coordination of Social Affairs has already entrusted an independent third party with the study of the conditions Macau should have in order to launch a discussion of the trade union law. The research report has been received by the government and it is arranging discussions within the employers' sector, the employees' sector and its departments.

MACAU STUDENTS LAGGING IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The President of the Macau Science and Technology Education Association, Mac Pui Veng, has said that Macau students are lagging behind in terms of knowledge about science and technology in comparison to mainland and Taiwan students. Mac said that despite Macau students being talented at science and technology, Macau lacks science teachers. "There are not enough science teachers," said Mac. "Our association has an idea to train some teachers in a first stage, but it needs the government to provide financial support and location support." Mac led 15 teams consisting of 40 Macau students who participated in the Asia Intelligent Robot Contest, which took place earlier this week in Macau.

FOREX RESERVES AMOUNT TO 167 BILLION PATACAS

The preliminary estimate of Macau's foreign exchange reserves amounted to MOP167 billion at the end of July, a slight increase of 0.3% from the revised value of MOP166.4 billion the previous month. According to data issued by the Monetary Authority of Macao, the SAR's foreign exchange reserves at end-July represented 10 times the currency in circulation. The trade-weighted effective exchange rate index for the pataca rose 0.16 points month-to-month and 2.1 points year-on-year to 106.9 in July, implying that, overall, the exchange rate of the pataca grew against the currencies of the region's major trading partners.

RENATO MARQUES

SECRETARY for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam said yesterday that he hopes the participation of a Macau delegation in the 10th National Games for Persons with Disabilities will serve to "build bridges" between the local Association and its mainland counterparts.

Tam was speaking to the delegation of 73 people that will represent Macau in the Games - which will take place in Tianjin from August 25 to September 1 - in a ceremony held at the Government's Headquarters yesterday afternoon.

To the delegation, Tam said, "I hope that besides the competition, the Macau [delegation] can establish and create friendships and relations with its counterparts from other cities of China," adding that he also hopes that such a relationship will result in more activities relating to sports for people with disabilities in the future.

Tam also said he hopes that the participation of these athletes, as others have done before them, "can raise awareness for the Macau communities and namely the school institutions to encourage people with disabilities in the practice of sports so they can raise their physical capacities, contributing to the development of sports for disabled people and the integration of

GOV'T HOPES PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL GAMES WILL 'BUILD BRIDGES'

RENATO MARQUES



[disabled] people in the society."

The delegation, which includes a total of 45 athletes, will compete in six different sports such as Boccia, Bocce, Para-Badminton, Para-Table tennis, Para-athletics, and Para-swimming, and includes athletes with motor, hearing and mental disabilities.

Similarly to Tam, the Chief of Delegation, António Fernandes,

said he hoped that the local athletes can achieve good results in the games, thanking the government for the support provided to the athletes and delegation, saying, "We will [do] our best to attain good results and to dignify the name of Macau," Fernandes said.

After the speeches, Tam performed the traditional ceremony of handing the Macau flag to the

Chief of Delegation, a ceremony usually performed by the Chief Executive.

Held every four years, the National Games for Persons with Disabilities runs in parallel with the Special Olympics of China, which is being held for the seventh time this year. The China Disabled Persons Federation, together with the

State General Administration of Sport, organizes the games. When the last Games were held, in 2015, the Macau delegation participated with 13 athletes in only three sporting events (Bocce, Para-table tennis and Chess). At the time, Macau athletes scored one gold medal and two bronze medals, all in the sporting event of Para-table tennis.

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Alexis Tam leads meeting on Creative City of Gastronomy

ANTHONY LAM

THE second "Macao Creative City of Gastronomy" annual work meeting was held on Tuesday, led by Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam, who expressed appreciation for the contributions of different entities.

In the future, the city will carry on the collaboration that exists across the public and private sectors, as well as utilize technology in an effort to raise Macau's profile as a Creative City of Gastronomy.

Opening the meeting, Tam highlighted Macau's double world-recognized listing, namely the UNESCO World Heritage and the UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy. According to Tam, they constitute the city's most glamorous calling cards. He also complimented the listings' effect on destination branding around the world.

He called on members of different circles to cherish these two calling cards, not only regarding



their concern for gastronomy and food safety, but also to strengthen industry training in order to promote overall quality enhancement in all aspects.

Tam instructed his subordinate bureaus that technology and different forms and presentations

of creativity should be explored and employed when necessary to create diversification, citing the inaugural Art Macao project as an example.

He also instructed that more creative elements are required in the future to push forward Ma-

cau's sustainable development and echo the United Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In addition, Tam made reference to the Greater Bay Area development outline.

The director of the Macao Government Tourism Office, Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, who also attended the meeting, considered that the four-year action plan (2018-2021) for the development of "Macao Creative City of Gastronomy" leverages creativity as a strategic enhancer for the city's progress towards sustainability, which aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals listed in the United Nation's 2030 Agenda. The initiatives underway are in parallel with some of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Moreover, preparations for the construction of the Macanese cuisine database have made steady progress. Work is currently being carried out to collect family recipes to guard against their possible loss in the passing from generation to generation.

The Institute for Tourism Stu-

dies (IFT) announced its upcoming launch of Master's programs in the catering field, while the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau presented the project of building an activity center for vocational and technical education. Equipped with an international culinary zone, the center is expected to be operational in the fourth quarter of 2020.

Macau was designated as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy on November 1, 2017. The Creative Cities Network covers seven creative fields including Gastronomy, Crafts and Folk Art, Design, Film, Literature, Music and Media Arts.

Following the designation, the SAR Government has unveiled a four-year action plan to develop Macau as a Creative City of Gastronomy with vigorous efforts. At the beginning of 2019, MGTO held the third annual "International Gastronomy Forum, Macao" and later launched the Great Green Food Journey project in collaboration with National Geographic, aiming to locate, support and promote sustainable practices in the food and beverage sector in Macau. The Office also carries out other initiatives, including promoting the Sustainable Gastronomy Day to the rest of the world and working on building a database for Macanese cuisine.

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GAMING | ANALYSIS

MACAU TOO CROWDED FOR MORE CASINOS?

DANIEL BEITLER
& LYNZY VALLES

LITTLE information is expected from the administration on the future of Macau gaming before incumbent Chief Executive Chui Sai On hands over the keys to his likely successor Ho Iat Seng in December. But as the 2022 concession expiry date looms closer, analysts are starting to weigh in on the possible scenarios.

Moody's Investors Service said last week that it expects Macau will renew or reissue the concessions for its six gaming operators after they expire in June 2022. While there may be changes made to the existing agreements, analysts at the firm concluded that "an outright rejection of concessions is very unlikely."

Gaming 'bosses' Alvin Chau, David Chow and Chan Meng Kam, who operate on the fringes of Macau gaming, have all signaled an interest in pursuing a license should one open up in the 2022 tender. The opportunity has also piqued interest further abroad from Jay Chun's Paradise Entertainment Group and Genting Bhd, headquartered in Malaysia.

Much is at stake for everyone involved.

The sector accounts for about half of the city's economic output, directly employs about 15% of its workforce, and generates more than 80% of the government's fiscal revenues. The industry pulled in more than MOP300 billion (\$37.15 billion) in gaming revenue in 2018. Five out of Macau's six casino operators call the SAR their primary market or derive the majority of their revenue from the city. The sixth – MGM – still earns almost 20% of its revenue from the city, according to its annual statement last year.

By virtue of its size, Macau is already a competitive market where even a percentage point

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drop in market share can signal millions in lost revenue.

One common measure of market competitiveness is the Herfindahl-Hirschman Index (HHI). It examines the number of operators in a sector and their relative market share and calculates a measure of competitiveness between 0 and 10,000, where 0 indicates perfect competition and 10,000 implies a perfect monopoly.

In some countries, such as the United States, the measure is used by the authorities in the process of reviewing merger and acquisition requests. The U.S. Department of Justice considers a market with an HHI of less than 1,500 to be a 'competitive marketplace,' an HHI of between 1,500 and 2,500 to be a 'moderately-concentrated marketplace,' and an HHI of 2,500 or greater to be a 'highly-con-

centrated marketplace.'

In Macau, mergers and acquisitions of local casino operators are restricted by a law that prevents one market player from owning 5% or more of another.

The local gaming sector is controlled by six non-discreet players: Sociedade de Jogos de Macau (SJM), Galaxy Entertainment Group, Wynn Resorts, Las Vegas Sands, MGM and Melco Resorts and Entertainment.

Using data from the first quarter of this year, the Times calculated that the HHI score for Macau's gaming sector would stand at 1,819, indicating a 'moderately-concentrated marketplace' as per the U.S. Department of Justice qualification.

By contrast, in Singapore, where Genting's Resorts World Sentosa and Marina Bay Sands co-exist in a duopoly enforced by the sta-

te, the HHI was 5,162 in the first quarter of this year.

The HHI does not take into account the nature of government concessions, which some argue can be a guarantee of service quality and consumer care by themselves.

Local economist Albano Martins said the entry of new players into Macau's gaming landscape will not depend on whether the market is deemed competitive or not, but rather the limited available land for casino development.

"For sure, the index is not lower because the market is not open," Martins told the Times. "But this doesn't mean that the market is not competitive between the six concessionaires. We have no conditions to have a more free market because of [limited] access to resources, both land and human."

Martins also said that more casino operators – and by extension casinos – would likely entail rising salaries and price inflation in the Macau SAR. Both would have a negative effect on small- and medium-sized enterprises.

Union Gaming Group analyst Grant Govertsen agreed that the Macau gaming sector was already competitive, even with just six players.

"The market is already quite competitive and over time will only become more competitive as certain operators continue to outperform others and thus causing the under-performers to become more competitive," he said. "If Macau were to introduce additional competition, where would they build? There simply isn't much available land that is approved for gaming development."

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Medical staffs carry a detained man, who protesters claimed was a police officer from mainland China, out of the airport

Flights restart at HKIA as protesters apologize

FLIGHTS resumed at Hong Kong's airport yesterday after two days of disruptions marked by outbursts of violence that highlight the hardening positions of pro-democracy protesters and the authorities in the semi-autonomous Chinese city.

About three dozen protesters remained camped in the airport's arrivals area a day after a mass demonstration and frenzied mob violence forced more than 100 flight cancellations. Additional identification checks were in place, but check-in counters were open and flights appeared to be operating normally.

Protesters spread pamphlets and posters across the floor in a section of the terminal but were not impeding travelers. Online, they also circulated letters and promotional materials apologizing to travelers and the general public for inconveniences during the past five days of airport occupations.

"It is not our intention to cause delays to your travels and we do not want to cause inconvenience to you," said an emailed statement from a group of protesters. "We ask for your understanding and forgiveness as young people in Hong Kong continue to fight for freedom and democracy."

The airport's management said it had obtained "an interim injunction to restrain persons from unlawfully and willfully obstructing

or interfering" with airport operations. It said an area of the airport had been set aside for demonstrations, but no protests would be allowed outside the designated area.

The airport had closed check-in for remaining flights late Tuesday afternoon as protesters swarmed the terminal and blocked access to immigration for departing passengers. Those cancellations were in addition to 200 flights canceled on Monday.

Hong Kong police said they arrested five people during clashes with pro-democracy protesters at the airport Tuesday night.

Assistant Commissioner of Police Operations Mak Chin-ho said the men, aged between 17 and 28, were arrested for illegal assembly. Two were also charged with assaulting a police officer and pos-

" We ask for your understanding and forgiveness as young people in Hong Kong continue to fight for freedom and democracy.

sessing offensive weapons as riot police sought to clear the terminal.

More than 700 protesters have been arrested in total since early June, mostly men in their 20s and 30s, but also including women, teenagers and septuagenarians.

Mak gave no further details, but said additional suspects were expected to be arrested, including those who assaulted an officer after stripping him of his baton and pepper spray, prompting him to draw his gun to fend them off.

Hong Kong law permits life imprisonment for those who commit violent acts or acts that might interfere with flight safety at an airport.

More than 74 million travelers pass through Hong Kong's airport each year, making it "not an appropriate place of protest," Mak said.

"Hong Kong police have always facilitated peaceful and orderly protests over the years, but the extremely radical and violent acts have certainly crossed the line and are to be most severely condemned," he said. "The police pledge to all citizens of Hong Kong that we will take steps to bring all culprits to justice."

That was backed up by a statement on a newly launched government website set up to provide the latest information on the crisis, which said, "The police will take relentless enforcement action to bring the persons involved to justice."

Hong Kong airline Cathay Pacific said in a statement it had canceled 272 flights over the past two days, affecting more than 55,000 passengers, while 622 departures and arrivals went ahead.

Cathay also said it has fired two pilots, in an apparent response to their involvement in activity related to pro-democracy protests.

They included one pilot who

is "currently involved in legal proceedings." The airline said earlier this week one of its pilots has been charged with rioting after being arrested during a protest.

It said the second fired pilot "misused company information," but gave no further details. The Hong Kong Free Press reported that the pilot posted a photo of a cockpit screen on an online forum used by protesters.

The airport disruptions have escalated a summer of demonstrations aimed at what many Hong Kong residents see as an increasing erosion of the freedoms they were promised in 1997 when Communist Party-ruled mainland China took over what had been a British colony.

While Hong Kong's crucial travel industry suffers major losses, the city's reputation as a well-regulated center for finance is also taking a hit. Some 21 countries and regions have issued travel safety alerts for their citizens traveling to Hong Kong, saying protests have become more violent and unpredictable.

The demonstrators are demanding Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam step down and scrap proposed legislation under which some suspects could be sent to mainland China, where critics say they could face torture and unfair or politically charged trials.

Lam has rejected calls for dialogue, saying Tuesday the protesters were threatening to push their home into an "abyss."

In a statement Wednesday, the Chinese Cabinet's liaison office in Hong Kong said the protesters had "entirely ruptured legal and moral bottom lines" and would face swift and severe repercussions under Hong Kong's legal system.

"Their behavior shows extreme contempt for the law, seriously damages Hong Kong's international image and deeply hurts the feelings of the broad masses of their mainland compatriots," the statement said.

Most of the protesters left the airport Tuesday after officers armed with pepper spray and swinging batons tried to enter the terminal, fighting with demonstrators who barricaded entrances with luggage carts. Riot police clashed briefly with the demonstrators, leading to several injuries and prompting at least one officer to draw a handgun on his assailants.

The burst of violence included protesters beating up at least two men they suspected of being undercover Chinese agents. Airport security appeared unable to control the crowd, and paramedics later took both men away. Police have acknowledged using "decoy" officers, and some protesters over the weekend were seen being arrested by men dressed like demonstrators — in black and wearing face masks.

Protesters yesterday apologized that some of them had become "easily agitated and over-reacted." On posters, the demonstrators said they have been "riddled with paranoia and rage" after discovering undercover police officers in their ranks.

Earlier this week, the central government in Beijing issued an ominous characterization of the protest movement as something approaching "terrorism" — a label it routinely applies to nonviolent protests of government policies on the environment or in minority regions such as Xinjiang and Tibet. MDT/AP



HONG KONG

SATELLITE PHOTOS SHOW CHINESE MILITARY IN SHENZHEN

CHRISTOPHER BODEEN

SATELLITE photos show what appear to be armored personnel carriers and other vehicles belonging to the China's paramilitary People's Armed Police parked in a sports complex in the city of Shenzhen, in what some have interpreted as a threat from Beijing to use increased force against pro-democracy protesters across the border in Hong Kong.

The pictures collected on Monday by Maxar's WorldView show 500 or more vehicles sitting on and around the soccer stadium at the Shenzhen Bay Sports Center just across the harbor from the Asian financial hub that has been rocked by more than two months of near-daily street demonstrations.

Chinese state media have said only that the Shenzhen exercises had been planned before hand and were not directly related to the unrest in Hong Kong, although they came shortly after the central



government in Beijing said the protests were beginning to show the "sprouts of terrorism."

President Donald Trump tweeted that U.S. intelligence believes that the Chinese government is moving troops to its border with Hong Kong and that, "Everyone should be calm and safe!"

Beijing has been apparently

reluctant to send in police or army units from the mainland or to mobilize the People's Liberation Army garrison in Hong Kong to quell the unrest. It's seen as mindful of the devastating effect that would have both on the territory's reputation as a safe and stable place to invest in, and as indication of the Communist Party's failure to win over the

hearts and minds of the city's 7.3 million residents, 22 years after the former British colony was handed over to China.

It would also be a shocking reminder of the PLA's bloody crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrations centered on Beijing's Tiananmen Square 30 years ago, which remains a taboo subject in China but is memorialized with a massive rally and march each year in Hong Kong.

Yet, mainland China is believed to have already dispatched officers to fortify the ranks of the Hong Kong police, and may also have planted decoys among the protesters in order to encourage more violent acts that could eventually turn ordinary Hong Kongers against the protest movement.

Such a change in sentiments does not yet appear to have happened despite rising violence surrounding protests and the shutdown of the city's usually bustling international airport for two days after it was occupied by demonstrators. AP

THAI AIR FORCE DEVICES CONTINGENCY EVACUATION PLAN

THAILAND'S military has prepared a plan to evacuate citizens living in Hong Kong in case the security situation there deteriorates.

The nation's air force is ready to deploy two planes, a Lockheed C-130 Hercules and an Airbus A340, if the Thai government orders an evacuation, according to military spokesman Pongsak Semachai.

Protests in Hong Kong against a bill allowing extraditions to China are in their 11th week, including chaotic scenes last night of police clashing with demonstrators at the territory's airport. Fears are growing that China may either mobilize troops or take other action to quell the unrest.

Flag carrier Thai Airways International Pcl said yesterday it's flying bigger planes to bring back passengers who became stranded at Hong Kong International Airport because of flight cancellations caused by the demonstrations.

The airline could also fly to airports in Macau, Shenzhen and Guangzhou to collect Thai citizens in case Hong Kong airport can't be used, government spokeswoman Narumon Pinyosinwat said in a Twitter post. BLOOMBERG

AD

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AS SEEN FROM THE MAINLAND

'I, too, support the Hong Kong police' leads social media response

STAFF REPORTER

IN the well, Taiwan wants independence; in the dream, Hong Kong wants democracy; being sober, Macau is dealing the cards," goes a joke that has spread across mainland China's social media environment.

Residents of mainland China have taken to social media with mantras to fit these unruly times.

Backing the authorities in the neighboring SAR, "I, too, support the Hong Kong police" has begun to trend on the internet in support of the police crackdown, which has been portrayed as "tolerant" and "gentle" in mainland China. The movement was most likely started by the People's Daily, and then spread across Weibo, which is the mainland's biggest online propaganda platform.

At the same time, the mainland public are also showing concern for both the Macau SAR and the "sooner-or-later-to-return son" Taiwan, seemingly instigated by the recent unrest in Hong Kong. The joke about a "sober" Macau plays into a perception of political apathy in the SAR, at least when compared to Hong Kong and Taiwan.

"I love Hong Kong, I love China. I, too, support the Hong Kong police" was among the most searched topics on yesterday's Weibo, together with other Hong Kong-related searches.

The movement comes in the aftermath of mainland news claiming that "an ordinary mainland resident" (who, according to a Hong Kong news report, is very likely to be a mainland police officer) and Fu Guohao, a journalist from the Global Times, were allegedly "brutally beaten" by Hong Kong protesters.

Video footage showed that Fu, upon being surrounded by a number of arms belonging to uniden-

ROBIN WORRALL



tified people, none of whom were doing anything violent against him, said, in a peaceful manner, "I support Hong Kong policemen, you can now beat me up."

"Believe in the motherland. [...] Go, motherland. I hope Hong Kong returns to peace soon" Ju Xiao Hua One wrote, this being a top comment liked by 157,800 Weibo users by the time of print.

"At this moment, there should be no violent suppression. It is difficult for the Central Government. It is almost the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the country. We can't hear global voices of condemnation. There is also the Taiwan election. We can't let Tsai Ing-wen be elected again," another top comment reads. This same account posted another top com-

ment saying that if the "Central Government sends troops directly, then it will mean the failure of 'One Country, Two Systems.'"

"Hong Kong's police force [are facing] a dilemma. They are the last line of defence of Hong Kong's order," a third comment writes.

While one major group of Weibo users shames the Chinese government for not sending troops to interfere in Hong Kong's situation, another group seeks to calm down those who advocate military interference.

"It is a little bit suspicious the 'passive resistance' of the Hong Kong police force, who uses minimum police force to handle terrorist useless youngsters," a fourth comment writes.

This week, Hong Kong Chief

Executive Carrie Lam questioned Hong Kong protesters whether they want to "push Hong Kong into an abyss of no return."

Unlike the police force, Carrie Lam did not find official propaganda support from the Chinese government's social media platforms.

On a post of CCTV's Weibo, Lam's aforementioned statement mostly received criticism due to a perceived "weakness", "softness", and her "spoiling the son" behaviour.

"Lam is indeed incapable. It is time to ask the Central Government for help," one comment wrote. "You can cry, but please show some hard attitude," another comment wrote. "How come it's ok for a Chief Executive to only cry when

there is a problem?" a third comment reads. A fourth comment wrote "I thought she was an iron lady when she took office, but now I only believe she is a pushover." Another one wrote "A kind mother makes wastrels."

Yesterday, the State Council's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office accused protesters of injuring the mainland journalist and other alleged mainland police officers.

"Can they hear your condemnation?" one comment wrote, using a Chinese character for animal pronouns and receiving 52,005 likes. "You only know strongly condemn," a second comment reads. A third comment said "condemnation is not useful anymore. I heard that Shenzhen has already sent troops."

China refuses US warships Hong Kong port call amid tensions

IAIN MARLOW

CHINA has refused port visits to Hong Kong by two U.S. warships amid continued trade tensions and diplomatic spats between the two sides over pro-democracy protests in the Asian financial hub.

The Chinese government denied permission for the USS Green Bay and the

USS Lake Erie to visit Hong Kong in the coming weeks, Commander Nate Christensen, a deputy spokesman for the U.S. Pacific Fleet, said. The Green Bay is an amphibious transport dock while the Lake Erie is guided-missile cruiser.

"The U.S. Navy has a long track record of successful port visits to Hong Kong, and we expect them

to continue," Christensen said. "We refer you to the Chinese government for further information about why they denied the request."

China's foreign ministry said in a statement yesterday that the country has always approved port visits by U.S. warships "case by case, on the basis of sovereignty principles and spe-

cific situations," without elaborating.

The move comes as the U.S. and China spar in a protracted trade war and American lawmakers criticize the Hong Kong police's tactics against demonstrators who have protested for more than two months. China has accused the U.S. of instigating protesters to violence, citing communi-

cations between American officials and activists - a claim Washington denies.

President Donald Trump said in a tweet Tuesday that reports from U.S. intelligence agencies show the Chinese government is moving troops to its border with Hong Kong, stoking fears of a possible intervention. "Everyone should be calm and safe!" Trump said,

without providing details about when he received the information.

Beijing last refused a U.S. naval port call to the former British colony in September, when it denied a visit to the amphibious assault ship the USS Wasp days after Washington sanctioned the Chinese military over Russian arms purchases. **BLOOMBERG**



A woman walks past the People's Bank of China in Beijing

CHINA STOCKS CLING TO TARIFF DRIVEN GAINS

STOCKS in China and Hong Kong pared earlier advances as relief that the U.S. will delay imposing tariffs on some consumer goods was tempered by weak economic data. The yuan climbed the most since June 20.

The Hang Seng Index overcame an afternoon wobble to close 0.1% higher, rising for the first time in four days, while protests thinned at Hong Kong's airport after further flight cancellations Tuesday. Stocks in mainland China clung to gains amid relief the Trump administration will delay imposing tariffs on some consumer goods until December.

The equity markets managed to shrug off data showing Chinese industrial output growth in July was the weakest since 2002, and retail sales also declined. Technology companies were among the best performers, with Lens Technology Co.'s 7.9% rise leading gains on the CSI 300 Index. In Hong Kong, Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd. rose 2.8%, a day after being cut to a "strong sell" by the investment banking arm of China's biggest lender.

"Investors should know by now that things could turn for the worse in the future - trade developments alone won't be enough to drive a stocks rebound if the economy shows no sign of stabilization," said Zhang Gang, Shanghai-based strategist with Central China Securities Co.

The yuan rose after gains in the offshore rate, which briefly rallied back beyond 7 versus the greenback overnight after the tariff delay brought some relief to markets. When Donald Trump threatened the duties early this month, Chinese shares slid and the currency subsequently breached the key 7-per-dollar level for the first time in more than a decade.

The offshore yuan fell back 0.34% Wednesday, trading at 7.0361 per dollar at 4:33 p.m. local time. The onshore yuan rose 0.58% to 7.0149 per dollar after the People's Bank of China set the daily reference rate stronger-than-expected.

Investors are cautious as a resolution to the trade dispute remains uncertain and many Chinese imports remain on the list to be hit with tariffs on Sept. 1. Protracted tit-for-tat negotiations threaten to derail global growth and ignite a currency war, while political unrest in Hong Kong shows little sign of easing after weeks of protests that have become more violent and disruptive. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

CHINA SAYS ITS CRYPTOCURRENCY IS 'CLOSE' TO RELEASE

THE People's Bank of China is "close" to issuing its own cryptocurrency, according to a senior official.

The bank's researchers have been working intensively since last year to develop systems, and the cryptocurrency is "close to being out," Mu Changchun, deputy director of the PBOC's payments department, said at an event held by China Finance 40 Forum last weekend in Yichun, Heilongjiang. He didn't give specifics on the timing.

Mu repeated the PBOC's intention that the digital currency would replace M0, or cash in circulation, rather than M2, which would generate credit and

impact monetary policy. The digital currency would also support the yuan's circulation and internationalization, he said.

The remarks signal the PBOC is inching toward formally introducing a digital currency of its own after five years of research. Facebook Inc.'s push to create cryptocurrency Libra has caused concerns among global central banks, including the PBOC, which said the digital asset must be put under central bank oversight to prevent potential foreign exchange risks and protect the authority of monetary policy.

"Libra must be seen as a foreign currency and be put under China's framework

of forex management," Sun Tianqi, an official from China's State Administration of Foreign Exchange, said at the forum.

Unlike decentralized blockchain-based offerings, the PBOC's currency is intended to give Beijing more control over its financial system.

According to patents registered by the central bank, consumers and businesses would download a mobile wallet and swap their yuan for the digital money, which they could use to make and receive payments. Crucially, the PBOC could also track every time money changes hands.

The central bank will "expedite the research of

China's legal digital tender" and monitor the trends of virtual currency development at overseas and at home, the PBOC said in a statement listing its work plan for the second half of 2019 released in early August.

"It is without doubt that with the announcement of Libra, governments, regulators and central banks around the world have had to expedite their plans and approach to digital assets," said Dave Chapman, executive director at BC Technology Group Ltd. They have to consider the possibility that non-government issued currencies could "dramatically" disrupt finance and payments, Chapman said. **BLOOMBERG**

CORPORATE BITS

Galaxy expands Japan-Macau IR management mentorship scheme



Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) announced yesterday in a press release that it will expand the GEG Japan-Macau IR manage-

ment mentorship scheme, which will commence on Monday, August 26 in Macau and run for three weeks. The GEG mentorship

scheme "aims to develop operational skills and sector knowledge for personnel interested in playing a leading role in the IR field and the broader Japanese hospitality industry."

This year's program will incorporate lectures conducted by faculty members from the University of Macau as well as a study of IR operations hosted at GEG's flagship integrated resort, Galaxy Macau.

According to the press release, GEG intends to further expand and develop this program with the cooperation of both Japanese and Macau academic and commercial institutions in 2020 and beyond.

Wynn celebrates 20th anniversary handover this Mid-Autumn



In honor of the 20th anniversary of Macau's return to China, Wynn Macau and Wynn Palace Cotai have designed this year's mooncake

gift boxes to feature a lotus flower motif.

"The lotus is a symbol of Macau and represents the everlasting prosperity of

this booming city," a statement from the company reads. On the side panels of the box there are handwritten Chinese calligraphy greetings for a 'Happy Mid-Autumn Festival and Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of Macau's Return to China.'

Guests can visit Wing Lei restaurant at Wynn Macau or Sweets at Wynn Palace to purchase mooncakes or gift vouchers for this Mid-Autumn festival.

The mooncake gift vouchers are available for sale from now until Sept. 12, while the mooncake gift boxes are available for sale and redemption between Aug. 26 and Sept. 12.

CHINA'S most powerful weapon as geopolitical storm clouds gather may not be tariffs or riot police, but ordinary consumers at their keyboards.

Beijing is increasingly finding itself under siege as President Donald Trump's trade war squeezes the world's second-largest economy and protests in Hong Kong call into question its hold over the territory. But as it has in the past, China is finding support from an increasingly nationalistic online community, who use the pitfalls of multinational companies to drive home their point.

A growing list of global brands, from Versace to Calvin Klein, have been forced to apologize in recent days after an army of Chinese internet users called them out for products and company websites that identified Hong Kong as a country, not as a city.

Chinese consumers have proved a potent force in pushing change on local issues such as tainted milk and substandard vaccines. But that same outrage can be just as powerful when applied to politics, with critical coverage in state-controlled media spurring internet users to call for boycotts on the country's social media platforms.

"There's a nationalist response on the internet that obviously the government stokes," said Andrew Polk, co-founder and partner of Beijing-based consultancy Trivium China. "It goes from official state media and then takes on a life of its own."

Global companies, which are increasingly counting on China's wealthy middle class and burgeoning consumer market for growth, have learnt the hard way that it pays to make amends -- and fast. Chinese buyers account for at least a third of current luxury sales and two-thirds of the industry's growth, according to estimates from consultancy Bain & Co.

Even companies that don't sell directly to consumers

Online army shows foreign brand who's in charge



aren't immune from social-media outrage.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLC found itself a target after an online post, which appeared to be from the accounting firm, urged support for the protests. While PwC issued a statement calling the original post a fraud, it didn't mollify critics on Chinese social-media platforms, according to the Global Times, a state-run tabloid, which said the firm's response "sparked widespread dissatisfaction among the public" because it didn't strongly condemn the demonstrations.

Hong Kong may be the hot-button issue now, but there are plenty of other topics that can set off nationalist anger online. Chinese social-media users expressed indignation in June after an economist with UBS

Senior economist for China with Capital Economics Asia Pte. "I do think life is going to become more difficult for foreign firms in China, particularly U.S. firms," he said.

This is just the latest wave of mea culpas from multinational businesses

Group AG used the phrase "Chinese pig" in a report on the impact of the country's swine flu outbreak. The Swiss bank publicly apologized.

Companies are also at risk as the U.S.-China trade war intensifies, said Julian Evans-Pri-

chard, Singapore-based senior economist for China with Capital Economics Asia Pte. "I do think life is going to become more difficult for foreign firms in China, particularly U.S. firms," he said.

Coach, owned by New York-based Tapestry Inc., issued an apology Monday. So did LVMH-

-owned Givenchy. Both had been selling products that didn't list Hong Kong and Taiwan as parts of China.

This is just the latest wave of mea culpas from multinational businesses that have been accused of defying Beijing's "One China" policy. Companies from Marriott International Inc. to Qantas Airways Ltd. scrambled to fall in line with China's stance a year and a half ago. Chinese leaders at the time expressed alarm over "separatist" movements after Taiwan elected a president from a pro-independence party and anti-China activists secured seats on Hong Kong's legislature.

Those tensions are re-emerging, with the government viewing demonstrators as pawns of foreign powers out to undermine China's sovereignty. Foreign companies "shouldn't 'queue up' to cause trouble in questions related to Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan," the Communist Party newspaper People's Daily said in an editorial published Monday.

So far, big U.S. brands have yet to see consumer outrage show up in boycotts and plummeting sales, which is what happened to South Korean companies including Hyundai Motor Co. and Lotte in China after bilateral tensions in 2017.

That may be in part due to the Chinese government's concern about scaring off foreign companies at a time when economic growth is slowing, Trivium China's Polk said. American consumer giants like Starbucks Corp. and Nike Inc. are still expanding in the country.

In most cases, the government is aware that the situation "can go too far and become a genie that's out of a bottle and can't be put back in," he said. **BLOOMBERG**

Trial delayed for Mar-a-Lago trespassing trial

TERRY SPENCER,
FORT LAUDERDALE

A federal judge delayed the trial of a Chinese woman charged with trespassing at President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago club and lying to Secret Service agents after accusing her of trying to "play games" at a hearing yesterday [Macau] as she acted as her own attorney against the judge's strong advice.

U.S. District Judge Roy Altman rescheduled Yujing Zhang's trial to begin Sept. 3 instead of next week to give her more time to prepare after she did not receive all the paperwork defense attorneys usually get and she said she was sick. He also gave the 33-year-old Shanghai business consultant until next week to consider a prosecution motion to have Altman decide the case instead

of a jury and until Aug. 30 to file defense documents that she failed to file by Tuesday's deadline.

From Altman's questioning it appears Zhang has done little to prepare for a trial that could see her spend six years in prison if convicted. She fired her public defenders in June, saying she wanted to defend herself even though she has no familiarity with the

U.S. justice system. Altman spent an hour in June trying to talk her out of exercising that right and resumed that effort Tuesday.

After she struggled Tuesday with understanding basic legal procedures such as calling witnesses and picking a jury, the judge told her he could reappoint her former public defenders, who stood quietly 20 feet (6 meters) away. Altman is

requiring them to be present in case she changes her mind.

"That's OK, thank you," Zhang responded.

"I figured that would be your answer," Altman replied, sounding resigned.

At one point early in the hearing, Zhang appeared to be staring into space and did not respond to repeated questions Altman posed through her Man-

darin interpreter.

"The defendant is apparently trying to play games with the court. The court will not allow the defendant to play games," Altman said as he declared that the hearing would continue with or without Zhang's cooperation.

Zhang told Altman that she felt dizzy, possibly from low blood pressure. He asked if she had reported that to a jail doctor. She said she'd told the marshals who had brought her to court yesterday. **AP**

NEW ZEALAND

ALLEGED CHRISTCHURCH GUNMAN SENDS LETTER FROM PRISON CELL

NICK PERRY, WELLINGTON

NEW Zealand officials admitted yesterday that they made a mistake by allowing the man accused of killing 51 people at two Christchurch mosques to send a hand-written letter from his prison cell.

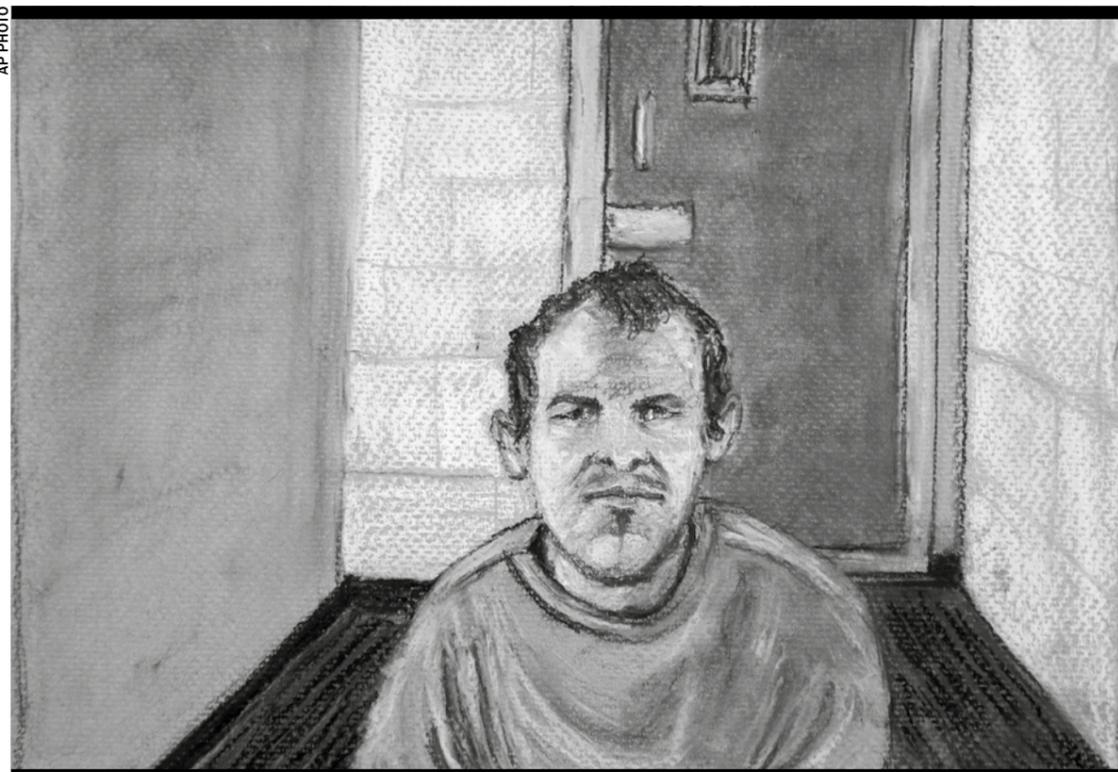
The six-page letter from Brenton Tarrant was posted this week on the website 4chan, which has become notorious as a place for white supremacists to post their views. And it comes at a sensitive time, with other alleged killers from El Paso to Norway citing Tarrant as an inspiration.

The letter appears to be written in pencil on a small notepad and is addressed to "Alan" in Russia. Much of it appears to be relatively innocuous, discussing a one-month trip Tarrant says he took to Russia in 2015. But the letter also warns that a "great conflict" is coming and uses language that could be construed as a call to arms.

Corrections Minister Kelvin Davis said in statement that he didn't believe the prison system should have allowed Tarrant to send the letter.

"I have made myself clear that this cannot happen again," Davis said.

But Davis also said that all New Zealand prisoners have rights that include the ability to send and receive mail. He said the prison system can withhold correspondence and withheld some other letters Tarrant had attempted to



send or receive.

"We have never had to manage a prisoner like this before — and I have asked questions around whether our laws are now fit for purpose and asked for advice on what changes we may now need to make," Davis said.

In the letter, dated July 4, Tarrant thanks "Alan" for postage stamps he apparently sent, saying they're the only two pieces of color in an otherwise gray cell and adds that he'll have to hide them from the guards.

Tarrant cites Plato and other philosophers and writers as ins-

piration for his views, and says he "cannot go into any great detail about regrets or feelings as the guards will confiscate my letter if I do" and use it as evidence.

Opposition spokesman David Bennett said Davis needed to demand immediate answers as to how an inflammatory letter could be sent from inside a maximum security prison.

"This man is accused of carrying out one of the most heinous crimes in New Zealand history," Bennett said in a statement. "New Zealanders will be horrified that Corrections allowed him to send

a letter which includes a call to action and has subsequently been posted online."

The Corrections Department, which oversees prisons, said the law only allows a prison director to withhold a prisoner's mail in a "very limited" range of circumstances.

"On review, we acknowledge that this letter should have been withheld," the department said in a statement. "We have made changes to the management of this prisoner's mail to ensure that our robust processes are as effective as we need them to be."

Before the March 15 shootings, Tarrant, a 28-year-old Australian white supremacist, posted a 74-page manifesto on the website 8chan in which he outlined his racist views and his beliefs that immigrants were invaders who would replace the white race.

8chan, seen as a more radical offshoot of 4chan, was effectively knocked offline this month after two companies cut off vital technical services in response to claims that the gunman who killed 22 people at a Walmart in El Paso, Texas, posted a racist anti-Latino screed on the site just before the Aug. 3 killings.

Like the Texas gunman, a Norwegian man suspected of killing his stepsister and then storming an Oslo mosque with guns this month is also believed to have found inspiration in Tarrant's actions.

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has vowed never to utter Tarrant's name in order to deny him the publicity she says he craves, making Tarrant's letter even more of an embarrassment for the government.

"I think every New Zealander would have an expectation that this individual should not be able to share his hateful message from behind bars," she told media on the island nation of Tuvalu, where she is traveling to attend a meeting of Pacific leaders.

It's not the first misstep by New Zealand authorities in the case. Police initially filed a single representative murder charge against Tarrant but mistakenly named somebody who was still alive before later amending the charge.

Tarrant has pleaded not guilty to terrorism, murder and attempted murder charges following the mosque attacks. He remains in jail ahead of his trial, which has been scheduled for next May. AP

Thai court acquits Red Shirts of terrorism for 2010 protests

A court in Thailand yesterday dismissed terrorism and other charges against 24 leaders of an extended street protest in 2010 that saw key areas of central Bangkok closed off and random violence that was ended by military force.

The Bangkok Criminal Court ruled that the two-month protest by the "Red Shirt" supporters of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, during which 91 people were killed and thousands hurt, was "a political fight, not terrorism."

Thaksin was ousted by a military coup in 2006 after being accused of corruption and abuse of power. His allies won a 2007 election, but parliamentary

maneuvering installed the rival Democrat Party in power in 2008, inspiring the 2010 protest that called for Democrat Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva to step down.

Thaksin's ouster set off years of sometimes violent conflict between his supporters and opponents, both of which engaged in aggressive street protests against governments led by the other's faction. During three months of street protests in 2008, Thaksin's foes — known as the Yellow Shirts — occupied the prime minister's offices, as well as Bangkok's international airport for about a week.

The casualties in 2010 included soldiers as well

as protesters. Unidentified armed men in black whose weapons included grenade launchers acted as a mysterious armed auxiliary to the protesters, but it appeared that most of the dead were unarmed civilians.

The case decided yesterday was brought by state prosecutors and more than 40 business owners affected by the Red Shirts' seizure of Bangkok's central shopping and business district, and involved charges of terrorism, criminal association, using force to damage government property, inciting unrest, possession of arms, obstruction of officials through intimidation and gathering more than 10 people to cause chaos. The

defendants were acquitted of all charges.

Thai courts have had a reputation for tilting against the Red Shirts and others associated with Thaksin. In July, the Criminal Court dismissed charges of insurrection against four key members of an anti-Thaksin group, the People's Democratic Reform Committee. The group organized large, aggressive street protests in late 2013 that a government led by Thaksin's sister, Yingluck Shinawatra, could not control, causing chaos that served as the reason for the military to stage a 2014 takeover. An election in March this year brought a pro-military party to power. AP



Australia rejects calls by climate-hit neighbors to ditch coal

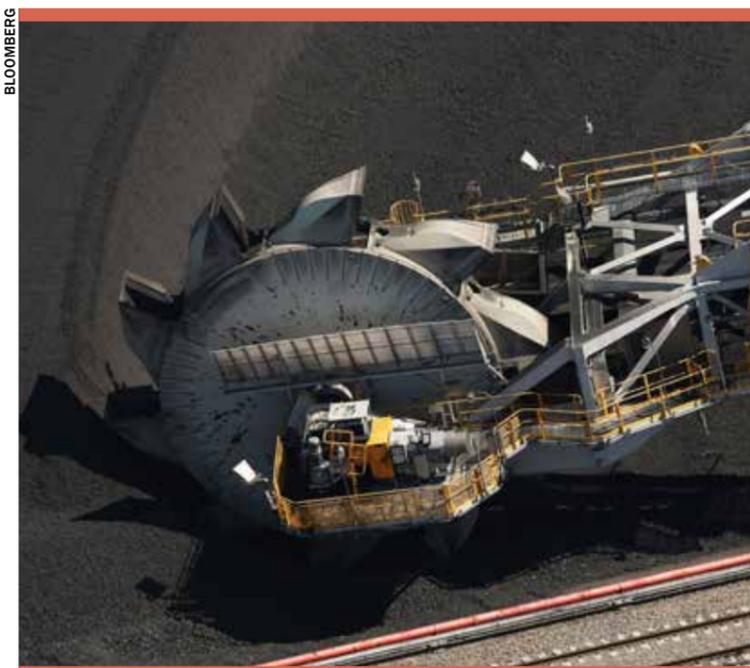
JAMES THORNHILL

AUSTRALIA is pushing back against calls from Pacific Island leaders to ditch its commitment to coal mining to help combat climate change, saying its neighbors need to respect the country's reliance on the industry.

The world's second-biggest coal exporter is increasingly a flash point in the battle against carbon emissions after Prime Minister Scott Morrison's government was reelected in May on a fossil fuel-friendly platform. Now Australia is under fire from nations already threatened from the impacts of climate change, such as rising sea levels.

Fiji has led the attack on Australia's reluctance to give up the fuel at an annual Pacific Islands summit this week in Tuvalu. Australia must "do everything possible to achieve a rapid transition from coal," said Fijian Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama.

But there are no signs that Morrison, who arrived at the gathering



yesterday, will compromise. "We won't have a communicate where coal or coal-fired generation, or phasing it out now, is a realistic proposition," Australia's Pacific Minister, Alex Hawke, said in an interview with Australian Broad-

casting Corp. The nation "has a red-line position on coal."

Coal might be in terminal decline in global terms, but it still plays an important role in power generation in Asia and the Australian economy, where combi-

ned sales reached nearly AUD70 billion in fiscal 2019. In June, Adani Group's controversial coal project was approved, potentially opening up a new mining region, and Morrison's center-right government continues to be a strong supporter of the industry.

An announcement that Canberra would divert AUD500 million from its foreign aid budget to boost efforts to combat the effects of climate change in the Pacific failed to appease its partners. Tuvalu Prime Minister Enele Sopoaga said giving money should not be used as an excuse not to take necessary steps to cut emissions.

Tuvalu, a nation of just 11,000 people crammed onto low lying atolls, is already experiencing the effects of global warming as rising sea levels cause frequent flooding. That has led to speculation that the entire population might ultimately need to relocate.

Pacific Island leaders were becoming more assertive in calls for other countries to take action on emissions reduction, said Mark

Howden, Director of the Climate Change Institute at the Australian National University. "What they're saying is: you can't buy us off by putting money on the table for other activities such as 'resilience building', we want you to address the core issue, not get us to address the symptoms."

Morrison has said Australia will meet its Paris Agreement target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but has no clear policy agenda for meeting it. In fact, the country's emissions have been on a rising trajectory in recent years as a number of giant gas projects have started operations.

"To a large extent the government has backed itself into a corner on climate change and it's not easy to see a way out of that corner," said Howden. "That's unfortunate, because in many ways Australia is foregoing major opportunities by being in this position where we haven't got effective climate change policies, not just on energy but on a whole range of issues."

Meanwhile, the government's love of coal - Morrison once brandished a lump of the stuff on the floor of parliament to demonstrate his support - is increasingly at odds with a global environmental movement that says continuing to use the fuel is incompatible with efforts to contain global warming. **BLOOMBERG**

AD



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AP PHOTO



SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

CONCERTS CANCELED, INVESTIGATION OPENED INTO PLACIDO DOMINGO

JOCELYN GECKER, SAN FRANCISCO

TWO music companies canceled appearances by Placido Domingo and the Los Angeles Opera said yesterday [local time] it would launch an investigation in response to an Associated Press story in which numerous women accused the opera legend of sexual harassment and inappropriate behavior spanning decades.

Domingo has been general director of the LA Opera since 2003 and previously served as the company's artistic director, jobs that gave him the power to cast roles and — his accusers say — make, or break, careers.

Some of the women told the AP that Domingo used his power at the LA company and elsewhere to try to pressure them into sexual relationships, with several saying that he dangled jobs and then sometimes punished them professionally if they refused his advances.

The Philadelphia Orchestra and San Francisco Opera announced they would cancel upcoming performances featuring the star, regarded as one of the greatest opera singers of all time.

New York's Metropolitan Opera said it would await the results of LA Opera's investigation "before making any final decisions about Mr. Domingo's future at the Met," where he is scheduled to appear next month.

The 78-year-old Domingo is one of the industry's most powerful figures and more than three dozen people in the opera world told the AP that his behavior has long been an open secret.

The accusers who spoke to the AP — all but one of whom requested anonymity — said they had feared speaking out previously would kill their careers due to his immense standing.

Domingo issued a statement to the AP calling the allegations "deeply troubling and, as presented inaccurate," adding "I believed that all of my interactions and relationships were always welcomed and consensual."

The LA Opera said it would hire outside counsel to investigate the "concerning allegations" against Domingo.

"Placido Domingo has been a dynamic creative force in the life of LA opera and the artistic culture of Los Angeles for more than three decades," the company said in a statement. "Nevertheless, we are committed to doing everything we can to foster a professional and collaborative environment where all our employees and artists feel equally comfortable, valued and respected."

Three women quoted in the story detailed encounters that

they said occurred while working with Domingo at LA Opera, including one woman who told the AP that he stuck his hand down her skirt after urging her to come sing an aria for him at his apartment.

In canceling its invitation for Domingo to sing at its Sept. 18 opening gala, the Philadelphia Orchestra issued a statement saying: "We are committed to providing a safe, supportive, respectful, and appropriate environment for the orchestra and staff, for collaborating artists and composers, and for our audiences and communities."

The San Francisco Opera said

September and October.

"We take accusations of sexual harassment and abuse of power with extreme seriousness," the opera house said in a statement, noting that "Mr. Domingo has never been in a position to influence casting decisions for anyone other than himself" at the Met.

At the Salzburg Festival in Austria, where Domingo is scheduled to appear Aug. 31 — his next scheduled performance — festival president Helga Rabl-Stadler said organizers agreed he should appear as planned.

"I have known Placido Domingo for more than 25 years," Rabl-Stadler said in a statement.

"In addition to his artistic competence, I was impressed from the very beginning by his appreciative treatment of all festival employees."

"I would find it factually wrong and morally irresponsible to make irreversible judgments at this point," she said.

Domingo served as artistic director for the Washington Opera from 1996-2003 and as the company's general director from 2003 to 2011, during which time its name was changed to Washington National Opera. In 2011, the company merged with the Kennedy Center.

In a joint statement to AP, the

institutions said the allegations against Domingo predated the merger.

"The Kennedy Center did not receive any documented complaints about Mr. Domingo's behavior prior to WNO's affiliation with the Kennedy Center, and we have not received any since then," the statement said, adding that the company has "zero tolerance policies with regard to harassment, discrimination or abuse of any kind, and we take allegations of this nature very seriously."

Retired mezzo-soprano Patricia Wulf, the sole accuser to allow her name to be used, told the AP that Domingo behaved inappropriately with her when she worked at the Washington Opera.

Even after she repeatedly rebuffed his advances, she said, his persistence continued and he would often knock on her dressing room door, causing her to fear emerging if he was in the hallway.

Wulf recalled the compassion of a male colleague who offered to stand up for her if she wanted to report him. "They're not going to fire him — they'll fire me," she remembered telling him.

Too fearful to complain about Domingo at the time, Wulf said she spoke out now to end the culture of silence about abuse in the opera world.

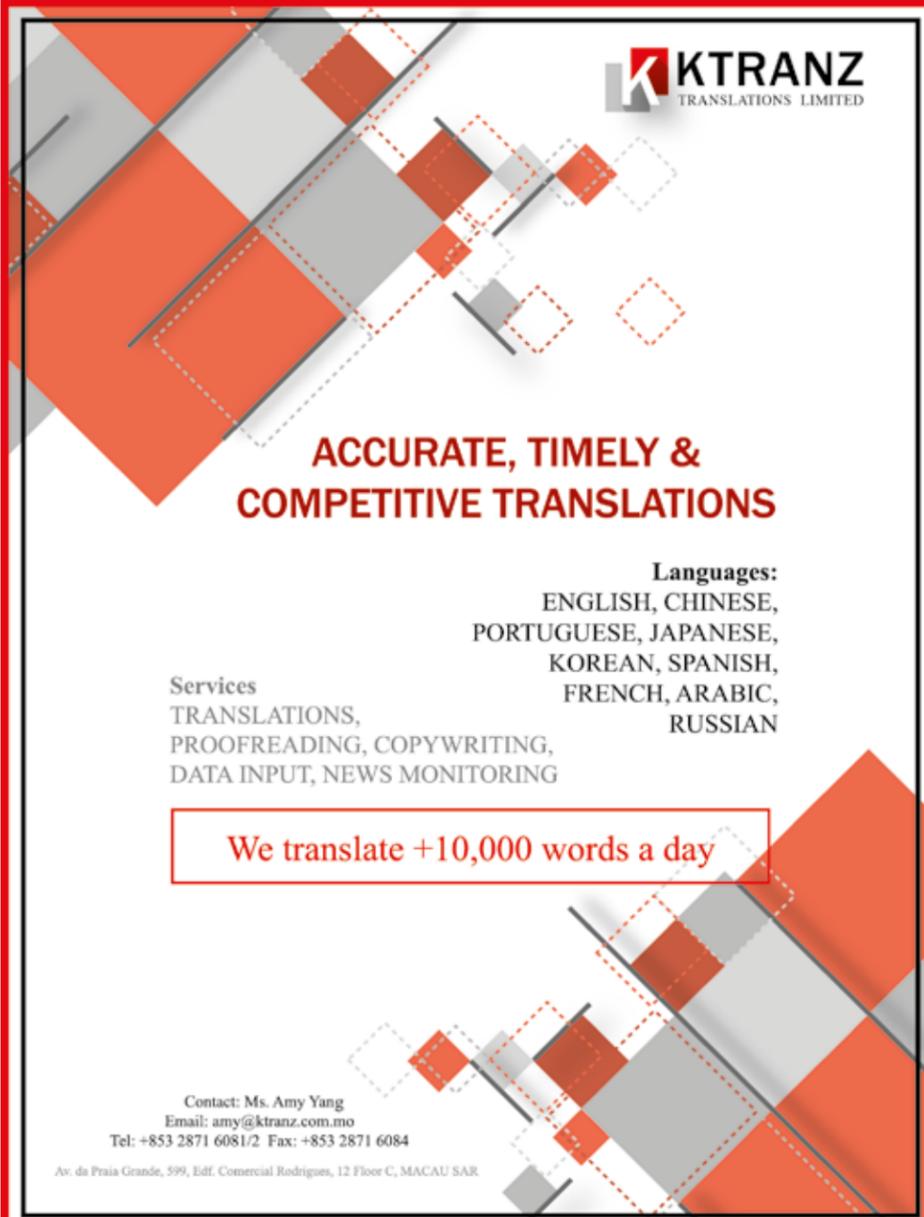
"I'm stepping forward because I hope that it can help other women come forward, or be strong enough to say no," she said. **AP**

Domingo issued a statement calling the allegations 'deeply troubling and, as presented inaccurate'

it would scrub a sold-out Oct. 6 concert featuring Domingo, which had been to mark his 50th anniversary with the company. It was promoted as a "special one performance-only event" with "one of the most influential singing actors in the history of opera" and was one of several gala events this year to celebrate his legendary career.

The Met held a black-tie dinner in April for Domingo, where seats started at USD2,500. He is scheduled to play the lead of "Macbeth" in three Met shows in

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



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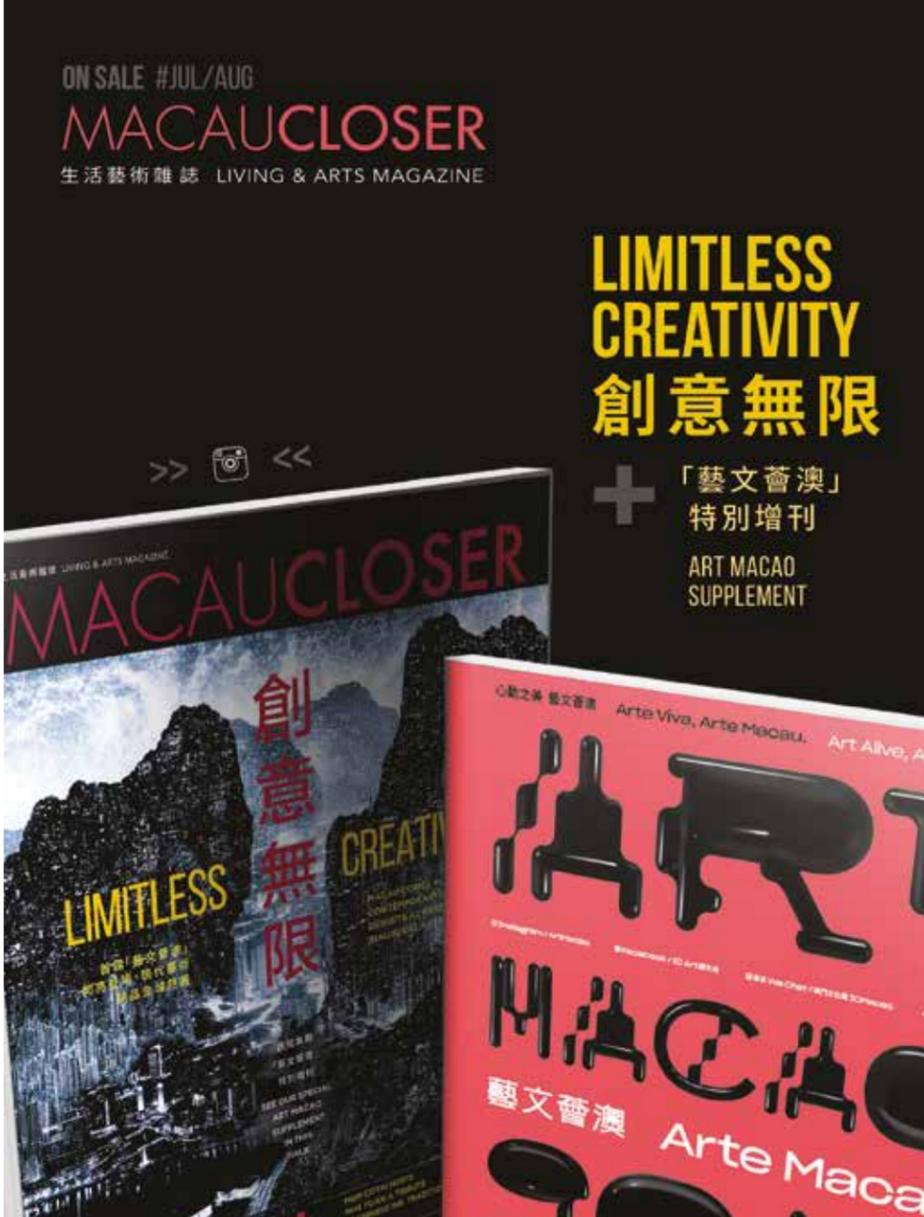
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what's ON



BATHING IN THE SPRING BREEZE PAINTINGS BY LIU MENGKUAN

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

UNTIL: August 25, 2019

VENUE: Macau Special Exhibition Gallery, Handover Gifts Museum of Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8701 9814

WYNN PRESENTS: GARDEN OF EARTHLY DELIGHTS

TIME: 10am-10pm

UNTIL: October 6, 2019

VENUE: Wynn Macau and Wynn Palace

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 6882 2839

SANDS PRESENTS: ALL THAT'S GOLD DOES GLITTER – AN EXHIBITION OF GLAMOROUS CERAMICS

TIME: 24 hours

UNTIL: October 9, 2019

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8888

MGM PRESENTS: HUA YUAN EXHIBITION

TIME: 24 hours

UNTIL: September 3, 2019

VENUE: MGM Cotai

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8802 3333

MANDARIN'S HOUSE

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (Last admission at 5:30pm; closed on Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

ADDRESS: No. 10, Travessa de António da Silva

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ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8820

JAPANESE CULTURE AND PERFORMING ARTS POSTER EXHIBIT – GRAPHIC TRIAL POSTER EXHIBIT MACAU EDITION

TIME: 10am-9pm (Sundays to Thursdays)

UNTIL: September 22, 2019

VENUE: Tap Seac Gallery

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

Offbeat

50 OLD TVs MYSTERIOUSLY APPEAR ON NEIGHBORHOOD'S PORCHES

Police in Virginia say more than 50 television sets have been mysteriously placed on front porches in a neighborhood outside Richmond.

Henrico County police Lt. Matt Pecka said residents found older model televisions outside their front doors Sunday morning. He told the Richmond Times-Dispatch that video from one doorbell camera showed a person wearing TV-shaped headgear while dropping off a TV set.

Police believe that more than one person is responsible. A similar incident occurred in a nearby neighborhood last year.

It's unclear if the incident is a crime. Pecka said that dropping off the televisions on front porches is "at most" illegal dumping.

Most of the TVs will be recycled. But a couple residents indicated they would keep their televisions for now.

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! Sr2
16:50	Quem Quer Ser Milionário
17:45	Moda Portugal Sr.4
18:15	Amor Maior (Repetição)
19:00	Portugal que Dança
19:30	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Coisas Curiosas de Saber
21:50	Todas as Palavras
22:25	Amor Maior
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Tanegashima - A Ilha da Espingarda
00:45	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:30	RTPi Directo

cinema



CINETEATRO

15 - 21 Aug

DORAEMON THE MOVIE:

NOBITA'S CHRONICLE OF THE MOON EXPLORATION

ROOM1

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

Director: Jeong-beom Lee, Shinnosuke Yakuwa

Starring: Wasabi Mizuta, Sang Hyun Uhm, Jung-jae Lee

Language: Cantonese (English & Chinese)

BODIES AT REST

ROOM1

9:30pm

Director: Renny Harlin

Starring: Nick Cheung, Richie Jen, Zi Yang

Language: Cantonese (English & Chinese)

Duration: 94min

LITTLE Q

ROOM2

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

Director: Wing-Cheong Law

Starring: Allie Chan, Ming Hu, J.J. Jia

Language: Cantonese (English & Chinese)

Duration: 107min



TOY STORY 4

ROOM2

4:30pm

Director: Josh Cooley

Starring: Will Smith, Mena Massoud, Naomi Scott

Language: Cantonese

Duration: 109min



THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 2

ROOM3

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

Director: Thurop Van Orman

Starring: Jason Sudeikis, Josh Gad, Leslie Jones

Language: Cantonese (English & Chinese)

Duration: 96min

CRAYON SHINCHAN 2019

ROOM3

2:15pm

Director: Masakazu Hashimoto

Starring: Yumiko Kobayashi, Toshiyuki Morikawa, Miki Narahashi

Language: Cantonese

Duration: 100min

this day in history



1945 ALLIED NATIONS CELEBRATE VJ DAY

Japan has surrendered to the Allies after almost six years of war.

There is joy and celebration around the world and 15 August has been declared Victory in Japan day.

The end of war will be marked by two-day holidays in the UK, the USA and Australia.

After days of rumour and speculation, US President Harry S Truman broke the good news at a press conference at the White House at 1900 yesterday.

He said the Japanese Government had agreed to comply in full with the Potsdam declaration which demands the unconditional surrender of Japan.

Supreme Commander General Douglas MacArthur will receive the official Japanese surrender, arrangements for which are now under way.

Later, in an address to a crowd that had gathered outside the White House President Truman said: "This is the day we have been waiting for since Pearl Harbor. This is the day when Fascism finally dies, as we always knew it would."

But he warned that the task of creating a lasting peace still lay ahead.

At midnight, the British Prime Minister Clement Atlee confirmed the news in a broadcast saying, "The last of our enemies is laid low."

He expressed gratitude to Britain's allies, in the Dominions of Australia and New Zealand, India, Burma, all countries occupied by Japan and to the USSR. But special thanks went to the United States "without whose prodigious efforts the war in the East would still have many years to run".

The day coincides with the state opening of Parliament which took on an air of a victory parade.

Thousands braved the rain to watch King George VI and the queen driven down the Mall in an open carriage.

Later tonight, the King addressed the nation and the Empire in broadcast from his study at Buckingham Palace at 2100.

"Our hearts are full to overflowing, as are your own. Yet there is not one of us who has experienced this terrible war who does not realise that we shall feel its inevitable consequences long after we have all forgotten our rejoicings today."

The Royal Family greeted cheering crowds from the Palace balcony. Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret later mingled with the crowds outside the Palace.

Historic buildings all over London are floodlit and throngs of people have crowded onto the streets of every town and city shouting, singing, dancing, lighting bonfires and letting off fireworks.

But there were no celebrations in Japan - in his first ever radio broadcast, Emperor Hirohito blamed the use of "a new and most cruel bomb" used on Hiroshima and Nagasaki for Japan's surrender.

"Should we continue to fight, it would not only result in the ultimate collapse and obliteration of the Japanese nation but would lead also to the total extinction of human civilisation."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Allies had delivered Japan an ultimatum to surrender on 28 July 1945.

When this was ignored, the US dropped two atomic bombs on Hiroshima on 6 August and Nagasaki on 9 August, the day Soviet forces invaded Manchuria.

The Allies celebrated victory over Japan on 15 August 1945, although the Japanese administration under General Koiso Kuniaki did not officially surrender with a signed document until 2 September.

Both dates are known as VJ Day

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Someone who is usually quite introverted isn't going to be shy at all today, because she or he has some great news and wants to share it with the world!



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Who cares who said what about whom? Idle gossip is a waste of time, and you know it. Let everyone else waste their time and energy giggling over silly things.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Today, clean out your emotional closet by finally saying what you've been wanting to say to that certain someone. Keeping your feelings to yourself for too long is not wise.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

A new professional relationship is starting off swimmingly, and it's only going to get more rewarding as the days go by. You're finally getting a realistic idea of how capable and admired you are.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

The stakes are getting higher in your life, which is not only exciting but also a good sign that you're getting closer to the success you want. However, you have a little bit more to lose right now.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Today you'll get the sinking feeling that someone is keeping something from you - some information, his or her honest feelings or perhaps the fact that a cutie asked for your phone number.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

If you can start to see saving your money as a challenge, then you can have a lot of fun finding creative ways to do so. Cutting corners with style could be your new trademark.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Cut him or her some slack. Once this person gets accustomed to your group of friends, she or he will feel more comfortable and stop bragging so much about things that aren't important.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Today your ideas and daydreams will be much more interesting than anything that anyone around you is going to say or do. Enjoy the entertainment and escape that your mind provides.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Are you losing your patience with someone who just can't be reasoned with? Don't chastise yourself - your forbearance has been admirable, and you need to know when to say that enough is enough.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

This person is still interested in you but also has other things to take care of. We all need solitude sometimes. Wait for him or her to contact you.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

You'll be getting lots of attention today - which will be both a blessing and a curse. New invitations will be coming fast and furious, but do you have time to accept them all? Probably not.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	24	32	cloudy
Harbin	20	25	heavy rain
Tianjin	24	33	cloudy
Urumqi	24	36	clear
Xi'an	22	33	overcast
Lhasa	9	21	drizzle
Chengdu	24	33	shower
Chongqing	25	33	cloudy
Kunming	17	25	shower
Nanjing	26	34	cloudy
Shanghai	27	33	drizzle
Wuhan	27	36	cloudy
Hangzhou	26	33	drizzle
Taipei	26	30	heavy rain
Guangzhou	28	37	cloudy
Hong Kong	28	34	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	18	25	drizzle
Frankfurt	15	25	drizzle
Paris	17	26	drizzle
London	15	24	cloudy
New York	23	32	moderate rain

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Shoe fabric; 6- Recipe abbr.; 9- Person who dresses stones; 14- Alloy of iron and carbon; 15- From ___ Z; 16- ___ France; 17- Lost luster; 19- Titles; 20- HBO alternative; 21- "My fault!"; 22- Throws off; 23- Memo heading; 25- ___ Perot; 26- Beard type; 29- Square footage; 31- Rubber; 32- One dearly loved; 36- School period; 37- ___ do you do?; 38- Way off the highway; 40- Big consumer; 43- Equilibria; 45- Leisure; 46- Genetic anomaly; 47- Indian state; 50- Kemo ___; 51- More competent; 52- War, to Sherman; 54- Pointed tool; 57- Peter of Herman's Hermits; 58- Large mass of sliding snow; 61- Golf clubs; 62- Permit; 63- Recipient; 64- Mar. honoree; 65- Formula ___; 66- Portents;

DOWN: 1- Grounded fleet; 2- Orrin Hatch's state; 3- First name in architecture; 4- Bear lair; 5- Lilly of pharmaceuticals; 6- California-Nevada lake; 7- Pace; 8- Seed containers; 9- Ore; 10- 1836 siege site; 11- They pull their load; 12- "Awake and Sing!" playwright; 13- Capone's nemesis; 18- More peeved; 23- Knocker's reply; 24- Word used to precede a woman's maiden name; 25- That girl; 26- Obtain; 27- Cinnabar, taconite, etc.; 28- Seniors' org.; 29- Worship; 30- Uncooked; 33- Ticked off; 34- Astronaut's insignia; 35- FBI guys; 37- For ___ a jolly...; 39- S.F. setting; 41- Most accessible; 42- Block up; 43- Petty; 44- Place for a bath; 47- Scrub (a mission); 48- Yacht; 49- Medicinal shrub; 50- Roofing stone; 51- Black cuckoos; 52- Circle of light often seen around the head of saints; 53- Level; 54- Teenage problem that breaks out; 55- At what time; 56- Wine sediment; 59- Fuss; 60- ___ de guerre;

Yesterday's solution

O	N	O	R	H	O	P	I	A	S	I	S
L	A	N	E	T	R	A	S	E	C	A	S
E	P	I	C	A	L	L	A	L	A	C	R
S	E	N	T	V	O	L	E	E	R	T	I
S	I	R	E	N	E	L	S	E			
L	L	O	Y	D	T	O	T	S	E	G	A
L	O	N	E	X	I	S		L	A	I	
A	M	I	E	O	D	I	N	P	I	E	
R	O	A	D	S	I	D	E	T	R	E	
W	A	F	F	L	E	S	A	O	P	T	
E	L	O	I	R	E	T	R	O	A	S	
A	S	E	C	R	E	E	P	R	A	T	
R	O	S	E		A	N	D	S		D	

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



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FOR SALE

- [Coloane] Coloane apartment 3 2 1
1,665 ft² \$8,500,000 (ref: 19070001)
- [Taipa] One Central 2 2 1
1,269 ft² \$13,900,000 (ref: 19070002)
- [Cotai] One Grantai 4 2 1
2,556 ft² \$25,600,000
- [Taipa] Manhattan Carpark
\$1,530,000 (ref: 19045003)

FOR RENT

- [Macau] Duplex \$9,800/mth 1 1 1
- [Taipa] One Grantai 3 3 1
2,122 ft² \$23,000/mth (ref: 19030001RT)
- [Taipa] Manhattan 3 2 1
\$23,800/mth (ref: 18110695RT)
- [Taipa] Nova Grand 2 1 1
986 ft² \$16,000/mth (ref: 19055007RT)

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AD

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FORMER DISNEY KID BELLA THORNE DIRECTS FILM FOR PORNHUB

FORMER Disney kid Bella Thorne is making her directorial debut — on Pornhub.

The actress, author and musician joined the porn site's Visionaries Director's Series with "Her & Him," also to be shown at The Odenburg Film Festival in Germany from Sept. 11 to Sept. 15.

Her film, featuring a very large knife along with, well, porn, tells the Romeo and Juliet-like story of two star-crossed lovers,

said Pornhub vice president Corey Price in a statement. Their love is reckless and dangerous and "transcends time and space."

She follows rapper Young M.A. and singer-rapper Brooke Candy in the film series.

Thorne has produced a dark and deeply personal collection of poetry and appeared as a teen in the Disney Channel series "Shake It Up." She co-starred in the film "The DUFF."

REP: K-POP SUPERSTAR GROUP BTS WILL TAKE BREAK, BUT BRIEF



A representative for K-pop superstar group BTS said the boy band is taking a break, but it will only be brief.

BTS's rep told The Associated Press that the seven-member group will take a "well-deserved vacation." It was recently reported that BTS will head on an "extended" hiatus, but the group's rep said that's not the case.

"It has been widely reported that BTS will be taking a hiatus. To clarify, BTS will only be taking a brief, but well-deserved vacation," the group's rep said in an emailed statement. "We want to assure all

of the BTS ARMY, fans, friends and the media that the group is excited to get back on the stage very soon for their scheduled stadium tour. More exciting BTS news and events to come!"

BTS's agency Big Hit Entertainment said a concert Sunday in Seoul was the group's last scheduled performance before members take "vacations" for the first time since their 2013 debut.

BTS has a large international following and was the first K-pop act to debut atop the Billboard Album chart last year with "Love Yourself: Tear."

CICELY TYSON JOINS CAST OF AVA DUVERNAY SERIES ON OWN

CICELY Tyson will join the cast as a series regular in Ava DuVernay's new romance anthology series on OWN, "Cherish the Day."

The network said that the 94-year-old legend will play Miss Luma Lee Langston, a star of stage and screen in decades past. She joins previously announced leads Xosha Roquemore and Alano Miller.

The series, which premieres in 2020,

will chronicle the lives of one couple per season, with each episode spanning a single day. It's DuVernay's second series on OWN since the creation of "Queen Sugar."

Roquemore plays Gently James, Luma's live-in assistant who is encouraged by Miss Luma Lee to strike up a romance with Evan Fisher, played by Miller. DuVernay is the creator and executive producer.



AD



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FOOTBALL

A look at the top new signings in La Liga

AFTER several summers of no major offseason signings, both Real Madrid and Atlético Madrid have spent big to revamp their squads in an attempt to dethrone Spanish champion Barcelona.

Eden Hazard arrived at the Santiago Bernabeu with the expectation of becoming Real Madrid's new leader. The Spanish powerhouse paid Chelsea a club-record fee of 100 million euros (\$113 million), plus add-ons, to secure the 28-year-old Belgium midfielder.

Atlético smashed its own transfer record by meeting Benfica's 126-million-euro (\$143 million) price tag for 19-year-old João Félix, the promising Portuguese star who many say could be the next Cristiano Ronaldo. Atlético's previous top signing had been 70 million euros (\$78 million) for Thomas Lemar last season.

Barcelona also continued to incorporate new stars in the hopes of maintaining its dominance. Barcelona has won eight league titles in the last 11 seasons. Antoine Griezmann swapped Atlético for Barcelona, while young Dutchman Frenkie de Jong will boost the quality of the champion's midfield.

Here's a closer look at the top signings in Spain:

HAZARD

One of the Premier League's best playmakers in recent years, Hazard is Madrid's new hope to take over a team that has been in disarray since Ronaldo left last summer for Juventus.

With superb dribbling skills, speed, vision and scoring ability, Hazard was Chelsea's leader for



Atlético Madrid forward Joao Felix is surrounded by teammates after scoring a goal

seven years. He scored 110 goals in 352 appearances and helped the London club win both the Premier League and Europa League twice, as well as the FA Cup and the League Cup.

The pressure will be on him to take charge of a team that is coming off its worst campaign in recent memory and needing to rebound after the return of coach Zinedine Zidane.

Hazard should provide the link between Ballon d'Or holder Luka Modric in midfield and striker Karim Benzema.

GRIEZMANN

After doing all he could for Atlético, which finished runner-up behind Barcelona the last two seasons, Griezmann decided it was time to join forces with Lionel Messi.

The versatile forward who helped France win the World Cup last summer will restore Barcelona's trio of attackers alongside Messi and Luis Suárez. Barcelona had been missing one since Neymar left for Paris Saint-Germain.

Griezmann led Atlético to a Europa League title and scored

133 goals for it as the team's main source of goals and most creative player.

He will now have to find his role alongside the great Messi and Suárez.

Griezmann had a contract with Atlético with a buyout clause of 200 million euros (\$224 million), but the clause automatically fell to 120 million euros on July 1. Barcelona paid that smaller sum, but Atlético is demanding the full 200 million euros because it claims Barcelona had started negotiations before July.

FÉLIX

With Griezmann gone, Atlético has placed its hopes on the Portuguese teenager who promises to be a future star.

Félix only spent one season with Benfica's main team, but his goals and flashes of talent were enough to catch the interest of Atlético and other major clubs.

He set several records for Benfica in Portugal: youngest player for its "B" team at 16, youngest scorer at the team's Stadium of Light at 18, and youngest to score a hat trick in the Europa League at 19.

Félix has already impressed in Atlético's jersey by scoring goals in preseason.

He will team up with Diego Costa and Álvaro Morata in coach Diego Simeone's forward line.

DE JONG

De Jong is the other youngster hoping to make a big impact in Spain.

The Netherlands midfielder is tipped to become the future midfield general of Barcelona, which paid Ajax a transfer fee that could reach 86 million euros (\$98 million) in January. He finished the season with the Dutch club, helping it reach the Champions League semifinals.

De Jong's poise on the ball and eye for a pass has drawn comparisons to Dutch legend Johan Cruyff, who flourished with Barcelona as a player and as a coach.

He arrives at a team that already includes midfielders Philippe Coutinho, Ivan Rakitic, Sergio Busquets, Arturo Vidal and Arthur. But it appears that coach Ernesto Valverde wants him to take a leading role immediately. AP

BASEBALL

Yanks top O's 8-3, run win streak over Baltimore to 15 games

DOMINGO Germán pitched seven strong innings to become the first 16-game winner in the majors and the New York Yankees beat Baltimore 8-3 yesterday [Macau time], running their winning streak over the Orioles to 15 games.

Germán allowed two runs, five hits, struck out seven, walked one and won his career-high seventh straight decision.

DJ LeMahieu homered

on the first pitch he saw to get the Yankees going. Aaron Judge added a two-run double in New York's four-run fourth.

Gio Urshela had three more hits, including an RBI single in the fourth. Cameron Maybin had a two-run single in the second while Gary Sánchez and Mike Tauchman added RBI doubles as the Yankees totaled 15 hits.

Germán (16-2) kept Baltimore off-balance by

throwing 37 curveballs. He generated 14 of his 21 swings and misses on his curveball.

The Yankees are on their longest winning single-season winning streak against one opponent since beating the 103-loss Philadelphia Athletics 15 in a row in 1954.

Anthony Santander, Stevie Wilkerson and Renato Núñez homered for Baltimore. John Means (8-8) took the loss. MDT/AP



New York Yankees' Gary Sanchez

OPINION

Made in Macao

Jenny Lao-Phillips



THE END OF HEAT

In my last article, I wrote about one of the Twenty-Four Solar Terms in August, (Lap Cau) Autumn, which commenced on the 8th of August. This time, I am exploring the lesser-known solar term of this month, (Cyu Syu) End of Heat, which begins on the 23rd of August this year. As the name indicates, the End of Heat signifies the end of summer, when the weather begins to cool and humidity decreases.

One practice on this day since ancient times is to go out and appreciate the clouds. As summer is ending, the clouds become fluffier and more scattered, creating a more beautiful sky. So, on the day of Cyu Syu, it was customary to go cloud-watching. As the weather will become drier and there will be less rainfall, this day also reminded people in ancient times, to stock up on water.

Cyu Syu always falls within the ghost month, the seventh month in the lunar calendar, so some of the customs of End of Heat are closely related to the ghost month. In some places in China, people set up an altar on Cyu Syu to offer food and wine to their ancestors. However, it is hard to trace whether this practice is a custom for the End of Heat or the seventh month. Another ghost-month-related custom on Cyu Syu is sending lotus flower lanterns. It is believed that the souls in hell or souls that are still wandering around earth needed guidance to move on to the next life. On Cyu Syu, people would put candles on floating bases (known as lotus flower lanterns) and let them float in the water. If a lost soul got hold of one of the lanterns, it would guide the soul to reincarnate.

The End of Heat is also an important agricultural signifier. For farmers, it is the time for harvest, so they worship the land god on this day, and I have read that in some places, farmers purposely do not wash their feet on the day so that an abundant harvest will not be washed away. For fishermen, the End of Heat is followed by the best time for fishing, so they celebrate the opening of the fishing season on Cyu Syu, and people in the village would have a big send-off ceremony as the fishermen would sail off for their best harvest of the year.

Aside from the agricultural and ghost-month-related practices, Cyu Syu is also the time for nurturing good health. In some places, the practice is to eat longan with watery rice. According to Chinese medical practice, longan is good for the heart and stomach, and for recovery of chi (energy). In summer, we use up lots of energy because of the hot weather, and the End of Heat is the time to recover our energy. So, it is customary to eat longan with rice on the day.

We have a Chinese saying: "drinking sour plum soup on Cyu Syu, all 'internal heat' will go away" (it rhymes in Chinese). Therefore, in many Chinese places, even in Macau up until the 1970s, I have heard, it was usual for people to set up shop on the street during Cyu Syu just to sell sour plum soup. Eating duck is also a long-held tradition of Cyu Syu because of the many medical benefits of duck relating to relieving internal heat. This tradition is especially popular in Beijing, whether for health purposes or not; on the End of Heat, people in Beijing will buy "Cyu Syu duck" to celebrate the season. Perhaps this year, we too can celebrate Cyu Syu by eating duck or longan with rice, drink some sour plum soup, and watch the clouds to keep some forgotten traditions alive.

EPSTEIN GUARDS SUSPECTED OF FALSIFYING LOGS

A person familiar with the probe of Jeffrey Epstein's death at a federal jail says guards are suspected of falsifying log entries to show they were checking on inmates in his unit every half hour, when they actually weren't.

Epstein is believed to have killed himself Saturday at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in New York, where he was awaiting trial in a sex trafficking case.

Surveillance video reviewed after the death showed guards

never made some of the checks noted in the log, according to the person familiar with the investigation.

The person wasn't authorized to disclose information and spoke to The Associated Press yesterday on condition of anonymity.

The Justice Department said earlier that two guards assigned to watch Epstein had been placed on administrative leave.

THE BUZZ



Acting Director of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services Ken Cuccinelli

TRUMP OFFICIAL: STATUE OF LIBERTY'S POEM IS ABOUT EUROPEANS

ZEKE MILLER & ASHLEY THOMAS, WASHINGTON

Top Trump administration official says that the famous inscription on the Statue of Liberty welcoming immigrants into the country is about "people coming from Europe" and that America is looking to receive migrants "who can stand on their own two feet."

The comments yesterday [Macau time] from Ken Cuccinelli, the acting director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, came a day after the Trump administration announced it would seek to deny green cards to migrants who seek Medicaid, food stamps, housing vouchers or other forms of public assistance. The move, and Cuccinelli's defense, prompted an outcry from Democrats and immigration advocates who said the policy would favor wealthier immigrants and disadvantage those from poorer countries in Latin America and Africa.

"This administration finally admitted what we've known all along: They think the Statue of Liberty only applies to white people," tweeted former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke, a Democratic presidential candidate.

The administration's proposed policy shift comes as President Donald Trump is leaning more heavily into

the restrictive immigration policies that have energized his core supporters and were central to his 2016 victory. He has also spoken disparagingly about immigration from majority black and Hispanic countries, including calling Mexican immigrants rapists and criminals when he launched his 2016 campaign. Last year, he privately branded Central American and African nations as "shithole"

The move, and Cuccinelli's defense, prompted an outcry from Democrats and immigration advocates

countries and he suggested the U.S. take in more immigrants from European countries like predominantly white Norway.

Cuccinelli said in an interview with CNN later on that the Emma Lazarus poem emblazoned on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty referred to "people coming from Europe where they had class based societies where people were considered wretched if they weren't in the right class."

Lazarus' poem, written in 1883 to raise money to construct the Statue of Liberty's pedestal and cast in bronze beneath the monument in 1903, served as a beacon to millions of immigrants who

crossed past as they first entered the U.S. in New York Harbor. It reads, "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore."

Cuccinelli was asked earlier on NPR whether the words "give me your tired, your poor" were part of the American ethos. Cuccinelli responded: "They certainly are. Give me your tired and your poor who can stand on their own two feet and who will not become a public charge."

A hard-line conservative from Virginia, Cuccinelli was a failed Republican candidate for governor in 2013 after serving as the state's attorney general. He backed Republican Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas for president in 2016 and for a time was a harsh critic of Trump.

He is one of a slew of immigration hardliners brought in by Trump to implement the president's policies. He was appointed to the post in June in a temporary capacity, which doesn't require Senate confirmation.

Trump, asked about Cuccinelli's comments on NPR, appeared to back him up.

"I don't think it's fair to have the American taxpayer paying for people to come into the United States," Trump told reporters before boarding Air Force One for Pennsylvania. "I think we're doing it right." AP



Australia Police said yesterday they made a major drug bust linked to an international syndicate, with four British men arrested after the seizure of vast quantities of MDMA powder and ice.

New Zealand Scientists say they've found fossilized bones from an extinct monster penguin that was about the size of a human and swam the oceans some 60 million years ago.



Pakistan Prime minister, Imran Khan, assured Kashmiri people living in the Indian-administered part of the divided region that he supports them in their struggle for self-determination.



Germany The economy shrank by 0.1 percent in the second quarter from the previous three-month period as global trade conflicts and troubles in the auto industry weighed on Europe's largest economy.

Portugal braced yesterday for possible fuel shortages as a trade union representing striking tanker truck drivers said they would defy a government order that they provide minimum deliveries to gas stations — a move that could send them to prison.

USA Facebook Inc. has been paying hundreds of outside contractors to transcribe clips of audio from users of its services, according to people with knowledge of the work.