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**A PAIR OF TAIWAN RESIDENTS WERE FOUND TO HAVE ILLEGALLY PROVIDED COSMETIC SURGERIES IN MACAU EVERY MONTH FOR TWO YEARS**

P2

**AUGUST GAMING REVENUE TRACKING 4% LOWER, SAY BROKERS**

P3

**TEAM MACAU PLACED SECOND AT THE ASIAN JUNIOR WUSHU CHAMPIONSHIPS IN BRUNEI, RETURNING WITH 20 MEDALS**

P3

AP PHOTO



**Japan's** downgrading of South Korea's trade status took effect yesterday, a decision that has already set off a series of reactions hurting their relations.  
More on p13

**Indonesia** At least one Indonesian soldier was killed and five police officers were injured yesterday in a violent protest against racism in the country's restive Papua region, police said.

AP PHOTO



**India's** top court on yesterday took up legal challenges to the government's decision to revoke Indian-controlled Kashmir's special status and asked the government to explain its stance to the court.

AP PHOTO



**Australia** announced yesterday that it has formed a task force to crack down on attempts by foreign governments to meddle in Australian universities.  
More on p11

AP PHOTO



**Gaza** Thousands of Palestinians are taking part in funerals of three Hamas policemen killed in rare bombings at Gaza City checkpoints the previous night.  
More on backpage

# HK INVESTMENT EXODUS

BLOOMBERG

Investors are shunning pricey Singapore and looking to cheaper property markets like Taiwan, Thailand and Malaysia

P8



**MILD FLOODING EXPECTED AS TROPICAL STORM PODUL PASSES**

P6

**DISNEY OPENS SECOND STAR WARS PARK IN FLORIDA**



P9

### BARRA FERRY TERMINAL PUBLIC TENDER LAUNCHED

The Marine and Water Bureau has launched a public tender for the design and construction of a proposed temporary ferry terminal to be located in Barra. Specifically, the ferry terminal will be located at the north side of Av. Panorâmica do Lago Sai Van. The tender will be closed on October 8. The maximum construction period is 270 working days. Previously, the marine authority announced that the ferry terminal, which will be a public ferry terminal, would mainly serve business ferries while simultaneously offering conditions for tourism yachts to park.

### HOLY HOUSE OF MERCY LAND RECEIVES GREEN LIGHT FOR COMMERCE

The Macau SAR government has approved the ground floor of Macao Holy House of Mercy to be used for commercial purposes. In the beginning of 2017, the charitable organization applied to change the utilization purpose of its building's ground floor. Before 2017, the ground floor of the organization, which is located at Senado Square, was being rented to the Legal Affairs Bureau (DSAL) for its first notarization office, until the end of 2016, when the DSAL moved out from the space. Changing the designation of the space from office space to commercial operation means that the organization must pay MOP18,750 for the right to use the land for commercial purposes.

### MORE PEOPLE CAUGHT USING MOBILE PHONES WHILE DRIVING

A 47 percent increase has been recorded, in the first seven months of 2019, in regard to the number of prosecution cases made against people who used their mobile phones while driving. Yesterday, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) officers carried out actions at R. Cidade de Sintra and Av. Sir Anders Ljungstedt, cracking down on using mobile while driving. According to the PSP, a total 4,842 cases have been recorded during the same period, of which 4,600 were related to car drivers. During this period, 1,118 cases of running red lights were registered, representing 1.5 times more cases than in the previous year. Of these, 892 were related to car drivers.

### CRIME

## CURRENCY EXCHANGE AND GAMBLING LOANS PROVE TO BE SCAMS

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE Judiciary Police (PJ) has informed that two scams recently occurred in two casino venues.

The first case is related to currency exchange. The victim, a 32-year-old man from the mainland, reported to the PJ that he wanted to exchange money and that he found a man in a casino that offered the service.

The suspect, a 43-year-old male also from the mainland, then told him that he should first transfer the money to a mainland account and that afterward they would go to a VIP room to pick up the agreed sum denominated in Hong Kong dollars.

The victim accepted and transferred a total of RMB72,400 to the specified account but when they arrived at the VIP room of the casino, the suspect handed him only HKD32,000 and not the HKD80,000 as they had agreed.

The suspect told him that he would give the remaining HKD48,000 a few minutes later but failed to do so. The victim then presented a complaint to the PJ.

Questioned by PJ officers, the suspect said that he was just a middle person, hired with the purpose of attracting clients to exchange currency.

Although the suspect is being charged for the scam, the PJ is still investigating the case to ascertain who the head of the group might be.

In the second case, a 31-year-



old man from the mainland claimed to have been scammed by a fellow compatriot on the repayment of profits earned at a gaming table.

The story started in November last year, when the victim claims to have asked the suspect for a loan in the sum of HKD1 million to play in a VIP room of a casino.

After playing for a few hours, the victim not only won enough to return the money loaned, but made a profit of HKD1,042,500. At the time, the suspect said he could help to keep the profit in an account at that room, depositing the chips, justifying that in this way, it would be easier to withdraw the money at a later stage.

At this time, he only handed HKD42,500 to the victim.

The victim then returned to the mainland, but made the trip back to the casino a few days after, on December 3, to play again.

Like the first time, he asked to borrow HKD1 million, money he thought he had deposited in the VIP room account to play, but the suspect offered a new loan on the sum.

After some time playing, the victim made once more a profit, this time of HKD1,053,600, but also like the first time, the suspect handed him a lower sum of only HKD200,000, giving the same excuse.

After a few months of trying

to get the total profits without success, the victim presented a complaint to the PJ for the scam on April 27 this year.

At the end of last week, when the suspect was trying to reenter Macau via the Macau International Airport, he was caught by police and questioned. He refuted the accusations but the investigation conducted after the complaint in late April proved that just a few hours after depositing the chips in the VIP room, the suspect had withdrawn all the money.

He has been presented to the Public Prosecutions Office for scamming. The victim claims a loss of over HKD1.8 million.

## Two Taiwanese found providing illegal cosmetic services

**A** male doctor and a female nurse, both from Taiwan, have been discovered by the Judiciary Police (PJ) to have been illegally providing botulinum injection services to other people.

The two suspects were apprehended inside a hotel guestroom, where the

PJ also uncovered various medicines and medical tools.

Both confessed to their crimes, and revealed that they were providing whitening injections, as well as other biomedical plastic surgeries. They had been visiting Macau in the second

half of every month since 2017, each time performing the illegal surgeries on between four and six people. The doctor and the nurse hold valid medical professional licenses issued by the government of Taiwan, but neither possessed a Macau medical license.

The suspects' confession further specified that a local Macau woman hired them, paid the hotel guestroom expenses and found them customers. Each time, the two suspects received approximately HKD25,000 as payment.

The Judiciary Police

(PJ) has already found the local woman, but she refused to cooperate.

According to the PJ, the medicines used in these illegal services were all transported from Taiwan, having been labelled by the Health Bureau (SSM) as cosmetics medicines.

The PJ reminded local residents not to solicit illegal medical services in order to avoid the risks associated with untested cosmetic medicine. JZ

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**GAMING**

# August revenue tracking 4% lower for first 25 days

**G**ROSS gaming revenue in Macau was tracking about 4% lower in the first 25 days of August, according to broker estimates posted this week, leading analysts to converge on a minor year-on-year contraction of up to 4% for the entire month.

Broker Citigroup estimated that Macau had accumulated about 20.6 billion patacas (\$2.55 billion) in gross gaming revenue

during the first 25 days of August. Citing industrial channels, analysts at the firm wrote that the average daily run rate was about MOP828 million last week, down from MOP871 million a week earlier. The broker said it has decided to hold its August forecast flat at MOP26.5 billion.

Analysts at Sanford C. Bernstein, who also estimated MOP20.6 billion in gross gaming revenue for the first 25 days of

August, take a more conservative view of the remainder of the month. They maintain that the year-on-year decline will lead end-month revenues down between 2 and 4%.

The Bernstein analysts suggested that the impact of Typhoon Lekima and the ongoing transport disruptions caused by the unrest in Hong Kong may have dampened gambling revenues in Macau. Nevertheless, the in-

fluence of the protests themselves on the casino sector was “immaterial,” the broker said.

That was a view shared by Nomura, which wrote on Monday that “the protests in Hong Kong do not appear to be having an impact on the weekly GGR [gross gaming revenue] numbers,” according to gaming news website GGRAsia.

JPMorgan also said that the unrest in Hong Kong would have a minor effect on Macau revenue. “[The] actual impact on [Macau’s] gaming demand should be smaller than on visitation” to the city, JPMorgan’s Asia-Pacific team said in a recent note.

Gross gaming revenue in August 2018 amounted to MOP26.56 billion, up 17.1% from a year earlier. The month proved to be one of the strongest for the

entire year, and would frame even a strong result this month as a year-on-year decline in percentage terms.

For the first seven months of the year, accumulated gross gaming revenue is tracking about 0.9% lower than in 2018. A posting of MOP26.5 billion would make August the strongest month of 2019 to date.

Despite the minor contraction this year, most analysts hold the view that the sector has generally resisted headwinds including trade war uncertainties and a weaker Chinese economy, possibly assisted by an approximate 20% growth in the number of tourists coming to the city.

The Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau is expected to release the official figures for August on Sunday. **DB**

## Facial recognition to be tested in surveillance cameras next year

**T**HE facial recognition capability of Macau’s CCTV surveillance cameras will undergo its first test in the first quarter of 2020, according to João Augusto da Rosa, the Assistant to the Commissioner-General of the Unitary Police Service.

Recently, the security authority revealed that some of Macau’s CCTV surveillance cameras will have facial and car plate recognition capabilities.

According to Rosa, a total of 50 cameras will be selected for testing the facial recognition function and another 50 for car plate recognition.

Together with the additional cameras that will be installed in the fourth phase

of Macau’s video surveillance system development, a total of 200 cameras will be equipped with these functions and will cover the outside surroundings of hotels and casinos.

In addition, Rosa remarked that Macau’s surveillance system is a great help in preventing crime and assisting the police authority in closing cases faster.

Speaking in support of the development, Rosa noted that, since 2016, more than 2,000 cases were aided by evidence from surveillance cameras. He also claimed that the police authority strictly follows the relevant guidelines when using cameras in order to protect

residents’ privacy and to improve the efficacy of law enforcement.

Wong Chi Hong, head of the investigation department of the Judiciary Police (PJ), defended Macau’s surveillance and said it was different from that of mainland China.

Wong said that, due to the large number of tourists that visit the city every year, Macau’s cameras with facial recognition capability may not be able to read the information of all individuals who appear in the vicinity of casinos and hotels like the cameras in mainland China.

The police authority will also review the necessity of collecting information concerning tourists. **JZ**

**SPORTS**

## MACAU RETURNS VICTORIOUS FROM JUNIOR WUSHU COMPETITION

**T**eam Macau returned last Saturday from the 10th Asian Junior Wushu Championships, held in Brunei, with a total of 20 medals.

Macau made it to second place at the medal table, behind only the People’s Republic of China.

The team won seven gold, nine silver and four bronze medals. Athlete Wong Sam In alone won two gold and two silver medals. Wong started her trip with a bit of an illness, but her condition improved during the tournament.

On the last day of the tournament, the team

collected two gold, five silver and one bronze medal, winning a total of eight medals. Wong won a silver medal with 9.43 points in the category of Female “Nangun” (Southern Cudgel). Male athlete Kuong Chi Hin also won a silver medal with 9.34 points in the sword contest.

Meanwhile, in the Junior group competitions, Wong Weng Ian took first place in the Female Sword contest with 9.35 points. She won against seven other contenders.

Chan Seng Fai and Chang Un Teng secured silver medals in the Children’s Group Sword and

Qiang (Spear) contests respectively.

Team Macau also participated in the group events. The team won a gold medal against six other teams with 9.54 points.

In “Sanda” events, Jeong Lok Hin and Kuok Dun Hong won silver and a bronze respectively.

The General Association of Wushu of Macau, China, described the results as “unexpected and superbly fabulous.” Director-general Chan Weng Kit of the association commended the team’s performance, as well as positive psychological and physical state of the athletes. **AL**



# The Sands Cares Ambassador programme continues to reach out to the local community as it marks its tenth anniversary

**S**ANDS China Ltd. is celebrating the 10th anniversary of its volunteer team, the Sands Cares Ambassador programme, with a year-long series of celebratory activities that are reaching into the community.

Themed “Spreading Love and Embracing Our Community,” Sands China team members have been given several ways to serve the local community by organizing activities and initiatives that work towards a better city.

With an increasing membership of more than 3,300 volunteers from across all Sands China properties – Sands Macao, The Venetian® Macao, The Plaza® Macao, Sands® Cotai Central and The Parisian Macao – the Sands Cares Ambassadors have contributed 100,000 hours of voluntary community service since the programme’s founding.

For Sands China, this ini-

tiative is more than just visiting the local community. It is about becoming part of the city’s different communities as it continues to hold corporate social responsibility as one of the core values of the firm.

The volunteers have been providing a series of community services to the less privileged, creating a positive impact on society.

Sands China has a designated department to work on corporate social responsibility in a bid to foster the growth of community outreach programmes.

Dr. Wilfred Wong, President of Sands China Ltd., remarked, “Sands China is proud of all its Sands Cares Ambassadors, who have dedicated their personal time over the years to

addressing the needs of Macau’s most vulnerable communities. They have our sincere appreciation for the important work they do.”

“Providing a platform for volunteering in the local community, the programme is a vital channel for the company and its team members to contribu-

**For Sands China, this initiative is more than just visiting the local community. It is about becoming part of the city’s different communities.**

te meaningfully to the place we call home,” Dr. Wong added.

Through years of engaging with some of society’s underprivileged groups – children, the elderly, and the physically and mentally vulnera-

ble – Sands China has created a long list of community outreach events, focusing on four areas.

These areas include delivering good cheer during festive seasons, reaching out to community groups, engaging in experiences that enrich volunteers’ understanding and compassion, and hosting outings that bring joy to the participants.

Throughout the development of the programme, the integrated resort operator has also hosted home visits during Chi-

nese New Year of senior citizens who live alone, doing arts and crafts with people with intellectual disabilities, learning sign language, and bringing underprivileged families to exhibitions and events organi-

zed by the company.

“Sands China would like to express its gratitude to the Macau SAR government and to all the various organizations and community groups it has worked with over the years for their continued encouragement and support,” said Dr Wong.

“Ten years of the Sands Cares Ambassador programme is a milestone to be proud of. This anniversary gives us a chance to look back on our efforts over the years, and to look ahead to the important work still to be done,” he added.

Just recently, to celebrate its tenth year, a group of around 30 Sands Cares Ambassadors visited families in Guizhou’s Congjiang County, as part of Sands China’s ongoing poverty relief efforts in the county and in response to the SAR government’s call for targeted poverty alleviation in mainland China.

The volunteers visited 10 families in a mountain village where they shared gift packs containing staples like oil, rice, sugar and noodles, and household essentials such as tissues, bedsheets and detergent.

The items were purchased and delivered by the Sands Cares Ambassadors themselves, who walked along the village and hillside to give them to each family, who were very grateful for the visit. Together they chatted, the villagers talking about their daily lives with the volunteers.



Sands China has long-partnered with different charitable organizations including Macao Special Olympics, Fuhong Society of Macau, Caritas Macau and the Macau Holy House of Mercy, Macau General Union of Neighbourhood Association, Macau Red Cross, Clean the World and amongst others.

The Fuhong Society of Macau is one of the first NGOs that the Sands Cares Ambassador programme began collaborating with, going back to 2009.

Sands China's donations to Fuhong over the years have included a large-format A3 printing system – which gives Fuhong the ability to print its own promotional materials – and industrial-sized washers and dryers for Fuhong's Happy Laundry Social Enterprise, including a platform constructed by Sands China's facilities department.

Sands China was also the first integrated resort operator to work with Peng On Tung, and has been doing annual spring cleaning visits to the homes of live-alone elderly users of the Peng On Tung Tele-Assistance programme since 2009.

And the Sands Cares Ambassadors recently worked with Macau Red Cross to help pack and distribute emergency typhoon response kits in an initiative by the company to help enhance the Macau community's precautionary measures ahead of typhoon season, in line with the SAR

government's direction.

Annie Lam, one of the founding members of the programme from the Community Affairs department, said that the programme has been greatly expanded in terms of its volunteers' experiences.

"Sands China was the first integrated resort operator to establish a volunteer group, and we started with around 200 team members in 2009. As time has gone by, our volunteer numbers have grown bigger and they have gained more experience. Many of our volunteers have been giving some advice and some of their thoughts on how we could further improve and reach out to the community. They are really eager to know what the community needs," she said.

A group of Sands Cares Ambassadors has also completed a training workshop to help them better serve the community.

Workshop participants were taught effective volunteer strategies and skills to enhance the service quality of their work.

"The team has a very strong will for doing good community work. They are real volunteers. The 3,300 volunteers – from the start – have given their hearts free of conditions," Lam explained.

"From the very start, we appropriately had the simple purpose of giving back to the community uncondi-

nally," she added.

From different nationalities and backgrounds, Sands China is proud that volunteers are continually strengthening the company's efforts in engaging with society, raising a culture of doing good in the community.

"They have been giving selflessly to the community, including their time and money," Lam noted.

"Sands China now has a very experienced group of volunteers that are always ready to reach out to those who are in need," she added.

A gala celebration will be held tonight to honour the active volunteers, inviting around 300 participants including the ambassadors and community partners.

Sands China pledges that it will continue to contribute to society through initiatives like the Sands Cares Ambassador programme, as they are central to its commitment toward community outreach and service.

As the company continues to grow and expand in the SAR, it also looks forward to many more years of service to the Macau community.

## WHAT THEY SAY

Over the years, Sands China has been providing various types of support to our association. Their volunteer team also organises activities for our members on a regular basis. Through taking part in these events, the volunteers get to know about social service and people with disabilities, and in turn help us improve our rehabilitation services.

- Jennifer Chau, Director of Fuhong Society of Macau

For the ambassadors to be working together as colleagues at Sands China is a kind of providence, and you have the good fortune of being able to serve together as volunteers. I have seen your many teams of volunteers giving of themselves to different charitable organisations, as well as showing boundless enthusiasm at the Caritas Macau Charity Bazaar, seeking to help more and more people.

- Pun Chi Meng, Director of Caritas Macau

The Sands China volunteer team has always actively participated in social service work and giving back to society with all their capability and love. For instance, in support of our Welfare Shop, the Sands Cares

Ambassadors help by distributing food hampers every year, spreading blessings and warmth to the families in need. This service is really touching.

Since the establishment of their programme, the volunteers have shown selfless dedication and have spared no effort in serving their community. It is a rare achievement indeed.

- António José de Freitas, President of Macau Holy House of Mercy

I always believe that it's better to give than to receive so I use my own time to help others, which has also helped me in a lot of ways. I can communicate better with others, have a proactive attitude and am confident in the things that I do.

- Sandra Zhou, a 10-year Sands Cares Ambassador from Table Games

The Sands Care Ambassador programme is such a good platform for us to get in touch with different groups in society. Through this experience, aside from being given the opportunity to help others, I also learn a lot from them.

- Lilian Chao, a 10-year Sands Cares Ambassador from Conventions & Exhibitions

# Tropical storm Podul heading to Hainan, Vietnam

**T**ROPICAL storm Podul has its sights set on China and Vietnam later this week after hitting the northern Philippines on Tuesday night.

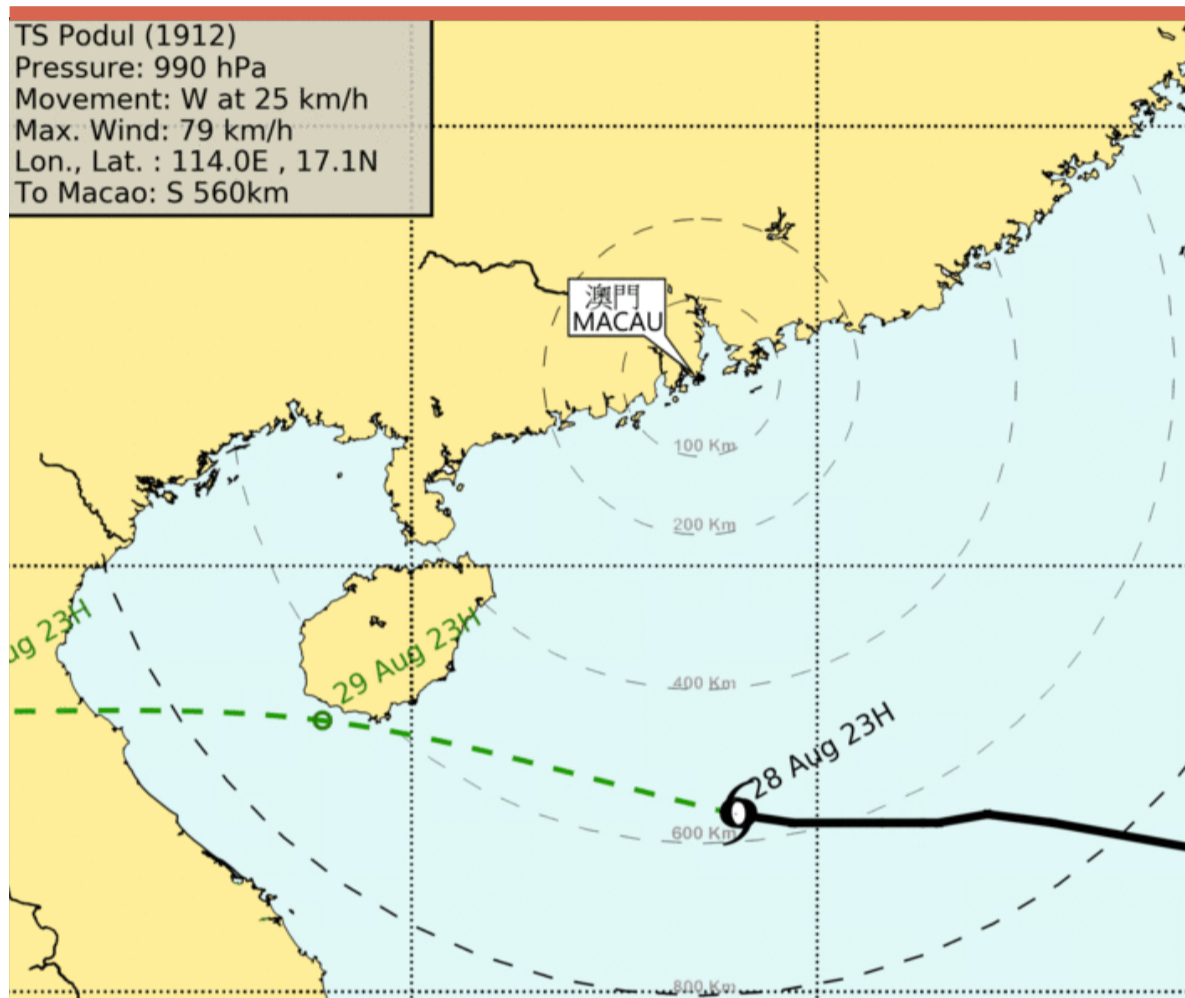
The Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) issued a Typhoon Signal No. 1 yesterday, as the tropical storm was located less than 600 kilometers south of the SAR as of 11 p.m. last night. The SMG also raised a blue storm surge warning at 5 p.m., warning of light flooding in low-lying parts of the city.

The Japan Meteorological Agency has named the tropical storm Podul, a name which has been adopted by other countries across eastern Asia.

The SMG has predicted that there may be flooding in some low-lying areas, and that there may be occasional showers and a few thunderstorms.

Force 4 to 5 east to northeasterly winds and occasional force 6 with gusts, are also expected.

According to AccuWeather, a general west to west-northwestward path will take the storm near or just south of Hainan, China, and then into northern Vietnam and northern Laos. Landfall is pos-



sible in Hainan tomorrow, followed by another landfall in northern Vietnam on Saturday.

Macau's Social Welfare Bu-

reau (IAS) has suggested that elderly and other vulnerable individuals, particularly those who live in low-lying areas of the city, stay at home while the

blue storm surge notice is in force.

In addition to elderly people, young children and those that are feeling unwell should

also avoid unnecessary outdoor activities while the warning is in place.

The Inner Harbor is particularly vulnerable to flooding because of its low-lying status. Flooding in this neighborhood of the city is expected this morning between the hours of 6 a.m. and 10 a.m.

The blue storm surge warning is the mildest among the five levels used by the SMG. It signifies an expectation of less than 0.5 meters of flooding above road level.

For information on day care services, elderly services equipment and rehabilitation services in low-lying areas of the city, the IAS refers residents to its website.

Meanwhile, a second tropical system is expected to develop in the Philippine Sea later this week and may track across the northern Philippines this weekend, which may lead to flooding.

According to weather predictions, concerns are shifting to locations from northern Vietnam to southeastern China for impacts from Podul late this week and on the weekend.

The National Centre for Hydro-Meteorological Forecasting of Vietnam also predicted yesterday that the tropical cyclone would move across the central part of the South China Sea and towards the vicinity of Hainan Island this weekend.

It also predicted that there is a possibility for the typhoon to intensify and become a severe tropical storm. LV

## Bloomberg's Asia 20 Richest Families includes two locally-built empires

RENATO MARQUES

**A**SIA'S 20 Richest Families, a ranking produced by Bloomberg that takes into account the family's wealth, excluding first-generation fortunes as well as those in the hands of a single heir, includes two Macau-built business empires which, according to the ranking, are worth as much as a combined \$29.6 billion (MOP239.2 billion).

Ho and Lee are the families included in the ranking, occupying the 17 and 19 positions respectively.

Sociedade de Jogos

de Macau (SJM), the empire started by tycoon Stanley Ho which is now in its second generation, is worth some \$14.9 billion (MOP120.4 billion). It all started when Ho and his business partners won the first license to set up a casino in Macau. They built the city's first casino in 1962, at the time under the name of Sociedade de Turismo e Diversões de Macau (STD). Today, the Ho family controls SJM Holdings, which owns casinos and hotels, including the Grand Lisboa. The wealth of the family is divided amongst

various heirs, including daughter Pansy Ho, who has stakes in MGM China, fourth wife Angela Leong, who is an executive director of SJM Holdings, and son Lawrence Ho, chief executive officer of Melco Resorts & Entertainment.

Lee's business, worth some \$14.7 billion (MOP118.8 billion), started when Hong Kong's Lee Kum Sheung invented oyster sauce and founded Lee Kum Kee (LKK) back in 1888. When the original oyster sauce factory burned down in 1902, the business was relocated and rebuilt in Macau,

where it remained for several decades until it moved back to the original place in Hong Kong. Currently in its third generation, the business is mostly in the hands of Lee Man Tat, who consolidated his control of the company with buyouts of his uncles and brother. In 1992, the family expanded its business ventures into health supplements, establishing the LKK Health Products Group, a manufacturer and seller of herbal products. Besides Hong Kong and Macau, the family also owns substantial real estate assets abroad, including the "Walkie Talkie" tower in London.

The first place ranking is held by Indian entrepreneurs the Ambani family, accountable for as much as \$50.4 billion (MOP407.3 billion).

## DFS DROPS SINGAPORE'S CHANGI IN FAVOR OF MACAU, HK EXPANSION

**D**FS Group Ltd. plans to further expand in Asia even as the travel retailer looks to exit the liquor and tobacco business in Singapore's Changi Airport.

The company will open its seventh store in Macau and fourth store in Hong Kong by the end of the year, while its Hong Kong flagship store will be renovated by next year, its spokesman said in an emailed statement yesterday. DFS will also open its second European store in Paris in April, it said.

DFS decided not to bid to continue selling alcohol and cigarettes at Asia's third-busiest airport for international passengers, after almost 40 years. It said that changing regulations on the sale of these products against a background of geopolitical uncertainty meant staying at Changi was not a "financially viable op-

tion." Korea's two biggest duty-free companies Hotel Lotte Co. and Hotel Shilla Co. are among bidders to take over the business.

Even with this exit, DFS said it has some airport projects in the pipeline, without disclosing details.

The company also clarified that options will be available to about 500 people who work at the Changi liquor and tobacco operations after its concession ends in June. These include working with the new operator as well as deployment at DFS's other businesses in Singapore, it said.

Established in 1960, DFS is a Hong Kong-based retailer of luxury products with a network consisting of duty-free stores located in major airports, as well as resort locations worldwide. **BLOOMBERG**

BLOOMBERG



## Hundreds demand Cathay rehire fired staff

**HUNDREDS** of people gathered in Hong Kong to demand that Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd. rehire workers who left the troubled carrier after supporting the city's pro-democracy protests, in a case that has raised fears about dwindling free speech in the former colony.

A crowd convened yesterday afternoon in the city's Central business district, not far from the headquarters of Swire Group, the airline's largest shareholder, to push back against the commercial and political pressure Beijing is putting on companies over Hong Kong's ongoing unrest.

The gathering, organized by the Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions, is the latest demonstration in 12 straight weeks of sometimes violent protests, which began in opposition to a bill that would have allowed extraditions to mainland China.

In recent weeks, Cathay Pacific - which has lost at least seven employees in the turmoil and saw chief executive officer Rupert Hogg resign abruptly to take responsibility for the airline's troubles - has come to symbolize the danger that firms in the city face if they fall afoul of Beijing. What's happened to Hong Kong's flag carrier has raised concerns about whether companies that want to do business in China are upholding their employees' rights to free speech and assembly as citizens of Hong Kong.

"Suppressing people's freedom of speech through their employment, that is unacceptable," Carol Ng, chairwoman

of HKCTU, said at the protest. "The airlines have kowtowed and bowed down completely."

"We fully support the upholding of the Basic Law and all the rights and freedoms afforded by it," Cathay Pacific said in a statement posted to its website responding to the HKCTU assembly. "At the same time, we are also required to adhere to all of our regulatory duties, including those prescribed by the authorities in mainland China. The airline must do this; there is no ground for compromise."

The union has previously protested the dismissal of Cathay employee Rebecca Sy, former chairwoman of the flight attendants' union of Cathay Pacific unit Cathay Dragon, over a social media post. The company said her departure had nothing to do with her union leadership or union work, and reiterated in its statement yesterday that it does not in any way discriminate against union members or their activities.

At the gathering, Sy said her dismissal - particularly given she was a prominent union leader - was a clear warning to all Hong Kong citizens as well as local and international companies in the city who might face pressure.

"What I've been doing is supporting freedom of speech and democracy," she said. "If they can defeat me, that means it's so easy for them to destroy everyone else as well. But we don't want to see that happen, so I have to tell everyone 'You're not alone. We are now standing together.'"

MDT/BLOOMBERG



A DAY ON THE FRONTLINE

## MELCO introduces 'In Your Shoes' program for management team to experience the jobs of frontline colleagues

Meleo Resorts and Entertainment's culture of excellence is aligned with the company's promise to excel in the premium luxury segment through the creation of exceptional guest experiences. These high standards of luxury service are achieved through Melco's structured and systematic training programs.

Recently, a program titled 'In Your Shoes' was established for Melco's management team to experience "A Day in the Life" of frontline colleagues. The goal is to facilitate and enhance communications between employees of all levels for the improved delivery of service excellence for its discerning guests. Under the new initiative, the company's leaders including property presidents Mr. David Sisk of City of Dreams; Mr. Geoff Andres of Studio City; Mr. Andy Choy of Altira Macau and other senior management colleagues were invited to engage in roles at various departments such as Housekeeping and Food and Beverage.

To date, more than 70 colleagues have taken part in the program and further sessions have been scheduled with the objective to help the management team advance their knowledge on frontline roles, experience and identify the day-to-day complications faced by colleagues, and to then help devise and implement practical solutions, thus improving service quality and the overall employee work environment.

team designed a sit-down tutorial to highlight the importance of their function, and participants were provided instructions on how to meet Altira's Forbes 5-Star standards. From the presentation of facial tissues, towels and bathrobes, to the careful handling of bed linens and overall in-room hygiene, the details were comprehensive. This was followed by a tutorial inside Altira's rooms and suites, where housekeeping colleagues offered practical demonstrations.

Trainees then put their newly-learned skills to use by completing designated tasks, and at the end of the session, a judging panel comprising three of Altira's senior housekeeping colleagues assessed the teams' performances and voted for the winning group.

Ms. Akiko Takahashi, Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff to Chairman and CEO, said, "We trust that the program will effectively provide an opportunity to benefit all colleagues and teams at Melco, enabling more effective teamwork in our bid to provide guests with the most memorable experiences."

This article is sponsored by Melco Resorts & Entertainment.



A FIVE-STAR EXPERIENCE

At Altira, management colleagues from different departments formed three teams to experience "A Day in the Life of an Altira Housekeeping Attendant." The Housekeeping



# HONG KONG INVESTORS SHUN SINGAPORE FOR HOMES IN MALAYSIA, THAILAND, TAIWAN

YONGCHANG CHIN  
& SHAWNA KWAN

**SINGAPORE'S** housing market isn't turning out to be the beneficiary many may have thought from Hong Kong's increasingly fraught protests. Instead, investors are looking to cheaper property markets like Malaysia, Thailand and Taiwan.

"People here tend to think there are only two cities in the world - Hong Kong and Singapore," said Alan Cheong, a Singapore-based executive director of research and consultancy at Savills Plc. "They think if people flee Hong Kong, they'll all automatically come to Singapore. But everyone isn't Li Ka-shing. Most are just ordinary salaried workers," he said, referring to Hong Kong's richest billionaire.

As anti-government demonstrations approach their fourth month, many people with the means in Hong Kong have been looking at contingency plans. They can range from shifting funds abroad to physically moving from the city. Hong Kong has held the title of the world's least affordable real estate for nine years in a row now, and unhappiness over property prices is one factor fueling the unrest.

In Malaysia, for instance, "a property in central Kuala Lumpur could cost 1,500 ringgit (\$358) per square foot," Cheong said. "An apartment in a similar area of Singapore would be S\$1,500 (\$1,080) or more." Thailand, meanwhile, is popular for its touristy allure, he said.

Singapore is particularly expensive when extra costs, like additional buyer's stamp duty, are factored in. Foreigners buying residential property in the city-state since July 2018 pay additional stamp duty of 20%, up from 15% before the government cooling measures were introduced.

Hong Kong citizens purchased just 12 apartments in Singapore in the first half of 2019, down

BLOOMBERG



Demonstrators march through Hong Kong earlier this week

from 32 in the first six months of 2018. From July through mid-August, when street protests turned violent, there were four sales, data from ERA Research & Consultancy show.

Nicholas Mak, the Singapore-based head of research at APAC Realty Ltd. unit ERA, said Taiwan made the grade due to its relative ease of assimilation - both locations use traditional Chinese as opposed to simplified characters on the mainland. Further afield, Canada or Australia are popular, although not for those wanting to remain close to Hong Kong with a view to perhaps one day moving back.

"Taiwan is also majority Chinese, so it's similar, whereas places in the West are attractive for those wanting to get away from China or Asia generally," Mak said.

The interest from Hong Kong has seen several foreign deve-

lopers fly agents and staff to the former British colony for seminars and sales events. Malaysia's Mah Sing Group Bhd. said it had been doing personalized consultations for prospects in Hong Kong, encouraged by significant sales in the past of apartments along the Penang seafront and in Kuala Lumpur.

"We received a strong response as people here are already familiar with the Mah Sing brand and confident about our products," Group Managing Director Leong Hoy Kum said. "This time, we're introducing products from Johor as well, to give a variety of options for buyers."

Leong said that based on the feedback received, Hong Kong buyers are attracted to Malaysia due to the country's "tropical weather, cleaner air, good education system, attractive properties and mix of Asian values and Western infrastructure."

Singaporean developers are also trying to get in on the action. Oxley Holdings Ltd. said it had been actively engaging property agents in Hong Kong to market a recently launched Singapore condo, Mayfair Modern. M+S Pte, a venture between Singapore's Temasek Holdings Pte and Malaysia's Khazanah Nasional Bhd., had its Marina One Residences project marketed last weekend in Hong Kong by Centaline, the project's sole agent in the city.

To be sure, it isn't that Hong Kong buyers are actively avoiding Singapore, just that many simply don't have the money to move to a city where property is also quite pricey. For those who can afford it, they like Singapore's active resale market, Mak said. He also said Singapore developers were sometimes viewed as more reliable, with better quality projects.

"Professionals are interested in Singapore because it's politi-

cally stable and safe," said David Hui, a Hong Kong-based general manager at Centaline who was at the Sunday event. They're mostly in "finance or law, or owners of businesses over 35."

Yet even Hui said for all the talk of relocating to Singapore, it was the Malaysian apartments selling, with transaction volumes in some areas up as much as 50%.

Alex Wong, a project sales manager for international properties at Midland Realty (Global) Ltd. in Hong Kong, agreed.

"Malaysia is very popular now - we get inquiries every day," he said. "It's the option for more ordinary people as property prices are much lower."

"The Hong Kong protests are like hitting a beehive with a stick," Savills' Cheong said. "The bees buzz out of the hive, but they're not all flying to Singapore. They're going everywhere else instead." **BLOOMBERG**

## Good citizen applications jump as people eye exit

**INTEREST** from Hong Kong residents in leaving the city has surged since street protests broke out in the former British colony.

About 200 people showed up at a seminar organized by InvestUK, an adviser that helps people secure investor visas to move to the U.K. from Hong Kong, in July compared with about 40 people usually, according to the firm's Chair-

man Rupert Gather. That's part of a wider trend as applications for Hong Kong good citizenship cards jumped almost 50% in the first two weeks of August from a year earlier, in another sign residents may be more seriously contemplating an exit.

The good citizenship documents certify a person doesn't have a criminal record and are needed to

apply for foreign visas, or residency in another country.

"This is evidence that many Hong Kongers are seeking to move overseas, or at least obtain residency overseas so that they have the option to go," said Georg Chmiel, executive chairman of real estate site Juwai.com. "While the data doesn't show for sure that people are applying for these police checks for their fo-

reign visa applications, it is relatively rare to seek these documents for any other purpose."

The number of U.K. visas granted to Hong Kong nationals qualifying as investors and entrepreneurs more than doubled in the second quarter from a year earlier, government data show. That outpaced an overall 55% rise in these so-called Tier 1 visas, accor-

ding to the figures from the U.K.'s interior ministry.

In the second quarter, 13 Hong Kong nationals obtained Tier 1 investor visas, which offer permanent residency in return for investing 2 million pounds (\$2.44 million) in the U.K., compared with just four during the same period in 2018. The less exclusive Tier 1 entrepreneur visas were granted to 41 re-

sidents of the city.

"The more high net worth you are the more options you have to move to other countries," Naomi Hanrahan-Soar, a managing associate at London-based immigration law firm Lewis Silkin, said by phone. "The U.K.'s very popular with people from around the world in part because we have such a reliable legal system." **BLOOMBERG**





THEME PARKS

# Star Wars hotel at Disney World like a cruise into space

MIKE SCHNEIDER, ORLANDO

IT'S going to be a cruise to nowhere, but that will be just fine with die-hard "Star Wars" fans.

Disney officials on Tuesday offered new details on its recently announced Star Wars-themed resort in Florida.

"Star Wars: Galactic Starcruiser" will be like a two-day cruise in that it drops visitors into a completely self-contained world. Except instead of traveling on the high seas, visitors will be made to feel like they've been launched from a parking lot at Walt Disney World in Florida to a spaceship millions of miles above Earth.

Once aboard the "ship," visitors become part of a narrative involving other passengers, crew mem-

bers and cast members dressed as Chewbacca or stormtroopers. They are given tours of the ship's "bridge" where navigation and defense systems are explained. At various points during the two days, they may have to put knowledge they've acquired on the cruise to use as part of the storytelling, said Ann Morrow Johnson, a creative director at Walt Disney Imagineering, during a presentation where video and still photography was prohibited.

"There are characters on the ship, and many you will be meeting for the first time," Johnson said. "It's a dangerous time in the galaxy and you should be wary about who you make allegiances with because your choices matter. The choices will affect how your 'Star Wars' story unfolds."

Hotel room windows won't look

out to the Florida sun and palm tree, but rather a screen showing the twinkly lights of stars in the vast darkness of space. The bedrooms have king-sized beds and also bunk beds built into the walls.

The opening date hasn't been announced yet, nor have prices been set, though given that a single-day admission to the Magic Kingdom can cost \$125 without tax, the cost might be something only Lando Calrissian can afford.

The details on the hotel were revealed as Walt Disney World prepares to open its \$1 billion, 14-acre Star Wars-themed land at Disney's Hollywood Studios park on Thursday. A near-identical park opened in Disneyland in California earlier this summer.

Visitors staying at the Star Wars hotel will get to visit the new land,

"Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge," as their "port of call" during their two-day stay.

Disney officials on Tuesday gave new details on the most anticipated ride at the Star Wars land. "Rise of the Resistance" won't open at the Florida park until December, but Disney officials described it as one of the most ambitious and complicated rides ever built at a Disney park.

It has "everything that makes 'Star Wars' Star Wars, all in one attraction," said Scott Trowbridge, creative portfolio executive at Walt Disney Imagineering.

Passengers on the ride are part of a rag-tag group of rebels who are pulled into the enemy First Order's ship, where they try to make their way to an escape pod using a ride system. Once they arrive at the es-

cape pod, their ride car gets into a motion-based simulator. There's a stomach-in-throat surprise drop, and then the simulator makes them feel like they're returning to their home planet.

"There's a kick-in-the-pants final moment," Trowbridge said.

Along the way, passengers encounter the Star Wars characters of Rey, Poe and Kylo Ren.

In a sneak peak of the unfinished ride given to journalists, doors swoosh open to reveal the command bridge of a Star Destroyer. Three dozen stormtroopers are lined up in three rows before a gigantic screen of small stars set against the blackness of space.

Ben Cline, his wife, Jen, and their two grade-school-age children, planned to wake up in the middle of the night Thursday so they can be among the first tourists to see the Florida version of the Star Wars land.

"It just sounds awesome, everything we've heard about it," said Cline, a lifelong Star Wars fan who was visiting from Raleigh, North Carolina. "There's a whole new generation of kids who will get exposed to it." AP

## CORPORATE BITS

### Sheraton Grand Macao Hotel offers Marriott Bonvoy Escapes



Sheraton Grand Macao Hotel, Cotai Central, is offering travelers its Marriott Bonvoy Escapes deal, with rates starting at HKD789 per night for a room.

According to a Sheraton press release, it is the first time that the Marriott Bonvoy

Escapes, featuring last-minute getaways, has been offered at the Sheraton Grand Macao Hotel, and that Marriott Bonvoy members can enjoy a range of discounts and benefits.

Daniella Tonetto, General Manager of Sales

and Marketing of Sheraton Grand Macao Hotel, said, she was "pleased to be able to offer travelers to Macau, the first ever Marriott Bonvoy Escapes. However, a limited number of rooms are on offer and travelers are urged to book their escape right away."

"Guests looking for a romantic getaway, family vacation or reunion with friends should look no further than Macau which has all the fun attractions and activities for everyone," she said. "For travelers who are looking for a great value getaway, the Marriott Bonvoy Escapes is a great opportunity to visit Macau."

### Sands Resorts Macao recognized at 2019 International Business Awards



Sands Resorts Macao has received two Gold Stevie Awards and a Bronze Stevie in the Art, Entertainment and Public category at The 16th Annual International Business Awards (IBAs) for its events.

The resorts operator picked up a Gold Stevie Award in the Sporting Event section for Light The Night Run 2018, during which more than 530 professional athletes and

amateur sports fans raced up The Parisian Macao's Eiffel Tower, climbing 750 stairs in support of local charities and to encourage fitness, sport, wellness and health education.

Its second gold, in the Public Event section, recognized the Winter Extravaganza 2018, a large-scale event that kicked off the festive season at Sands Resorts Macao by

transforming The Venetian Macao and The Parisian Macao into winter wonderlands.

The awards are designed to reward and recognize the accomplishments and contributions of companies and business people worldwide, with this year's winners to be officially announced at a gala event in Vienna, Austria, on October 19.

Brett Ingram, Assistant Vice President of Sands Resorts Macao, said in a press release: "We are delighted to have won these prestigious international awards which recognize Sands Resorts Macao as one of the leaders in organizing and hosting global events. Events of this calibre require not only vision and ambition, but also total commitment and many hours of hard work to bring to fruition."

The 2019 IBAs received entries from organizations in 74 nations with more than 4,000 nominations.

# TENCENT MUSIC DIVES AS WATCHDOG PROBES ITS RECORD-LABEL TIES

ZHEPING HUANG  
& LUCAS SHAW

**T**ENCENT Music Entertainment Group fell the most in five months as China's anti-trust authority investigates exclusive licensing deals it forged with the world's biggest record labels.

The State Administration of Market Regulation, which launched the probe in January, is scrutinizing the Shenzhen-based company's dealings with music labels including Universal Music Group, Sony Music Entertainment and Warner Music Group Corp., Bloomberg reported yesterday. Shares of Tencent Music slid 6.8% in New York, marking their steepest drop since March 20. The rout pushed the stock into negative territory for the year, down 4.9%.

The three largest record labels have all sold exclusive rights to a major chunk of their music catalogs to Tencent Music, which is controlled by social media titan Tencent Holdings Ltd. but also backed by Sony and Warner. Tencent Music then sublicenses that content to smaller rivals, an arrangement they complain is unfair. Tencent Music pays fees that are unreasonably high and passes along much of those costs to its competitors, people familiar with the matter said. Licensing songs from Tencent Music for use in China can be twice as expensive compared to when licensing directly from major labels for the rest of the world, said one of the people, who asked not to be identified because the arrangement is private.

Music and video platforms, including those operated by Alibaba Group Holding Ltd., Baidu Inc. and ByteDance Inc., all have to sublicense content from Tencent Music. The re-



BLOOMBERG

gulator's actions pose a threat to Tencent, which leveraged a billion-plus social media users to dominate a Chinese online music industry expected to be worth USD30 billion by 2023. Music is now a key driver for the WeChat-operator, which is struggling to sustain growth as U.S.-China trade tensions depress its home economy.

Tencent Music, NetEase, ByteDance, Baidu and Alibaba declined to comment on the probe, which was previously reported by Capitol Forum and MLex without giving details of the pricing concerns of other platforms. The three biggest labels also declined to comment. The regulator

didn't respond to a fax seeking comment.

Tencent Music, which floated in the U.S. last year, boasts the country's largest music content offering, with more than 20 million tracks from over 200 domestic and international

Kuwo apps. Revenue from online music services rose 20% to 1.56 billion yuan (\$218 million) in the period. But its gross margin declined to 33% from 40% in the June quarter in part because of waning sublicensing revenue from competing platforms, Chief Financial Officer Shirley Hu said on a conference call in August.

Long a haven for piracy, China became one of the 10 largest music markets in the world in 2017 and climbed to seventh position last year. Major record labels' sales have ballooned in the country thanks largely to the exclusive deals with Tencent. Music publishers are still hoping more people in the

## Licensing songs from Tencent Music for use in China can be twice as expensive compared to when licensing directly from major labels for the rest of the world

labels, according to the company's prospectus. For the June quarter, it had over 650 million monthly active users and 31 million paying subscribers across its QQ Music, Kugou and

world's most populous country will opt to pay for music.

Tencent Music isn't the only company to own exclusive rights. NetEase Music has also acquired exclusive rights to individual artist and record labels and continues to bid on licensing, according to industry figures. Many independent record labels have opted not to sell anyone exclusive rights, and say they have benefited from that arrangement.

As part of the ongoing investigation, regulators solicited input from competing music platforms as well as the record labels involved, according to the people. China's copyright watchdog in 2017 warned streaming services including Tencent Music against entering exclusive licensing deals. Under such pressure, Tencent Music and distant-second rival NetEase Music last year agreed to sublicense more than 99% of their music catalogs to each other.

"Based on what I've observed in the past, such regulatory scrutiny doesn't usually amount to much, especially in the area of antitrust in China," Bloomberg Intelligence analyst Vey-Sern Ling said. "One potential outcome is to also try to control the price of sublicensing. However, these are commercial agreements and could be hard to manage."

The investigation may complicate Tencent's expansion ambitions. It's in talks to buy 10% of UMG in a deal that would value the world's biggest music label at \$34 billion and help bolster its Asia presence.

Music streaming is one of Tencent's few business units that has made it big beyond its home market. Tencent Music said its karaoke app WeSing has been topping the download chart in the Philippines' Google Play in recent months after it was launched in Southeast Asia. Tencent also owns a stake in the world's leading music streaming service, Spotify, while the Swedish company is invested in Tencent Music. **BLOOMBERG**

# Customer fights break out as Costco opens first China Store

**C**OSTCO Wholesale Corp.'s first outlet in China opened on Tuesday and was soon overrun with customers willing to fight over discounted products and wait hours to pay for their purchases.

The American retail giant had to suspend operations in its Shanghai store in the afternoon citing "heavy traffic and customer

flows," according to a text message sent by the company to consumers holding its membership card. The message was shared on Weibo, China's micro-blogging website.

The frenzy at Costco's store comes at a time when the U.S. and China are locked in a tit-for-tat tariff war that shows no signs of abating and is making

American firms wary of investing in the largest Asian economy. Costco is also entering a market where many of its global rivals have struggled and given up. Carrefour SA sold an 80% stake in its China unit at a discount in June while German wholesaler Metro AG is looking to sell its operations.

Costco's shares rose 5%

to a record high in the U.S. on Tuesday, while the broader gauge S&P 500 declined. The stock has climbed 44% this year.

"There's no other word to describe Shanghai's Costco but crazy," said a Weibo user, who gave up on the shopping plan after seeing two-hour queues at the checkout counters. Other Weibo users shared that

they had to wait three hours to enter the parking lot while some decided to walk to the store to avoid the traffic jam.

Other pictures showed customers grabbing packets of roast chicken and elbowing out other shoppers at the store. Local news reports said the retailer offered discounts as deep as 60% on some products

and annual membership for just 199 yuan (\$28). The sale also includes the nation's coveted fiery liquor drink from Kweichow Moutai Co. and Wuliangye Yibin Co.

Costco didn't immediately answer phone calls and an online inquiry seeking comments on Tuesday's shopping frenzy. **BLOOMBERG**

ROD MCGUIRK, CANBERRA

**A**USTRALIA announced yesterday that it has formed a task force to crack down on attempts by foreign governments to meddle in Australian universities.

The move comes as concerns grow over Chinese influence at Australia's universities, where Chinese students are by far the largest group of foreign students. Pro-Beijing student demonstrators have recently clashed with Hong Kong democracy advocates on Australian campuses.

Australia has also raised concerns about the influence of Beijing-funded Confucius Institutes at Australian universities.

Education Minister Dan Tehan said the task force will comprise half university staff and half government agency officials.

"Our government is taking action to provide clarity at the intersection of national security, research, collaboration and a university's autonomy," Tehan said.

"Universities also understand the risk to their operations and to the national interest from cyberattacks and foreign interference and we are working constructively to address it," he added.

The task force includes a cybersecurity working group that would better protect university networks against unauthori-

# Australia tries to curb foreign interference at universities

zed access and damage.

The Australian Cyber Security Center, an intergovernmental agency, has said Australian universities are increasingly attractive targets for cyberattacks because of their research across a range of fields and the intellectual property that the research generated.

Australian universities said through their representative body, Universities Australia, that they want to work collaboratively with the government to enhance existing safeguards.

"Australian universities have worked with government for decades to protect our intellectual property and to rebuff attempts to breach our security," Universities Australia Chair Deborah Terry said in a statement.

"But in a world of ever more complex risks, we will work together through a new task force to add to the current protections, while preserving the openness and collaboration that is crucial to the success of Australia's world-class university system," she added.



The new task force will also include a research and intellectual property working group to protect academic freedom and intellectual property and safeguard universities against deception and undue influence. A foreign collaboration working group will ensure that collaborations with foreign entities are transparent and don't harm Australia's interests.

The move comes a year after the government angered China by banning covert foreign interference in Australian politics. Foreign

political donations have also been banned.

Organizations and individuals who are operating in Australia on behalf of a foreign government or a foreign political organization have had to register under the Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme since December.

Attorney General Christian Porter last month urged all universities to ensure international partnerships, including with Confucius Institutes, complied with Australian law and that the part-

ners potentially needed to register.

At that point, none of the Confucius Institutes that had partnered with 13 Australian universities had registered. By contrast, the U.S. State Department-funded U.S. Studies Center at Sydney University was registered.

Last week, Australia's most populous state, New South Wales, ended its China-funded Confucius Classroom language and culture program, which had been offered in 13 public schools. It was replaced by a state government-funded program.

The state education department said a review found no evidence of "actual political influence being exercised," but concluded there were "a number of specific factors that could give rise to the perception that the Confucius Institute is or could be facilitating inappropriate foreign influence in the department."

China's foreign ministry accused New South Wales of politicizing a "normal exchange program." AP



  
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# MALAYSIA EX-PM USED 'ELABORATE' PLAN TO LOOT FUND: PROSECUTOR

EILEEN NG, KUALA LUMPUR

**F**ORMER Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak's second corruption trial started yesterday with a prosecutor alleging he pilfered billions of dollars from the 1MDB state investment fund through an "elaborate charade" and then sought to cover his tracks.

Chief prosecutor Gopal Sri Ram said in his opening remarks that the prosecution would show how Najib took steps to channel 1MDB money into his accounts using a "circuitous route" to prevent detection of the source of the funds and then later pretending that the fund was donated by an Arab prince.

He told the High Court on yesterday that prosecutors will also show that fugitive financier Low Taek Jho, better known as Jho Low, was Najib's "alter ego" and that the two acted as one in the scam. Low, 37, has been charged in both the U.S. and Malaysia for his alleged role as the mastermind in the 1MDB scandal.

"An elaborate charade was employed. It was acted out in four phases in which several characters played a part but it was the accused who played the pivotal role. His objective was to enrich himself," Sri Ram said.

"The prosecution will prove that the accused, by his words and conduct, made it clear to 1MDB's officers, its board and others that Jho Low was his alter ego. In truth, Jho Low was the ac-



Former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak (center)

cused's mirror image."

Najib faces 42 charges of corruption, abuse of power and money laundering in five separate criminal cases linked to the 1MDB scandal that contributed to his shocking electoral defeat last year.

Najib, 66, denies wrongdoing and accuses Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's govern-

ment of seeking political vengeance.

His first trial, involving seven charges linked to transfer of funds from a former 1MDB unit to Najib's bank accounts, ended Tuesday after five months. The judge will rule Nov. 11 on whether to acquit him or call his defense.

In the second trial, Najib faces

four counts of abusing his power to receive a total of 2.3 billion ringgit (USD546 million) from 2011 to 2014, and 21 other charges of receiving, using, and transferring illicit funds linked to 1MDB.

He faces up to 20 years in prison for each count of abuse of power and up to five years for each of the 21 money laundering charges.

Sri Ram gave lengthy details of how money was raised and then siphoned through "sham" joint ventures, financing agreements, suspicious asset acquisitions and using intermediary companies and individuals linked to Low, including two Saudi princes he only mentioned as "Prince Faisal and Prince Turki," without giving their full names or background.

After the scandal first broke in 2015, he said Najib and Low used fake letters and checks to pretend that the \$681 million channeled into Najib's bank accounts were largely a donation from an Arab prince. Najib also interfered in the investigations, Sri Ram said.

"The prosecution will rely on all these evidence to show that the accused had the requisite means when the offences with which he is charged were committed," Sri Ram added.

Najib set up 1MDB when he took power in 2009 to promote economic development, but the fund amassed billions in debts and is being investigated in the U.S. and several other countries.

The attorney-general cleared Najib in January 2016, saying the money in his bank accounts were given by an Arab donor ahead of 2013 general elections and most of it has been returned. But U.S. investigators say Najib's associates stole and laundered \$4.5 billion from the fund, including the money that landed in Najib's bank accounts.

The new government reopened investigations stifled under Najib and barred him and his wife from leaving the country. Police also seized jewelry and hundreds of handbags and other valuables estimated at more than 1.1 billion ringgit (\$273 million) from properties linked to Najib. AP

# 245 rescued from burning ferry in Philippine waters; 3 dead

**F**ISHING boats and passing ships rescued 245 people from a burning ferry overnight in southern Philippine waters, and the coast guard was still searching yesterday though it wasn't clear if anyone was missing. A 1-year-old girl and two other people died.

The ship's manifest had 36 crewmembers and 136 passengers, 28 of them children, and the coast guard said investigators would ask the ferry owner and skipper to explain the discrepancy between the listed occupants and the number rescued.

Photos showed passengers wearing orange life vests waiting to be rescued at the loading bay of the ferry, which also carried some vehicles. Local news reports quoted some



passengers as saying they jumped into the choppy waters in panic and were rescued by passing cargo and fishing vessels.

"We did not have any

patrol ship in the area, so we alerted nearby ships and boats to render assistance because it was an emergency," coast guard spokesman Armand Balilo

said by phone. "It's good that a number of ships immediately responded. We have to recognize what they did."

The fire apparently star-

ted in the engine room. Orange flames and smoke consumed almost the entire vessel but the M/V Lite Ferry 16 stayed afloat, about 3 kilometers [1.8 miles] off a port in Dapitan city of Zamboanga del Norte province, where it was heading after departing Santander town in central Cebu province Tuesday.

Search and rescue efforts were continuing, Balilo said around midday. It was unclear whether there were still people missing but no relatives have approached authorities to report any, and an ongoing search will continue, Balilo said.

A 1-year-old girl, a 60-year-old male passenger and a third person died, Balilo said. He did not have more details on the identity of the third person and

the causes of their deaths.

Meanwhile, in the northern Philippines, ferries were warned not to go to sea after a fast-moving storm blew across the main island of Luzon overnight. Heavy rains fell in northern provinces, but no casualties or major damage was reported, and the storm has weakened into a tropical depression.

Sea accidents are common in the Philippine archipelago because of frequent storms, badly maintained boats, overcrowding and weak enforcement of safety regulations. In December 1987, the ferry Dona Paz sank after colliding with a fuel tanker in the Philippines, killing more than 4,341 people in the world's worst peacetime maritime disaster. AP

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

# Japan's move to lower South Korea trade status takes effect

**Y**URI Kageyama, Tokyo  
Japan's downgrading of South Korea's trade status took effect yesterday, a decision that has already set off a series of reactions hurting their relations.

Japanese manufacturers now must apply for approval for each technology-related contract for South Korean export, rather than the simpler checks granted a preferential trade partner, which is still the status of the U.S. and others.

Since Japan announced the decision about two months ago, South Korea decided to similarly downgrade Tokyo's trade status, which will take effect next month. Seoul has also canceled a deal to share military intelligence with Japan.

South Korea has accused Japan of weaponizing trade because of a separate dispute linked to Japan's colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula from 1910 to 1945.

Japan denies retaliating and says wartime compensation issues were already settled.

"Relations between Japan and



South Korea continue to be in an extremely serious situation because of South Korea's repeated negative and irrational actions, including the most critical issue of laborers from the Korean Peninsula," Japanese government spokesman Yoshihide Suga told reporters.

Suga was referring to South Korea's Supreme Court ruling last

year that said the wartime compensation deal, signed in 1965, did not cover individual rights to seek reparations and ordered Japanese companies to compensate victims of forced labor.

Suga said Japan will continue to try to talk to South Korea.

Kim Hyun-chong, deputy director of South Korea's presidential National Security Office, accused

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of treating South Korea, a longtime ally along with the U.S., like "an enemy state."

"Members of the Japanese leadership are talking as if South Korea is an untrustworthy country that does not follow international law," he said.

The wrangling has dented what had been a thriving tourism and

cultural exchange between the neighboring nations, including Japanese becoming fans of Korean pop music and movies. Some South Koreans are boycotting Japanese goods or joining street protests against Japan.

Hiroshige Seko, Japan's minister of economy, trade and industry, said earlier this week that the trade status review was needed for proper checks on exports because of concerns they could be used for military purposes.

Japan has never specified the security concerns or how they originated.

Seko also denounced South Korea's scrapping the military intelligence agreement, called the General Security of Military Information Agreement, arguing the trade decision was not directly related to military cooperation.

The intelligence-sharing agreement remains in effect until November. Japan and South Korea have shared information about North Korea's missile launches, the latest of which happened Saturday.

Kim, the South Korean official, said it was Japan that started linking trade restrictions with security questions, and pointed to how South Korea is willing to reconsider if Japan retracts its decision in the next few months.

"I want to stress that the ball is now in Japan's court," said Kim. AP

AD

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China vs France

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LUIS ANDRES HENAO,  
PORTO VELHO

**L**INGERING smoke in the Amazon caused concern yesterday (local time) among Brazilians who say that respiratory problems — particularly among children and the elderly — have increased as fires in the region rage.

“The kids are affected the most. They’re coughing a lot,” said Elane Diaz, a nurse in the Rondonia state capital of Porto Velho, as she waited for a doctor’s appointment at the city’s 9 of July hospital with her 5-year-old-son Eduardo. “They have problems breathing. I’m concerned because it affects their health.”

The number of people treated for respiratory issues increased sharply in recent days at the local Cosme e Damia Children’s hospital.

“This period has been very tough. The dry weather and the smoke causes many problems on children, such as pneumonia, coughing and secretion,” Daniel Pires, a pediatrician and the hospital’s adjunct-director told the Folha de S. Paulo newspaper. “From Aug. 1 to Aug. 10, the median [number] of cases was about 120 to 130 children with respiratory problems. From Aug. 11 to (Aug. 20) it went up to 280 cases.”

Growing fears over the health impacts are emerging as the number of fires in Brazil surges, with more than 77,000 documented by the country’s National Space Research Institute in the last year. About half of the fires occurred in the Amazon region, with most in the past month.

But as breathing-related ailments appear to be on the rise, attention to the issue has largely been overshadowed by growing acrimony between Brazil and European countries seeking to help fight Amazon fires and protect a region seen as vital to the health of the planet.

At a summit in France this week, G-7 nations pledged to help fight the flames and protect the rainforest by offering USD20 million, in addition to a separate \$12 million from Britain and \$11 million from Canada.

But Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, a far-right climate skeptic who took office this year with a promise to boost development in Latin America’s biggest economy, questioned whether offers of international aid mask a plot to exploit the Amazon’s resources and weaken Brazilian growth. On Tuesday, he said that his French counterpart President Emmanuel Macron had called

# Respiratory ailments rise in Brazil as Amazon fires rage



him a liar and would have to apologize before Brazil considers accepting rainforest aid.

Macron has to retract those comments “and then we can speak,” Bolsonaro said.

In a video message, Brazilian novelist Paulo Coelho offered an apology to France for what he called Bolsonaro’s “hysteria,” saying the Brazilian government had resorted to insults to dodge responsibility for the Amazon fires.

Meanwhile, within Brazil, a number of people said they supported Bolsonaro despite local and international criticism of his handling of the crisis, exposing a divide that has split the country.

Grace Quale, a hospital laboratory technician who attended a service at an evangelical church on Sunday, said that critics “want to overthrow our president,” and that she didn’t see a link between Bolsonaro’s environmental policies and the number of people getting treatment for respiratory problems.

Mona Lisa Pereira, an agronomist, also said criticism

of Brazil’s government was skewed.

“Germany had already been helping through NGOs and they couldn’t prevent this,” Pereira said. “It seems like this is the fire of a lifetime. But it’s not. We have fires every year.”

Others said in an open letter that the government’s discourse and measures are leading to a “collapse in federal environmental management and stimulate environmental crimes inside and outside the Amazon.”

More than 500 employees from the environmental regu-

**“ From Aug. 1 to Aug. 10, the median [number] of cases was about 120 to 130 children with respiratory problems. From Aug. 11 to [Aug. 20] it went up to 280 cases.**

DANIEL PIRES  
ADJUNCT-DIRECTOR OF COSME E DAMIA CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL

lator IBAMA signed the letter and included a list of emergency measures they recommended, including more qualified management and employees, and a greater budget and increased autonomy.

The Amazon has experien-

ced an increased rate of fires during drought periods in the last 20 years, but the phenomenon this year is “unusual” because drought has not yet hit, said Laura Schneider of Rutgers University-New Brunswick.

Schneider, an associate professor in the geography department, said fire is commonly used by people to clear land for cultivation, and the actual area burned this year must be measured for an accurate comparison with damage in past years.

While many of the recorded fires this year were set in already deforested areas by people clearing land for cultivation or pasture, Brazil government figures show that they are much more widespread this year, suggesting the threat to the vast Amazon ecosystem is intensifying.

But for now, more immediate consequences of the raging flames were becoming clear.

The world’s largest rainforest is a major absorber of carbon dioxide, considered a

critical defense against rising temperatures and other disruptions caused by climate change.

The government in the Amazonian state of Rondonia has warned that the burning of land can produce smoke that can “greatly influence atmospheric pollution, putting the life of many at risk.”

Experts there said that when exposed to smoke, residents can suffer from rhinitis, sinus and respiratory problems like asthma and bronchitis, while chronic exposure can also lead to pulmonary illnesses, including lung emphysema.

“We’ve seen that (Porto Velho) has been taken over by smoke, so inhaling those antigens and pathogens can harm the whole city’s population,” Ana Carolina Terra Cruz, a specialist in pulmonary illnesses, told the state government website.

On Tuesday, some clouds and a blue sky were partly visible in the Porto Velho morning light. But by the afternoon, haze had again settled, with smoke so thick that it darkened the usually blazing sun.

Pereira, the agronomist, said that smoke was “everywhere.”

“It’s bad for everyone,” she said. “Not just our children.” AP

## what's ON



### EXHIBITION OF NEW WORKS IN MAM COLLECTION – KO LAI CHIT

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

UNTIL: November 10, 2019

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 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

ADMISSION: Free

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

### WOMAN FIGHTING REQUEST TO TURN IN 15-YEAR-OLD VANITY PLATE

A New Hampshire woman is fighting the state Department of Motor Vehicles over her 15-year-old vanity license plate showing a common parental phrase.

Seacoastonline.com reports Wendy Auger, of Rochester, has been asked to surrender the plate, which reads "PB4WEGO." The state says phrases related to excretory acts aren't permitted.

Auger's appealing. She asked: "Who has a mom or dad or parental figure who hasn't said that to kids before leaving the house?"

She's one of 92 New Hampshire drivers who received vanity plate recall letters this year. State records show there are 152,028 vanity plates on the road in New Hampshire.

A DMV spokesperson said plates must be rejected "when they do not conform to legal requirements." The spokesperson said the state cannot comment on the specifics of Auger's case.

## 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

29 Aug



#### ANGEL HAS FALLEN

ROOM1

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

Director: Ric Roman Waugh

Starring: Gerard Butler, Frederick Schmidt, Danny Huston

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 121min

#### DORAEMON THE MOVIE:

NOBITA'S CHRONICLE OF THE MOON EXPLORATION

ROOM1

4:45pm

Director: Jeong-beom Lee, Shinnosuke Yakuwa

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

Language: Cantonese (English & Chinese)

#### CRAWL

ROOM2

2:15, 4:00, 5:45, 9:30pm

Director: Alexandre Aja

Starring: Kaya Scodelario, Barry Pepper, Morfydd Clark

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 87min

#### LITTLE Q

ROOM2

7:30pm

Director: Wing-Cheong Law

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

Language: Cantonese (English & Chinese)

Duration: 107min

#### THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 2

ROOM3

2:30pm

Director: Thurop Van Orman

Starring: Jason Sudeikis, Josh Gad, Leslie Jones

Language: Cantonese (English & Chinese)

Duration: 96min

#### RIDE YOUR WAVE

ROOM3

4:30, 7:30pm

Director: Masaaki Yuasa

Starring: Ryōta Katayose, Rina Kawaei, Honoka Matsumoto

Language: Japanese (English & Chinese)

Duration: 94min

#### ONE PIECE STAMPEDE

ROOM1

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

Director: Takashi Otsuka

Starring: Chō, Hiroaki Hirata, Katsuhisa Hōki

Language: Japanese (Chinese)

## this day in history



### 2005 HURRICANE KATRINA HITS NEW ORLEANS

Hurricane Katrina is pummeling New Orleans with howling gusts and blinding rain, after sweeping ashore over the southern Louisiana coast.

The storm has knocked out power and submerged part of the low-lying city in up to 6ft (2m) of rising water.

Katrina has torn part of the roof of a stadium, where many sought refuge.

Mississippi and Alabama are also being pounded by the violent storm, which weakened as it swept inland, but brought winds of 105mph (170km/h).

The category-two storm flung boats onto Mississippi, flooded roads in Alabama and swamped bridges in Florida.

The National Hurricane Center warned the Louisiana city would be pounded throughout Monday - and the potential storm surge could still swamp the city, which sits some 6ft (2m) below sea level.

"It's capable of causing catastrophic damage," director Max Mayfield warned.

"New Orleans may never be the same."

Correspondents in the city say walls of water have been running down the skyscrapers like waterfalls.

Palm trees have been felled, shops wrecked and cars hurled across streets strewn with shattered glass.

A police officer told the BBC he had never seen anything like it. "This is unbelievable," Jonathon Carol said.

Mayor Ray Nagin has said he believed 80% of the city's 485,000 residents have heeded his order for a mandatory evacuation of the city.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Hurricane Katrina caused unprecedented damage in states on the Gulf of Mexico. Up to 80% of New Orleans was flooded after defensive barriers were overwhelmed.

Engineers fought to seal three big breaches in the city's system of canals and levees with tons of gravel dumped in place by truck and helicopter. Pumping-out began eight days after Katrina struck.

Conditions for the tens of thousands of people who had sought shelter in New Orleans' superdome quickly deteriorated. Water and food supplies ran short and sanitary facilities broke down.

As scenes of desperation continued two days after the hurricane, a public health emergency declared and people were finally airlifted or bussed out to safety.

Federal Emergency Management Agency chief Michael Brown resigned after claims of a slow response to the situation.

The economic impact of Katrina became clear in places like Biloxi, Mississippi, where the boat-based casino industry was all but destroyed. Elsewhere, damage to refining facilities led to a hike in oil prices.

The death toll did not reach the levels feared by some, but many lives - and livelihoods - were devastated.



## YOUR STARS



### ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Real problems require real solutions, not just window dressing. You have to get to the root of the issue and face the truth about what is really going on here.



### TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Your brain is going to be focused on your future now. You're thinking about what will be coming into your life and not as concerned with what is going on in it today, but this is not a bad thing.



### GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

An unthinking person might blurt out something that hurts your feelings today - but getting all emotional about it is not going to help you feel better.



### CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Good energy is coming your way early today, which is good - because you will need it to help you get prepared for something big that's coming your way later on today.



### LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

There is no reason to mingle your professional life with your personal life right now, either - no matter how attractive you think that new coworker might be.



### VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Make that day today. Cancel or postpone whatever you can and give yourself a few hours of nothing to do. Being productive or busy is not the same thing as being happy.



### LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Changing your tactics every once in a while is not only a good way to keep life interesting, it's a great way to generate an air of mystery about yourself.



### SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

It's going to feel a little bit like a tough challenge, but you will have to get going as early as you possibly can today. Go for a morning job or brisk walk around the block.



### SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Even if you feel you are taking a risk, so what? Life calls for risks, especially if you want to make progress. Today, you must face the fact that you create your own reality.



### 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

There is one exception, which would be for gifts - if you want to splurge a little bit on someone who you think deserves a little bit of luxury that they don't often get, then you should.



### PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Today, your mental clarity will be extremely strong - which means that you will finally be able to break down that complex challenge you've been struggling with for so long.

## The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



## SUDOKU

### EASY

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

### EASY+

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

### MEDIUM

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

### HARD

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

## WEATHER

### CHINA

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
Beijing	20	30	cloudy
Harbin	15	21	moderate rain
Tianjin	20	30	clear
Urumqi	22	34	clear
Xi'an	18	31	clear
Lhasa	11	23	cloudy
Chengdu	22	30	clear
Chongqing	26	30	overcast
Kunming	18	26	shower
Nanjing	22	27	cloudy
Shanghai	23	27	heavy rain
Wuhan	24	33	cloudy
Hangzhou	22	28	drizzle
Taipei	26	30	drizzle
Guangzhou	26	33	thundershower
Hong Kong	28	32	shower

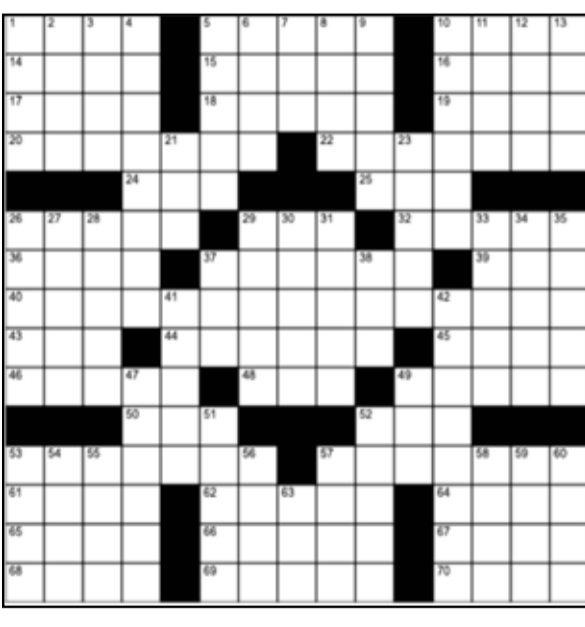
### WORLD

Moscow	12	21	clear
Frankfurt	17	30	drizzle
Paris	14	30	drizzle
London	11	27	cloudy
New York	15	23	drizzle

## CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Neighbor of Saudi Arabia; 5- Figure skater Cohen; 10- Fail to hit; 14- Dynamic leader?; 15- Skip \_\_\_; 16- Salt Lake City hoopsters; 17- Jockey's strap; 18- Calls for; 19- Sports figure; 20- Squirrels away; 22- Possessive; 24- Make a boo-boo; 25- The Greatest; 26- Goes into business; 29- .001 of an inch; 32- Brando's birthplace; 36- Moving vehicles; 37- Expel; 39- Scratch up; 40- Reserved; 43- "Brokeback Mountain" director; 44- Diners; 45- Till stack; 46- Church officer; 48- Wolfed down; 49- Foremost part; 50- Lend a hand; 52- Skedaddle!; 53- Blighted; 57- Highest amount; 61- Lessen; 62- Add up; 64- Emit coherent light; 65- "The \_\_\_ Dead", classic horror movie; 66- Oscar de la \_\_\_; 67- Falsehoods; 68- Back talk; 69- \_\_\_ Park, CO; 70- "Scientific American Frontiers" host;

DOWN: 1- Rowing implements; 2- Convene; 3- Horne solo; 4- Malarkey; 5- More rational; 6- Lincoln and Vigoda; 7- Didn't I tell you?; 8- Muslim pilgrimage; 9- Sailing; 10- Adherent of Islam; 11- Sock \_\_\_ mel; 12- Linebacker Junior; 13- Grounded fleet; 21- Timecard abbr; 23- Luau greeting; 26- Little egg; 27- Game show group; 28- Pulled the plug on; 29- Devilfish; 30- Atlas feature; 31- Brit's bottle measure; 33- Kind of acid; 34- Safe place; 35- Give it \_\_\_; 37- Feathery accessory; 38- AARP members; 41- Reason for a raise; 42- Burrito envelope; 47- Atelier items; 49- Mend; 51- Reason \_\_\_; 52- Festive occasions; 53- Apians; 54- Molten flow; 55- Sale condition; 56- Evil is as evil \_\_\_; 57- Spouse; 58- Letters; 59- Secondhand; 60- City near Phoenix; 63- Blaster's need;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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- 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] Large bedroom apartment 3 2  
2,530 ft<sup>2</sup> \$13,800,000 (ref: n/a)
- [Taipa] The Manhattan 3 2  
1,720 ft<sup>2</sup> \$13,600,000 (ref: n/a)
- [Coloane] Hellene Garden 3 2  
1,663 ft<sup>2</sup> \$7,950,000 (ref: 19055006SC)
- [Taipa] Kinglight Garden Loft 1 1  
800 ft<sup>2</sup> \$6,980,000 (ref: 19055005ST)

**FOR RENT**

- [Taipa] Ocean Gardens 4 4  
\$35,000/mth 3,700 ft<sup>2</sup> (ref: 18040674)
- [Macau] Keng Ou office 3  
\$38,000/mth 2,352 ft<sup>2</sup> (ref: n/a)
- [Taipa] The Manhattan 3 2  
\$23,800/mth 1,720 ft<sup>2</sup> (ref: 18110695RT)
- [Cotai] One Grantai 3 3  
\$23,000/mth 2,122 ft<sup>2</sup> (ref: 19030001RT)

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



### SPANISH MAN PADDLES HIS WAY FROM CALIFORNIA TO HAWAII

**ANTONIO** de la Rosa doesn't take it easy on his vacations. The Spaniard spent his summer paddling his way from California across the Pacific Ocean to Hawaii.

It took de la Rosa, who is from Valladolid, Spain, 76 days to paddle 2,500 miles (4,023 kilometers) while standing on a submarine-shaped craft he described as a paddleboat. The 21-foot-long vessel endured rough weather,

including when Hurricane Flossie passed within 200 kilometers.

He ate dehydrated food, using heated water, and sometimes fished. He paddled eight-to-10 hours daily and slept every night. But he was always tired because he woke up hourly to check on his gear.

It's the kind of adventure, he loves. "I like it because it's hard," he said in Spanish on Monday from Honolulu.

### LESLIE JONES EXITING 'SNL', KATE MCKINNON BACK NEXT SEASON



**SATURDAY** Night Live" cast member Leslie Jones is leaving the NBC show after five seasons, while Kate McKinnon is sticking around.

Jones' departure was confirmed by a person familiar with the change who spoke Tuesday on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss Jones' status with the long-running sketch series.

The exit comes as Jones is branching out into other projects.

McKinnon will return for her eighth season with the show, the person said. McKinnon's

portrayals of political figures including Hillary Clinton and Jeff Sessions have become a "SNL" staple.

Whether departures or additions, cast changes have become a part of the comic institution's ritual as it gets ready for another season, this time around No. 45 starting Sept. 28.

Earlier this month, Jones announced she's doing a Netflix stand-up special. In an appearance on Jimmy Kimmel's late-night show, the "Ghostbusters" star said it's great to be an actress but that she's really a "hardcore" stand-up comedian.

### THOUSANDS DRENCHED IN RED IN SPAIN'S 'TOMATINA' BATTLE

**MORE** than 20,000 people are pelting each other with ripe tomatoes in the annual "Tomatina" street battle in a town in eastern Spain that has become a major tourist attraction. The party saw 145 tons of tomatoes of-flooded from six trucks into crowds packing Buñol's streets for the midday hour-long battle Wednesday.

surrounding streets awash in red pulp.

Participants don swimming goggles to protect their eyes.

Organizers hose the streets down moments after the event's end at noon while participants use public showers.

The event, which costs 12 euros (about \$13) for a basic ticket, was inspired by a food fight between local children in 1945 in the tomato-producing region.



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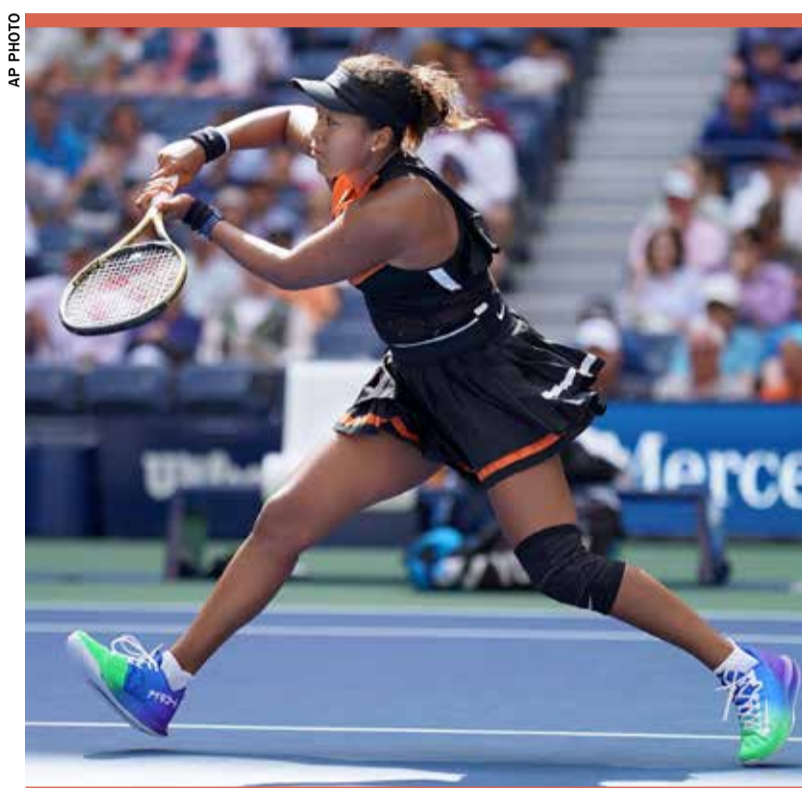
# Osaka's body language tells story of her shaky US Open start

**N**AOMI Osaka put her right hand in the shape of a gun and pointed two fingers at her temple. She had just dropped the second set, moments after wasting a match point, as her U.S. Open title defense got off to a shaky start Tuesday.

Her body language told the story: the eye rolls, the kneeling at the baseline, the balled-up fists covering her face at a changeover, the racket resting atop her head.

Back in Arthur Ashe Stadium, where she beat Serena Williams in last year's chaotic final, the No. 1-seeded Osaka kept digging holes and kept climbing out of them, eventually emerging with a 6-4, 6-7 (5), 6-2 victory over 84th-ranked Anna Blinkova of Russia in the first round.

"I don't think I've ever been this nervous in my life," Osaka told the crowd during her post-match interview. "For me, I just came off really slow and I



never really found my rhythm." The 21-year-old from Japan wore a black sleeve over her left knee, which has been an

issue recently. But it wasn't so much her movement as her erratic strokes that presented pro-

blems for Osaka, who finished with 50 unforced errors, more than double Blinkova's total of 22.

During the professional era, which began in 1968, only two U.S. Open women's champions have lost in the first round the following year: It happened in 2005 to Svetlana Kuznetsova and again in 2017 to Angelique Kerber — who was beaten by none other than Osaka, ranked 45th at the time and yet to get past the third round at a major tournament.

This victory, difficult as it

was, stretched Osaka's winning streak in hard-court Grand Slam matches to 15, which includes her run to the titles at Flushing Meadows in 2018 and at the Australian Open in January.

Those helped her become the first Japanese tennis player to be ranked No. 1, a spot she regained this month.

Osaka has spoken rather openly about the struggles she's had dealing with pressure and expectations this season. She said Tuesday that she hoped figuring out how to get past Blinkova — who is now 0-2 at the U.S. Open and 0-4 against top-10 opponents — would boost her moving forward.

"It helps me a lot, because I learn from the tougher matches," Osaka said. "It helps me be prepared and try to learn and adjust my game plan." MDT/AP

## CANADA VS CANADA

Denis Shapovalov and Felix Auger-Aliassime are friends and countrymen — and destined to be perennial opponents at the U.S. Open, it seems. The two up-and-coming Canadians, young and talented and considered among the best players of tennis' next generation, met in the first round at Flushing Meadows for

the second year in a row. And it was Shapovalov who advanced for the second year in a row. On Tuesday, the flashy, left-handed Shapovalov, who is 20 years old and ranked 33rd, put together a whopping 28-9 advantage in total winners on the way to a 6-1, 6-1, 6-4 victory against Auger-Aliassime, who is 19 and seeded 18th.

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OPINION

Made in Macao

Jenny Lao-Phillips



THE MOST BEAUTIFUL OF TIMES

We are currently in the period of (Cyu Syu) End of Heat, of the solar terms, and today also ends the Ghost month. Soon we enter what has been considered in ancient Chinese times as the most beautiful period of a year according to the Twenty-Four Solar Terms: (Baak Lou) – White Dew, which begins on September 8 this year.

While the End of Heat signifies summer coming to an end, White Dew is the period of time when the cool wind approaches, evenings get cooler and the temperature differences between day and night used to create droplets of dew on leaves and flower petals, which looked white when the sun shone on them in the morning, hence why this Solar Term is given the beautiful name Baak Lou. Moreover, White Dew is towards the middle of Autumn, so the temperature is nice and cool, but flowers are still blossoming and leaves on the trees have not yet turned yellow and fallen down. Nature is still in full bloom, but the temperature is not hot like summer which makes it difficult to appreciate this beauty. Therefore, poems were written in ancient China about the beautiful scenes of Baak Lou, considering it the most beautiful period of a year.

Although we may not be able to enjoy beautiful natural scenes in Macao, probably not even cool temperature yet this September, it may still be interesting to follow some of the ancient customs. Baak Lou is not a big festival, but there are some places in China that still follow certain traditions of celebrating White Dew. One such custom is to drink Baak Lou tea on the day. This is a special kind of tea only produced during the period of White Dew. Different from tea grown in other seasons, Baak Lou tea is said to have fresh flowery taste especially liked by older people. Another practice is to start brewing Baak Lou rice wine, which may take a few years to be ready for consumption. Due to the temperature and water quality, it is believed that the day of Baak Lou is the best time to start brewing rice wine, and to differentiate this batch of rice wine, they are named Baak Lou rice wine.

In some places, even this largely unknown solar term is considered a festival, and I read that they celebrate the day by preparing a large meal consisting of 10 kinds of white colored food to fit the name of the term. I have tried to find out what the 10 “whites” are but there is no record yet that has the whole menu. The ones I have found referred to are simmered chicken, a couple of Chinese medicines that can be used in cooking which are white in color and have the word “white” in their names, such as Chinese white wine and steamed white fish. When mentioning this custom, many considered it difficult to create a meal with 10 dishes of white color only. So it may be an interesting challenge for a special Baak Lou meal this year. I do have some suggestions.

One idea is to start with egg white and white beans, then chicken and fish served with vermicelli and white rice, followed by white marshmallows and vanilla ice-cream for dessert. Additionally, sweet glutinous rice with banana (instead of the usual mango) can be added to make up the 10 kinds of white food. Then, there is always the possibility of having white wine during meal, and white port wine after, or even a gin tonic before. So, cheers to the White Dew!

FIRST CHINESE BISHOP CONSECRATED WITH POPE'S OK AFTER DEAL

THE BUZZ

A Chinese Catholic bishop has been consecrated with Pope Francis' approval, in the first such ordination since the Vatican and China signed a landmark deal last year over naming bishops.

Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni confirmed Tuesday that Monsignor Antonio Yao Shun had received a papal mandate. He was therefore legitimately consecrated bishop of Jining, in Inner Mongolia, at a ceremony Monday.

It was the first bishop ordination since the Vatican and Beijing signed an agreement Sept. 22 over bishop nominations. The Vatican hoped the deal would end decades of estrangement, unify China's Catholics and bring all Chinese bishops into full communion with the Holy See.

Details haven't been released, but Francis says it involves a process of dialogue, including to nominate candidates, but that he has the final say.



AP PHOTO

LIMITS ON SALES OF AFRICAN ELEPHANTS TO ZOOS GAIN APPROVAL

JAMEY KEATEN & FARAI MUTSAKA

COUNTRIES that are part of an international agreement on trade in endangered species agreed Tuesday to limit the sale of wild elephants caught in Zimbabwe and Botswana, delighting conservationists but dismayed some of the African countries involved.

Wildlife experts said a resolution approved by parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora at a meeting in Geneva was a “momentous win” for elephants because it restricts their sale to zoos.

The European Union tweaked the language of the resolution to reach a compromise that limits exports of live elephants outside of Africa but allows for some exceptions relevant to Europe.

Conservationists explained the change by giving an example, saying it would allow for an elephant already in France to be shipped to nearby Germany without having to be sent back to Africa first.

But the new resolution also means zoos will no longer be able to import wild-caught African elephants to the United States, China and many other countries beyond the elephants' natural habitat. The resolution passed by a vote of 87 in favor, 29 against and 25 abstaining. The U.S. voted against it.

Animal advocates applauded the move, even though some felt it didn't go far enough.

“While it is disappointing that it is not an outright ban on trade in live elephants, the new language adds vital independent oversight and scrutiny,” said Audrey Delsink, wildlife director at Humane Society International.

“The capture of wild African elephants for export to zoos and other captive facilities is incredibly traumatizing for individual elephants as well as their social groups,” she said in a statement.

Dozens of celebrities, including actress Judi Dench and comedian Ricky Gervais, had signed a letter to the president of the EU's executive branch saying it would be “obscene for the EU to endorse snatching wild baby elephants and condemning these beautiful leviathans to a life of captive misery.”

Renowned primatologist Jane Goodall weighed in, too, saying she was “absolutely shocked” at the idea of separating young elephants from their families and shipping them off to zoos.

D.J. Schubert, wildlife biologist at the Animal Welfare Institute, said the VIP lobbying paid off.

“Probably thanks to the celebrities that got involved and all the press attention this initial decision got, the European Union was put in a bit of a box,” Schubert said. “What they ultimately decided to do, to their credit, is they decided to come up with amended text instead of trying to trash the entire decision that was made last week.”

The EU's action was part

of a debate over language at CITES to restrict trade in live elephants to countries with “in-situ conservation programs” or secure areas in the wild — essentially in Africa.

Botswana and Zimbabwe have the world's largest populations of African elephants, for a combined total of about 200,000.

Some African officials said the new proposal would deny them some much-needed cash and that they should be free to do what they wished with their elephants.

“The government has been pumping out a lot of money for conservation with no real return, yet our government has competing social needs,” said Tinashe Farawo, spokesman for Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority.

“We view our animals as an economic opportunity, so we should sell our elephants.”

Farawo said that Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia and other southern African countries would meet for consultations following the CITES meeting.

“We cannot continue to be hamstrung and told what to do with our resources,” Farawo said. “We cannot continue to allow powerful countries and NGOs to set the agenda when the elephants are ours,” he said, disputing there was any conservation concern.

“We have too many of them so selling them should not be a problem for anyone. Why should we continue to impoverish our people when we have the resource?” AP



AP PHOTO

**Syria** Opposition activists say government warplanes have struck towns and villages in the northwestern province of Idlib, including one near a Turkish observation post.

**Mexico** An attack on a bar in Mexico's Gulf coast city of Coatzacoalcos killed 23 people and injured 13. The attackers started a fire that ripped through the bar, killing eight women and 15 men. There was no immediate information on the condition of the injured.

**Russia** President Vladimir Putin's spokesman has denied media reports that Moscow may have been involved in the brazen daytime slaying of a Georgian man in Berlin.



AP PHOTO

**UK** British Prime Minister Boris Johnson asked Queen Elizabeth II yesterday to suspend Parliament, throwing down the gauntlet to his critics and causing outrage among opposition leaders who will have even less time to thwart a no-deal Brexit.

**UK** An alleged victim of Jeffrey Epstein who claims she was also sent to London and elsewhere for sex with Britain's Prince Andrew has challenged the British royal to speak up, saying: “He knows exactly what he's done and I hope he comes clean about it.”



AP PHOTO

**US** A 16-year-old Swedish climate activist who crossed the Atlantic in a zero-emissions sailboat anchored in waters off New York City as she prepared to land at a downtown marina. Greta Thunberg has become a symbol of a growing movement of young climate activists.