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THE SPORTS BUREAU SAID IT EXPECTS THE NATIONAL DAY RUN'S 18,000 SPACES WILL FILL UP QUICKLY – THE SAME AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

▲ P3

BOLLYWOOD ACTRESS IS TOURISM'S LATEST SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCER

▲ P4

CHINA DEPLOYED FRESH SOLDIERS TO MACAU AND HONG KONG EARLY YESTERDAY IN WHAT IT CALLED A ROUTINE ROTATION

▲ P8

China Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte was in Beijing yesterday for a meeting with counterpart Xi Jinping in which the Southeast Asian leader was expected to discuss a ruling on the disputed South China Sea.



Myanmar A court in Myanmar has found a prominent filmmaker guilty of defaming the military with his postings on Facebook and sentenced him to a year in prison.



Indonesia Protesters in Indonesia's restive Papua province set fire to a local government building and broke into a prison yesterday as thousands rallied against racism and called for their region's independence, officials said.

India-Pakistan India said it has information that Pakistan is trying to infiltrate terrorists into the country to carry out attacks amid rising tensions over New Delhi's decision to abrogate the autonomy of Indian-administered Kashmir.

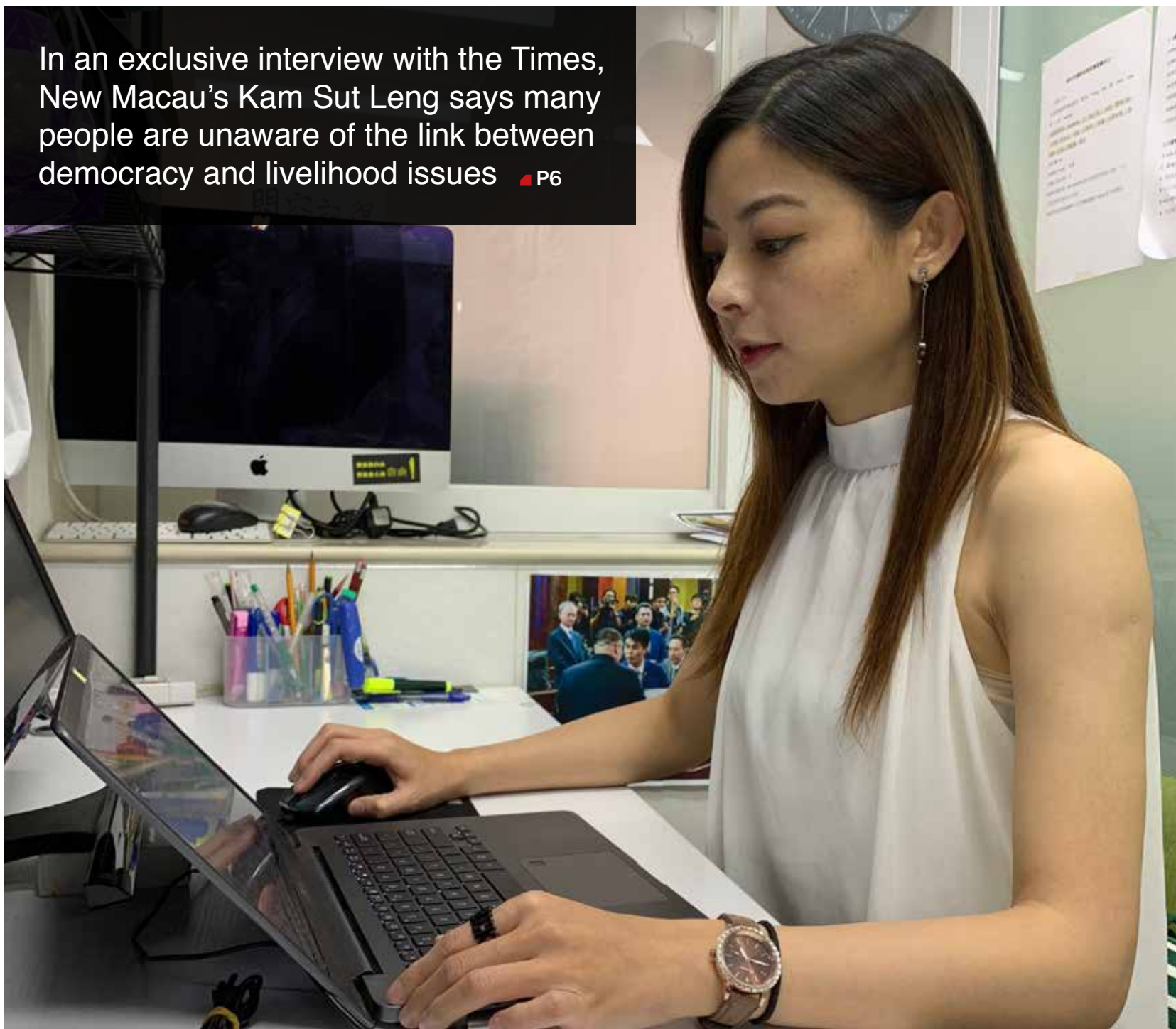
Yemen Airstrikes hit Yemeni government forces heading to the southern port city of Aden to fight separatists backed by the United Arab Emirates yesterday, killing at least 30 troops, a government commander said.

More on backpage

THE DEMOCRACY LINK

In an exclusive interview with the Times, New Macau's Kam Sut Leng says many people are unaware of the link between democracy and livelihood issues

▲ P6



CAESARS DROPS OUT OF JAPAN RACE

▲ P5 GAMING



“The Joker” isn't being treated like a standard comic book movie release and instead getting the rollout of an Oscar contender with high-profile premieres at the most prestigious fall film festivals

Extra times

FAKE CHILDREN'S CLOTHES FOUND IN SAN MA LOU STORE

A clothing shop located at San Ma Lou has been found selling counterfeit products with the cartoon character Peppa Pig, according to the Macao Customs Service. A total of 850 counterfeit items of children's clothing, which were being passed off as original products, were seized, with a total value of MOP70,000. Seven people, including the shop's manager and employees, were taken by the Customs Service for questioning. According to the customs authority, the clothes were of poor quality and had been purchased for RMB10 to RMB30, but were being sold for MOP25 to MOP70 in Macau. The clothing shop has been operating in Macau for nearly five years. The person in charge claims that the shop had only started selling these products recently. The customs authority has already forwarded the relevant people for prosecution.

HUMAN TIBIA FOUND IN TAIPA WETLANDS

A human tibia was found yesterday in the wetlands in front of the Taipa Houses-Museum, the Public Security Police Force has reported. The case was handed over to the Judiciary Police (PJ) and the scene was cordoned off due to the PJ investigation. According to a report by public broadcaster TDM, the tibia was found at 10 a.m. by staff members of the Municipal Affairs Bureau, who were collecting water samples from the lotus pond wetland. Last year in September, a human tibia was found at a construction site located at R. dos Clerigos in Taipa.

5G BASE STATIONS TO BE BUILT NEXT YEAR

The local government is striving to start work on 5G base stations next year, according to Lau Wai Meng, director of the Post and Telecommunications Bureau. Currently, the bureau is studying the feasibility of installing 5G base stations on smart streetlamps. Some of the 5G base stations will be built on government-owned properties. Telecommunications service providers still need to discuss the installation of stations on private property with the relevant parties. Lau indicated that if the public is worried about radiation, they can report to the Post and Telecommunications Bureau, which will send staff to test radiation levels. Currently, the bureau has not revealed the number of 5G base stations to be installed, but is studying the appropriate number.

110 MILLION PATACAS IN FINES ISSUED FOR TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS

IN the first seven months of this year, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) issued a total of 110 million patacas worth in fines for transportation violations, according to statistics released by the PSP earlier this week.

This figure represents a 5.8% decrease compared to the same period in the previous year.

A 2% drop in improper parking on public roads was recorded, with 370,000 cases registered. There were 130,000 cases of incorrect parking at parking meters recorded, representing a 4% decrease.

On the other hand, the PSP recorded an increase in the locking and towing of vehicles. According to Macau regulations, PSP officers are allowed to lock incorrectly parked cars. Once a vehicle is locked by the security authority, the car owner must pay a fine to free the vehicle.

As of July, 21% and 12% year-on-year increases in locking and towing respectively of incorrectly parked vehicles were registered. The PSP locked 978 motorbikes, more than double the figure from the previous year. The number of locked cars decreased by 30%, with 868 cases recorded.

DANIEL BEITLER



The number of improperly-parked vehicles that were towed increased 12% (401 cases, including 219 cars and 182 motorbikes), with the number of motorbikes increasing 37% and the number of cars decreasing 7.6%.

There were 11,000 cases of locked and incorrectly parked

vehicles at parking meters recorded, representing a 33% year-on-year increase. This growth was largely due to motorbikes, with double the figure of the previous year.

During the first seven months of 2018, 1,354 motorbikes were incorrectly parked at parking

meters. In the first seven months of this year that number increased to 4,069, which is more cases than those recorded for the whole year of 2018 (3,909 cases).

There were 717 cases of parking at the yellow line recorded, representing an increase of 1.3% year-on-year. JZ

NUMBER OF WORKERS IN WHOLESALE, RETAIL TRADE GROWS 3.6%

THE number of people working in the wholesale and retail trade at the end of the second quarter of 2019 rose 3.6% year-on-year, according to the latest Survey on Manpower Needs and Wages released yesterday by the Statistics and Census Service.

The trade had a total of 63,502 people engaged, with 41,106 working on the retail side. In June 2019, the average earnings (excluding bonuses) of full-time employees rose by 4.3% year-on-year to MOP13,940.

Meanwhile, the number of people engaged in transport, storage and communications soared 25% year-on-year to over 14,060 persons, on account of the opening of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge last year and the Light Rapid Transit coming into

operation soon. Average earnings of full-time employees in this sector rose by 6.4% year-on-year to MOP22,620 in June.

Security activities had 12,337 persons engaged, up by 7.2% year-on-year. The average earnings of full-time employees in June rose by 1.8% year-on-year to MOP13,040.

Public sewage and refuse disposal activities had 904 persons engaged, up by 4.9% year-on-year. The average earnings of full-time employees in June increased by 1.8% year-on-year to MOP18,760.

At the end of the second quarter of 2019, job vacancies in the retail trade (3,038) and in security activities (1,256) went up by 594 and 126 respectively year-on-year, while those in the wholesale trade (849) fell by 290. DB

CESL ASIA LEADS EDUCATIONAL VISIT TO SCIENCE CENTER

CESL Asia hosted the ninth iteration of "Kids Movie Day" on Wednesday, an event which forms part of the company's corporate social responsibility program. Every year, children from several institutions are invited to join together in a fun activity that aims to be a different educational experience.

This time, CESL Asia paired up with four institutions, namely Fountain of Hope, Lar de Jovens de Mong-há, Fuhong Society of Macau and Centro do Serviços de Fornecimento Temporário de Alimentos da Caritas, to form a group of 120 members.

Golden Burger (Macau) Food Company Limited, a regular supporter of the event,

once again sponsored some of the activities held at the Macao Science Center (MSC). The program included a visit to the exhibition "The Golden Age of Arabic Science: Exhibition from 1001 Inventions" at the MSC, followed by a screening of the movie "Cell! Cell! Cell!" at the Planetarium, a movie which explores the mysteries of cells and the human body.

In a press statement, CESL Asia indicated that the event, "hopes to contribute to the happy, healthy and sustained education and development of young people in Macau in order to allow them to realize 'how to grow our city,' which has also been the aspiration of the company for the past 30 years." RM

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18,000 expected for National Day run, registrations open

RENATO MARQUES

HELD annually since 2000, this year the 20th Chinese National Day run in Macau will be held on October 1 as part of the National Day celebrations in Macau.

As with previous iterations, this year's event will accept a maximum of 18,000 runners participating in the different groups, as Chao Kuok Wai, Department Head of the Sports Bureau (ID), revealed yesterday at a press conference organized by the ID to announce the opening of the registration period.

When questioned by the media, Chao stated that the 18,000 maximum was a "number considered convenient, taking into account the space and safety of the athletes," adding that the number of registrations hits the limit every year.

Although the event is more like a fun run which allows



participants to run or walk the 3 kilometer route, there will be prizes for the winners in each category, as well as other symbolic awards, such as one for the team with the largest number of runners, among others.

As usual, the event will take place on October 1 at 8:15 a.m. The starting and finishing points are located around the

Golden Lotus Square, where other National Day celebratory activities will also be held.

The 3 kilometer route passes through the Kun Iam Statue, NAPE area and re-enters Golden Lotus Square via Avenida da Amizade, where temporary traffic diversions will be in place for the morning.

Registration opened yesterday and will be open until

September 18, with participants accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Registration forms can be completed and delivered to the ID headquarters or the reception areas of several sports facilities, such as the Tap Seac Pavilion, Tamagnini Barbosa Sports Center and Taipá's Olympic Sports Center, during normal working hours.

HOLY HOUSE OF MERCY RECEIVES PORTUGUESE MEDAL OF MERIT

THE Holy House of Mercy (SCMM) was awarded a medal of merit by the Secretary of State of the Portuguese Communities for their contributions to strengthening the ties between the Portuguese, Macanese and Chinese communities in the SAR.

Portuguese Consul General Paulo Cunha Alves said that the award was proof of the Portuguese government's appreciation for the social and humanitarian work that SCMM has been developing.

The official called on SCMM to continue its work acting as a link between all residents to further contribute to multiculturalism in society.

"Over time, the Holy House of Mercy has made an important contribution not only to building the social welfare system in Macau, but also in the health, education, heritage and culture sectors," said Alves.

Meanwhile, SCMM president António José de Freitas pledged that it would continue to work to promote its "identity, history and culture," and that the award further highlighted SCMM's 450th anniversary.

"This recognition [by] the Portuguese Communities Secretary of State tells us a lot, because it is a recognition of collective work at the service [for] the community," said de Freitas. "It gives more strength and more encouragement to SCMM." LV

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RENATO MARQUES

TOURISM

BOLLYWOOD ACTRESS FATIMA SHAIKH PROMOTES MACAU

IN response to the suggestions of a research team, the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) has scaled up a program which aims to use social media platforms and famous people to help promote Macau abroad to a diverse range of countries.

The research team analyzed and studied media coverage of the MGTO's "four mega-events" of the year, as well as their relevance to the promotion of Macau as a "destination brand" to develop the suggestions.

One of the newest faces promoting Macau on social media is Bollywood actress Fatima Sana Shaikh.

The 27-year-old from Mumbai has 2.1 million followers on Instagram and was in Macau around six weeks ago. During her trip, she experienced what the region had to offer and shared it all in detail, posting photographs and videos on Instagram.

From Michelin-starred restaurants to Art Macao exhibitions and visiting the most exciting Integrated Resorts entertainment, the actress experienced a wide range of the activities, entertainment and food that Macau has to offer.

The posts have been liked by 60,000 to 170,000 people.

Aside from experiencing Ma-



Instagram photos of Bollywood actress Fatima Sana Shaikh visiting Macau

cau as a regular tourist, the actress also received special treatment from the public relation teams of the places she visited, which included taking photos with chefs, "The House of Dancing Water"

performers and many others, all tagged with the hashtag "Macao Moments."

Indian media outlet Udaipur Times also noted the new campaign, which had been initiated on social

media by the actress in collaboration with MGTO, titled "Fun, Food & Fashion with Fatima." According to Indian media, the campaign aims to attract "independent and young female travel-

ers of India to explore the vibrant destination renowned for its unique east-meets-west charm."

The same source added that the focus of the campaign, like others done with a range of influencers, was to help reveal what Macau has to offer in culture, heritage, art, cuisine, adventure and attractions to a wider range of people. This campaign was aimed at the Indian tourist market.

An MGTO study from last year suggested that the government department should "give higher attention to discussions about the events concerned on social media," as well as enhance social interaction by pairing up with celebrities, travel bloggers and online influencers.

At the time, the MGTO announced that it would consider the findings and continue to optimize events and activities to provide more enriching event experiences for locals and visitors, and to reinforce Macau's destination brand as a City of Events.

Last year's influx of 35.8 million tourists represented an almost 10% rise from 32.6 million in 2017. At its current growth trajectory, Macau is on track to break the symbolic 40-million mark this year, previously earmarked by Macau's Institute for Tourism Studies as the city's "optimal tourism carrying capacity."

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GAMING

Caesars drops out of race to open a casino in Japan

CAESARS Entertainment Corp. said it won't pursue a license for a casino in Japan and will focus instead on its current business plan, including a merger with Eldorado Resorts Inc. scheduled to close next year.

Caesars management made the decision out of sensitivity to the Japanese government and business partners, who must make decisions this year to advance the casino process, Chief Executive Officer Tony Rodio

said in a statement.

Casino operators all over the world have been salivating at the prospect of opening resorts in Japan, which has the potential to become Asia's second-largest gambling market after Macau, China.

The Japanese government has given preliminary approval for what's expected to be three major resorts. Cities are formalizing their bidding processes, with proposals for concepts in Osaka due next month.

A casino in Japan is expected to cost upward of \$10 billion, with the government's intended focus on generating tourism and convention revenue from adjacent hotels and meeting space. MGM Resorts International has already stated its intent to pursue a resort in Osaka, while Las Vegas Sands Corp. said earlier this month it wouldn't submit a bid there, favoring instead a resort in the Tokyo area. Wynn Resorts Ltd. has also signaled an interest in the Tokyo Bay, which could include Yokohama.

"As Caesars has pursued a license to operate in Japan over many years, we have been treated with respect and goodwill by Japanese government, business and community leaders, and with kindness by all the Japanese people we have encountered during this journey," Caesars Chairman Jim Hunt said Wednesday in a statement shared with Bloomberg News.

Caesars is withdrawing just as the path toward casino resorts in Japan has become clearer. In recent years, the island nation has passed laws that legalized casino gambling and set forth conditions allowing resorts to be built. Operators and local municipalities are waiting for the national government to appoint a casino control commission and release guidelines on how sites and operators will be chosen, a process that has been beset by delays.

Yokohama, located about 30

minutes south of Tokyo, formally announced last week that it wants to take proposals for an integrated resort to be built on its Yamashita Pier. Right after the announcement, operators such as Las Vegas Sands, Wynn and Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. came out with statements praising the move and underlining their interest in building in Yokohama.

Investment firm CLSA predicts Japan's gross gaming revenue could reach \$20 billion annually.

Caesars, the largest owner of casinos in the U.S., missed an opportunity to get a license in Macau, the biggest casino market in the world. The company has been struggling with a large debt load taken on after a 2008 leveraged buyout. Financier Carl Icahn took control of the Las Vegas-based company and engineered the \$8.6 billion sale to Eldorado.

MDT/BLOOMBERG

The 13 Hotel operator still seeking new partners

THE operator behind The 13 Hotel says it will continue to look for "new working partners and investors" for its Cotai project, as its losses continue to mount.

"We are working hard to finalize the potential disposal of partial interest in The 13 Hotel as well as other measures with a view to strengthen our balance sheet," said South Shore Holdings Chairman Peter Lee Coker in the company's annual report, published yesterday.

For the financial year ending March 31, South Shore Holdings recorded a loss of HKD5.84 billion attributable to owners of the company, compared to a loss of HKD1.57 billion a year earlier.

The hotel assets include prepaid land lease payment, hotel property and hotel fixture, furniture and equipment in Macau.

"We expect consolidated losses to continue as the hotel business is just operational by

the end of August 2018," warned Coker.

However, "we believe targeting a global clientele of customers seeking a unique luxury experience remains an optional strategy for the Macau market."

The company completed work on The 13 Hotel in March 2018 after a series of delays. It obtained a hotel license in Macau in August 2018 and opened to private customers in that same month. **DB**

IC INVITES LOCAL ART GROUPS TO JOIN HANDOVER PARADE

THE Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) is inviting local art groups to submit proposals to join the 2019 Macao International Parade, to be held in December.

The IC is calling on associations, schools, institutes and organizations registered at the Identification Services Bureau to submit their proposals between September 2 and 8. Groups may submit their proposal either

as a "themed parade group" or as an "artistic parade group," and may also apply to join the Art Promotion Mini Parade and Community Art Program events, to be held the day prior to the main parade.

The 2019 Macao International Parade, which will mark the 20th anniversary of Macau's Handover to China, will be held on Sunday December 8 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The theme for this year's parade is the "Belt and Road Initiative." Its route will remain the same as last year's, starting at the Ruins of St. Paul's and finishing at Sai Van Lake Square.

According to the IC, the parade provides local art groups with a platform for annual performances in order to promote the diverse development of local cultural industries. **DB**

Q&A KAM SUT LENG
NEW MACAU ASSOCIATION

'MANY PEOPLE UNAWARE OF LINK BETWEEN DEMOCRACY AND LIVELIHOOD ISSUES'

ANTHONY LAM

KAM Sut Leng had been a teacher for eight years before she fully submerged herself into the political and social movement that is the New Macau Association (ANM, from the Portuguese acronym).

Kam has headed the association, the most vocal entity in the city calling for universal suffrage, since she was elected in late-2017 to replace Scott Chiang, who resigned before completing his term. The New Macau President was re-elected in July 2018 to serve a two-year term.

In an exclusive interview with the Times, Kam talked about her past and how her "red" (a colloquial term for pro-Communist Party) education led her down a pro-establishment path. "The political education there was subtle, by means such as flag raising, adopting a patriotic curriculum and calling the names of certain business associations at 'congregations,'" she told the Times.

Her involvement with the ANM came at a price. According to the association leader, it probably cost Kam her job as a school teacher. "I left my teaching post when my contract wasn't renewed," she said. "The then-principal vaguely attributed that to my appearance and presence in the social movement."

Kam also discussed the fallout from the recent controversial "civil referendum," which had been met with staunch opposition and physical intimidation by some members of the public. She said it was for the sake of the entire team's safety that the association decided to end its experiment on universal suffrage early.

The decision had prompted contradictory statements from both the New Macau Association, as well as activist and former association president, Jason Chao.

Macau Daily Times (MDT) – How did your education influence the formation of your views and what made you first join the New Macau Association?

Kam Sut Leng (KSL) – My personality and my family education were rather liberal. [...] I grew up in a working-class family, and my parents were occupied by making a living. I had to be independent and be responsible for myself. [...] Then, both during and after university life, I participated in pro-establishment youth associations, which organized youth political camps. That was before I joined the ANM.

ANTHONY LAM



At that time, I thought to myself: 'There must be something good about these associations with such huge audiences.'

That was when the last [round of] political reform was discussed. However, I gradually came to find their pro-government stand very strong. They told us in the first camp session that they supported the government's proposal, before we actually started discussion. So I didn't think any fair discussion was possible.

I first came to be interested in New Macau because of the issue of political reform. I think I first learned about New Macau on social media. Some of my friends had invited me to events held by the association, and I joined several marches and participated in meetings. The atmosphere here was so much different. Discussions were vigorous and had no premise. This was how I broadened my horizons and started to see the topic on two sides.

[...] I started my work at the ANM when [ex-member and current lawmaker] Au Kam San asked if I was interested in hosting the "New Macau Forum" in 2013, which mocked [public broadcaster] TDM's decision to suspend its "Macau Forum" social discussion program.

MDT – As you have been close to the workings of the ANM since 2013, what has changed in the past six years?

KSL – I can only comment on the condition from 2013.

The current ANM is younger. There used to be more middle aged or older members. Today, new members tend to be young people and so we have a lower average age. The team is also more energetic now, even though they may be less experienced in many

'Don't mess up Macau,' they said. 'What happens in Hong Kong should stay in Hong Kong'

facets - but at least we know they are willing to be part of the team. Well, we can't provide them with a fabulous income or social status after all. From their work at our various programs, I can tell that they are committed. They only want to make a change in Macau.

[...] We set up more outreach stations. They can be used to promote anything, such as distributing our newsletter or [lawmaker] Sulu Sou's work report, as well as conducting civil education. Social media has also helped our connections with supporters.

On the other hand, we didn't

have the tradition of keeping a database of our supporters [before], which meant we had no way to contact our supporters during election periods. But now we're building up that database.

MDT – What are the New Macau Association's major objectives in the coming years?

KSL – First, to educate people about democracy and livelihood [issues]. Many people are not aware of the link between the two. They told us they would keep supporting us if we do more to improve the [peoples'] livelihood, but they weren't aware that the government doesn't really have to fear popular pressure. [For example] some bureaus are only concerned with themselves and their own work. They don't reply to our inquiries when they don't want to.

Second, hold civil education and training courses. Some previous participants recommended us to split the course into two levels, one for beginners and the other for intermediates. Even though we don't have a huge turnout, we managed to find dedicated young people.

Third, clarify our structure and division of labor. With Sulu Sou alone we can't make our outreach stations work - we need more people. We now have people helping us

bring the materials to the location. I focus more on internal affairs and operations, while Sulu works more in front of the people. Backstage workers are as important because they do almost all the preparation.

MDT – The online "civil referendum" used to gauge public support for universal suffrage in future Chief Executive elections seemed to cause a lot of trouble for the association - on many fronts. What happened?

KSL – There were quite a lot of difficulties. We kept being harassed for one.

Many people were not very clear about what we were doing. Either they thought we were supporting the protests in Hong Kong, or we were promoting the August 19 silent protest. It was merely confusion. Even with pull-up banners indicating "civil referendum", they were still confused.

Some visitors told us that they voted for us, but they thought it was more important to work on the improvement of peoples' livelihood. They told us that Macau has a prosperous economy, that we should treasure it and not make life difficult like in Hong Kong. 'Don't mess up Macau,' they said. 'What happens in Hong Kong should stay in Hong Kong.'

Then we became aware of possible threats to our team's safety. We discussed the measures we should take, and we decided to end [the voting activity] early, just to guarantee our team's safety.

We also faced series of global cyberattacks, causing inconvenience to our voters. The website became quite unstable. Even though Jason Chao didn't see any particular technical problem, he understood our decision.

MDT – As one of the few female political leaders in the Macau SAR, how do you see the issue of gender equality?

KSL – There hasn't been much progress on gender equality [in Macau].

Although there are female lawmakers backed by the pro-establishment camp, we can see that the "real brain" of the camp is male. It is just very masculine. You just haven't seen progress in gender equality with these female lawmakers.

Women in Macau are expected to follow a traditional path, on which they find boyfriends, get married, have babies and grow old. These expectations take up a lot of time from a girl's life, making them less interested or able to stay in the political circle.

Taishan Nuclear Power Plant reports minor incident

MACAU'S Unitary Police Service received a notice yesterday, regarding an operational failure at a facility of the Taishan Nuclear Power Plant in Guangdong Province.

It is the third minor incident this year, after two other "events" occurred at Yangjiang Nuclear Power Station, also in Guangdong. However, authorities in Guangdong stress that this does not mean that the facilities are unsafe.

The latest notice was given by Guangdong Province's Emergency Management Office via the mechanism established under the "Guangdong-Macau Cooperation Consensus in Case of a Guangdong Nuclear Power Plant Emergency."

On August 20, unit 1 of the nuclear power plant was running normally until a planned activation of the unit's electric ventilation system was carried out at 4:50 p.m. At this



Taishan Nuclear Power Plant

point, staff found that two insulation dampers, which were attached to the pipes linking to the fourth portion of the control panel ventilation system, were set in manual control mode.

This meant that the equip-

ment's normal ability to receive a signal, allowing it to be isolated automatically, was not available at that time.

At 5:46 p.m., function was restored to normal.

According to the International Nuclear and Radiological

Event Scale, which rates events on seven levels, this operational event was a "Below Scale" or "Level 0" event.

This meant it had no significant effect on the safe operation of the nuclear power station, the health of its staff, the safety of the public or the protection of the environment.

Taishan Nuclear Power Plant began operating in June 2018. The plant currently features one operational Electron Paramagnetic Resonance (EPR) reactor, with a second reactor still under construction.

Earlier this year, two events concerning a nuclear power plant close to Macau were reported.

On June 1, a Level 0 event occurred at Yangjiang Nuclear Power Station, Guangdong province. Later that month, another minor problem was registered at Yangjiang Nuclear Power Station. The Guangdong government stressed that this does not mean that the power station is unsafe, however. **JZ**

UM RESEARCH HELPS IMPROVE WOUND TREATMENT

THE University of Macau's Faculty of Health Sciences announced that its research team has found a new technique for improving the treatment of wounds. Similar to existing methods, the improved method relies on the use of stem cell spheres, but does not require invasive procedures.

Compared with the traditional method of stem cell injection, this new method is non-invasive and efficient. The new method improves the survival rate of transplanted cells and topical application of the stem cell spheres reduces the pain of the transplantation process.

The study was conducted by a team of six, while an assistant professor from the Jilin University School of Artificial Intelligence provided bioinformatic analysis.

The team found that mesenchymal stem cell (MSC) spheres can be directly applied to wounds. This was not only safer and faster, it also caused the patient less pain and disturbance. It even worked well in hypoxic and inflammatory wound environments.

This project was funded by the UM and the Macao Science and Technology Development Fund. A patent application for the technology has been filed. **AL**

AD

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HONG KONG

**ACTIVIST LEADER
ATTACKED IN
RESTAURANT**

The leader of a Hong Kong group that has organized record-breaking marches during the protests was attacked by two unidentified armed and masked men, as the city braces for a 13th straight weekend of demonstrations. Civil Human Rights Front (CHRF) convener Jimmy Sham said the attack took place inside a restaurant in the Jordan area of Kowloon around midday yesterday. The men were wielding at least one baseball bat and one long knife, according to Sham. He was not hurt as his friend shielded him from the beating, Sham said in a CHRF WhatsApp media group. Hong Kong police officials confirmed the attack on Sham at an afternoon news briefing. They said that officers arrived on scene shortly after and tried "in vain" to locate the suspects, and that the case would be followed up by a criminal investigations team.

SHENZHEN

**NO CASUALTIES
AFTER RESIDENTIAL
BUILDING TILTS**

A six-story residential building in the city of Shenzhen tilted on Wednesday morning, forcing the swift evacuation of residents, reported state media agency Xinhua. No casualties have been reported. Local community staff had noticed strange noises coming from under the building and moved to evacuate the residents before the incident occurred at 11:20 a.m., said a source at the publicity department of the Luohu District Committee of the Communist Party of China. Local residents said the ground floor of the building was a busy vegetable market which was crowded with buyers early Wednesday morning. Witnesses said the tilted building is leaning on a neighboring building and has been cordoned off.

GUANGZHOU

**INT'L COMIC FESTIVAL
TO KICK OFF WITH
ANIMATION AWARDS**

The China International Comic Festival will be held from September 6 to October 6 in Guangzhou with nearly 100 events, including the 12th China Animation & Comic Competition Golden Dragon Awards, and promotional activities for China's original animation publishing support program. Chinese animated film "Ne Zha," which made around 4.5 billion yuan (about \$628 million) at the mainland China box office, will compete for the festival's best animated feature film award, while international award winners "One Small Step" and "Spirits of the Drowning Girls" will vie for best short film. The Golden Dragon Awards are an official competition of the China International Comic Festival and aim to show off the achievements of original Chinese work, discover new talent, reward innovation and develop the comic industry.



Military aircraft carrying soldiers of the Chinese People's Liberation Army land in Hong Kong for a routine troop rotation

CHINA ROTATES NEW TROOPS INTO HK AMID MASS PROTESTS

KEN MORITSUGU
& YANAN WANG

CHINA'S military deployed fresh troops to Hong Kong early yesterday in what it called a routine rotation amid speculation that it might intervene in the city's pro-democracy protests.

Footage on CCTV showed armored carriers, trucks and a patrol boat crossing the border at night from the neighboring city of Shenzhen. Scores of soldiers ran in unison onto trucks, which the state broadcaster said were bound for various ports and entry points into Hong Kong. A handover ceremony was held overnight.

"This time the task has a glo-

rious mission. The responsibility is great. The job is difficult," a major said to troops before they departed. "The time for a true test has arrived!"

The official Xinhua News Agency said it was the 22nd rotation of the People's Liberation Army's garrison in Hong Kong. The previous one was in August 2018.

Nearly three months of fiery anti-government demonstrations have sparked concerns that the military will be deployed in the semi-autonomous Chinese city. The Hong Kong garrison previously published a promotional video with scenes of soldiers facing off with people dressed like protesters.

The soldiers in the new ro-

tation were educated on Hong Kong's laws and vowed to defend the nation's sovereignty, Xinhua said.

"We will firmly follow the command of [the ruling Communist Party]," Liu Zhaohui, the garrison's deputy chief of staff, said on CCTV. "We will firmly implement the guideline of 'one country, two systems' and the Basic Law and the Garrison Law of Hong Kong."

A former British colony, Hong Kong was returned to China in 1997 under the "one country, two systems" framework, which promises the city certain democratic rights that are not afforded to the mainland. In recent years, however, some Hong Kong residents have accused Beijing of

steadily eroding their freedoms.

When asked whether the military will step in, China's Defense Ministry has pointed to a provision in the Garrison Law which allows Hong Kong-stationed troops to help maintain public order at the request of the city government. Hong Kong authorities, however, have said they can handle the situation themselves.

Troops stationed in Macau, another special administrative region, also completed a rotation yesterday.

The last rotation of the Hong Kong garrison occurred one year prior. The Xinhua report on that rotation in August 2018 does not mention "one country, two systems" or national sovereignty. AP

HONG KONG

Police ban mass weekend protest, organizer says

SHERYL TIAN TONG LEE

Hong Kong police banned a protest set for tomorrow by the organizer of previous historic mass marches, the group said, in a move that could anger protesters ahead of a planned 13th straight week of pro-democracy demonstrations.

Police believe approving the Civil Human Rights Front's planned march was too risky due to safety concerns after violence flared at rallies last weekend, the South China Morning Post reported yesterday, citing an unidentified police source. Bonnie Leung,

CHRF's vice-convener, told Bloomberg News that police had banned the Saturday rally and the group was planning to appeal. Some previous rallies have been approved at the last minute after negotiations with police.

The ban could fuel turnout at a two-day general strike called to start on Monday if the government didn't concede to its major demands by Saturday, the SCMP said. It could also trigger further outcry as the rally was planned for the fifth anniversary of China's introduction of an electoral reform package

that would have restricted democratic freedoms and was later rejected by Hong Kong.

Hong Kong police said they couldn't immediately comment on the ban.

The march had been planned to start at centrally located Chater Garden and continue on to China's liaison office in the city, where Hong Kong's police and Beijing have drawn their sharpest line after a previous demonstration saw protesters deface the national emblem. Hong Kong's former leader Leung Chun-ying is promoting a website offering crowd-funded cash bounties

to identify protesters who have perpetrated vandalism, including HKD1 million (\$127,000) for the person who splashed black paint on the emblem.

The CHRF has organized three record-breaking peaceful marches over weeks of protests, including the June 9 rally against legislation easing extraditions to China that sparked what's morphed into a broader movement against Beijing's tightening grip over the city. The group said each march brought more than 1 million people onto the streets, while police estimates are lower, in the hundreds of thousands.

Its latest march would come after a weekend that began with the formation of a peaceful human chain across the city and culminated two days later with police firing a weapon and using water cannons for the first time.

Officers fired tear gas, rubber bullets and bean bag rounds at protesters who threw bricks and petrol bombs in the Tsuen Wan area of the New Territories and charged police with metal poles. Police said 86 people were arrested for alleged offenses including unlawful assembly, possession of weapons and assaulting officers. **BLOOMBERG**

Jack Ma says 12-hour work week could be the norm

LULU YILUN CHEN

BILLIONAIRE Jack Ma, long an outspoken advocate for China's extreme work culture, says that people should be able to work just 12 hours a week with the benefits of artificial intelligence.

People could work as little as three days a week, four hours a day with the help of technology advances and a reform in education systems, the Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. co-founder said at the World Artificial Intelligence Conference in Shanghai Thursday. He spoke on-stage with Elon Musk, the chief executive officer of Tesla Inc. who is building manufacturing facilities in the city.

Ma cited electricity as an example of how developments in technology can free up time for lei-



sure. "The power of electricity is that we make people more time so that you can go to karaoke or dancing party in the evening. I think because of artificial intelligence, people will have more time enjoying being human beings."

"For the next 10, 20 years, every human being, country, government should focus on

reforming the education system, making sure our kids can find a job, a job that only requires three days a week, four hours a day," Ma said. "If we don't change the education system we are in, we will all be in trouble."

Just this year, Ma endorsed the China tech sector's infamous 12-hours-a-day, six-days-a-week routine, so

common it earned the moniker 996. In one blog post, China's richest man this year dismissed people who expect a typical eight-hour office lifestyle, defying a growing popular backlash.

"I don't worry about jobs," Ma said yesterday, making an optimistic case that AI will help humans rather than just eliminate their work.

"Computers only have chips, men have the heart. It's the heart where the wisdom comes from."

Ma said the current education system was outdated - modeled for the industrial period - and he foresees a day when machines can outsmart humans in areas of memory and repetitive skills. He said future education systems need to help people become more creative. Musk agreed with Ma, not forgetting to tout his Neuralink project that is trying to merge the human brain with AI.

"The way education works right now, it's really low bandwidth, it's extremely slow, lectures are the worst," said Musk. "Down the road with Neuralink you can just upload any subject instantly, it will be like the Matrix." **BLOOMBERG**

CRYPTO CRASH PROMPTS BITCOIN GUESSING GAME

CRYPTOCURRENCIES plunged suddenly in afternoon trading on Wednesday, spurring a guessing game of potential catalyst among enthusiasts and investors. The price of Bitcoin dropped below \$10,000 for the first time since July.

As with many things crypto, enthusiasts and skeptics alike were quick to point the finger on Twitter and Reddit, though it remained anyone's guess as to what the catalyst was.

"From our end, it looks like it was a sell-off to cash settle futures that are coming due on Friday for BTC," said Dave Balter, chief executive of Flipside Crypto Inc. in Boston. His firm tracks blockchain transaction data, differentiating between users and speculators, and includes large trades and their originations.

"It's the week before Labor Day. Half of crypto is at Burning Man and the other half is sitting on their hands doing nothing," said Jeff Dorman, chief investment officer at Arca. "I just don't think there are a lot of investors willing to defend price right now." **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

BEIJING INDICATES IT WON'T RETALIATE NOW ON NEW US TARIFFS

CHINA indicated that it wouldn't immediately retaliate against the latest U.S. tariff increase announced by President Donald Trump last week, emphasizing the need to discuss ways to deescalate the trade war between the world's two largest economies.

"China has ample means for retaliation, but thinks the question that should be discussed now is about removing the new tariffs to prevent escalation of the trade war," Ministry of Commerce spokesman Gao Feng told reporters in Beijing yesterday. "China is lodging solemn representations with the U.S. on the matter."

When asked if that meant China wouldn't retaliate at all for the latest escalation by the U.S., Gao didn't elaborate but repeated the same comments. China has hit back against each previous tariff increase by the U.S., so not responding in kind this time may signal a change in strategy.

Stocks across Asia pared losses and European stocks turned higher with U.S. equity futures as investors interpreted the comments as an olive branch from Beijing aimed at getting talks back on track. Gao said that both sides are discussing the previously announced trip in September by Chinese negotiators to Washington.

Gao's remarks came amid signs China's economy slowed further in August as weak domestic conditions. The downshifting is



evident in a Bloomberg Economics gauge aggregating the earliest available indicators from financial markets and businesses.

The U.S. announced new tariff

rates earlier this month on \$300 billion of Chinese goods that will come into effect in September and December. Beijing then retaliated last week, announcing its

own higher import taxes.

That prompted a reaction from Trump, who tweeted that existing 25% tariffs on some \$250 billion in imports from China would

rise to 30% come Oct. 1, the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. He also lifted planned levies on \$300 billion in Chinese goods due on Sept. 1 and Dec. 15 even higher.

"Escalation of the trade war won't benefit China, nor the U.S., nor the world," Gao said. "The most important thing is to create the necessary conditions for continuing negotiations."

Gao also repeated Vice Premier Liu He's comments on Monday that China is "willing to solve the problem through consultation and cooperation with a calm attitude, but firmly opposes escalation of trade war."

If Chinese officials go to the U.S. for talks next month, the two sides should work together to create conditions for talks to progress, Gao said. Both sides are currently discussing the trip, and information on that will be released in a timely manner when available, according to Gao, indicating that the schedule isn't set yet.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said Wednesday that U.S. trade officials expect Chinese negotiators to visit Washington, but wouldn't say whether the September meeting would take place.

When asked about Trump's claims that China had called over the weekend to resume trade talks, Gao said the two teams have been in "effective communications," but he had no more details to reveal.

"There are all kinds of rumors flying around right now. We will clarify the facts regarding trade and let the public know the truth."

BLOOMBERG

Detained writer urges Australia to help free him from China

ROD MCGUIRK,
CANBERRA

A Chinese Australian writer detained in Beijing on suspicion of espionage since January has urged Australia to maintain diplomatic pressure for his release.

Yang Hengjun said in a statement released by a Sydney-based friend yesterday that he was "extremely grateful" to Prime Minister Scott Morrison, Foreign Minister Marise Payne, other Australian lawmakers and diplomats "for their help."

"I implore the prime minister to help me go home as soon as possible," Yang, 54, said in the statement provided to The Associated Press by Feng Chongyi, an academic who was detained in China for two weeks in 2017 while researching human rights lawyers.

Yang was taken into cus-

AP PHOTO



tody upon arriving in southern China's Guangzhou from New York on Jan. 19 with his wife, Yuan Xiaoliang, and his 14-year-old stepdaughter.

The Beijing branch of China's National Security Bureau arrested Yang last

week on "suspicion of espionage," China's Foreign Ministry said Tuesday.

Payne has made multiple representations on Yang's behalf to her Chinese counterpart Wangi Yi, and has told China that the blogger and spy novelist should be

freed if he is being held for his political opinions. China has urged Australia to respect its legal processes.

Morrison said Australia would not let Yang's case go.

"We'll stand up for our citizen and we'll expect him to be treated appropriately

and his human rights to be respected," Morrison told Nine Network television.

"There's their own justice process that they'll follow in China and that's appropriate. But these suggestions that he's acted as a spy for Australia are absolutely untrue and we'll be protecting and seeking to support our citizen," he added.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said Morrison's comments "completely confuse right and wrong and contradict themselves."

"On the one hand, they said they respect China's judicial sovereignty and will not interfere in China's judicial procedures. On the other hand, they keep making irresponsible remarks on affairs falling within China's sovereignty and trying to blame and pressure us," Geng said.

"I advise the Australian

side to immediately stop making unfounded and irresponsible remarks, stop hyping up the issue and pressuring China, and do something conducive to mutual trust and bilateral relations," he added.

Yang said in the statement that was compiled by Australian diplomats during their monthly meetings with him in detention, the most recent on Tuesday, that the Chinese chief investigator told him "Australia is small and won't care about me."

The investigator "said Australia was dependent on China for its trade and economy and Canberra wouldn't help me, let alone rescue me," Yang said in the statement that was distributed to family and friends.

The investigator "said Australia wouldn't help because I am not white. This is nonsense. He was wrong," Yang added. **AP**

Xi to deliver major speech to 'mobilize whole party, military'

CHINESE President Xi Jinping will deliver a major speech to mark 70 years since the official founding of the People's Republic of China, the government announced yesterday.

The speech on Oct. 1 will be accompanied by a national day parade showcasing China's advances in military technology, Wang Xiaohui, executive vice minister for the Communist Party's Publicity Department, said at a press briefing in Beijing. "The purpose is to motivate and mobilize the whole party, the whole military, and all of the people to unite closely around the CCP Central Committee with Xi at the core," Wang said.

The speech will be closely watched for hints on China's policy direction, especially with the nation facing pressure on multiple fronts, from the trade war with the U.S. to protests in Hong Kong to a slowing domestic economy. Xi is expected to review the nation's achievements over the past 70 years



and also talk about China's future.

He used a speech marking the anniversary of China's May Fourth movement earlier this year to urge the country's young people to stay loyal to the Communist Party.

The scale of the parade will be larger than those held to celebrate the 50th or 60th anniversaries of the PRC, Major General Cai Zhijun, who is vice

director of the office for parade organization, said at the press conference. Cai said the parade would show China's "great achievements" in national defense and the "accumulation of power for promotion of national rejuvenation."

The parade will include strategic nuclear missiles and advanced fighter jets such as the nation's first stealth fighter, the J-20, the South China Morning

Post reported yesterday.

Installations preparing for the celebration are already being erected in Tiananmen Square and security is being tightened across the city in preparation for the event. The events will include a National Day Gala, an award ceremony and a musical performance, as well as commemorative stamps and coins, Wang said.

BLOOMBERG

TENCENT RAISES ITS BIGGEST EVER DOLLAR LOAN OF \$6.5 BILLION

ANNIE LEE & CAROL ZHONG

TENCENT Holdings Ltd. has signed its biggest and cheapest ever dollar-denominated facility in the loan market, according to people familiar with the matter.

The Chinese social media giant's USD6.5 billion loan is the largest versus local peers Alibaba Group Holdings Ltd. and Baidu Inc., Bloomberg-compiled data show. The five-year facility pays an all-in pricing of 85 basis points via an interest margin of 80 basis points over Libor, said the people who are not authorized to speak publicly and asked not to be identified. The rate is also the lowest among its peers, according to data.

The club loan, which will be used for refinancing and general corporate purposes, drew nine lenders including Bank of America Corp. and Bank of China Hong Kong Ltd., the people said. The company was in talks for a \$5 billion deal, Bloomberg earlier reported. Tencent didn't immediately respond to an email request for comment. **BLOOMBERG**

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DUTERTE WANTS TO USE SOUTH CHINA SEA RULING TO WARM CHINA RELATIONS

ANDREO CALONZO

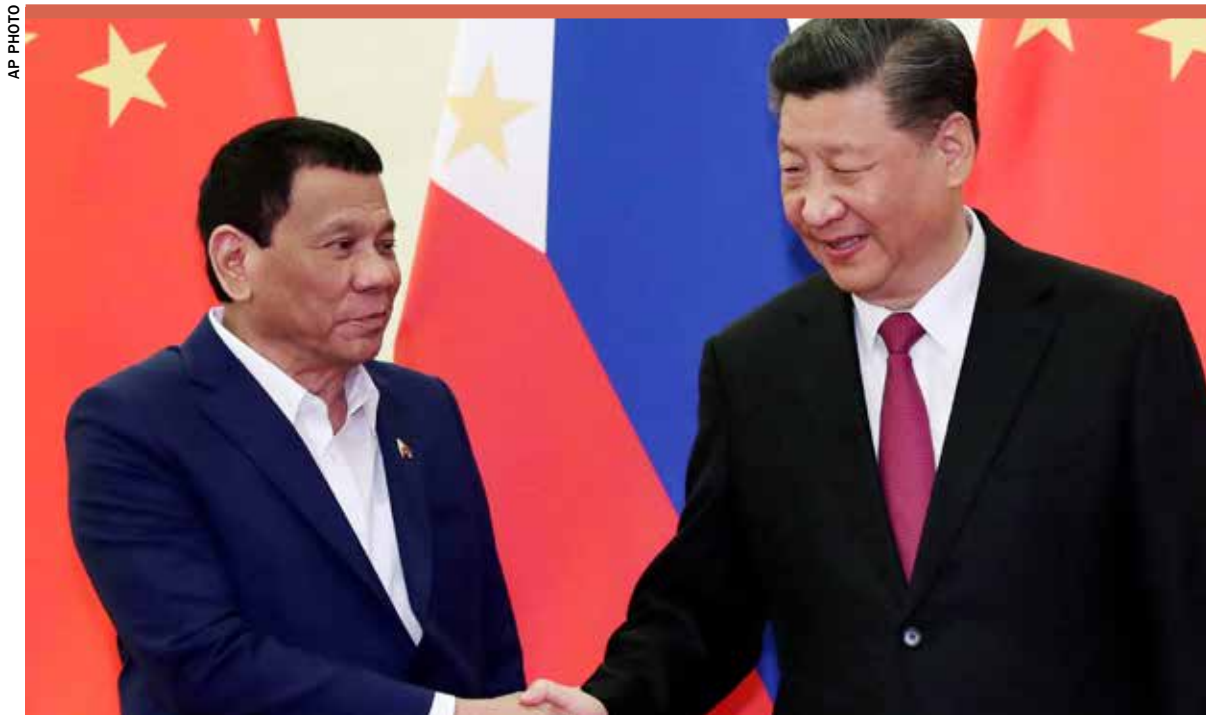
THE Philippines and China will advance plans for joint oil and gas exploration in the South China Sea, a senior envoy announced before a meeting between President Rodrigo Duterte and Chinese leader Xi Jinping in Beijing yesterday.

Duterte and Xi will likely discuss forming committees to pick areas for the exploration, Philippine envoy to China Chito Sta. Romana said in a televised briefing. They're also expected to sign at least five deals on economic cooperation and technology, he added.

"We are trying to find a way within certain parameters to move forward," the ambassador said. "We hope to get it going as fast as possible."

Duterte earlier said he will use the Philippines' 2016 international tribunal win against China, which he set aside to warm ties and tap Chinese funding, to negotiate a favorable deal with Xi.

The meeting's expected outcome shows exploration talks are proceeding "as slow as can be expected," said Jay Batongbacal,



Philippines' President Rodrigo Duterte (left) and Chinese leader Xi Jinping

director of the University of the Philippines Institute for Maritime Affairs and Law of the Sea.

"This will only be the start of the process. This does not guarantee that a final agreement will be signed," Batongbacal said.

While an oil deal where Ma-

nila gets a bigger share might appear to be a win for Duterte, it could undermine Philippine interests in the future because an agreement may give credence to China's sea claim, said Collin Koh, research fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International

Studies in Singapore.

"This deal may even embolden China to demand a share of energy resources in other Southeast Asian nations' exclusive economic zones, in waters that Beijing lays no legitimate resource claim to," Koh said.

Duterte may also raise with Xi the presence of Chinese warships and survey vessels in Philippine waters, which has triggered diplomatic protests from Manila over the past weeks.

It's unlikely that Duterte's meeting with Xi will yield a concrete plan to address the issue, said Jeffrey Ordaniel, assistant professor of international security studies at Tokyo International University.

"Xi wants a good media narrative out of his meeting with Duterte," Ordaniel said. "Certainly, China wants to create a false atmosphere of calm and cooperation in the South China Sea."

China wants to "expand practical cooperation to ensure steady and sustained progress" in its ties with the Philippines through Xi's meeting with Duterte, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said last week.

The meeting is also taking place amid Beijing's crackdown on the Philippines' billion-peso online casinos catering mostly to Chinese nationals despite a gambling ban in mainland China. Manila has stopped granting new permits for online casinos, but China wants a total ban. **BLOOMBERG**

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South Korean court sends Park, Samsung heir cases to new trials

HYUNG-JIN KIM
& KIM TONG-HYUNG, SEOUL

SOUTH Korea's top court yesterday sent back jailed ex-President Park Geun-hye's corruption case to a lower court for separate trials on the charges on which she was convicted, a ruling that could increase her already-lengthy prison term.

The Supreme Court also ordered retrials for Park's confidante and Samsung's de facto chief, two other high-profile figures convicted in a 2016 scandal that saw millions of people rallying in the streets for months. Park, South Korea's first female president, was impeached by lawmakers in December 2016 and officially removed from office in March 2017.

An appellate court last year sentenced Park to 25 years in prison after convicting her of bribery, extortion, abuse of power and other charges together. That was an extension of a 24 year-year prison term set by a district court, which also handled Park's charges together.

But the Supreme Court ordered the Seoul High Court to deal with Park's bribery charge separately from other charges, based on a law requiring so for cases involving a president or other elected officials, even when the alleged crimes are committed together.

Local media said Park could face a lengthier prison term because courts handling a case with multiple charges typically don't impose the maximum sentence for each charge.

Park will remain in jail because the court did not overturn all her convictions, only the charges that it believed required a separate trial. And even in sending back the bribery charges to the lower court, the Supreme Court wasn't sending the case back with instructions to consider that she might be innocent.



Park, 67, has called herself a victim of political revenge. She has refused to attend her trials since October 2017 and didn't attend yesterday's court session.

Park was convicted of colluding with her longtime confidante, Choi Soon-sil, to take millions of dollars in bribes and extortion from businesses, including Samsung, while she was in office from 2013 to 2016. The two women were also convicted of taking bribes from some of those companies, including Samsung.

Park was earlier convicted of colluding with senior government officials to blacklist artists critical of her government to deny them state assistance programs. She also was convicted of passing on presidential documents with sensitive information

to Choi via one of her presidential aides.

The scandal led to the arrests, indictments and convictions of dozens of high-level government officials and business leaders.

An appellate court last year sentenced Park to 25 years in prison after convicting her of bribery, extortion, abuse of power and other charges together

Choi received a 20-year prison term and Lee Jae-yong, Samsung's billionaire heir and the vice chairman of Samsung Electronics, a suspended prison term.

The Supreme Court ordered the Seoul High Court to start new

trials for both Choi and Lee. Observers said Choi could get an increased prison term and Lee a prison sentence at new Seoul High Court trials.

In 2017, Lee, the only son of Samsung's ailing chairman Lee Kun-hee, was sentenced to five years in prison for providing bribes to Park and Choi in return for government backing for his attempt to bolster his control over the Samsung group and other charges. But in early 2018, he was set free after the Seoul High Court overturned some of his convictions and suspended his sentence. His earlier imprisonment surprised many because South Korean courts had often showed leniency toward crimes by business tycoons.

Lee In-jae, who heads the legal

team representing Lee Jae-yong, called the Supreme Court's decision "regrettable." He said it should be noted that some justices of the court expressed dissenting opinions about the bribery charges surrounding Lee Jae-yong.

Samsung Electronics released a statement saying it regrets "causing concern to (Korean) people" over the corruption case and that it wouldn't repeat past mistakes. The statement did not include specific comments on the decision.

Calls to Park's lawyer weren't immediately answered. Park didn't appeal her two previous prison sentences, and yesterday court session was arranged after prosecutors appealed the initial verdicts in search of increased prison terms.

Park, a daughter of late President Park Chung-hee, was once the darling of conservatives in South Korea and dubbed by local media as the "queen of elections" for her ability to win tight elections. Her fall badly damaged conservatives in South Korea and helped her main liberal rival and current President Moon Jae-in win an easy victory in a by-election triggered by her early departure.

Park still has fierce supporters who stage rallies in downtown Seoul every Saturday calling for her release. Yesterday more than a thousand of Park's supporters rallied outside the Supreme Court building, waving South Korean and U.S. flags and her photos and holding placards that read "Set free President Park Geun-hye who is innocent!"

She was elected president in late 2012, largely thanks to a wave of support from conservatives who remember her father as a charismatic leader who led South Korea's explosive economic growth. Liberals see her father as a ruthless leader who severely suppressed civil rights during his 1961-79 rule.

Park Geun-hye has been embroiled in two smaller scandals which led her to be sentenced to two years in prison for violating an election law and five years for abusing state funds. That meant she has faced the prospect of serving more than 30 years in prison. AP

THAILAND

Court upholds death for two Burmese in British murders

THAILAND'S Supreme Court on yesterday upheld the conviction of two Myanmar migrants sentenced to death for the murder of two British backpackers on a resort island in 2014.

Wai Phyo and Zaw Lin have denied killing David Miller and raping and

killing Hannah Witheridge. Their battered bodies were found on the morning of Sept. 15, 2014, on a beach on the island of Koh Tao in the Gulf of Thailand.

Lawyers for the two convicted men claimed the evidence in the case was mishandled and they

made confessions under duress that they later retracted, raising questions about police competence and the judicial system in Thailand.

Witheridge, 23, from Norfolk, and Miller, 24, from Jersey, had come to Thailand separately and met at the hotel where

both were staying.

The two Myanmar men, both 22 at the time, were employed as service workers on the island, which is famous for its diving locations.

The Thai lawyer for the defendants contended that they were tortured into making confessions,

and that they were provided with inadequate translators when talking to police.

The trial also saw a well-known Thai forensics expert testify that the DNA evidence that was a major element of the prosecution's case did not link the defendants to the sce-

ne. The expert also alleged that police had failed to properly control the crime scene and mishandled the DNA evidence.

The court rejected the defense arguments and in December 2015 convicted both defendants of murder and sentenced them to death. AP

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A woman holds a poster reading "Give us back our elections in Moscow!" in front of police during a protest in Moscow

RUSSIA

Election chief defends ban on Moscow candidates

NATALIYA VASILYEVA, MOSCOW

THE head of Russia's election commission is standing by a decision to keep a dozen independent candidates from running for the city legislature in Moscow, but concedes after weeks of protests drew unusually large crowds, thousands of arrests and unfavorable attention that the qualification rules are outdated.

The Central Election Commission said earlier this month that 13 opposition candidates failed to gather enough valid signatures to appear on the ballot next month. Many outraged Muscovites saw the candidates' disqualification as a sign of how determined the Kremlin was to prevent President Vladimir Putin's opponents from gaining even lowly positions of power.

The commission's chief, Ella

Pamfilova, insisted in an interview with The Associated Press this week that there was nothing she could do to stop what blew up into a major political crisis.

"As an individual, as a citizen I really wanted to allow the widest competition possible so that everyone gets registered," Pamfilova, who was a veteran opposition politician herself when she took the post in 2016, said. "The law that is in place — we have to stick to it to the letter, unfortunately."

She also noted that several candidates were reinstated upon appeal and that competition for the City Duma — about five candidates per seat — is high.

In Moscow, independent Duma candidates are required to

submit the signatures equivalent to 3% of their districts' voters to appear on the ballot, a prerequisite that independent election observers have said is designed to

Putin had vowed to clean up election commissions that for years had ignored or directly participated in vote rigging to favor Kremlin candidates at all levels

keep opposition candidates out of office.

The candidates excluded from the Sept. 8 election said they had presented the required number of signatures, but first Moscow election authorities and then Pam-

filova's commission invalidated enough due to a variety of flaws to prevent their participation.

The violations included minor clerical mistakes or erroneous personal data that was entered by election officials. Hundreds of voters including celebrities spoke out after their signatures were dismissed as suspected forgeries.

The most vocal government opponents were not only barred from running but ended up in jail for weeks for calling for the unsanctioned protests.

A trained engineer, Pamfilova entered politics at the age of 36 when she won a seat at the Soviet Supreme Council in 1989 in what was regarded as the Soviet Union's first free election in deca-

des. She served as social welfare minister in Russia's first-post Soviet government for three years, and was a vocal opponent of the federal government's brutal military campaign in Chechnya. She made multiple trips to the region, negotiating the release of Russian troops captured by Chechen separatists.

Pamfilova's appointment was expected to end brazen corruption in Russia's elections. Putin had vowed to clean up election commissions that for years had ignored or directly participated in vote-rigging to favor Kremlin candidates at all levels.

Although Russian election observers initially hailed Pamfilova's efforts to clamp down on the most blatant voter fraud, this summer's Moscow City Duma campaign brought about questions of whether she has the power to overhaul the entire system.

Pamfilova, 65, who is proud of her democratic credentials and a track record of defending Kremlin opponents, said the commission looked into the forgery claims and reversed course on hundreds of signatures but it didn't change the outcome for any candidates: they still had too few valid signatures.

Although standing firm on the decision to disqualify the candidates, Pamfilova said this summer's election campaign has highlighted the flaws in the federal and local election legislation.

"The good thing about what happened - it has showed that the system is outdated, that society is not going to forgive us for this," she said, adding that her commission will come up with amendments to streamline the signature collection for candidates and cut down the number of signatures required.

When asked if candidates like Lyubov Sobol, who was on hunger strike in protest for a month, would have been on the ballot under the new, simplified rules, Pamfilova was adamant that Sobol and other candidates had made too many mistakes in their filings. She recalled her own political career — Pamfilova ran as an independent candidate for Russian president in 2000 when Putin was first elected — and said the opposition should toughen up and comply with the laws the way they are. AP

Norway to review criminal cases with Danish telecom data

NORWAY'S top prosecutor yesterday asked police and prosecutors across the country to identify all criminal cases where telecommunications data have been obtained from Denmark, amid concerns about the data being used as evidence.

In Denmark, flaws in

systems that convert phone companies' raw data into evidence used to place a person at a crime scene and inaccurate cellphone tracking data have led to dozens of court cases being postponed.

Norway's acting Director of Public Prosecutions Harald Strand said "there is no information

about a similar problem in Norwegian police systems.

However, as a precaution Strand has tasked Norway's National Criminal Investigation Service with finding out whether "there may be a corresponding error in systems" used by Norwegians.

His decision came after

Danish authorities' temporarily halted use of cellphone data in criminal cases and ordered the review of some 10,000 verdicts because of errors in tracking data.

Strand said Denmark's National Police had been ordered to review criminal cases dating from 2012 until March 3 this

year when the flaw was discovered.

In Denmark, telecom data are often used in combination with other evidence. There are no statistics available on how many verdicts are reached using only telecom data. At least 29 suspects have so far been released from pretrial detention since

the flaw was made public.

"The trust in our legal system has been shaken," Justice Minister Nick Haekkerup said Aug. 19 as he announced that Denmark's top prosecutor had "pulled the handbrake, so that telecommunications information no longer is used in court as evidence." AP

TV canal macau

FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Água de Mar
15:30	Zig Zag
16:20	Sim, Chef! Sr.2
16:55	Quem Quer Ser Milionário
18:00	Corpo Clínico
18:25	Amor Maior (Repetição)
19:10	Portuguese In California
19:40	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2 - Fim
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Viagens em Série

SATURDAY

10:30	Os Ursos Boonie e o Verão Sensacional
11:15	Larva
11:30	Lugares Perdidos
12:00	Visita Guiada
12:30	Ingrediente Secreto
13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:30	7 Maravilhas Doces de Portugal - 1ª Semifinal
17:20	Air Lino - Excursões
18:50	Sinais de Vida
19:35	Food Paradise International Sr.1
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	O Jogo Final
23:15	TDM News

SUNDAY

12:00	Histórias de Mar
12:30	Produtos da Terra - Fim
13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
14:30	Rat-A-Tat
15:00	Verão M
15:50	A Minha Mãe Cozinha Melhor Que A Tua
17:10	O Jogo Final (Repetição)
19:10	Bem-Vindos a Beirais
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Contraponto
22:20	Reformas Internas da China
23:15	TDM News

Offbeat

BEER CAN ENTHUSIASTS HEAD TO NEW MEXICO FOR 'CANVENTION'

Hundreds of beer can collectors are heading to New Mexico for a "CANvention."

The Albuquerque Journal reports the Brewery Collectibles Club of America is scheduled today to start celebrating different types of beer cans at its three-day national gathering at the Albuquerque Convention Center.

The club says the event attracts collectors from around the world who trade, buy and sell vintage and craft beer cans. It is a chance for those attending to sample beer from local Albuquerque brewers.

The gathering began in 1969 after collector Denver Wright, Jr. put an ad in a St. Louis newspaper asking anyone who collected beer cans to contact him.

Six collectors responded and they held an event in Denver months later.

cinema

CINETEATRO

29 Aug - 4 Sep



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

ROOM 2

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: Ryôta 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: Chô, Hiroaki Hirata, Katsuhisa Hôki

Language: Japanese (Chinese)

this day in history

1980: POLISH WORKERS WIN TRADE UNION RIGHTS

Striking Polish workers have won a sweeping victory in a two-month battle with their Communist rulers for the right to independent trade unions and the right to strike.

The agreement means Poland becomes the first Eastern Bloc country formally to recognise an effective and independent trade union movement.

The strike leader, Lech Walesa, and deputy prime minister Mieczyslaw Jagielski will sign the deal ending industrial action at a ceremony in Gdansk tomorrow.

Under the terms of the deal, workers are also promised pay rises, better food supplies and improved social services.

The deal was announced to the crowds of shipyard workers who had gathered outside the talks in Gdansk to polite applause.

Their leader Mr Walesa received a rousing reception. He was hoisted onto the shoulders of cheering workers with his arms raised in triumph.

Today's agreement comes after a summer of industrial unrest in Poland and at the end of the latest 18-day stoppage which has affected hundreds of businesses along the northern coast, as well as key industrial areas in the south of the country.

Latest estimates said some 150,000 workers had downed tools and there were signs Warsaw was about to be paralysed by a general strike.

It was the most serious crisis threatening the government since the food-price riots that toppled party leader Wladyslaw Gomulka in 1970.

But this time the striking workers went far beyond demanding price reductions - they also demanded political change.

As well as the freedom to strike and free trade unions, they also wanted the abolition of censorship and freedom for all political prisoners.

The wave of industrial unrest began eight weeks ago with a series of scattered strikes protesting a sudden rise in meat prices, which had been kept artificially low by government subsidies.

When the government refused to back down over the price of meat, 16,000 employees of the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk walked off the job and seized control of the yard.

They were joined by other factory workers and between them managed to virtually shut down the country's major Baltic seaport.

Attempts to split the strikers by agreeing some concessions including a pay rise for the shipyard workers and the reinstatement of a militant colleague, Anna Walentinowicz, failed.

The industrial unrest continued to grow. The strikers established the "Interfactory Strike Committee" and quickly adopted Lech Walesa as their leader.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The deal for independent trade unions and the right to strike was signed the following day by Lech Walesa and Mieczyslaw Jagielski.

In September the first independent trade union, Solidarity, was formed under the leadership of Lech Walesa.

But the Polish regime imposed martial law in December 1981 and the union's leadership, including Mr Walesa, was imprisoned.

He was released in 1982 and awarded the Nobel peace prize in 1983.

Economic conditions worsened in Poland and the government was eventually forced to negotiate with Solidarity.

The result was partially free elections and a non-communist coalition government including Solidarity.

Mr Walesa became the elected president of Poland in 1990, a post he held until he was defeated in elections in 1995.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
The greatest test of your patience today will not come from the usual source. Instead, your own wishes will be causing you to strain against your self-imposed leash.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
A day spent at the spa, a splurgy shopping trip, an extra nice bottle of wine at dinner - these are all things that offer you good, old-fashioned fun. Any guilt you feel at treating yourself should be set aside!

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
The obstacles in your life right now are minor ones - no more than little speed bumps along a very happy road. They're actually going to be a bit fun for you to navigate.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Your charm is stronger than ever today, and you can use it to your advantage in the many different situations during the day. Socially, you might not be the one making all the plans and driving all the action.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
In a close friendship or a romantic relationship, you may find that the two of you have reached an impasse today. You just can't come to an agreement, no matter how hard both of you try.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
When was the last time you experienced something truly foreign? Today, make a bigger effort to expand your horizons. This is an ideal day to research travel plans, especially if they involve travel outside of the country.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Your magnetic charms will earn you a lot of attention - and a lot of new friends today. The problem is, you might not have enough time to give all these new people the attention you would like to.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
You and someone else in your life are separating more in your ideas and positions. This distance could grow to a near polarity if you do not make a strong effort today to understand where they are coming from.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Reaching out to other people will be especially easy for you today - your communication skills are good, and you will be given several opportunities to strike up an interesting conversation with a stranger or two.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Put out the right signals today, and you will get a lot of positive response. Smile a bit more. Hold eye contact just a little bit longer than you normally would. Send those nonverbal signals that can get a conversation going!

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Get some insight from the people in your life who you know will tell you the truth as they see it. Trust them to tell you what they believe to be right. Be prepared to hear things you don't want to hear.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
The universe is sending you sensitive energy today, which will give you quite a soft spot for art - in all its forms. Music, poetry, dance and visual art will offer you some new ideas today.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

MEDIUM					HARD				
9			7	6	1	7	6		
		8	1					8	9
6				1	4				2
8	4						3	8	
	7								1
3									2
		2		8	3	9			8
6			3			1			
7	9				2				

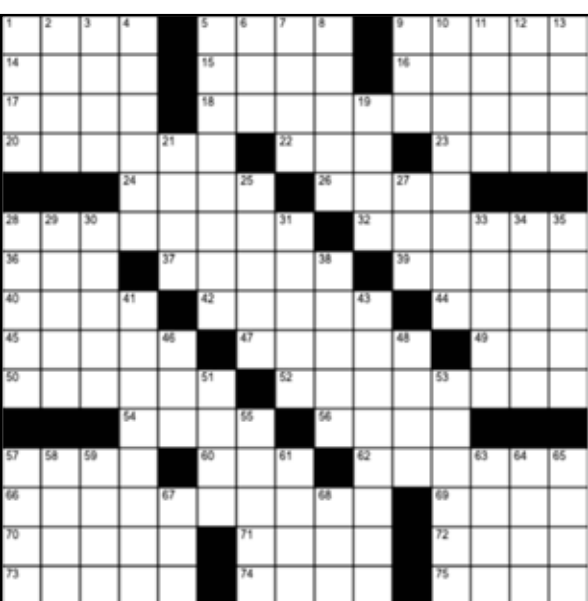
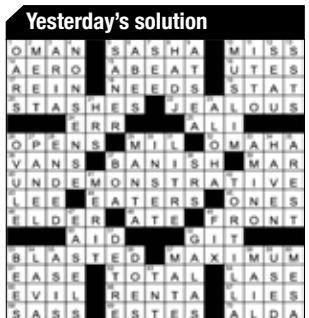
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	20	30	cloudy
Harbin	15	22	thundershower
Tianjin	22	30	clear
Urumqi	20	30	cloudy
Xi'an	21	33	shower
Lhasa	11	25	cloudy
Chengdu	23	33	shower
Chongqing	29	38	clear
Kunming	17	25	shower
Nanjing	25	33	cloudy
Shanghai	26	32	drizzle
Wuhan	26	35	shower
Hangzhou	26	34	drizzle
Taipei	26	31	drizzle
Guangzhou	27	36	thundershower
Hong Kong	28	33	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	11	23	clear
Frankfurt	13	24	clear
Paris	13	23	clear
London	12	19	clear
New York	20	30	drizzle

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Planar; 5- Think nothing ___; 9- Harper sitcom; 14- Actress Kedrova; 15- Uncover; 16- Swiss mathematician; 17- Just ___!; 18- Composer of orchestra pieces; 20- Preserved cucumber; 22- Objective; 23- Gratuity; 24- Take away; 26- Active one; 28- Stimulus that causes strain; 32- Uses money; 36- Neckwear; 37- Dogma; 39- Up to now; 40- Kind of sax; 42- Valleys; 44- Hit with an open hand; 45- Plants with fronds; 47- Angered; 49- Man-mouse connector; 50- Prank; 52- Woodwind instrument; 54- Final notice?; 56- Problem with L.A.; 57- Golfer Aoki; 60- Sock part; 62- One's husband or wife; 66- Ragtime dance; 69- Mine car; 70- Brutal; 71- Diarist Frank; 72- Cross inscription; 73- Artist Matisse; 74- Tragic king; 75- Peter the Great, e.g.;

DOWN: 1- Envelope part; 2- Actress Vrina; 3- Actor Guinness; 4- Equipment for fishing; 5- Preoccupied with; 6- Wray of "King Kong"; 7- ___ la Douce; 8- Not so hot; 9- Rock's ___ Speedwagon; 10- Female trapper; 11- Miscellany; 12- Writing table; 13- Johnson of "Laugh-In"; 19- Med. care providers; 21- ___ we forget...; 25- Echolocation; 27- Clean air org.; 28- Personnel; 29- Floor worker; 30- Fashionably old-fashioned; 31- Dig find; 33- Parachute material; 34- The Wreck of the Mary ___; 35- Mar. honoree; 38- Informs; 41- Observer; 43- Tailor; 46- Sis or bro; 48- Fall; 51- Metropolis; 53- Outfielder's yell; 55- Add up; 57- Need a scratch; 58- Positive; 59- Make ___ for it; 61- Sea eagle; 63- Coffee dispensers; 64- Franklin D.'s mother; 65- Chieftain, usually in Africa; 67- Whitney; 68- ___ whim;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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



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1,665 ft² \$8,500,000 (ref: 19070001)
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125 ft² \$2,300,000 (ref: 190650125T)

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\$38,000/mth 2,352 ft² (ref: n/a)
- [Taipa] Ocean Gardens 4 1/2 4 1/2
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AD

AP PHOTO



ACTOR MCCONAUGHEY NAMED PROFESSOR AT UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

OSCAR-winning actor Matthew McConaughey will join the University of Texas as a professor who this fall will teach in the university's Department of Radio-Television-Film.

McConaughey has been a visiting instructor at the flagship campus in Austin since 2015 and the university said in a statement this week that the appointment recognizes his "outstanding work as a teacher and mentor."

He will continue teaching a Script to Screen film pro-

duction class for which he developed the course curriculum.

The university says McConaughey is respected for his "willingness to work with students beyond the classroom."

McConaughey earned a film degree from the school in 1993. He's appeared in more than 50 films, including "Dazed and Confused," "The Wolf of Wall Street" and "Dallas Buyers Club," for which he won an Oscar and Golden Globe for his leading role.

THIS GIRL IS ON FIRE: MAREN MORRIS LEADS CMA NOMINATIONS

AP PHOTO



MAREN Morris has a chance to win up to eight trophies including album of the year at the 2019 Country Music Association Awards thanks to her work as an artist, songwriter and producer.

With the success of her album "GIRL," which Morris co-produced, the Grammy winner scored nominations like single of the year, song of the year and female vocalist of the year. The album's title track, which Morris co-wrote, topped Billboard's country airplay chart this year, the first time a solo female had a No. 1 hit on that chart in well over a year.

The CMAs also announced that Dan Smyers of Dan + Shay could win up to six awards work as an artist, co-producer of their self-titled third album and as a co-writer of their crossover hit, "Speechless." Shay Mooney of the Grammy-winning duo earned three nominations, including duo of the year.

Carrie Underwood returned to the top category, entertainer of the year, for the first time since 2016, alongside Garth Brooks, Eric Church, Chris Stapleton and last year's winner, Keith Urban. There were no women nominated in the top category in 2018 and 2017.

DENEUVE AND KORE-EDA TRANSCEND LANGUAGE FOR 'THE TRUTH'

FRENCH actress Catherine Deneuve says the language barrier working with Japanese director Hirokazu Kore-eda caused some frustration but that she was happy in the end.

The 75-year-old stars in his latest film, "The Truth," which opened the 76th Venice International Film Festival yesterday.

Deneuve plays a French movie star whose tricky relationship with her grown daughter comes to a head

after the publication of her memoir. Juliette Binoche plays the daughter.

"The Truth" is Kore-eda's first film shot outside of Japan and not in the Japanese language. Deneuve says the process of working through an interpreter to speak to the director was very unique and sometimes difficult.

"The Truth" is one of 21 films at the festival competing for the Golden Lion which will be announced on Sept. 7.

AP PHOTO



AD

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AP PHOTO



Tottenham's Harry Kane

FOOTBALL

Malaise at Tottenham could intensify in North London derby

STEVE DOUGLAS

Sunday, 11:30pm
Arsenal v Tottenham
H 2.4, D 3.65, A 2.9

THREE games isn't usually a big enough window to make cast-iron judgments about any team in the Premier League.

Except, maybe, for Tottenham. It's very early, sure, but something's amiss at last season's Champions League finalist.

Two of the team's best players, Christian Eriksen and Jan Vertonghen, are currently not being picked. Mauricio Pochettino, the manager, has spoken about a team spirit and dynamic that is "far, far

away from what we expect." Then there's the most recent result, a 1-0 home loss to a Newcastle team which had lost its first two matches.

If any game can concentrate the minds, it is a game against a fierce local rival. So if Tottenham's players cannot rouse themselves on Sunday for a North London derby against Arsenal at Emirates Stadium, there really is a problem.

The malaise stretches back to last season.

The team's run to a first ever Champions League final, as mind-blowing as the achievement was, somewhat glossed over a dramatic dip in form on the domestic front when Tottenham won only three of its last 12 Premier League games.

Take those dozen games and add the first three from this season, and only two teams — Brighton and Watford — have fewer points than Tottenham's 15 (four wins, three draws, eight losses).

Some will argue this is a season too far for Pochettino, who had said ahead of the Champions League final that he might quit his job if his team beat Liverpool in the final in Madrid. Tottenham lost 2-0 in a fairly underwhelming game and Pochettino is now taking charge of his sixth season at the London club — making him currently the longest-serving manager to work solely in the Premier League.

Have things just gone a bit stale, especially with Tottenham so

inactive in the transfer market in recent years? The signings of Tanguy Ndombele, Ryan Sessegnon and Giovanni Lo Celso this off-season were the club's first since January 2018, and none of them started against Newcastle on Sunday because of injury or a lack of fitness.

If that is guesswork, there's no doubting the issues with Eriksen and Vertonghen, who are two of Pochettino's senior players.

Eriksen has been a substitute for two of Tottenham's three games this season and the team has missed the playmaker's creativity and vision, improving immeasurably once he came on as a second-half substitute. Eriksen acknowledged during the offsea-

son that he "might want to try something new" after six years at Tottenham and speculation persists that he could leave before the European transfer window shuts on Sept. 2.

Vertonghen's absence has come as more of a shock. The team's most reliable defender, Vertonghen was left out of the 3-1 win over Aston Villa — the three goals were scored from the 73rd minute, after Eriksen's introduction — for what Pochettino said were "tactical reasons."

Vertonghen has stayed on the bench against Newcastle and for the 2-2 draw at Manchester City the previous weekend, when City had 30 shots and Tottenham scored from both of its shots on target.

"I cannot pick more than 11 players," Pochettino said over the weekend, explaining the omissions of Vertonghen and Eriksen.

There are also issues at full-back, which has been a key area of Pochettino's team. Right back Kieran Trippier left for Atletico Madrid, where he has made an impressive start to the season, and 22-year-old replacement Kyle Walker-Peters got injured against Newcastle. There has been uncertainty over the future of left back Danny Rose, too.

Because of Eriksen's absence, striker Harry Kane has been dropping deeper — his average position against Newcastle was nearer the center circle than the penalty area — to help with the build-up of play, which limits his effectiveness. His two goals this season came against Villa, in the 86th and 90th minutes.

Tottenham hasn't been helped, either, by the recent absence of attacking midfielder Dele Alli, although he might be back for a game against Arsenal which suddenly has more riding on it than simply local bragging rights.

It's a big three days for Tottenham. A derby against Arsenal tomorrow, followed by the final day of the European transfer window on Monday when the immediate future of Eriksen, Vertonghen and maybe others will be resolved. **AP**

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OPINION

Kapok
 Eric Sautédé



WHAT BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT?

One should always be entitled to the benefit of the doubt, and this applies to everyone, weak or powerful, rich or poor, anonymous or famous. Such was my state of mind when I started thinking about the election of Ho Iat Seng as the new Chief Executive and what that means for Macao.

Let's admit first that it requires a certain level of abstraction to level up expectations and evacuate any preconception one might have.

Mr Ho's recent track record as the president of the Legislative Assembly does not help: he actively precipitated the suspension of democratic lawmaker Sulu Sou in December 2017 — in Macao, throwing paper planes in an empty garden could amount to "aggravated disobedience" — and he sacked, together with legislators Chan Hong, Chui Sai Cheong and Kou Hoi In, two universally respected and long-standing legal advisers to the Assembly for no apparent reason during the summer of 2018. Double contempt: for democracy and for the safeguarding of the law.

Just for the record, Mr Ho started as a legislator in Macao — actually directly as the Vice-president of the legislature — in 2009, whereas he started as a representative for Macao at the National People's Congress in 2000, becoming a distinguished member of its Standing Committee as early as 2001. Even if we add the four years of Mr Ho on the Executive Council advising Edmund Ho from 2004 to 2009, that means that he has presumably served Macao's interests for a longer period of time in Beijing than he has in Macao.

Then there is the election itself. Right from the start, Mr Ho did say that he was welcoming competition and that, indeed, there were many new faces he supposedly did not know on the 400-member strong election committee. Alas, there were actually only 20 per cent new members compared to 2014, and then Mr Ho ran unopposed, was endorsed by 379 and voted in by 392 of these super electors — themselves "chosen" by corporatist organizations and tightly controlled associations.

There are few places around the world that come to mind where a "new" leader is elected unopposed with 98 per cent of the votes... none of them really fits the description of a democracy!

Now, let's forget about the burden of the past and look into the "political manifesto" of the CE-elect, as the formula goes, entitled in English "Consolidate a Steady Momentum of Success and Maintain Overall Harmony."

At first sight, its five parts look pretty comprehensive: improving public governance, promoting diversified economic development, improving people's livelihood, strengthening talent cultivation and building up Macao on the basis of cultural cooperation and diversity. Also, a lot of the vocabulary imported from up north has been dropped: gone are the "sunshine policy" for fighting corruption and "scientific governance" for promoting innovation in terms of policy-making and environment-friendly public policies.

But then, looking into the details, one soon realizes that some important details are clearly missing. If we focus only on the section dedicated to public governance, promises regarding administrative reform are numerous — making the administration more efficient, cleaner, more accountable, more opened, more concerned with safety and more inclusive. Even the principle of separation of powers is re-asserted, especially judicial independence. Yet, democracy is only mentioned once, and presented as a pledge to "promote extensive public participation in social affairs."

Effective checks and balances as well as the end to the reign of conflicts of interests can put an end to corruption and make the system accountable — mere fine-tuning of processes aiming at greater efficiency are bound to fail. And what is efficiency without fairness if one wants to be inclusive? What does accountability mean without the burden of direct responsibility entrusted by the community of citizens?

Not only is this long shopping-list of claims not convincing at all, but it is completely devoid of perspectives on "how" and "when" — no milestones, no priorities — these are going to bear fruits. As a former French politician once famously remarked: "promises only bind those who listen to them."

'THIS AIN'T YOUR MOTHER'S MARIJUANA,' SURGEON GENERAL SAYS

THE BUZZ

Federal health officials are issuing a national warning against marijuana use by adolescents and pregnant women, as more states legalize some forms of the drug's use.

Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar and Surgeon General Jerome Adams made the announcement yesterday.

The warning comes as more than 30 states have legalized marijuana for medical purposes or personal use.



Adams says the science shows marijuana is harmful to the developing brains of teenagers and to the human fetus.

The drug has also gotten stronger. Adams says, "This ain't your mother's marijuana."

Azar said President Donald Trump is donating part of his salary to pay for a promotional campaign to highlight the warning.

The officials note that while state laws have changed legalizing marijuana, federal law hasn't.

HURRICANE ON TRACK FOR FLORIDA AFTER STRIKE IN CARIBBEAN

AP PHOTO



FREIDA FRISARO & ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON, MIAMI

HURRICANE Dorian posed an increasing menace to Florida as it pushed over open waters yesterday after leaving limited damage in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center said Dorian was expected to grow into a potentially devastating Category 3 hurricane before hitting the U.S. mainland late Sunday or early Monday somewhere between the Florida Keys and southern Georgia.

Across much of Florida's east coast, residents began flocking to the grocery stores and gas stations, stocking up in anticipation of the storm. There were lines at many gas stations in South Florida as people began filling gas cans and topping off their gas tanks. Some residents using community Facebook groups gave updates on new shipments of water to restock the nearly empty shelves at local grocery stores.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis declared a state of emergency for the state's eastern and central counties yesterday and planned to visit the National Hurricane Center in Miami on early today.

County governments along the state's central east coast distributed san-

dbags and many residents rushed to warehouse retailers to load up on water, canned food and emergency supplies.

"Hurricane Dorian looks like it will be hitting Florida late Sunday night," President Donald

"Hurricane Dorian looks like it will be hitting Florida late Sunday night."

TRUMP

Trump tweeted yesterday. "Be prepared and please follow State and Federal instructions, it will be a very big Hurricane, perhaps one of the biggest!"

Dorian blew through the Virgin Islands as a Category 1 hurricane while raking nearby Puerto Rico with high winds and rains.

The storm caused an island-wide blackout in St. Thomas and St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands, and scattered power outages in St. Croix, government spokesman Richard Motta said. The storm also downed trees and at least one electric pole in St. Thomas, he said.

And there were no reports of serious damage in the British Virgin Islands, where Gov. Augustus Jaspert said crews were already clearing roads and inspecting infrastructure

by late Wednesday afternoon.

Early Thursday, Dorian was centered about 150 miles north-northwest of San Juan, Puerto Rico. The U.S. National Hurricane Center said its top winds were blowing at 85 mph as the storm moved northwest at 13 mph.

The Hurricane Center projected the storm could have winds of 125 mph by the time it reaches the mainland. Also imperiled were the Bahamas, with Dorian's forecast

track running just to the north of Great Abaco and Grand Bahama islands.

Puerto Rico seemed to be spared any heavy wind and rain, a huge relief on an island where blue tarps still cover some 30,000 homes nearly two years after Hurricane Maria. The island's 3.2 million inhabitants also depend on an unstable power grid that remains prone to outages since it was destroyed by Maria, a Category 4 storm.

Several hundred customers were without power across Puerto Rico, said Ángel Figueroa, president of a union that represents power workers.

Police said an 80-year-old man in the northern town of Bayamón died Wednesday after he fell trying to climb up to his roof to clear it of debris ahead of the storm. AP

Egypt Security officials say they arrested a suspected militant and are pursuing 80 others in a province west of Cairo for plotting an imminent attack.

Colombia A group of ex-Colombia rebel negotiators announce in video they are taking up arms again following 2016 peace.



EU The European Union's top diplomat said that the existing nuclear deal between Iran and world powers must not be sacrificed as part of any U.S. moves to forge a new security agreement with Tehran amid attempts to set up a meeting between President Donald Trump and his Iranian counterpart.



Italy Ex-premier Giuseppe Conte yesterday accepted a fresh mandate to try and cobble together a new government backed by the populist 5-Star Movement and the center-left Democrats, aimed at blocking right-wing League leader Matteo Salvini's power grab.



UK Political opposition to Prime Minister Boris Johnson's move to suspend Parliament crystallized yesterday amid protests, legal action and a petition to block the move which has gathered more than 1 million signatures.

USA Struggling Democratic presidential candidates are facing the bad news that they are not among the 10 who have qualified for the next debate, a predicament that is likely to spell doom for their campaigns.