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# Times

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**THEFT OF GAMBLING MONEY, CURRENCY EXCHANGE SCAMS, DOCUMENT FORGERY PLAGUED CASINOS OVER THE WEEKEND**

P2

**SUNCITY PURCHASES OKINAWA LAND FOR HOTEL PROJECT**

P7

**CLAD IN GAS MASKS ALONG WITH THEIR SCHOOL UNIFORMS, TENS OF THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS IN HONG KONG BOYCOTTED THE FIRST DAY OF CLASSES**

P8

**China** Ten students were injured yesterday in an attack at an elementary school in Enshi city in Hubei, officials said.



AP PHOTO

**ASEAN** A senior U.S. naval officer underlined Washington's commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific as the United States yesterday launched its first joint naval exercise with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.



AP PHOTO

**Philippines** A New Zealand couple was among nine people killed in a small plane that was conducting a medical airlift when it crashed and exploded in flames at a resort south of Manila and investigators are trying to determine what caused the tragedy, officials said yesterday.

**Myanmar** The rights group Human Rights Watch says it is skeptical of announced plans by Myanmar's military to prosecute soldiers for actions at a village where security forces reportedly killed as many as 400 members of the Muslim Rohingya minority.



AP PHOTO

**Cambodia** Malaysia's prime minister arrived in Cambodia yesterday to strengthen ties and witness the signing of several agreements.

More on backpage

# TALENT CALL

MACAU WANTS RESIDENTS WORKING ABROAD TO RETURN P3



# MAO EXHIBITION CELEBRATES DOUBLE ANNIVERSARIES

P4-5





# CRIMES OF A CASINO NATURE TOP WEEKEND POLICE REPORTS

RENATO MARQUES

**CASES** involving theft of gambling money, currency exchange scams, and document forgery to trick casino security staff topped the list of reported crimes during yesterday's joint press conference from the police forces.

In the conference held at the Judiciary Police (PJ) headquarters, the police force reported a case involving a restaurant employee who is being accused of embezzlement after the owner of the establishment found that she had taken a total of MOP64,000 from the restaurant's safe box in order to repay a gambling debt.

The case took place on August 27, when the 39-year-old woman from the mainland took the opportunity to steal the money from the restaurant safe box, while the manager was enjoying his annual leave. The manager had given her the keys two days earlier, as she had been placed in charge of the restaurant during that period.

The woman justified her unlawful behavior to the PJ with the need to repay a gambling debt.

She has been presented to

the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) under the charge of breach of trust.

## CURRENCY EXCHANGE SCAMS PERSIST

The number of currency exchange scams continues to grow with new cases being reported almost every day.

This weekend, the PJ reported to have received a case from the Public Security Police Force (PSP) for the investigation of a 34-year-old mainland resident who is being accused of scamming his compatriot over the exchange of RMB into HKD to play in local casinos.

The incident occurred on August 29 when the victim contacted the suspect to acquire HKD300,000 to play in the casinos. According to the report, they met at a restaurant where the deal was made and then headed to the victim's hotel room where the suspect asked the victim to transfer RMB275,700 to a mainland bank account.

After the banking transfer, the suspect told the victim that they would need to wait for a third person who would bring the cash in HKD, so they both went down to the hotel lobby. Eventually and after some time

without any contact from this alleged third person, the victim felt that he had been scammed and decided to make a complaint to the PSP officer on duty in the casino.

## GAMBLER ROBBED BY HIS ROOMMATES

A man from the mainland has accused two other men of 27 and 45 years old of stealing a large sum of money he had left in the hotel room they were sharing.

The case was reported to the PSP last Saturday at around 2 p.m. The victim told the police that an envelope with HKD500,000 in cash had vanished from the hotel room he was sharing with two other men that had come together with him to Macau to gamble.

According to the victim's testimony on that day, he had gone to the room to rest and left the envelope on the table. After some time he went down to play at the casino but realized that he had left the money in the room, calling to the first suspect to help him.

The first suspect replied that he had not seen any money in the room and that at the moment there was nobody in the room

as both suspects were also out. After a while, they returned and went to the room to realize that was no sign of the envelope or the cash, which led the victim to call the police.

During the investigation, the first suspect did not manage to present any identification document to the PSP officer, saying that all his documents were in a bag that was stored with the hotel's concierge.

In the company of the officers, he then retrieved his bag from the concierge and while inspecting it, the PSP found a large sum in cash inside, amounting to HKD400,000.

The suspect told the police he had no idea how that money ended up there but, when questioned, the second suspect revealed to the police that the first suspect had found that the victim had left the money in the table and that besides keeping the larger share (HKD400,000) inside his bag, he had also split the remaining HKD100,000 into two parts, one of HKD90,000 which was given to the second suspect and another of HKD10,000 which the first suspect kept for himself. The second suspect also said that he had already exchanged

his share of HKD90,000 into RMB and transferred it into his bank account on the mainland.

Both suspects were presented to the MP yesterday on charges of aggravated theft.

## FORGED DOCUMENT FOR CASINO ENTRY

The PSP spokesperson also reported the case of a man from the mainland who was caught after a report of a forged document.

The document was initially found by a Cotai hotel employee on August 21 and held for a few days, while staff waited for the owner to claim it.

After four days, the hotel decided to hand the document to the police who then realized that it was a forgery.

The PSP located the man on August 27 while he was trying to leave Macau by the Border Gate checkpoint.

When questioned, the man admitted that the document was forged and said that he had bought it on July 8 in Gongbei area for RMB1,000.

He also told the police that the reason that he had the document was that he wanted to enter local casinos and he was not yet 21-years-old, the minimum age to access the gaming areas of Macau integrated resorts.

He was presented to the MP on the charge of document forgery on August 30.

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# Committee eyes Macau's neighbors to encourage talent return

A committee that focuses on encouraging talents to return to Macau proposed in its recently held meeting that future policies for the return of qualified staff to the SAR should be drawn up in a diverse manner.

According to a statement issued by the Talents Development Committee, the policies should have an appropriate reference to the SAR's neighboring regions in a bid to increase the quality of the attracted talent.

The statement noted remarks by some of the committee members that a viable proposal needs to be devised to increase the proportion of local teachers in higher education institutions, and to strengthen the various

means of contact with qualified staff who are abroad.

It proposed to have a delegation visit areas where Macau residents are located abroad, in order to create a more direct and close exchange with them.

During the meeting, the committee's developments from 2014 to 2019 were discussed, highlighting that the committee has taken the initiative of contacting qualified Macau residents abroad in a variety of ways.

According to the statement, some of the qualified staff that participated in these activities decided to return to Macau to pursue their professional career, while others continued to maintain close ties with the committee.

The Talents Development Committee aims to better implement a long-term mechanism of talent training.

Established in 2014, the committee focuses on the forecast of talent needs, talents training and encouragement and the use of talent resources.

Macau currently has a population of almost 670,000, of which about 182,000 are non-residents.

According to the committee's data, it is estimated that over 100,000 Macau residents reside outside of the MSAR.

The committee is focused on developing the conditions to allow local society to obtain the human resources required for a better local talent structure.

Back in May, the Talent Development Committee forecast that the gaming industry will need some 7,525 additional gaming employees, primarily of high-ranking position and mid-level managers, by 2020.

Data from the Statistics and Census Bureau showed the employment situation in Macau is favorable as the general unemployment rate was 1.8% in May to July 2019. The total labor force in those three months was 394,100 and the labor force participation rate was 70.3%.

The employment in Gaming & Junket Activities decreased, hinting at a need for more workers in the sector, which presents a challenge for the SAR. **LV**

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE ELECTION RESULT CONFIRMED BY TUI

Ho Iat Seng, sole candidate and winner of the Chief Executive election held on August 25, had his victory officially certified by the Court of Final Appeal, the Court announced in the Official Gazette yesterday. The Court announced that the result of the election has been certified, due to the absence of any legal action against it during the period stipulated in the Chief Executive election law. The Court has thus confirmed the result of the election. On August 25, all 400 electors gathered at the Macau East Asian Games Dome to cast their votes. Of the 400 votes, seven were blank, one invalid and 392 valid in support of Ho. The Court confirmed that Ho obtained 98% of all votes. The election for Chief Executive in Macau is conducted indirectly through a committee consisting of 400 people from all sectors of society. The proportion of each sector represented is legally stated.

## AERIAL MAPPING PERIOD EXTENDED DUE TO POOR WEATHER

Due to the unstable weather conditions in August, the local government will extend the period of the aerial mapping operation for Macau, which was originally scheduled to complete last month. It is expected that the whole operation will finish by the end of September. The aerial mapping task involves the helicopter operation and the unmanned aircraft operation, and can only be carried out under favorable weather conditions. The Civil Aviation Authority will continue to ensure that the operator will complete all the operations in a safe manner in accordance with the Air Navigation Regulation of Macau.

## MACAO YEARBOOK 2019 RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC TODAY

The Chinese, Portuguese and English special edition of the Macao Yearbook, an annual publication compiled by the Government Information Bureau of the Macau SAR, was released to the public today. The Macao Yearbook 2019 is a comprehensive chronicle, outlining major events, details of progress achieved, and changes made in the course of Macau's political, economic, social and cultural development. Published annually since 2002, the Macao Yearbook is available in Chinese, Portuguese and English. This year's Chinese edition comprises 570 pages with about 236,000 words, while the Portuguese edition has 705 pages, and the English edition 691 pages. The Yearbook is enriched by 267 photographs.

## EDUCATION

# DSEJ launches new round of long-term planning

THE Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) said it has launched a new round of its middle and long-term planning, hoping to absorb opinions from all sectors of society on how to guide the work of local education and youth affairs.

The planning rounds come as the "Ten Year Plan for the Development of Non-Tertiary Education (2011-2020)" and the "Macao Youth Policy (2012-2020)" are scheduled to end next year.

The DSEJ said that it will continue to cooperate with schools and parents in order to curate a "safe and excellent learning environment" for students



and "cultivate students' love feelings for the country [...] so that students can become talents to serve the people and construct the country."

Moreover, in order to tie in with the need for curriculum reform, the DSEJ said it will continue

to promote the development of teaching materials, including the new teaching materials for "the trial version of secondary history."

It will also provide schools with the teaching resources related to the "National Flag, National

Emblem, National Anthem, Regional Flag and Regional Emblem" to infuse a love of the country among the youth of Macau. To this end, the bureau intends to encourage local schools to establish sister-school relationships with their

counterparts in the Greater Bay Area.

According to government statistics released this week, there are 77 schools and 121 school units in Macau in the academic year 2019/2020, which is just beginning. Of this number, 106 school units have joined the free education school system, with about 74,000 students benefitting from it.

The estimated number of students across the different education levels in the academic year 2019/2020 rose 2.6% year-on-year to 82,683, according to the DSEJ. The bureau added that the number of students has increased for six consecutive academic years. **DB**

# IC calls for Tap Seac Craft Market stall operators

**T**HE Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) is calling on stall operators and handicraft workshops for the upcoming Tap Seac Craft Market which will be held for two consecutive weekends from November 15.

This edition of the annual market will feature over 220 handicraft and creative gastronomy stalls, showcasing an array of creative products from cultural and creative practitioners from Macau and nearby regions.

Concurrently, music performances and handicraft workshops will be held for the public.

Applications will be open until September 20.

According to a statement issued by the IC, applicants for creative handicraft workshops may apply either by submitting hard copies of their applications or by email, while the stall applicants from Macau, Malaysia and Singapore may apply online through the event's website.

If the number of eligible applicants exceeds the quota, proposals from stall operators and handicraft workshops



will be selected by drawing lots.

Inaugurated in 2008, the Tap Seac Craft Market has been a platform for cultural and creative practitioners to display and sell their products.

Last year, the annual event featured 39 creative handicraft workshops and 50 music performances and interactive installations.

Various distinctive cultural and creative products, such as accessories, fashion designs, drawings, paintings, home decorations, creatively created potted plants, natural handmade products and leather goods, will be showcased to the general public.

Last year, retailers hailed from different regions including mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macau, Malaysia, Singapore and South Korea.

Last year, a retailer at the craft market told the Times that the application to participate was highly competitive, noting that there were over 200 applications from Hong Kong alone. According to the participant, less than 60 were accepted from the neighboring region.

Earlier this year, a Tap Seac Craft Market, which featured 38 themed workshops, was also held for two consecutive weekends from April 26. LV

# Mao exhibition held anniversaries shows

ANTHONY LAM

**A**N exhibition about the founder of the People's Republic of China (PRC), Mao Zedong, is being held from now until September 9 at the Handover Gifts Museum, to celebrate the 70th and 20th anniversary of China and the Macau Special Administrative Region respectively.

The exhibition spans across a hall of about 3,000 square feet and is divided into seven sections. The sections are not fully chronologically arranged. The first four are arranged in such a way to reflect the timeline of the Chinese leader.

The last three are more about intangible qualities, namely his love for families, friends and his native town, his pastimes and his model as "the people's leader".

Consisting of several hundred photographs and relics connected with the

life of Mao, the exhibition revisits the path by which the PRC has come to exist.

A large number of exhibits are presented to help shape a narrative of the Chinese leader's life.

Several high-ranking officials in the SAR attended an opening ceremony and guided tour of the exhibition on Sunday, including current Chief Executive Chui Sai On and his predecessor Edmund Ho.

The descriptions of items on display and all information panels are only available in Chinese, with no Portuguese or English translation. It was not immediately apparent why no translation was provided.

## SNAPSHOTS INTO THE LIFE OF MAO

The exhibition provides insights into the life of Mao primarily through photographs that serve as snapshots of key events.

In one June 1917 photograph, Mao is shown having been elected a class re-

presentative of "ethical and intellectual education".

Another shows the premises that housed the first Chinese Communist Party Congress in July 1921. The premises was located in Shanghai and built with a western décor on the exterior.

A third skips forward six years to 1927, when the minutes from an emergency meeting of the Congress were recorded. These are on display and note the meeting in which Mao said his famous quote: "Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun."

## NOVELS ON REVOLUTION

Mao was born in the late 19th century to farmer parents in Hunan Province.

The exhibition notes that when Mao was young, he read "Words of Warning to a Prosperous Age" by Zheng Guanying, who finished writing this book while at the Mandarin's House in Macau. Mao's

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# to celebrate double snapshots of Chinese leader's life



## THE PRC'S DIPLOMATIC HISTORY

The exhibition includes a single mention of the Cultural Revolution; a photograph showing crowds gathering in Tiananmen Square, cheering for the commencement of the revolution. The caption notes that the Cultural Revolution was "an internal disorder, wrongly initiated, abused and catastrophic."

Other major events from the life of Mao are missing from the exhibition, including some of his controversial decisions and policies.

Meanwhile, the third section of the exhibition recaps the diplomatic history between the PRC and other countries. Photographs show Mao meeting Kim Il Sung of North Korea, Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy of Pakistan, Sukarno of Indonesia, Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia and Ho Chi Minh of Vietnam.

Moments of Mao meeting with western politicians, such as Richard Nixon, are also represented. A photograph capturing the drafting of the First Chinese-American Joint Communiqué is also on display.

The exhibition will remain open to the public daily from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. until September 9. Admission is free.

copy of the book, meanwhile, was lent to him by his cousin Wen Yunchang.

Mao was not particularly fond of the traditional Four Books and Five Classics, even though it was part of his education. Instead, he

was very much into reading novels about revolution.

As if documenting the early years of the PRC, several historical photographs show the celebratory events from the day of the country's founding and key

milestones from its first decade.

One is a group shot capturing part of the then-People's Revolutionary Military Commission. The other shows a group of officials, with Mao in the center,

toasting with each other to celebrate the signing of the agreement liberating Tibet in 1951.

A panoramic shot comes afterwards, capturing the moment when the Korean Armistice Agreement was signed.

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# Suncity Group purchases Okinawa land for hotel project

**A**LVIN Chau's Suncity Group has announced the acquisition of land in the Japanese prefecture of Okinawa that the company wants to use to build a new hotel resort.

On August 30, Suncity entered into an agreement to acquire a 51% stake in MSR Corporation Limited in exchange for almost \$9.59 billion (about 77 billion patacas). The funding will be provided by a company wholly-owned by Alvin Chau with as much as HKD1.5 billion made available for mergers, acquisitions and investments.

The principal asset of the deal is a plot of land on Miyako Island with a total area of 108,800 square meters, which is currently designated for use as natural fields, windbreak forest, farmland and public roads.

In a filing to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, Suncity said that it intends to apply to Okinawa's Legal



Affairs Bureau for the conversion of the land's designated use to hotel resort development. According to the filing, the planned development would include 40 villas with a pool and a hotel of more than 100 rooms.

Listed in Hong Kong, Suncity Group manages

a real estate business in mainland China and hospitality consultancy services in Southeast Asia. It does not oversee Suncity's junket operations in the Macau SAR or abroad.

The Group has been expanding its tourism-related business in the East Asia

region, including in Vietnam and Russia, as well as a recent cooperation agreement for South Korea.

Japan is in the process of reinventing itself as a first-class tourism destination. The number of international visitor arrivals to the country more than doubled in the span of four years, growing from 13.4 million in 2014 to approximately 31.2 million in 2018, according to the Japan National Tourism Organization. The rapid growth was led by the mainland Chinese market, which accounted for more than a quarter of tourist to the country last year.

Okinawa ranks within the top ten among all the most visited prefectures in Japan.

The investment comes as international casino groups position themselves to enter the lucrative Japan market, which analysts at CLSA predict will generate \$20 billion annually in gross gaming revenue. **DB**

## CROSS-BORDER VEHICULAR TRAFFIC UP 9.4% IN JULY

**C**CROSS-BORDER vehicular traffic in July increased by 9.4% year-on-year to 454,059 trips, with vehicles passing through the Checkpoint of Cotai (139,350) rising by 7.5%.

According to data from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), the number of vehicles crossing in and out of Macau via the Border Gate (277,053) dropped by 1.8%.

Last month, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge recorded a total of 43,393 trips. In the first seven months of 2019, cross-border vehicular traffic increased by 7.8% year-on-year to 3,059,062 trips.

Meanwhile commercial flights at the Macau International Airport totaled 6,483 trips in July, up by 19.5% year-on-year. Trips to and from mainland China (2,736) and Taiwan (1,134) showed respective increases of 32.4% and 0.7%.

Inbound and outbound commercial flights in the first seven months grew by 19.4% year-on-year to 42,115 trips.

The Macau International Airport handled 3,272 tons of air cargo in July, an increase of 5.3% year-on-year. The gross weight of outward cargo (2,229 tons) increased by 16%, while that of inward cargo (591 tons) and transit cargo (453 tons) decreased by 9.2% and 15.5% respectively.

In the first seven months of 2019, air cargo decreased by 1.9% year-on-year to 21,647 tons.

Additionally, the gross weight of containerized cargo transported by land in July soared by 48.7% year-on-year to 1,592 tons.

DSEC also noted that the number of traffic accidents rose by 8% year-on-year to 1,167, and the number of injuries totaled 327. In the first seven months of this year, there were 7,337 traffic accidents, with the number of victims totaling 2,442, of which five were killed.

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**Registration available until  
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total:  
36 horas/hours  
12 sessões/sessions

total:  
33 horas/hours  
11 sessões/sessions

língua/language:  
Português/Portuguese \*\*

patrocínio/sponsor:  
Fundação Macau

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# TENS OF THOUSANDS IN HONG KONG BOYCOTT FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

**C**LAD in gas masks along with their formal white school uniforms, tens of thousands of students in Hong Kong boycotted the first day of classes yesterday as part of a citywide strike following a violent weekend of demonstrations.

High school students added gas masks, goggles and hard hats to their traditional uniforms, while university pupils crowded into a square at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Workers also participated in their own rally at a public park, braving strong winds and storm clouds as a typhoon threatened.

Nearly three months of youth-dominated protests — calling for democracy and an independent inquiry into police conduct — will be tested as classes resume with the end of the summer break in the semiautonomous Chinese territory.

The young protesters strove to demonstrate their continued determination with Monday's school boycott, the first of a planned two-day strike.

Jacky So, president of the Chinese University of Hong Kong's student union, said 30,000 stu-



dents attended a rally on campus. They dressed in black and wore face masks, waving banners for their student associations and black signs with the Chinese character for "Strike."

Separately, high school students who were skipping class rallied in Edinburgh Place, a public square in Hong Kong's central business

district. Teenagers spoke to the crowd from a stage with a backdrop that read: "With no future, there's no need to go to class."

At St. Francis' Canossian College, uniformed students knelt in a line and held up hand-painted signs that read, "The five major demands: Not one is dispensable." The elite girls' school is where

Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam was educated.

Hong Kong Education Secretary Kevin Yeung said he hoped students would stay in class.

"Schools should not be used as places for political demands or exercising pressure," he said at a government briefing.

The protesters' demands inclu-

de dropping charges against more than 1,000 people who have been arrested and formally withdrawing an extradition bill that would allow Hong Kong residents to be sent to mainland China to stand trial. The appeals are undergirded by a sense among some Hong Kong residents that the Communist Party-ruled mainland government has been eroding the autonomy and civil liberties promised when the former British colony was returned to China in 1997.

Some demonstrators disrupted the morning commute on Monday by blocking train doors, attempting to evade riot police who were hot on their heels by moving quickly between multiple public transit stations.

Officers at Lok Fu station hit protesters with batons and arrested one. Three others were arrested at Lai King station.

On Sunday, the MTR Corp. suspended train service to the airport after several hundred protesters gathered there following calls online to disrupt transportation. They blocked buses arriving at the airport but police in riot helmets kept them out of the terminal. Some protesters hurled bricks and metal poles onto the tracks of the Airport Express rail line, police said, prompting train services to be suspended and forcing some travelers to walk some distance to the airport. **MDT/AP**

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# How Hong Kong protests could lead to internet cut off

**H**ONG Kong's Chief Executive Carrie Lam has said all options are on the table as she tries to quell the pro-democracy demonstrations that have rocked the city for months - including invoking a colonial-era law that grants her broad powers similar to martial law. The last time it was used, in 1967, there was no internet. This time the law could be used to order the blocking of messaging apps or websites favored by protesters, or even to disrupt internet service entirely. Everyone living and working in the Asian financial hub would be affected, and the ripple effects could extend far beyond. "This would be worse than having the Chinese army come in," said Francis Fong, honorary president of the Hong Kong Information Technology Federation, a trade group with more than 100 members including Microsoft, Cisco Systems, and IBM.

## WHAT IS THE EMERGENCY LAW?

The Emergency Regulations Ordinance, introduced by the British in 1922, can be invoked in case of emergency or public danger and affords the chief executive the power to make "any regulations whatsoever which he may consider desirable in the public interest." Its provisions include arrests, property seizures, deportation, control of the ports and transportation - and censorship.

## DOES IT COVER THE INTERNET?

The law was written almost a century ago and has only been invoked once - during Hong Kong's 1967 riots. That was well before the internet was created. But the authority granted specifically covers "the control and suppression of publications, writings, maps, plans, photographs, communica-



tions and means of communication."

## HOW COULD IT BE DISRUPTED?

Lam could order private telecommunication companies to cut internet services delivered through fixed-line and mobile phone networks. Alternatively, she could compel these providers to take other measures including slowing internet speeds, disabling particular mobile phone networks and public WiFi spots or blocking certain websites and platforms.

## WHAT ABOUT APPS?

Many of the digital tools that protesters use to organize demonstrations, including the Telegram messaging app and LIHKG discussion forum, use cloud-host-

ing services. That means to block one site hosted on, say, Amazon Web Services, the government would have to block the entire AWS domain, which hosts thousands of websites.

## WOULD IT BE JUST HONG KONG?

The city is one of the largest so-called core nodes of Asia's optical fiber network, and has the region's biggest internet exchange, which means traffic from outside could be slowed as it flows through Hong Kong. (That includes 80% of mainland China's external web traffic, according to the Hong Kong Internet Service Providers Association.) Hong Kong also hosts more than 100 data centers operated by local and international companies, according to the ISP trade group.

So it might be hard or impossible for someone in Singapore, say, to access certain data if it were stored on a server in Hong Kong.

## COULD SOMEONE GET AROUND IT?

Even if the Hong Kong government were able to block certain sites, residents could use services called virtual private networks, or VPNs, that allow people to bypass these blockades by connecting to servers outside of the city. Russia, for instance, has blocked Telegram but users continue to flock to the messaging service by using VPNs that circumvent banned sites.

## CAN COURTS STOP IT?

There's nothing overt in the emergency ordinance that says the judicial system can review

the chief executive's extraordinary actions, but current and past lawmakers say that citizens could try to challenge them in court.

## WHAT COMPANIES WOULD BE INVOLVED?

Hong Kong has hundreds of internet-service providers, but less than a dozen companies that operate mobile networks or provide actual infrastructure, like the optical fiber that connects homes and business to the internet. One of the biggest is PCCW Ltd., which is controlled by billionaire Richard Li. Large tech companies such as Amazon.com Inc. and Alphabet Inc.'s Google that operate data centers in Hong Kong would be affected. Many of these data centers power cloud services in the greater Asia-Pacific region, which in turn serve hundreds of thousands of companies around the world.

## WHAT ABOUT HONG KONG'S HUB STATUS?

Hong Kong hosts hundreds of international companies, many of which are located in the city - rather than mainland China - partially because it was easier to do business in a place that doesn't censor the internet or block online tools and social networking websites such as Facebook and Twitter. The "one country-two systems" framework has allowed Hong Kong's internet to bypass China's so-called Great Firewall. "If we lose freedom of the internet, there is no Hong Kong any longer," said Fong from the Hong Kong Information Technology Federation.

## WHERE ELSE HAS THIS HAPPENED?

India has cut connectivity in the region of Kashmir last month, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi scrapped its autonomy and imposed a military lock down. India has had the highest number of internet shutdowns in the world: 134 times in 2018, according to technology and human rights nonprofit Access Now. Globally, there were 196 documented shutdowns across 25 countries, up from 75 in 2016, it said. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

## HONG KONG

# Officials urge calm while warning of 'signs of terror'

**H**ONG Kong authorities appealed for calm in the Asian financial center while warning that radical protesters showed "signs of terror" over the weekend in some of the most violent confrontations since unrest broke out three months ago.

Chief Secretary Matthew Cheung, the city's No. 2 official, said that

police would arrest those who engaged in illegal activities after protesters disrupted traffic to the airport, hurled petrol bombs at cops and set fire to a massive roadblock in the city center. Demonstrators, by contrast, accused the police of indiscriminately beating civilians in a subway station on Saturday night.

"Stopping the violence is the top priority," Cheung told reporters yesterday alongside other top officials from Chief Executive Carrie Lam's administration. "Law and order must be restored ASAP, without further ado. No nonsense."

His colleague, Security Secretary John Lee, said the level of violence was

getting worse: "Radical protesters disregarded the law, and their illegal behavior and violence continued to spread and escalate, showing signs of terror." So far, city authorities have resisted describing the protests using the word "terror," a term invoked by mainland officials.

The city's 13th straight

weekend of unrest since early June showed no end in sight to the most serious challenge to Beijing's control over the former colony since its return to Chinese rule in 1997.

The briefing yesterday showed that authorities were still considering a colonial-era emergency law that would grant the government sweeping

powers to arrest, search properties, censor publications and shut down the Internet. Cheung declined to rule out using the so-called Emergency Regulations Ordinance, enacted by the British in 1922 and last used to quell violent riots in 1967, saying only that such powers would need to be "reasonable." **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

# INDONESIA'S NICKEL BAN SHOWS RESOURCE NATIONALISM ON THE MARCH

**I**NDONESIA will enforce a complete ban on the export of raw nickel ore from Jan. 1, two years earlier than planned, as the nation seeks to lock in supplies for dozens of smelters that are under construction and buttress a drive to build out local processing capacity, an official said.

The suspension is also in line with a plan to preserve low-grade nickel ore containing cobalt and lithium for use in electric batteries, Bambang Gatot Ariyono, director general for mineral and coal at the Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry, told reporters on Monday. Miners with outstanding permits to export nickel ore may ship the mineral until the year-end, he said.

"The government decided - after weighing all the pros and cons - that we want to expedite smelter building," Ariyono said at the briefing in Jakarta. "So we took the initiative to stop exports of nickel ores of all quality."

Indonesia has been at the forefront of efforts in emerging markets to extend its sway over local commodity riches by boosting control of top mines, including the copper trove that's been developed by Freeport-McMoran Inc., and insisting more processing is done at home. In nickel, the rule changes - which had been the subject of extended speculation - will choke off the flow of raw material overseas. The shift has been endorsed by President Joko Widodo, who's about to embark on a second, final five-year term.



While Indonesia has an estimated nickel ore reserves of 2.8 billion metric tons, proven stockpiles are only about 600 million to 700 million tons, Ariyono said. With the country soon set to be home to about 36 smelters, annual nickel ore demand will soar to 81 million tons from about 24 million tons now, he said.

"If we continue free exports, the proven reserves will be enough only for seven to eight years," Ariyono said. "The technology is advancing, so smelters can process low-grade nickel ores and

they can be used for batteries to help Indonesia meet its electric-vehicle goals."

Nickel prices rallied for a second day after Indonesia first said on Friday that it will bring forward the ban. The earlier than initially planned ban will apply only to nickel ore, allowing bauxite and copper concentrates to be shipped with permits until 2022, Ariyono said.

This isn't the first time that Indonesia has shifted a planned timeline for curbs on ore exports. The government imposed a

blanket ban on shipments in 2014 only to relax it in 2017, allowing overseas sales of surplus, lower-grade nickel ore of below 1.7% to finance smelter construction.

With exports linked to construction of smelters, miners have rushed to set up processing units, mainly in the country's Sulawesi region. Several overseas firms are planning battery-grade nickel facilities in Indonesia, including China's Tsingshan Holding Group Co. and PT Vale Indonesia, a unit of the Brazilian mining giant.

Exports of nickel ore totaled

13.3 million tons in the seven months through July out of 23.6 million tons of ore cleared for shipment, official data showed. Shipments were 20 million tons in 2018, with the government issuing recommendations for a total of 76.3 million tons since the ban on exports was relaxed in 2017.

The amendment to bring forward the ban, signed by Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Ignasius Jonan, is expected to be cleared by the Ministry of Law and Human Rights on Monday, Ariyono said. **BLOOMBERG**

## Chinese city goes back to rationing to curb rampant pork prices

**O**NE Chinese city has gone back to rationing and price controls to calm its pork market, as the nation's hog herd is ravaged by a killer disease and wholesale prices spike to record levels.

Vendors in 10 selected wet markets in Nanning, capital of the southern region of Guangxi, are selling pork cuts capped at a maximum price over the first 10 days of September, according to a statement posted on the website of the local government's planning body. The most expensive, ribs, won't retail for more than 32.2 yuan (\$4.50) per half a kilo.

For many, rationing evokes the hardships of wartime, but China's so-



called planned supply method of distributing groceries harks back to its communist heyday of the 1950s. It was gradually abolished in the 1980s as supplies became more ample following economic reforms.

Each customer is allowed only 1 kilo of pork, the Nanning Evening News, a local government newspaper, reported on Sunday. The steps are necessary to control surging prices given the time it'll take for pork production

to recover, the newspaper said.

The move shows the ill-effects of African swine fever, first reported about a year ago, now taking a firm hold in retail markets, and the government is expected to offer more incentives for farmers to restock even as imports surge. Given the Chinese love of pork, it's also a potential challenge to maintaining a happy citizenry in the run-up to the 70th anniversary of the People's Republic in October.

"Pork is an indispensable food on the table, and the high price of pork has seriously affected daily life," according to the Nanning newspaper. **BLOOMBERG**

## SINGAPORE SAYS IT CAN'T CLOSE DOORS TO SKILLED FOREIGN WORKERS

**S**INGAPORE needs to remain open to skilled foreign workers, especially in the technology sector, in order to ensure the economy stays a globally competitive one, the nation's trade minister said.

The city state can't afford to take an "inward-looking, protectionist approach" like some countries that have put up barriers to protect local industries and workers, Minister for Trade & Industry Chan Chun Sing said in prepared remarks delivered in parliament yesterday.

He was responding to a question from a lawmaker on whether there was a need for a new government program aimed at helping technology firms attract skilled foreign workers, given a worsening

economy and an objective of strengthening the local workforce.

With a global shortage of skills in the technology sector, if Singapore doesn't stay open to foreign talent, "we will almost certainly be left behind," Chan said. He cited countries like France and Thailand, which have recently made changes to their work visa programs to lure skilled professionals in technology.

"We must be prepared for these fast-growth companies to recruit the skills they most require," the minister said. "In the short-term, these skills may come from global professionals. But, we must take a strategic view on this to reap the long-term rewards for Singaporeans." **BLOOMBERG**

# Red-hot face-swapping app provokes privacy concern

COLUM MURPHY  
& ZHEPING HUANG

**C**HINESE face-swap app Zao rocketed to the top of app store charts over the weekend, but user delight at the prospect of becoming instant superstars quickly turned sour as privacy implications began to sink in.

Launched recently, Zao is currently topping the free download chart on China's iOS store. Its popularity has also pushed another face-swap app, Yanji, to fifth place on the list. Behind Zao is a company fully owned by Chinese hookup and live-streaming service Momo Inc. President Wang Li and co-Founder Lei Xiaoliang, according to public company registration documents.

Users of the app upload a photo of themselves to drop their likeness into popular scenes from hundreds of movies or TV shows. It's a chance to be the star and swap places with the likes of Marilyn Monroe, Leonardo DiCaprio or Sheldon Cooper from The Big Bang Theory in a matter of moments.

The photo uploads have proven problematic, however. A user can provide an existing photo or, following on-screen prompts, create a series of photos where they blink their eyes and open their mouth to help create a more realistic deepfake. An earlier ver-



Chinese face-swap app Zao. Photographer: Da qing/Imaginechina via AP Images

sion of Zao's user agreement stated that the app had "free, irrevocable, permanent, transferable, and relicense-able" rights to all this user-generated content. Zao has since updated its terms -- the app now says it won't use headshots or mini videos uploaded by users for purposes other than to improve the app or things pre-agreed by users. If users delete the content they uploaded, the app will erase it from its servers as well.

But the reaction has not been quick enough, as Zao has been deluged by a wave of negative reviews that now sees its App Store rating stand at 1.9 stars out of five, following more than 4,000 reviews. Many users complained about the privacy issue.

"We understand the concern about privacy. We've received the feedback, and will fix the issues that we didn't take into consideration, which will need a bit of time," a statement posted to Zao's

account on social-media platform Weibo said.

Yesterday, the China E-Commerce Research Center urged authorities to look into the matter. The app "violates certain laws and standards set by the nation and the industry," the research house said in a statement, citing Wang Zheng of the Taihang Law Firm.

It's not the first time such face-swapping apps have enjoyed popularity either in China or around

the world, but Zao's smooth and quick integration of faces into videos and internet memes is what makes it stand out.

The machine learning technology underpinning deepfakes of this kind has matured rapidly, to the point where it can believably impersonate famous personalities like Joe Rogan and make them say whatever the aspiring faker types. U.S. politicians are wrestling with the issue of how to regulate this emergent misinformation threat, and top Democrat Adam Schiff has described it as a source of "nightmarish scenarios" for the 2020 presidential election.

At the individual level, FaceApp is the most famous and notorious deepfake face-modification app to date. It went viral globally on two different occasions, showing people how they'd look in their old age or with their gender flipped. The app also kicked up an unintentional privacy scare with its practice of uploading images to servers to be processed, illustrating a growing sensitivity to how user data is handled.

After users flooded WeChat, China's most widely used social media platform, with Zao-enabled short clips and GIFs, the Tencent Holdings Ltd.-operated messaging app banned links to the service, saying there have been numerous reports about it presenting "security risks." Tencent didn't immediately comment on the decision.

"I just realized the terms are so unfair but it's too late," one unhappy iOS reviewer of Zao wrote. "Nowadays people don't usually bother to read them."

"Rubbish, hooligan software," added another reviewer. **BLOOMBERG**

LISA DU

**E**LON Musk's charm offensive in China appears to have paid off.

During a visit last week to the country, the billionaire chief executive officer of Tesla Inc. won a tax exemption for the electric-car maker, got to promote his ground-digging Boring Co. passion project and even drew praise on social media for his frugal food and accommodation choices -- he was spotted eating dumplings and staying at the Holiday Inn.

Musk began making headlines in China on Thursday, when he publicly sparred with Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. Chairman Jack Ma at the World Artificial Intelligence Conference in Shanghai, talking about various subjects ranging from the existence of aliens to the preservation of human consciousness and other vi-

## Musk's China charm offensive nets Tesla tax break amid trade war

sions of the future.

It was a wide-ranging - and at times bizarre - conversation, that went viral on social media.

Musk also toured a factory Tesla is building in the country, its first outside of the U.S., and reportedly met China's Transport Minister Li Xiaopeng on Friday. Later that day, China announced Tesla cars will be exempted from a 10% purchase tax, something typically reserved for domestic makers of electric vehicles.

Tesla currently imports all of the cars it sells in China but plans to start making the Model 3, its top-selling vehicle, at the new plant near Shanghai later this

year. The company has had significant support from China for the factory, securing as much as \$521 million in loans from local banks. Tesla shares jumped as much as 4.8% on Friday in the U.S., after news of the tax break.

China's concession to one of America's most high-profile companies stood out, coming amid heightened uncertainty over where the trade war between the two countries is headed. President Donald Trump ordered U.S. firms last month to immediately begin looking for alternatives to China, only to later suggest that tensions were cooling. **BLOOMBERG**



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

# WHY CHINA'S BUZZING ABOUT NETFLIX'S DOCUMENTARY 'AMERICAN FACTORY'

**A**MERICAN Factory," a new Netflix Inc. documentary about a Chinese-owned factory in Ohio isn't being screened in China. But hundreds of thousands of people have seen it anyway, sparking a debate that delves into the relationship between the world's two largest economies.

The 115-minute film was widely discussed on Chinese social networks and spawned dozens of reviews by influential bloggers and state media, prompting discussions on globalization, cultural differences, automation and workers' rights. Netflix isn't available in China, and a company spokesperson said there's no legitimate way to watch it there.

The documentary, backed by Barack and Michelle Obama's new production company, follows along as a shuttered General Motors plant outside Dayton is bought and converted into a factory run by China's Fuyao Glass. The complexities of the issue are evident in the reactions it evoked in China, a mix of self-reflection and defensiveness as the trade war with the U.S. shows no sign of ending.

The U.S. levied another round of higher tariffs on Chinese goods on Sept. 1, and China retaliated.

The film starts out on an optimistic note, but the clash of working cultures -- especially over the question of unionization -- soon engulfs the factory. In the end, the union effort fails, and its Chinese managers start replacing workers with machines.

The clash between the American workers and their new Chinese managers in the film may be



rooted in the different business models both countries favor, a blogger named Liu Run wrote in a post on popular messaging platform WeChat that was viewed more than 40,000 times. Fuyao's management came across as callous in the film because its success hinged on minimizing costs, rather than investing in innovation, he said.

"If U.S. manufacturing is high-end, then China's manufacturing, overall, is still about medium and low-end assembling," he wrote. Automation can't be the solution, Liu added, asking "if the U.S. and Germany boost automation, why would anyone come from far away to invest in China?"

## CULTURE CLASH

In multiple posts and comments, Chinese internet users who'd seen the film on streaming sites and through using virtual

private networks dissected the differences between the American workers and their Chinese colleagues.

In the film, the former complain about long working hours and express concern about safety risks and environmental protection - prompting them to attempt to form a union. Meanwhile, the Chinese work longer hours, pay

## The complexities of the issue are evident in the reactions it evoked in China

little attention to safety and offer little push-back against their bosses' demands.

"When unionization efforts failed, the Chinese workers seem to be even happier than the managers, do they have Stockholm Syndrome?" Joe Zhou, who works

in the media industry, said on WeChat. "The answer might be complicated."

In China, every company has a so-called worker's union. These organizations aren't directly involved in negotiating salaries and benefits, and their main purview is planning team-building activities and distributing gifts on holidays. In Fuyao's case, the union is run by its chairman's brother-in-law, who describes the union and the company as "two gears rotating together."

## STATE MEDIA

Government-owned media framed the documentary squarely within China's protracted trade spat with America, using it to bolster arguments that the U.S. needs Chinese investment to generate jobs and that an economic decoupling is untenable.

State broadcaster CCTV published an article on its social media platforms pointing out the crucial role Ohio played in President Donald Trump's 2016 election victory, and that Trump once promised to bring more jobs to the state.

"However, GM closed another big plant in the state earlier this year," CCTV wrote. "More ironically, trade tensions have led to a sharp drop of Chinese investment to the U.S., making 'American factories' like Fuyao's one of the few important lifelines in the region."

The documentary is playing a "positive role" in helping the two peoples understand each other, Xinhua News Agency wrote in a commentary. The countries still lack mutual understanding, and compared with the rhetoric of "decoupling" and a "clash of civilizations," a film focusing on cooperation and communication between the U.S. and China is "timely, realistic and meaningful," it wrote.

Ultimately, some viewers went away more conflicted than before.

"The feeling is very complicated. I still appreciate how diligent and organized our Chinese workers are, but on the other hand, I also feel empathy for the American workers who are asking for more rights and protection," said 33-year-old Zhang Ming, who streamed the movie on a Chinese website where it was viewed more than 700,000 times.

"I don't see an answer to these questions," said Zhang. "Maybe eventually everyone will be replaced by automation."

**BLOOMBERG**

# Surveys show manufacturing demand weak amid trade war

**T**WO surveys of Chinese manufacturing show demand is weak amid a mounting tariff war with Washington over trade and technology.

A monthly purchasing managers' index released by a business magazine, Caixin, rose to 50.4 from July's 49.9 on a 100-point scale on which numbers above 50 show activity increasing.

That indicates "renewed improvement" but said a gauge of new orders fell to its lowest level this year, the magazine said.

A separate survey released Saturday by an industry group, the China Federation of Logistics & Purchasing, showed activity declining to

49.5 from July's 49.7. It said market demand was "relatively weak."

Chinese exporters are struggling in the face of U.S. tariff hikes. Exports to the United States, their biggest market, fell 6.5% in July.

Washington and Beijing stepped up their fight on Sunday by imposing additional tariffs on billions of dollars of each other's goods.

Beijing has propped up economic growth by boosting government spending on construction.

Economic growth sank to 6.2% over a year earlier in the quarter ending in June, its lowest level in at least 26 years. **AP**



# US promotes free and open Indo-Pacific at naval exercise

JERRY HARMER, SATTAHIP

A senior U.S. naval officer underlined Washington's commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific as the United States on yesterday launched its first joint naval exercise with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Rear Adm. Kenneth Whitesell spoke at the opening ceremony of the ASEAN-U.S. Maritime Exercise at the Sattahip naval base in eastern Thailand.

He said the multilateral exercise demonstrates the U.S. commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific, which Washington has been promoting to counter China's increasing influence in Asia, including Beijing's territorial claims in the South China Sea. Several Southeast Asian countries contest the Chinese claims of ownership of almost all of the strategically important area. Beijing has asserted its claim by building seven islands and equipping them with military runways, missile defense systems and outposts.

The United States has been shoring up relations with allies



and taking a higher military profile in the Pacific as part of its rivalry with China.

The joint operation, first pro-

posed in 2017, involves eight warships and four aircraft from seven of ASEAN's 10 countries, and more than 1,000 personnel.

As well as practicing search and seizure operations, the exercise will work on interoperability in maritime asset tracking and divi-

sion tactics.

"We are a robust constellation of allies and partners working collectively towards continued security and stability of a free and open Indo-Pacific," said Whitesell. "There is no better signal of our desire to maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific than the robust diversity of U.S. naval operations in this region."

In response, the U.S. has accused China of bullying behavior and recently sailed an aircraft carrier through the disputed waters, one in a series of shows of military might that it calls freedom of navigation operations.

"We are in the Indo-Pacific to stay," said Whitesell. "My promise to you is that we will stand shoulder-to-shoulder with all nations who share a mutual respect for and adherence to international law, as well as a vision of free and open Indo-Pacific."

The ASEAN bloc is increasingly having to find a balance between Washington and Beijing. This inaugural exercise comes less than a year after China's navy hosted a similar initiative off the coast of Guangdong.

The inclusion of representatives from Myanmar, an ASEAN member, has drawn criticism. Washington has sanctioned the Myanmar army's top brass over its brutal repression of the Muslim Rohingya minority, and human rights groups think its navy should have been excluded. AP

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# JAPAN URGES NUKE PLANTS TO PREPARE FOR DECOMMISSIONING ERA

MARI YAMAGUCHI, TOKYO

**JAPAN'S** nuclear policy-setting body adopted a report yesterday saying the country is entering an era of massive nuclear plant decommissioning, urging plant operators to plan ahead to lower safety risks and costs requiring decades and billions of dollars.

Twenty-four commercial reactors — or 40% of Japan's total — are designated for or are being decommissioned. Among them are four reactors at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant that were severely damaged by the massive 2011 earthquake and tsunami that struck northeastern Japan.

The annual nuclear white paper, adopted by the Japan Atomic Energy Commission, urges utilities to learn from U.S. and European examples, especially those of Germany, France and Britain. Japan hasn't yet completed the decommissioning of any reactors and doesn't have concrete plans for the final disposal of radioactive waste.

"Taking into consideration further increase of nuclear facilities that will be decommissioned, new technology and systems need to be developed in order to carry out the tasks efficiently and smoothly," the report said. "It's a whole new stage that we have to proceed to and tackle."

Japanese utilities have opted to scrap aged reactors instead of investing in safety requirements under post-Fukushima standards. The decommissioning of a typical reactor costs nearly 60 billion yen (USD560 million) and takes several decades.

Citing the government-run Japan Atomic Energy Agency's plan to scrap about half of its 79 research facilities, the report raised concerns about the weakening of basic research on nuclear energy.



Before the Fukushima disaster, Japan had 60 commercial reactors that provided about 25 percent of the country's energy needs.

Despite the government's renewed ambitions for nuclear power, reactor restarts are proceeding slowly as nuclear regulators spend more time on inspections. Meanwhile, anti-nuclear sentiment persists among the public and makes it more difficult for plant operators to obtain local consent in making revisions to their facilities. Any plan related to nuclear waste storage tends to get strong resistance.

Since the Fukushima accident, only nine reactors in Japan have restarted, accounting for about 3% of the country's energy supply, compared to the government's ambitious 20-22% target.

In July, Tokyo Electric Power Holdings Co., or TEPCO, announced plans to decommission all four reactors at its second Fukushima plant, Fukushima Dai-ni, which narrowly avoided meltdowns in 2011. The move followed eight years of demands by the local government and residents for the reactors' closure.

TEPCO said the decommissioning of Fukushima Dai-ni alone would cost 410 billion yen (\$3.9 billion) and would take four decades, but experts have raised

concerns about whether those estimates are realistic for a company already struggling with the ongoing cleanup of the wrecked Fukushima plant, estimated to cost about 8 trillion yen (\$75 billion).

Japan Atomic Power Co., which has been decommissioning its Tokai nuclear plant since 2001, announced in March that it was pushing back the planned completion of the project by five years, to 2030, because the company still has been unable to remove and store highly radioactive materials from the core. The decommissioning of the government's Tokai fuel reprocessing facility is expected to take 70 years and cost 770 billion yen (\$7.2 billion).

The white paper stated that Japan is pursuing its divisive spent-fuel reprocessing ambitions and a plan to develop a fast-breeder reactor despite international concerns over the country's plutonium stockpile of 47 tons, though the commission calls for more efforts in reducing the stockpile and increasing transparency.

France's recently reported move to abandon ASTRID, its next-generation fast reactor that would theoretically produce more plutonium while burning it as fuel, could be a setback for Japan, which was hoping to jointly develop the technology. AP



## Indonesia to deport four Australia tourists who joined protests

**INDONESIAN** authorities are deporting four Australian tourists for participating in a demonstration that called for the independence of the country's restive Papua province, an immigration official said yesterday.

Cun Sudiharto, who heads the intelligence and law enforcement division at the Sorong Immigration office, said police detained the tourists for having joined the protest near the mayor's office in Sorong city last Tuesday by riding bikes and waving small morning star flags that are a separatist symbol.

He identified the tourists as Tom Baxter, Danielle Joy Hellyer, Ruth Irene Cobbold and Cheryl Melinda Davidson. He said the first three would be deported from Bali later yesterday and the fourth on Thursday for ticketing reasons.

Sudiharto said that under Indonesia's immigration laws, foreigners are not allowed to join protests without permits.

He said the four tourists had been sailing from Australia to Indonesia's Mollucas island chain and planned to go to Raja Ampat, a famous diving spot in West Papua province, before their boat had engine trouble. They had been waiting for its repair in Sorong city since Aug. 10, he said.

Thousands of Papuans have demonstrated in the past week

for the region's independence and against racist remarks by security forces. The protests were triggered by videos circulated on the internet showing security forces calling Papuan students "monkeys" and "dogs" in East Java's Surabaya city.

Protests in several cities in Papua and West Papua provinces turned violent, resulting in the deaths of at least one soldier and two civilians. The angry mobs also burned several government buildings, offices, shops, cars and a gas station.

The government has blocked internet access in the region.

National police spokesman Dedi Prasetyo said at least 46 people have been arrested during the protests, including eight Papuan students who were detained in Jakarta over the weekend.

Indonesia maintains a significant police and military presence in the volatile provinces of Papua and West Papua, a mineral-rich region where a decades-long separatist movement simmers.

It was formally incorporated into the country in 1969 after a U.N.-sponsored ballot that was seen as a sham by many.

In recent years, some Papua students, including some who study in other provinces, have become vocal in calling for self-determination for their region. AP

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JILL COLVIN, WARSAW

# US, Poland sign joint document on 5G technology cooperation

**T**HE U.S. and Poland signed an agreement yesterday to cooperate on new 5G technology amid growing concerns about Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei.

Vice President Mike Pence and Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki signed the deal in Warsaw, where Pence is filling in for President Donald Trump, who scrapped his trip at the last minute because of Hurricane Dorian.

The signing comes amid a global battle between the U.S. and Huawei, the world's biggest maker of network infrastructure equipment, over network security.

The agreement endorses the principles developed by cybersecurity officials from dozens of countries at a summit in Prague earlier this year to counter threats and ensure the safety of next generation mobile networks.

"Protecting these next generation communications networks from disruption or manipulation and ensuring the privacy and individual liberties of the citizens of the United States, Poland, and other countries is of vital importance," the agreement says.

Pence said the agreement

would "set a vital example for the rest of Europe."

During a visit to Sweden last week, Morawiecki said decisions were being taken that would make Swedish networking and telecommunications company Ericsson invest in 5G development in Poland.

The U.S. has been lobbying allies to ban Huawei from 5G networks over concerns China's government could force the company to give it access to data for cyberespionage. Huawei has denied the allegation.

The U.S. has called for an outright ban on Huawei, but European allies have balked at that.

A senior Trump administration official told reporters during a briefing ahead of the trip that the agreement would help ensure secure supply chains and networks and protect against unauthorized access or interference by telecommunications suppliers, some of which are controlled by "adversarial governments." AP

AP PHOTO



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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

## what's ON



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

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

UNTIL: November 10, 2019

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

### WYNN PRESENTS: GARDEN OF EARTHLY DELIGHTS

TIME: 10am-10pm

UNTIL: October 6, 2019

VENUE: Wynn Macau and Wynn Palace

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 6882 2839

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

TIME: 24 hours

UNTIL: October 9, 2019

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8888

### MGM PRESENTS: HUA YUAN EXHIBITION

TIME: 24 hours

UNTIL: September 3, 2019

VENUE: MGM Cotai

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8802 3333

### MANDARIN'S HOUSE

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

ADDRESS: No. 10, Travessa de António da Silva

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8820

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

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

UNTIL: September 22, 2019

VENUE: Tap Seac Gallery

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

## Offbeat

### WOMAN FELL ASLEEP IN HER PARKED CAR, WOKE TO FIND IT MISSING

Police in New Jersey say a possible carjacker apparently removed a sleeping 80-year-old woman from her parked car before stealing the vehicle and leaving her in the driveway.

Hamilton police say the woman told them she'd fallen asleep in her parked car in a driveway around 9 p.m. Wednesday, but woke to find the vehicle missing at around 4 a.m. on Thursday.

Police say the woman didn't remember what happened and had a bruise and abrasion on her face.

Authorities found the empty vehicle Thursday afternoon in Trenton.

No arrest had been made as of last week.

## TV canal macau



13:00 TDM News (Repetição)

13:30 Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)

15:00 Agua de Mar

15:45 Os Ursos Boonie e o Fantástico Outono

16:00 Sim Chef! Sr2

16:35 Quem Quer Ser Milionário

17:30 Amor Maior (Repetição)

18:15 Água Vai, Pedra Leva

19:30 Ouro Verde Sr.1

20:30 Telejornal

21:15 Linha da Frente

21:50 Culinária na Ásia - Estreia

22:15 Amor Maior

23:15 TDM News

23:50 Motel Bates Sr.3

00:35 Telejornal (Repetição)

01:20 RTPi Directo

## cinema



### CINETEATRO

02 - 04 Sep



#### ANGEL HAS FALLEN

ROOM1

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

Director: Ric Roman Waugh

Starring: Gerard Butler, Frederick Schmidt, Danny Huston

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 121min



#### 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

#### ONE PIECE STAMPEDE

ROOM3

2:30, 9:30pm

Director: Takashi Otsuka

Starring: Chô, Hiroaki Hirata, Katsuhisa Hôki

Language: Japanese (Chinese)

#### RIDE YOUR WAVE

ROOM3

4:30, 7:30pm

Director: Masaaki Yuasa

Starring: Ryôta Katayose, Rina Kawaei, Honoka Matsumoto

Language: Japanese (English & Chinese)

Duration: 94min

## this day in history



### 2004 RUSSIAN SCHOOL SIEGE ENDS IN VIOLENCE

More than 200 people are now known to have died after a three-day siege at a Russian school came to a bloody end. The hostage-takers deliberately fired at the backs of fleeing children as they ran from the building in Beslan, many of them naked and screaming.

Others were killed inside when a woman suicide bomber blew herself up in the middle of the crowded gym where more than 1,000 people are believed to have been held.

Most of the hostage-takers have either been killed or captured, Russian television reports say.

Hundreds of people have been taken to hospital, most of them pupils at Beslan's School Number One, which is in the Russian republic of North Ossetia.

It is still not clear who the hostage-takers were and what demands they made. Officials have linked the attack to Russia's bloody war with neighbouring Chechnya.

The siege began early in the morning of 1 September (Wednesday) when a group of masked men and women, wearing bomb belts, stormed into the school, opening fire in the courtyard where pupils had gathered for a ceremony to mark the beginning of the school year.

The attackers threatened to blow up the school if troops stormed the building and children were placed at the windows to act as human shields.

According to a report from the Itar-Tass news agency, the attackers demanded the release of fighters seized in neighbouring Ingushetia in June during a raid on the region.

Talks on Thursday between the rebels and the former Ingush President Ruslan Aushev led to the release of 26 women and children.

Then early this morning agreement was reached with the rebels to send in vehicles to remove the bodies of those killed earlier.

Soon after there were two loud explosions and then automatic gunfire could be heard. Heavily armed soldiers began running towards the building.

A group of children, some covered in blood, escaped from the school in the confusion.

Special forces were ordered into the school which, by now, was resounding to the sound of gunfire and explosions as the attackers detonated bombs and mines.

The full horror of events was played out before a live television audience, which watched as a crowd of local people leaped onto a man they assumed to be one of the rebels and beat and kicked him until he was eventually rescued by police.

The shooting went on for several hours. Reports said piles of dead bodies could be seen inside the school gym.

By 1940 local time, the special forces said their operation to secure the school was complete.

Those who survived the bloodshed told how they had been ordered to strip to their underwear and forced to drink their own urine because of the shortage of water.

The attack followed the mid-air destruction of two Russian civilian airliners in August 2004, which was blamed on Chechen women suicide-bombers.

Three months earlier, the rebels had assassinated the pro-Russian Chechen president, Akhmad Kadyrov.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The number who died in the siege rose to 335, about half of them children.

The final number of dead will probably never be known. Three days after the siege 180 people were still listed as missing. Many of the bodies were so badly burned as to be unrecognisable.

President Putin admitted mistakes had been made and blamed foreign enemies for the attack, although he did not mention Chechnya by name.

Reports said the hostage-takers got through a police road check. Security forces failed to secure the perimeter to the school which meant many locals got into the area while the standoff continued.

The only hostage-taker to be captured alive, Nur-Pashi Kulayev, a Chechen carpenter, was sentenced to life imprisonment in May 2006.

But many relatives of the dead believe the Russian government should take some of the blame for the bungled rescue attempt.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

**ARIES**  
**Mar. 21-Apr. 19**  
 Poking a few holes in his bluster may prove to be irresistible - and the results will be hilarious. Sometimes, the people who look the strongest physically are the weakest mentally.

**TAURUS**  
**Apr. 20-May. 20**  
 It's a wise victor who refrains from reminding others that they've lost. So even though you've definitely earned the position you're in right now, you have to be especially mindful of the feelings of others.

**GEMINI**  
**May. 21-Jun. 21**  
 If you try to put everything in a positive light, you'll enjoy a very good day. But if you focus only on what you don't have or what isn't going as well as you'd like, then you'll have a discouraging day.

**CANCER**  
**Jun. 22-Jul. 22**  
 There is no sense in hiding your achievement; some tasteful tooting of your own horn isn't a crime (although it may make other people feel criminally jealous).

**LEO**  
**Jul. 23-Aug. 22**  
 Why waste money on a bunch of celebrity magazines to get a glimpse of glamorous living? You are quite a celebrity in your own right, and your behavior is a lot more estimable!

**VIRGO**  
**Aug. 23-Sep. 22**  
 When they extend their gratitude or compliments to you, give your positive emotions right back. After you thank them for their kind words, let them know how great they are.

**LIBRA**  
**Sep. 23-Oct. 22**  
 Right now, try to be a lot more active with people than you usually are - it would be a good idea to mix your energy with the energy of a large group, preferably in some sort of leadership position.

**SCORPIO**  
**Oct. 23-Nov. 21**  
 If your ego has been feeling a bit battered lately, get ready for that to change today. But don't look to outside forces - this change will come entirely from inside of you.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
**Nov. 22-Dec. 21**  
 You have to harness the power of positive thinking, because focusing on what could go wrong or what isn't fair will only make you grumpy - and no one wants to hang out with someone who's grumpy!

**CAPRICORN**  
**Dec. 22-Jan. 19**  
 There is a big green monster hovering around your group of people today, and there's no telling which one of you it will bite first. Jealousy is a devious beast, and it could strike at any moment.

**AQUARIUS**  
**Jan. 20-Feb. 18**  
 Avoid anything that looks like a power struggle today. There are some big egos in on the fight, and none of them is above playing dirty. If you get involved in any of the mudslinging.

**PISCES**  
**Feb. 19-Mar. 20**  
 Juicy-sounding tales of romance or turmoil might seem like a very welcome distraction from what you're trying to deal with, but distraction is not what you need right now!

**The Born Loser by Chip Sansom**



**SUDOKU**

**EASY**

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

**EASY+**

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

**MEDIUM**

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

**HARD**

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

**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	19	33	clear
Harbin	12	26	cloudy
Tianjin	23	33	clear
Urumqi	17	23	shower
Xi'an	19	30	clear
Lhasa	11	22	drizzle
Chengdu	20	23	shower
Chongqing	23	32	cloudy
Kunming	16	24	shower
Nanjing	21	24	drizzle
Shanghai	22	27	moderaterain
Wuhan	21	31	cloudy
Hangzhou	21	26	drizzle
Taipei	25	30	cloudy
Guangzhou	24	32	thundershower
Hong Kong	26	29	shower
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	14	23	clear
Frankfurt	8	20	drizzle
Paris	10	19	drizzle
London	12	18	cloudy
New York	18	24	drizzle

**CROSSWORDS**

ACROSS: 1- Strong winds; 6- At this point; 10- Mardi \_\_\_; 14- Sir \_\_\_ Newton was an English mathematician; 15- That's \_\_\_; 16- Prevalent; 17- DuBois' "talented" group; 18- Yellow of an egg; 19- Aardvark's meal; 20- Long-faced; 21- Song from the past; 23- Church areas; 24- Faint; 26- Early anesthetic; 27- Remember; 29- Make \_\_\_ at; 31- Greek letters; 32- Got up; 33- Old hand; 36- Adding vitamins, say; 40- Overtime cause; 41- Castle of dance; 42- Pay (up); 43- Big name in insurance; 44- Emphasize; 46- Dull finish; 48- Chip dip; 49- Like a he-man; 50- Model material; 52- Bad review; 55- Johnson of "Laugh-In"; 56- Club in a Manilow song; 57- Expire; 59- Large cat; 60- New Orleans is The Big \_\_\_; 61- Stan's chum; 62- Dr. Zhivago's love; 63- Love god; 64- Wedge;

DOWN: 1- Skedaddles; 2- On the ocean; 3- Scene; 4- Chow down; 5- Institution for teaching; 6- "Surprise Symphony" composer; 7- "The Time Machine" race; 8- Annoy; 9- Yikes!; 10- Mathematical diagrams; 11- Wash lightly; 12- In pursuit of; 13- Cong. meeting; 22- Chat room chuckle; 23- Away from port; 25- Stinging insect; 26- \_\_\_ of Eden; 27- Remainder; 28- Small purse; 29- Stadium used for sports or musical events; 30- Corn bread; 32- Right on!; 33- Tropical fruit; 34- Decomposes; 35- Addition column; 37- Deceive; 38- Art Deco designer; 39- Sailors; 43- Greek goddess of wisdom; 44- Airline to Oslo; 45- Aztec god of rain; 46- "West Side Story" song; 47- Role player; 48- Does in; 49- Public walk; 50- Male swine; 51- Lhasa \_\_\_; 53- Bhutan's continent; 54- Depilatory brand; 56- Average grade; 58- Everything;



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- IAM 28 387 333
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[Coloane] Hellene Gardens 4 2 2  
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[Taipa] Nova Grand 2 1 1  
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[Taipa] Ocean Gardens 4 4 4  
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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

## ALEX GIBNEY'S 'CITIZEN K' LOOKS AT POWER IN RUSSIA

**DOCUMENTARY** filmmaker Alex Gibney says profiling exiled Russian businessman Mikhail Khodorkovsky allowed him to explore power in Russia from the end of communism until now.

The resulting film, "Citizen K," premiered at the Venice International Film Festival on Saturday.

Gibney says Khodorkovsky has a unique perspective on how Russia works, having been at both the top and the bottom. Khodorkovsky, one of the richest men in Russia, spent a decade in prison after he was convicted on fraud charges that he claims were politically motivated. He now lives in London and is a vocal critic of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"I was totally in panic because I don't like speaking a lot," Khodorkovsky said at a festival news conference. "But Alex is always ready to understand...I don't regret at all doing this work with him."

He and Gibney did a series of extremely long interviews. The filmmaker said his subject "was very patient."



The documentary was filmed with no official cooperation from Russia. Gibney said requests to interview Putin and spokesman Dmitry Peskov were denied.

"We had regular visas and acknowledged our role as filmmakers and journalists," Gibney said. "(But we) had no access to official Russian archives."

Gibney was drawn to his subject following the 2016 U.S. presidential election and "Ci-

tizen K" is "a cautionary tale." "I think that we Americans are somewhat haunted by Russia and curious about what goes on there," he said. "Every film that I've done has been a call to citizens to understand power and its abuses and do what they can to ensure that power resides in the hands of the people."

"Citizen K" played out of competition at the Venice Film Festival and does not currently have a release date.

AP PHOTO



## SAUDI FESTIVAL SHOWCASES GREEN MOUNTAINS, FLOWER CROWNS

**ATOP** a string of green mountains in Saudi Arabia, a month-long festival drew a medley of yoga enthusiasts, extreme adventure seekers, tourists and traditional Saudi families — many wearing colorful flower crowns native to the region as the kingdom looks for ways to revamp its image and build up tourism.

The al-Soudah festival, which ran throughout the month of August, gave visitors a chance to experience a unique region in Saudi Arabia and take part in outdoor sports like hiking, mountain biking,

paragliding, horseback riding, zip lining and bungee jumping. Thousands also attended concerts by Middle Eastern superstars.

Scenes of women zip lining and young Saudis at concerts, while nevertheless in a remote village, are a stark departure from the ultraconservative policies that for decades barred concerts and gender mixing, as well as shunned women's sports in the kingdom.

The reforms are being pushed by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the king's powerful 34-year-old son. He is

looking to revamp the country's economy to become more resilient in the face of lower oil prices. Boosting domestic spending and opening the country to foreign tourists are seen as ways to create more jobs for the millions of young Saudis who will be entering the workforce and looking for jobs in the coming years.

The al-Soudah festival attracted between 12,000 and 15,000 visitors per day, said Husameddin al-Madani, who oversaw the event. Most visitors to the festival were Saudi citizens, but it also drew foreign tourists.

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

TIM REYNOLDS

BASKETBALL

**A**T 39, Luis Scola is not slowing down. He's moving up. Scola climbed into the No. 2 spot on FIBA's all-time World Cup scoring list on Monday, his 23 points helping Argentina hold off Nigeria 94-81 in a Group B game at Wuhan, China, to clinch a berth in the second round.

Scola — whose five World Cup appearances are tied for the most by any player — also had 10 rebounds for Argentina (2-0). He's up to 611 points in his World Cup career, passing Australia's Andrew Gaze's total of 594, and is now second only to Brazilian scoring great Oscar Schmidt's 906 points in the tournament.

"As I have said before, this is more than a game to me," Scola said. "I love representing my country."

Gaze, working in China as a broadcaster for this World Cup, offered a congratulatory message when Scola passed him on the scoring list.

"You're a champion," Gaze said. "You've dedicated yourself to the national team for many years and I can't be more happy for you and your achievement."

Scola was the youngest player on Argentina's team that went to the 2002 world

# Scola moves into No. 2 spot on World Cup scoring list



Luis Scola of Argentina (left)

championships, the precursor to the World Cup.

Those days are long gone. He's now the oldest player on Argentina's roster by more than 11 years, with the second-oldest being 28-year-old Facundo Cam-

pazzo. Of the 384 players in this World Cup, only 40-year-old Angola forward Eduardo Mingas and 39-year-old Brazil forward Alex Garcia are older than Scola. Garcia has him by just about two months.

Monday was Scola's 35th career World Cup game, and his 29th reaching double figures in scoring.

"He's our leader," Campazzo said.

Josh Okogie led Nigeria (0-2) with 18 points. AP

## MATCHES

### ITALY 92, ANGOLA 61

At Foshan, Italy outscored Angola 36-6 from 3-point range and had little trouble improving to 2-0 in Group D.

Marco Belinelli scored 17 points to lead five Italians in double figures. Yanick Moreira had 15 points and eight rebounds for Angola (0-2).

### VENEZUELA 87, IVORY COAST 71

At Beijing, Heissler Guillent scored 28 points as Venezuela (1-1) got a much-needed win to keep its hopes of advancing out of Group A alive. Charles Abouo led Ivory Coast (0-2) with 19 points.

### TUNISIA 79, IRAN 67

At Guangzhou, Tunisia ran out to an early double-digit lead and bounced back from a blowout loss to Spain in its Group C opener.

Salah Mejri finished with 22 points and 15 rebounds for Tunisia (1-1), going 5 for 9 from 3-point range. Aaron Geramipoor scored 18 for Iran (0-2).

### TUESDAY SCHEDULE

Group E: Japan (0-1) vs. Czech Republic (0-1); U.S. (1-0) vs. Turkey (1-0)  
Group F: Montenegro (0-1) vs. New Zealand (0-1); Greece (1-0) vs. Brazil (1-0)  
Group G: Germany (0-1) vs. Dominican Republic (1-0); Jordan (0-1) vs. France (1-0)  
Group H: Australia (1-0) vs. Senegal (0-1); Lithuania (1-0) vs. Canada (0-1)

## JUDO

# Iranian champion afraid to go home in Israel dispute

**A**judo world champion from Iran could seek asylum in Germany after disobeying orders from the government to withdraw from the world championships in Tokyo to avoid a potential bout against an Israeli opponent.

The International Judo Federation said late Sunday that Saeid Mollaei was ordered to withdraw from last week's competition by Iranian deputy sports minister Davar Zani. The IJF said Mollaei was then called by Iranian Olympic Committee president Reza Salehi Amiri, who said security services were at his parents' house.

Mollaei was the defending champion and could have faced Israeli athlete Sagi Muki in the final. They were the two top-ranked athletes in their class prior to the world championships. Mollaei said he was ordered to withdraw



Luka Maisuradze of Georgia (top) competes against Saeid Mollaei of Iran

ahead of a preliminary bout against a Russian so it didn't appear to be a boycott of Israel.

Mollaei kept competing but eventually lost in the semifinals and did not have to face Muki, who won gold and later called Mollaei "an inspiration."

"I want to compete wherever I can," Mollaei said in

a statement from the IJF "I live in a country whose law does not permit me to. We have no choice, all athletes must comply with it. All I did today was for my life, for a new life.

"I need help. Even if the authorities of my country told me that I can go back without any problems, I am afraid."

IJF president Marius Vizer wrote on Twitter that Mollaei was in Germany and was "following the respective procedures" regarding asylum.

"Soon the procedure against Iran Judo Federation will start," Vizer said.

The IJF said it would help Mollaei prepare for next year's Olympics, also

in Tokyo. If Iran refuses to enter him, one option could be the International Olympic Committee-backed team of refugee athletes.

"After learning about the case, the IOC has requested a full report from IJF. Based on this report we will further evaluate the situation," the IOC said.

The IOC, however, didn't comment when asked if it could invite Mollaei as a refugee, or whether it could take action against the Iranian Olympic Committee.

Iranian sports teams have for several decades had a policy of not competing against Israelis, which the country does not recognize. The IJF has said Iranians have thrown matches and used "questionable injuries" to avoid competing against Israelis.

Mollaei's case comes four months after judo officials hailed a breakthrough

in relations with Iran, publishing a letter signed by Salehi Amiri pledging to "fully respect the Olympic charter and its non-discrimination principle."

On Saturday, Iranian Sports Minister Masoud Soltanifar accused the IJF of trying to "create problems" with Mollaei, the IRNA news agency reported. He said Iran will send a protest letter to the IOC.

Iranian team manager Majid Zareian also criticized the IJF, saying "everything was set in advance to put Mollaei against a participant from (Israel)."

"They did not allow me to be present next to my athlete in exercise salon," Zareian said. "After the competitions they changed hotel of Mollaei without my permission, against the regulations."

He denied reports Iranian authorities had put pressure on Mollaei. AP

**OPINION**

**Our Desk**

Renato Marques



**IT IS THE MINISTERS, NOT THE RULER**

World history has taught us that on many occasions, I would even risk saying on most occasions, governments rise or fall not because of the ruler and primary leader but because of the lack of performance, poor attitude or misconduct of the ministers, the second level of governance who are, or should be, extensions of the ruler.

In fact, from ancient Europe to Asia we can find countless tales of countries, nations, empires, kingdoms and so on, which were defeated not because of the main foundations of their government, established by the ruler's policies, but by the way the second level of governance understood and fulfilled (or failed to fulfil) those ideas and visions.

Either through a lack of knowledge, skills, competence or honesty, the world has seen government structures that seem to be resilient to any war, fall like a house of cards when ministers underperform in what is always felt like a severe hit to the ruler's backbone.

All this to say that Macau, or at least the part of Macau that matters, elected a new ruler just last week. Ho Iat Seng will become the third Chief Executive (CE) of the SAR, succeeding Edmund Ho and Chui Sai On.

Running unopposed for the post, it's easy to speculate that winning the bid was an "easy task" for Ho. In reality, we do not know if it was that easy or not. Aside from the part that we are allowed to attend, there are many deals going on and negotiations to be made on the backstage.

I do not intend to say this with any critical tone; it is just looking at the facts the way they are, without pursuing any populism or utopian ideas.

Now, and for the upcoming months, until the new government team take their seats at Praia Grande Palace, Ho and his office have to perform what is, for me, the hardest task in the establishment of a new government.

Who to choose? For which role? And why this person and not another? These are questions that should not be answered lightly and should aim to serve the best purpose.

Failing to correctly choose the ministers (the government Secretaries in Macau's case) is a very significant step in failing as a ruler (as a CE). This is particularly important here as, contrary to other types of government elsewhere, we do not have any traditions of replacing secretaries, or even department heads, in the middle of a term.

What I am trying to say is that five years on the right path can be enough to foster small changes and to begin to see some good but five years on the wrong path can be disastrous, not just for the government but for the entire population.

For the people, a new government is always a new sign of hope; hope that things that were not done before can be done now; hope that wrongs can be corrected; and hope that old ambitions can finally be pursued.

After all, even if people here are not called to elect a new government, they still have the same wishes of those elsewhere who are: wishes of improvement, of development and enhancement in their quality of life. That is always the challenge of any government, democratically elected or not, to fulfill the expectations of people from all walks of life.

**DORIAN STRIKES BAHAMAS WITH RECORD FURY AS CATEGORY 5 STORM**

THE BUZZ

Hurricane Dorian struck the northern Bahamas as a catastrophic Category 5 storm yesterday [Macau time], its record 297 kph winds ripping off roofs, overturning cars and tearing down power lines as hundreds hunkered down in schools, churches and shelters.

Dorian slammed into Elbow Cay in Abaco island at 12:40 p.m., and then made a second landfall near Marsh Harbour at 2 p.m., after authorities made last-minute pleas for those in low-lying areas to evacuate.

"It's devastating," said Joy Jibrilu, director general of the Bahamas' Ministry of Tourism and Aviation. "There has been huge damage to property and infrastructure. Luckily, no loss of life reported."

In the U.S., South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster ordered a mandatory evacuation of the entire coast of the state amid Dorian's threat. The order, which covers about 830,000 people, goes into effect at dawn, when state troopers will begin reversing lanes so they all head inland on major coastal highways.

**IRAN ACKNOWLEDGES ROCKET EXPLOSION, SAYS TEST MALFUNCTIONED**

NASSER KARIMI & JON GAMBRELL, TEHRAN

IRAN acknowledged for the first time yesterday that a rocket at its Imam Khomeini Space Center exploded after satellite photos showed the blast last week, with an official saying a technical malfunction during a test caused the explosion.

The comments by government spokesman Ali Rabiei were the first explanation offered by Iran for Thursday's explosion, which came ahead of a planned satellite launch by the Islamic Republic that the U.S. has criticized.

Rabiei also criticized President Donald Trump for tweeting what appeared to be a surveillance photo of the aftermath of the explosion shot by a U.S. spy satellite.

The explosion marked the third failure involving a rocket at the Iranian center, which has raised suspicions of sabotage in Iran's space program.

However, Rabiei dismissed that, saying that "this has been a technical matter and a technical error. Our experts unanimously say so."

"The explosion happened at the launchpad and no satellite had yet been transferred to the launchpad," Rabiei said. "It happened at a test site, not at the launch site."

Commercially available satellite images by Planet Labs Inc. and Maxar Technologies showed a black plume of smoke rising above a launch pad Thursday, with what appeared to be the charred remains of a rocket and its launch stand. In previous days, satellite images had shown officials there repainted the launch pad blue.

The photo released Friday by Trump appeared to be a once-classified surveillance photo from American intelligence agencies. Analysts said the black rectangle in the photo's upper-left-hand corner likely covered up the photo's classification.



This satellite image from Maxar Technologies shows a fire at a rocket launch pad at the Imam Khomeini Space Center in Iran's Semnan province

The image showed damaged vehicles around the launch pad, as well as damage done to the rocket's launcher. It also clearly showed a large phrase written in Farsi on the pad: "National Product, National Power."

"The United States of America was not involved in the catastrophic accident during final launch preparations for the Safir SLV Launch at Semnan Launch Site

**Iran criticized Trump's decision to tweet about the rocket explosion**

One in Iran," Trump wrote in his tweet, identifying the rocket used. "I wish Iran best wishes and good luck in determining what happened at Site One."

Rabiei criticized Trump's decision to tweet about the rocket explosion.

"We don't understand why the U.S. president tweets and posts satellite pictures with excitement. This is not understandable," he said. "Maybe this is because lack of Iran-related subjects that they raise such issues."

The blast followed two failed satellite launches of the Payam and Doosti in January and February. A separate fire at the Imam Khomeini Space Center in February also killed three re-

searchers, authorities said at the time.

Over the past decade, Iran has sent several short-lived satellites into orbit and in 2013 launched a monkey into space.

Iran is preparing to launch the Nahid-1, a communication satellite, into space.

The U.S. alleges such satellite launches defy a U.N. Security Council resolution calling on Iran to undertake no activity related to ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons.

Iran, which long has said it does not seek

nuclear weapons, maintains its satellite launches and rocket tests do not have a military component. Tehran also says it hasn't violated the U.N. resolution as it only "called upon" Tehran not to conduct such tests.

The tests have taken on new importance to the U.S. amid the maximalist approach to Iran taken by President Donald Trump's administration. Tensions have been high between the countries since Trump unilaterally withdrew the U.S. from Iran's nuclear deal over a year ago and imposed sanctions, including on Iran's oil industry. Iran recently has begun to break the accord itself while trying to push Europe to help it sell oil abroad. AP

Singapore needs to remain open to skilled foreign workers, especially in the technology sector, in order to ensure the economy stays a globally competitive one, the nation's trade minister said. More on p10



Iran will "take a strong step" away from its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers if Europe cannot offer the country new terms by a deadline at the end of this week, a government spokesman said yesterday as top Iranian diplomats traveled to France and Russia for last-minute talks.



Pakistan has granted rare consular access to an Indian man convicted of spying and facing the death penalty in a case that's been a source of friction between the nuclear-armed neighbors who have recently seen tensions between them escalate further over disputed Kashmir.



Kenya Authorities have suspended visits to the gorges of the famous Hell's Gate National park in the Rift Valley yesterday after a flash flood killed at least six tourists and their driver.



UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson is getting tough with members of his Conservative Party who oppose his Brexit plans at the start of what promises to be a momentous week in British politics.