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WORKERS' LAWMAKERS SAY THEY WILL CONTINUE THEIR FIGHT OVER LIVELIHOOD ISSUES IN THE COMING LEGISLATIVE YEAR

GOV'T CLAIMS EQUAL TREATMENT FOR ALL PROTEST ORGANIZERS

TEAMS FROM MALAYSIA AND THE PHILIPPINES WILL OPEN MACAU'S FIREWORKS COMPETITION THIS SATURDAY



China Chinese telecom equipment maker Huawei accused U.S. authorities yesterday of attempting to break into its information systems and of trying to coerce its employees to gather information on the company.

Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte has fired the government's top prison official amid a public outcry over the release of hundreds of prisoners, including convicted rapists and drug traffickers, through a law rewarding good behavior in detention.

Australia Police yesterday executed a search warrant on the home of an Australian intelligence officer in a raid that one media executive described as an attempt to intimidate people who talk to journalists.



Afghanistan The government yesterday expressed new concerns about a deal that a U.S. envoy says has been reached "in principle" with the Taliban on ending America's longest war, asking for clarifications about the agreement and its risks in order to avoid "unpleasant consequences."



Pakistan Police say security forces have raided a militant hideout on the outskirts of the southwestern city of Quetta, triggering a gunbattle that killed all six suspects, including a woman.

A BILL WITHDRAWN

HK leader Carrie Lam has given in to the first of protesters' five demands



MACAU VISITORS TO HONG KONG SOARED 32% IN JULY



More on backpage

CRIME

TWO HONG KONG DRUG DEALERS CAUGHT BY MACAU POLICE

ANTHONY LAM

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) told a press conference yesterday about the resolution of two drug dealing cases uncovered during the previous week. However, the bureau said no connection between the cases and the summer holiday could be drawn. The bureau also released information about a swindling case "of considerable scale."

Both cases involved Hong Kong residents who crossed the sea to sell narcotics in Macau. Police intelligence indicates that they had been hired by cartels in Hong Kong.

The first case involved a 16-year-old suspect surnamed Yip, who sold cocaine in bars in the NAPE area. At 10 p.m. on September 3, PJ investigators saw Yip walking out of a NAPE hotel. Yip was immediately stopped and questioned. The police found 17.3g of cocaine in Yip's black bag.

Afterwards, the investigators conducted a search at Yip's hotel room, seizing 10.82g of cocaine and tools amounting to a total black market price of MOP100,000. Suspected revenue from the drugs of HKD19,000 and MOP10,000 were also seized.

Yip confessed that he was in



need of cash, so he took the job for a daily rate of HKD500 to 1,000, depending on the day's revenue. He was involved in the drug dealing for about a week before being caught.

Another case involved a 41-year-old female surnamed Chan, who is a drug user and also sold cocaine in the NAPE area. On September 4 in the early morning, Chan was spotted exiting

a NAPE hotel by PJ investigators who found 38 small packs of cocaine (weighing 11.16g) on her. At her hotel room, the investigators seized 9.4g of cocaine, 0.53g of methamphetamine, 12 pieces of midazolam, 0.76g of heroine, and 10 injection needles, two of which appeared to be used, among other paraphernalia needed for drug administration and use. All narcotics were worth MOP70,000.

She confessed she started her work in August for daily pay of some HKD1,000, not inclusive of access to a certain amount of narcotics. She said she had sold about 20g of drugs.

In a separate case, a male scam victim informed the PJ on September 3 that a man, surnamed Wang, along with another mainland man on the run (hereinafter referred to as the second suspect),

had scammed his money by claiming that they could provide privileged currency exchange services. The victim reported a total loss of RMB390,000.

On August 28, the victim connected over an instant messaging platform with the second suspect, who claimed that currency exchange services could be provided at a better exchange rate.

Because he had planned to visit Macau for leisure, the victim was interested in an exchange of HKD500,000 for RMB390,000. Based on the official exchange rate on that date, the victim should have got about HKD420,000 instead.

The victim was told to open a bank account in Hong Kong to facilitate the deal, which he did. Upon arriving in Macau, Wang became the point of contact for the victim. The deal seemed to be successful as the victim received a text message noting an incoming credit of HKD500,000 into his account in Hong Kong.

He then remitted RMB390,000 to the second suspect's mainland account before he received another message that the incoming transaction was canceled. Wang claimed he had nothing to do with it.

However, the victim could not retrieve his money the following day, so he decided to report to the police and sue Wang, who refused to cooperate in the investigation.

However, the PJ managed to prove his role in the scam, and so the case has been forwarded to the judicial authorities.

Wong's office claims equal treatment to all demonstration organizers

IN a reply to an interpellation by lawmaker Sulu Sou, the Office for the Secretary for Security has insisted that the police authority treats all demonstration organizers equally.

In June, Sou wrote an interpellation to the government asking it to establish a specific communication channel between demonstration organizers and the police authority for future demonstrations in order to avoid the latter being able to add restrictions and conditions to demonstration activities without notice.

In his written inquiry to the government, Sou accused the police authority of applying extra restrictions during a demonstration, reducing the effective expression of public opinion. Such practice lacks legal grounds and may violate the city's demonstration law.

In particular, Sou remarked that during the June Fourth assembly at Senado Square this year, the police authority suddenly set up fences at the location and restricted the public's access to the assembly.

Replying to Sou, Wong's office backed the legitimacy of police officers' measures.

The reply additionally stated that "there are assemblies at the Senado Square nearly every day, and that the police authority regards all organizers equally and issues notices to them about restrictions imposed on the site."

"However, when there is a situation which severely disturbs public order and safety, the responsible on-site police officers need to intervene and either persuade or take measures to restore order,"

the office wrote.

"When the police authority receives complaints from the residents, and only when it is necessary, officers will engage in verbal persuasion with the organizers or the participants to balance the rights of all parties," the reply reads.

"When the organizations have doubts regarding frontline police officers' handling, they can request to communicate directly to the police officer responsible for the demonstration," added the reply. JZ



Lawmaker Sulu Sou speaks to a police officer during the June Fourth assembly in Senado Square earlier this year

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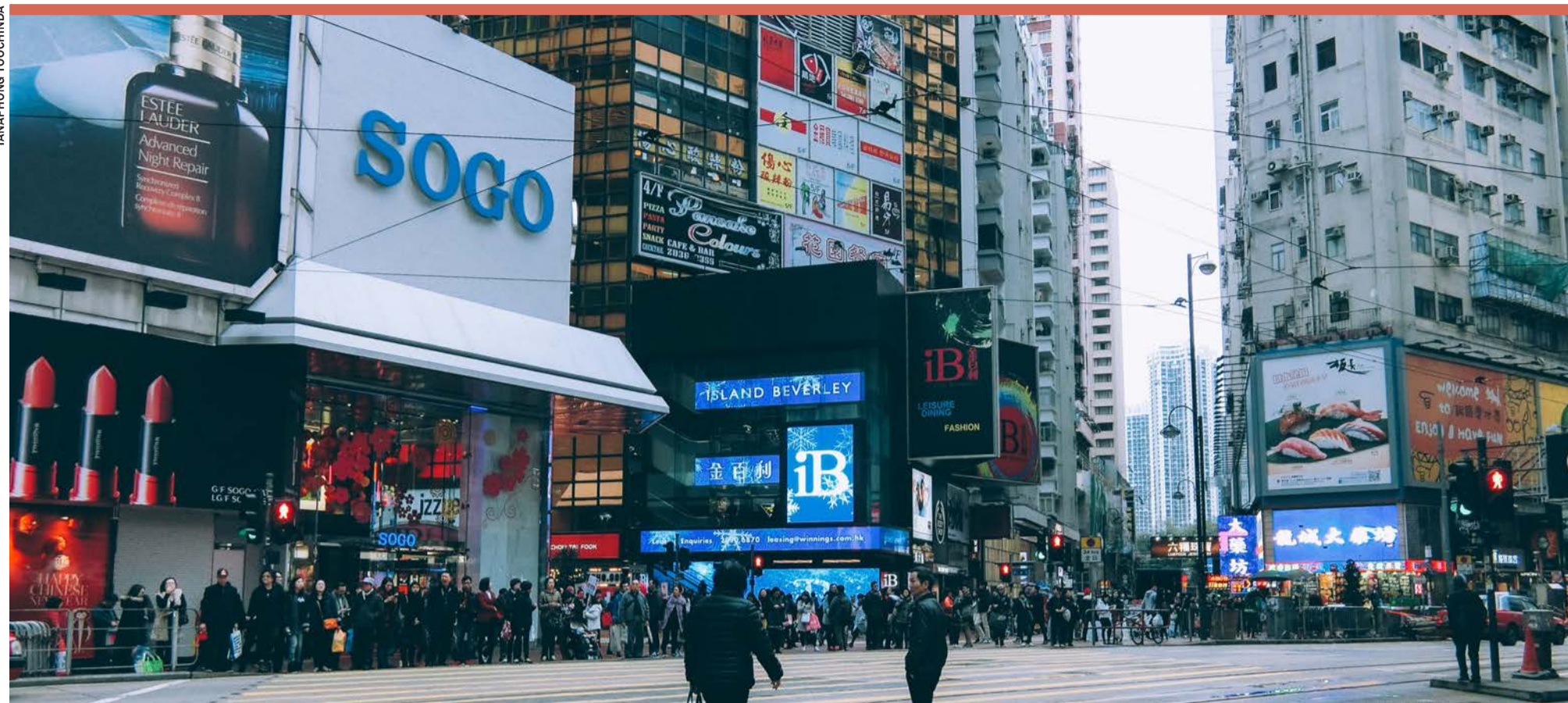
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Macau visitors to neighboring SAR grow 32% in July

ANTHONY LAM

DATA from Hong Kong's Tourism Development Board shows that 32.6% more Macau residents crossed the border to the SAR in July than during the same month last year. Almost 122,000 Macau residents were counted visiting Hong Kong during the month, according to the official data.

Following Macau is the Philippines, from which 11.7% more

people visited Hong Kong in July compared to last year.

When comparing headcounts of the first seven months of 2019 and 2018, some 820,000 Macau residents visited Hong Kong this year, up from 550,000 from last year.

Of the approximate 122,000 Macau visitors to Hong Kong in July, about 28,000 stayed overnight, while almost 94,000 visitors left on the same day. Nine percent more people stayed overnight compared with July last year, which

le 53.4% more Macau residents left Hong Kong on the same day.

In July last year, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB) was not yet in operation. This July was the first summer holiday after the bridge commenced operation.

Summer is also a popular period for longer-haul travel, such as to Europe and the Americas. Because Macau currently has no direct flights to these destinations, local residents need to either catch a transit flight from other places or fly direct to their

destination from the airport in Hong Kong.

The HKZMB's Hong Kong checkpoint is located close to the city's airport. The two places are connected by paid bus services. Ferry services from Macau directly to the airport in Hong Kong have been in operation for years. Passengers can check in their bags at either side of the route.

Taking a flight at the Hong Kong Airport by the bridge requires travelers to be cleared by immigration both at the bridge checkpoint

and the airport's restricted area. When a passenger takes the same route to return to Macau, both immigration checkpoints will be crossed.

The Board did not provide any commentary on the data, nor did it show the headcount at specific immigration checkpoints.

It did not specify whether the rise in Macau visitors was connected with locals joining the protests in the city.

Various platforms have published reports stating that tourists are avoiding travelling to Hong Kong, which is supported by data showing a drop in the headcount of mainland tourists to the city.

In general, a 4.8% drop in total tourist headcount was recorded year-on-year in July. However, there was a rise of 11.1% in the first seven months of the year.

Global Tourism Economy Forum visits Guangzhou

THE Global Tourism Economy Forum (GTEF) participated in the 2019 China (Guangdong) International Tourism Industry Expo ("CITIE 2019") in Guangzhou between August 30 and September 1 to promote the GTEF and familiarize stakeholders within the Greater Bay Area (GBA) with the forum.

CITIE focuses on both B2B and B2C markets to attract worldwide tourism destinations, service providers and suppliers, and is a platform

for professionals to share information, conduct purchases and facilitate business development.

According to the forum, the delegation got in touch with 3,000 exhibitors and 30,000 professional buyers and tourism peers, such as China International Travel Service (CITS), China National Travel Service (HK) and Genting Cruise Lines.

Some 180 tourism leaders, exhibitors and media representatives were invited to a networking dinner hosted

by the GTEF in collaboration with CITIE.

Jason Wang, Chief Operating Officer of the GTEF, encouraged industry peers to utilize GTEF's well-established exchange and cooperation platform in Macau and to take advantage of the Forum's business matching offerings to expand business reach within and beyond the Greater Bay Area.

Also present at the dinner were representatives from Macau's tourism stakeholders, including the six resort

operators, who offered their insights to guests.

This year's forum, which will take place between October 13 and 15 at the MGM Cotai, is themed "Tourism and Leisure: Roadmap to a Beautiful Life".

It is derived from Chinese President Xi Jinping's Beautiful Life concept, which suggests that as more people cross international borders every day, tourism and leisure have the potential to spur mutual understanding and enhance quality of life and happiness, ultimately creating a harmonious and beautiful life for all.

This year's partners are Argentina and Brazil, with Jiangsu as the featured China province. **AL**

GGCT LOWERS TRAVEL ALERT FOR SRI LANKA

THE Tourism Crisis Management Office (GGCT) has decided to lower its travel alert for Sri Lanka from Level 2 to Level 1, the GGCT informed in a statement.

The reason behind the reduced level of alert was not provided by the government office, with the statement only noting that it had made the change "given that the situation in Sri Lanka has attenuated."

The GGCT also warns Macau residents who wish to travel to Sri Lanka or are currently already there to keep alert and "continue following closely the develop-

ment of the situation that might affect their safety." The GGCT also reminds citizens that the travel alert system is not prohibitive in nature and traveling to destinations with current warnings issued is "an individual decision."

The travel alert for the country was issued on April 21 this year after a coordinated terrorist attack hit three Catholic churches on Easter Sunday as well as three of the most well-known hotels in the capital city Colombo. At the time, the suicide bombing resulted in the death of 258 people. **RM**

SAFP DIRECTOR DENIES AUDIT REPORT'S ACCUSATION

THE director of the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau (SAFP) has denied an accusation in the Commission of Audit's recent report that his bureau lacks "thinking in big-picture terms."

In response to the report, SAFP Director Kou Peng Kuan denied the accusations and defended his bureau. Kou believes that the speed of recruitment depends on the urgency of demands faced by relevant departments.

Kou claimed that the central recruitment system simultaneously ensured fairness, equality, and openness.

Kou stated that the SAFP had done its best to support the needs of other departments, although he did not deny there being room for improvement in the recruitment process.

Kou claimed that the 'one-click' system criticized by the Commission of Audit complies with app design principles.

"Will you use an app if it is not convenient? If residents wish to apply, will they not choose more options when there is not a select-all option?" Kou questioned.

He claimed that in 2016, many people wanted to work in public departments, resulting in applicants applying for multiple positions.

According to Kou, the e-application platform did not include a section for an applicant's major and degree and as a result, departments had to accept all applications, even from applicants who were not qualified. JZ

BROAD MONEY SUPPLY CONTINUES RETREAT IN JULY

ACCORDING to statistics released yesterday by the Monetary Authority of Macao, the broad money supply continued to fall in July. Meanwhile, both resident deposits and loans dropped from a month earlier.

Residents' deposits dropped by 1.3% from the preceding month to MOP646.4 billion, while non-resident deposits also dropped 3.4% to MOP265.1 billion.

Statistics from the Monetary Authority of Macao showed that public sector deposits with the banking sector decreased 0.2% to MOP247.9 billion.

Thus, total deposits in the banking sector fell 1.6% from a month earlier to MOP1,159.5 billion.

The shares of MOP, HKD, RMB and USD in total deposits were 19%, 48.1%, 4.6% and 25.9% respectively.

Domestic loans to the private sector also dropped 1.5% from a month ago to MOP507.2 billion, while external loans also fell 2.3% to MOP565 billion. Data shows that the total loans to the private sector went down by 1.9% from a month earlier, to MOP1,072.2 billion.

At end-July, the loan-to-deposit ratio for the resident sector dropped from 57% at end-June to 56.7%.

The currency in circulation and demand deposits fell 0.6% and 5.5% respectively. LV

231,000 ANTI-SMOKING INSPECTIONS THIS YEAR

A total of 2.19 million anti-smoking inspections have been carried out since the Smoking Prevention and Control Act took effect in January 2012, according to the latest data provided by the Health Bureau (SSM). This represents a daily average of 782 inspections and has led to a cumulative total of 54,000 charges.

During the first eight months of this year, anti-smoking inspectors carried out 231,000 inspections, an average of 951 daily inspections. This represents a 2.4% decrease compared to the same period last year on account of what the SSM describes a change in strategy.

In a statement released yesterday to announce the figures, the SSM said it continues to urge smokers to comply with the anti-smoking regulations.

In addition, 3,776 complaints were registered, almost all of which relate to illegal smokers, although 21 cases relate to the illegal labeling of tobacco products and three pertain to the sale of tobacco products through exhibitors.

The number of charges against illegal smokers fell by 35 persons (-0.9%) compared with the previous year, according to the SSM. Of the offenses, the overwhelming majority of illegal smokers (3,513 cases)



were male, or 93.6%, against 6.4% female cases (239 cases). Regarding the provenance of the offenders, 1,048 fines were imposed on Macau residents (27.7%), 2,562 fines were imposed on tourists (68.3%) and 142 offenses were committed by non-resident workers (4%).

With regard to the type of establishment which saw the highest number of infringement cases, 987 infringements (26.1%) were found in casinos, 621 (16.4%) in parks, gardens and leisure areas, and shopping centers registered 417 cases (11%). Some 3,096 people (82%) paid the fines they were issued for smoking violations. DB

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Workers' lawmakers to continue fight for livelihood issues

JULIE ZHU

LAWMAKERS Ella Lei, Leong Sun Iok, Lam Lon Wai and Lei Chan LU say they will continue to pursue better housing policies, better transportation, and improved protection of local workers in the upcoming Legislative Assembly (AL) session.

Recalling the past legislative term at a press conference held yesterday, the four lawmakers said that several problems with the administration had gone unresolved in the past year.

They cited insufficient public administration and public fund supervision, the slow build-up of the urban plan regime and lamented the fact that the unbalanced tourism policy still cannot balance livelihood and tourism issues.

The lawmakers also said that the long-standing housing and transportation issues must be solved, and complained that the training of talented human resources lacks forward-thinking.



Lawmaker Ella Lei

The lawmakers had therefore submitted proposals to the SAR government to improve administrative ability.

Regarding institutional development, the four lawmakers want the government to enhance the construction of a clean government, push forward

public administration reform, improve public finance management, monitor companies where public money has been invested, improve the urban planning regime and balance tourism development.

"High-ranking officials' corruption and malpractice con-

tinue to be unearthed," the lawmakers noted in a joint statement. "The government must enhance the accountability system for high-ranking officials, thus setting a good example by independently investigating malpractice by civil servants while improving their disciplinary system."

The four lawmakers condemned the low efficiency and lack of rigor in formulating budgets, citing the large amounts of public money spent on renting properties.

Moreover, each year, the SAR government spends hundreds of millions of patacas on companies supported with public funds.

"Although proposed for many years, there is still no supervision mechanism, with the companies' capital and operations derailing from the public's monitoring."

The four lawmakers suggested that the SAR government should expedite works involved in converting a land plot of

70,740 square meters into a leisure and family-friendly zone. The land of the former Iec Long Firecracker Factory was also proposed to be transformed into a platform for cultural creations.

In regard to housing and transportation matters, the four lawmakers want public housing plans, public housing quality, and better application procedures. There is a push for the Light Rapid Transit (LRT) to be combined with casino shuttle buses, and extended to Barra and Seac Pai Van. Bus drivers' service quality should also be improved, according to the lawmakers.

Representing the workers sector, the four lawmakers particularly recommended that the government make improvements to ensure workers do not see their salaries delayed. The compensation amount available for injuries obtained on-duty were also recommended to receive an increase.

"The government is always unable to fulfill its promises regarding labor relation legislation and law amendments," the four reported together.

They finally urged the government to continue ensuring that there are policies to prioritize the hiring of local workers, and to regularly train local talented people.

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Philippines, Malaysia to open fireworks display contest

THE Philippines and Malaysia are set to open the 30th Macao International Fireworks Display Contest that will kick off at 9 p.m. this Saturday.

Hosted by the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO), 12 pyrotechnic teams will present firework displays themed "Duo Celebrations for Macau."

Yesterday, the two teams from the Philippines and Malaysia met with the press to present their works that will open this year's competition.

Themed "Diversification - Integration," Malaysia has divided its presentation into six segments that aim to showcase different elements of fireworks, color and effect.

"Malaysia is a multi-cultural and multi-racial country [...] so we will bring this diversification and integration [to the theme]. We're coming with different combinations of colors and patterns," said Krishna, the pyrotechnician



Errol Lucero (left), Kim Moon Tong (center) and PyroBlast Technical Consultant Krishna

of Blastmaster Sdn Bhd.

"We have some special new designs which we will display in the competition. We have some low-level effects as well to create a multi-level display," Krishna further explained.

This year, the 12 pyrotechnic teams will choreograph 18-minute fireworks shows to the song "Light Your Fire" by Mathew Lam Chun Yat, which won the bureau's songwriting contest

last year.

The Malaysian team noted that it was a challenge for the group to create a fireworks display based on the song.

"It's quite difficult to get fireworks to match the music. But we managed to do it with bright colors and slow and fast effects. That's the big challenge this time," said Krishna.

Meanwhile, the team from the Philippines has the-

med its presentation "A Magical Experience," aiming to showcase a fireworks show that is "executed in a unique play of angles and colors."

Platinum Fireworks, Inc. will close its show with the song "Never Enough," from the Greatest Showman film.

"We wanted to make a magical show, so this year's finale is much bigger than last year's," said Errol Lucero, the show director of the company.

"We will use more colorful effects so it will become magical. We see to it that the mandatory theme song and the fireworks would sync overall," he added.

Since the Philippines' team experienced difficulties last year due to low visibility, Lucero shared that the team has enhanced its techniques so that its high-level effects would not be blocked by the clouds.

The fireworks display contest will be held on weekends from September 7 until October 5. LV

IPM FULFILLS PROMISE OF PSC TRAINING

RENATO MARQUES

THE Macao Polytechnic Institute (IPM) and the Permanent Secretariat of the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and the Portuguese-speaking Countries (Forum Macau) have jointly organized a summer course for students from different Portuguese-speaking countries (PSC) to provide continuing training to staff from Portuguese-speaking countries.

The aim of the course is to facilitate communication between these countries and China, thereby boosting trading relations between them.

The course took place from August 26 to 30 and fulfills a promise made during the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the Forum Macau. During this conference, the Macao government was assigned the role of providing more training, the Coordinator of the Support Office of the Permanent Secretariat of the Forum Macau, Teresa Mok said during the closing ceremony.

In total, a group of fifteen students representing countries such as Angola, Brazil, and Cape Verde attended the program activities, which included seminars on Chinese history and culture, the community of Portuguese-speaking countries' economics, China's economy, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay, and the internet and electronic commerce. Besides the seminars, the students also visited several institutions relevant to the commercial relations between both sides. RM

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MARTIAL LAW IS THE LATEST RISK WORRYING INVESTORS

As investors map out potential risks from Hong Kong's summer of unrest, one tool at the government's disposal is attracting increased attention: a colonial-era statute that gives authorities broad powers similar to martial law.

Speculation that Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam may invoke the city's Emergency Regulations Ordinance has swirled since she said last week that all options are on the table.

The law, introduced by the British in 1922 for use in case of emergency or public danger, gives Hong Kong's leader the power

to make "any regulations whatsoever which he may consider desirable in the public interest." Chinese officials said on Tuesday that it could be implemented if necessary.

Market analysts in Hong Kong still view that as a low-probability event, but they haven't ruled it out as some anti-government protesters turn increasingly violent. While invoking the law would be a less extreme measure than calling in Chinese troops to quell the unrest, the knee-jerk impact on markets would likely be negative. Share prices and the Hong Kong dollar, which is pegged to

the U.S. currency, would come under pressure as international investors rushed to reduce their exposure, analysts said.

The scale and duration of the exodus, and the damage to Hong Kong's status as a global financial hub, would depend on how the law is used. Its provisions include arrests, property seizures, deportation, control of the ports and the power to restrict means of communication. In an extreme scenario, the government could even cut off access to the Internet.

"If the emergency law is triggered, the economic damage will definitely be significant," said Na-

der Naeimi, who oversees about \$800 million as head of dynamic markets at AMP Capital Investors Ltd. Naeimi sold his Hong Kong stock holdings in May, saying that tail risks in the city are too high.

"The possibility has increased, but I wouldn't take it as a base-line case. The fear surrounding this is that once it's declared, people potentially won't know what will actually happen. That uncertainty by itself will create fear in the financial markets. It's very likely we'd see some kind of a stock-market selloff," said Tommy Wu, a senior economist at Oxford Economics Hong Kong.

"We'd probably see Hong Kong's dollar hitting the weak side of the trading band a lot more often. In terms of the peg stability, I still don't think that's an issue because there's enough foreign reserves."

"I don't think the government is going to do it when there's so much concern in the society," complemented Steven Leung, executive director of UOB Kay Hian (Hong Kong).

"There's still a lot of things the government can do, so there's no urgency for them to launch this law in the near future," added Leung. "If they do it, there may be some very short-term panic in the financial markets and also in society. [...] It's difficult to predict what will happen in political issues. It's better to raise cash positions, try to stay away from risky assets." **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

HONG KONG

China probes illegal knives in FedEx package

CHINA is investigating FedEx Corp. on suspicion of illegally handling a package to Hong Kong containing knives that are controlled by law, the state-run Xinhua News Agency reported.

The knives have been confiscated by authorities, Xinhua said, without providing more details. The case follows the discovery of a gun in a package delivered by FedEx to a company in China, the news agency reported Aug. 18.

The latest package "was handled correctly via standard security protocol," FedEx said in a statement Tuesday. It was sent by "a regular shipper" from the city of Guangzhou but wasn't delivered, the carrier said. Instead, it was

turned over to authorities according to established procedures.

"The package never left its origin city, was never delivered, and remains with the authorities," FedEx said in an email.

FedEx has been under scrutiny in recent months after Huawei Technologies Co. said documents it asked to be shipped from Japan to China were diverted to the U.S. instead without authorization. In another incident, FedEx said it mistakenly rejected a package containing a Huawei phone being sent to the U.S. from the U.K., a claim China rebuffed.

After those incidents, people familiar with the matter said in June that China was

considering adding FedEx to a list of so-called unreliable entities that the country says damages the interests of domestic companies. At the time, Chinese authorities had almost completed the preparations needed to blacklist the U.S. company, the people said.

FedEx has now put itself in a very dangerous position, with the unreliable entities list in the process of being rolled out, China's state-run Global Times said on Tuesday. The parcel's destination of Hong Kong is very sensitive, the newspaper said, adding that anti-Chinese government protesters in the city have often armed themselves with knives. **BLOOMBERG**

HONG KONG

HOUSE PRICES COULD SLIDE 30% IN WORST-CASE SCENARIO

JPMORGAN Chase & Co. has landed on six property stocks that can best weather the Hong Kong turmoil after applying a worst-case scenario that envisages home prices plunging 30%, retail sales falling by a similar amount and prime office rents sinking 40%.

While a worst-case scenario may seem a rather grim starting point, analysts at the New York-based investment bank said in a report earlier this week that's what most investors are starting to factor in considering the uncertainties in the former British colony.

They include a re-escalation of the U.S.-Chi-

na trade war and the social unrest in Hong Kong, both of which will impact upon the city's status as an international financial center, JPMorgan said.

"The primary objective of our worst-case analysis is to identify stocks that are still good for investment even under this sort of scenario," analysts led by Cusson Leung wrote, adding such assumptions weren't their base case.

JPMorgan said CK Asset has been diversifying away from property in Hong Kong and China. Henderson Land, meanwhile, has done a good job ramping up asset disposals and "strong

dividend growth will support strong share price performance."

Wharf and Hang Lung have promising shopping malls after some tenant reshuffling, while New World, the only developer of the six with a residential angle, should see the most substantial increase in rents.

"We believe the only type of residential projects which are still selling well is the mass market product, of which New World will have a 3,000-unit to be launched in Tai Wai early 2020," the Sept. 2 report said.

On the flip side, four stocks were downgraded to underweight, and two to neutral. **BLOOMBERG**



Carrie Lam scraps bill that sparked months of unrest

IAIN MARLOW, SHAWNA KWAN & BLAKE SCHMIDT

HONG Kong's embattled leader, Carrie Lam, formally withdrew legislation to allow extraditions to China, a political retreat that may help ease - but not end - months of unrest in the Asian financial hub.

Lam announced the move in a televised address yesterday, after a meeting with pro-establishment politicians including local legislators and the city's representatives to national legislative bodies. She also pledged an independent study of the government's performance and reaffirmed her commitment to reviewing the police actions - while saying she couldn't accept other protester demands such as dropping rioting charges against demonstrators.

"Incidents over these past two months have shocked and saddened Hong Kong people," Lam said, seated at a desk, her hands folded. "We are all very anxious about Hong Kong, our home. We all hope to find a way out of the current impasse and unsettling times."

Hong Kong stocks jumped, led by property developers, after news reports that she would withdraw bill. The benchmark Hang Seng Index rose 3.9% - the biggest gain since November - before her speech, although futures slipped after

she made clear that she wouldn't meet some protester demands.

"Carrie Lam's so-called concessions have come too little too late, the damage is done, the scars and wounds are still bleeding in Hong Kong," Claudia Mo, a pro-democracy lawmaker, who has been a prominent participant in some of the biggest marches, told a briefing after the announcement. "If she thinks she can use some garden hose to put out some hill fire, that's not possible."

The online forum LIHKG - a popular sounding board and organizing platform for protesters - also indicated disappointment with Lam's action. A post titled "Two out of five demands met. Do we accept?" garnered 415 thumbs-downs in less than 15 minutes.

Lam's move follows a weekend of demonstrations that saw some of the fiercest clashes between protesters and riot police. Activists have lobbed petrol bombs and set bonfires in the streets, while police officers fired tear gas, rubber bullets and pepper spray, making more than 1,100 arrests since early June.

The turmoil that followed Lam's attempt to introduce the ill-fated bill - including mass marches that

drew more than 1 million people and protests that shut the city's busy airport - have turned into the biggest crisis for Beijing's rule over the former British colony since it returned to Chinese rule in 1997. Aggressive police tactics, threats by Beijing to deploy troops and sweeping arrests of pro-de-

The turmoil that followed Lam's attempt to introduce the bill has turned into the biggest crisis for Beijing's rule over the former British colony since the 1997 handover

mocracy figures have raised fears about Hong Kong's autonomy and drawn international condemnation.

Although Lam had previously suspended the bill - saying it was "dead" - her move did little to appease demonstrators, who continued protesting and expanded their demands to include calls for greater democratic freedom. Without the bill's formal withdrawal, it could be reintroduced in a few days.

Still, it wasn't immediately clear whether the formal with-

drawal would end the protests. The action meets only one of five main demands, which also include calls for an independent commission of inquiry into police violence, an amnesty for those who have been arrested and universal suffrage.

Withdrawing the bill may ease anger and bring down the violence, but was unlikely on its own to appease demands for greater democracy and accountability over police tactics, said Samson Yuen, an assistant professor of political science at Lingnan University, who has conducted surveys of demonstrators. "Since the core slogan has always been 'five demands, every one of them,' they will continue to fight for the rest," Yuen said.

Opponents had said the bill threatened the city's tenuous autonomy from China and undermined its reputation as a global financial center. Lam's Beijing-backed government had faced growing public concern that China, emboldened by its rising economic power, was less committed to Hong Kong's colonial-era guarantees of independent courts, free speech and capitalist markets.

On Tuesday, Lam addressed

a Reuters report of a leaked audio recording in which she said she had "very, very, very limited" room to meet the demands of protesters and would quit "if I had the choice." Speaking to reporters, she said she had "not even contemplated to discuss a resignation with the central people's government."

Meanwhile, Chinese officials overseeing Hong Kong softened their tone toward the city's protesters, saying peaceful demonstrations were allowed under the law, even as it ruled out a fundamental demand for direct democracy that has fueled the unrest. They also reaffirmed support for Lam and her government.

The extradition bill was originally proposed by Hong Kong's government in February and covered mainland China and other jurisdictions that don't have an extradition agreement with Hong Kong. Lam and the law's backers originally defended it as necessary to ensure the city wouldn't become a refuge for suspected fugitives.

Her push to pass it before the end of the legislative period in July was sparked by the case of a local man accused of murdering his girlfriend in Taiwan. He was arrested in Hong Kong and convicted of money laundering, but couldn't be sent back to the island to stand trial as there's no framework to do so.

Pro-establishment lawmaker, Felix Chung, said that withdrawing the bill would "certainly" help.

"Whether the impact will be a huge one or not, I'm not sure - would have to wait and see," Chung said. "At least it's a very positive move, even if it's a bit late."

BLOOMBERG

BILLIONAIRE UNIQLO FOUNDER WANTS A WOMAN TO SUCCEED HIM AS CEO

LISA DU & GRACE HUANG

TADASHI Yanai, Fast Retailing Co.'s 70-year-old billionaire founder, said he would prefer to be succeeded by a woman, which would be better for Asia's largest retailer.

"The job is more suitable for a woman," Yanai, the chief executive officer behind clothing giant Uniqlo, said in an interview. "They are persevering, detailed oriented and have an aesthetic sense."

As Yanai gets older, he's been asked more frequently about succession at the company, which he built from his father's tailor shop into a global brand. A possible candidate could be Maki Akaida, who was appointed this year to run Uniqlo's Japan operations — the company's most profitable unit. Yanai said he wants to increase the ratio of female senior executives to more than half the total. Fast Retailing currently has six women in such roles, after hitting its goal last year of having more than 30% of women in management positions.

Japan has faced scrutiny over its lack of gender diversity in top management roles; only 4.1% of executive titles at publicly traded firms in the country are held by women. That pales in comparison with places such as the U.S., where women make up about a quarter of executive ranks, according



Tadashi Yanai

to multiple studies.

"It's a possibility," Yanai said when asked whether Akaida would be a potential successor. Akaida, 40, joined the company in 2001 and has managed Uniqlo stores in China and Japan, as well as working in the sales and human resources divisions.

Any successor to Yanai would inherit one of Japan's more recognizable global brands, after Fast Retailing fought off domestic doldrums by expanding Uniqlo overseas. Revenue has grown consistently, surpassing 2 trillion yen (\$18.9 billion) in 2018, mainly through new stores in foreign markets from China to the U.S.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has sought to promote women in the work force amid a labor shortage triggered by Japan's aging and shrinking population. With a declining birthrate, the number of people will slump by almost a third by 2060, by which time about 40% will be 65 or over, according to the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research.

"We're in the business of selling clothes — it's not so good that we're old," Yanai said.

Investors are looking at gender diversity in management ranks to evaluate their holdings. That's especially true for consumer companies

where it may be important to have executives who are similar to and match the core customer profile, said Kathlyn Collins, analyst at Matthews Asia, a San Francisco-based fund with about \$30 billion under management.

"We would hope that there would be enough people who are overseeing management who have some sort of experience with that demographic, who maybe are familiar with the needs, wants, desires of that customer," Collins said.

The Southeast Asian region will become an increasingly important part of Fast Retailing's business, Yanai added. The company said it would invest \$1.8 million in a partnership with the International Labour Organization, an arm of the United Nations, to help support factory workers in Indonesia. The ILO will also conduct a study in other countries where Fast Retailing has contract factories to explore ways to improve social protections for workers in the future.

Yanai said such investments are a way to both help pursue business goals and contribute to the world, as upward mobility in developing countries would likely eventually boost Fast Retailing's top line.

"If we expand in a place where incomes are not growing, we cannot sell clothes," the CEO said.

MDT/BLOOMBERG

CATHAY PACIFIC CHAIRMAN RESIGNS WEEKS AFTER CEO STEPS DOWN

CATHAY Pacific Airways Ltd. Chairman John Slosar followed the chief executive officer in resigning after the carrier faced scrutiny from China for its employees' involvement in the anti-Beijing protests in Hong Kong.

Slosar, 63, will be replaced by Patrick Healy, a 31-year veteran at parent Swire Group, Cathay said yesterday in a filing. The changes are scheduled to take effect after a Nov. 6 board meeting.

Swire is cleaning house atop its most high-profile asset to avoid falling further afoul of Beijing. The airline, whose business would be crippled if it lost access to China, has become a symbol of the danger companies face in Hong Kong as they seek to steer clear of angering the mainland government.

Chinese authorities last month threatened to ban Cathay flights from flying into mainland airspace and imposed a swathe of demands on Hong Kong's flag carrier after its employees participated in months-long demonstrations. The company swung quickly into action, with group Chairman Merlin Swire flying into Beijing to meet with Chinese authorities. Then Rupert Hogg abruptly stepped down as Cathay's CEO to take responsibility for the airline's troubles. At least seven other employees have also left the carrier amid the turmoil.

Cathay employees took part in a general strike last month that caused a shutdown of Hong Kong's airport, canceling hundreds of flights from the carrier's hub. Meanwhile, some Chinese state-owned firms boycotted the airline, raising further concerns that the demonstrations in the city could undermine the company's efforts to turn around its business.

Cathay and Swire have since cracked down on employees, warning workers multiple times not to participate in or support any illegal protests.

Slosar, also a Swire veteran, ran Cathay as CEO from 2011 before becoming its chairman in 2014. As CEO, he faced challenges including intensifying competition, rising fuel costs and union demands - yet succeeded in keeping profitability and maintaining revenue growth.

MDT/AP

CORPORATE BITS

Pink Inspired activities extended with Eiffel Tower race



Conrad Macao, Cotai Central is launching its annual Pink Inspired campaign with a series of experiences and collectibles available throughout October in support of Hong Kong Cancer Fund's (HKCF) breast cancer awareness campaign.

This is the eighth year Conrad Macao, now as a HKCF Diamond Sponsor, has pledged to donate a portion of its Pink Inspired proceeds to benefit the breast cancer awareness campaign, an annual campaign that raises public awareness

and funds for its free breast cancer care services.

The hotel will feature themed menus at selected restaurants, spa treatments, a charity lunch, and games amongst others.

This year, as an extension of the Pink Inspired charity lunch, Sands Resorts Macao will stage a Pink Eiffel Tower Run race up The Parisian Macao's iconic half-scale Eiffel Tower, the integrated resort announced in a statement.

The hotel will be supporting Associação de Feliz Paraíso, a local charitable organization established in 2014 by cancer patients, their family members and local medical professionals here in Macao. The organization provides cancer education to local communities.

Oktoberfest Macau at MGM to kick off on October 17



Oktoberfest Macau at MGM will be held between October 17 and 28 at MGM Cotai's Roof Terrace.

Rocking the town again with the 11-day Bavarian festival,

this year's event will continue to partner with the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Hong Kong and the German Macau Business Association.

The Högl Fun Band will again fly over from Munich for several nights of live performances.

This year's event will also feature Löwenbräu, one of the six genuine German Oktoberfest brews, along with the traditional German gastronomies, Bavarian patterned beer tent and ceiling wreaths with a touch of Macanese decoration, as well as carnival game booths.

According to a statement issued by the gaming operator, in the past 10 years, MGM has welcomed nearly 150,000 beer lovers with almost 150,000 liters of beer, and over 40,000 kilograms of roasted pork knuckles and chicken.

Xi warns party needs 'fighting spirit' to overcome risks

CHINESE President Xi Jinping urged the ruling Communist Party to brace for a "long-term" struggle against a variety of threats, the latest in a series of warnings to a nation facing a slowing economy and a more confrontational U.S.

Xi said officials needed to display a "fighting spirit" to overcome challenges ranging from security concerns to financial risks, according to the official Xinhua News Agency. "The struggles we face will not be short term, but long term," Xi told a cadre training course Tuesday in Beijing, adding that difficulties would persist through at least 2049, the 100th anniversary of the People's Republic of China.

Xi opened the year by stressing the need to maintain political stability as the economy slows. China is projected to see the slowest growth in gross domestic product in almost three decades this year -- a concern made worse by the trade war with U.S. President Donald Trump.



Xi's latest remarks come just weeks before the party's decision-making Central Committee is expected to hold its first full meeting in 20 months. The leaders will meet during a period of triumphant anniversaries for the ruling party, with Xi expected to

preside over a military parade to mark the country's 70th anniversary on Oct. 1.

However, that spirit of triumph was missing from Xi's speech.

"At present and into the future, China's development is entering to a period when various risks and

challenges are emerging together," Xi said, listing concerns including the economy, defense, Hong Kong and Taiwan. "And it will only get more complex."

'WEAK-KNEED' CADRES

China is facing greater interna-

tional push back as Trump piles tariffs on the country's goods in an effort to secure concessions on trade, technology, and economic access. That dispute has exacerbated concerns about China's slowdown and contributed to diplomatic tensions over pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong and American military support for Taiwan.

The speech was followed up Wednesday by a toughly worded front-page commentary in the party's flagship People's Daily newspaper, which chided "some cadres, especially the young ones" for lacking the necessary fighting spirit. Some were "weak-kneed and unwilling to fight," the commentary said, adding that such a political party or country wouldn't be "far from peril."

State media have stepped up their propaganda efforts around Xi recently, especially since his return from the annual summer retreat at Beidaihe. Official news reports and documentaries have taken to describing Xi as "the People's Leader," an honorific previously reserved for Mao.

Xi's speech included numerous war-like metaphors, including exhorting party officials to "be both commanders and combatants, and cultivate and maintain a strong fighting spirit, have tenacious will and superb fighting skills." **BLOOMBERG**

Tour bus crashes on wet New Zealand road, five Chinese killed

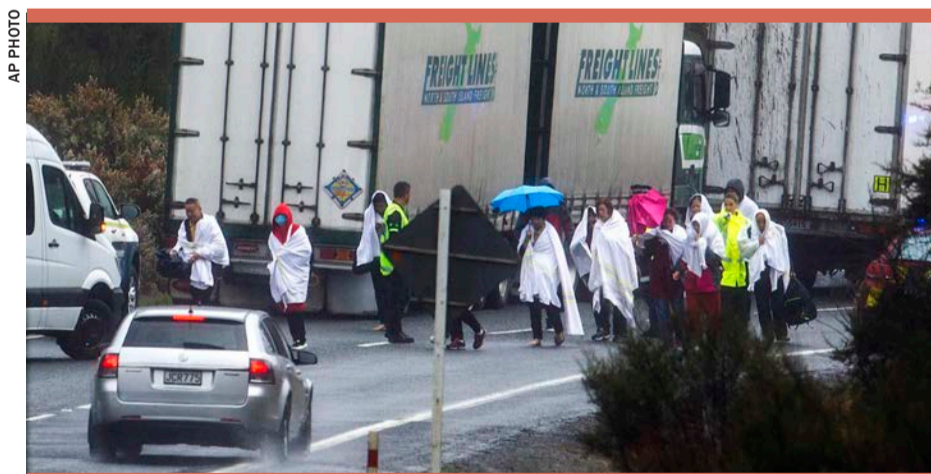
NICK PERRY,
WELLINGTON

A tour bus carrying Chinese tourists flipped in rainy weather near a New Zealand tourist town yesterday morning, killing five Chinese nationals and seriously injuring two others, police said.

Police Inspector Brent Crowe told media that the medium-sized tour bus was carrying 27 people and was about 20 minutes north of Rotorua at just after 11 a.m. when it failed to negotiate a bend on a highway.

He said the bus drifted onto the wrong side of the road and as the driver tried to correct it flipped onto the driver's side. He said no other vehicles were involved in the crash but the weather was a factor.

"High winds, fog and a lot of rain," Crowe said. "And the road surface was clearly wet and slippery."



Liang Zhi, a diplomat from the Chinese Embassy in Wellington, told The Associated Press that they understand the bus was carrying a driver, a tour guide, and Chinese tourists mostly from the Sichuan province.

"Our embassy attaches great importance to the tragic incident," Liang said. "Our ambassador is on her way to Rotorua. Our embassy will make every effort to help the Chinese citizens who have died and been inju-

red in the accident."

He said he expected that New Zealand officials would also be offering all the assistance they could.

Crowe said it still investigating whether the bus was fitted with seatbelts and if the passengers were wearing them. He said the driver was not seriously injured, and it would likely take several weeks of investigation to determine whether he would face any charges.

He said the two pas-

sengers with serious injuries and another four passengers with moderate injuries were taken to hospitals. Other passengers with minor injuries were treated at the scene.

The St. John ambulance service said it dispatched five helicopters and five ambulances to the crash site to transport patients.

Rotorua is popular among tourists for its geothermal activity, including boiling mud pools, and for its indigenous Maori culture. **BLOOMBERG**

NAJIB OFFERED PROJECTS TO CHINA FOR 1MDB HELP, WITNESS SAYS

HADI AZMI

Awitness in former Malaysian leader Najib Razak's trial testified that the ex-premier offered projects to China in exchange for help resolving 1MDB's debt.

Fugitive financier Jho Low represented Najib in the meeting with China's State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission, or SASAC, which was attended by witness Amhari Efendi Nazaruddin, a former aide to Najib. Low and Najib planned to use agreements with Chinese state-linked companies to bail out 1MDB's debt, Amhari said.

The testimony is the first confirmation from a former official in Malaysia's previous government that there were talks with Chinese institutions for help in resolving the 1MDB scandal in exchange for state deals. SASAC didn't immediately respond to a faxed request for comment.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's administration, which ousted Najib in a sur-

prise election win last year, hasn't confirmed the talks either. The government said in January it was investigating whether the cost of China-backed infrastructure projects was inflated due to links to 1MDB's debt. That's after the Wall Street Journal reported that senior Chinese leaders offered to help bail out the troubled state fund in 2016.

SASAC was offered projects including the East Coast Rail Link, the witness said, which had been put on hold by Mahathir before being resumed at a lower cost of 44 billion ringgit (\$11 billion). The Trans-Sabah gas pipeline, a Kuala Lumpur-Bangkok high-speed rail and the development of offshore financial hub Labuan were also tabled at the meeting, he said.

Najib, who has pleaded not guilty, faces the biggest set of charges for his alleged role in 1MDB in the current trial, which revolves around 25 corruption allegations against him linked to the state fund's billion-dollar bond deals and acquisitions. **BLOOMBERG**

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

JPMORGAN SAYS CHINA TO BE INCLUDED IN BENCHMARK BOND INDEXES

GREGOR STUART HUNTER & TIAN CHEN

JPMORGAN Chase & Co. will start a phased inclusion of Chinese government debt into its benchmark emerging-market indexes, potentially ushering in a fresh overseas influx into the world's second-largest bond market.

China's weight will be capped at 10% of the GBI-EM global diversified and narrow diversified indexes. The inclusion will begin Feb. 28, 2020, the bank said in a statement yesterday. Goldman Sachs Group Inc. analysts earlier estimated that such a move could lead to about USD3 billion of inflows into China's bond market a month.

The move is another win for Chinese officials, who have sought to encourage steady inflows of global funds into its domestic markets, in part to help balance pressures on the yuan after an exodus of capital in 2015. Bloomberg Barclays, another index provider, began adding Chinese bonds to its global benchmark in April. Next up is FTSE Russell, which is scheduled to announce its decisions regarding its WGBI gauge on Sept. 26.

BLOOMBERG



"The pace of capital inflows into the onshore bond market will accelerate, with more passive funds buying the debt and some others betting on a narrowing of the now-wide China-U.S. interest-rate gap," said Zhaopeng Xing, a markets economist at Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd.

Foreign holdings of Chinese bonds have steadily climbed, notching a ninth consecutive increase in August, a period that

includes the Bloomberg Barclays index inclusion. Bloomberg LP is the owner of that bond index, and also owns Bloomberg News. Last month, overseas investors bought 25 billion yuan (\$3.5 billion) of onshore Chinese bonds, according to ChinaBond data -- even as the yuan posted its biggest monthly decline since the 1990s.

A further \$6 billion to \$7.5 billion a month in extra inflows from overseas could result from

FTSE Russell adding China, Goldman analysts Danny Suwanaputti and Menglu Cai wrote in a report Tuesday.

Some \$202 billion of assets track the GBI-EM global diversified benchmark, according to JPMorgan. China inclusion will take 10 months, with a 1% addition per month, it said. JPMorgan, which competes with Bloomberg LP in the provision of data, will construct indexes that exclude China

"to provide investors with alternatives as required," the bank said.

China has also won inclusion for its equities into benchmarks compiled by MSCI Inc. including the Emerging Markets Index, another initiative to help spur capital inflows.

The launch of the Bond Connect with Hong Kong - which lets investors buy domestic Chinese debt via that financial hub - and other moves have helped address concerns about access to China's market. But challenges remain. Fund managers have cited difficulty in purchasing off-the-run bonds - those that were previously benchmark issues, such as for 10-year or two-year notes.

When Bloomberg Barclays decided to add China to its global index, mutual-fund giant Vanguard Group Inc. opted for a limited addition of Chinese domestic bonds to its portfolios. Goldman's analysts this week said feedback from U.S. investors on China's bond market has been "mixed" because of less familiarity and a still "relatively complicated access process." **BLOOMBERG**

AD



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Japan briefs diplomats on Fukushima nuclear water concerns

MARI YAMAGUCHI, TOKYO

JAPAN tried to reassure foreign diplomats yesterday about safety at the crippled Fukushima nuclear plant amid concerns about massive amounts of treated but radioactive water stored in tanks.

Diplomats from 22 countries and regions attended a briefing at the Foreign Ministry, where Japanese officials stressed the importance of combating rumors about safety at the plant, which was decimated by a 2011 earthquake and tsunami, while pledging transparency.

The plant's operator, Tokyo Electric Power Co., or TEPCO, said last month that it would run out of storage space for the water in 2022, prompting South Korea to raise safety questions amid tensions with Japan that have intensified over trade and history. South Korea was among those represented at the briefing.

Water must be continuously pumped into the four melted reactors at the plant so the fuel inside can be kept cool, and radioactive water has leaked from the reactors and mixed with groundwater and rainwater since the disaster.

The plant has accumulated more than 1 million tons of water in nearly 1,000 tanks. The water has been treated but still contains some radioactive elements. One, tritium — a relative of radiation-emitting hydrogen — cannot be separated.



Tritium is not unique to Fukushima's melted reactors and is not harmful in low doses, and water containing it is routinely released from nuclear power plants around the world, including in South Korea, officials say.

The water has been a source of concern, sparking rumors about safety, especially as Japan tries to get countries to lift restrictions on food imports from the Fukushima area ahead of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Import restrictions are still in place in 22 countries and regions, including South Korea and China.

"In order to prevent harmful rumors about the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant from being circulated, we believe it is extremely important to provide scientific and accurate information," Yumiko Hata, a Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry official in charge of the Fukushima accident response, said at the briefing. "We appreciate your understanding of the situation and continuing support for the decommissioning work at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant."

Officials said there were no complaints from the diplomats about Japan's handling of the water.

More than eight years after the accident, Japan has yet to decide what to do with the radioactive water. A government-commissioned panel has picked five options, including the controlled release of the water into the Pacific Ocean.

As disputes between Japan and neighboring South Korea escalated over export controls and colonial-era labor used by Japanese companies, Seoul last month announced plans to step up radiation tests of Japanese food products, and asked about the contaminated water and the possibility of its release into the sea.

Experts say the tanks pose flooding and radiation risks and hamper decontamination efforts at the plant. Nuclear scientists, including members the International Atomic Energy Agency and Japanese Nuclear Regulation Authority, have recommended the water's controlled release into the sea as the only realistic option scientifically and financially. Local residents oppose this, saying the release would trigger rumors of contamination, which would spell doom for Fukushima's fishing and agriculture industries.

The panel recently added a sixth option of long-term storage. **AP**

AUSTRALIA

Police raid official's home after media raids

ROD MCGUIRK,
CANBERRA

POLICE yesterday executed a search warrant on the home of an Australian intelligence officer in a raid that one media executive described as an attempt to intimidate people who talk to journalists.

The raid on an inner-Canberra house owned by Australian Signals Directorate official Cameron Gill came three months after police caused widespread outrage

by raiding the Canberra home of News Corp. journalist Annika Smethurst and Australian Broadcasting Corp.'s Sydney headquarters on consecutive days.

News Corp. Australia group executive for corporate affairs, policy and government relations Campbell Reid drew a link between Wednesday's raid and the June 4 raid on Smethurst's home.

Police were searching for the source of Smethurst's 2018 report that

Defense Department and Home Affairs Department bosses had canvassed giving the Australian Signals Directorate new legal powers to spy on Australians.

"We have always said the AFP raids on journalists were not intended to intimidate journalists but the people who have the courage to talk to journalists," Reid said in a statement, referring to the Australian Federal Police. "Today we are seeing that process of intimidation continue."

Gill is the husband of Australian Ambassador to Iraq Joanne Loundes.

Police spent around seven hours at the house before leaving with garbage bags full of material.

Canberra lawyer Kamy Saeedi told reporters at the house after police left that it was a "complex" and "sensitive" situation and he could not comment.

News Corp. and the ABC have launched legal challenges to the warrants executed in June. Police wanted the ABC's sources of classified information that formed the basis of 2017 reports that Australian troops had killed unarmed men and children in Afghanistan in potential war crimes.

The Australian Signals Directorate did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Wednesday.

Police said the target of the warrant was a "Commonwealth official," but refused further comment.

Australian media organizations have joined together in response to the raids to demand legal reforms that would exempt journalists from national security laws passed since 2012 that "would put them in jail for doing their jobs."

The government responded by asking a parliamentary committee to hold an inquiry into the impact of Australian law enforcement and intelligence powers on press freedom. **AP**

THAILAND

'YELLOW SHIRT' FOUNDER JAILED FOR FRAUD RELEASED EARLY

Thailand's Corrections Department says a media mogul who led a campaign to oust Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra from office in 2006 has been freed early from a 20-year prison sentence for financial fraud. The department announced yesterday that Sondhi Limthongkul was released under the terms of a pardon marking King Maha Vajiralongkorn's April coronation but a misunderstanding of his case delayed his freedom. Sondhi founded the People's Alliance for Democracy, popularly known as the Yellow Shirts, whose demonstrations in 2006 calling for Thaksin to leave office drew popular support and led to a military coup in September that year. Sondhi was sentenced in 2012 to 20 years in prison for filing a fraudulent financial report, but went to prison only in 2016 after the Supreme Court affirmed the judgment.

INDIA

EXPLOSION AT FIREWORKS FACTORY KILLS AT LEAST 16

A large explosion at a fireworks factory in northern India yesterday killed at least 16 people and caused the building to catch fire and collapse, officials said. Police officer Mukhtiar Singh said 15 other people were injured in the blast in Batala, a town in Punjab state about 460 kilometers north of New Delhi. Deepak Bhatia, a state government administrator, said the cause of the explosion was being investigated. The building caught fire after the blast, he said. Television images showed a brick-lined building that had completely collapsed from the force of the explosion. Fireworks manufacturing is a big business in India, with firecrackers often used in festivals and weddings. Many illegal factories produce firecrackers that are cheaper to buy than legally made fireworks.

PHILIPPINES

DUTERTE FIRES PRISONS CHIEF AMID UPROAR ON CONVICTS' RELEASE

The Philippine president has fired the government's top prison official amid a public outcry over the release of hundreds of prisoners, including convicted rapists and drug traffickers, through a law rewarding good behavior in detention. President Rodrigo Duterte said in a news conference yesterday that Undersecretary Nicanor Faeldon of the Bureau of Corrections would immediately resign for disobeying his order to halt the release of convicted prisoners under the 2014 law. Duterte said about 1,700 prisoners have been freed since the law took effect and that some may have paid their way to freedom. The releases sparked an outcry over plans to release a former town mayor convicted in the killings of two students, including one who was gang raped before being shot.

JOHN LEICESTER, STIRLING

Brexit breathes life back into Scottish

WHEN Scotland voted in 2014 against independence, that seemed to settle the issue: The hauntingly rugged region where Britain's royal family spends its holidays at its vast Balmoral estate would remain with England, Wales and Northern Ireland in a United Kingdom governed from London.

But less than two years later came the Brexit referendum, and while the U.K. voted to leave the European Union, Scots distinguished themselves as the biggest dissenters. Not only did Scotland vote overwhelmingly to stay in the EU, it was the only one of the U.K.'s four parts where not a single constituency delivered a "Yes" vote to leave.

Simply put: Scotland is being dragged largely unwillingly toward what many of its people fear will be economic suffering on Oct. 31, when the messy divorce is scheduled to take effect, quite possibly without an agreement to cushion expected blows to businesses and households.

Disgruntlement with Brexit and machinations in Westminster that have pushed the U.K. ever closer to a no-deal departu-

re is so keenly felt in Scotland's glens and weather-beaten towns that independence is back as an issue. In the aftermath of Brexit, Scotland could again become a headache for whoever is in power in London.

Rather than be shackled to what they suspect could become a diminished and isolated U.K., advocates of Scottish independence are clamoring for another referendum to allow it to strike out on its own and perhaps even rejoin the EU.

Even some of those who voted against independence, betting that Scotland would be better off in the U.K., are having second thoughts.

Chris Deerin, director of the Reform Scotland think-tank, was a firm "No" in 2014, describing the idea of a breakup of the union with Britain as "utterly bizarre" and "almost unthinkable" in his political commentaries at the time.

As Brexit looms, Deerin's tune is changing.

"I'm not at the stage where I'd say I'd vote 'Yes' yet, but it's definitely not unthinkable," he says. "And, anecdotally, there are lots

AP PHOTO



of people I know who also voted 'No' in 2014 who, if not now committed to voting 'Yes,' are open to a discussion."

He adds: "If Scotland is independent in 2025, 2030, I think Brexit will pretty obviously be the main reason for that. [...] It has set Scotland against En-

gland."

But Scots wanting a second shot at independence won't automatically get one. The U.K. government has repeatedly ruled out the possibility, saying Scots had their say and that a second vote could heap further division on the country already

riven by generational, regional, political and economic divides over Brexit.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's hardball negotiating tactics since he took office in July, replacing Theresa May after she failed to get Parliament's backing for her Brexit deal with

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

independence push



the EU, suggest to some Scots that he's especially unlikely to yield.

Johnson has taken steps to suspend Parliament for part of the remaining weeks before the Oct. 31 departure, shrinking op-

tions and time for lawmakers who want to stop a chaotic no-deal departure. Johnson's critics have likened him to a dictator and his maneuverings to a coup.

"Are you a democrat or not? Do you respect the will of the

Scottish people or not" said Ian Blackford, a lawmaker with the pro-EU Scottish National Party, addressing Johnson as the U.K. Parliament reconvened Tuesday in London.

"The Scottish people did not vote for Brexit. The people of Scotland did not vote for a no-deal Brexit. They did not vote for the Tory party and they certainly did not vote for this prime minister," Blackford added during the raucous debate.

Such charges resonate among independence supporters north of the seamless, open border with England noticeable only because of road signs that declare "Welcome to Scotland" in English and "Failte gu Alba" in Scottish Gaelic.

Edinburgh-based actor Gilchrist Muir says he's always felt Scottish rather than British and has long viewed the U.K.'s Union Jack flag as "a symbol of oppression."

For one of his more regular acting jobs, Muir dresses up in chain mail and leather as Sir William Wallace, recounting to

tourists how the 13th century Scottish independence hero defeated English invaders in the 1297 Battle of Stirling Bridge. Wallace was later executed in London in 1305 — hanged, disemboweled and beheaded as a traitor to England's King Edward I.

Mel Gibson played Wallace in the 1995 movie "Braveheart." Posing for tourists' photos with his long sword, Muir borrows Gibson's signature cry from the film, howling: "Freedom!"

But out of costume, chatting in an Edinburgh pub over a beer, he's deeply pessimistic about any shift in Westminster's stance.

"It's like I'm a passenger in a car that's out of control, and the driver's left, and you have no say over where the car's going. That's what it feels like right now. The Parliament has been hijacked. We have no say. Scotland has no voice," he says. "In any other normal democratic country or context, I would think yes, there's a good chance of getting some sort of movement in that direction, but in the current state of affairs, even if it was the will of the people, I don't have much faith."

But others are gearing up for a renewed push, cheered by polling that suggests Brexit, and especially a no-deal departure, may be strengthening the independence cause. The resignation in August of Scottish Conservative leader Ruth Davidson, who cited family reasons, deprived the anti-independence camp of one of its most popular leaders.

Scottish flags, with a white cross on a blue background, hang inside and outside the distillery where Dale McQueen brews gin. Scottish leader Nicola Sturgeon, who champions calls for a second independence referendum by 2021, opened his new factory this year in Callander, with spectacular views of surrounding crags.

McQueen says he hopes to be able to plow profits from his fast-growing business into a second referendum campaign.

"I'm very optimistic that Scotland will be an independent country," he says. "I hope and pray for that. I think it [Brexit] has been helpful to the independent cause, simply because we're having something imposed on the country. We didn't vote for it." **AP**

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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

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	Viajante da Música
16:30	Quem Quer Ser Milionário
17:30	Geoparque Açores
18:00	Amor Maior (Repetição)
19:00	LiteraturAqui
19:30	Ouro Verde Sr.1
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Coisas Curiosas de Saber
21:40	Todas as Palavras
22:15	Amor Maior
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Justiça de Chicago
00:35	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:20	RTPi Directo

this day in history



1997 MOTHER TERESA DIES

Mother Teresa, the Nobel Peace Prize winner who devoted her life to helping the sick and the poor, has died at the age of 87.

She died of a heart attack at the headquarters of the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta shortly before 1700 BST.

The nun from Skopje, Macedonia, had been battling ill health for some years, and in March stepped down as head of the order of nuns she founded.

She was revered by many around the world as a living saint for her work with the dispossessed.

The Pope often praised her work and a Vatican spokesman told reporters he was "deeply hurt" by the news of her death.

"The Pope believes she is a woman who has left her mark on the history of this century," he said.

The head of the Catholic church in England and Wales, Cardinal Hume, said she was an "enormously significant figure - everyone knows who Mother Teresa is".

Born Agnes Bojaxhiu in Skopje, then part of the Ottoman Empire later Macedonia, she took the name Sister Teresa in Ireland, where she began her training as a nun with the Loreto Sisters.

She founded her order in 1948 and went out to work in the slums of Calcutta.

She was sometimes accused by Hindus in her adopted country of trying to convert the poor to Catholicism by "stealth" and criticised by liberals who disliked her conservative stance on abortion and contraception.

But her biographer and friend Navin Chana said she would be remembered as someone who "gave the word compassion a new dimension".

Courtesy BBC News

Offbeat

MOTOWN FOUNDER BERRY GORDY DONATES \$4M TO MUSEUM EXPANSION



Motown Records founder Berry Gordy Jr. is donating \$4 million toward a project to expand a museum housed in the Detroit building where he built his music empire, officials announced this week.

Gordy's gift, which coincides with the company's 60th anniversary, is the largest individual donation to the project officially announced in 2016, the Motown Museum said. It has attracted contributions from individuals, philanthropies and automotive companies, including Gordy's long-ago employer Ford Motor Co. Gordy has long said the auto industry served as the inspiration for what would become an assembly line of record-making.

"I'm excited about the future of Motown Museum and happy to support it," Gordy said in a release. "Not only will the expanded museum entertain and tell the stories of talented and creative people who succeeded against all odds, but it will also inspire and create opportunity for people to explore their dreams the way I did mine. I couldn't be prouder to be a part of that."

Gordy launched Motown in 1959, moved the label to Los Angeles in 1972 and sold it in 1988. His late sister, Esther Gordy Edwards, founded the museum in the former "Hitsville U.S.A." headquarters on West Grand Boulevard in 1985. When Edwards died in 2011, Gordy — who has previously donated properties, artifacts and money to the museum — credited her with turning "the so-called trash left behind ... into a phenomenal world-class monument at the spot where Hitsville started."

Museum expansion plans include interactive exhibits, a performance theater, recording studios, an expanded retail area and meeting spaces. Museum officials say they are not releasing fundraising totals.

Motown's roster of artists from the Detroit era included The Supremes, the Miracles, Martha and the Vandellas, Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder, the Jackson 5, the Four Tops and Temptations.

cinema



CINETEATRO

05 - 11 Sep



ANNA
ROOM1
2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm
Director: Luc Besson
Starring: Sasha Luss, Helen Mirren, Luke Evans
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 119min

CRAWL
ROOM2
2:30, 7:30pm
Director: Alexandre Aja
Starring: Kaya Scodelario, Barry Pepper, Morfydd Clark
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 87min

ANGEL HAS FALLEN
ROOM2
2:30, 9:30pm
Director: Ric Roman Waugh
Starring: Gerard Butler, Frederick Schmidt, Danny Huston
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 121min



EXIT
ROOM3
2:30, 4:30, 9:30pm
Director: Sang Geun Lee
Starring: Jung-suk Jo, Yoona, Du-shim Ko
Language: Korean (English & Chinese)
Duration: 107min

ONE PIECE STAMPEDE
ROOM1
7:30pm
Director: Takashi Otsuka
Starring: Chô, Hiroaki Hirata, Katsuhisa Hôki
Language: Japanese (Chinese)

IN CONTEXT

Tens of thousands of people lined the route of Mother Teresa's funeral procession in Calcutta a week later. Her successor as head of the Missionaries of Charity was Sister Nirmala.

In 1997 the order which Mother Teresa had run for almost half a century was 4,000-strong and established in 130 countries.

It cared for 7,000 children and treated about four million sick people each year.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Whether you believe that you can fall in love only once, or think that a person can have many great loves in his or her life, you will see something that gives you a completely different view of romance today.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Any power struggles aren't going to be all that challenging for you, because you know, deep down inside, that you have the all the answers (at the very least, you should act as though you do).



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

This day will start off slowly but will gain momentum - so much momentum that by the end of the day you'll marvel at everything that has happened. Time is funny like that...



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Today someone's honest reaction may disappoint you, but you will have to accept the fact that you can't love everything about the people you love. Accept the whole person.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Staying informed about current events and the latest fashions is important, but today you should follow your urge to turn off the news, put down the glossy magazine, and explore your local environment.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Keeping up with today's challenges will be effortless for you - you're in an extremely flexible phase right now, and the universe is moving in such a way that all the pieces are falling into place right where you need them.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

As long as you don't sign any legal documents or commit any money toward something that isn't certain yet, there's nothing wrong with being hopeful. Just don't lose sight of reality.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

This is not a time to be afraid - this is a time to step up and get things done. You are stronger than you realize, and you'll get a chance to prove it to yourself now.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

That itchy feeling you've been having from time to time lately is good old wanderlust. You need to travel out of your familiar territory and experience a new culture.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Not every day can be a breeze, and going through a rough patch will make you all the more appreciative when you encounter smooth sailing again—and this will happen much sooner than you think.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Today, use any unexpected downtime to double-check the work you've done so far. Don't be afraid to admit that it may be time for you to change your course or direction.

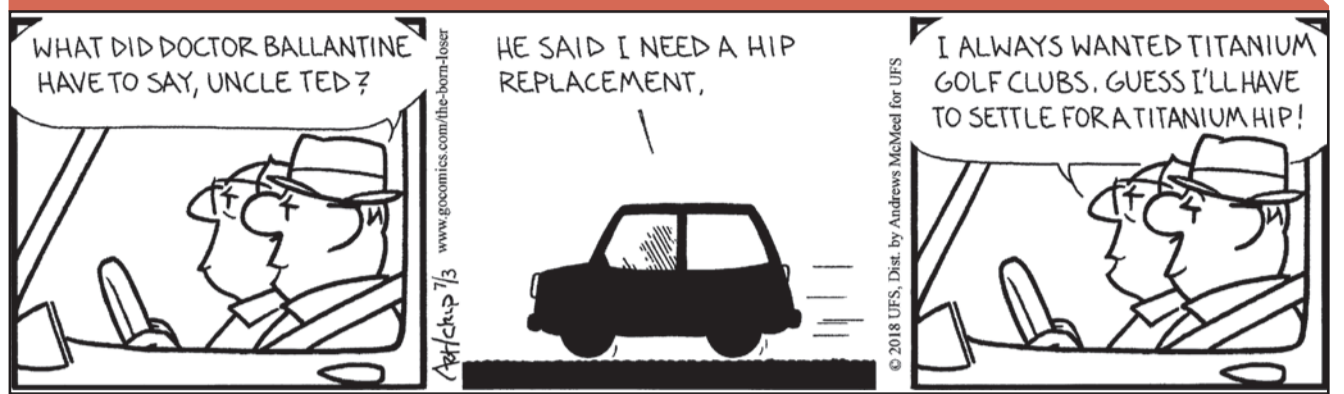


PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

If you cut just one thing out of your diet that you know is bad for you, you'll notice a marked improvement in a matter of weeks. Your energy level is unpredictable right now.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	20	30	cloudy
Harbin	15	21	moderate rain
Tianjin	20	30	clear
Urumqi	22	34	clear
Xi'an	18	31	clear
Lhasa	11	23	cloudy
Chengdu	22	30	clear
Chongqing	26	30	overcast
Kunming	18	26	shower
Nanjing	22	27	cloudy
Shanghai	23	27	heavy rain
Wuhan	24	33	cloudy
Hangzhou	22	28	drizzle
Taipei	26	30	drizzle
Guangzhou	26	33	thundershower
Hong Kong	28	32	shower
WORLD			
Moscow	12	21	clear
Frankfurt	17	30	drizzle
Paris	14	30	drizzle
London	11	27	cloudy
New York	15	23	drizzle

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Lots; 6- Lined up; 10- Director Vittorio De ___; 14- Slow movement; 15- Franklin D.'s mother; 16- Stick in one's ___; 17- Druggist; 19- Got up; 20- Warmed the bench; 21- Goad; 22- Chooses; 24- Castle protector; 25- All hands on deck; 26- Endow with a spirit; 29- Heaven; 33- Crews; 34- Word repeated in a Doris Day song; 35- Loud laugh; 36- Venom; 37- Marriott rival; 38- Division word; 39- Pack ___ (quit); 40- Tolkien baddies; 41- Like Wrigley Field's walls; 42- Resume; 44- Army command; 45- Sitting on; 46- Scorch; 47- Consisting of flowers; 50- Chemical suffix; 51- To the rear, on a boat; 54- Actress Anderson; 55- Incontestable; 58- Wicked; 59- Theater section; 60- Skip ___; 61- Contradict; 62- Computer operator; 63- Gentle push;

DOWN: 1- Heidi's home; 2- That's a laugh!; 3- Part of Q.E.D.; 4- Cabinet dept.; 5- High-flown; 6- Broad scarf; 7- Surprise attack; 8- Surgery sites, briefly; 9- Aquatic rodent; 10- Hand tool; 11- Camaro model; 12- Dramatic troupe; 13- Takes one's breath away; 18- Asian sea; 23- Open field; 24- Briefly; 25- Wagons; 26- Work ___; 27- Cool!; 28- Glossy fabric; 29- Freedom from war; 30- Ancient Greek colony; 31- Overindulges; 32- Destroy by degrees; 34- Thick sweet liquid; 37- Capital of Hawaii; 41- Some sausage; 43- Call ___ day; 44- Long time; 46- Curl the lip; 47- Ran away; 48- Deep affection; 49- Getting ___ years; 50- Beat by a nose; 51- Asleep; 52- National symbol; 53- Head of France; 56- Discouraging words; 57- ___ Dhabi;

Yesterday's solution

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

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- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IAM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
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- Telephone - Report 1000
- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
- Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



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2,305 ft² \$17,980,000 (ref: 18075558)

[Coloane] Hellene Gardens 4 2 2
2,530 ft² \$20,000,000 (ref: 18035546)

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\$9,800/mth 3,700 ft² (ref: n/a)

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\$11,200/mth 2,352 ft² (ref: n/a)

[Taipa] Nova Grand 2 1 1
\$16,000/mth 986 ft² (ref: 19055007RT)

[Taipa] Ocean Gardens 4 4 4
\$35,000/mth 3,700 ft² (ref: 18040674)

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Filipe Senna Fernandes (tear left) polices MGM's representatives



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James Law - British Consulate General



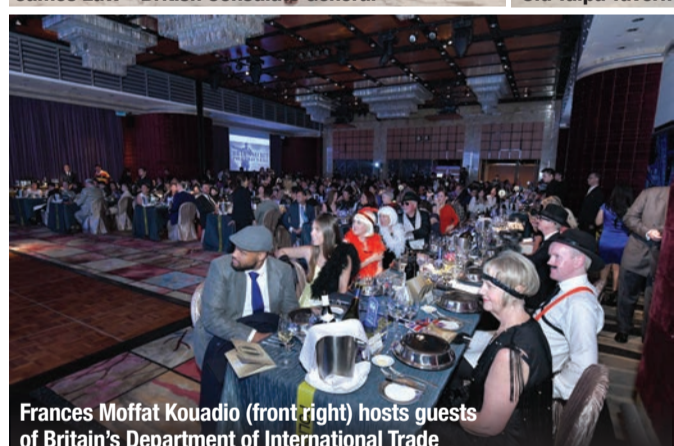
Old Taipa Tavern profile Peaky Blinders



Saj Fernando (right) & guests



The Chaine Gang



Frances Moffat Kouadio (front right) hosts guests of Britain's Department of International Trade



Peta Houghton & Matt Humphreys host Aristocrat's guests



SG Gaming



Ocean Gardens' guests



Kat & Dirk Scott



DSL Lawyers & guests



OCBC - the Ball's first across the line sponsors



The British Business Association of Macao (BBAM) held its Annual Ball early this Summer.

Guests entered into the spirit of the occasion, embracing the theme of Policing Crime to celebrate 50 years of Monty Python's Flying Circus with a Secret Policeman's Ball. Guests were treated to a full performance by Space Oddity arguably the world's best David Bowie tribute band, direct from LA.

BBAM guarantees a minimum of 50% of profits to its CSR projects.

This year they kicked off by supporting one local Macau student to join a summer internship at Oxford University - a life-changing gift.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

TIM REYNOLDS, SHANGHAI

BASKETBALL | ANALYSIS

The US isn't the best team at this World Cup - yet

THE United States does not have the best team at this World Cup.

This is not a new thing.

It's just more evident now. The Americans' edge in recent tournaments has been that they always had the best players on the court. That's not the case in this World Cup. The best player in the tournament is NBA MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo, who plays for Greece, a team that is likely waiting for the U.S. this weekend. All-NBA first-teamer Nikola Jokic plays for Serbia. The two-time reigning defensive player of the year, Rudy Gobert, plays for France.

That puts even more emphasis on teamwork.

From the early days of this team's training camp in Las Vegas last month, coach Gregg Popovich hasn't been showing highlights of how exceptional talent on recent U.S. teams — the likes of Kobe Bryant, LeBron James and Kevin Durant and Carmelo Anthony and Dwyane Wade — could put on the sort of dazzling shows typically reserved for All-Star games. Instead, he's been showing the games that the U.S. had to grind out, as if he knew daunting tests were coming.

But even those glitzy U.S. teams, gold medalists from the last two World Cups and last three

AP PHOTO



Olympics, weren't great "teams."

They just had the best talent in the world, got along, and made it work.

Teams — in an ideal scenario — are put together over time, forged through bonds that sometimes take years. Serbia has six players here who were on its Olympic team three years ago and

six returnees from the last World Cup team in 2014. Spain has five players back from the Olympics. Turkey's roster still has holdovers from the group that went to the World Cup final nine years ago.

"Execution-wise, we're not there yet," Popovich said.

That's reality, though it's certainly not an excuse for nearly

losing to Turkey on Tuesday night. Ersan Ilyasova, Cedi Osman and Furkan Korkmaz — players with a combined zero NBA All-Star appearances, players with a combined NBA scoring average of 10 points per game — were pretty much doing whatever they wanted, but Turkey let the U.S. off the hook in a 93-92 overtime final.

Put simply, Turkey choked.

And that's what it took for the U.S., the world's No. 1-ranked program, the three-time defending Olympic champions and two-time defending World Cup champions, to win a game over a squad that isn't even ranked among the top 10 in Europe.

"Every game we learn something new about our group and what we have to do and how we have to play," Popovich said. "We already know how good the other teams are, so our respect is there for that, and that goes without saying. But, we still have to use every game kind of like a practice in a sense to try to get better in so many ways."

And while the U.S. is anything but a lock — as everyone can now plainly see — there's still time to get it right. But it is going to take a Herculean effort for this team to win gold in China.

Maybe, just maybe, Turkey provided the lesson or spark that the Americans needed.

Yes, the best U.S. talent is back home but the Americans still have the most talented roster at the World Cup from top to bottom. There's no other team in China with 12 NBA players on the roster, not even close.

But they're going to execute — as a team — every second of every game. This team has very little, if any, margin for error. **AP**

AD



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OPINION

World Views

Lionel Laurent, Bloomberg

TIME TO UNLOCK THE BREXIT RELIEF FUND

If the U.K. parliament can't clean up the Brexit mess, it might be time for Europe to start spending instead. The economic impact of a worst-case no-deal Brexit on the rest of the European Union is estimated to amount to \$250 billion by 2030, according to the International Monetary Fund.

Back in 2017, Ireland suggested that was a good reason to deploy one of the bloc's financial lifelines. Known as the "Globalization Adjustment Fund," it was intended to support the re-training and re-employment of people who had lost their jobs due to global phenomena like cheap competition abroad, or financial crises. It might now need to do the reverse: Help victims of de-globalization and rising barriers to trade.

It looks like the Irish will get their wish. Reports say the EU's "no-deal" help package to be announced today [Macau time] will include the fund after a broader push from member states and the European Parliament to add "Brexit" to the list of crises that justify using the money. The fund only has an annual budget of 150 million euros (\$165 million). But this small pot of cash may be combined with another financial lifeline, the Solidarity Fund, which is supposed to help countries hit by natural disasters like earthquakes that cost around 0.6% of gross national income. It has paid out about 5 billion euros since 2002.

To be clear, the numbers involved here are unlikely to get anywhere close to pulling Europe out of an economic hole. Ireland faces an estimated hit of 3.4 billion euros to its economy from a hard Brexit, according to the Bertelsmann Stiftung think tank. For nearby France, it's 7.7 billion.

Still, treating Brexit like a literal disaster has other advantages. Brussels is often accused by critics of being too distant and deaf to the concerns of ordinary people. More spending and less bureaucratic hoop-jumping - the tortuous box-checking associated with these funds is a problem - would be a welcome change from haggling over deficit limits. Member states might also be prodded into action in a slowing economy: The British-Irish Chamber of Commerce wants Ireland to use its corporate-tax coffers to finance a 1 billion-euro Brexit Response Fund.

Ideally this would just be the start for incoming European Commission boss Ursula von der Leyen, who wants to harness the European Investment Bank to unlock \$1.1 trillion of green investment, and new European Central Bank head Christine Lagarde, who has called for reform of the EU's budget rules. More spending is vital, given the prospect not just of Brexit but an escalating global trade war. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) reckons euro-zone economic growth could get a lift of 1% from a three-year fiscal stimulus if big countries like Germany upped their spending by 0.5% of GDP, alongside other reforms.

Brexit might not be the starting-gun for a coordinated plan - it hasn't happened yet, for one thing, and its impact is weighted towards specific industries and countries - but even a muddled approach would be progress. It took burning cars on the streets of Paris last year to push Emmanuel Macron into digging out 10 billion euros of French budget giveaways. Germany is torn between its commitments to a balanced budget and the chance to stave off recession through spending. Italy's debt burden and fractious politics are limiting its room for maneuver.

The U.K. is accelerating its own spending plans with an extra 2 billion pounds due to be announced. For all the negative aspects and costs of tearing up the terms of trade between Britain and its top trading partner, Europe should do likewise and prepare its own relief funds. Spending, and solidarity, are opportunities to seize from this crisis.

YOUTUBE TO PAY \$170M FINE AFTER VIOLATING KIDS' PRIVACY LAW

THE BUZZ

Google's video site YouTube has been fined \$170 million to settle allegations it collected children's personal data without their parents' consent.

The Federal Trade Commission fined Google \$136 million. The company will pay an additional \$34 million to New York state to resolve similar allegations.

The fine is the largest the agency has leveled against Google, although it is tiny compared with the \$5 billion fine the FTC imposed against Facebook this year for privacy violations.

The FTC has been investigating YouTube for the way it han-

dles the data of kids under 13. Young children are protected by a federal law that requires parental consent before companies can collect and share their personal information.

YouTube has said its service is intended for ages 13 and older, although younger kids commonly watch videos on the site and many popular YouTube channels feature cartoons or sing-a-longs made for children.

YouTube has its own app for children, called YouTube Kids. The company also launched a website version of the service in August.



ISLAND OF 50,000 PEOPLE IN THE BAHAMAS IS 70% UNDER WATER

MATTHEW BRISTOW & EZRA FIESER

AN island in the Bahamas that's home to 50,000 people is 70% under water after Hurricane Dorian battered it with record force for two days, according to the government.

There are "still many outstanding rescue missions," on the island of Grand Bahama, Finance Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Kevin Peter Turnquest said, in reply to written questions. "It's not looking good as we expect catastrophic damage."

Seaports and airports in Grand Bahama and the nearby Abaco Islands are flooded or damaged, complicating the task of rescuing people cut off by flood waters.

The National Emergency Management Agency sent out an "urgent plea"

for owners of equipment such as flatbeds, jet skis, small boats, trucks and buses to assemble at a shopping mall on Grand Bahama to help with the rescue operation.

The U.S. Coast Guard and British Royal Navy

sent ships to assist.

The storm is now traveling northwest away from the archipelago at nearly 5 miles per hour, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said at 2 p.m. New York time.

It could potentially hit the East Coast of the U.S.

At least five people died in the storm, but National Security Minister Marvin Dames said this figure is likely to rise, and will include some children, according to

a report in the Nassau Guardian, a local newspaper.

Humanitarian aid organizations estimate 13,000 homes have been damaged or destroyed in the Bahamas, according to a report by the UN

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Grand Bahama and the Abaco Islands between them have about 2,250 of the 17,500 hotel rooms in the Bahamas, Resort Capital Partners, a real estate investment advisory firm that covers the region, said in reply to emailed questions.

The severity of the storm impact on Grand Bahama and Abaco over the last two days may be the greatest ever experienced by any populated area in the Atlantic basin, according to Ryan Truchelut, president of Weather Tiger in Tallahassee, Florida. **BLOOMBERG**

Iran said it was unlikely to reach a much-anticipated agreement with Europe in time to avert another Iranian retreat from the limping nuclear deal, but gave European powers two more months to try to keep the accord alive.



Spain Police have found a woman's body in a mountainous area near Madrid where officers have been searching for former alpine ski racer and Olympic medalist Blanca Fernández Ochoa.

Russia-Turkey The two countries are discussing sales of Su-35 fighter jets and possible supplies of the latest Russian stealth warplane, as Moscow seeks to exploit divisions between Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan and the U.S.



UK Britain's Parliament will attempt to defy Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Brexit plans yesterday as lawmakers seek a way out of the impasse that has gripped the nation since the 2016 vote to leave the European Union.



UK A British court has ruled that a police force's trial of automated facial recognition technology is lawful, dealing a blow to an activist concerned about its implications for privacy.