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“THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’”

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**SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS TOOK THE CREDIT FOR FOILING FOUR CAR CRASH LIARS WHO PRETENDED A PASSENGER WAS BEHIND THE WHEEL** P2

**GOV'T CONFIRMS: PLASTIC BAGS TO BE CHARGED AT ONE PATACA EACH** P3

**ENROLLMENT OF LOCAL STUDENTS AT MACAU'S UNIVERSITIES HAS DROPPED 30% IN THE PAST SIX YEARS** P3

**Taiwan** and the Solomon Islands put on a display of friendship yesterday, pledging to deepen ties, even as rumors persist the Pacific nation is close to severing relations in favor of China.



**Philippines** Five people were honored yesterday as this year's winners of the Ramon Magsaysay Awards, regarded as Asia's version of the Nobel Prize, including a South Korean who helped fight suicide and bullying and a Thai housewife who became a human rights defender after losing her husband to violence in southern Thailand.

**Vietnam** is at risk of a 500,000 ton shortage of the meat most of its citizens rely on for daily protein between now and the Lunar New Year in January as African swine fever ravages the nation's hog herd, according to Ipsos Business Consulting.

**North Korea** State media urged citizens yesterday to "fully mobilize" to rebuild after powerful Typhoon Lingling lashed the country over the weekend, with workers rebuilding electricity networks, salvaging battered crops and helping families whose homes and property were damaged.

**Australia** A key unaligned senator, Sen. Jacqui Lambie, said yesterday she will support laws that would force Australia's jobless to undergo drug tests in return for welfare checks if lawmakers were screened as well.



**Afghanistan** Afghans braced for a possible new wave of Taliban violence yesterday after President Donald Trump abruptly called off talks with the insurgent group, which vows to continue its fight against what it calls "foreign occupation."

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# HEADWINDS AHEAD

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RENATO MARQUES



CRIME

# POLICE CATCH ILLEGAL DRIVER USING SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS

ANTHONY LAM

**T**HE Public Security Police Force (PSP) confirmed the occurrence of a serious car accident involving four people in their twenties, one of whom was severely injured, in Coloane early yesterday morning.

The police added that a passenger, surnamed Leong, who turned out to be the owner of the car, claimed to be driving at the time of the accident. This statement was found to be untruthful with the assistance of surveillance camera footage.

The other three people involved in the accident are all female, surnamed Chui, Choi and Lam. Chui was driving the car at the time of the accident.

According to the PSP, Leong was in a sleeveless shirt at the scene, while the footage showed that the actual driver was not. Chui was driving illegally as she was doing so without a license, the police said.

Alcohol was found in Lam but not the other three. While Lam was not driving or involved in the obstruction of justice, she was severely injured. As of yesterday afternoon, both she and Leong were still under medical care at the Conde São Januário Hospital.

The accident happened after a night out in the NAPE district.

A statement given to the police indicated that the four were enjoying the nightlife until around 5 a.m. yesterday. Then they decided to have breakfast in Coloane and drove there.

It was not clear whether Chui started driving from their starting point in NAPE or if she took the wheel at some point during the journey, but the police were told that she had expressed an interest in driving the car. The car crashed on Estrada de Cheoc Van.

## MIND BELONGINGS WHEN FLYING, SAYS POLICE

A total of three cases of aircraft theft were reported to both the Judiciary Police (PJ) and the PSP, according to information released during a press conference yesterday. Suspects were caught on the scene in two of the cases, while the other suspect is on the run.

In the case uncovered on September 3, the suspect is surnamed Chen and from the mainland. At 11 a.m. on that day, a report was received from the flight deck of a plane flying in from Krong Preah Sihanouk, Cambodia. A passenger's cash was reportedly stolen during the flight.

The victim told the police that while moving to the washroom during the flight, he realized the money in his bag, which was put in the overhead compartment,

was nowhere to be found.

The victim inquired with the cabin crew, who told the victim that a Chinese-looking man was seen taking out and searching through his bag. Afterwards, the bag was placed back into the compartment.

The victim confronted the suspect, who denied the accusation and claimed the bag was taken out by mistake. Nonetheless, the victim discovered a white airsickness bag under the seat of the suspect.

In the bag, there was a total of HKD10,000, RMB1,100, MYR1,500 and USD115. As the victim recognized the sums of cash, he requested police investigation. Under investigation, the suspect confessed and was charged with aggravated theft.

Another case on a flight en route to Macau from Beijing, occurred on September 8 and involved a suspect from the mainland, surnamed Zhang.

As in the previous case, the victim's bag was placed in the overhead compartment. His wallet, with HKD1,100 and USD400, was in the bag.

He noticed Zhang was sitting behind him when he visited the washroom. As he was just entering the washroom, he noticed that Zhang had taken out his bag from the compartment and started

searching through it. The victim immediately approached and confronted Zhang.

Zhang claimed he was in search of a newspaper that he spotted in the compartment. He intended to reach for it but as he could not, he thought it was under the victim's bag.

The police conducted a search on the suspect and found various currencies, namely Hong Kong dollar, Chinese renminbi, Malaysian ringgit, U.S. dollar, Singapore dollar, Philippine peso, Swiss franc and euros. The police say that they suspect all of the cash was stolen.

The suspect has been passed to the Public Prosecutions Office under the charge of aggravated theft.

In the final case reported yesterday, the suspect is still on the run.

The male victim, who claims a loss of HKD7,000, is a tourist from mainland China. Like the previous two victims, he put his bag, along with his wallet, in the overhead compartment upon boarding the plane. He discovered that his money went missing when he arrived at a hotel in Cotai, and reported the case to the police.

## MOP45K LOST IN UNSEEN GIRLFRIEND SCAM

A man was scammed out of a sum MOP45,000 in search of en-

jo-kosai, the practice of "compensated dating," whereby young women in parts of Asia provide companionship or sex to men in exchange for money or luxuries. The case was reported to the police on September 7.

The male victim, a 24-year-old Macau resident, met a girl over a social media platform on September 4. The girl chatted with him using Chinese pinyin (transliteration).

The girl disclosed to the victim that she was willing to provide a compensated dating service, which would include dinners, watching movies and massages. She put a price tag of MOP500 per occasion.

They then agreed to meet at Fai Chi Kei. At the supposed meeting time, the girl told the man that the "service fee" should be paid in the form of gaming cards. She instructed the man to buy gaming cards that were worth MOP8,000 as a first installment.

Later on, the man was instructed to buy cards worth MOP14,000. The girl explained that this was to ensure he was not an undercover police officer.

Later, he was told to buy MOP23,000 worth of cards to become a "VIP member", which would unlock a series of perks for him. He followed the girl's instructions again.

Unlike in some other recent cases, in which third party males acted as middlemen, the victim was in communication with the girl during the entire period and presumably scammed by her.

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HIGHER EDUCATION

# Enrollment of local students has dropped 30% in past six years

LYNZY VALLES

**M**ACAU students admitted to local universities and institutes recorded a decline of 6.8% in the 2018/19 academic year when compared to the intake a year earlier, according to the latest data provided by the Higher Education Bureau (DSES).

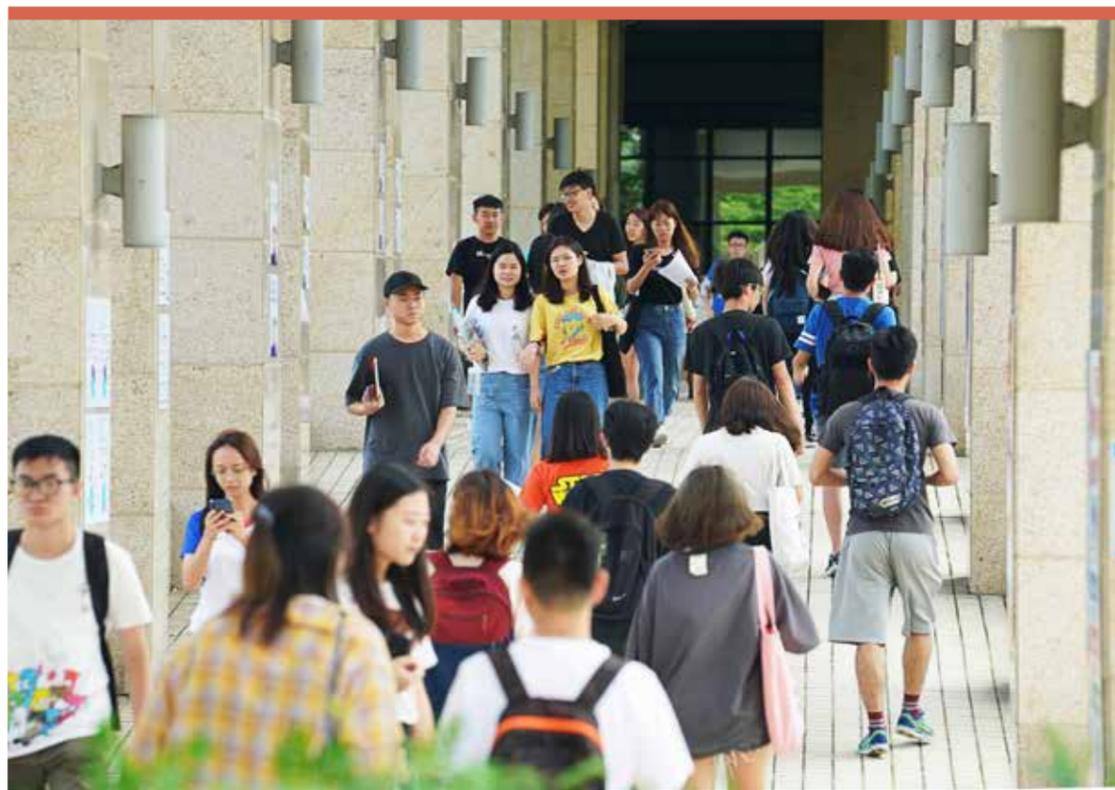
In a reply to the Times, the DSES stated, "in the past three academic years, the statistic has actually showed a decrease in the number of local students enrolled in higher education institutions in Macau, from 4,626 in the academic year of 2016/17 to 4,312 in the year of 2018/19."

According to data provided by the bureau, there were a total number of 6,145 locals enrolled in higher institutions as first year students in the 2012/13 academic year. This implies that the number local students at Macau universities has dropped nearly 30% in the past six years.

The DSES also said that about half of all students of local higher education institutions during the 2018/19 academic year were from mainland China.

As of January 2019, there were a total of 1,138 high school graduating students that have applied to universities in China under a joint education scheme between the SAR and the mainland.

As reported by the Times last



month, the number of Hong Kong and Macau students studying in Taiwan has also been decreasing over the past four years. Taiwanese universities are calling on their government to loosen restrictions on enrollment quotas for students hailing from the Hong Kong and Macau.

Earlier this year the rector of the University of Saint Joseph, Peter Stilwell, once again expressed his hopes of obtaining the Chinese

government's approval to allow the institution to recruit mainland students. Approval has still not been granted to the university.

The Times contacted different universities and institutions to enquire whether they have maintained a similar number of freshmen enrollment every year.

According to the Macao Polytechnic Institute, it received close to 1,000 freshmen students this academic year – 85% of which

are local.

"The number of local students is being maintained at a steady level at Macao Polytechnic Institute," it stated.

## UM SEES RECORD HIGH APPLICATIONS

Meanwhile, as the next university academic year begins, the University of Macau (UM) has seen a record high of 13,000 applications for its undergraduate pro-

gram, recording a nearly a 30% increase from last year.

Although it did not state how many local students were admitted this academic year, UM noted that 348 outstanding local students were admitted this year through the Principals' Recommended Admission Scheme.

This year, a total of 570 students from 31 countries and regions applied to UM, with an increase in both the number of applicants and the number of countries. Among them, 24 are top students from Chinese Independent High Schools in Malaysia.

Meanwhile, 351 mainland students admitted by UM scored an average of 18.6% higher than the admission marks required by tier-one universities in their respective provinces and cities. The number of applicants from the nine cities in Guangdong province, which is part of the Greater Bay Area (GBA), increased 46% from last year.

In the SAR during the 2018/2019 academic year, 49.3% of all the 34,279 students in the city's universities and institutions were from mainland China.

According to the DSES data, only 41.6% (10,355) of last year's freshmen were from Macau.

Last year, it was the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) that had the highest number of mainland students, with 86% of its 11,305 students from mainland China.

The Times also contacted City University of Macau, the Institute for Tourism Studies, and the University of Saint Joseph to enquire about the number of freshmen for the 2019/20 academic year, and whether or not such data recorded an increase compared to the previous years. However, no reply was given by press time.

## Charge for plastic bags set at one pataca each

**T**HE expected one-pataca fee for plastic bags was announced yesterday in a Chief Executive order published in the government's Official Gazette. The order was signed on September 2.

According to the city's plastic bag charge scheme, starting from November 18, each plastic shopping bag will cost one pataca.

The bill for plastic shopping bags was published in August, although the charge for a single-use plastic bag had not been finalized.

The bill is applicab-

le to single-use plastic bags in retail locations which include supermarkets, restaurants, pharmacies, bakeries, and convenience stores. Parties not charging for such plastic bags may be subjected to a MOP1,000 fine for each plastic bag given away.

Food and medicines without packaging are exempted from the bill, as well as products purchased in certain areas at the airport.

The Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA) is the governmental authority res-

ponsible for matters pertaining to plastic bags.

Retail locations are also obligated to display promotional materials related to paid plastic bags within two years of the law coming into effect.

Previously, the government expressed that it expects to reduce the use of plastic bags by at least 50% once the bill starts being implemented.

The income generated by the plastic bag fee will be retained by the retail shops, as explained previously by

the environmental protection authority. The DSPA considers it an "adequate" way to support the sector.

Each Macau resident uses 2.2 plastic bags per day on average, research shows. In total, 450 million shopping bags are used each year, according to a report by Exmoo.

In February of 2016, a DSPA survey showed that the majority of the public agreed that the charge should be no less than one pataca. Environmentalists argue the charge should be much higher. **JZ**

## MAK SOI KUN WANTS SURVEILLANCE TO COVER CITY

**L**AWMAKER Mak Soi Kun has once again asked the local government to build a surveillance system - dubbed "Sky Net" - to cover the whole city, according to his latest interpellation to the local government.

In Mak's opinion, a "Sky Net" consisting of a full coverage network of CCTV surveillance cameras over the entire city would better protect local residents' lives and their property.

Mak has repeat-

dly proposed such a surveillance system in the past.

By 2020, the security authority will have installed a total of 1,620 surveillance cameras across town. The authority has named the system "Sky Eyes."

Mak asked the government about a timetable to update the Sky Eyes system into a Sky Net system.

"The environment at home and abroad is changing rapidly. Although the security autho-

riety has expressed a high degree of vigilance, criminal tactics are always one step ahead," Mak wrote.

He further cited news reports from India and the U.S. to testify that facial recognition technology can effectively help police authorities arrest criminals.

Previously, the security authority revealed a plan to equip cameras with facial and car plate recognition technology, a measure that Mak praised. **JZ**

### GIT SAYS LIGHT RAIL INCIDENT WAS A DRILL

Macau's Transportation Infrastructure Office (GIT) responded to a video circulating on social media that showed half of a Light Rail Transit (LRT) train's carriages splitting from the other half. According to the GIT, this was part of a normal simulation. The video generated some interest on social media with netizens mocking what appeared to be an accident. However, in a statement published yesterday, the GIT said that the supposed incident was part of a simulation of a light rail emergency response and that it was normal practice before the light rail is put into operation. The simulation was carried out in the vicinity of Taipa Stadium on Sunday morning. Although an official opening date for the Taipa section of the LRT has not yet been announced, it is believed that the line will open to the public before the 20th anniversary of the Macau handover on December 20, 2019.

### CHUI CALLS FOR TOURISM CONTINUITY FROM NEXT GOV'T

Yesterday, Chief Executive Chui Sai On presided over the 2019 plenary meeting of the Committee for the Construction of the World Tourism and Leisure Center. The meeting focused on the work that began this year on the mid-term review of the first Five-Year Development Plan of the Macau SAR, extending from 2016 to 2020. During the meeting, Chui remarked that he wished to see all government departments continuing to implement the plan regardless of the upcoming change in government this December. In calling for this continuity, Chui referenced what he described as the general direction of all government actions, to "maintain a stable development environment, giving priority to projects that optimize the population's quality of life, [and] emphasize balanced socio-economic growth."

### PROPERTY PRICE INDEX EDGES UP 0.3%

The overall residential property price index for the three-month period between May and July 2019 increased by 0.3% over the previous period (April to June) to 269.3, according to data released by the Statistics and Census Service. The indexes for the Macau Peninsula (271.4) and Taipa and Coloane (260.4) rose by 0.1% and 1.3% respectively. In comparison to the equivalent period a year earlier (May to July 2018), the overall residential property price index saw a decrease of 0.5%. The index for existing residential units also fell by 0.5%, while that of pre-sale residential units dropped by 0.2%.

# THE MORRISON SCHOOL AND ITS LEGACY ON TONG KING-SING

JULIE ZHU

**SOMETIMES** described as China's first Western-style school, the Morrison School of Macau educated several well-known Chinese reformers during its short duration operating in Macau.

The school was well known as a cradle of education during the late Qing dynasty, nurturing many influencers of the period, including Tong King-sing, Tong Mow-chee, Yung Wing, Wong Shing, and Wong Fun.

Chinese reformer Tong King-sing (1832-1892) and his elder brother Tong Mow-chee (1828-1897) were important pioneers of modern Chinese industry and commerce. The brothers studied at the Morrison School in Macau in their early years.

Research conducted by the Research Office of Tong King-sing at the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) is shedding new light into how Tong King-sing's education at the Morrison School of Macau influenced his dealings with foreigners in later life.

### FATHER OF ANGLO-CHINESE LITERATURE

The Morrison School of Macau was named after Robert Morrison (1782-1834), an Anglo-Scottish protestant missionary who came to Macau during the Qing dynasty and played a significant role in the interaction between China and the West.

He translated a copy of the Bible into Chinese and published many well-known books and dictionaries, such as the first Chinese-English dictionary, titled "A Dictionary of the Chinese Language". He was a pioneer sinologist, lexicographer and translator, and was considered to be the "Father of Anglo-Chinese Literature."

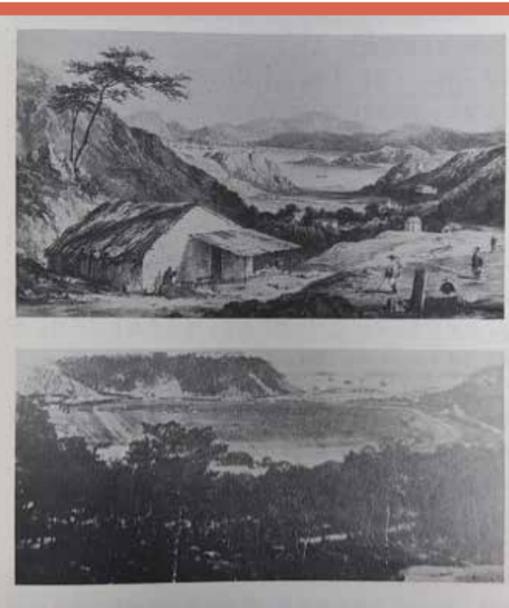
Famously, when asked on arrival in China whether he expected to have any spiritual impact on the Chinese, he answered, "No sir, but I expect God will!"

His publications and his Anglo-Chinese proficiency promoted the integration of Western and Chinese cultures. Morrison died in 1834 and was buried in Macau in the Old Protestant Cemetery.

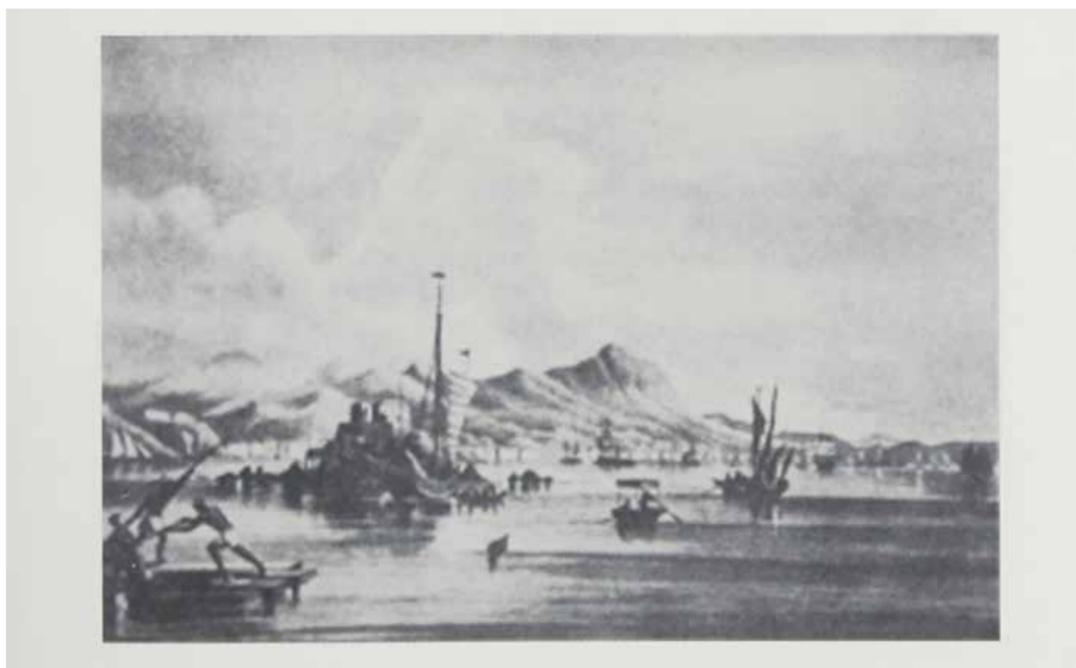
Aiming to commemorate Morrison and preach the tenets of his faith in mainland China, Morrison's friends, William Jardine, Lancelot Dent, and Elijah Bridgman, established The Morrison Education Society in Canton. In 1839, the Society opened the Morrison School in Macau. This was the first Western-style school in modern China.



Robert Morrison



Morrison School in Hong Kong



Tong King-sing's brother Tong Mow-chee, Yung Wing and four other students were the school's first students. Later, Tong King-sing entered the school. The school moved to Hong Kong in 1842 and the Tong brothers continued to study there until the school closed in 1849.

### A BILINGUAL EDUCATION

Different from most of the traditional schools in China, the Morrison Education Society's School used a bilingual education system. Students received formal English education and their English skills gradually improved.

The school taught geography, physiology, history, and mathematics to nurture its students comprehensively. The language skills that the Tong brothers learned from the school in particular benefited their future careers because they were the first batch of students in the late Qing who were taught with the western educational style.

Tong joined the Hong Kong government as a translator in 1851. After that, Tong worked

with Hong Kong officials until 1858, when he moved to Shanghai. In 1863 Tong King-sing joined a foreign company, Jardine Matheson & Co., as the chief comprador, and went on to become general manager of China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company in 1873, which was a prominent company under the Self-Strengthening Movement.

In 1878, Tong established the Chinese Engineering and Mining Company in Tangshan, which bought British machines and hired foreigners. Tong King-sing's long career in business with foreigners relied on the English language and other skills he learned from the Morrison School, which created these very opportunities for him.

Tong King-sing's brother, Tong Mow-chee, also benefited from the education that he received at the Morrison School. He went to the USA in 1852 and returned to China in 1857. He served as a chief translator of Shanghai customs after he arrived back in China. In 1871 he was appointed as comprador at Jardine Matheson & Co. in Tien-

tsin (Tianjin), and in 1873 he became the chief comprador of the company when his brother Tong King-sing resigned.

Judging from the accomplishments of these two individuals, Tong King-sing and Tong Mow-chee, their educational experiences at the Morrison School were critical stepping stones to their future careers, according to the research conclusions of the MUST.

Today, the bilingual education system is implemented by many schools in Macau and Hong Kong and even in mainland China. The Tong brothers were the first batch of students educated by this system, which empowered them to accelerate China's modernization.

The information in this article was provided by the Research Center of Tong King Sing at the Macau University of Science and Technology. The Research Center of Tong King Sing was established in November 2018, becoming the first academic research institution named after Tong King-sing in China or overseas.



**S**ANDS China Ltd.'s commitment to supporting local enterprises as part of the company's corporate social responsibility has helped expand assets and sales growth of numerous local firms.

Viewing local businesses as strategic partners, Sands China has long extended its support to local small and medium enterprises as well as micro firms in line with the Macau SAR government's initiative to support local SME development.

As one of its partners since Sands Macao started operations in the SAR, Loja de Ferragen Ng Kei, a machinery and tool store, recalls the immense support the gaming operator has given local SMEs.

Established in the city for over 50 years, the family business is currently run by Matthew Ung, the third-generation owner.

The storeowner has expanded the supply of materials such as chemical fuels, cleaning products and safety equipment. At present, the company has 50 brands and has a product catalogue of over 3,000 items for its retail and wholesale business.

Ung studied mechanical engineering in Canada and brought his expertise back to the SAR.

He has used his skills advantages to acquire products through his networks in Canada that are difficult to find in Southeast Asia. Ung recalled that when Sands China was

## Local firm attributes sales growth, expansion to Sands China

looking for particular products from the US, he was able to source those products through his network in Canada and successfully started his cooperation with Sands China.

The storeowner recalls how businesses used to operate before Macau's handover to China, noting that there were fewer networks made, hindering the expansion of businesses.

"There is a big difference in operating a business before and after the handover," Ung said.

"The opportunities for business expansion then became wider, especially when working with large-scale companies like Sands China," he added.

Ung said that the company's business volume has continued to increase year by year through ongoing cooperation with gaming operators.

Sands China accounts for 60 percent of total sales for Loja de Ferragen Ng Kei, with overall business steadily increasing by 10 to 20 percent per annum.

Ung added that the collaboration with Sands China has

also expanded his company's business internationally. After supplying products to Sands China with positive feedback, Ung's products were then also sourced for projects at Marina Bay Sands in Singapore, which is operated by Sands China's parent company Las Vegas Sands Corp. This has established a valuable opportunity for the company to access overseas opportunities.

In a bid to assist local firms gain an understanding of how international companies are run, Sands China

**"We have been learning a lot from Sands China, including the systems they use for procurement."**

MATTHEW UNG

offers its Sands Procurement Academy to SME owners that are willing to participate.

The Sands Procurement Academy is co-organised with the Macao Chamber of Commerce and the Macau Productivity and Technolo-

gy Transfer Centre (CPTTM) and is an initiative to develop local suppliers. It shares business knowledge and skills to help local SME suppliers gain experience and capacity for working with large-scale international corporations like Sands China, and specifically targets three categories of local SME suppliers: small and micro-enterprises, Macau young entrepreneurs, and "Made-in-Macau" enterprises.

Given Sands China's latest project, The Londoner Macao, Ung shared his belief that it will also make a big impact on their firm in terms of sales growth and connections.

"We are happy that we have expansion opportunities. What we are doing right now is continuously improving our products and services," he explained Ung.

Meanwhile, Ung looks forward to the opportunities brought by the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area, believing that the platform set up by the central government carries great potential for the future development of local businesses.

In addition, Sands China pledges to continue to create procurement opportunities for local SME suppliers, so that its success and their success can go hand-in-hand – in line with the Macau government's initiative to 'buy local.'

Sands China also holds successful invitational matching sessions to give local SME suppliers a platform for presenting and demonstrating their products and services to potential users and buyers at Sands China properties.

The initiative has the goal of enhancing communication between vendors and users and improving the procurement success rate.

The company also recently stepped up its commitment to support local SME suppliers by launching a special financing program in cooperation with six local banks.

Sands China's total procurement spend in 2018 was approximately MOP 10.7 billion, 77 percent of which was with local suppliers.

Sands China says it will maintain its focus on procurement with local SME suppliers, and looks forward to the continued success and benefits for both sides that the collaboration has brought about.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

# LIONEL LEONG WARNS ECONOMIC HEADWINDS TO PERSIST INTO Q3

DANIEL BEITLER

**M**ACAU will continue to face economic headwinds into the third quarter, warned the Secretary for Economy and Finance yesterday, following dual revelations in past weeks that August gross gaming revenue dropped the fastest this year to date and that the city has officially entered recession.

According to data released by the Statistics and Census Service late last month, the economy contracted by 1.8% year-on-year in the second quarter of 2019, following a 3.2% contraction in the first quarter. For the first six months of the year, Macau's economy is down 2.5% in real terms compared to a year earlier. A technical recession is defined as two consecutive quarters of economic decline.

The Office of the Secretary for Economy and Finance said in a statement at the time that the local economy is expected to remain in recession for the rest of the year.

Speaking to the media yester-



day afternoon, Secretary Lionel Leong warned that the economic contraction will likely persist into the third quarter.

Leong attributed the 2.5% decline in gross domestic product to a difficult comparison base a year earlier. According to a statement released by the government, the construction of several large but

isolated public expenditure projects in the first half of 2018 - for example the construction of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge border checkpoint - had inflated the comparison period. The statement said that this led to the relative decline in gross domestic product in the first six months of this year.

However, Leong assured that the local government will closely monitor the unemployment rate and consumer purchasing power of Macau residents in the coming months, and intervene only if necessary.

Gross gaming revenue fell 8.6% year-on-year in August and 3.5% in July, putting the gaming sec-

tor on track to record one of the worst growth quarters since the industry's recovery in 2016. With just one month remaining in the third quarter, Leong expects gross domestic product will reflect the situation on casino floors.

The gaming sector directly accounted for about half of Macau's economy in 2018, but was also closely tied to the other half, including the real estate, hotels, restaurants and retail sectors.

Suggesting that the economic downturn was out of the government's hands, Leong said that although the data shows a continuous fluctuation in the economy, they are not periodic or seasonal fluctuations, but rather the result of some external incidents or factors.

The Secretary said the trade conflict between China and the United States, and the resulting change in Renminbi exchange rates had negatively affected the SAR. The International Monetary Fund has lowered its growth expectations for 2019 and 2020 several times this year, also citing the worsening conditions of the China-U.S. trade war.

As a small economy reliant on Chinese visitation and a currency indirectly pegged to the U.S. dollar, Macau is highly vulnerable to shocks to the world's two largest economies.

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## News At Hand



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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

# Hong Kong tourism plunges 40%, most since SARS crisis

**T**HE ongoing protests in Hong Kong, now in their 15th week, have delivered a blow to the city's tourism industry not seen since the 2003 SARS epidemic.

Tourist arrivals in the city declined almost 40% in August from a year earlier, Financial Secretary Paul Chan wrote in a blog post Sunday. That's the biggest year-on-year decrease in visitor numbers since May 2003, when arrivals sank almost 70% in the midst of the disease outbreak that ultimately claimed hundreds of lives in the city, according to data compiled by Bloomberg from the Hong Kong Tourism Board.

"Social issues in the past few months, especially the continued violent clashes and blockading of airport and roads, have seriously impacted Hong Kong's international image as a safe city," Chan said in his post, which was written in traditional Chinese. "The most worrying thing is that the situation is not likely to turn around in the near future."

BLOOMBERG



The city's tourism, retail and hotel industries have been particularly hard hit, Chan said. Occupancy rates of hotels in some districts fell more than half while room rates decreased 40% to 70%. Many meetings and business trips have been postponed or moved to other places, he said.

The protests, which morphed from opposition to a proposed extradition law to a broader challenge against Beijing's authority, have placed a growing toll on the city's economy. Retail sales by value dropped 11.4% in July, the first full month affected by the protests, while sentiment among

small businesses has hit record lows. Hong Kong's economy overall contracted 0.4% in the second quarter from the previous period, raising the prospect of a technical recession.

Based on August 2018 tourism figures, a 40% drop would result in about 3.5 million visitors, the

lowest level in more than seven years.

Hysan Development Co. and Wharf Holdings Ltd., which operate malls in Causeway Bay, closed down more than 1.5% yesterday after police fired tear gas in the district on Sunday night. Wynn Macau Ltd. slid 1.1% and hotel operator Shangri-la Asia Ltd. lost 2.7%. MTR Corp. fell 0.4% after protesters again vandalized a number of train stations. The MSCI Hong Kong Index slipped 0.1%.

Retailers are making plans to ride out the disruption. Sa Sa International Holdings Ltd., a cosmetics retailer, has asked some managers in its back office to take no-pay leave for as many as 4 days each month from September, Ming Pao reported yesterday, citing people familiar with the matter. Sa Sa shares dropped 3.9%.

Fitch Ratings Inc. downgraded Hong Kong as an issuer of long-term, foreign currency debt for the first time since 1995 on Friday, saying that the territory's recent political turmoil raises doubts about its governance.

The rating was lowered to AA from AA+ with a negative outlook, the company said in an emailed statement. The last Fitch downgrade of Hong Kong took place before the return of the former British colony to China. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

AD



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## HONG KONG

**LI KA-SHING TELLS CITY LEADERS TO 'HAVE MERCY'**

Hong Kong's richest man urged the government to "have mercy" in dealing with the unrest that has rocked the city this summer. Li Ka-shing, whose conglomerate is among Hong Kong's most dominant business empires, called for reconciliation between the government and protesters as another weekend of demonstrations turned violent. "If it continues, it will be very bad, and I am concerned," the 91-year-old said during an event at Tsz Shan Monastery, a Buddhist temple which he helped finance. "We hope young people can consider the big picture, and government leaders can also have mercy on the masters of our future." In newspaper advertisements last month, Li called for an end to the violence in a poetic message that some interpreted as calling for those in power to stop persecution, while others said it meant to urge protesters to stop disrupting the city.

## TAISHAN

**SECOND NUCLEAR POWER UNIT READY FOR COMMERCIAL USE**

A third-generation nuclear power unit of a China-France joint venture in Guangdong Province has completed all the testing operations and is ready for commercial use, said China General Nuclear Power Corporation (CGN). The No.2 unit at the Taishan nuclear power plant will be the world's second third-generation European Pressurized Reactor (EPR) nuclear power unit, said CGN, the largest nuclear power operator in China. The No. 1 unit, which was put into commercial use in December last year, was the first of its kind. The Taishan nuclear power plant, the largest Sino-French project in the energy field, uses the EPR for its No.1 and No. 2 power units, with a unit capacity of 1.75 million kilowatts each. The power plant is run by a joint venture set up by CGN, French energy supplier Electricite de France (EDF), and Guangdong Energy Group Co., Ltd. It is estimated that about 8.03 million tons of standard coal will be saved, with over 21.09 million tons of carbon emissions cut upon the completion of the two units.

## GUANGZHOU

**386KG OF DRIED SNAKES SEIZED IN SOUTH CHINA**

Guangzhou Customs in seized a total of 386 kilograms of smuggled dried snakes, the customs entity said on Friday. The captured products contain 256.8kg of dried mucosal rat snakes and 128.8kg of Javan spitting cobras, which are both protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species and can only be imported or exported with legal paperwork. The customs found the smuggled serpents in about 10 tons of imported products declared to be dried geckos and zaocys dhumnades, a kind of black striped snake. Guangzhou customs has intensified its crackdown on endangered species smuggling starting from 2019 and cleared more than 400 cases that involve ivories, pangolin scales, living crocodiles, hawksbills, and dried seahorses.

AP PHOTO



Students wearing masks hold hands to surround St. Stephen's Girls' College in Hong Kong

# Hong Kong students form protest chains

EILEEN NG

**T**HOUSANDS of students formed human chains outside schools across Hong Kong yesterday to show solidarity after violent weekend clashes between police and activists pushing for democratic reforms in the semiautonomous Chinese territory.

The silent protest came as the Hong Kong government condemned the "illegal behavior of radical protesters" and warned the U.S. to stay out of its affairs.

Thousands of demonstrators held a peaceful march Sunday to the U.S. Consulate to seek Washington's support, but violence erupted hours later in a business and retail district as protesters vandalized subway stations, set fires and blocked traffic, prompting police to fire tear gas.

Hong Kong's government agreed last week to withdraw an extradition bill that sparked a summer of protests, but demonstrators want other demands to be met, including direct elections of city leaders and an independent inquiry into police actions.

Protesters in their Sunday march appealed to President Donald Trump to "stand with Hong Kong" and ensure Con-

gress passes a bill that would impose economic sanctions and penalties on Hong Kong and mainland China officials found to suppress democracy and human rights in the city.

Hong Kong's government expressed regret over the U.S. bill, known as the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act. It said in a statement yesterday that "foreign legislatures should not interfere in any form in the internal affairs" of Hong Kong.

The government said it was "very much in Hong Kong's own interest to maintain our autonomy to safeguard our interests and advantages under the 'one country, two systems' principle" introduced when the former British colony returned to Chinese rule in 1997.

U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi last week said Congress looks forward to "swiftly advancing" the Hong Kong bill because the city deserves real autonomy and freedom from fear.

The unrest has become the biggest challenge to Beijing's rule since it took over Hong Kong, and is an embarrassment to its ruling Communist Party ahead of Oct. 1 celebrations of its 70th year in power. Beijing has slammed the protests as effort by criminals to split the territory from China, backed by what it said were hostile foreigners.

Trump has suggested it's a matter for China to handle, though he also has said that no violence should be used. Political analysts suggest his response was muted to avoid disrupting talks with China over their tariff war.

High school and university students across Hong Kong held hands yesterday, following similar protests last week, forming long human chains that snaked into the streets outside their schools. They were joined by many graduates wearing the protesters' trademark black tops and masks.

Many also rallied against what they viewed as excessive use of force by police, with one student carrying a placard that read "Stop violence, we are not rioters."

Anger was fueled over the weekend after images of a youth being bloodily beaten up by riot police at a subway station were widely shared on social media. The boy, who didn't fight back, was pinned to the floor and appeared unconscious under a pool of blood.

Police public relations chief Tse Chun-chung said yesterday that police have received complaints about the case and are investigating. He said police were doing their best to handle escalating violence, with "radical" protesters attacking police

and trying to snatch their weapons. He said 157 people had been detained since Friday.

Hong Kong journalists, some wearing helmets and gas masks, complained at the police briefing yesterday that riot police had used pepper spray and threatened media personnel covering the weekend clashes.

Separately, well-known Hong Kong activist Joshua Wong was released yesterday, a day after he was detained at the airport.

Wong, a leader of Hong Kong's 2014 pro-democracy protest movement, was among several people held last month and charged with inciting people to join a protest in June. His prosecution comes after his release from prison in June for a two-month sentence related to the 2014 protests.

A court said Wong's overseas trips had been approved earlier and his detention was due to procedural errors.

Wong, who visited Taiwan last week, told reporters before he flew off to Germany and then the U.S. that he would continue to raise global awareness about Hong Kong's fight for democratic reforms.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas welcomed Wong's release and said he was prepared to meet him.

"We hope that the conflict there will be de-escalated bit by bit, but without that entailing the rights people are entitled to — namely the right to express their opinion, including on the street — in any way being limited," Maas told reporters in Berlin. AP



Former Saudi Oil Minister Khalid Al-Falih (seated center)

## SAUDI ARABIA'S ROYAL OIL MINISTER IS THE ULTIMATE OPEC INSIDER

JAVIER BLAS, NAYLA RAZZOUK & VERITY RATCLIFFE

**I**N June last year, a crunch OPEC meeting was on the edge of collapse. Iran had threatened to storm out and sink a deal on production quotas, accusing the Saudi Oil Minister Khalid Al-Falih of trying to steal market share.

Enter Al-Falih's deputy, an urbane OPEC veteran who'd worked with Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh for decades. He put his diplomatic skills to brokering the kind of fudge that's seen the group through many difficult meetings and the next day his boss was able to tell the world the kingdom's oil policy remained on track.

The understudy is now playing the lead. Late on Saturday night, Al-Falih was removed and replaced as energy minister by Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman. A half-brother of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, he's the first member of the royal family to hold the job.

While putting a prince in charge of oil policy is unprecedented, Abdulaziz is no novice. He's devoted most of his adult life to understanding the global energy market and fine-tuning Saudi Arabia's role as the world's largest oil supplier.

After studying management at King Fahd University in Riyadh, he first became an adviser in the energy ministry in the late 1980s. He's attended dozens of OPEC meetings and played a key role in negotiating a deal that cleared a global crude glut after the 1998 Asian financial crisis.

Now in his fifties, the prince is known for his perfectly cut suits, soft-spoken style and impeccable manners. He recently led talks with Kuwait to restart long-closed fields in an area where the two countries share sovereignty.

"The new minister is highly experienced and knows his subject better than just about anyone in the country," said Joseph Kechichian, senior fellow at the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies in Riyadh.

In his first public appearance as minister, Prince Abdulaziz signaled no radical change in Saudi oil policy. Riyadh will continue to back the OPEC+ coalition that combines Russia and other producers with members the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. Saudi Arabia wants higher prices, but realizes the U.S.-China trade war and fears of an economic slowdown have started

to slow demand and hit market sentiment.

"There is nothing radical in Saudi Arabia, we all work for the government, one person comes, one person goes," he said while attending an energy conference in Abu Dhabi. "Fundamentally, Saudi Arabia's energy policy is resting on few pillars. The pillars don't change."

### DIFFERENT STYLE

But the style of Saudi Arabia's oil-market management is likely to be different. Al-Falih talked to the market a lot, frequently appearing on business TV channels and holding regular press briefings after OPEC meetings, a strategy that ran the risk of diminishing returns. He was prone to using central banking tropes like "whatever it takes" in attempts to jawbone prices higher.

Prince Abdulaziz is likely to revive the more restrained communication style of Al-Falih's long-serving predecessor Ali Al-Naimi, making fewer, but more meaningful public announcements, according to a person who's known the prince for several decades, but asked not to be identified discussing private conversations.

"We expect to see less verbal interventions from the new minister," Yasser Elguindi, market strategist at Energy Aspects, said in a note to clients on Sunday.

Al-Falih's biggest achievement of his three-year term was managing OPEC's agreement with Russia, which saw the world's No. 2 exporter agree to formal curbs on production for the first time as the global oil market adjusted to a flood of American shale oil. Prince Abdulaziz is fully supportive of the Russian alliance, but is likely to put more emphasis on relations with OPEC members, according to a Saudi official briefed on the government's thinking.

### DIPLOMATIC NETWORK

The prince's unparalleled diplomatic network may help soothe relationships frayed by Al-Falih, who often seemed impatient with OPEC members unable or unwilling to contribute meaningful oil production cuts. Al-Falih was so focused on his relationship with his Russian counterpart Alexander Novak, traditional Saudi allies like Kuwait sometimes felt marginalized.

"Prince Abdulaziz is very decisive, he has a strong personality

when it comes to the market," U.A.E Oil Minister Suhail Al Mazrouei said in an interview on Sunday. "He understands the benefits to all the producers of the leadership role of Saudi Arabia to balance the market."

The prince will have a far narrower remit than his predecessor. As well as being responsible for oil production policy, Al-Falih was chairman of state oil company Aramco and led planning for its IPO. He was also in charge of the kingdom's industrial development. Aramco is now chaired by the head of the sovereign wealth fund and the industrial portfolio rests with another minister.

Even with more time to focus on the oil market, Prince Abdulaziz will confront the same tough challenges as Al-Falih. Crude prices have stabilized around \$60 a barrel, about \$20 below what the kingdom needs to balance its budget. The surge in U.S. shale production over the last five years has put Saudi Arabia and its allies on the back foot, forced to concede market share to shore up prices. Now the trade war is putting pressure on demand, prompting analysts to ask whether further output cuts will be necessary next year.

### DIFFERENT GENERATIONS

His relationship with the crown prince will be critical. They come from different generations - MbS is more than 20 years younger and Prince Abdulaziz had never been seen as part of his inner circle. During the early years of his half-brother's ascendancy, Prince Abdulaziz was less involved in policy making and spent long stretches outside the kingdom. But the prince's more prominent role in the last two years -- active at OPEC meetings and leading talks with Kuwait -- suggests they'd become closer in the run-up to his promotion.

Despite MbS's attempts to diversify the economy away from oil, the crude price remains the single most important influence on the health of the Saudi economy. A challenging oil market may test ties between the two princes. **BLOOMBERG**

## CORPORATE BITS

### Melco celebrates achievements of Congjiang County teachers with donation

Melco Resorts & Entertainment will sponsor the Rural Congjiang County Outstanding Teachers Reward Program for two consecutive years with a donation of RMB500,000.

The initiative is part of the nine collective agreements arranged by the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macau SAR targeting poverty alleviation in the mainland.

Nominated by the Congjiang Government, 25 teachers from the county's rural areas will receive recognition for their outstanding contributions and each benefit from a cash subsidy in addition to a three-day expenses-paid trip to Macau.

"Melco is greatly honored for this opportunity to contribute to the targeted poverty alleviation in Congjiang County as supported

by the Liaison Office and the Macao Government," said Lawrence Ho, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Melco Resorts & Entertainment, as cited in a press release issued by the company.

"Through recognition of the teachers' outstanding contributions to education, it is hoped that the program will help broaden horizons and benefit the teachers' professional development, as well as positively impact and inspire students whom they teach," the statement added.

### Sands China donates to higher education to benefit 100 local students

For the 13th consecutive year, Sands China Ltd. has made a donation to six local tertiary education institutions for scholarships and fellowships, continuing its annual tradition of supporting higher education in Macau.

The MOP1 million in total donations was presented to representatives of the educational institutions at a cheque presentation

ceremony on September 5 at The Venetian Macao.

According to Sands China, the annual donation is a testament to the company's support of local students, in acknowledgement of the importance of higher education in nurturing Macau's talent.

"The students of today will become the leaders of tomorrow. We believe

in the importance of investing in the future of Macau, and have therefore offered annual scholarships and fellowships to improve students' motivation," said Wen Hongyan, senior vice president of human resources for Sands China.

With last week's donation, Sands China's total contribution toward scholarships and fellowships since 2006 now exceeds MOP10 million, benefiting over 1,200 students to date.

AP PHOTO



## ALIBABA'S CHIEF TALKS STRATEGY AND HIS FONDNESS FOR NBA 'KILLER'

LULU YILUN CHEN, PHILIP GLAMANN & PETER ELSTROM

**T**ODAY, Daniel Zhang, a little-known former accountant, will take over the chairman's role at Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. from Jack Ma, the country's most famous businessman. A full story on him and his strategy is in this week's Bloomberg Businessweek. Below are excerpts from an extended interview with Zhang at the company's headquarters, lightly edited for clarity. The 47-year-old was full of surprises, from the rationale for his controversial expansions to his fondness for the National Basketball Assn. and a player he sees as a "killer." He spoke in English.

### ON HOW ALIBABA WILL CHANGE AS HE TAKES OVER THE CHAIRMAN'S JOB

We've planned this succession for a long time. This is our 20th year. We have already built a very solid foundation in e-commerce, in logistics, in payments and in cloud computing. For the next 20 years, every business is moving into the digital era. We will continue with our mission, which is to make it easy to do business anywhere. Now we need to figure out how to realize our mission in this digital era. We will develop more businesses, more services to address the pain points of our customers. We want to be the digital infrastructure for our business partners to empower them to succeed in this digital era.

### ON HIS EARLY CAREER PLANS.

I wanted to be a trader. China opened its stock market in

about 1991 and that was the year I started my university. I was first generation for this stock market. I picked securities as my major because it was the first year it was offered at Shanghai University of Finance and Economics. But in 1995 as I was graduating, there were two big accidents. One is well known -- Barings. I was interviewing for the Shanghai office, but they said in the second round interview no recruitment any more. The other one is very famous in China, which is China's Barings. This company [Shanghai Wanguo Securities, then one of China's biggest brokerages] also screwed up and was merged into another firm.

### ON FOLLOWING HIS FATHER INTO THE ACCOUNTING PROFESSION.

My father used to be an accountant and he graduated from the same university. But he didn't want me to be an accountant. This is very funny story. After I joined Arthur Andersen, I had a joke with him. I said, 'For many years you don't want me to be an accountant, then I became an auditor.' I was never an accountant for even one day.

### ON LEARNING OF THE DEMISE OF ANDERSEN WHILE IN A SATELLITE OFFICE, THEN GETTING ABSORBED INTO PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS.

You are a like soldier at the frontier. Then your headquarters disappears, that's a very unique experience. This experience is so important, so unique. Today, you know we do many mergers and acquisitions at Alibaba. I always

say to my team, when we invest or acquire business, we need to understand the experience of the people in the acquired companies. We need to give them respect. We need to give them guidance, because they are good men, they are good people. If we don't give them guidance, then they will basically go nowhere and maybe the best option is to leave. But if we can embrace them, then people will stay.

### ON THE IMPORTANCE OF STARTING NEW BUSINESSES.

I believe every business has a life cycle. You have to be innovative and create new businesses with new technology, with a new model. Then that can make our entire business sustainable. We always say that we want to build a sustainable, long-term business. But most of it is not evergreen. I strongly believe that if we don't kill our existing business, someone else will. So I'd rather see our new business kill our existing business.

### ON COMPETING WITH MEITUAN IN THE FOOD-DELIVERY BUSINESS.

We don't view this as a separate business. This is a very important consumption category and today more and more people need this more frequently. So this is a category expansion. Second, this is a very important development for digital payments -- for restaurant on-site payment, for food delivery payment. Number three, local services, especially food delivery, helps form an on-demand delivery network, which is not only relevant to food delivery but also relevant to any store fulfillment

and last-mile delivery.

### ON WHY HE KEPT THE HEMA PROJECT, NOW KNOWN AS FRESHIPPO, IN STEALTH MODE.

When we started this Hema business, I put them in Shanghai. There were two reasons. First, if you can stay away from headquarters, then you can work quietly and try things out yourself. The second is for my convenience because I'm Shanghaiese. I go back home every weekend. So I was working here in Hangzhou during the week and I spent my weekend with the team there in Shanghai to incubate a new baby.

This is not just a normal store, not simply brick-and-mortar. This is a new animal because over half of sales are from online. So people order online, the request is fulfilled in the store and they get groceries delivered to their homes in 30 minutes, all on demand. The primary purpose is not that we're trying to own a store chain, but that we're trying to incubate new retail technology and the business model.

### ON HIS VISION FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE LAZADA BUSINESS THERE.

Southeast Asia is the first area we explored outside China. In the next decade, we believe that globalization is a very important strategy for Alibaba so we want to go out of China. In Southeast Asia there's a huge population, a very young generation that's mobile driven and close to China in terms of culture and background. So that's the reason we acquired Lazada a couple years ago. Since

then we invested a lot in the company, not only in cash but also in technology and people.

### ON HOSTING A QUARTERLY CLASS TO GROOM THE FUTURE LEADERS OF ALIBABA.

Every year I spend quite a lot of time on people, including the recruitment of new people. I don't do this for a specific position. If we have a vacant position, then that's the job of my business executives and also our HR people. I'm not involved.

I want to find some people with good experience and good potential for the future. Every year I get a couple of people, not many, maybe four or five, six people to join us. If we look back three or four years, we've already got some people who are now leading one particular business in our group and becoming a new business leader. Our businesses are expanding and we need new leaders. We need young people with more energy and also different skill sets who also share the same values with us. We try to find people in different industries. I'm looking at people with very strong leadership skills and high potential.

### ON HOW HE MEASURES HIS OWN PERFORMANCE.

I have a self evaluation every year for myself. I look at how many new businesses I incubate, and secondly, how many new people I find.

### ON HIS FONDNESS FOR THE NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSN.

I'm a huge Rockets fan, actually long before that I liked (Hakeem) Olajuwon when they became champions 1994 and 1995. I'm a big sports fan, I watch a lot of games. But my favorite star, in the entire NBA history, is Reggie Miller. He's a killer. **BLOOMBERG**

TECHNOLOGY

# Huawei, Samsung's new 5G chips designed to threaten Qualcomm

VLAD SAVOV

**S**AMSUNG Electronics Co. and Huawei Technologies Co. took turns announcing new mobile processors at the IFA technology show in Berlin last week, and the big thing the new chips have in common is an integrated 5G modem.

In a market dominated by U.S. rival Qualcomm Inc., the world's two biggest smartphone manufacturers asserted a lead in delivering one of the keys to unlocking widespread availability of 5G devices. A system-on-chip that integrates the applications processor and a fifth-generation wireless modem significantly reduces the space and power requirements compared to existing solutions that use two separate chips.

Qualcomm has such models on its 2020 road map, but this past week Samsung announced its planning mass production for its alternative at the end of 2019 and Huawei is moving even faster, promising to release its most advanced processor with the Mate 30 Pro smartphone on Sept. 19.

The Kirin 990 5G from Huawei subsidiary HiSilicon is built at Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. and packs more than



10.3 billion transistors into a space the size of a fingernail. It includes a graphics processor, an octa-core CPU, and the all-important 5G modem, along with dedicated neural processing units for accelerating artificial intelligence tasks.

At Huawei's Berlin launch event, consumer group Chief Executive Officer Richard Yu showed the high-end 990 5G achieving real-world download speeds on China Mobile's network in excess of 1.7Gbps. That's fast enough to download high-definition movies

and demanding 3-D games in a matter of seconds.

Samsung's approach with its Exynos 980 is to target the mid-range. Along with 5G capabilities, this new chip integrates 802.11ax fast Wi-Fi along with Samsung's own NPU. It won't run apps and

games quite as quickly as flagship chips, but should help the South Korean company garner a slice of the more mainstream market before Qualcomm brings out an armada of new 5G-capable chips next year.

Samsung's emphasis on this part of the mobile market was also signaled by its launch of the Galaxy A90 this month, one of the earliest examples of a mid-range device with 5G.

For its part, Qualcomm is promising to cover the entire range of price points and mobile device types with its 5G portfolio in 2020, however the world's premier mobile chip designer is finding itself behind its faster-moving rivals.

The silver lining to the trade war for Qualcomm, however, is that Huawei's Mate 30 Pro will struggle to sell in Europe so long as the Trump administration prevents it from offering Google services on new phones. Irrespective of how fast and advanced its Kirin 990 5G may be, the trade war will prevent Huawei from fully capitalizing on its capabilities and may, in fact, push the company to license the chip out to other smartphone vendors, such as Lenovo Group, which is not subject to the same sanctions.

If the U.S. keeps Huawei on its blacklist, preventing it from buying American technology, the company faces further chip challenges. To develop successors to the Kirin 990, it needs to license the latest designs from SoftBank Group's ARM, but that company discontinued work with Huawei because of the U.S. ban. **BLOOMBERG**

## India criticizes Chinese trade policies

PHILIP J. HEIJMANS

**I**NDIAN External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar yesterday criticized China for what he described as one-sided trade policies, casting doubt over the progress of negotiations for a pan-Asian free trade agreement.

Speaking during a panel discussion in Singapore, the minister said India remained skeptical over "unfair" market access and "Chinese protectionist policies" that have created a significant trade deficit between the two nations. India's trade deficit with China was USD53.6 billion in the fiscal year ended March 2019.

"The big concerns of India are of course, one, its relationship with China because we have an enormous trade

deficit with China," Jaishankar said in response to a question regarding the ongoing negotiations for Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, or RCEP.

Negotiators have expressed hope that RCEP -- which includes all 10 of Southeast Asia's Asean countries, as well as Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, India and China -- would be delivered by the end of the year. While ministers from the 16 participating countries reaffirmed their commitment to reaching a deal this year following negotiations in Bangkok over the weekend, it is unclear whether such a goal will be met.

Jaishankar said he was unsure what was discussed in the latest round of negotiations, but noted that India's involvement would hinge on

a mutually equitable, depoliticized arrangement.

"RCEP at the end of the day is an economic negotiation. It has a strategic implication, but the merits of the RCEP outcome have to be economic," said Jaishankar. "It has to be sold for its strength and I think if that was more self-evident to Indians I think you would get clearly a much stronger resonance."

Singaporean Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan, who was also on the panel, urged India to reconsider its position on RCEP, saying that Beijing and New Delhi would have to come to terms on trade eventually.

"I am making the argument that it is worth making the effort, because this would be a game changer," Balakrishnan said. **BLOOMBERG**

## TAIWAN WOOS SOLOMON ISLANDS AMID RUMORS IT MIGHT SWITCH SIDES TO CHINA

ADELA LIN

**T**AIWAN and the Solomon Islands put on a display of friendship yesterday, pledging to deepen ties, even as rumors persist the Pacific nation is close to severing relations in favor of China.

President Tsai Ing-wen said Taiwan and the Solomon Islands would work together to strengthen bilateral ties as she met its foreign minister Jeremiah Manele.

"Taiwan and the Solomon Islands share values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the fight against climate chan-

ge, and we are mutually supportive partners," Tsai said, according to a statement from the Presidential Office.

The head of a Solomon Islands task force in charge of evaluating diplomatic ties said it's time the country switched recognition to Beijing, according to a Reuters report last week.

For decades, Beijing and Taipei have competed with each other over diplomatic allies, each claiming to be the rightful government of China, after the two sides split amid civil war in 1949. As China's economic and political influence

has grown, it has succeeded in increasingly isolating Taiwan diplomatically in recent years. El Salvador switched recognition to Beijing last year, leaving just 17 countries that officially recognize Taiwan.

Taiwan's foreign ministry remains confident of preventing another defection.

"Our interactions have been normal," Joanne Ou, a ministry spokeswoman, said Monday. "The majority opinion in the Solomon Islands is in favor of keeping diplomatic ties with Taiwan as our friendship meets the interests of both sides." **BLOOMBERG**



## US PRIEST WHO GAVE OUT GIFTS IN PHILIPPINES ACCUSED OF ABUSE

TIM SULLIVAN, TALUSTUSAN

**T**HE American priest's voice echoed over the phone line, his sharp Midwestern accent softened over the decades by a gentle Filipino lilt. On the other end, recording the call, was a young man battered by shame but anxious to get the priest to describe exactly what had happened in this little island village.

"I should have known better than trying to just have a life," the priest said in the November 2018 call. "Happy days are gone. It's all over."

But, the young man later told the Associated Press, those days were happy only for the priest. They were years of misery for him, he said, and for the other boys who investigators say were sexually assaulted by Father Pius Hendricks.

His accusations ignited a scandal that would shake the village and reveal much about how allegations of sex crimes by priests are handled in one of the world's most Catholic countries.

He was just 12 — a new altar boy from a family of tenant farmers anxious for the USD1 or so he'd get for serving at Mass — when he says Hendricks first took him into the bathroom of Talustusan's little rectory and sexually assaulted him.

"I asked why he was doing this to me," the rail-thin 23-year-old said in an interview, the confusion still with him years later.

"It's a natural thing," he said

the priest told him, "It's part of becoming an adult."

The abuse continued for more than three years, he says, but he told no one until a village outsider began asking questions about the American priest's extravagant generosity with local boys, and until he feared his brother would be the next victim.

In November, he went to the police and told them what he knew.

Soon after, local authorities arrested Hendricks, 78, and charged him with child abuse. Since then, investigators say, about 20 boys and men, one as young as 7, have reported that the priest sexually abused them. Investigators say the allegations go back well over a decade — though many believe it goes back for generations, and could involve many dozens of boys — continuing until just weeks before the December arrest. Hendricks' lawyers insist he is innocent.

The AP, which does not identify alleged victims of sexual assault, has met with five of the accusers.

Hendricks' arrest was a sudden fall for a priest who had presided over this community for nearly four decades. He rebuilt Talustusan's chapel and installed rooftop loudspeakers to summon parishioners to Mass. He pressed officials to pave the village road. He drove the sick to the hospital, and paid school fees for poor children.

Many here will still tell you how much he did.

But the case also reflects much about the Philippines, a country where the church has long shrugged off the presence of its sex offenders and where the criminal justice system often ignores the problem.

"It's a culture of coverup, a culture of silence, a culture of self-

nued. "I have to take the good with the bad."

### CLERGY ABUSE

For nearly two decades, the Philippine church has vowed to confront a looming shadow of clergy abuse.

In 2002, the Philippines' national conference of bishops ended years of silence to admit that the

church faced "cases of grave sexual misconduct" among the clergy. One archbishop estimated that 200 of the country's 7,000 priests may have committed some form of sexual impropriety. The bishops promised new rules that would "provide steps for profound renewal."

But in a country home to more than 80 million Catholics and churches that date to the time of Shakespeare, such promises have long disappeared into a haze of tradition, piety and clerical influence that suffuses everything from sex education classes to national politics.

Until about 2013, for example, the church's own guidelines insisted bishops did not need to report sexually abusive priests to police, saying they had "a relationship of trust analogous to that between father and son." Media reports and legal action "adds to the pain" in cases of sexual abuse, Manila Cardinal Luis Tagle told the Catholic news site UCAN in 2012. In Asian cultures, he said, it is often

**That's how it happens across the Philippines. Silence continues to shield priest after priest**

-protection," said the Rev. Shay Cullen, an Irish priest who has spent decades in the Philippines and works with victims of child sexual abuse. "It's a silent consent to the abuse of children."

In 2018, after the young man had gone to police — but before Hendricks had been arrested — he recorded a phone call with the clergyman.

In extracts of the conversation heard by the AP, Hendricks laments the passing of those happy days, and admits to an unspecified "mistake on my part."

"Well, it's true. I'm not saying it's not. Did I say it's not?" Hendricks said, his voice a combination of self-pity and resignation.

He said he'd probably have to retire.

"So I have to learn," he conti-

better for such cases to be handled quietly, inside the church.

The church's influence remains vast here, even as it has seen its power chipped away in recent years, weakened by the spread of evangelical missionaries and attacks by the nation's populist president, Rodrigo Duterte.

Duterte, who says he was sexually abused by a priest while he was a student, has publicly derided bishops as "sons of bitches," and urged Filipinos to stop going to Mass. Investigators say Duterte is closely watching the Hendricks case.

On Biliran, the poor island where Hendricks spent nearly half his life, his fondness for boys had been widely discussed for decades among villagers, local officials and, according to a former Catholic brother, members of the clergy. While many people had long believed he was a pedophile, almost nothing was said openly. Nor did anyone act on the suspicions.

That's how it happens across the Philippines. Silence continues to shield priest after priest.

On the island of Bohol, the priest Joseph Skelton serves mass, more than 30 years after the then-seminarian was convicted of sexual misconduct with a 15-year-old boy. Local news reports reveal even more working clergyman: the priest outside Manila who recruited young men for the priesthood after admitting to sexually assaulting teenage boys; the priest who moved into a bishops' residence after being accused of raping a 17-year-old girl; the composer of sacred music accused of sexually abusing boys as young as six.

Prosecutions of accused priests are exceedingly rare here, and convictions are rarer. "No priest in the Philippines has ever been convicted" of child sexual abuse, Bishop Buenaventura Famadico, who oversees a diocese south of Manila, told the Catholic newspaper La Croix last year. By comparison, the group BishopAccountability.org says that since 1990 more than 400 priests have been convicted in the U.S. on child sexual abuse charges.

The 23-year-old from Talustusan said he might not have come forward without encouragement from an American visitor to the village, the boyfriend of a woman related to an accuser. The American was shocked at the gifts the priest had doled out to him and other local boys and began to ask probing questions.

"He kept asking why Father Pius was doing these things for boys in the village," said the 23-year-old, who began wrestling then with his own feelings about what he should say.

"I thought this might be it, this might be the help I'm asking for, that my life will change," he said. Finally, he told his family, and then local authorities, about the abuse. AP

JAPAN

# Nissan board says chief has resigned, successor to be named

YURI KAGEYAMA, YOKOHAMA

**N**ISSAN Chief Executive Hiroto Saikawa tendered his resignation yesterday after acknowledging that he had received dubious income and vowed to pass the leadership of the Japanese automaker to a new generation.

Board member Yasushi Kimura told reporters at an evening news conference at company headquarters in Yokohama that the board has approved Saikawa's resignation, effective Sept. 16, and a successor will be appointed next month. A search is underway, he added.

Calls for Saikawa's resignation, which arose after the arrest last year of his predecessor, Carlos Ghosn, on various financial misconduct allegations, have grown louder after Saikawa acknowledged last week that he had received dubious payments.

The income was linked to the stock price of Nissan Motor Co., and he has said his pay got infla-

AP PHOTO



ted by illicitly adjusting the date for cashing in.

The automaker's board met to look into the allegations against Saikawa, as well as other issues related to Ghosn's allegations and corporate ethics at the company.

Kimura said the income Saikawa had received was confir-

med as "not illegal."

Ghosn, who is out on bail and awaiting trial, says he's innocent.

Kimura and three other board members, who all have backgrounds outside the company, said their investigation of the scandal over Ghosn's arrest found that alleged misconduct by Ghosn

and Greg Kelly, a former board member who was also arrested, had caused 35 billion yen (\$350 million) in damage to the company.

Nissan will seek a repayment of the damages, Kimura said.

The board said about 10 candidates are being considered as a re-

placement for Saikawa. They did not identify them, but said outsiders and non-Japanese are on the list. Until a successor is decided, Chief Operating Officer Yasuhiro Yamauchi will serve as interim chief, the board said.

Saikawa has not been charged. "I have been trying to do what needs to be done so that I can pass the baton over as soon as possible," he told reporters earlier in the day, referring to his willingness to leave his job.

Saikawa did not appear at the news conference initially, but the four board members who led the event said he would later.

Saikawa has said he didn't know about the improprieties, promised to return the money and blamed the system he said Ghosn had created at Nissan for the dubious payments.

Japanese media reports said Saikawa had received tens of millions of yen in extra compensation.

Ghosn has been charged with falsifying documents on deferred compensation, which means he did not receive any of the money.

Nissan's profits and sales have tumbled over the past year. Investors are also worried about Nissan's relationship with alliance partner Renault SA of France, which owns 43% of Nissan. Ghosn was sent in by Renault to lead Nissan two decades ago. AP

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UK

# JOHNSON TELLS IRISH LEADER BREXIT DEAL CAN BE REACHED

GREGORY KATZ & JILL LAWLESS, LONDON

**BRITISH** Prime Minister Boris Johnson, facing staunch opposition at home, told Ireland's leader yesterday that a new Brexit deal can be reached so Britain leaves the European Union by the Oct. 31 deadline.

Speaking alongside Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar in Dublin, Johnson said a deal on the Irish border question can be secured in time to enable a smooth British departure from the EU by the scheduled Brexit date.

He said a no-deal departure from the European Union would represent a "failure of statecraft" and that all sides would bear a responsibility for that.

Johnson has said he will take Britain out of the EU on Oct. 31 even without a deal, but Parliament has passed a bill that would force him to seek a delay from the EU if no deal has been agreed.

Johnson's spokesman James Slack also confirmed the government will suspend the British Parliament until Oct. 14. He said Parliament will be prorogued, or suspended, at the close of the day's business.

The suspension limits Par-

AP PHOTO



liament's ability to block Johnson's plans for Brexit. It is being challenged in court by opponents who say the suspension is anti-democratic and illegal.

During his press conference with Varadkar, Johnson did not explain how the longstanding stalemate can be broken in a way that satisfies the other 27 EU leaders and would win backing in Britain's Parliament, where his party no longer has a working majority.

Johnson has been criticized in Britain for not producing new

plans to break the Brexit impasse, and Varadkar also said that Britain has not produced any realistic alternatives to the controversial "backstop" agreement reached by Johnson's predecessor, Theresa May.

Opposition to the backstop was a key reason why Britain's Parliament rejected May's Brexit deal with the EU on three occasions earlier this year.

The backstop, which has emerged as the main stumbling block to an agreement, is intended to

make sure that no hard border is put up between EU member Ireland and Northern Ireland, which is part of the United Kingdom.

Varadkar said a no-deal departure would cause severe economic problems for Ireland now that border checks have been eliminated for an extended period of time.

He said the EU does not want another extension of the Oct. 31 deadline but is willing to consider one if it is requested.

The Irish leader says more ne-

gotiations are needed and that the Good Friday peace agreement, which states that no hard border is re-imposed on the island of Ireland, must be respected.

The Dublin meeting marks the first time the two leaders have met since Johnson took power in July.

Varadkar has said he does not expect an immediate breakthrough in the border impasse.

Johnson's political position in Britain has been greatly weakened over the past week, with the loss of his Conservative Party's working majority in Parliament and the departure of some key party figures who sided with the opposition in key votes.

He plans to press a rebellious Parliament to back his plan for an early election, with the hope of winning a majority that would back his Brexit strategy, but opposition parties have said they will vote the measure down.

They want to make sure a no-deal departure is blocked before agreeing to an election.

"There is a simple way for MPs to resolve this," Johnson's spokesman Slack said. "All they have to do is vote for an election today so the British public can decide whether they want to get Brexit done on the 31st of October."

Johnson has said he will not seek a delay despite the new bill that seeks to force him to do so. His government is studying the bill for possible loopholes that might allow a legal challenge. AP

# Putin's system survives local elections as some cracks appear

JAKE RUDNITSKY & EVGENIA PISMENNAYA

**SIMMERING** popular anger led to setbacks for Russia's ruling party in closely watched races in Moscow Sunday, even as the Kremlin used its tight control of the electoral system to ensure wins for its hand-picked candidates in gubernatorial votes elsewhere.

After weeks of the biggest anti-Kremlin demonstrations in seven years in the capital this summer, the United Russia party lost a third of its seats in the Moscow City Council election even though nearly all major opposition candidates were kept off the ballot.

In the main contests, strong rivals to the Kremlin's choices for the 16 governor posts were largely blocked from running, ensuring wins for the candidates backed by President Vladimir Putin. Some analysts had forecast that the least popular might not get the 50% needed to win in the first round,

AP PHOTO



but preliminary results suggested all had cleared that bar.

Nationally, the Kremlin avoided repeating the embarrassment it suffered last year, when three United Russia incumbents lost gubernatorial races amid widespread anger over an increase to the pension age. But the opposition is claiming a victory, with the results showing that popular opposition is visible even in Russia's stage-managed elections and that its "smart voting" template can achieve results.

## 'ANTI-AUTHORITY MOOD'

"The Kremlin has learned last year's lesson: when the social mood and economic situation isn't great, the only way to win is shepherd in the candidates to avoid letting an anti-authority mood awaken in the voters," said Boris Makarenko, an analyst at the Moscow-based Center for Political Technologies.

In the capital, rivals to the ruling party won 20 seats in the 45-person chamber, compared to just seven in the last elections in 2014.

Among the defeated politicians were longtime council chairman and the head of United Russia's Moscow unit, Andrey Metelsky, and the deputy rector of the Higher School of Economics, Valeria Kasamara.

Kremlin critics said the results showed the success of their strategy of calling on supporters to vote for individual candidates running against those backed by the ruling party, seeking to concentrate their support to defeat those from United Russia. The opposition was testing the strategy, dubbed "smart voting," ahead of the 2021 nationwide elections to the lower house of parliament.

The results were a defeat for the mayor's office, according to Alexey Chesnakov, a former senior Kremlin official who now consults the authorities.

"There was a pointed refusal of United Russia," Chesnakov said. "Both the opposition and, more importantly, the voters felt that

the authorities are afraid and that the government wants to deceive them. It's not just an embarrassment, it's a mistake. And this mistake will create headaches for the authorities for a long time."

Moscow mayor Sergei Sobyanin was magnanimous in defeat, tweeting "the council has become more politically diverse which, I hope, will benefit the city parliament."

The triumph of the opposition is likely to be largely symbolic, given the city council's limited powers. The biggest beneficiary from the protest vote was the Communist Party, which often votes with the ruling party on important issues.

## KREMLIN UNPOPULARITY

Some irregularities were reported in the votes around Russia. Videos circulated on social media that appeared to show examples of ballot stuffing in Moscow, and opposition leader Ale-

xei Navalny claimed falsifications resulted in Kremlin candidates winning in at least three races. In St. Petersburg, where Putin ally Alexander Beglov was re-elected governor, turnout at 6 p.m. was 24% before leaping to 42% by the close of polling at 8 p.m.

Officials said violations were minor.

Voters in some other regions also rejected Kremlin-backed politicians. The far east region of Khabarovsk elected only two candidates from the ruling United Russia party to the local assembly, with the remaining 34 going to rival parties.

"The recent elections were on the whole successful for the federal authorities," Mikhail Vinogradov, the head of the St. Petersburg Politics Foundation, said. "The emphasis on removing opposition candidates in a number of regions shows that the government's most serious challenger is not a strong competitor, but its own unpopularity." **BLOOMBERG**

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

# UN atomic watchdog confirms Iran installing new centrifuges

DAVID RISING, BERLIN

**T**HE United Nations' atomic watchdog confirmed yesterday that Iran is preparing to use more advanced centrifuges, another breach of limits set in the country's unraveling nuclear deal with major powers.

Iran had already announced the step, its latest violation of the 2015 agreement as it tries to pressure European signatories to find a way to maintain oil shipments and ease the toll of U.S. sanctions on the Iranian economy.

The International Atomic Energy Agency reported its inspectors verified the installation of new centrifuges. The agency said all had been "prepared for testing" but none yet tested at the time of the Sept. 7-8 inspection.

The nuclear deal was meant to keep Tehran from building atomic weapons — something Iran denies it wants to do — in exchange for



AP PHOTO

economic incentives. Its collapse started with the United States unilaterally withdrawing from the deal last year and imposing increased sanctions.

The other signatories — Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia, as well as the European Union — have been struggling to salvage the agreement and find a way to meet Tehran's demands.

To put pressure on them, Iran has already pushed past limits in the deal, called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA, on nu-

clear enrichment purity and stockpiles of enriched uranium.

A centrifuge is a device that enriches uranium by rapidly spinning uranium hexafluoride gas. The IAEA said the ones its inspectors saw included 30 advanced IR-6 and three IR-6s models, as well as multiple IR-4 and IR-5 models.

Under the atomic accord, Iran has been limited to operating 5,060 older model IR-1 centrifuges.

Russia's permanent representative to international organizations in Vienna, Mikhail Ulyanov,

downplayed the development, saying after Iran revealed its step about centrifuges that the move "shouldn't be overdramatized."

"Yes, it's another deviation from JCPOA, but new activities will remain verifiable by IAEA and reversible," he said in a tweet. "No proliferation threat, just a strong signal that balance within the JCPOA must be restored."

IAEA Acting Director General Cornel Feruta, who returned from Tehran Sunday night, told the agency's board in Vienna yesterday that inspectors on the ground continue "to verify and monitor Iran's nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA."

He said he emphasized to Iranian authorities "the importance of full and timely cooperation by Iran."

That mirrored a line in a recent IAEA report on Iran that suggested Tehran wasn't as forthcoming with answering questions as the agency hoped.

"I also stressed the need for Iran to respond promptly to agency questions related to the completeness of Iran's safeguards declarations," Feruta said.

After the report, China blamed the United States for the situation, and called for world powers to stick to the 2015 deal with Tehran.

"The U.S. should abandon wrong practices such as unilateral sanctions and maximum pressure on Iran," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said in Beijing.

French President Emmanuel Macron has been talking both to Washington and Tehran about a proposal to create a \$15 billion line of credit for Iran to entice it to remain in the nuclear deal.

German Foreign Ministry spokesman Rainer Breul told reporters that Berlin supports the French president's efforts to resume talks and de-escalate the situation.

"There are confidential conversations among the partners about the specific details," Breul said. "Various news reports are circulating that we won't comment on further."

He reiterated that Germany considers Iran's centrifuge plans "a step in the wrong direction."

"We call on Iran to meet its commitments under the JCPOA and to return to them," he said. AP

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## what's ON



### PROSPEROUS YEARS

**TIME:** 10am-8pm (Closed on Mondays)

**UNTIL:** September 25, 2019

**VENUE:** Old Court Building

**ADMISSION:** Free

**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 8399 6699

### ONENESS: CALLIGRAPHY BY PROFESSOR JAO TSUNG-I

**TIME:** 10am-6pm (No admission after 5:30pm, closed on Mondays)

**UNTIL:** September 30, 2019

**VENUE:** Jao Tsung-I Academy

**ADMISSION:** Free

**ENQUIRY:** (853) 8598 6718

### THE GOLDEN AGE OF ARABIC SCIENCE: EXHIBITION FROM 1001 INVENTIONS

**TIME:** 10am-6pm (Closed on Thursdays)

**UNTIL:** October 27, 2019

**VENUE:** Gallery 2, Exhibition Center, Macau Science Center

**ADMISSION:** MOP25 (several discounts available)

**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 2888 0822

### LYRIC POETRY – WORKS OF ARTISTS IN MACAU AND PORTUGAL FROM THE MAM COLLECTION

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

**UNTIL:** November 4, 2019

**VENUE:** Macau Museum of Art

**ADMISSION:** Free

**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 2836 6866

### WYNN PRESENTS: GARDEN OF EARTHLY DELIGHTS

**TIME:** 10am-10pm

**UNTIL:** October 6, 2019

**VENUE:** Wynn Macau and Wynn Palace

**ADMISSION:** Free

**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 6882 2839

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

**TIME:** 24 hours

**UNTIL:** October 9, 2019

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

**ADMISSION:** Free

**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 2882 8888

## Offbeat

### MAN CALLS POLICE DEMANDING THEY RETURN HIS STOLEN POT

A man confused about Ohio drug laws has called a police department demanding that officers return the small amount of marijuana they "stole" from him.

WXIX-TV reports the man told a Sharonville police dispatcher in an expletive-laced call last week that it's legal to possess 100 grams of marijuana, and the amount officers seized was just 4 grams.

Sharonville police posted a recording of the call on their Facebook page. The suburban Cincinnati department wryly noted: "People may be a bit in the weeds, so we would like to take this opportunity to clear the haze."

While some Ohio cities have decriminalized pot possession, it remains illegal in the state.

Sharonville police said they "don't make the rules" but must uphold them.

## TV canal macau



13:00 TDM News (Repetição)

13:30 Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)

15:00 Agua de Mar

15:30 Zig Zag

15:45 Os Ursos Boonie e o Fantástico Outono

16:00 Viajante da Música

16:30 Quem Quer Ser Milionário

17:35 Amor Maior (Repetição)

18:20 Água Vai, Pedra Leva - Fim

19:10 Resumo Qualificação EURO 2020

19:30 Ouro Verde Sr.1

20:30 Telejornal

21:15 Linha da Frente

21:50 Culinária na Ásia

22:25 Amor Maior

23:15 TDM News

23:50 Motel Bates Sr.3

00:35 Magazine Liga dos Campeões 2019/2020

01:05 Telejornal (Repetição)

01:50 RTPi Directo

## 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)

## this day in history



### 1963 AMERICAN EXPRESS COMES TO BRITAIN

American Express, one of the world's largest banking houses, has opened a credit card service in Britain.

Holders of the cards will be able to use them at nearly 3,000 hotels, restaurants, shops and hire-car agencies in this country and at more than 83,000 establishments abroad. The cards can also be used to obtain travel tickets.

This move by American Express is bound to give a powerful boost to the idea of credit cards in Britain, which have not, so far, spread very far.

Until now, American Express card holders have been able to use their cards in this country, but only if they could settle their accounts in dollars.

There will be an annual fee of £3 12s, but supplementary cards can be obtained at half price for immediate family members. Companies can also apply for cards and issue them to members of staff.

Customers use the card to pay for goods on credit. American Express then issues a monthly bill which covers all outstanding charges on the account.

The Bank of England has given permission for the scheme to go ahead - on condition users do not spend more than £75 on any one item purchased abroad.

American Express Vice President Maxwell Elliot said the people most likely to take up the new card would be managers and sales executives earning £2,000 a year or more.

He rejected suggestions the new scheme would be open to fraud and also said he expected little competition. Diners Club is the only other company operating a similar credit scheme.

Mr Elliot said: "There is only one (competitor) known to me and that covers about 2,000 hotels in this country alone. More than 83,000 establishments around the world now honour the American Express card."

Credit cards have been available in Britain since 1951 when Donald McCullough launched Finders Services after a trip to the United States. It merged with another company, Credit Card Services, to become Diners' Club last year.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Diners Club was the first universal credit card, introduced in the United States in 1950. It became the first major credit card company in Britain in 1962 formed from the merger of Finders Services and Credit Card Facilities. American Express was the next big company to launch into the credit business in 1958.

A report in the Financial Times in 1965 said the average Diners Club card holder was 41, male and married with a family, earning well over £3,000 a year as a senior commercial or business executive.

Switch and Visa debit cards were introduced in the 1980s. Customers use the cards for payment of goods and the money is directly debited from their account. The cards can also be used to withdraw money from cashpoint machines and they act as cheque guarantee cards.

The Credit Card Research Group carried out a survey in 2001 and found there were 62 million credit cards in circulation in the UK, with many people owning more than one.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



### TORY BURCH CELEBRATES PRINCESS DIANA WITH FASHION WEEK SHOW

FROM a linen and leather pant to a macrame tweed skirt, Tory Burch looked to one of the most important fashion icons of the 20th century for inspiration at New York Fashion Week: Princess Diana.

At Sunday's show held at the Brooklyn Museum, Burch said she made sure "to be careful not to be too literal, because she's clearly a style icon but that's not what was so interesting to me."

What was interesting,

she said, was Diana's humanitarian work, "her fearlessness, her being a mom that protected her family and just how strong of a woman she was." Burch said she tried to capture that strength and style in outfits that included linen dresses with rope sashes, a wool sweater with a sequined collar and a silk twill skirt.

And, bonus, she put sneakers on her models with a range of looks in her spring-summer 2020 collection.

### IN 'DOLEMITE IS MY NAME,' A RETURN TO FORM FOR EDDIE MURPHY



IT took Eddie Murphy more than a decade to get a movie made about Rudy Ray Moore. Judging by the response to the film at the Toronto International Film Festival, the wait was worth it.

"Dolemite Is My Name" drew some of the best reviews of Murphy's career, following the film's premiere over the weekend in Toronto.

"Dolemite Is My Name" was a passion project for the 58-year-old comedian. He long ago met with Moore, who died in 2008 at the age of 81, to discuss making a movie about the comedian. Moore's famous character — the straight-talking, kung fu-fighting

pimp Dolemite — was his stand-up persona and star of the 1975 Blaxploitation classic "Dolemite."

"I never let go of the idea. It was always something I thought could be a great movie. I had been sitting on the couch. I took some time to do nothing," Murphy said in an interview. "It goes back to when Rudy was alive. I literally went to see him at a club. It just didn't come together. And there was no Netflix back then."

"Dolemite Is My Name," directed by Craig Brewer ("Hustle & Flow"), will be released by Netflix in theaters Oct. 4 and begin streaming on Oct. 25.

### STEWART, SPRINGSTEEN HEADLINE VETERANS' FUNDRAISER

TWO New Jersey icons — Bruce Springsteen and Jon Stewart — will once again headline this year's Stand Up for Heroes fundraiser, which benefits injured veterans and their families.

The comedy and musical event will also feature John Oliver, Hasan Minhaj and Ronny Chieng. It will be held Nov. 4 at the Hulu Theater at Madison Square Garden in New York City. Tickets go on sale today.

Stand Up for Heroes was first held in 2007 and is produced by the New York Comedy Festival and the Bob Woodruff Foundation. Woodruff was nearly



killed during a 2006 attack in Iraq while embedded with U.S. troops for ABC News.

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STEVE DOUGLAS, SUNDSVALL

BOXING

**T**HE pretty Swedish coastal city of Sundsvall has had a couple of quirky brushes with elite heavyweight boxing over the years.

In 1965, heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali stunned the locals by visiting a newly opened boxing club as part of his promotional tour of the country. Ten years later, former champion Floyd Patterson chose Sundsvall to open the first of his five burger restaurants in Sweden.

A generation later, one of Sundsvall's own is hoping to write a new chapter in the city's unlikely relationship with boxing's marquee division.

Otto Wallin will take his first step into the big time when he fights Tyson Fury in Las Vegas on Saturday. No world title is on the line but Fury is unbeaten, the lineal champion — he lost his belts out of the ring while battling substance abuse and depression — and represents arguably the biggest scalp of all the available heavyweights.

For Sweden, it could be the biggest moment in heavyweight boxing since Ingemar Johansson became its first and only Nordic world champion by beating Patterson in 1959.

"It would be at the same level," Wallin told The Associated Press. "I think Fury is the top guy, if he has a world title or not."

Fury is a big favorite among bookmakers, a nod to Wallin's low-key career spent predominantly fighting in Europe, if not to the 28-year-old Swede's 20-0 record that includes 13 knockouts.

Humble and reserved — characteristics often associated with the Swedes — Wallin recently based himself in New York in an attempt to make a name for himself in the United States. It has gotten off to a frustrating start.

A fight with Nick Kisner in Atlantic City in April was declared a no contest after an accidental clash of heads in the first round, before a July fight against BJ Flores in Tacoma, Washington, was cancelled when Flores wasn't medi-

AP PHOTO

# Wallin out to shock Fury, put Sweden back on boxing map



In this April file photo, Otto Wallin (left) fights Nick Kisner in Atlantic City

cally cleared to compete.

Now he is heading to Vegas for the first time in his life — as a boxer or on a personal trip — to be Fury's final opponent before the Briton's rematch against WBC champion Deontay Wilder in early 2020.

Unless Wallin ruins those plans, that is.

For Wallin, a 6-foot-5 southpaw, this marks the culmination of a journey that began when he was a skinny teenager in Sundsvall and his father, Carl, showed him some boxing moves for fun in their kitchen. The elder Wallin was an amateur boxer-turned-trainer who stayed up as a 9-year-old to listen on the radio to Johansson beating Patterson and had photos at home of Ali's random visit to Sundsvall.

Carl would become the boxing mentor of the youngest of

his three sons, ingraining strong technical traits in Otto from an early age and seeing him rise up the Swedish boxing ranks quickly after Otto began taking the sport seriously from the age of 16.

They used to talk about going to Vegas together one day, and Otto winning the world heavyweight title there. Carl will never get to see that happen because he died in May after a sudden heart attack.

"It just sucks that he can't be here," Wallin said in a phone interview. "But it almost feels like he hasn't left in some ways. I pretty much know what he would be saying to me and what kind of advice he would give to me."

"He would be calling me and saying, 'Oh, I just watched Tyson Fury again and I know you can beat him. You got to trust me. As long as you move your feet, you can beat him.'"

Swedish boxers are typically good technicians, maybe because they are judged in youth "diplom-boxing" (diploma boxing) competitions on aspects like defense, balance and footwork as well as punches made.

Fredrik Stridh was there when Otto Wallin first came to Sundsvall's boxing club, and could tell right away he would be a "sensation."

"You could see he had trained with his dad before," said Stridh, who is now a boxing trainer. "He is really technical for a heavyweight. He has a good amount of speed, fast feet."

Stridh said Wallin sometimes turns up at the club.

"He comes with tips for the beginners and sometimes helps with training," Stridh said. "I see the young guys and girls really looking up to him in the gym."

Wallin's popularity will soar further and wider if he beats Fury.

He is taking inspiration from Andy Ruiz Jr. beating Anthony Joshua to become WBO, WBA and IBF champion in June in one of the biggest shocks in heavyweight history. His sparring sessions with Joshua and other leading heavyweights like Kubrat Pulev and Jarrell "Big Baby" Miller have made him feel more comfortable alongside the elite fighters.

He is confident, too, of suppressing Fury, a showman but also an excellent technical boxer himself.

"I can't let him get to my head," Wallin said of Fury. "When he starts getting comfortable, talking to me, knocking me out of my game plan ... I think I am well prepared for that. I know what he is about. I have been following him for years." AP

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**OPINION**

**Our Desk**

Julie Zhu



**SANDAL REVOLUTION**

**Does Macau's weather bother you? Have you ever heard about "Hong Kong foot?"**

Hong Kong foot, athlete's foot, tinea pedis, or ringworm; choose the name you are most familiar with.

"Athlete's foot is a fungal infection that affects the upper layer of the skin of the foot, especially when it is warm, moist and irritated. Athlete's foot most commonly develops between the toes. It usually causes burning, stinging, redness, and itching. It also causes flaking on the skin in some people." - Medical News Today.

To those who care more about physical appearance than their health, the abovementioned situation is not as scary as Onychomycosis.

"Onychomycosis, also known as tinea unguium, is a fungal infection of the nail. Symptoms may include white or yellow nail discoloration, thickening of the nail and separation of the nail from the nail bed. Toenails or fingernails may be affected, but it is more common for toenails to be affected." - Wikipedia.

The causes behind these fungal infections may be related to when the weather is "warm, moist and irritable," which is precisely the kind of weather Macau has to offer. It also makes sense that "Hong Kong foot" is the term overwhelmingly used in mainland China to describe people who suffer from such feet problems.

The number of people with athlete's foot in Macau is probably not well-documented, but it is very likely that there are people around us who have athlete's foot.

Why is then a Sandal Revolution so much needed in Macau? Because the Macau government wants the city to be the Capital of Creativity. But, seriously speaking, home remedies for athlete's foot and onychomycosis very much encourage patients to expose their feet, especially during summer, a season that settles in Macau for almost eight full months of a year.

"Steps can be taken at home, including wearing loose-fitting, well-ventilated shoes, especially during warmer months, and removing shoes as soon as exercise or sports end." - Medical News Agency.

Certainly, the solution does not consist entirely in shoes, but my writing will focus just on the shoe part.

In Macau, we spend the whole year in warm weather, not to mention the extremely hot and wet months. As a result of following the "world's" dress code etiquette, we rarely see people working with their foot exposed, for instance by wearing sandals.

I may be utterly wrong by saying that "I bet many people want to wear flip-flops to go to work", but, at least, I will be right when I say that "wearing socks and poorly-ventilated shoes is bad for people's health," assuming, of course, that fungal infections are considered bad for their health.

A sandal revolution consists in giving workers freedom to wear sandals in their workplaces, whether it is in an office or somewhere outside under the sun.

A sandal revolution would also bring many advantages to Macau. It could inspire more local people to get involved in the shoe making industry. The Macau government could also apply for the Guinness World Record for "having the biggest population wearing sandals to work", similar to when Macau established the record for "having the biggest population group dancing at one time."

Personally, no outfit is more respectable and solemn or more appropriate when someone is visiting me.

Shoes cannot be offensive to any event, place, or person. People have the natural right to wear whatever they like. Freedom of wearing sandals should be respected, just as much as freedom of speech, because sandals have never hurt anyone.

**HOW MUCH DO TRUMP TWEETS SWING THE MARKET? CHECK 'VOLFEFE'**

THE BUZZ

Financial markets have become so in thrall to President Donald Trump's tweets that J.P. Morgan has created an index to help identify how much volatility they're creating.

Strategists at the bank developed the "Volfeffe" index by measuring which Trump tweets triggered big movements in Treasury yields, one of the world's most closely followed markets.

They found Trump is lately more active on Twitter, avera-

ging more than 20 tweets and retweets per day, up from five in early 2017. Those tweets that do move the markets often focus on trade and the Federal Reserve and include the words "China," "billion" and "great."

J.P. Morgan said the index, named after Trump's "covfeffe" tweet, shows Trump's tweets explain a "measurable fraction" of volatility, particularly in markets for shorter-term rates influenced by Fed policy.



**EX-GOVERNOR SANFORD ADDS NAME TO GOP LONG SHOTS AGAINST TRUMP**

**MARK** Sanford, the former South Carolina governor and congressman, joined the Republican race against President Donald Trump yesterday [Macau time], aiming to put his Appalachian trail travails behind him for good as he pursues an admittedly remote path to the presidency.

"I am here to tell you now that I am going to get in," Sanford said in an interview on "Fox News Sunday." "This is the beginning of a long walk."

When asked why he was taking on an incumbent who's popular within the party, Sanford, who has acknowledged his slim chances by saying he doesn't expect to become president, said: "I think we need to have a conversation on what it means to be a Republican. I think that as the Republican Party, we have lost our way."

Sanford joins Joe Walsh, a former tea-party-backed, one-term congressman from Illinois, and Bill Weld, the former Republican governor of Massachusetts, as primary challengers to Trump.

"This vanity project is going absolutely nowhere," said Drew McKissick, the South Carolina Republican Party chairman.

Sanford tweeted that he respects "the view of many Republican friends who have suggested that I not run, but I simply counter that competition makes us stronger."

"Humbly I step forward," he said.

The 59-year-old Sanford has long been an outspoken critic of Trump's, frequently questioning his motivations and qualifications during the run-up to the 2016 presidential election and calling Trump's candidacy "a particularly tough pill to swallow."

Ultimately, though, Sanford said he would support Trump in the 2016 general

election, although he had "no stomach for his personal style and his penchant for regularly demeaning others," continuing a drumbeat that the then-candidate release his tax returns.

Asked if that incident could be a distraction to his campaign, Sanford said that the aftermath had forced him to attain a new "level of empathy."

"I profoundly apologize for that," he added, noting that South Carolina voters subsequently forgave him politically and sent him back to Congress.

Days after his first-ever political loss, Sanford described Trumpism as "a cancerous growth," warning the GOP that the cancer is spreading.

"We have a president that will tell numerous dis-truths in the course of a day, yet that's not challenged," Sanford said. "What's cancerous here is in an open political system, there has to be some measure of objective truth."

Sanford won three terms for U.S. House in the 1990s, then two four-year terms as governor before the affair marred the end of his second term. He returned to politics a couple of years later and won a special election to his old U.S. House seat in 2013, holding on twice more. **AP**



**Israel** Avigdor Lieberman entered Israeli politics as a loyal protégé of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Now, the maverick politician could be the one to topple his former mentor.



**Switzerland** The U.N. human rights chief said yesterday she was "alarmed" that migrant children are still being held in centers in the United States and Mexico and warned that climate change has become an unprecedented threat to human rights worldwide.



**UK** British Airways has canceled almost all its flights for 48 hours, affecting as many as 195,000 travelers, due to a strike by pilots over pay.



**UK** Prime Minister Boris Johnson insisted yesterday that a new Brexit deal can be reached to ensure Britain leaves the European Union by the Oct. 31 deadline, as he acknowledged that withdrawing without one would be a "failure" for which he'd be partially to blame.



**USA** President Donald Trump's weekend tweet canceling secret meetings at Camp David with the Taliban and Afghan leaders just days before the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks is the latest example of a commander in chief willing to take a big risk in pursuit of a foreign policy victory only to see it dashed.