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AGNES LAM IS URGING THE GOVERNMENT TO EXPLAIN WHY THE SAI VAN BRIDGE LANES NEED TO BE CHANGED FOR THE LRT

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QUESTIONS ON THE DOLLAR PEG TO BECOME IRRELEVANT

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MGM CHINA'S GRANT BOWIE SAID THAT LOCAL COMPANIES ARE MUCH BETTER POSITIONED TO RESIST THE RECESSION THAN THEY WERE IN 2014

P3

AP PHOTO



China Alibaba Group founder Jack Ma, who helped launch China's online retailing boom, stepped down as chairman of the world's biggest e-commerce company yesterday at a time when its fast-changing industry faces uncertainty amid a U.S.-Chinese tariff war.

More on p11

Thailand A member of Thailand's Cabinet said that an Australian newspaper report that he was imprisoned there for four years on a drug smuggling conviction was concocted by his political enemies, and he has no plans to resign.

More on p13

North Korea launched two projectiles toward the sea yesterday. South Korea's military said, hours after the North offered to resume nuclear diplomacy with the United States but warned its dealings with Washington may end without new U.S. proposals. More on p13

AP PHOTO



India-Nepal The leaders of India and Nepal inaugurated South Asia's first cross country oil pipeline yesterday, allowing the Himalayan nation of Nepal to receive an uninterrupted supply of oil from its large southern neighbor.

Ukraine's parliament has adopted a bill spelling out procedures for a presidential impeachment.

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GAMING REVENUE HEADED FOR SEPTEMBER REBOUNDE

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BLOOMBERG



HONG KONG DEVOID OF LEADERSHIP

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CURRENCIES

QUESTIONS OVER DOLLAR PEG WILL FADE, SAYS FX STRATEGIST

A foreign-exchange strategist has said that talk of Hong Kong abandoning its currency peg to the U.S. dollar missed the broader point: the economic rise of China will one day dwarf the local currency, making its relationship with the U.S. irrelevant.

The city's political unrest in recent months has helped spur interest among hedge funds in bets against the Hong Kong dollar, which has been kept in a tight range against the greenback since 1983.

They see capital flight eventually forcing the city's government to dump its currency policy. The monetary authority has already pumped billions of Hong Kong dollars into defending the peg since the start of the year.

The Hong Kong dollar is pegged to the U.S. dollar in a band that ranges between 7.75 and 7.85 to the U.S. dollar. In turn, Macau's pataca is fixed to the Hong



Kong dollar at an exchange rate of 1.03.

As the Hong Kong dollar is pegged to the greenback, both special administrative regions essentially import U.S. monetary policy, though local banks aren't obliged to follow with lower retail costs.

The potential for the yuan to become a global currency one day has long cast doubt over the futu-

re of these currency relationships. However, such debate will prove irrelevant in time, according to foreign-exchange veteran Stephen Jen.

On the one hand, the city is bound to see the peg as an important symbol amid questions about its ability to govern itself, Jen told Bloomberg. And on the other, if it does integrate more tightly with mainland

China, the resultant increase in use of the yuan in the city would make the Hong Kong dollar peg a side issue.

"I do not believe the Hong Kong dollar peg will be broken, because the logic for its durability is very different from the conventional Western thoughts," Jen, who runs hedge fund and advisory firm Eurizon SLJ Capital, wrote in a note Monday. "If indeed Hong Kong converges further toward China, both in terms of the real economy and the financial system, the yuan should in theory become the dominant tender, marginalizing the Hong Kong dollar, he wrote.

Jen, who previously worked at the International Monetary Fund, takes the opposite view.

"I would say that BECAUSE of the heightened political tensions with China, it would be next to impossible for Hong Kong to abandon an important symbol of autonomy," he wrote. **DB/BLOOMBERG**

AGNES LAM URGES CLARITY ON LRT PLAN FOR BRIDGE

LAWMAKER Agnes Lam has inquired about the government's plan to swap the lanes on the Sai Van Bridge underpass.

Lam asks the government to provide more data to support its conclusion that the change is necessary, as well as on what grounds the change was proposed.

The government is planning to swap the enclosed lanes of the Sai Van Bridge, indicating that Light Rapid Transit (LRT) trains will use the current car lane in future.

Xu Gongyi, chief designer of the bridge, as well as some Portuguese engineers, were surprised by the government's proposal. Xu has expressed his opposition to the government both verbally and in writing, but has not yet received a response.

Local newspaper Macao Daily News previously wrote that the safety of the bridge has been questioned. However, the government has reassured that the work has been certified by an independent body.

The Transport and Infrastructure Office, which oversees the entire LRT project, has responded to the situation, describing the news report as a "rumor." It referenced the government's explanation on the bridge's standards back in June 2010.

The explanation had emphasized that the bridge had been built following the standards of China, Europe, the U.S., Hong Kong and Macau. The tender matched international standards and requirements.

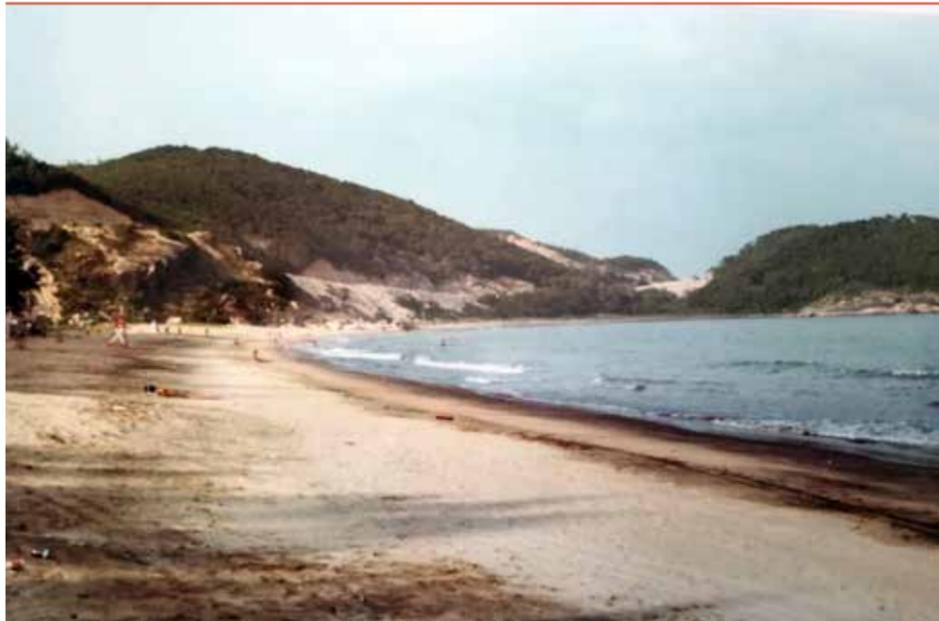
The bridge was capable of withstanding LRT traffic and a third-party consultation report also showed that the bridge's steel cables were in line with the relevant standards.

The lawmaker requests the administration to provide more details, such as the consultation report and which independent body certified the work. **AL**

MEMORY LANE

Isabel Canhota and Júlio Bucho

MDT/Renato Marques



Hac Sa Beach is the largest costal area in Macau. Located at the south side of Coloane Island, Hac Sa bay faces southeast into the South China Sea. Its name directly translated from Cantonese 黑沙 literally means "Black Sand" and it is so called due to the very dark color of most of the sand on this beach. The sand of Hac Sa Beach is naturally dark, obtaining this color from the minerals that compose it tracing back to its volcanic origin. The sand stretches for about 1 kilometer from the Hac Sa Nautical Center until the doorsteps of the Grand Coloane Resort, formerly the Westin Resort. In the first photograph, dating from 1978, the beach area was still undeveloped. **RM**

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LYNZY VALLES



Grant Bowie confident local companies will resist recession

LYNZY VALLES

FOLLOWING the warning that Macau's economic recession will continue into the third quarter of 2019, MGM China is confident that local companies are better prepared than they were in 2014 when gaming revenues tumbled.

Speaking to the press on the sidelines of the MGM Graduation Ceremony held yesterday at MGM Cotai, CEO and executive director of MGM China, Grant Bowie, said he does not doubt that the SAR will "get through these challenges."

"This time we're actually prepared and all the companies are in a better position to address those issues," said Bowie. "We just have to be careful. We have to double check and work hard to see that our customers see value in coming to Macau."

Bowie also remarked that he is confident about the increase in revenue in the coming months given the National Day holiday of China and the SAR's handover anniversary.

However, he still warned that the SAR may see a decline in its visitor arrivals.

"I think there's always a possibility [for GGR

growth]. We always look for those opportunities. There's a lot of activities going on at the same time. Some of the official engagements may mean that some of the visitation goes down because it's such an important time in Macau's history," said the executive.

"I think when we get through these challenges, I think Macau again will continue to grow [in 2020]," he said.

Since the enactment of a law in July last year to legalize gaming in Japan, Macau gaming operators have been boosting efforts to charm stakeholders in the country.

MGM China is not

one of them. Asked yesterday whether the local company was interested in bidding for a license, Bowie said that as the local arm of MGM Resorts International, MGM China is only looking to expand its presence in Macau. "MGM China has not been investigating opportunities in Japan. [...] We are a China company and that is our focus," he said.

Meanwhile, its parent company, MGM Resorts International, previously announced that its Japan partnership with financial services firm Orix will target an expected integrated resort opportunity Osaka.

Gross gaming revenue headed for September rebound

DANIEL BEITLER

GROSS gaming revenue might be heading for a September rebound, market analysts suggested yesterday, on signs of a VIP recovery.

The news comes as Macau's Secretary for Economy and Finance warned that economic headwinds will persist into the third quarter.

September, which will round out the third quarter of the year, follows two consecutive months of year-on-year contraction, including the steepest revenue decline of the year to date in August. Gross gaming revenue during the quarter amounted to about 48.71 billion patacas, down 6.1% from a year earlier. Until yesterday, the quarter was on track to be the worst in terms of growth since the gaming sector recovery in 2016.

However, the negative growth assessment obfuscates the actual revenue generated by Macau casinos. With gross gaming revenues of MOP24.45 billion and MOP24.36 billion respectively, both July and August fell only marginally below the average monthly revenue so far in 2019 (MOP24.77 billion).

September 2018 was the worst performing month last year in terms of gross gaming revenue, recording a take of just MOP21.95

billion. It is therefore worth noting that, because of the low comparison base, gross gaming revenue of MOP24 billion in September 2019 would represent a more than 9% year-on-year increase.

Sanford C. Bernstein and the stockbroker division of Nomura both issued notes this week showing early indications of growth for the month.

Citing estimates of VIP volume for the first eight days of the month, Bernstein analysts are forecasting single-digit growth in September of up to 7%, aided by an easier comparison base last year.

"GGR [gross gaming revenue] for September 2018 was impacted by Typhoon Mangkhut (and brought all Macau casinos to close temporarily for 33 hours over a weekend), which sets up for an easier year-on-year comparison," stated the analysts, as cited by GGRAsia.

In the first six months of 2019, the mass market overtook VIP as the bigger share, rising to about 52% of total gross gaming revenue.

Nevertheless, the volatile VIP segment still wields significant influence on the oscillations of monthly gross gaming revenue. A more than 20% increase in the number of visitors to the SAR this year has failed to translate into both gaming revenue growth and non-gaming visitor spending.

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

HO DEPARTS FOR BEIJING APPOINTMENT

Chief Executive-elect, Ho Iat Seng, yesterday departed for Beijing where he will be officially appointed by national officials. The appointment will come in the form of a certificate confirming his succession to the position. At the airport, he told a press conference that he is still deciding future administrative positions. He added that he has yet to meet with the current secretaries and had not considered the options for their possible replacements. According to TDM, Ho will meet this morning with Premier Li Keqiang and later on he will be received by President Xi Jinping. After the meetings, Ho will host a press conference.

GGCT CLARIFIES NO WARNING RAISED FOR HONG KONG

The Tourism Crisis Management Office (GGCT) has clarified that no travel warning has been issued for travelers from Macau to avoid the neighboring region of Hong Kong. The clarification comes in response to recent comments on social media platforms claiming that the GGCT had advised Macau residents to avoid non-essential travel to Hong Kong. The GGCT has said it issued no such appeal. The Office's travel alert system currently covers 77 countries and destinations, but excludes mainland China and Hong Kong, which are considered homeland destinations.

33RD MIMF TO BRING 22 SHOWS NEXT MONTH

The organizer of the 33rd Macao International Music Festival (MIMF), the Cultural Affairs Bureau, has announced that this year's event will bring 17 programs and a total of 22 performances to the SAR. Themed "The Instrumentalist", this edition of the MIMF will kick off in October offering a rich variety of programs. Among the performances, the Macao Chinese Orchestra will join hands with the distinguished Chinese pianist Sun Yingdi to present "Rhapsody in Blue," a work that integrates both jazz and classical music, and the commissioned world premiere piece "Postcard of Macao." Meanwhile, the world-famous Dorian Wind Quintet will perform classics from the Renaissance and Baroque periods with renowned technique, as well as contemporary works by American and French composers of the 20th century. American multi-instrumentalist Peter Broderick, the Trio Mediaeval from Norway, Bulgarian violinist Svetlin Roussev and Korean pianist Yeol Eum Son will also make a debut at the Festival.

RENATO MARQUES



Kou Peng Kuan

COMMISSION OF AUDIT REPORT

GOVERNMENT SPAT ESCALATES OVER 'MANY FAILURES' OF PUBLIC RECRUITMENT

RENATO MARQUES

The response from Kou Peng Kuan, director of the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau (SAFP), to a Commission of Audit (CA) report that highlighted mismanagement in the civil servants recruitment system, has prompted a new reply from the CA. In it, the CA contests the counter-claims of the SAFP and its director.

The CA's statement, issued on Monday evening, addresses Kou's reply item per item, and thus continues the exchange of arguments that has erupted between the CA and the SAFP director since the critical report was first released. In Monday's statement, the CA accused Kou of disrespecting the audit authority through its public statements, which ran contrary to the acknowledgements made the Office of the Chief Executive.

The Commission of Audit noted that in the previous report, released on September 3, the Commission made "an analysis from a legal point of view, of the public administration and in accordance with the written replies of all the public departments involved," adding that the report had a broad scope and referenced reports from the past 20 years with the purpose of identifying recruitment problems.

Kou's public refutation of the CA's conclusions prompted the head of the Audit Commission to exercise his right to respond, which he claimed was necessary

"to avoid negative impacts on future audit work" and also to avoid "misleading the public."

Addressing Kou's claims that "services had to assist the SAFP in carrying out its tasks," the CA noted, "18 of the 39 services interested in recruiting staff corroborated this statement.

On the other hand, shortcomings in the scheme's design led to large expenditures in terms of human and material resources."

The CA statement additionally noted that the report reveals a number of shortcomings in several aspects of the Scheme, which started in 2016, notably in its preparation and implementation, as well as in costs and efficiency of the tendering procedure. More importantly, according to the CA, is that the departments in need of staff and holding recruitment drives saw their interests harmed by the lack of efficiency of the system.

Regarding Kou's statement, claiming that "citizens' applications could not be refused in the recruitment tenders" and that "there were expenses that could not be avoided," the CA notes that the report revealed, "due to the fact that since the recruitment scheme was defective, most applicants submitted more than one application for job vacancies, which led to a drastic increase in the number of applications for the second phase causing the resources invested by the services to double."

The CA added, "as the electro-

nic application platform allowed applicants to simply submit their application to all stages of professional or functional competency assessment, it resulted not only in duplicate work in verifying applicants' documents as well as wasting resources and time."

According to the CA, this led the audit to state that "the SAFP should design the recruitment scheme carefully to avoid wasting resources". On this, the CA remarked that their opinions are only focused on "the source of the problems and were intended for the service concerned to improve the recruitment scheme."

Furthermore, the CA denied ever mentioning the refusal of candidates for the examination, nor the expenses related to the leasing of the venues for the examination, neither did it suggest that a cost reduction should be obtained by lowering the remuneration of the staff involved in the tender procedure.

According to the CA, the remarks it made are solely on the "[unnecessary] repetition of applications that caused not just an increase in costs but also extended significantly the tender procedure duration." The CA notes that as the manager of all procedures for the selection and recruitment of civil servants, the SAFP must be "aware of the advantages and disadvantages that the implementation of the recruitment scheme would bring, the number of workers in each service, their human re-

sources needs, the labor market conditions of Macau and the specific situation of each career tendered."

When considered together, these factors should have seen the SAFP better forecast the workload and staff needs for handling the recruitment procedures. However, the CA noted, "the audit results revealed that services interested in staff recruitment had to undertake work that had not been foreseen."

The final section of the CA statement conceded that the recruitment of civil servants is a complex and a very important matter "given that staff recruitment involves all public services and tens of thousands of applicants." Nevertheless, it said, "it is not acceptable that there have been so many failures."

The Commission also took the opportunity to remind director Kou that before being made public, the audit report had already been reviewed by the Office of the Chief Executive, which also issued a statement through the government's spokesperson acknowledging the flaws noted in the report, and urging the officials responsible to correct them.

Therefore, in publicly challenging the audit's views, the CA accused Kou of "contradicting what was written in the [official] reply to the report, [before this was made public] showing lack of respect for the views expressed by it as well as by all the public services concerned."



SANDS China Ltd. has been enhancing its Responsible Gaming efforts by further reaching out to the local community and making it a better place to live. Moreover, a dedicated team was established as a concrete step to promote responsible gaming to a wider audience.

Leading several initiatives including Sands Cares and Project Protect, Sands China promotes a healthy quality of life and fosters a positive environment.

Sands China has a three level approach in responsible gaming training, designed to broaden and deepen team members' knowledge and attainment on this topic.

The first level covers all team members in the company. Sands China was a pioneer in including training in responsible gaming in its company-wide team member orientation program. The company established its comprehensive responsible gaming program in 2007 with the goals of contributing to the development of the Macao community, taking its corporate social responsibility seriously by fostering an environment and culture of responsible gaming in Macao.

The second level of responsible gaming training aims to further enhance and broaden team members' knowledge. Monthly workshops with different topics are designed for manager-grade team members. These workshops are open for enrollment and are taught both by internal instructors and ex-

Sands China's responsible gaming efforts continue to strengthen

ternal responsible gaming experts.

The Responsible Gaming Workshop held in May 2019 – Financial Ability 2.0: Financial Management was led by Hong Kong Certified Financial Planner May Wong and two Certified Financial Social Work Counsellors from Sheng Kung Hui. This workshop attracted 50 team members.

During the workshop, team members learned about financial management concepts including personal financial risk assessment, savings, and investment, and discussed responsible gaming in the context of the financial risks associated with gambling.

The third level of responsible gaming training is an advanced training program taught by world renowned expert Dr. Bo Bernhard. Launched in 2013, the Responsible Gaming Ambassador program is the first of its kind, and is the only one in Macau run in collaboration with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), supplementing the company-wide training in responsible gaming received by all Sands China's 28,000-plus team members. The training reflects both cutting-edge research and real-world practice. Most impor-

tantly, these programs are taught directly by the experts who deliver international keynotes in the problem gambling field, and not via a train-the-trainer approach

The Responsible Gaming Ambassador program utilises both international and local knowledge with the presence of senior counsellors from the Sheng Kung Hui Gambling Counselling and Family Wellness Centre to enhance team members' practical responsible gaming knowledge and skills in areas such as crisis management and intervention.

Over the years 530 team members have participated in the training program. Their training collectively comprises over 3,200 hours of instruction.

Many of these Responsible Gaming Ambassadors have then played a vital role in reaching and helping patrons before a problem develops as they are well trained on how to respond and refer.

"I feel really happy and satisfied to have been a part of this program because we could help share this concept and promote awareness to others who may not be able to identify such problems," said Fairy Wong, pit supervisor of table

games department.

"I have seen how the courses we took have been innovative," she added.

Meanwhile, another ambassador noted that the gaming operator has been strengthening its reach into the wider community.

"I can see that the company is really doing its best to collaborate with the government, academic institutions and the community to continue to raise this awareness and to create a sustainable environment," said Pierre Lai, pit manager of table games department.

The Ambassadors have not only provided assistance to guests but also further reached out to the community to promote responsible gaming. In May, a group of Sands China's Responsible Gaming Ambassadors assisted at a two-day virtual reality film experience at a responsible gaming event for students at the University of Saint Joseph. This is the first time a gaming operator promoting responsible gaming in a local higher institute.

Participants in the interactive sessions experienced an immersive 180-degree virtual reality movie on gambling disorders, which was followed by a discussion on the feelings it

raised and practical advice related to responsible gaming.

The gaming operator's commitment to raising awareness of responsible gaming has helped the students recognize these problems.

Lee Kwok Hoo, service director of the Sheng Kung Hui Macau Social Services Coordination Office, said: "Sheng Kung Hui has a long history of collaborating with Sands China, and we were pleased with their support of this event series. Their commitment to responsible gaming awareness is impressive, as was the enthusiasm and understanding brought by the Responsible Gaming Ambassadors who participated in this event."

Also in July, the gaming operator joined the Gaming Employee Family Day organized by Social Welfare Bureau, where Sands China garnered an overflowing participation rate in terms of team members attending the session.

To keep its team members up to date with the Responsible Gaming program, Sands China published its first Responsible Gaming Newsletter last month. This newsletter is being sent to all team members by email and posted on the integrated resorts' in-house bulletin boards.

NEARLY 1,200 MGM EMPLOYEES HONORED IN CEREMONY

NEARLY 1,200 MGM employees graduated from the gaming operator's talent development programs yesterday at MGM Cotai.

The development programs are across three major categories. First, Local Leadership Development – "PRIDE Program". Second is Continuing Education which is run through the MGM Academy, MGMeAcademy and other diploma courses in collaboration with tertiary and secondary educational institutions, such as the MGM High School Diploma Program. The third category is Professional Skills and Vocational Training, in partnership with the Labour Affairs Bureau, the Macau Federation of Trade Unions and other educational institutions.

MGM China has partnered with local government bureaus, institutions and associations in a bid to cover a wide spectrum



of training ranging from occupational health and safety, facility management, to electrical and chiller maintenance.

The gaming operator stressed yesterday that it continues to organize national education seminars and training in collabo-

ration with Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the SAR to enrich its employees' knowledge on national development.

During the ceremony, Grant Bowie, CEO and executive director of MGM China announced the es-

tablishment of the first culinary professional diploma for the integrated resort, which is co-organized with the Institute for Tourism Studies.

"It's one of our most important programs. [...] This is something that we wish to explore going forward," he told the press on the sidelines of the event.

At the same time, MGM has also signed an agreement with the Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Center (CPTTM) to deepen the cooperation in talent development through courses and exchanges.

Over 88% of MGM's management team are Macau locals. Questioned whether non-residents are eligible for the training, Bowie remarked, "all our team members are equally valued so all of team members are given the same opportunities." LV

PERSONAL DATA WATCHDOG EXPLAINS USE OF FACIAL RECOGNITION

THE Personal Data Protection Office (GPDP) has issued a letter explaining its stance regarding the installation of facial recognition technology in some of Macau's surveillance cameras.

In the letter, the GPDP opted for the reference of "facial recognition technology" instead of "facial recognition system", as the latter has a broader meaning and may cause confusion.

According to the Office, law enforcement authorities have been in regular contact regarding different plans by which the technology might be implemented.

The GPDP has already opposed some suggestions raised by law enforcement authorities, while it has requested that others be amended. The police have dropped the plans that were not fully accepted by the Office.

The technology is meant to provide auxiliary support to the work of the police. The data privacy watchdog pointed out that there are three general conditions in which the use of the technology is allowed, namely when the police want to search for a particular suspect with the particulars of the suspect already known; when the police need to identify or verify the identity of a particular person captured on video footage; or when the police want to conduct an analysis on the existence of crime or possible crime.

It was reiterated that even without the technology, these "supportive functions" are conducted manually. The technology is thus used only to improve police efficiency and assist in analysis.

The GPDP emphasized that all work done by the police will have to abide by the relevant data privacy laws. AL

AD

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FMCC Business Luncheon
EU Trade Policy and the US-China Trade Dispute: Challenging Times for EU?
Speaker: Mrs. Eva Valle Lagares, Counsellor, Head of the Trade Section, European Union Office to Hong Kong and Macao

Introduction:
The US-China Trade Dispute is posing a threat on the global trading and economic system. In this context, the EU has a critical part to play. Mrs. Valle Lagares speaks on how the EU strengthens its Trade Policy, elaborates on the recently concluded agreements with Vietnam and Mercosur and the efforts to modernise the WTO.

Date: Thursday, 10th October, 2019
Time: 1:00p.m. - 2:30p.m. (Reception: 12:45p.m.)
Venue: Macau Tower Convention & Entertainment Centre
4th floor, Grand Hall 5

RSVP before 2 p.m. on 4th October
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- 2019 FMCC members join @ MOP450*
- Guests and non-members @ MOP550*

* Price includes Western menu with wines.
* Strict No-Show/ Late Cancellation policy applies for this event

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FMCC Firework Dinner
Celebration of 70th China National Day with Firework Show!
China vs France

Introduction:
Celebrate with us the 70th National Day of the People's Republic of China and this also marked the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between France and China.

Enjoy the stunning front view with the gorgeous and spectacular firework performance presented by the French and Chinese representatives along with delicious barbecue dinner buffet and free flow of wine for adults.

Date: Tuesday, 1st October, 2019
Time: 7:00p.m. - 10:00p.m. (Reception: 6:45p.m.)
Venue: Macau Tower Convention & Entertainment Centre
Outer Plaza

RSVP before 2 p.m. on 25th September
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- 2019 FMCC members join @ MOP480*
- Guests and non-members @ MOP580*
- Minors between 6-11 @ MOP280
- Minors under 6 join free of charge

* Price includes BBQ Buffet with free flow of wine for adults.
* Strict No-Show/ Late Cancellation policy applies for this event

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Macao Film Week held alongside GBA Film Trade Fair

THE "2019 Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Film Production Investment and Trade Fair" was officially opened yesterday at the Macau University of Science and Technology.

The Fair is a two-day event with a focus on marketing and financing film projects proposed by filmmakers in the Greater Bay. This year, it attracted producers of 15 film projects and 54 investors from the three regions.

As a supplementary event, the Macao Film Week is held this year to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Macau Special Administrative Region. Selected local films, all made after the establishment of the SAR, will be screened with free admission at the Macau University of Science and Technology and the Cinematheque - Passion from September 11 to 14.

Show schedules are available on the Cultural Affairs Bu-



reau's Facebook page.

Furthermore, in order to equip emerging local filmmakers with adequate knowledge about the industry, a sharing session titled "Action! Survival Handbook for Filmmakers" will be held in Hall D of the Macau University of Science and Technology from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. today.

The sharing session will be hosted by the President of

the Macau Association of Audio-Visual "CUT", Albert Chu, and co-presented by the Director of the film "Men on the Dragon" and lecturer of the School of Film and Television at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, Chan Wing Sun, and the Director of the film "The Age of Hangover" and the photographer of the film "Blue Amber", Mike Ao Ieng.

The Fair was inaugurated in 2014. It aims to create dynamics for the film industry across the region. Its prominence grew significantly with the conceptualization of the Greater Bay Area. This year's Fair is co-organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau of the Macau SAR, the Film Administration of Guangdong Province and Create Hong Kong. **AL**

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC OPENS HENGQIN FACILITY

NATIONAL Geographic opened its first "National Geographic Ultimate Explorer" family entertainment facility in the southern China region in Hengqin's Novotown on Monday.

The facility aims to attract younger fans and prepare them to be the next generation of scientists, engineers, astronauts and oceanographers, among other professions.

Geared primarily towards kids aged 6-12 and their families, National Geographic Ultimate Explorer aims to inspire youth to go further and explore the world around them, according to a press release from the company.

Spanning over 4,500 square meters, the facility offers around 15 diverse experiences that take families from the far reaches of space to the deepest depths of the ocean.

Novotown is a multi-phase project located in the heart of Hengqin, within a five-minute driving distance from the Hengqin Port. Its phase one development includes Lionsgate Entertainment World, National Geographic Ultimate Explorer, a multi-purpose performance hall, wedding ceremony venue, Hyatt Regency Hotel as well as concept retail and dining, etc. Phase II will be headlined by Real Madrid World, a Ducati themed motorcycle experience center, and ILA Hengqin with Harrow International. **AL**

AD

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HONG KONG

RAIL OPERATOR MTR DENIES FATALITY DURING PROTEST CHAOS

HONG Kong's subway operator denied that a fatality occurred when riot police stormed into a station in pursuit of pro-democracy protesters on one of the most violent days since protests began in the city more than three months ago.

MTR Corp., which runs Hong Kong's mass-transit rail system, said in a statement yesterday that nobody died inside its Prince Edward station on the night of Aug. 31. That day saw protesters hurl petrol bombs and bricks at police officers, before setting fire to a massive roadblock in the city center.

There has since been widespread speculation among many involved in the historic protest movement that somebody was killed in the chaos as police aggressively pursued protesters in the crowded station, swinging batons, tackling people to the ground and using pepper spray. Injured people were seen being taken



out of the station on stretchers, fueling the rumors.

People subsequently turned the station entrance into a memorial, piling up white flowers and signs with slogans like "black cops" and "blood for blood." The station became the focus of several days of sometimes rowdy demonstrations.

"With regards to claims that there was a fatality at Prince Edward Station, there was no death report that day according to the station's record," the company said, adding that it "understands the public's concerns about the incident at Prince Edward Station." It released time-stamped, closed-circuit TV

images of emergency services personnel bringing seven injured people out of the station on stretchers starting shortly after 1:30 a.m.

Hong Kong's police "strongly condemn people who maliciously spread the death rumors," the force's senior superintendent, Yolanda Yu, said during a joint briefing with MTR and the local fire department.

Protesters have accused the rail operator of collaborating with police - who have fired tear gas inside MTR facilities - by closing stations and slowing train service during or after tense clashes between police and demonstrators.

The police force has said protesters inside the station that night "assaulted members of the public" and damaged property. "Upon receiving reports, Police entered the MTR stations to stop all violent acts and arrest offenders," it said in a previous statement Aug. 31. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

SHENZHEN

SMARTPHONE MAKER HEADS FOR SHANGHAI

SHENZHEN Transsion Holdings Co., whose mobile handsets outsell iPhone and Galaxy smartphones in Africa, is planning an initial public offering on Shanghai's Nasdaq-style Star Board to raise about 3.01 billion yuan (\$423 million).

Transsion, known as the "King of Africa" on the continent, according to the filing on Monday, has overtaken Samsung Electronics Co. and Apple Inc. as the largest mobile phone maker there, tapping into a huge and fast-growing market.

Since founding the Tecno Mobile brand in 2006, founder Zhu Zhaojiang has overseen an expansion that now claims a 48.7% market share in Africa, according to the filing. Transsion shipped 94.44 million mobile phones to Africa in 2018, out of a total of 124 million global shipments.

The company plans to issue as many as 80 million A-shares in the IPO and will set the price on Sept. 17. Proceeds will be used to pay for mobile phone manufacturing base projects and research and development, the filing said.

The Star market is China's latest initiative to entice companies to list at home. Since it launched in the middle of this year, 29 companies have listed with an average eye-popping gain of more than 150% from their IPO prices, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

MDT/BLOOMBERG

AD



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HONG KONG

In leaderless movement, officials don't know who to negotiate with

BLAKE SCHMIDT

AS a top adviser to Hong Kong's government, Bernard Chan is searching for any protester who can strike a deal to end more than three months of unrest.

In lunches with demonstrators and chats with friends who oppose the government, Chan often hears that the protests would stop if leader Carrie Lam even met two of the five demands. But nobody he meets can guarantee him that others will no longer hit the streets even after she formally withdrew a bill allowing extraditions to China that kicked off the protests in June.

"You alone stopping is not enough - who am I negotiating with?" Chan said in an interview on Friday, before the latest weekend clashes. "I can't even convince the government to come to the table because they don't know who we're dealing with."

The lack of a clear leader is one of the main reasons the protests have carried on this long and show no end in sight. For demonstrators, that's by design: During the 2014 Occupy protests, the government was able to arrest key leaders and throw them in jail. Now the groups guard their anonymity and organize in online platforms like Telegram and LIHKG that are difficult to track.

"Some guarantees may be

needed to convince protesters' delegates to show up," said Jean-Pierre Cabestan, a professor in the Department of Government and International Studies at Hong Kong Baptist University. "On the government side, there is so much foot-dragging that I am not fully convinced that they want to dialogue and much less negotiate, meaning make concessions."

The protest movement has drawn inspiration from Bruce Lee, Hong Kong's martial arts guru. Weary of following Occupy's strategy of holding ground, which led to fatigue among supporters over 79 days and turned its leaders into targets, protesters now follow the Kung Fu philosopher's advice to "empty your mind, be formless, shapeless like water."

"Now, water can flow or it can crash," Lee said in a now-famous interview. "Be like water, my friend."

POP-UP PROTESTS

Instead of a non-stop sit-in, demonstrators now organize pop-up events around the city and quickly scatter to a new location once the police use tear gas. The strategy was on display when Joshua Wong, the most prominent Occupy leader, was released from jail on June 17. On that day,

protesters gathered in Admiralty, moved to police headquarters in Wan Chai and then turned to the Immigration Department building. Wong was briefly detained again this weekend.

For Beijing, the nature of the protest has made it hard to quell

The protest movement has drawn inspiration from Bruce Lee, who advised his followers to 'empty your mind, be formless, shapeless like water'

- and they've sought to blame foreign influences in the U.S. and local agents. Last month, China's state-run media referred to four senior Hong Kong democrats as a new "Gang of Four," recalling allies of Mao Zedong prosecuted after his death in 1976. Then earlier this month they rounded up Occupy leaders like Wong.

Albert Ho, a former member of the territory's Legislative Council who was among those blamed by China for stoking the protests, dismissed any notion that he could influence the demonstrators.

"I hope that I could be so powerful," he said by phone. "All of this infuriates those who are in power, and they need to find an explanation and an excuse."

Hong Kongers aren't the first to eschew leadership. In a 2003 peer-reviewed article, computer scientist Simson Garfinkel traced the concept to at least the 1980s, when white supremacist Louis Beam popularized the term "leaderless resistance" in an essay. He advocated the technique for fighting state tyranny using self-organizing clandestine cells, a strategy he attributes to a U.S. intelligence officer who feared a Communist takeover of the U.S.

The article cited Beam as saying traditional "pyramid-style" liberation armies are dangerous because the state's electronic surveillance can reveal the chain of command. The structure was later used by animal rights activists, environmentalists and Islamic terrorist groups alike, Garfinkel found, even though it rarely achieved political change.

'LEADERLESS RESISTANCE'

Hong Kong's protesters scored at least one victory when Lam formally withdrew the extradition law. But other demands - a commission of inquiry into alle-

ged police brutality, retraction of the classification of protesters as "rioters," amnesty for those arrested and universal suffrage - have been rejected.

Lam yesterday pleaded for protesters to stop damaging public facilities and said violence risked driving the city further apart, after a weekend that saw small crowds of demonstrators set fires and vandalize subway stations. "The escalation and continued violence cannot solve the current problems faced by society," she said, briefing media before a meeting of the city's Executive Council.

"Many leaders just come out and they're not actually representing the voice of many protesters," said a demonstrator wearing a black gas mask who only gave his surname Wan. Standing near a bonfire on Saturday at a subway station entrance in Central, he said: "There's no room for negotiation. Most of the protesters agree with the five demands."

Chan, who advises Lam's government, estimates that more than 2,000 radicals are controlling the protests, followed by several thousand more who make up a wider core. But he's only guessing. Like many in Beijing, he's unconvinced that the movement is entirely void of leadership, or at least some sort of clandestine backing, even though he has no proof.

"It's a leaderless movement, as we all say. But clearly, someone is doing a damn better job than the government or police," Chan said. "I bet there's somebody, somewhere there. Whether they're foreign or not, I really have no idea. But I have to say, you cannot just say that this is just a people's movement. This has got to be way more than that." **BLOOMBERG**

FLOATING ADRIATIC PORT CLOSER TO EASING RUSSIAN GAS DOMINANCE

JASMINA KUZMANOVIC

ON a recent late-summer's day, 24-meter-high pile drivers shook a rocky beach on the Croatian island of Krk with bone-jarring thumps. Where blue waters meet the tan shoreline, workers were laying the foundation for independence from Russian gas.

The construction of a floating seaside liquified natural gas storage facility, already a decade in the making, is still more than a year away from being operational and is far from finished. But planners are already counting on it to give the newest European Union member flexibility in meeting future domestic energy needs and supply storage for other gas users, even if it doesn't turn a profit before 2025.

The terminal "will ensure the security of supplies, increase competitiveness in the market, and give us a better position in negotiating future gas deals," said Barbara Doric, the managing director of LNG Hrvatska d.o.o., the state company developing the terminal.

The project is the first of its kind for Croatia, which has the EU's fifth-longest coastline, and is the result of the U.S. lobbying to reduce the country's need for Russian gas. Once online, the terminal will have an annual capacity of 2.6 billion cubic meters of gas, equivalent to the country's annual usage.

The construction comes amid a regional push to ease the risk of gas shut offs for geopolitical reasons. Russian supplies of the



commodity were cut amid disputes with Ukraine in 2006 and 2009, and authorities have since looked at alternative pipelines and other solutions. The Krk LNG terminal would function like one in Lithuania, whose floating terminal operated by Klaipėdos Nafta is fully booked through the end of 2020.

The EU contributed 101 million euros (\$111 million) to develop the Krk terminal, with the Croatian government matching the

amount and national grid HEP d.d. and state-owned gas pipeline operator Plinacro d.d. adding about 15 million euros each.

BOOKING CAPACITY

So far, Croatian grid operator HEP and Zagreb-based refiner INA Industrija Nafta d.d., which is controlled by Budapest-based Mol Nyrt., have booked capacity. The government is in talks with Hungary to book about 25% of annual capacity. Without additio-

nal investors by the time the plant begins operations, about 40% of its running costs will be covered by a special fee on gas customers for security of supply, estimated at 35 kuna (\$5.22) per user a year.

Croatia expects interest in the plant's capacity will increase because natural gas is expected to be the fastest growing fossil fuel through 2040, and it will increasingly be transported in liquid form, according to the International Energy Agency.

China, India and other developing countries plan higher imports of cleaner energy sources to cut coal and oil pollution. Earlier this month, Russia's Rosneft PJSC and Novatek PJSC announced plans to build LNG plants to export the fuel from the country's remote corners.

Krk's floating terminal will be a 280-meter-long converted ship expected to be delivered by Golar LNG Ltd. by November next year. It will sit near an oil storage tank farm owned by state oil pipeline operator and a defunct petrochemical complex inherited from the socialist era.

In the background, white stone houses of the historic Omisalj city glisten on a hill covered with Mediterranean vegetation, a juxtaposition that illustrates Croatia's chronic dilemma between encouraging industry and boosting tourism, the country's biggest earner.

FIRST ATTEMPT

Vjeran Pirsic, an activist with local environmental group Eko Kvarner, said construction is being monitored, and the group still has some concerns, including the use of sea water to warm up and re-gasify the liquid fuel.

But Croatia, which imports more than half of its natural gas, can no longer afford to wait, Doric said. The terminal will also allow exports once a gas inter-connector with Hungary is completed by the end of this year, with reversible capacity of 1.5 billion cubic meters per year. Croatia produces about 40 percent of its own needs.

"The production of gas in Croatia is falling, making us even more dependent on imported gas," she said. "This way we have ensured the security of supply for the future." **BLOOMBERG**

SINGAPORE

Economy shows some signs of hope as trade war drags on

YONGCHANG CHIN

IT may not be all doom and gloom for Singapore's economy.

Recent data and anecdotal evidence suggest gross domestic product will probably grow in the third quarter after shrinking in the previous three months, according to economists including Chua Hak Bin at Maybank Kim Eng Research Pte. and Barnabas Gan at United Overseas Bank Ltd.

That would mean the city state will narrowly avoid a technical recession, commonly defined as two consecutive quarters of contraction.

Even so, there's little to cheer about. Economis-



ts have slashed their 2019 growth forecasts for the export-reliant economy as the U.S.-China trade war intensifies. Singapore's government is projecting growth of zero to 1% for the year.

Irvin Seah, a senior

economist at DBS Group Holdings Ltd., said he isn't optimistic about the country's prospects even if the economy avoids a technical recession. He predicts expansion of just 0.7% for the full year.

Maybank cites three main reasons for the mild improvement, which it says should help boost Singapore's services output and offset the slump in manufacturing:

FRONT-LOADING ORDERS

Businesses may be front-loading some orders before the U.S. slaps a 15% tariff on Chinese consumer goods, like mobile phones and laptops, in December. Also, there are signs that a slump in technology exports, which had been a drag on manufacturing, is starting to ease. Singapore's July data reflected some of that rebound, with industrial production posting

a far better performance than economists had predicted.

LOAN GROWTH

Singapore's financial center is benefiting as more businesses finance their regional projects via lenders based in the city state. Offshore loans rose 7% in July from a year ago, while domestic lending grew 2%. The strongest growth in offshore loans was in construction and manufacturing, surging 18% and 15% respectively.

HONG KONG DIVERSION

Protests and disruptions in Hong Kong have pushed leisure and business tourism to Singapore. Visitor

arrivals grew 4% in July from a year ago, the fastest pace in 9 months, with hotel occupancy rising to 94%, the highest level ever for July, according to data from the Singapore Tourism Board. Despite a regional drop in Chinese tourists, Singapore-bound visitors from China rose 7.8% in July from a year ago, while tourists from the U.S. rose 17% and from Indonesia, 12%.

Singapore may benefit as more business events and conferences are diverted from Hong Kong, said Maybank, citing the Golden Wellness Summit planned for October, which was moved from Hong Kong to Singapore, and other events. **BLOOMBERG**

JOE MCDONALD, BEIJING

ALIBABA Group founder Jack Ma, who helped launch China's online retailing boom, stepped down as chairman of the world's biggest e-commerce company yesterday at a time when its fast-changing industry faces uncertainty amid a U.S.-Chinese tariff war.

Ma, one of China's wealthiest and best-known entrepreneurs, gave up his post on his 55th birthday as part of a succession announced a year ago. He will stay on as a member of the Alibaba Partnership, a 36-member group with the right to nominate a majority of the company's board of directors.

Ma, a former English teacher, founded Alibaba in 1999 to connect Chinese exporters to American retailers.

The company has shifted focus to serving China's growing consumer market and expanded into online banking, entertainment and cloud computing. Domestic businesses accounted for 66% of its USD16.7 billion in revenue in the quarter ending in June.

Chinese retailing faces uncertainty amid a tariff war that has raised the cost of U.S. imports.

Growth in online sales decelerated to 17.8% in the first half of 2019 amid slowing Chinese economic growth, down from 2018's full-year rate of 23.9%.

Alibaba says its revenue rose 42% over a year earlier in the quarter ending in June to \$16.7 billion and profit rose 145% to \$3.1 billion. Still, that was off slightly from 2018's full-year revenue growth of 51%.

The total amount of goods sold across Alibaba's e-commerce platforms rose 25% last year to \$853 billion. By comparison, the biggest U.S. e-com-

Alibaba's Ma steps down as industry faces uncertainty



AP PHOTO

merce company, Amazon.com Inc., reported total sales of \$277 billion.

Alibaba's deputy chairman, Joe Tsai, told reporters in May the company is "on the right side" of issues in U.S.-Chinese trade talks. Tsai said Alibaba stands to benefit from Beijing's promise to increase imports and a growing consumer market.

Alibaba is one of a group of companies including Tencent Holding Ltd., a games and social media giant, search engine Baidu.com Inc. and e-commerce rival JD.com that have revolutionized shopping, entertain-

ment and consumer services in China.

Alibaba was founded at a time when few Chinese were online. As internet use spread, the company expanded into consumer-focused retailing and services. Few Chinese used credit cards, so Alibaba created the Alipay online payments system.

Ma, known in Chinese as Ma Yun, appears regularly on television. At an annual Alibaba employee festival in Hanzhou, he has sung pop songs in costumes that have included blond wigs and leather jackets. He pokes fun at his own appearan-

ce, saying his oversize head and angular features make him look like the alien in director Steven Spielberg's movie "E.T. The Extraterrestrial."

The company's \$25 billion initial public offering on the New York Stock Exchange in September 2014 was the biggest to date by a Chinese company.

The Hurun Report, which follows China's wealth, estimates Ma's fortune at \$38 billion.

In 2015, Ma bought the South China Morning Post, Hong Kong's biggest English-language newspaper.

Ma's successor as chairman

is CEO Daniel Zhang, a former accountant and 12-year veteran of Alibaba. He previously was president of its consumer-focused Tmall.com business unit.

Alibaba's e-commerce business spans platforms including business-to-business Alibaba.com, which links foreign buyers with Chinese suppliers of goods from furniture to medical technology, and Tmall, with online shops for popular brands.

Alipay became a freestanding financial company, Ant Financial, in 2014. Alibaba also set up its own film studio and invested in logistics and delivery services.

Ma faced controversy when it disclosed in 2011 that Alibaba transferred control over Alipay to a company he controlled without immediately informing shareholders including Yahoo Inc. and Japan's Softbank.

Alibaba said the move was required to comply with Chinese regulations, but some financial analysts said the company was paid too little for a valuable asset. The dispute was later resolved by Alibaba, Yahoo and Softbank.

Corporate governance specialists have questioned the Alibaba Partnership, which gives Ma and a group of executives more control over the company than shareholders.

Ma has said that Alibaba focuses on long-term development instead of responding to pressure from financial markets. AP

A pork meme shows why officials worry about soaring prices

CHINA'S pork prices are soaring so quickly that an internet meme has emerged suggesting the newest way to show off wealth: a necklace made of pork belly.

Inflation data released yesterday showed that pork prices surged 46.7% from a year earlier in August, almost 20 percentage points higher than in the previous month, as African swine fever ravaged China's hog herd and diminished supplies.

Aware that runaway prices could trigger public discontent, Chinese officials have taken a range of

measures from releasing pork reserves during the upcoming Mid-Autumn festival to encouraging farmers to turn to "fine pig sperm" from Northern Europe to bolster breeding. Nanning, capital of the southern Guangxi province, this month turned to rationing and price controls to calm its pork market.

"The increase in hog prices has led to other meat-price increases, and will increase vegetable prices after some time. The policy makers are worried that this will put pressure on the low income group who will be affected the most," said Iris

Pang, an economist at ING bank NV. "The leadership don't want the pork prices to affect the headline CPI too much" and create the impression that inflation is high, she said.

While pork is a staple in Chinese food, it plays a declining role in the basket of goods used to calculate the overall consumer price index, which was stable at 2.8% last month. China's statistics bureau does not publish the composition of the basket it uses to calculate CPI.

Read: China Factory Deflation Deepens, Consumer Price Gains Stabilize

While the country's top leaders have hardly commented on protests raging in Hong Kong, multiple high-ranking bureaucrats have addressed the pork crisis at home and assured citizens prices will be brought under control.

The nation's top economic planner on Monday issued a plan to boost hog production. Vice Premier Hu Chunhua has called the situation "much grimmer than we have been informed," and told officials to take immediate steps to increase supplies. Ning Jizhe, head of the National Statistics Bureau said last

week that China will increase the supply of agricultural products of pork, fruits and vegetables to stabilize overall prices.

China has also approved imports from 25 plants in Brazil to boost supplies and urged banks to provide more funding support to hog farmers. The provinces of Zhejiang and Jiangxi have earmarked funds to subsidize pig warehouses.

The government said after yesterday's inflation data that it will hold a press conference at 4 p.m. on Wednesday on "stabilizing hog production and ensuring

market supply." Speakers will include a deputy agriculture minister as well as officials from the National Development and Reform Commission and Ministry of Finance.

The country needs to undertake "unconventional" measures to tackle soaring pig prices, China Academy of Social Sciences scholar Chen Ming wrote in a Beijing News commentary last week. His suggestions included distributing subsidy coupons to poorer citizens and encouraging the public to consume other meats or fish instead of pork. **BLOOMBERG**

TERRY SPENCER,
FORT LAUDERDALE

ACCUSED MAR-A-LAGO TRESPASSER PROCLAIMS INNOCENCE; THANKS US

A Chinese businesswoman defending herself on charges that she trespassed at President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago club and lied to Secret Service agents gave one of the shortest opening statements in legal history Monday, proclaiming her innocence and appreciation for the country that may put her in prison.

After a federal prosecutor gave a 20-minute opening statement laying out Yujing Zhang's alleged lies that gained her access to the president's Palm Beach resort on March 30 and her suspicious activities during her brief presence on the grounds, Zhang stood at the defense table for 20 seconds and addressed the 10 women and two men.

"I don't believe I did anything wrong and that's what I want to say. USA, thank you," Zhang said in another unusual turn in an unusual case. She faces up to six years in prison if convicted.

Prosecutor Michael Sherwin, on the other hand, said evidence and testimony will show that Zhang's story to club employees and agents contained one lie after another as it evolved. First, the 33-year-old Shanghai consultant told a Secret Service agent outside the resort that she was there to visit the pool and didn't answer when an employee asked if she was the daughter of a member, he said.

The confusion over who she might be got her past two lines of security and into a reception area, where she surreptitiously took photos and video and told an employee first that she was there for a United Nations friendship meeting that didn't exist, and then that she was there for a dinner, Sherwin said. When confronted by Secret Service, she dashed into a restroom where an employee saw her frantically texting, he said. He said she then told agents she was there to meet with the president and his daughter, Ivanka Trump, about China-U.S. trade. The president and his family were staying at Mar-a-Lago that weekend, but he was at his nearby golf club when

AP PHOTO



Zhang arrived.

Sherwin said Zhang spoke English well during her interaction with employees and agents, and was "calm, cool and collected."

"She wasn't nervous or rattled at all," Sherwin said an employee would testify. "She was extremely stoic."

Zhang's insistence on being her own attorney has frustrated District Judge Roy Altman. On Monday, jury selection had to be delayed as she came into court dressed in her brown jail clothes. Most defendants wear civilian clothes so the jury won't be prejudiced against them. Zhang said she had not put on the clothes she had been provided because the jail had not given her any underwear. After some discussion of over which agency was responsible, she re-

tired to a holding cell and donned a copper blouse and khaki pants.

Altman tried repeatedly Monday to change Zhang's mind about representing herself as he has done during every hearing since she fired her public defenders in June. When he demanded that she answer yes or no if she wanted to use her attorneys, who are in court on standby, she went into a long monologue in Mandarin. Altman cut her off before it could be translated, and she said she didn't want them.

He spoke to Zhang sternly after she told him "I don't know why I am here" and said she wasn't prepared because she said she thought the trial had been canceled.

"You know precisely why you are here," Altman told her. He has repeatedly accused her at previous

hearings of "playing games."

Zhang primarily used a translator Monday, but at one point told Altman she hadn't spoken Mandarin in months and was having a hard time following along.

"You speak Chinese — you are from China," Altman replied.

But her refusal to use an attorney might have harmed her case Monday. Prosecutors called Willy Isidore, a Palm Beach limo driver, who spent 20 minutes describing how he drove an Asian woman who was acting suspiciously to Mar-a-Lago's security checkpoint the night before Zhang's arrest.

When asked by prosecutor Rolando Garcia if he could identify the woman, however, he said he wasn't sure. An experienced defense attorney would have challenged Isidore and asked Altman to strike

his testimony as unreliable, but Zhang said she had no questions.

Prosecutors have filed under seal secret evidence that they say has national security implications, even though Zhang is not charged with espionage. The Secret Service said when agents detained Zhang at Mar-a-Lago she was carrying a computer, a hard drive, four cell-phones and a thumb drive containing malware, although agents later recanted the accusation about the malware.

Agents said Zhang told them she brought the electronics to Mar-a-Lago because she feared they would be stolen if left at her nearby hotel, but in her room they allegedly found a device to detect hidden cameras, computers, \$8,000 in cash, and credit and debit cards. AP

Ambassador to South Africa attacks Trump over trade

ANTONY SGUAZZIN

LIN Songtian, China's Ambassador to South Africa, took out a half-page advertisement in a key local newspaper to attack the stance of the U.S. and President Donald Trump on global trade.

In a paid-for editorial in Business Day, South Africa's biggest financial newspaper, Lin said bullying by the U.S. will drive the wor-

ld into a "severe recession" and accused Trump of capriciousness.

"The Chinese culture emphasizes that 'gentlemen keep their words.' Honoring the promises and commitments is the basic ethical code and requirement for state leaders and businessmen," he said in the advert titled 'Voice of China.' His comments were also published in the Star newspaper.

"The president of the U.S. runs his country according to his own will, dictates the world through Twitter and changes his position overnight," Lin said.

The column, part of a drive by Beijing to have its ambassadors speak out globally, reflects the deteriorating relationship between the world's two biggest economies. The Chinese Communist Party's flagship newspaper yesterday ac-

cusced Trump adviser Peter Navarro of lying. A day earlier, Ted McKinney, the U.S. Agriculture Department's top trade official, called Chinese President Xi Jinping a "communist zealot."

For more on McKinney's comments click here

The U.S. embassy in South Africa declined to comment.

Tit-for-tat import tariffs imposed by the U.S. and China are roiling world

markets and upending global trade patterns.

"The U.S. insisting on escalating the trade frictions with China will harm the common interests of all people around the world and no one can escape," Lin said. "The U.S. clings to the winner takes all law of the jungle."

Actions by the U.S. are harming its own economy as China's technological companies will need to es-

tablish new supply chains and its agricultural goods importers are already finding other sources of crops such as soybeans, he said. Trump is damaging his reputation and that of his country, he added.

"Even God doesn't know what he will do tomorrow," Lin said. "Such a U.S. model of democracy has become the laughing stock of all people around the world."

BLOOMBERG



North Korea fires two projectiles after offering talks with US

HYUNG-JIN KIM, SEOUL

NORTH Korea launched two projectiles toward the sea yesterday, South Korea's military said, hours after the North offered to resume nuclear diplomacy with the United States but warned its dealings with Washington may end without new U.S. proposals.

The launches and demand for new proposals were apparently aimed at pressuring the United States to make concessions when the North Korea-U.S. talks restart. North Korea is widely believed to want the United States to provide security guarantees and extensive relief from U.S.-led sanctions in return for limited denuclearization steps.

The North Korean projectiles fired from its South Phyongan province, which surrounds its capital city of Pyongyang, flew about 330 kilometers across the country and in the direction of the waters off its east coast, according to South

Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff and Defense Ministry.

The military said South Korea will monitor possible additional launches. The JCS didn't immediately say whether the weapons were ballistic missiles or rocket artillery. "More detailed analysis is needed to determine the exact specifications," JCS spokesman Kim Joon-rak said.

The launches were the eighth round of launches since late July and the first since Aug. 24. The previous seven launches have revealed short-range missile and rocket artillery systems that experts say would potentially expand its capabilities to strike targets throughout South Korea, including U.S. military bases.

On Monday night, the North's first vice foreign minister, Choe Son Hui, said North Korea is willing to resume nuclear diplomacy in late September but that Washington must come to the

negotiating table with acceptable new proposals. She said if the proposals don't satisfy North Korea, dealings between the two countries may end.

President Donald Trump called North Korea's announcement "interesting."

"We'll see what happens," Trump said. "In the meantime,

we have our hostages back, we're getting the remains of our great heroes back and we've had no nuclear testing for a long time."

The White House said it was aware of the new reports of projectiles being launched from North Korea and was continuing to monitor the situation and consulting with its allies in the region.

South Korea's presidential office said national security adviser Chung Eui-yong presided over an emergency National Security Council meeting where officials expressed "strong concern" over the continuing short-range launches by the North.

Japan's defense ministry said the projectiles did not land in Japan's territorial waters or its exclusive economic zone and there was no indication the launches posed a direct threat to Japan's security. "We believe North Korea is upgrading its [missile] technology by repeatedly firing missiles," said Japanese Defense Minister Takeshi Iwaya. "We consider this a serious problem and will continue to monitor the development, while ensuring the functioning of warning and surveillance activity."

The launches were the eighth round of launches since late July and the first since August 24

In the late-night statement carried by state media, Choe said North Korea is willing to sit down with the United States "for comprehensive discussions in late September of the issues we have so far taken up, at a time and place to be agreed."

Choe said she hopes the United States will bring "a proposal geared to the interests of the DPRK and the U.S. and based on decision methods acceptable to us." DPRK stands for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the North's official name.

She warned that "if the U.S. side fingers again the worn-out scenario which has nothing to do with new decision methods at the DPRK-U.S. working negotiation to be held with so much effort, the DPRK-U.S. dealings may come to an end."

Kim Dong-yub, an analyst at Seoul's Institute for Far Eastern Studies, said the North likely tested one of the new weapons systems it demonstrated in July and August. They include a mobile short-range ballistic missile system that experts say resembled an enlarged version of the U.S. Army Tactical Missile System and a "super-large" multiple rocket system the North tested on Aug. 24.

Kim said the North was apparently trying to increase its bargaining power by pairing its dialogue offer with short-range launches, sending a message to Trump that it could potentially tests bigger weapons if the United States refuses to make major concessions.

Talks on North Korea's nuclear disarmament fell apart in February when Trump rejected North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's demand for sweeping sanctions relief in return for partial disarmament at their second summit in Vietnam.

It was a huge embarrassment for the young North Korean leader, who made a dayslong train trip to the Vietnamese capital to obtain the sanctions relief he needs to revitalize his country's troubled economy.

In April, Kim said he was open to another summit with Trump but set the end of the year as a deadline for the U.S. to offer improved terms for an agreement to revive the nuclear diplomacy.

Kim and Trump met again at the Korean border in late June and agreed to restart diplomacy, but there have no public meetings between the sides since then. **AP**

THAILAND

Cabinet minister denies drug conviction report

A Thai Cabinet deputy minister says an Australian newspaper report that he was imprisoned there for four years on a drug smug-

gling conviction was concocted by his political enemies, and he has no plans to resign.

Deputy Agriculture Mi-

nister Thammanat Prom-pao was responding yesterday to a report by the Sydney Morning Herald that he was arrested in 1993 and convicted

of conspiracy to import heroin, based on court records and interviews.

Rumors of Thammanat's arrest circulated in July

before he was sworn into his post in Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha's government. He said then that he had been innocently caught

up in a police raid, was held in jail for eight months on a minor charge, and then spent four years as a free man in Australia. **AP**

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

HURRICANE SURVIVORS STRUGGLE TO START NEW LIFE IN BAHAMAS

DÁNICA COTO, NASSAU

THOUSANDS of hurricane survivors are filing off boats and planes in the capital of the Bahamas, facing the need to start new lives after Hurricane Dorian but with little ideas on how or where to begin.

Some sat in hotel lobbies as they debated their next steps. Others were bused to shelters jammed to capacity. Some got rides from friends or family who offered a temporary place to stay on New Providence island, which has never seen so many people arrive on its shores in recent history.

Most of the nearly 400,000 people in the Bahamas live on New Providence, which includes the capital, Nassau.

Carla Ferguson, a 51-year-old resident of Treasure Cay, walked out of a small airport in Nassau with her daughter and other relatives late Monday afternoon and looked around as the sun set.

"We don't know where we're going to stay," she said. "We don't know."

Ferguson and her family had one large duffel bag and three plastic storage boxes, most of them stuffed with donated clothes they received before leaving



their tiny, devastated island.

"No one deserves to go through this," said her daughter, 30-year-old Dimple Lightbourne, blinking away tears.

The government has estimated that up to 10,000 people from the Abaco islands alone, including Treasure Cay, will need food, water and temporary housing as officials consider setting up tent or container cities while they clear the country's ravaged northern region of debris so people can

eventually return.

Getting back to Abaco is the dream of Betty Edmond, a 43-year-old cook who picked at some fries Monday night while with her son and husband in a restaurant at a Nassau hotel, where her nephew is paying for their stay.

They arrived in Nassau on Saturday night after a six-hour boat trip from Abaco and plan to fly to South Florida on Wednesday, thanks to plane tickets bought by

friends who will provide them a temporary home until they can find jobs. But the goal is to return, Edmond said.

"Home will always be home," she said. "Every day you wish you could go back."

"You try to keep your hopes up, but ...," she added, her voice trailing off as she shook her head.

The upheaval, however, was exciting to her 8-year-old son, Kayden Monestime, who said he was looking forward to going to

a mall, McDonald's and Foot Locker.

Instead of starting school Monday, as had been scheduled before the Category 5 storm hit, Monestime spent the day accompanying his parents to the bank and a shelter as they prepared for the move to the U.S.

Also flying to Florida was 41-year-old Shaneka Russell, who owned Smacky's Takeaway, a takeout restaurant known for its cracked conch that opened in 2005 and was named after the noises her son made as a baby. Russell's mother once ran the place, which was destroyed by Dorian.

On Monday, she sat in a white plastic chair under a white plastic tarp as she waited for her 13-year-old son to arrive from Abaco.

Russell said good Samaritans had taken her and a group of people into their home over the weekend and found them a hotel room in Nassau for a couple of days.

"To know that we were going to a hotel, with electricity and air conditioning and a proper shower, I cried," she said. "I've never been through anything like this in my life."

Dorian slammed into Great Abaco and Grand Bahama islands a week ago as one of the strongest Atlantic hurricanes ever. Caribbean emergency officials say at least 45 people died, and searchers expect to find more victims. AP

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curso . course
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iniciação . beginners
≥ 18 anos/years old

monitora/monitor:
Maria João Nunes

horário/schedule:
Sextas/Fridays
18h30 - 20h30

início/starts: 13/09/2019
propina/fee: MOP 540 *

fim/finishes: 08/11/2019
total: 18 horas/hours
09 sessões/sessions

patrocínio/sponsor: Fundação Macau

língua/language: Português e Inglês/Portuguese and English **

local/venue:
Avenida do Dr. Francisco Vieira Machado nº431 - 487 Edf. Industrial Nam Fung 13º andar D, sala 1, Macau

número máximo de participantes/maximum number of participants:
8 (Será respeitada a ordem de inscrição sendo esta efetiva mediante o pagamento de propina).
8 (The registration order will be respected and registration is considered when payment is done).

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** Aulas com tradução em Cantonense sempre que o número de alunos o justifique.
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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Irishman set to lead EU future trade talks with UK, US

LORNE COOK & SAM PETREQUIN, BRUSSELS

THE incoming president of the European Union's powerful executive arm yesterday nominated Irishman Phil Hogan to lead future EU trade talks, which could put him in charge of negotiations with Britain after Brexit.

Hogan, whose country is set to be hit hard economically by Brexit, would also lead talks with the United States at a time of deep trans-Atlantic trade tensions. His name was among 25 new commissioners set to take up their posts in November.

Margrethe Vestager, who has angered the Trump administration by imposing hefty anti-trust fines on big U.S. tech firms, is set to retain her job as competition chief. And in what appears to be a major concession to debt-burdened Italy, former prime minister Paolo Gentiloni was offered the job of economy commissioner.



Praising Hogan as "a hard and a fair negotiator," European Commission president-elect Ursula von der Leyen said that "the trade commissioner, who will have to deal with the future trade agreement we will be negotiating [with Britain], is an excellent choice."

The commission — a massive European bureaucracy headquartered in Brussels with some 33,000 staff — proposes EU legislation and ensures that the rules

are enforced.

It also negotiates trade agreements with other countries on behalf of the 28 EU member countries. Once Britain leaves — Brexit is currently scheduled for Oct. 31 — London would face the long and arduous task of drawing up new trade relations with its European partners.

Hogan will join forces with former Brexit deputy negotiator Sabine Weyand, who was in June

appointed head of the commission's trade directorate.

Hogan, who is currently serving as agriculture commissioner, said via Twitter that he was "very pleased" with the nomination. "This is undoubtedly one of the most important economic portfolios" at the commission and "the appointment comes at a very important time for the European Union."

In a tweet, Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar said the move "is a very positive development for Ireland. We sought a major economic brief in the new European Commission, and I am very satisfied that we have secured it."

Von der Leyen's new team is due in office on Nov. 1, once the members have been vetted by the European Parliament.

Hogan comes to the trade portfolio amid great tensions not only over Brexit but also with the United States over President Donald Trump's decision to impose tariffs on the Europeans, among

other countries.

Trump administration officials have accused the European commission of dragging its feet in talks on a new, limited, trade agreement. But the EU team, led by Cecilia Malmstrom, insists the ball is in the U.S. court.

Von der Leyen, a former German defense minister whose appointment as president was praised last week by the U.S. envoy to Brussels, sought to ease any tensions.

"I think we always should keep in mind that if we start tit-for-tat behavior, whatever our concerns, others will have the benefit of it; neither the United States nor the European Union. It's always smart to sit down and talk about these topics, to see what is in our both common interest," she said.

Trump has also been angered by the EU's aggressive moves to crack down on market abuse by major companies, particularly U.S. tech companies, which have led to billions of dollars in fines on the likes of Google and Microsoft. But not only does current competition commissioner, Vestager, retain her portfolio — she receives extra clout in a promotion that would see her become a commission Executive Vice-President. **AP**

AD

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what's ON



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

MANDARIN'S HOUSE

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

ADDRESS: No. 10, Travessa de António da Silva

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8820

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

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

UNTIL: September 22, 2019

VENUE: Tap Seac Gallery

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

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

Offbeat

SWEDEN REJECTS TRUMP VANITY LICENSE PLATE REQUEST

Swedish authorities say that a man has been denied a vanity plate with the letters TRUMP because it violated motor vehicle department rules, calling the letter combination "offensive."

The Aftonbladet tabloid, one of Sweden's largest newspapers, reported Saturday that the man said he "was drunk and thought it was fun to apply" online for a new license plate with U.S. President Donald Trump's last name "because the car is American."

The Swedish Transport Agency confirmed its ruling to The Associated Press yesterday [Macau time], saying it doesn't approve letter combinations referring to politics. It informed Marcus Saaf, who made the request, that its ruling couldn't be appealed.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Agua de Mar
15:30	Zig Zag
16:00	Viajante da Música
16:30	Quem Quer Ser Milionário
17:25	A Minha Tese
17:50	Amor Maior (Repetição)
18:35	Outras Histórias
19:30	Ouro Verde Sr.1
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Tesouro Pirata nas Caraíbas Sr.1
21:40	Network Negócios
22:25	Amor Maior
23:15	TDM News
23:50	O Último Reino Sr.1
00:40	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:25	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



2001 US ROCKED BY DAY OF TERROR

The United States is in a state of shock after a day of attacks which have left thousands dead and New York's World Trade Center destroyed.

The Pentagon was also severely damaged by one of the three civilian airliners which hijackers turned into flying bombs. A fourth plane crashed in a field near Pittsburgh.

A state of emergency has been declared in Washington D.C. and the US has closed its airspace and its borders with Mexico and Canada.

American forces are on one of their highest states of alert and the Pentagon has deployed a naval battle group off the country's east coast to bolster air defences.

American Airlines Flight 11 was hijacked at 0825 Eastern Daylight Time (1225 GMT) and 18 minutes later crashed into the north tower of the World Trade Center. United Airlines Flight 77 - which had been hijacked within minutes of the first plane - was flown into the south tower at 0903 EDT (1303 GMT) causing another devastating explosion.

The second crash was captured live on news cameras trained on the burning north tower.

At 0940 EDT (1340 GMT) a third hijacked airliner - American Airlines Flight 77 - was flown into the side of the Pentagon in Washington.

An hour after the Boeing 767 slammed into the south tower of the World Trade Center the 110-storey building collapsed.

The north tower followed minutes later, compounding the destruction and loss of life.

Witnesses reported seeing people jumping from the towers just before they collapsed.

Nuclear bunker

President Bush was reading to pupils at a Florida school when his chief of staff whispered news of the attacks to him.

He was flown to the US Strategic Command Centre at Nebraska - where the country's nuclear weapons are controlled - but is now on his way back to Washington.

He is expected to address the nation later this evening.

New York mayor Rudy Giuliani said the final number of dead may be "more than any of us can bear".

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The final number of people killed in the suicide attacks on 11 September was about 3,000.

It took almost nine months to clear the millions of tons of rubble at "Ground Zero" where the World Trade Center had stood.

The biggest criminal investigation in history quickly identified the hijackers, and linked them to al-Qaeda - the Islamic militant group set up by Osama Bin Laden.

President Bush declared a worldwide war on terror, and on 8 October the United States and Britain hit targets in Afghanistan, where Bin Laden was believed to be hiding.

The regime in Afghanistan fell quickly in the face of American military might, but Osama Bin Laden remained at large for years.

President Bush extended his global campaign against terror to Iraq in March 2003, when a coalition dominated by US and UK forces invaded.

In April 2011, President Obama ordered a covert operation to kill or capture bin Laden. On May 2, 2011, the White House announced that U.S. Navy SEALs had successfully carried out the operation, killing him in his Abbottabad compound in Pakistan.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

It always pays to plan ahead - an upcoming journey or event will be much more enjoyable if you take a little bit of time to make sure you know where you're going...



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Try not to act surprised when you receive some positive feedback from an unlikely source today. People in power have been noticing you in a new light.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Working with other people will be very interesting and stimulating for you today - you'll be exposed to more than one new point of view regarding a topic you thought was old-hat.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

If you are working closely with someone else or are moving closer, emotionally, to a friend, be mindful that the two of you will not always be on the exact same wavelength.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Your self-esteem could be a tricky thing to negotiate right now. As you build it, you could have a hard time balancing a healthy sense of pride with an appropriate level of humility.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Give concrete examples of where they fell short - and don't forget to let them know the ways that they blew you out of the water! Be sure that you communicate to them how much you know they are capable of.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Sometimes, it's easier to have fun when you are not trying so hard to have fun. In other words: Relax! If you're bored, don't put too much effort into planning something that will entertain you.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

This is a new era of freedom in your life, so embrace it and let the chips fall where they may. Spending too much time trying to prevent problems is keeping you from being able to appreciate the beauty of accidents.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You will be asked to get involved with several different groups of people today - accept each and every opportunity. You could end up being the crucial voice of reason in each of them!



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Change is usually a good thing in your life - it's smart to mix things up and keep yourself on your toes! But today, be very careful that you do not veer too far from your usual routine.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Today, your high energy will be useful in helping a poorly-positioned friend. Just by being around you, this person will get a new lease on life and start seeing things a lot more positively.

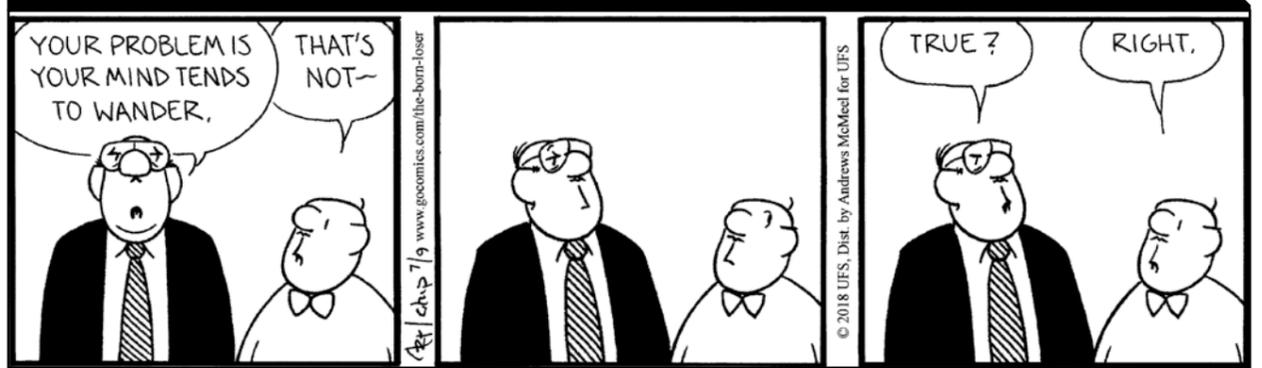


PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Are you getting caught up in someone else's dreams or life goals? To make sure you're not losing sight of what you want out of life, do something today that is just for your own benefit.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	18	24	cloudy
Harbin	9	21	clear
Tianjin	21	26	cloudy
Urumqi	10	17	cloudy
Xi'an	21	23	drizzle
Lhasa	12	23	overcast
Chengdu	22	28	shower
Chongqing	26	35	cloudy
Kunming	18	24	shower
Nanjing	24	32	cloudy
Shanghai	25	32	overcast
Wuhan	25	36	clear
Hangzhou	23	34	cloudy
Taipei	25	31	clear
Guangzhou	27	35	cloudy
Hong Kong	28	32	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	12	24	drizzle
Frankfurt	8	19	clear
Paris	10	20	cloudy
London	10	18	drizzle
New York	18	24	clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Take-charge type; 5- Musical endings; 10- Perlman of "Cheers"; 14- Ms. Adams; 15- Get up; 16- Greasy spoon sign; 17- Give temporarily; 18- Deli offerings; 19- It's drawn in a lavatory; 20- Understanding words; 21- Courtesy; 23- Affirmative reply; 25- Actor Stephen; 26- Being within; 31- Lock; 35- Formerly; 36- ___ Grows in Brooklyn; 38- Babble; 40- "Pirates of the Caribbean" star; 42- Some bridge players; 44- Restaurateur Toots; 45- "Awake and Sing!" playwright; 47- Water lily; 49- Cyclotron bit; 50- A long time; 52- Doesn't need dry cleaning; 54- Early hrs.; 56- Apiece; 57- Indict; 62- Not imaginary; 66- Clipper feature; 67- Actress Sophia; 68- Or ___; 69- Long in the tooth; 70- Forum wear; 71- London district; 72- Strike out; 73- Cubic meter; 74- Evens the score;

DOWN: 1- Supermarket section; 2- Praiseful poems; 3- German article; 4- Late-night flight; 5- Suitable place for setting a tent; 6- Twistable cookie; 7- Clock face; 8- Moving about; 9- Sonnet part; 10- C.S.A. soldiers; 11- Lukas of "Witness"; 12- Novel ending?; 13- Blond shade; 22- Lawman Wyatt; 24- Memorable time; 26- ___ European; 27- Hard up; 28- Wigwag; 29- Kind of history; 30- Plant anew; 32- Hosp. areas; 33- Indian form of address; 34- Pub perch; 37- Singer James; 39- Sea eagle; 41- Mom-and-pop org.; 43- State of mental uncertainty; 46- Ladies of Sp.; 48- Cow or sow; 51- Separates metal from ore; 53- Collar; 55- Go swiftly; 57- Leaf of a book; 58- Cambodian currency; 59- Shoppe sign word; 60- Drive; 61- Rip; 63- "The Time Machine" race; 64- Connors contemporary; 65- 13 popes; 66- Disconsolate;

Yesterday's solution

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

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

AP PHOTO



TORONTO FILM FEST PAYS TRIBUTE TO STREEP, PHOENIX

IN a gala dinner held yesterday [Macau time] amid the Toronto International Film Festival's unspooling premieres, the festival paid tribute to Joaquin Phoenix, Meryl Streep, filmmaker Taika Waititi and cinematographer Roger Deakins.

With the city teaming with stars in town for the festival, TIFF this year added a star-studded fundraising dinner that coincided with some of its most anticipated premieres. Streep stopped by just as her financial industry satire "The Laundromat" was screening. Phoenix's "Joker" was simultaneously making its North American debut just blocks away.

Phoenix, who rushed up to the stage before Willem Dafoe had finished his introduction to the actor, said he had intended just to "make a bunch of tasteless jokes at my expense." But Phoenix said he

was moved by the clip reel of his films that played before his speech.

"When I was 15 or 16 my brother River (Phoenix) came home from work and he had a VHS copy of a movie called 'Raging Bull' and he sat me down and made me watch it," said Phoenix of his brother who died in 1993. "And the next day he woke me up, and he made me watch it again. And he said, 'You're going to start acting again, this is what you're going to do.'"

"He didn't ask me, he told me. And I am indebted to him for that because acting has given me such an incredible life," said Phoenix.

"Joker" arrived in Toronto fresh off its Golden Lion win Saturday at the Venice Film Festival. Earlier in the day, Phoenix visited painted wall murals advocating for veganism at a Toronto subway station.

AP PHOTO



PYER MOSS CELEBRATES BLACK CULTURE WITH FASHION AND MUSIC

THERE was a huge choir that veered from stirring, soaring gospel, then spit verses from Cardi B and sang lines from Queen Latifah's "U.N.I.T.Y.," a spoken word artist who reminded the audience that rock 'n' roll was born because of a black, queer woman; and a stunning collection of clothes that ran the gamut from casual chic to red carpet gowns, all modeled by black or brown faces.

"Sister," Pyer Moss' latest production for New York Fashion Week, was a brilliant, irreverent and joyous celebration of black culture, specifically black women — a show where even the color-

ful, eye-catching garments proved to be just part of the story its designer, Kerby Jean-Raymond, masterfully weaved together on Sunday night.

"The whole thing is really to recognize our worth, and us as black people, what we've contributed to what pop society is in America," Jean-Raymond told The Associated Press after his show ended a little before midnight. "What I aim to do is to make disenfranchised people, black people, with this series and minorities and women, know and understand how important they are to this thing called America right now."

AD



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MICHAEL MAROT,
INDIANAPOLIS

NASCAR

Drivers left out of playoffs still fighting to achieve goals

JIMMIE Johnson made one thing perfectly clear when he walked out of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway's infield medical center.

He might be out of the playoffs but his season is not over.

"I think everybody can see the performance is on its way up," Johnson said after a late crash ended his last-ditch hope of making the 16-car field. "Just keep drilling that and trying to get ourselves higher in points and then also back to victory lane."

It certainly would be a start.

Johnson hasn't won an official Cup race since June 2017 at Dover, one of the primary reasons he must wait until 2020 to resume the chase for a record-breaking eighth series title. He has finished outside the top 15 in seven of the last eight races and in the 30s four times during the same span.

Of course, Johnson can always use more time getting acclimated to his second crew chief of the season, Cliff Daniels.

Still, that doesn't make it any easier to accept the results for Johnson — or anyone else left out.

"It wasn't for a lack of effort," Daniel Suarez said. "We just didn't have things play in our way. In the last pit stop cycle, the caution came out after we pitted (or) one lap after, and that was important. That was not a position that we wanted to be in."

Suarez started Sunday even with Ryan Newman in points and holding the tiebreaker. Things went wrong quickly.

Suarez's first big hit came when the No. 41 Ford brushed the wall, forcing him to pit just 12 laps into the Brickyard 400. He spent the rest of the race trying to work his way back up even when he thought others, such as Matt Tifft, got in his way. Tifft was knocked out

AP PHOTO



NASCAR driver Jimmie Johnson (48) is hit by Parker Kligerman (96) in the second turn during the NASCAR Brickyard 400 auto race at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway

of the race with 13 laps to go after hitting the wall in the first turn.

Suarez contended Tifft, whose postseason fate was sealed long before the Brickyard, blocked his faster car for at least four laps before the crash — costing him an opportunity to pick up precious spots and points.

The result: Suarez finished four points short of becoming the first Mexico-born driver to make the playoff field. Teammate Clint Bowyer clinched the No. 15 qualifying spot. Bowyer and Suarez race for Stewart-Haas Racing, and Suarez, like Johnson, still wants to win.

"We're still racing," Suarez said. "I feel like as a team we have to keep getting better. Yeah, we're not in the playoffs, but we have plenty of things to (clean) up. If we can win a race that would be like making the playoffs or even better."

Then there's Bubba Wallace, who flirted with the win. His only previous career top-five finish came in the 2018 Daytona 500 when he wound up second to Austin Dillon. Wallace's best finish this season had come at Bristol last month when he was 14th and well out of playoff contention.

Somehow, as the laps piled up, Wallace continued to move up. He finished a distant third behind race winner Kevin Harvick and runner-up Joey Logano, allowing Newman to take the final playoff spot.

Unlike Johnson and Suarez, the 25-year-old Wallace was beaming with pride.

"It's a confidence booster, a mentality booster, knowing we can run with these guys when all is on the line," Wallace said. "We needed this. We needed this weekend."

And now Wallace, Johnson, Suarez and all the other drivers

who failed to make the playoff will now adjust their championship plans and focus on building momentum that could put them back in playoff position next year.

"It's pretty impressive the run we've been on, to be in the playoffs for many consecutive years. I'm not sure who is close," Johnson said. "Sure, we wanted to continue it, but the goal is to win a race. The team is getting stronger each and every week. Cliff Daniels is doing an amazing job. We're ready to roll. We'll dust ourselves off and go to Vegas and try to get a trophy." AP

FORMULA 1

Report: Schumacher treated in secrecy in Paris hospital

SEVEN-TIME Formula One champion Michael Schumacher has been admitted to a Paris hospital to be treated yesterday with cutting-edge stem-cell therapy, according to a French newspaper.

The Paris hospitals authority, citing France's strict medical privacy rules, said it could not comment on the report in Le Parisien that Schumacher was admitted under tight guard yesterday to the Georges-Pompidou hospital for transfusions of inflammation-

-reducing stem cells.

The newspaper said the 50-year-old German, who suffered a near-fatal brain injury in a 2013 skiing accident in the French Alps, was expected to be discharged today.

His long-time manager, Sabine Kehm, had no comment.

Following the accident, Schumacher's condition stabilized after he was placed in a drug-induced coma, from which he later emerged. Since September 2014, he has been cared for at home on the shores of Lake Geneva.

Le Parisien, citing sources it did not name, said Schumacher has been treated at least twice previously at the Georges-Pompidou hospital, admitted each time under a false name and treated by a small medical team.

Le Parisien published a photo of a yellow and blue ambulance with Geneva plates that it said drove Schumacher to the hospital on Monday afternoon. Inside, he was taken to a first-floor cardiovascular unit on a gurney with a dark-blue covering that hid his face and body.

The paper said about 10 security agents, some equipped with earphones, watched over the patient.

Schumacher's family fiercely protects his privacy. Thick forest around his castle-like home and high surrounding walls provide sanctuary from fan and media intrusion.

Schumacher won a record 91 Formula One races before retiring in 2012. He was skiing with his son Mick — who now races in F2 — when he fell on Dec. 29, 2013.

He hit the right side of

AP PHOTO



The Georges-Pompidou hospital in Paris

his head on a rock, splitting open his helmet. Doctors worked frantically to remove blood clots from his brain, but some were left because they were too deeply embedded. AP

OPINION

World Views

Noah Feldman, Bloomberg

THE RULE OF LAW
FINALLY PREVAILS OVER
US 'WATCH LIST'

In an important constitutional decision, a federal district court in Virginia has held that the government must give people on the Terrorist Screening Database, better known as the "watch list," the opportunity to challenge the evidence that put them there.

History will someday find it astonishing and outrageous that it took 18 years after the Sept. 11 attacks to restore this kind of procedural protection of people's right to travel unmolested. Yet, late as it is, the decision also demonstrates that careful constitutional reasoning can reach common-sense conclusions — and make the government comply.

The watch list — or, in official government parlance, TSDB — is not the same thing as the no-fly list. In fact, the no-fly list is a subset of the watch list.

If you are on the watch list but not the no-fly list, you aren't banned from getting on an airplane. But you can be subject to a whole range of invasive procedures when you try to travel inside the U.S. or across the border.

The 23 plaintiffs in the case reported being regularly arrested, strip-searched, handcuffed and interrogated for hours at the border, as well as having their electronics and those of their family members and traveling companions opened and searched. They also reported long delays and interrogation before getting on airplanes, even if they were ultimately allowed to travel.

Back in 2015, the same federal court in Virginia held that if you are on the no-fly list, the Department of Homeland Security must inform you of that fact, and give you the chance to provide evidence that you shouldn't be. If DHS decides to keep you on the no-fly list anyway, the court held that it must provide you with an unclassified list of reasons, and the final decision is subject to judicial review.

The current case addressed the issue of whether and how you can challenge inclusion on the watch list. Until the court's ruling, DHS has always taken the position that it never needs to tell you if you're on the list, let alone give you any opportunity to show why you shouldn't be on it, or any indication of why you were included.

The watch list represents government bureaucracy at its most secretive and unresponsive. It's about as un-American as a government procedure can be — except that it has been standard operating procedure for years now.

In responding to the plaintiffs' arguments that they should be given notice if they are on the list and an opportunity to challenge their inclusion, the government argued it didn't need to do any of those things. And it claimed that the plaintiffs didn't even have standing to bring the case to court, because they had not been injured by the delays in their travel or by their detentions or interrogations.

In essence, the court held that the Kafkaesque situation faced by people on the watch list must end. If it follows the guidelines it set in the no-fly list case, the court will likely require the government to admit to people that they are on the watch list if they challenge their status. The court is also likely to require the government to consider people's reasons to be taken off the list, and to provide some explanation if they are not. Judicial review of the decision would ensure that the final decision-maker isn't the executive branch, but an independent court.

All these details may seem trivial. They aren't. The constitutional right to due process of law is built out of painstaking procedures that give ordinary people notice of what the government is doing to them and the opportunity to be heard by a neutral decision-maker. The details, in other words, are at the heart of what it means to live under the rule of law.

[Abridged]

An Iranian female soccer fan has died after setting herself on fire outside a court after learning she may have to serve a six-month sentence for trying to enter a soccer stadium, a semi-official news agency reported yesterday.

The tragic death immediately drew an outcry among some soccer stars and known figures in Iran, where women are banned from soccer stadiums, though they are allowed at some other sports, such as volleyball.

The 30-year old woman, identified only as Sahar, died at

a Tehran hospital on Monday, according to the Shafaghna news agency. She was known as the "Blue Girl" on social media for the colors of her favorite Iranian soccer team, Esteghlal.

She set herself on fire last week, reportedly after learning she may have to go to prison for trying to enter a stadium in March to watch an Esteghlal match. She was pretending to be a man and wore a blue hairpiece and a long overcoat when the police stopped her.



FOR 9/11 FAMILIES,
MIXED VIEWS ON
TRUMP-TALIBAN TALKS

JENNIFER PELTZ & LARRY NEUMEISTER, NEW YORK

If President Donald Trump's now-canceled plan for secret talks with Afghanistan's Taliban insurgents on U.S. soil was stunning, the date chosen was perhaps even more so: days before the anniversary of 9/11, the reason for the war they were going to talk about ending.

Sept. 11 victims' relatives and first responders digested the news yesterday [Macau time] with mixed feelings. Several called the timing unfortunate but the idea of talks worthwhile, a potential path toward peace for Afghans and Americans weary of Washington's longest war.

"I don't want to see other families suffer the way I did. That's the bottom line. Not soldiers or innocent victims of terrorism," said Jim Riches, a retired New York deputy fire chief who responded to the terror 2001 attacks and lost his son, Jimmy, a fellow firefighter.

Rosaleen Tallon was angry — though not at the U.S.-Taliban negotiations. She sees the Afghan Islamic militants as "small fish" compared with the nation she feels hasn't been held sufficiently accountable for 9/11: Saudi Arabia.

"We're not really getting at 9/11. That makes my blood boil," said Tallon, who lost her brother, probationary firefighter Sean Tallon. Tallon wants U.S. troops

home, and she really wants the U.S. government to do more to probe allegations, which she and others have raised in a lawsuit, that Saudi government employees knowingly assisting the hijacking plot. Riyadh denies it.

"I don't want to see other families suffer the way I did."

SURVIVOR

Trump tweeted Saturday that he canceled an until-then-clandestine weekend meeting at Camp David with Taliban representatives and Afghanistan leaders. He said he changed his mind after a Taliban car bombing in Kabul on Thursday killed 12 people, including a U.S. service member.

Yesterday, the president declared that U.S. peace talks with the Taliban are "dead."

Word of the planned Camp David meeting was a surprise to Ellen Judd, who chairs the Afghanistan committee of the September Eleventh Families for Peaceful Tomorrows, which involves over 200 relatives.

"I think it would be great if the troops were withdrawn. While we certainly want that, there is so much more involved in the peace process," said Judd, who lost her partner, Christine Egan, in the attack on the World Trade Center.

Judd hopes the Afghan government — which has been largely sidelined from the

negotiations — and civilians will have a role in a broader peace process that would produce a durable cease-fire.

The U.S. went to war against Afghanistan's ruling Taliban a month after 9/11 for harboring al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a field in Pennsylvania.

More than 2,400 Americans have died in the nearly 18-year war. About 20,000 American and allied troops remain in Afghanistan, and the Taliban control or hold sway over nearly half the country.

The Taliban "are the people who are partially responsible for our loved ones dying and other Americans dying," Riches said, but "I'd like to see it end."

Days before 9/11 might not be the right time, Camp David might not be the right place, and a peace agreement with the Taliban might not be realistic, but "you have to talk to the enemy if you want it to stop," Riches said. "If you don't talk to them, it's just going to continue."

Lee Ielpi also thought the talks could have been better timed. A retired firefighter, he was at ground zero on 9/11 and lost his firefighter son, Jonathan, there. Still, Ielpi sees the president as a get-things-done leader and hopes he can eventually work out a deal — if it's a stringent one. AP



Afghanistan President Donald Trump's sudden halt to U.S.-Taliban talks looks like a gift to the beleaguered Afghan president, who has insisted on holding a key election in less than three weeks' time despite widespread expectations that a peace deal would push it aside. Now, with an agreement to end America's longest war on hold, Afghanistan suddenly faces a presidential vote amid warnings that it's not ready — and the threat of even more violence.



Greece's prime minister says Turkey "continues to provoke" in its approach towards the ethnically divided island nation of Cyprus and that Ankara is becoming isolated internationally.

EU The incoming president of the European Union's powerful executive arm yesterday nominated Irishman Phil Hogan to lead future EU trade talks, which could put him in charge of negotiations with Britain after Brexit. More on p15

Netherlands The Dutch government says it expects to stop extracting gas from a vast underground field in the country's north by mid-2022, ending decades of lucrative drilling.



Germany An interim leader of Germany's junior governing party is stepping down after being diagnosed with breast cancer.



UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has succeeded in his plan to suspend Britain's rebellious Parliament for five weeks, but he has achieved little else in his first prolonged jousting with legislators determined to prevent a no-deal Brexit.