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**A 63-YEAR-OLD WOMAN HAS DIED AFTER FALLING FROM THE ROOFTOP OF A HAC SA APARTMENT BUILDING**

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**THE HONG KONG STOCK EXCHANGE WANTS TO BUY ITS LONDON RIVAL IN A MOVE THAT COULD SHORE UP THE BRITISH CAPITAL POST-BREXIT**

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**Australia** The first Chinese-born lawmaker to be elected to Australia's Parliament has come under attack over her links to a Chinese foreign influence network. Gladys Liu, born in Hong Kong in 1964, come under media scrutiny recently over her membership in organizations overseen by the United Front Work Department.  
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**China** is launching a nationwide initiative to boost pork production following a price spike blamed on a devastating outbreak of African swine fever. The government will take steps to accelerate the revival of hog production, prevent and control African swine fever and upgrade farms to further ensure pork supply and stable prices.

**Japan** Prime Minister Shinzo Abe shuffled his Cabinet yesterday, adding two women and the son of a former leader to freshen his image but maintaining continuity on U.S.-oriented trade and security policies.  
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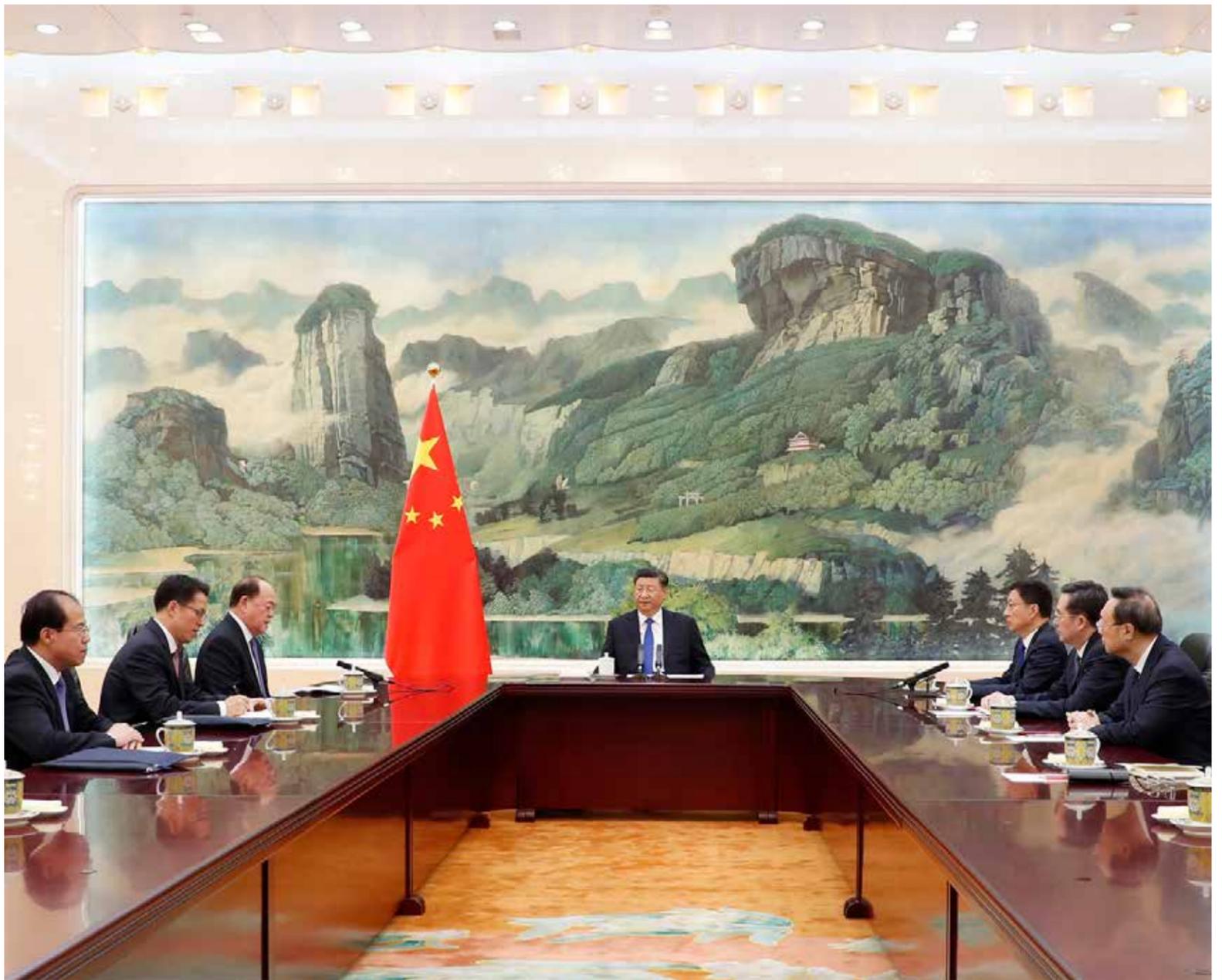


**Indonesia** Authorities shut most schools in parts of Sumatra island to protect children from a thick, noxious haze as deliberately set fires burned through peatland forests. The Disaster Mitigation Agency said more than 3,600 fires have been detected on Sumatra and Borneo islands.

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# AN OFFICIAL APPOINTMENT

**BEIJING CONFIRMS HO IAT SENG WILL BECOME MACAU'S NEXT LEADER** P2



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**MACAU TOUR GUIDE BUSINESS CRUMBLES AFTER HK DRAMA**

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ANTHONY LAM

# HO IAT SENG OFFICIALLY APPOINTED MACAU'S THIRD CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**CHIEF** Executive-elect Ho Iat Seng was officially recognized in Beijing as the Chief Executive of the Macau SAR for the fifth term of the job since its inception in 1999. He will become the third Chief Executive of Macau after taking office on December 20, the 20th anniversary of the SAR.

The core of the appointment ceremony yesterday was the handing by Premier Li Keqiang to Ho of the appointment certificate, which is legally known as the Decree No. 719 of the State Council of the People's Republic of China.

Following his appointment ceremony, a session was held in which President Xi Jinping received the Chief Executive-to-be. The president opened the session by stating the Central Government's approval in Ho's contributions in his work at the National People's Congress Standing Committee and the Macau SAR Legislative Assembly. He has since resigned from both posts, allowing him to become the next Chief Executive.

Xi pointed out that Ho had contributed significantly to the reform, opening-up, and modernization of the country, and the facilitation of prosperity and stability of the SAR. The president instructed Ho to carefully manage Macau as it enters its next chapter.

In between the appointment and the session with the president, the Chief Executive-elect was received by Li Keqiang. During the session, Li stressed that the appointment carries not only the Central Government's trust in Ho, but also "all Macau residents' hope for him."

Both Xi and Li encouraged the Chief Executive-elect to be brave, creative and unifying. They in-



Ho Iat Seng and Xi Jinping

structed Ho to seriously plan the strategy for Macau's future development.

In response, Ho emphasized that he understood the weight of the appointment, as it represents the hope placed in him by both the Central Government and the people of Macau. He will unyieldingly stand up to the 'One Country, Two Systems' principle and vigilantly abide by the Macau Basic Law in

his governance.

Meanwhile, incumbent Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, officially congratulated Ho yesterday on the occasion of his official appointment.

Chui issued a statement for the occasion. He started by commending Ho's contributions made during the latter's services in various positions at both regional and national levels. "Ho's com-

mitment and contributions to the country and the Macau SAR were widely recognized," Chui said, according to the statement.

Chui also congratulated Ho on obtaining 392 votes from a 400-strong election committee, securing the backing of 98% of the electorate. Chui sees this as a sign of the strong support offered by the public.

The current Chief Executive

expressed his belief in Ho and his team's ability to lead Macau into "an even more prosperous chapter of development."

The period between Ho's appointment and inauguration, according to Chui, is crucial in the seamless transition of administration. Therefore, the incumbent has instructed the current administration to provide all necessary support to Ho.

## Woman falls to her death from Hac Sa apartment building

RENATO MARQUES

**A** 63-year-old woman died this week after falling from the rooftop of the Hellene Garden apartment building in Hac Sa beach.

According to information provided by the Judiciary Police (PJ), the woman was a resident of the building, and after climbing onto the rooftop for unknown reasons was threatening to jump.

The PJ said that the authorities had been warned with an emergency call at 2:08 p.m. on September 9. A Fire Services team was deployed to address the situation.

The police representative told the Times that firemen arrived at 2:15 p.m. and spotted the woman standing on an air conditioner unit near the rooftop. They immediately started to prepare rescue equipment.

Although the team had members on the rooftop and members preparing equipment on the ground for the rescue, including an air cushion, a few minutes later, the woman fell from the upper floor and onto a lower floor terrace sustaining fatal injuries.

The woman's last moments and her fatal fall were captured on camera by at least one person from the building complex and shared on social media al-

most immediately.

According to local health authorities, in the first six months of this year, 29 suicides have been recorded, representing a 9.4% drop compared to the previous year.

According to the official figures, the number of suicides has increased from 72 in 2017 to 81 in 2018.

When the results from the first half of the year were released, the Health Bureau (SSM) stated that

the causes of suicide "are complex and often involve mental illness, psychological factors, socioeconomic factors, family factors, and human relationship factors as well as biological and genetic factors."

Early last month, the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, also addressed the suicide figures, noting that the significant growth in previous years was related to suicides committed by non-re-

sidents, citing 2017 as an example, where non-residents accounted for eight cases, while this figure rose to 20 in 2018.

At the same time, the SSM also noted that the number of requests for help and psychiatric appointments has also been growing significantly. This has led the SSM to hire eight new psychiatrists, raising the total number of psychiatrists operating in public hospitals to 17.

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DANIEL BEITLER



Sands China President and Chief Operating Officer Wilfred Wong

# Sands China's 'mature' mass market may keep its GGR stable

LYNZY VALLES

**T**HE gross gaming revenue (GGR) results for Sands China Ltd in the first half of the year were "satisfactory," with the company looking forward to a more stable result in the coming quarters, despite the SAR's economic recession.

Although the President and Chief Operating Officer of the gaming operator, Wilfred Wong, admitted that the company would not be exempt from the greater economic recession in general, the executive emphasized that it would benefit from the company's "mature mass market."

"We can see that the influence of the China-U.S. trade negotiations and the Hong Kong situa-

tion [have had a] certain impact on visitation," said Wong on the sidelines of the Sands China Academy Graduation.

"But I think now, in our company structure, we have developed quite a mature mass market, whereas the VIP segment has always traditionally been a small factor in our business. So we look forward to a more stable result in the coming quarters."

In April, brokerage Sanford C. Bernstein predicted that Sands China would likely remain the largest gaming operator in the city's mass-market segment and a non-gaming leader in the next five-plus years.

In the second quarter of this year, the casino operator's total net revenues increased by 1.4% to \$2.14 billion and the Adjusted

Property EBITDA increased by 2% to \$765 million, through its solid mass market performance.

Wong shared his belief that although the economic recession is set to continue, visitor arrivals will pick up in the upcoming months due to holidays and celebrations in the SAR.

The company's stability is due to its "unique structure where it pays a lot of attention and emphasis on the development of the mass market."

"Hopefully with that and with our unique mass market segment, we can pick up more business," said the president.

On Tuesday, MGM China CEO Grant Bowie told the media that he was confident local companies are better prepared to face economic recession today than they

were in 2014.

"This time we're actually prepared and all the companies are in a better position to address those issues," said Bowie, adding that he had no doubt that the SAR will "get through these challenges."

Questioned as to whether he thinks that Macau is more resilient to economic recession compared to when the city's GGR plunged back in 2014, Wong said yesterday, "I think the Macau tourism industry is more diversified now. [...] In this way, this is a good situation to be in."

"Whereas in 2014, the sudden spur was a result of the increase in the VIP activities. I think the way we are developing is towards a healthier structure for the gaming business."

## IC TO RENOVATE SENADO LIBRARY

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) will carry out renovations on the Senado Library located at the Municipal Affairs Bureau building opposite Senado Square, the IC announced yesterday. Work will begin on Monday, September 16 and is estimated to be completed by January 2020. The renovations include repainting the interior walls and replacing the power supply and air-conditioning system. During the renovations, the Senado Library will be temporarily closed to the public, the IC said.

## AMAX INT'L PROPOSES COMPANY NAME CHANGE

A former investor in the Greek Mythology Casino in Macau has proposed changing its company name to help refresh its corporate image. Amax International Holdings, which wrote off a 24.8% stake earlier this year in the controversial and closed Greek Mythology project, may change its name to Century Entertainment International Holdings Limited, the company said. "The Board considers the proposed new English and Chinese names of the Company will refresh the corporate image and identity of the Company and will more appropriately describe the vision of the Group," the company explained in a statement. The Greek Mythology Casino was ordered to close on December 31, 2015, under the order of Macau's Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau. It was housed in the Beijing Imperial Palace Hotel, which was subsequently closed by the Macau Government Tourism Office in July 2016.

## FAI CHI KEI PICKED FOR DEMENTIA CARE HOME

The head of the Social Affairs Bureau, Vong Yim Mui, has said that her bureau has picked Fai Chi Kei as the location for a seniors home for dementia patients, which will be the first of its kind in Macau. The facility will house approximately 100 people, and the bureau will aim to open it next year. Another facility in Taipa, which will house 144 people, will be ready this year. At the same time, subsidies for caretakers of the disadvantaged are expected by the end of this year. Consultation with stakeholders will be performed next year and it is expected that the policy will be implemented in the second half of next year.

# Mortgage loan approvals plunged in July

**N**EW residential mortgage loan (RML) approvals by local banks recorded a decrease of 21% month-to-month to MOP4.8 billion in July, according to statistics provided by the Monetary Authority of Macao.

New RMLs to residents, representing 98.6% of total RMLs, decreased by 21% to MOP4.7 billion, while non-resident RMLs

also fell, falling by 22.2% to MOP67.1 million.

The monthly average value of new RMLs approved between May and July 2019 was MOP4.9 billion, up by 17.8% from the previous period (April to June 2019).

New RMLs collateralized by uncompleted units (i.e. equitable mortgage) decreased month-to-month by 34% to

MOP306.6 million. On an annual basis, the new equitable mortgages approved dropped by 51.3%.

Meanwhile, commercial real estate loans (CRELs) fell by 33.3% month-to-month to MOP2.75 billion.

New CRELs to residents, which make up 98.8% of the total, dropped by 32.3% to MOP2.71 billion.

The new CRELs to non-residents also fell by 69.3% to MOP33.4 million. The monthly average of new CRELs approved between May and July 2019 was MOP4.8 billion, down by 12.3% as compared with the previous period (April to June 2019).

Furthermore, at end-July 2019, the outstanding value of RMLs was MOP225.6 billion, up by

0.6% from last month, or 12.3% from last year.

The resident component made up 93.2% of this figure.

The outstanding value of CRELs decreased by 4% month-to-month or 8.1% from last year to MOP183.6 billion, attributable to the repayment of several large loans. Residents accounted for 93.4% of the loans. LV



TOURISM

# THAILAND DELAYS VISITOR TAX CITING POSSIBLE DETERRENT EFFECT

DANIEL BEITLER

AS Macau continues to search for better ways to accommodate a record-breaking number of visitor arrivals this year, the government in Thailand has de-

ecided to delay a proposed tourism tax on foreigners. A similar measure has already been raised in Macau as one way to curb the fast-growing number of visitors. Thailand's Tourism and Sports Ministry said last week that

the proposed levy, designed to offset the costs of tourism-induced environmental damage, could result in psychological deterrence among foreign visitors and hurt the country's tourism sector.

"We do not want to implement the levy this year, as it could worsen Thai tourism, especially when the baht is so strong," said Chote Trachu, Thailand's permanent tourism secretary, according to The Bangkok Post. The

secretary previously hinted that the tax amount would be minimal and would not deter visitors from coming to the country.

Macau is studying whether to adopt its own tourism tax. Proponents of the tax argue it would increase per capita visitor spending in Macau, while simultaneously raising funds to help finance the costs of accommodating millions of annual visitors.

A public survey on whether a visitor levy was a viable option for the city yielded indecisive

AD

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\* Snack boxes with traditional festive selection  
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results, according to the Macau Government Tourism Office. The Office's director, Helena de Senna Fernandes, previously said that in her opinion an arrival levy on tourists would be incompatible with Macau's objective of becoming an international tourism center.

The idea has also proved unpopular among representatives of the hotel industry, who earlier this year told then-Chief Executive candidate Ho Iat Seng that the tax would be "a handicap for Macau's tourism."

The tourism sector in Thailand is considered the lifeblood of the economy. Thailand is expected to welcome about 40 million visitors this year, but analysts warn of a swelling that could take that figure as high as 65 million a decade from now.

Macau is also on track to break the symbolic 40-million level this year, previously earmarked by Macau's Institute for Tourism Studies as the city's "optimal tourism carrying capacity." Last year's influx of 35.8 million tourists represented an almost 10% rise from a year earlier.

The rapid rise in the number of visitors has become a source of concern for the Macau public, especially as gaming receipts and other tourism spending are growing at a much slower pace or not at all.

But although considering the same solution, the two territories are vastly different in terms of their infrastructure and ability to accommodate visitor growth.

Thailand's total land area is more than 17,000 times larger than Macau's 30 square kilometers. Were the Southeast Asian country to reflect the 'visitor density' of Macau, it would need to host over 680 billion visitors per year.

It is also struggling to cope with the environmental and infrastructure impact of its tourism sector. To accommodate the growth, airports across Thailand will spend almost 200 billion baht (\$6.5 billion) over the next 15 years, almost doubling Thailand's air transport capacity by 2030.

The Macau International Airport, also in the process of expanding, will be able to facilitate the travel of as many as 10 million annual passengers by the time its passenger terminal building extension is complete.

The Macau airport was just the fifth most popular point of entry into the SAR last year, after the Border Gate, Outer Harbor Ferry Terminal, Taipa Ferry Terminal and the Lotus Checkpoint. The Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge may overtake the Macau airport as the most fifth most popular point of entry by the end of this year.

## Tour guide business crumbles in Macau

ANTHONY LAM

**D**ESPITE a 16% increase in visitor arrivals from mainland Chinese in the first seven months of the year, the tourism industry is complaining about a two-month-long "winter," as reported by local Chinese media outlet Cheng Pou.

At the end of August, the industry conducted a survey with the Federation of Trade Unions (FAOM), receiving responses from about 350 tour guides and coach drivers, among other industry workers.

From July to the end of August, more than 90% of respondents experienced a fall in the number of tour groups they received. More than half of the respondents claimed an 80% fall in their earnings. Seventy percent were worried about their earnings prospects in the coming months.

The industry attributed the cause to difficulties following changes in the mainland visa policy, as well as "external" factors and the protests in Hong Kong. It explained that tour groups from the mainland nor-

mally travel to the two Special Administrative Regions on a single, combined trip.

Most respondents want the government to improve the environment in the industry. They also pointed out that the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB) has boosted tourist headcounts but not spending.

The industry has urged the government to make use of the Greater Bay Area. The government should explore more tourism products that entail travelling to nearby cities, as the industry put it.

In response, the Macau Government Tourism Office disclosed that it will meet with mainland authorities to develop diverse tourism products. The authority also wants to collaborate with the industry on the provision of new products, taking advantage of the 20th anniversary of the Macau handover. The industry expects the products will create synergy in other industries, such as hotels and aviation. The tourism authority hopes that these new products will help revive the industry.



## MELCO supports JCI on Japan-Macau cultural heritage preservation program for youth leadership development

**S**upporter of youth development Melco Resorts & Entertainment recently co-organized a Japan-Macau cultural heritage preservation and youth leadership program titled 'Leader 101' with local Macau association Junior Chamber International (JCI) Hou Kong and JCI Himeji. The program's key feature was a five-day cultural exchange trip held in Himeji, Japan in mid-August. A group of almost 70 young leaders from Macau and Japan aged 12-15 took part in legacy preservation endeavors related to Himeji Castle, a UNESCO World Heritage site located in Hyogo Prefecture, establishing friendships with fellow program participants along the way.



Back in Macau, a closing ceremony celebrating the efforts of the participants and the tremendous success of the program was held at the Macao Youth Entrepreneurs Incubation Centre on August 31. During the event, the 21 participants from Macau shared their experiences as the first graduates of the 'Leader 101' program, presenting how the project contributed positive changes to their personal development.



"My favorite part of the program was learning about the history and traditions behind the Japanese tea ceremony which are so different from my understanding of the Chinese tea ceremony. The experience showed me how culture can influence how something like tea is enjoyed and appreciated around the world," said one student, Amy Chiang. "It also helped me gain a better understanding of the importance to preserve such beautiful traditions for future generations."

The project's theme of "Preserving Legacy, Creating the Future" resonates with the JCI mission statement: to provide development opportunities that empower young people to create positive change. Over the years, to extend its impact within the community, JCI Hou Kong has worked with corporate partners with whom it shares common values. Melco is one such example, as a company which integrates corporate social responsibility within its business strategy to positively impact communities.



Ms. Akiko Takahashi, Melco's Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff to Chairman and CEO, commented: "We are very pleased to support JCI Hou Kong and JCI Himeji to provide leadership opportunities for young people in Macau, enabling them to strengthen their knowledge in cultural preservation and further promote the cause. We hope that the training initiatives in Japan and the opportunities to visit Melco's world-class entertainment and leisure facilities help broaden participants' horizons, to inspire innovative thinking and personal leadership skills."



Senior Analyst and Melco volunteer Stanley Cheong, who supported the youths' visit to Himeji, shared Takahashi's view. Witnessing the positive outcome of 'Leader 101', he expressed, "While students appeared shy at the start of the program, they gradually opened up and became much more confident in expressing their views, actively interacting and engaging with other local Macau and Japanese participants."

This article is sponsored by Melco Resorts & Entertainment.



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# More int'l firms complying with 'one-China principle'

RENATO MARQUES

**A**FTER several formal requests and warnings from the central government, more companies are now complying with the rule established by the Chinese government stating that the Macau and Hong Kong Special Administrative Regions (SARs) and Taiwan are parts of China and should be referred to as such.

A growing list of global brands, from Versace to Calvin Klein, have been forced to apologize in recent months after an army of Chinese internet users called them out for identifying one of the three regions as countries.

Official media outlet Global Times, an English-language Chinese newspaper under the People's Daily reported that since January this year, only 83 of the foreign companies listed in the 2017 Fortune 500 still showed Taiwan, Hong Kong or Macau as not being integral to China on their websites, showing that more companies are complying with



the rule.

At the time, the Global Times said that this had drawn "strong criticism from industry insiders who called on the firms to respect China's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

In their latest report on the topic, the Global Times noted, "Among the world's top 500 companies in 2018, 80 percent of them

that mark the geography of China's Hong Kong, Macau or Taiwan on their official sites or their apps' China maps, have wrong or inappropriate referencing of the three regions." The finding came from a Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) study.

The study found that in 2018, out of the world's top 500 companies, "158 of them have rele-

vancy on the matter, but 127 of them are either making mistakes or not appropriately referencing the Hong Kong SAR, Macau SAR, and the island of Taiwan, accounting for more than 80 percent."

The issue seems to be of serious proportions, as the Global Times report states that among the 127 companies "incorrectly or inappropriately listing [...]

China's Hong Kong, Macau or Taiwan, seven are Chinese companies." This is considered to be outrageous by the media outlet.

According to the report, the non-compliant companies include the AIA Group, Midea Group, Quanta Computer, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, CK Hutchison Holdings, Wistron Corp, and Fubon Financial Holdings.

The same report also notes that "only 30 foreign companies have the correct referencing of the three regions" and "a total of 34 out of 44 U.S. companies use the wrong listing," adding that no American company lists all three regions as part of China.

In its report, CASS also suggests that in order "to curb the misuse or inappropriate reference, such behaviors need to be punished severely," adding that further inspection of the related departments and company self-checks should be enhanced.

According to Singapore's Business Times, U.S. investment banking company JPMorgan Chase & Co., which is building its presence in China, recently circulated an email to staff to ensure that they do not refer to Hong Kong, Macau or Taiwan as separate countries, noting that the regions should, on first reference, be "Hong Kong SAR, Macau SAR, and Taiwan, China."

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**Registration available until September 16th, 2019 (Monday)**

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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HONG KONG

## CARRIE LAM ASSURES INVESTORS OF REBOUND FROM PROTESTS



EILEEN NG

**H**ONG Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam reassured foreign investors Wednesday that the Asian financial hub can rebound from months of protests, despite no sign that the unrest will subside.

Lam told a forum on China's Belt and Road infrastructure initiative that Hong Kong is grappling with the double whammy of the prolonged U.S.-Chinese trade war and the unrest involving mostly young protesters seeking democratic reforms.

Her promise last week to formally withdraw the extradition bill that sparked the demonstrations in June failed to mollify protesters, whose demands have expanded to include direct elections for the city's leaders and police accountability. The unrest has become increasingly violent and threatens the semi-autonomous

Chinese territory's reputation as a global financial hub.

Lam voiced confidence that rifts can be mended through government plans for dialogue and upholding the "one country, two systems" principle that gives Hong Kong some freedoms not enjoyed on the mainland after the former British colony returned to Chinese rule in 1997.

"We can find a way back to reasoned discussion, to social stability ... after all, Hong Kong has been built and rebuilt time and again on our indomitable resilience. Call it the spirit of Hong Kong and know that it will see us through," she told the forum.

Pro-democracy activist Joshua Wong, in Berlin to drum up European support, dismissed calls from Lam for dialogue as too late. Wong acknowledged that it may be too difficult to achieve the demands for more democratic freedom but noted that three decades

ago "no one predicted the Berlin Wall would fall."

"We shall continue our fight for democracy and freedom because we don't accept Hong Kong being transformed into a police state," he told reporters.

Protesters insist it is the Beijing-backed Hong Kong government that is undermining the "one country, two systems" principle.

Chinese officials at the forum urged a quick end to the violence.

Xie Feng, commissioner of the Chinese Foreign Affairs Ministry in Hong Kong, repeated Beijing's position that foreign "black hands" were behind the "extremist forces" that were challenging Chinese sovereignty.

"Foreign forces have intervened, distorting the truth, and trying to protect those in the wrong and let them get away with it. With this continuous intervention of black hands, violence cannot stop and the rule of law cannot be upheld," he said.

Xie said deeper integration with mainland China through Belt and Road projects is the way forward for Hong Kong's development.

Separately, Beijing's Taiwan Affairs Office said Wednesday that a Taiwanese man, Lee Meng-chu, is under investigation on suspicion of engaging in criminal activity harmful to national security. Office spokesman Ma Xiaoguang didn't give details. Lee disappeared last month after he reportedly sent his brother and a local Taiwanese mayor photos of Chinese paramilitary police massing equipment in Shenzhen, a mainland city across from Hong Kong.

The paramilitary police exercises sparked fears of a Chinese crackdown.

The government of Taiwan, a self-ruled island that China considers its own territory, strongly supports the Hong Kong protests

as it resists Beijing's push for unification. Ma told Taiwan to stop colluding with Hong Kong protesters and protecting them.

More protests are planned this weekend in the city.

Bonnie Leung of the Civil Human Rights Front said it is waiting for police approval for a march Sunday from the Causeway Bay shopping district to central Hong Kong. Police banned the group's Aug. 31 march but protesters turned up anyway. Violent clashes erupted that night, with police storming a subway car and hitting passengers with batons and pepper spray.

The government has slammed radical protesters, but Leung said they were not out to hurt people but to "send symbolic messages" after peaceful rallies failed to move the government.

"Radical protesters, who we call braves, and peaceful protesters are fighting for the same goals. We want our freedom and rights for universal suffrage to be protected," she said.

Clashes have become increasingly violent, with police firing tear gas and protesters vandalizing subway stations and blocking traffic. More than 1,300 people, including students, have been arrested since June.

Casino queen Pansy Ho echoed the government's condemnation of radical protesters at a U.N. Human Rights Council meeting in Geneva yesterday.

Ho, representing a local women's group, told the U.N. body that Hong Kong has experienced 130 protests since June 9, of which she said over 110 ended in "unprovoked" violence and unlawful acts. She said teenagers have been indoctrinated with police hatred and anti-establishment beliefs at school, and many radicalized to become "front line riot fighters."

Ho, who owns gaming and property businesses, said "promotion of hatred and violent extremism could only leave irreparable scars" in society. **AP**

## US senators warn HK may be weak link for technology

**A** bipartisan group of senators has told the Trump administration that they're concerned about whether U.S. export controls are strong enough to prevent China from getting sensitive American technology through Hong Kong.

"We believe it is critical that the United States take appropriate measures to ensure China does not abuse Hong Kong's special status under U.S. law to steal or otherwise acquire critical or sensitive U.S. equipment and

technologies in support of its strategic objectives or to infringe on the rights of people in Mainland China, Hong Kong, and elsewhere," the senators wrote in a letter to Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross and Secretary of State Michael Pompeo.

The move comes as more U.S. lawmakers question the special trading relationship with Hong Kong that underpins its economy as pro-democracy protests throw the financial hub into turmoil. While dual-use techno-

logy with consumer and military applications represent some 2 percent of U.S. exports to Hong Kong, restricting sales could potentially do irreparable harm to the city's image as a safe hub for global business.

Thousands of protesters marched to the city's U.S. consulate this weekend in an appeal to President Donald Trump. They support the passage of the U.S. Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act, which is backed by prominent American

lawmakers including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and calls for annual assessments on whether the city is sufficiently autonomous from Beijing to continue its special trading status.

A U.S. government report said earlier this year that the city's autonomy was "sufficient - although diminished."

Trump's trade war with China is being waged in part over the issue of intellectual property theft as well as its drive for technological dominance.

Members of Congress are adding objections to China's use of technology to suppress dissent as pro-democracy protests rock Hong Kong.

"The Chinese government has demonstrated its willingness to use both licit and illicit means to acquire and advance its development of technologies such as artificial intelligence, tools of mass surveillance, and advanced robotics, among others," the senators write. "China is using these technologies not only to bolster its

own industries, but also to advance its military capabilities and to infringe on the fundamental liberties of its citizens."

The U.S. senators say they are also concerned about the export of police equipment, such as tear gas, rubber bullets and batons, "which may be used to suppress legitimate civil dissent."

The senators asked for a response by Oct. 1, pointing out that the "situation continues to become more critical by the day."

**MDT/BLOOMBERG**

# HK exchange makes unsolicited \$36.6 billion bid for London rival

KIUYAN WONG  
& VIREN VAGHELA

**T**HE Hong Kong stock exchange wants to buy its London counterpart to create a company worth more than \$70 billion that could shore up the U.K. capital's status as a global financial hub after Brexit.

Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd. (HKEX) said yesterday it is looking at a deal that would value the London Stock Exchange Group at 29.6 billion pounds (\$36.6 billion). A tie-up, it said, would provide the London firm with a key opening to Asian markets and offer big savings.

The London Stock Exchange (LSE), which is over three centuries old, said in a statement it will consider the cash-and-shares proposal. But its position is complicated by the fact that it is in the middle of a takeover of its own, for data provider Refinitiv Holdings, that would be derailed by any agreement with the Hong Kong exchange.

LSE's board "remains committed to" the acquisition of data provider Refinitiv, highlighting the hurdles facing an offer that it called unsolicited, preliminary and highly conditional. The board said it would consider the proposal and make a further announcement later.

LSE's shares pared earlier gains, reflecting skepticism that a deal can be done in the face of unrest in Hong Kong and potential concern over Chinese ownership. LSE executives and investors may also view the \$27 billion takeover of Refinitiv, aimed as a push into financial data, as a more secure future than a multi-continental

BLOOMBERG



combination of stock exchange operators. For HKEX, the bet on London remaining a post-Brexit financial hub promises a base away from the increasingly fraught political climate at home.

Under the proposal, HKEX would offer 2,045 pence as well as 2.495 newly issued HKEX shares per LSE share. That values each LSE share at 8,361 pence, the Hong Kong bourse said in its statement. The U.K. company's stock rose 4.2% to 7,088 pence on Wednesday at 12:28 p.m. in London, after earlier surging as much as 16%.

The Asian bourse operator had considered the "ambitious and far-reaching" deal for one of Europe's largest exchanges for many months, HKEX Chief Executive Officer Charles Li said in a statement yesterday.

The Refinitiv deal was a bet by LSE on a future dominated by data, as the three-century-old exchange looks for ways to extend

its global reach. Acquiring Refinitiv, the former financial and risk unit of Thomson Reuters, would help the London bourse expand further into data analysis.

An HKEX-LSE pact would put an end to the Refinitiv purchase, instead creating a global trading power that would have stock, derivatives and commodities exchanges, as well as clearinghouses across two continents.

A successful takeover by HKEX would scupper plans by Blackstone Group Inc., which was part of a group that bought a majority stake in Refinitiv last year and would double its money if the LSE deal goes through.

In a media call after the bid was announced, Li said HKEX's offer was "something fundamentally different" to the Refinitiv tie-up for LSE and its shareholders.

"Superior growth, superior strategic prospects and tremendously different and enhanced value creation for shareholders,"

he said. "Growth prospects for both companies, and strategic positioning for both cities."

Bloomberg LP, the parent of Bloomberg Intelligence, competes with Refinitiv and Thomson Reuters to provide financial news, data and information.

European exchange operators have outperformed the broader market this year, with LSE surging 77%, Euronext NV up 38% and Deutsche Boerse AG rising 30%.

Both HKEX and LSE have been involved in dealmaking in recent years, with the latter failing in its attempt to combine with Deutsche Boerse and HKEX acquiring London Metal Exchange in 2012 for 1.4 billion pounds (\$1.73 billion).

LSE's efforts to merge with Deutsche Boerse were ultimately scuppered by political considerations. HKEX's proposed move could fall at the same hurdle, said Ronald Wan, chief executive at Partners Capital International

Ltd. in Hong Kong.

"A takeover from Hong Kong, a special administrative region of China, could be seen as a takeover from China. It won't be easy to clear all the regulatory hurdles - the deal is super politically sensitive," he said.

U.K. Business Secretary Andrea Leadsom, speaking on Bloomberg Television as news of the deal broke, said the British government would scrutinize any tie-up between the exchanges. Leadsom said the U.K. authorities would "look very carefully at anything that had security implications for the U.K."

HKEX was created in 2000 after the merger of stock and derivatives exchanges in Hong Kong. The company went public later that year.

Li said earlier this year in the company's latest strategic plan that HKEX aims to be "globally connected," while being "China anchored." In recent years he has tied his business more closely to the Chinese mainland, in particular with the start of stock and bond trading links to markets in Shanghai and Shenzhen.

As well as its iconic stock exchange, LSE runs businesses including the world's biggest over-the-counter derivatives clearinghouse, LCH Ltd.; index provider FTSE Russell; a European share trading venue called Turquoise; and Borsa Italia.

Hong Kong lawmaker and HKEX shareholder Christopher Cheung said he was most concerned that HKEX might overpay. Cheung, a veteran broker, said in an interview that he thinks it's getting harder for HKEX to start more trading links with China, citing U.S.-China trade tensions and the recent protests in the city against growing influence from Beijing.

"If Hong Kong cannot count on itself to maintain its status as an international finance center, it is only natural to seek horizontal, inorganic growth through acquisition," he said by phone.

BLOOMBERG

## CORPORATE BITS

### Melco presents exhibition on developments for women, children



Melco Resorts & Entertainment Limited has presented an exhibition on the developments made for the benefit of women and children in the past 20 years, led by the Macao Women's Celebration Preparatory Committee for Double Anniversary and co-organized by the Women's General Association

of Macau.

According to the gaming operator, the exhibition explores the subjects of "Integration with Mainland China for success," "Protection of women and children," "Innovation and advancement with the times," and "Family-friendly societal development" through the pho-

tographs, documentaries, statistics and text displayed.

On display at Melco's City of Dreams employee-only Heart-of-House area until tomorrow, the exhibition showcases the achievements and progress made for Macau's women and children in various fields.

Akiko Takahashi, Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff to the chairman and CEO of Melco, said, "We are extremely honored to be able to play a part in sharing the accomplishments of developments for women and children in the 20 years since the establishment of the Macau SAR. We are confident that the exhibition will generate greater awareness among all colleagues."

### Grand Lisboa's The Spa receives award



The Spa at Grand Lisboa Hotel was awarded Best Men's Treatment at the SpaChina Awards Ceremony 2019 in Xi'an this week.

The Spa at Grand Lisboa is situated on the fifth and sixth floor of the Grand Lisboa Hotel.

Occupying two floors of the

hotel, The Spa at Grand Lisboa offers state-of-the-art spa facilities and a wide range of innovative spa treatments for both female and male guests, as cited in a statement issued by the hotel.

This luxurious spa offers a total of 11 private treatment rooms accented with white

gold mosaic wall tiles and bathtubs made with individually-laid, opulent jade mosaic tiles by renowned spa technicians from Germany.

Designed to provide a relaxing sanctuary and sensory experience, the treatment rooms on the sixth floor are also equipped with "Private Heaven" spa facilities, which allow guests to experience multiple-function shower options.

The SpaChina Summit and the SpaChina Awards 2019 were held from September 9 to 11 in Xi'an, providing a communication platform for industry elites, spa professionals, spa owners and investors, hotels and resorts.

GERRY GROOT\*

ANALYSIS

# INSIDE CHINA'S VAST INFLUENCE NETWORK – HOW IT WORKS, AND THE EXTENT OF ITS REACH IN AUSTRALIA

THE operations of the Chinese Communist Party are generally opaque, especially to outsiders. But in recent years, the party's reach and influence with the Chinese diaspora has become much more obvious, particularly in Australia.

Most recently, Liberal MP Gladys Liu, the first Chinese-Australian woman to win a seat in the lower house, was revealed to have ties to the World Trade United Foundation, a body whose officeholders are closely tied to pro-Beijing politicians in Hong Kong.

This follows the resignation of former Senator Sam Dastyari over his contacts with Chinese political donor Huang Xiangmo in 2017, and last year's passage of a new foreign interference law, which was sparked by concerns over Chinese influence.

What connects all these elements is the Communist Party's little-known United Front Work Department. The successes of this department have been crucial to building the party's legitimacy at home and, to a significant extent, abroad, especially with overseas Chinese communities.

**WHAT IS THE UNITED FRONT?**

The United Front Work Department, or UFWD for short, is a special department of the Communist Party. It is responsible for organizing outreach to key Chinese interest groups, including ethnic Chinese abroad, and representing and influencing them.

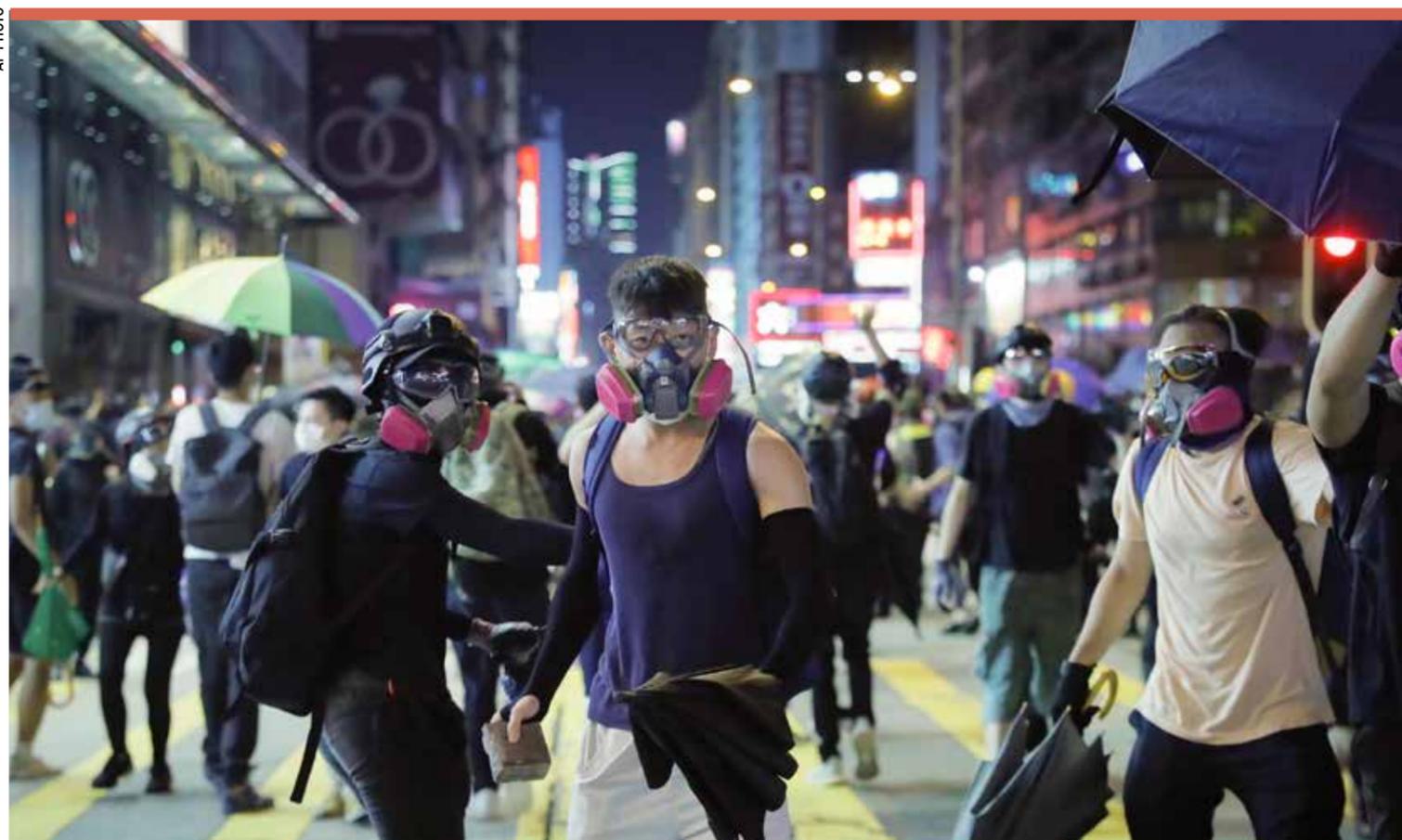
In its simplest terms, the UFWD is about uniting those who can help the party achieve its goals and neutralize its critics. Its work is often summed up as "making friends", which sounds benign, and often is. But it can have other meanings, such as helping to stifle dissent at home and abroad.

Within China, the United Front system historically consisted of intellectuals, business people, religious believers, ethnic minorities, returned overseas Chinese and former members of the Nationalist Party (known as the KMT or GMD). More recently, this group has expanded to include social media personalities, independent professionals (notably lawyers), managers in foreign-funded businesses, overseas Chinese, and young Chinese studying abroad.

Overseas Chinese, including those in Australia, have a special place in this system and are actively courted by dedicated UFWD representatives.

**HOW ITS MISSION IS CHANGING UNDER XI JINPING**

The United Front has become much more prominent since Xi Jinping became Communist Party general secretary in 2012. Xi has been instrumental in raising its status in the Chinese political



China's escalating claims of covert US interference in Hong Kong are not so much warnings at Washington but classic United Front tactics aimed at Hong Kong and domestic audiences, analysts say

system and publicly supporting a dramatic expansion of its roles and target groups.

Under his watch, the UFWD's work has become much more centered on promoting the party's key ideals. These include the consolidation of Xi's leadership and spread of his ideology (known as "Xi Jinping Thought"), and the broader goals of ensuring social stability and China's national rejuvenation.

Importantly, the latter includes reinforcing China's claims over the South China Sea, Hong Kong, Macau, and particularly Taiwan.

While China already has sovereignty over Hong Kong and Macau, the United Front has been crucial in helping the party exert influence over local politicians, trade unions, and business groups in both regions. However, the current unrest in Hong Kong shows this approach may have lost some of its effectiveness.

United Front is also one of the ways the party stakes its claim to popular legitimacy and to representing all Chinese people throughout the world.

One way the department does this is by carefully vetting members of key social and occupational groups, such as doctors and lawyers, who provide the government with expert opinion on proposed laws and other issues

during "consultative conferences."

Those selected to take part in these conferences are assumed to have considerable influence and prestige. And they include a number of overseas Chinese, including some Australian-Chinese.

All members of these conferences are carefully screened by the UFWD for their political reliability and willingness to accept party leadership and its positions.

Many provocative ideas and issues that can't be raised in the party itself or in the People's Congresses are often floated in the consultative conferences.

This system of garnering expert advice and channeling it back to the party is central to its claims to be democratic. The party maintains that this system of consultation is superior to Western democracy because it is more representative and doesn't suffer from the "chaotic" results of Western-style elections.

This system is even more important since the party has given up on its own longstanding experiments with village-level electoral democracy. These elections failed to deliver on the initial promise of bringing greater efficiency and legitimacy to the party, and instead often became dominated by local spe-

cial interests pushed by powerful families, clans or even gangs.

**HOW UNITED FRONT IS EXERTING ITS INFLUENCE**

Under Xi, there has also been a dramatic shift in what the UFWD is expected to achieve. Much of its work since the 1980s has focused on incorporating new interest groups into the political system (such as entrepreneurs and professionals) to prevent the emergence of any organizations outside the party's control.

Now, it is much more about assimilation – all members are expected to believe the party's central ideology and promote Xi as China's "core leader".

In a sense, we are seeing a process similar to that of the 1950s, when United Front was first used to organize groups like intellectuals, religious believers, and business people and provide them with nominal political representation in the consultative conferences - in some cases as government ministers.

The next step was forcing them to accept the Communist Party takeover of their businesses, churches, or associations. The United Front also demanded they fully accept socialist ideology through campaigns of intense, and sometimes violent, "thought reform," which left many dead.

Today, it is minorities such as the Uyghurs, Tibetans, and Christians who are again under intense pressure to allow the party to take full control of their organizations. This often includes the demolition of property and the severing any links with foreign religious groups and NGOs. The UFWD is the organizer in the background.

The flow-on effects of these changes in Australia is an intensification of the party's efforts to unite with and influence the Chinese diaspora, and use them to promote the party's causes and positions. Or at the very least, not to oppose them.

We have seen a dramatic proliferation of United Front-linked organizations in Australia, such as the Australian Council for the Promotion of Peaceful Reunification of China, as well as new religious bodies and industry and cultural associations.

The marginalization of sensitive issues like Taiwan among Chinese-Australian communities, the lack of support for China's Muslims and other persecuted religious minorities, and the very muted responses to the protests in Hong Kong, seems to indicate that these efforts are bearing fruit.

\* Senior Lecturer in Chinese Studies, University of Adelaide (The Conversation)

AUSTRALIA

# Gladys Liu under fire over past links

ROD MCGUIRK, CANBERRA

**T**HE first Chinese-born lawmaker to be elected to Australia's Parliament has come under attack over her links to a Chinese foreign influence network.

Gladys Liu, who was born in Hong Kong in 1964, was elected to the conservative government in May elections to represent a Melbourne electoral division with a large population of ethnic Chinese voters.

She has come under media scrutiny recently over her membership in organizations overseen by the United Front Work Department of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, which exert influence on important individuals, organizations and governments outside China. Concern is growing about China's influence in Australia, which last year banned covert foreign interference in domestic politics.

Australian Broadcasting Corp. reported Tuesday that Chinese government records indicate that Liu, who migrated to Australia



Gladys Liu, the first Chinese-born lawmaker to be elected to Australia's Parliament

in 1985, was a member of two provincial councils of the China Overseas Exchange Association between 2003 and 2015.

That association reported to the State Council, China's chief administrative authority, when Liu was a member, but has since merged with the United Front Work Department.

She told Sky News television later Tuesday that she "cannot recall" being a member of those provincial councils.

"If I can't recall, I cannot be an active member of that council,

can I?" she told Sky News. "I can tell you that I have never been a member of this council."

But in a statement yesterday, Liu said she held an "honorary role" in the council she had referred to — Guangdong Overseas Exchange Association — in 2011. But she said she no longer had any association with that organization.

"Unfortunately, some Chinese associations appoint people to honorary positions without their knowledge or permission. I do not wish my name to be used in any of

these associations and I ask them to stop using my name," she said.

Opposition lawmakers yesterday accused Liu of making misleading statements about her past links to "Chinese Communist Party propaganda arms."

She has also come under fire for failing to condemn China's military grab for contested territory in the South China Sea.

Asked in the Sky News interview if she agreed that China's efforts to take over most of the South China Sea were unlawful, she replied, "I definitely put Australia's interests first."

She said yesterday that during the interview "I was not clear and should have chosen my words better."

"We do not take sides on competing territorial claims but we call on all claimants to resolve disputes peacefully and in accordance with international law," she said of Australia's policy on the South China Sea.

Damien Kingsbury, a Deakin University expert on international politics, said the controversy surrounding Liu raised national

security concerns.

"She's certainly seen to have a link to an organization that is associated with intelligence-gathering operations and that would have to be very worrying," Kingsbury said.

The opposition has likened Liu's situation to that of Sam Dastyari, who resigned as an opposition senator in 2017 over his links to wealthy Chinese political donor Huang Xiangmo.

Huang made headlines when it was revealed that his company had paid Dastyari's personal legal bills and then appeared alongside the then-senator at a news conference for Chinese media where Dastyari supported Beijing's stance on the South China Sea, contradicting Australia's bipartisan policy.

Australia has since canceled Huang's permanent residency and banned foreign political donations.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison stood by Liu and rejected comparisons with the disgraced former senator, whom Morrison accused in 2017 of "betraying his country." AP

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, 10<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> October**  
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\* Price includes Western menu with wines.  
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**FMCC Firework Dinner**  
**Celebration of 70<sup>th</sup> China National Day with Firework Show!**  
China vs France

**Introduction:**  
Celebrate with us the 70<sup>th</sup> National Day of the People's Republic of China and this also marked the 55<sup>th</sup> 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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> September**  
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- Minors under 6 join free of charge

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AP PHOTO



Newly appointed Environment Minister Shinjiro Koizumi, 38, has been pinpointed to succeed Abe

## JAPAN

# ABE TAPS NEW CABINET MINISTERS TO FRESHEN IMAGE

YURI KAGEYAMA, TOKYO

**JAPANESE** Prime Minister Shinzo Abe shuffled his Cabinet yesterday, adding two women and the son of a former leader to freshen his image but maintaining continuity on U.S.-oriented trade and security policies.

Abe, the longest-serving prime minister in Japan's postwar history, kept key positions in the hands of close allies at a time

when he is locked in a bitter trade dispute with South Korea and as he tries to fine tune a trade deal with Washington.

Taro Kono, who had been foreign minister, was appointed defense minister, while Toshimitsu Motegi, minister in charge of economic policy, is now foreign minister. Finance Minister Taro Aso kept his job.

Motegi said he will still head trade negotiations with Washin-

gton, with the goal of signing a deal by the end of this month. The agreement would open the Japanese market to more U.S. agricultural products like corn and beef.

"We hope to reach a win-win deal for both Japan and the U.S.," Motegi said.

With just two years left on his party leadership, Abe also sought to add some new faces and keep potential challengers close.

Getting the greatest attention

was the new environment minister, Shinjiro Koizumi, the 38-year-old son of popular former Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi. He was the only appointment in his 30s in a lineup dominated by men in their 50s and older.

Expectations in the Japanese public have been high for years that the younger Koizumi is destined to be Japan's leader. Koizumi has tended to keep a distance from Abe, although both hold the

conservative pro-U.S. policies of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

Abe told reporters that he was proud of his choices as people, mostly veterans, who will tackle reforms to keep Japan competitive in the "new era" of globalization.

On Koizumi, he said: "I have big hopes he will take up challenges with innovative ideas fitting of someone from the younger generation."

Yu Uchiyama, professor of political science at the University of Tokyo, said the appointments, besides Koizumi, showed Abe chose those who were very close to him.

"Abe wanted the popular Koizumi under his control," Uchiyama said. "This is a big step for Koizumi toward becoming future prime minister, but he will also be tested for the first time in a major way."

Also in the limelight are two new female ministers, Internal Affairs and Communications Minister Sanae Takaichi and Seiko Hashimoto, a former Olympian speedskater who was appointed minister in charge of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Women in the Cabinet tend to get attention in Japan, which is criticized as lagging in promoting females in both the private sector and politics.

The nationally circulated Asahi newspaper said the Cabinet appointments showed Abe was building his successors but, at the same time, having candidates competing with each other in an effort to maintain his influence.

"A strategy to create a post-Abe fight," a front-page headline said.

By rewarding various politicians with posts, Abe has avoided a "lame duck" syndrome, in which he would be powerless during what's remaining of his party leadership, said political analyst Masatoshi Honda.

Until he came to power in 2012, Japan tended to have a "revolving door" of one leader toppled after another, partly because of recurring corruption scandals. Abe also served as prime minister from 2006 to 2007. **AP**

## TAIWAN

# Foxconn ex chairman weighs independent candidacy

**T**HE former chairman of major contract manufacturer Foxconn met with a prominent Taiwanese lawmaker yesterday as he weighs a possible independent run for president.

Terry Gou, who lost a bid to be the Nationalist Party candidate in July, held talks with Wang Jin-pyng, a Nationalist lawmaker and former longtime leader of the legislature.

"We both share the same idea," Gou said. "For the 23

million people in Taiwan, the interests of the people should be greater than the interests of the party."

Wang said after their meeting that Gou did not say whether he would run, only that he was still considering it.

Gou stepped down as the head of Foxconn, a contract manufacturer of electronics including the iPhone, in June. He lost the Nationalist primary the next month to Han Kuo-yu, the popu-

list mayor of the port city of Kaohsiung.

Evelyn Tsai, an aide to Gou, said earlier this month that he would run as an independent if he enters the race, according to Taiwanese media reports. He has until Tuesday, the deadline to register as a candidate, to decide.

Gou would face Han and incumbent President Tsai Ing-wen of the Democratic Progressive Party in the January election. **AP**

AP PHOTO



Terry Gou, chairman of Foxconn

INDONESIA

# Former President Habibie dies at age 83

NINIEK KARMINI, JAKARTA

**F**ORMER Indonesian President Bacharuddin Jusuf Habibie, who allowed democratic reforms and an independence referendum for East Timor following the ouster of the dictator Suharto, has died. He was 83.

His unpopular presidency was the shortest in modern Indonesia's history, but was transformative.

Habibie's son, Thareq Kemal Habibie, said Indonesia's third president died yesterday at Jakarta's Gatot Subroto army hospital, where he had been undergoing treatment for heart problems since Sept. 1.

Habibie was tapped to lead Indonesia by Suharto as the military dictator's 32-year hold on power crumbled in May 1998 during a student uprising and a devastating economic crash. It ended after only 16 months in October 1999 when he withdrew from contention in presidential elections.

An engineer educated in Indonesia, the Netherlands and



Late Indonesian President Jusuf Habibie

Germany, Habibie spent nearly two decades working for German aircraft maker Messerschmitt-Boelkow-Blohm, before returning to Indonesia in 1974 to help lead Suharto's campaign to industrialize the economy.

As president, Habibie apologized for past human rights abuses and outlined an eight-point reform program "to build a just, open and democratic society."

He ordered the release of

political prisoners, dismantled restrictions on the press and reformed politics to allow for free elections.

He lifted a three-decade-old ban on the speaking and teaching of Mandarin as part of an easing of discriminatory policies against ethnic Chinese that was instituted by Suharto after his anti-communist pogroms of 1965-66.

Responding to international criticism of Indonesia's occupation of Portugal's former colony of East Timor, Habibie surprised Indonesians by announcing in January 1999 a plan to hold a referendum under U.N. supervision on self-determination, offering a choice between special autonomy and independence.

Indonesian militias deployed terror tactics to intimidate people into voting for continued union, but East Timorese voted overwhelmingly to split from Indonesia.

In 2017, the young democracy held presidential and parliamentary elections that were the first without U.N. supervision since peacekeepers left in 2012.

Despite his reforms, Habibie was unable to master the political tumult unleashed by the student uprising.

He described the bloody riots that ended Suharto's dictatorship as "barbaric," further alienating students who feared he was betraying their democratic revolution and staged violent protests against his presidency.

A failure to prosecute a longtime friend over allegations of massive corruption undermined his campaign to stay in power. On Oct. 20, 1999, Habibie withdrew from upcoming presidential elections.

Parliament was already moving to elect a new head of state after lawmakers rejected his "accountability" speech on the successes and failures of his months in office. Born June 25, 1936, in the South Sulawesi town of Parepare, Habibie was the fourth of eight siblings.

His father was of native Sulawesi descent and his mother a Javanese noblewoman from the ancient sultanate of Yogyakarta. His wife, Hasri Ainun Habibie, a medical doctor, died in 2010. AP



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National security adviser John Bolton (left)

USA

# INSIDE BOLTON'S EXIT: MONGOLIA, A MUSTACHE, A TWEET

JONATHAN LEMIRE, ZEKE MILLER & DEB RIECHMANN, WASHINGTON

**M**ORE than 1,200 miles away, President Donald Trump orchestrated an image for the world's front pages by becoming the first U.S. president to set foot in North Korea, shaking hands with Kim Jong Un on the north side of the demilitarized zone.

The distance was telling.

Bolton, a longtime critic of diplomacy with North Korea, had scheduled his foray to Mongolia weeks before Trump's impromptu invitation to meet Kim. But the national security adviser's isolation at such a high-profile moment underscored the growing disconnect between the two men.

Their repeated clashes on policy and style reached an exclamation point when Trump ousted Bolton with a tweet.

This account of how their relationship unraveled is based on interviews with current and former administration officials and Republicans close to the White House. They spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss private deliberations.

It was a marriage that was never going to last: Trump and Bolton rarely saw eye to eye on global hotspots. The national security adviser held far more hawkish views than the "America first" president on matters like Iran, North Korea and Afghanistan.

"John Bolton is absolutely a hawk," Trump told NBC in June.

"If it was up to him, he'd take on the whole world at one time, OK? But that doesn't matter because I want both sides."

Trump does value disagreement and jockeying among his staff. But he came to believe that Bolton's presence spooked foreign leaders. And he eventually grew weary of the national security adviser's bureaucratic knife-fighting.

By the spring, Bolton found himself cut out of important White House meetings and the president's perceived diplomatic triumphs, including the historic visit to North Korea.

As Trump met with Kim, Bolton was photographed shaking hands with Mongolia's secretary of state — an image that decidedly did not lead cable news.

While Trump's visit to Kim was a spectacle largely of his own making, Bolton's more modest outreach to Mongolia was similarly his own grand design, meant to check Russian and Chinese influence in central Asia.

The two trips encapsulated their opposing world views.

In the hours before Bolton left Trump in Seoul to head for Ulaanbaatar, Bolton was in a meeting with the president in which Trump paid tribute to the officials with him — or at least tried to.

"And Secretary of State Pompeo is here," Trump said. "Mike Bolton — John Bolton — is here."

Reporters spotted Bolton glowering at the slight. It would not be the last.

## A MUSTACHE TOO MUCH

Trump never liked Bolton's mustache.

The president has spent a career fixed on image, prizing striking looks and frequently boasting about family members and Cabinet officials who look like they "stepped out of central casting."

Bolton's bushy mustache simply didn't fit the part.

Bolton, a former ambassador to the United Nations and then a fixture on Fox News as a national security commentator, nearly entered the 2016 presidential campaign himself to push his hard-nosed foreign policy.

His neoconservative credentials never meshed with the isolationist vibe of Trump's campaign but, during the presidential transition, there was Bolton striding through the gilded lobby of Trump Tower to meet with the president-elect.

Bolton didn't get a job just then.

Trump later told confidants that the hawk's trademark mustache would never be a fit in his administration. But Trump kept an admiring eye on Bolton's frequent cable TV appearances, during which he often defended the policies of the president even when they ran counter to what he had preached for decades.

Trump's first national security adviser, Michael Flynn, resigned barely a month into the job and was soon charged with lying to the FBI. His second, H.R. McMaster, grated on Trump's nerves with his long-winded, detail-oriented presentations.

Bolton became the unlikely choice to be Trump's third, thanks largely to the strength of his television appearances.

But while TV helped Bolton get the job, it also helped him lose it.

As pressure mounted on the White House this summer amid signs of an economic slowdown and growing global discord, Trump has increasingly prioritized aides who are willing to defend him on television.

Bolton was tentatively booked to appear on a pair of Sunday talk shows in late August but backed out, saying he was not comfortable defending some of the administration's plans. That drew the president's ire, according to a White House official who spoke on condition of anonymity because the aide was not authorized to discuss private conversations.

Trump was heard complaining about the cancellations days later.

## THE FOX FACTOR

The president debated firing Bolton for weeks, listening to the advice of outside allies like Fox News host Tucker Carlson.

With time, he grew increasingly agitated with the national security adviser, who had become a vocal internal critic of potential talks between Trump and leaders of Iran and, separately, Afghanistan's Taliban.

There were other irritants.

Bolton broke with Trump in loudly condemning Russia's global aggressions. And last year he masterminded a quiet campaign

inside the administration and with allies abroad to persuade Trump to keep U.S. forces in Syria to counter the remnants of the Islamic State and Iranian influence in the region.

The two men spoke on the phone Monday night and it grew heated, as it often did in the Oval Office. Arguing over Afghanistan, the president was angered by Bolton's opposition to the president's scuttled plan to host Taliban leaders at Camp David to broker a peace deal.

The two men differ over what happened next.

Trump tweeted yesterday [Macau time] that he "informed John Bolton last night that his services are no longer needed at the White House."

"I disagreed strongly with many of his suggestions," Trump continued, adding Bolton to a long list of aides fired via tweet.

But this time, there was return fire just a few minutes later.

"I offered to resign last night and President Trump said, 'Let's talk about it tomorrow,'" Bolton retorted via tweet.

Bolton's departure was announced barely 90 minutes before he was to hold a briefing at the White House with Pompeo and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, both of whom had repeatedly clashed with the national security adviser. The briefing went ahead anyway.

"There were definitely places where Ambassador Bolton and I had differing views about how to proceed," Pompeo allowed.

A widely circulated photo from the briefing appeared to sum up the mood surrounding Bolton's exit: Pompeo and Mnuchin, flanking the podium, smiling broadly.

## 'BAD DEALS'

West Wing hallways can feel surprisingly narrow, especially when crammed with reporters.

In the moments after Bolton's firing, nearly a dozen journalists were clumped together outside press secretary Stephanie Grisham's office.

A Bolton ally, who spoke to reporters on the condition of anonymity, approached the group and declared: "I'm going to say one thing, which is: Since Ambassador Bolton has been national security adviser 17 months — 17 months today, actually — there have been no bad deals — Iran, North Korea, Syria, Afghanistan, China — the list goes on. ... Add Russia. No bad deals."

Just then, Grisham arrived and eyed the crowd, sarcastically noting that the spin session was taking place "right outside my office."

Asked about the "bad deals" comment, Grisham was dismissive.

"I don't know what that means," she said, then smiled and added, "Sounds like somebody just trying to protect him." AP



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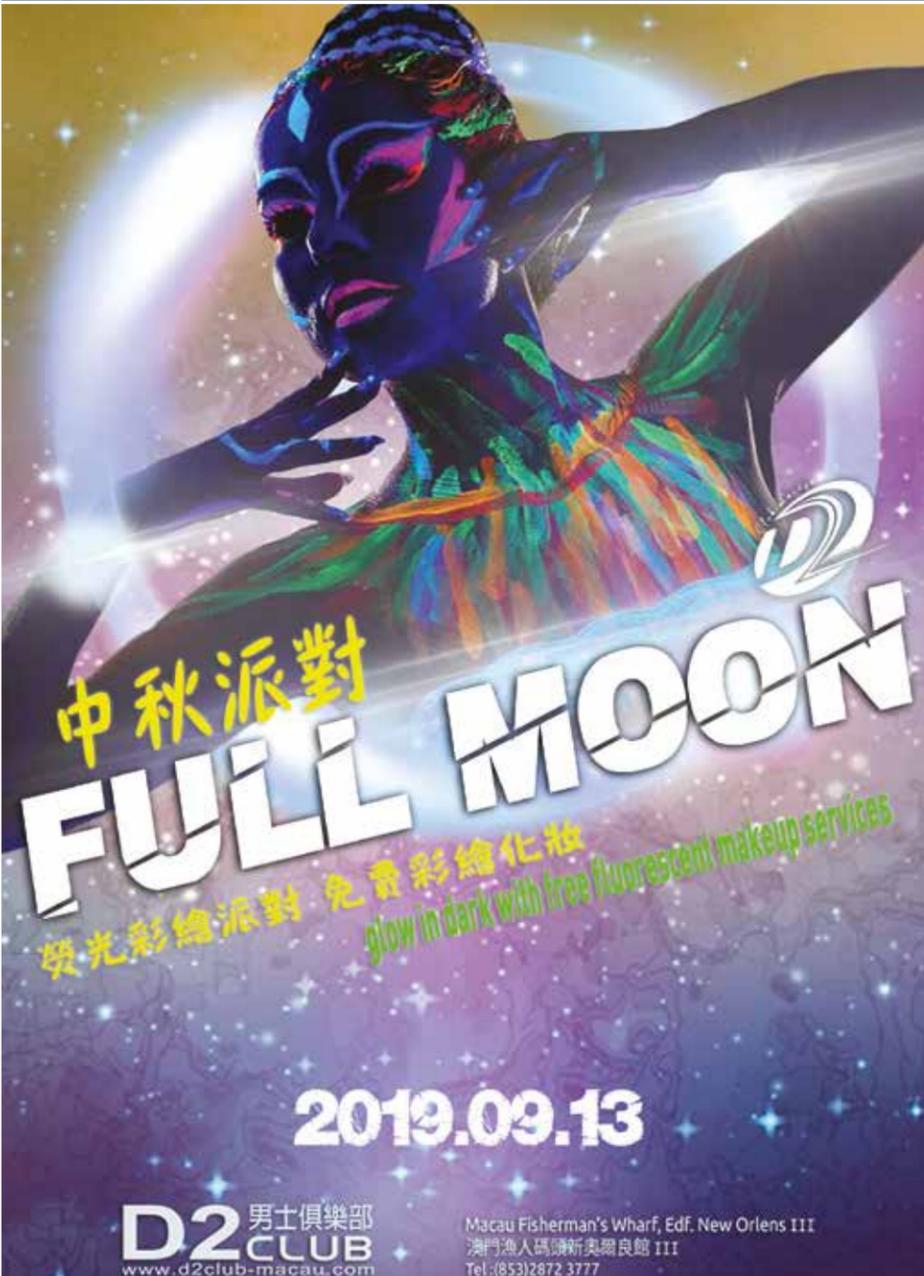



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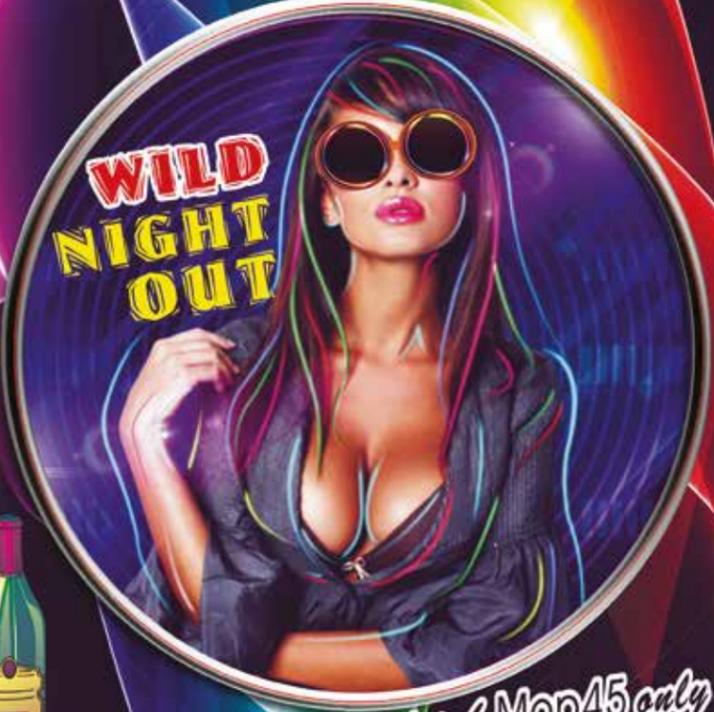
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## what's ON



### 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

### PROSPEROUS YEARS

TIME: 10AM-8PM (CLOSED ON MONDAYS)

UNTIL: September 25, 2019

VENUE: Old Court Building

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

## Offbeat

### COUPLE CHARGED FOR SPENDING OVER \$100K IN ACCIDENTAL DEPOSIT

A Pennsylvania couple who police say went on a spending spree after a bank accidentally deposited \$120,000 into their account are headed to trial.

State police tell the Williamsport Sun-Gazette that Robert and Tiffany Williams, of Montoursville, spent most of the money on items like an SUV, a race car, two four-wheelers, and a camper. Police say the couple also paid bills and gave friends \$15,000.

BB&T bank contacted the couple June 20 after realizing the error, telling the couple they were responsible for returning the funds. After they failed to repay the money, the bank took legal action.

The couple faces felony theft charges.

As they arrived at court Monday, Robert Williams told WNEP-TV they "took some bad legal advice" and "it probably wasn't the best thing in the end."

No trial date was set.

## TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Agua de Mar
15:45	Zig Zag
16:20	Sim Chef! Sr1
16:50	Quem Quer Ser Milionário
17:45	Moda Portugal Sr.4
18:15	Amor Maior (Repetição)
19:00	Volta ao Mundo
19:30	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Banco Asiático De Investimento em Infra-Estruturas
21:50	Livros com João Guedes
22:00	Todas as Palavras
22:25	Amor Maior
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Os Portugueses no Reino de Siam - A Glória De Ayutthaya
00:45	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:30	RTPi Directo

## cinema



### CINETEATRO

12 - 18 Sep



IT CHAPTER TWO

ROOM1

2:30, 6:00, 9:00pm

Director: Andy Muschietti

Starring: Jessica Chastain, James McAvoy, Bill Hader

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 169min



ABIGAIL

ROOM2

2:30, 4:30, 7:30pm

Director: Aleksandr Boguslavskiy

Starring: Tinatin Dalakishvili, Eddie Marsan, Rinal Mukhametov

Language: English (Chinese)

ANGEL HAS FALLEN

ROOM2

9:30pm

Director: Ric Roman Waugh

Starring: Gerard Butler, Frederick Schmidt, Danny Huston

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 121min

FAGARA

ROOM3

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

Director: Heiward Mak

Starring: Kenny Bee, Vicky Chen, Sammi Cheng

Language: Chinese (English)

Duration: 120min

ONE PIECE STAMPEDE

ROOM3

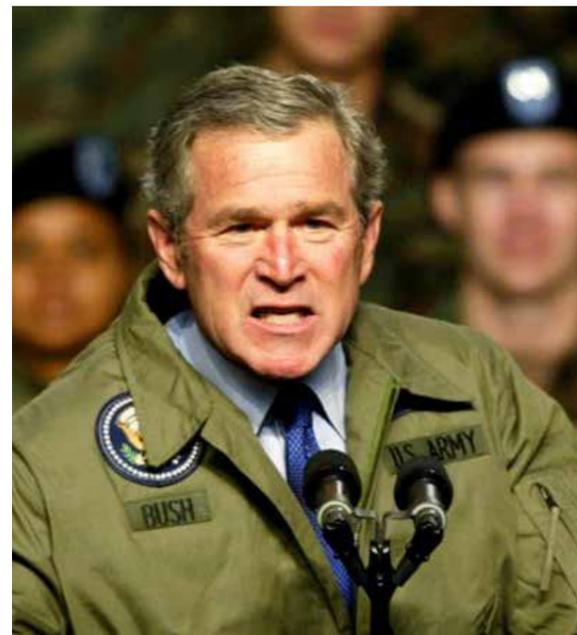
7:30pm

Director: Takashi Otsuka

Starring: Chô, Hiroaki Hirata, Katsuhisa Hôki

Language: Japanese (Chinese)

## this day in history



### 2001 US DECLARES WAR ON TERROR

The President of the United States has described the destruction caused in New York and Washington as an act of war against all freedom-loving people.

In a statement broadcast at 1053 local time (1553 BST), George Bush vowed the US would use all its resources to avenge the worst-ever attacks on American soil.

But he warned an angry and wounded nation they would have to be patient and said any action could be a monumental struggle.

The president has also been seeking the backing of world leaders for an international campaign against terrorism.

As the estimated number of dead rose into the thousands the day after the tragedy, members of the US government began talking openly of war.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell said: "It isn't going to be solved with a single counter-attack against one individual, it's going to be a long term conflict."

Expressions of support have come quickly from American allies, and also from countries not known for their sympathy with the US - the leaders of Libya and Palestine both condemned the attacks in the strongest terms.

Only Iraq has endorsed the atrocity, saying the attacks were a "lesson for all tyrants and oppressors" and the fruit of American crimes.

Tony Blair offered the unequivocal backing of the UK, echoing President Bush's words in his press conference announcing the recall of Parliament.

"I don't think there is any doubt at all that this threat is aimed at the whole democratic world," the prime minister told reporters.

"The US has been singled out... But these terrorists will regard us all as targets."

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

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

President Bush's "War on Terror" began on 8 October 2001 with an air bombardment of Afghanistan by US and UK forces.

With the help of the Northern Alliance opposition group, the Taliban leaders of the country were quickly toppled.

Many alleged members of al-Qaeda were caught and flown to a US base on Cuba.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

## YOUR STARS



### ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

If no one is offering you new land to explore, you've got to strike out on your own and find some! Your pioneering spirit is very much alive, and it is aching for a challenge.



### TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Decisions, decisions, decisions - you've got a lot of choices to think about today, but doing so will be an absolute joy! You are experiencing an embarrassment of riches right now.



### GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

If you invite them to join you in examining things from a more profound perspective and they balk, then you know that their walls are too high to climb. Ask them some probing questions today.



### CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

When you're hot, you're hot, and there is little you can do to cool down the heat you're generating right now. Damming this flow of energy is hard to do, so why bother trying?



### LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Look for ways to feed your passion for travel today - visit a bookstore and leaf through some books about faraway places you've always dreamed of visiting.



### VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

There's a lot of pressure being put on you today, but you're the one who's applying it! You are being way too hard on yourself right now - and your friends and family have noticed.



### LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Be very careful about how you express your feelings today - if you are too effusive about how you feel, you could scare someone off. Don't get too caught up in the drama of your emotions;



### SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Your growing ambition could get in the way of your social life right now. After all, you can't spend more time with friends if you're spending all your time at the office.



### SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Timing is everything in humor, as it often is in life - let yourself go with the flow, and try not to edit what you say too much. It's easy for people to forgive an unusual or risky comment when they are laughing their heads off.



### CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

The stars say that it might be a good idea for you to take a more disciplined, structured approach to your life. Things have become easy for you, but perhaps they've become a bit too easy?



### AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

When you see a new member of a group struggling to fit in, reach out and give them a hand. You'll feel good, and they'll feel good - how can you beat that?



### PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Pay attention and take note of the changes afoot, but do not let yourself get sucked into any dramas (no matter how fun they may seem). The day will start off incredibly smooth and easy.

## The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



## SUDOKU

### EASY

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

### EASY+

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

### MEDIUM

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

### HARD

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

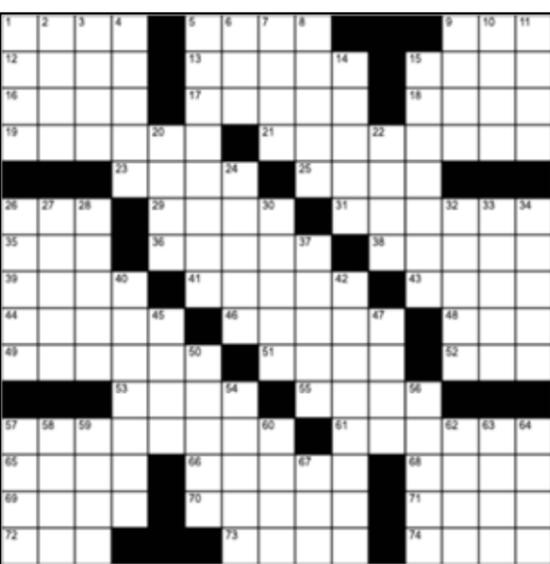
## WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	27	35	cloudy
Harbin	20	25	thundershower
Tianjin	27	35	thundershower
Urumqi	21	28	shower
Xi'an	24	35	cloudy
Lhasa	11	24	shower
Chengdu	24	34	shower
Chongqing	26	34	cloudy
Kunming	18	24	shower
Nanjing	29	36	cloudy
Shanghai	29	36	cloudy
Wuhan	28	37	clear
Hangzhou	28	38	cloudy
Taipei	26	30	overcast
Guangzhou	26	35	thundershower
Hong Kong	28	33	cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	17	22	moderate rain
Frankfurt	21	33	clear
Paris	22	32	clear
London	16	24	clear
New York	18	27	clear

## CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Muscle spasms; 5- Apart; 9- Isr. neighbor; 12- British nobleman; 13- Dense element; 15- Game played on horseback; 16- Friendly femme; 17- Like a lot; 18- Pac-10 team; 19- Tabs; 21- Visionary; 23- Fancy-schmancy; 25- Ladies of Sp.; 26- Old English letter; 29- Conks out; 31- California peak; 35- Heston's org.; 36- The blahs; 38- Wild guesses; 39- Charged particles; 41- Nehi flavor; 43- English public school; 44- Vocally; 46- The Donald's first; 48- Ethyl ending; 49- Medical treatment place; 51- Start of North Carolina's motto; 52- Sun. talk; 53- Pineapple vendor; 55- Word repeated in a Doris Day song; 57- Wide view of an extensive area; 61- Sweet dessert; 65- Falling flakes; 66- Rub vigorously; 68- Specks; 69- Laurel or Kenton; 70- It may be cultured; 71- Some nest eggs; 72- Russert of "Meet the Press"; 73- Dresden's river; 74- Edible corn.

DOWN: 1- Dabbling duck; 2- \_\_\_ Rock; 3- Child's bed; 4- Bed down; 5- Collecting; 6- Marry; 7- Yours, in Tours; 8- Fenced areas; 9- Positions; 10- Building wings; 11- "We're all in the same \_\_\_"; 14- Sly looks; 15- Throb; 20- Veinlike deposit; 22- Exclamations of relief; 24- Artist Matisse; 26- Early computer; 27- Whimsically funny; 28- Asian capital; 30- Debonair; 32- Satisfies; 33- Steak order; 34- "Lou Grant" star; 37- No bid; 40- Sunset; 42- Costume; 45- Designer Christian; 47- Dynamic beginning; 50- Necklace fastener; 54- Toastmaster; 56- Examine account books; 57- You there!; 58- Voting no; 59- Linguist Chomsky; 60- Asia's \_\_\_ Sea; 62- Marsh bird; 63- Matinee idol; 64- Sinclair rival; 67- Metro area;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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



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**FOR SALE**

- [Coloane] Large apartment 3 1/2 2 1/2  
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- [Taipa] Manhattan 3 1/2 2 1/2  
1,720 ft<sup>2</sup> \$13,600,000 (ref: n/a)
- [Cotai] One Grantai 4 1/2 2 1/2  
2,556 ft<sup>2</sup> \$25,600,000 (ref: n/a)
- [Coloane] Hellene Gardens 3 1/2 2 1/2  
1,663 ft<sup>2</sup> \$7,950,000 (ref: 190550065C)

**FOR RENT**

- [Macau] Tai Nin 1 1/2 1 1/2  
\$9,200/mth 3,700 ft<sup>2</sup> (ref: n/a)
- [Macau] La Marina Studio 1 1/2  
\$11,200/mth 2,352 ft<sup>2</sup> (ref: n/a)
- [Taipa] Nova Grand 2 1/2 1 1/2  
\$16,000/mth 986 ft<sup>2</sup> (ref: 19055007RT)
- [Cotai] One Grantai 3 1/2 3 1/2  
\$23,000/mth 2,122 ft<sup>2</sup> (ref: 19030001RT)

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

AP PHOTO



## VERA WANG RETURNS, WITH HIPPIE HAIR AND COUTURE LINGERIE

**A**FTER a two-year break, Vera Wang returned to the New York Fashion Week runway with a moody and visually arresting show that featured high-couture lingerie elements, hippie hair, and heels so spiky that some models struggled to stay on their feet.

Camisoles. Bustiers. Garters. Corsets. All of these were on full display in a show that took place in a dark room punctuated by dramatic columns of white light. The show was titled: "Seduction. Layering to Reveal. Done

and Undone."

Colors were mainly black, gray, white and metallic — but, typically of Wang, mostly black. Charmeuse, silk, lace and tulle were in abundance.

"California Dreamin'" was on the soundtrack, and that's what was on Wang's mind, too, she said, as she developed her collection, though to others there was a distinct Victorian feel as well.

"It was a California dream, yeah, sexy, underwear, layering, things falling off," she said in an interview backstage.

## TENNIS COURT TO RUNWAY: SERENA WILLIAMS HITS FASHION WEEK

AP PHOTO



**T**ALK about a quick recovery. Only three days after her shocking loss in the U.S. Open final, Serena Williams went from the court to the runway to present the latest collection of her fashion label, S by Serena.

And she brought her baby daughter along for the ride: As she made her traditional post-show bow, wearing a snakeskin-style miniskirt that she designed, she was carrying little Olympia, 2, in her arms.

As befitting a tennis legend, Williams had some prominent fans in attendance, notably Kim Kardashian, TV host Gayle

King, and Vogue editor Anna Wintour.

Also attending: #MeToo movement founder Tarana Burke, who said Williams was "strong in so many ways, not just physically. I'll always support her."

Williams noted later on the red carpet that she her intention was "to show diversity of all colors and all backgrounds and all sizes — just beautiful women."

Burke praised Williams' runway for being truly diverse. "I love Serena," she said, adding that fashion is "another world for her to conquer.

## ACTRESS SALMA HAYEK SAYS SHE WANTS TO PROTECT MEXICO'S IMAGE

**S**ALMA Hayek says she refrains from using social media to comment on problems in her native Mexico because she wants to protect the country's image.

During an appearance this week to promote her Netflix series "Monarca" on a family's tequila empire, the actress was asked why she doesn't use her social media presence to draw more attention to Mexico's ills.

Hayek said she doesn't believe a post on her Instagram account can change things because most of her followers don't live in Mexico.

At the same time, she added, a critical post puts negative attention on Mexico elsewhere in the world, and "that can affect us with tourism, with people who are trying to invest in Mexico." She said she doesn't want to hurt her country.

AP PHOTO



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# Hong Kong soccer fans loudly boo Chinese national anthem

EILEEN NG, HONG KONG

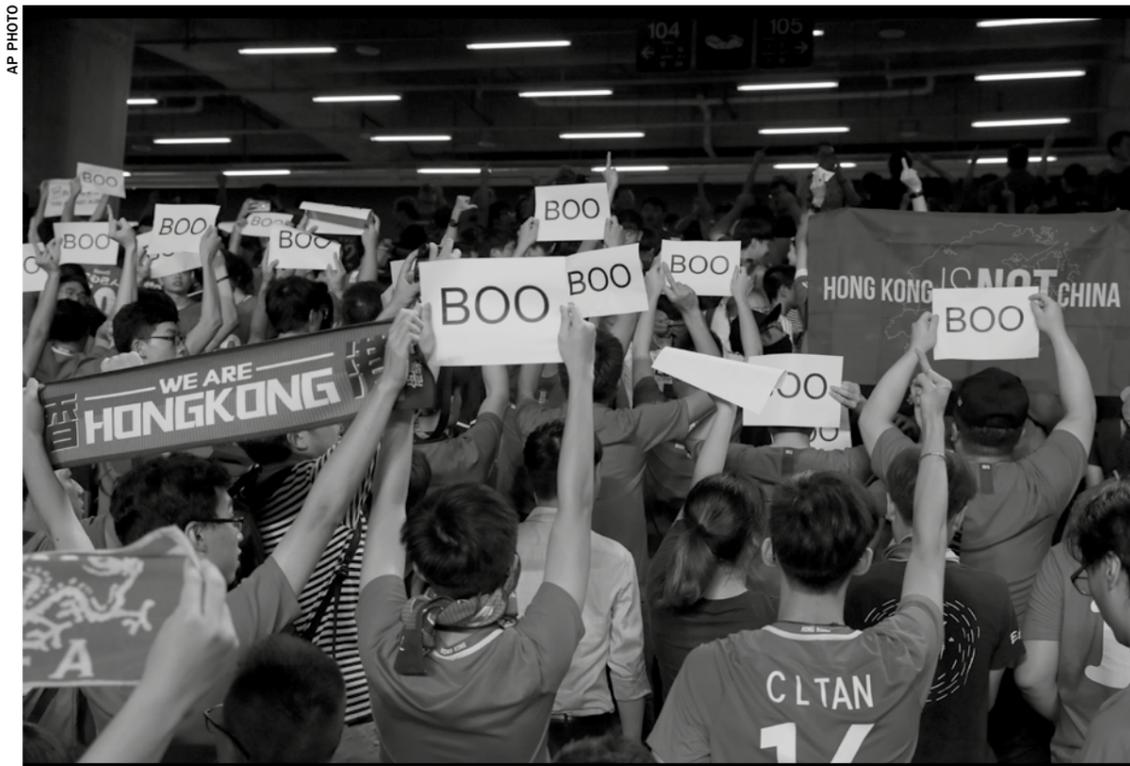
**T**HOUSANDS of Hong Kong soccer fans booed loudly and turned their backs when the Chinese national anthem was played before a World Cup qualifier match against Iran on Tuesday night, taking the city's months of protests into the sports realm.

The crowd broke out into "Glory to Hong Kong," a song reflecting their campaign for more democratic freedoms in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

After the match started, fans chanted "Fight for freedom" and "Revolution of our Times." One person carried a blue poster that read, "Hong Kong is not China."

Hong Kong has been roiled by protests since June over an extradition bill that would have sent some residents to mainland China for trial. The government promised last week to withdraw the bill but that failed to placate the protesters, whose demands now include democratic reforms and police accountability.

Security at the Hong Kong Stadium was tight, with fans frisked to ensure they did not bring in political materials and other prohibited items. Iran, Asia's top team, had sought to move the match, citing safety concerns over the unrest, but the request was rejected by FIFA, soccer's governing body.



Stadium announcers said 14,000 spectators attended the game.

Iran beat Hong Kong 2-0.

"Hong Kong people are united. We will speak up for freedom and democracy," one of the spectators, Leo Fan, said as members of the crowd continued to chant slogans and sing protest songs as they left.

In July, Hong Kong fans chanted slogans and waved banners

when English Premier League champions Manchester City played local team Kitchee at the stadium.

Many see the extradition bill as a glaring example of the city's eroding autonomy since the former British colony returned to Chinese control in 1997. Clashes have become increasingly violent, with police firing tear gas after protesters vandalized subway stations, set street fires and blocked traffic

over the weekend.

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam renewed an appeal to protesters earlier Tuesday to "say no to violence" and engage in dialogue, as the city's richest man urged the government to provide a way out for the mostly young demonstrators.

Lam said the escalation of violence, in which more than 150 people including students have been detained in clashes since

Friday, will deepen rifts and prolong the road to recovery.

Billionaire Li Ka Shing, in a video broadcast on local TV, described the summer of unrest as the worst catastrophe since World War II. In his first public comments, Li called youths the "masters of our future" and said the government should temper justice with mercy in resolving the crisis.

"I am very worried. We hope Hong Kong people will be able to ride out the storm. We hope the young people can consider the big picture and those at the helm can give the masters of our future a way out," Li, 91, told a religious gathering outside a Buddhist temple over the weekend.

Asked about Li's comments, Lam agreed that the government "can do more and can do better" especially in meeting young people to hear their grievances.

But she stressed the government cannot condone violence and will strictly enforce the law.

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

Beijing rebuked Germany earlier for allowing prominent Hong Kong activist Joshua Wong to visit "to engage in anti-China separatist activities."

Wong met Foreign Minister Heiko Maas in Berlin late Monday at an event hosted by the German newspaper Bild. AP

## BASKETBALL

# A shocker: US beaten by France 89-79 in World Cup quarters

**N**O gold. No medal. No more winning streak.

The U.S. reign atop international basketball has ended — this time, thwarted by France at the World Cup.

For the first time since 2006, the U.S. sent NBA players to a major international tournament and won't win gold. Evan Fournier scored 22 points, Rudy Gobert had 21 points and 16 rebounds and France beat the U.S. 89-79 in the World Cup quarterfinals YESTERDAY, rallying from a seven-point fourth-quarter deficit to pull off the upset.

"Any loss hurts," U.S. coach Gregg Popovich said. "And in this situation, it hurts more. But life goes on. This is very important and we would have loved to have won ... but we're all grown, we all have families



and lives and life goes on."

The U.S. had won 58 consecutive tournament games in FIBA and Olympic com-

petition, starting with the bronze-medal game at the 2006 world championships and continuing through

every FIBA Americas, World Cup and Olympics event since. It was bidding to become the first nation to win

three consecutive World Cups, after winning three straight Olympic golds in that span.

The best the Americans can do now in China is finish fifth, and they're assured of their worst finish in a big tournament with NBA players since placing sixth at the 2002 world championships. They're going home with a berth in the 2020 Olympics secured but no medal.

Donovan Mitchell scored 29 points for the U.S., all of them coming in the first three quarters. The Americans came up scoreless on six consecutive possessions down the stretch, the drought that allowed the French to take control of a back-and-forth game for the final time.

"Just got to take it like

a man at this point," U.S. guard Kemba Walker said. "We lost. There's nothing we can do. We competed. We've been competing since day one that we got to training camp. But we gave it everything we've got. I know we're Team USA and things of that nature and they've been winning for a lot of years, but you know, we didn't get a chance to pull it off."

Nando De Colo scored 18 for France. The French held the U.S. to 4 for 15 shooting in the fourth quarter — and benefited from the Americans going 4 for 11 from the foul line in the final 10 minutes.

"We came here to win gold," Gobert said. "We knew it wasn't going to be easy. A lot of people counted us out, but we got the win." AP

**OPINION**

**Made in Macao**

Jenny Lao-Phillips



**MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL TABOOS**

Friday the 13th is Black Friday, but this coming Black Friday should be a little bit less “black” because it is also the Mid-Autumn Festival, “Chong Chao,” one of the most celebrated festivals in Chinese culture, filled with lights and lanterns.

I have written a lot about the traditions of Mid-Autumn Festival over the years. We all know of the story of Chang-O, the lady who drank the immortal elixir and floated up to the moon; or the story of Wu-Kong, who was doomed to chop down the forever-regenerating giant laurel tree on the moon. At the center of all these legends is the moon. Therefore, the customs and traditions of the festival all revolve around the moon, and the main practice during the festival is moon appreciation.

Even now, families gather outdoors to eat moon cake, play with lanterns and watch the moon. Although playing with lanterns has become an important practice for children now, the use of lanterns during Chong Chao began for practical reasons. Before electricity and street lamps, it was, of course, dark at night. So families would bring lanterns with them when they had picnics under the moon, and over the years, lanterns became a must-have during the festival.

Anyway, we know a lot about what the festival is about and what to do on Chong Chao, however, lately I have realized that there are also a few taboos. An interesting one is that although moon worship is practiced everywhere in China on Chong Chao, in some places, males are forbidden from participating in the offering. It was believed that the moon represents the feminine and that the offering is for the moon goddess Chang-O. So unlike any other day, where the male head of the family is always the one to lead important rituals, Chong Chao is the one day females take the lead and offer incense and round food to the moon. Perhaps some intelligent lady came up with the argument of the feminine and took over the rituals on one of our most important festivals. There is also a belief that people who have just experienced a break-up should not celebrate the festival, especially men, who are not even supposed to go out and watch the moon, for it may bring further bad luck – another practice that I believe was started by women.

Although appreciating the moon is one of the most important Chong Chao customs, there are certain people who should not go out for moon appreciation during the festival. First, there are guys who have just broken up with their girlfriends. Then, it is also said that people who are sick, especially someone who has just had a miscarriage, must not go moon gazing, not even from their window in the comfort of one’s own home. It is also bad luck for people who are facing certain misfortunes to appreciate the moon on Chong Chao, such as those who have just been fired or been burnt by the stock market. Also, ladies should not have hair over their forehead, so those with bangs will need a hair band to go moon gazing. There is not much explanation for these taboos, but I guess it has something to do with the belief that the moon is “yin” (with negative energy), and negative plus negative does not a positive make.

So while Chong Chao is a day to celebrate the moon with one’s family, it is better for those who have just lost girlfriends, money or jobs to avoid the moon during the festival to prevent further bad luck. Otherwise, have some moon cake and play with some lanterns under the moon, and have a happy Mid-Autumn Festival this Friday.

**NORWAY’S HIGHEST COURT: CHILD-LIKE SEX DOLLS VIOLATE THE LAW**

THE BUZZ

Norway’s highest court says it is “beyond doubt” that child-like sex dolls represent the sexualization of children and are a violation of Norwegian law.

The Supreme Court unanimously ruled this week that the law on sexual offenses against children includes text, images, films and three-dimensional representations such as dolls.

The test case came after Norwegian customs in 2016 seized a doll bought online, and prosecutors charged the man who

had attempted to import it. In Norway, offenders face fines or up to three years in jail.

In 2017, Norwegian police expressed worries about the increase in the ordering of lifelike sex dolls from Hong Kong, saying those purchasing them include men convicted of sex crimes committed against children. It concluded the dolls could pose a risk of committing further abuses against children.

**LAWYER: JOHN HINCKLEY INTERESTED IN MUSIC INDUSTRY JOB**

JESSICA GRESKO, WASHINGTON

**T**HE man who tried to assassinate President Ronald Reagan is interested in getting a job in the music industry, possibly in California, his lawyer said at a court hearing in Washington yesterday [Macao time].

John Hinckley Jr., 64, lives in Virginia and was not present at the hearing. A prosecutor said allowing Hinckley to relocate to California for a music industry job would give the government “great pause.”

Hinckley spent decades living at a psychiatric hospital in Washington after being found not guilty by reason of insanity in the 1981 shooting that injured Reagan and three others. But health professionals have said that the mental illness that the 25-year-old Hinckley was suffering from when he shot Reagan has been in full and stable remission for decades. U.S. District Judge Paul L. Friedman has said he is no longer a danger to himself or others and has gradually allowed him more time away from the hospital and more freedom.

Since 2016, Hinckley has lived at his mother’s home in Williamsburg, Virginia. Hinckley lives under a set of 30 conditions Friedman imposed including regular visits with mental health professionals. Friedman gets reports on how he’s doing and, on Tuesday, said he believes some conditions can be loosened.

“Some conditions that are now in place don’t need to be in place,” the judge said, though he didn’t specify which ones.

Hinckley’s conditions include living within a 75-mile radius of Williamsburg, attending group and individual therapy sessions, volunteering or working at least three days a week and not speaking with the media.



John Hinckley Jr., the man who tried to assassinate President Ronald Reagan, in a 2003 file photo

Hinckley’s lawyer Barry Levine said during Tuesday’s approximately 40-minute hearing that he would file a motion seeking reduced conditions, though he didn’t say when or what precisely he’d ask for. He said he ultimately intends to ask that Hinckley be released without any conditions, and he said he would request that “in due course.” He acknowledged after the

**Hinckley spent decades living at a psychiatric hospital after being found not guilty by reason of insanity**

hearing, however, that getting the judge to grant Hinckley unconditional release would be a lengthy process.

Hinckley lives with his older brother Scott as well as his mother, who is in her 90s. According to court records he anonymously sells books online as well as items at an antique mall. Music has long been an interest for Hinckley, who plays guitar, writes music and sings. He participates in music therapy once a month. Under the conditions Friedman has imposed, however, he can’t perform publicly.

“He’s got some talent,”

Levine said after the hearing, though he declined to elaborate on the kind of music industry job Hinckley might want.

Prosecutor Kacie Weston didn’t go into detail about why the government would be concerned about a move to California for a music industry job. But that kind of move would put him far from a team of mental health professionals he has worked with for years, and Hinckley’s underlying crime had a link to California’s entertainment industry. Hinckley shot Reagan in an effort to impress actress Jodie Foster.

In addition to a music industry job, Hinckley is interested in traveling, Levine said, possibly to visit his sister in Texas.

The judge said that while he’d consider fewer restrictions, he wants answers about Hinckley’s future. He asked about a plan for where Hinckley would live if his mother needs to move to an assisted living facility or dies. He also noted that Hinckley has benefited from the team of mental health professionals around him but said that some of them are considering retirement. He asked to know more about Hinckley’s care going forward. AP



The Bahamas government says there are 2,500 people on its list of those missing after Hurricane Dorian. But the names have yet to be cross-checked against the lists of people evacuated from the devastated islands or staying in shelters.

Turkey’s highest court began considering an appeal by Wikipedia aiming to reverse the government’s more than two-year ban on the online encyclopedia. Ankara blocked Wikipedia in April 2011 after the website refused to remove content that allegedly portrayed the country as supportive of the Islamic State group and terrorist organizations.



9/11 For students from elementary to high school, the Sept. 11 terrorist attack isn’t a memory. It’s history. A new HBO documentary that debuted on the event’s 18th anniversary treats it that way. The need for “What Happened on September 11,” struck filmmaker Amy Schatz when a third grade girl told her about a playdate where she and a friend Googled “Sept. 11 attacks.”

USA A suspect stabbed at least five people at a building supply company in Florida before being taken into custody by police officers. The Tallahassee Police Department said that they were called to an industrial area in the city for a stabbing yesterday morning. When they arrived, they found multiple people with stab wounds.



Britain A Scottish court dealt another blow to Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s Brexit plans, ruling that his decision to suspend Parliament less than two months before the U.K. is due to leave the European Union was an unlawful attempt to avoid democratic scrutiny. The government immediately said it would appeal.