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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

A FATAL ACCIDENT OCCURRED IN
ILHA VERDE AFTER A CHARTERED BUS
COLLIDED WITH AN ELDERLY LADY
ON A ZEBRA CROSSING

AFTER TWO QUARTERS OF
ECONOMIC DECLINE, RECOVERY
MIGHT BE ON THE WAY

AIR MACAU IS PLANNING TO ADD
THREE NEW AIRCRAFT TO ITS FLEET
JUST AS ITS EXCLUSIVE CONCESSION
IS SET TO END NEXT YEAR

P2

P3

P7



China The government has banned flying kites, drones and captive pigeons over central Beijing for more than two weeks as it prepares for a military parade and other celebrations to mark the 70th anniversary of Communist Party rule on Oct. 1. [More on p11](#)

Taiwan has signaled to U.S. officials that it will move swiftly to complete the purchase of 66 new F-16 fighters once congressional foreign relations committees complete their review this month, according to a State Department official.

Philippines Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez wants the main tax agency to shut down and file cases against online gaming operators that haven't paid their dues. He issued the order after finding out that the Bureau of Internal Revenue hasn't substantially collected USD420 million in income taxes that should have been withheld by online gaming operators.



Thailand Catholics are celebrating the official announcement of the first papal visit in 35 years, but one 77-year-old nun in a far-flung corner of the country has a connection that makes the occasion particularly special.



Afghanistan officials say around 100,000 members of the country's security forces are ready for polling day. The presidential election is scheduled for Sept 28.

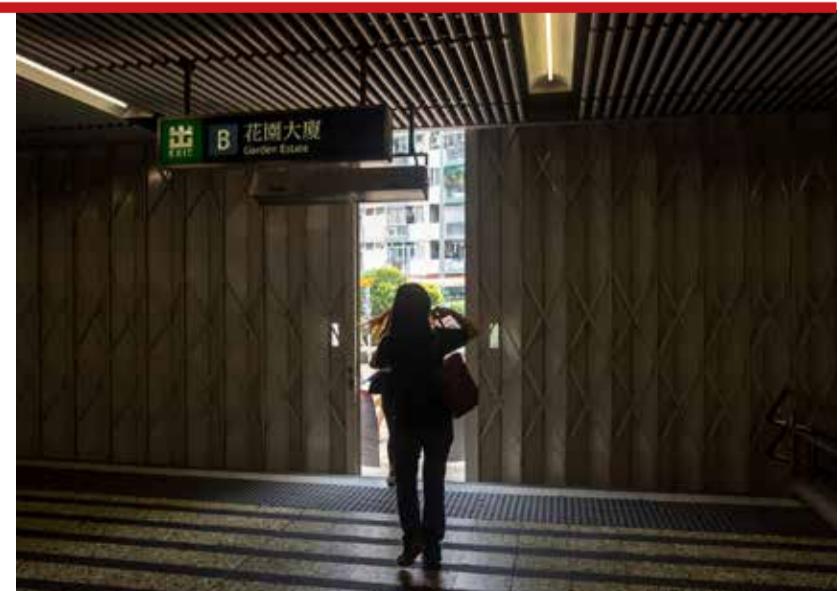
[More on backpage](#)

FIXING GAMING'S 3+3 HO IAT SENG PROMISES TO ADDRESS LEGAL LOOPHOLE

P3



A WORLD-CLASS SUBWAY UNDER PRESSURE FROM REPEAT ATTACKS



P8 HONG KONG

DEADLY VEHICLE CRASHES DURING MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL

ANTHONY LAM

A(n) elderly lady was killed following a car crash involving a chartered bus at Ilha Verde in the early hours of Friday morning.

The fatal accident occurred at an Estrada Marginal da Ilha Verde zebra crossing at 6 a.m.

The chartered bus was carrying about a dozen casino employees. The driver told the police that he had driven for 10 hours before the accident. Even though he felt slightly tired, he said he did not believe he was affected by it.

The driver, who had six years of experience on the job, was immediately suspended from work by the bus company. An alcohol test found no traces of alcohol in his body.

Paramedics from the Fire Services saw the victim lying on the ground with severe injuries. The victim had suspected fractures to both her legs and witnesses saw severe bleeding from her head. Paramedics found the victim had stopped breathing and her heart had stopped.

The woman was immediately sent to Conde São Januário Hospital, where she was



pronounced dead before 7 a.m.

Police said that surveillance camera footage was obtained to help with the investigation.

That same day, there were two other car accidents, one of which involved a two-seater sports car. It was suspected that the car sped and crashed into the roundabout near the Macao Science Center.

A man, a woman and a child were injured in the accident. They were conscious when

they were sent to hospital.

The car was badly damaged and scratches were found on both sides and on the roof of the car. Considering the damage sustained, police suspected that the car rolled after crashing. Tire marks spanning 20 meters were found.

As there were three passengers in the two-seater vehicle, the car was overloaded, police noted.

The other accident that day occurred on Estrada do Istmo,

involving a refrigerator truck and a bus.

The front of the truck caved in following the severe crash, trapping the male driver. It took the Fire Services approximately 40 minutes to rescue him. He suffered fractured knees and cuts to his hands.

The truck crashed directly into the rear of a bus carrying a dozen passengers. A female passenger fell to the floor of the bus and bruised her right pelvis.

THAI MAN ARRESTED FOR FLASHING IN PUBLIC

A 29-year-old Thai national was arrested by the Public Security Police Force (PSP) for flashing passers-by on the streets of Macau.

The man told police that he was working as a security guard at a casino and was a holder of a Macau permanent resident identity card. He was charged with exhibitionist activities.

The incidents took place near Estrada de Adolfo Loureiro. At about 5 p.m. on September 12, the PSP began receiving reports from both citizens and an off-duty police officer that a man in long trousers was showing his genitals to female students who were in their school uniforms.

According to police information, whenever female students passed by, the man would unzip his trousers and exhibit his genitals. The off-duty police officer monitored the entire event.

By the time PSP officers arrived at the scene, their off-duty colleague had stopped the man.

Police found the man carrying several tablets, which he claimed was medication for his sexual dysfunction. He had suffered the condition for three months, and the medicines were prescriptions from Kiang Wu Hospital and a medical facility in Thailand. He claimed he was flashing his latest victims because he was "interested" in them. AL

ASK THE VET



by Dr Ruan Du Toit Bester

GRAVES DISEASE IN DOGS

GRAVES disease in dogs is a condition that is caused by a hyperactive thyroid gland and will occur in dogs that have hyperthyroidism. The condition is considered autoimmune and the immune system will produce antibodies as a response to the thyroid hormones. The disease is rare in dogs, but can have complex manifestations. The treatment options may vary and will aim at reducing the activity of the immune system on one hand, and reducing the amount of thyroid hormones produced on the other.

Causes of graves disease

Graves disease is caused by an excess of thyroid hormones. The immune system is also involved in the disease, as it will react to this excess of hormones by producing certain antibodies. It is believed that immune system's reaction is triggered by the presence of certain bacteria or viruses. The disease is believed to be hereditary.

Symptoms of Graves Disease

The graves disease in canines can have various means of manifestation. You can notice the following symptoms:

- Enlarged thyroid gland, located at the base of the neck. This may also lead to a change in the voice of the dog, as the thyroid can press against the

vocal chords

- Weight loss
- Increased appetite, thirst and urination
- Increased blood pressure
- Irregular heart beat
- Protruded eyes, due to the inflammation of the ocular muscles
- Episodes of hyperactivity and agitation, followed by extreme exhaustion
- Insomnia
- Tremors
- General state of weakness
- Breathing problems
- Hyperthermia and fever
- Hair thinning or even hair loss
- Chronic sinus infection
- Hypercalcemia
- Upset stomach with diarrhea and vomiting

The condition may affect each system in the body. The dog may present only certain symptoms and these may occur and disappear for certain periods of time.

Diagnosing Graves Disease in Dogs

The disease can be diagnosed judging by the symptoms displayed by the dog and by testing the level of thyroid hormones.



Graves Disease Treatment Options

The management of Graves disease in dogs will focus on 2 aspects:

- Inhibiting the immune system
- Reducing the amount of thyroid hormones secreted by the dog

However, there is no known treatment for this condition. Different treatments may be tested and the dog should be monitored to see if the treatment works. The immune system's activity may be controlled with corticosteroids such as Prednisone, which will suppress the secretion of any antibodies. However, the treatment will also make the dog more vulnerable to diseases, as the immune system plays an important part in the defence mechanism of the dog's body. The thyroid hormones may be controlled by administering medication such as carbimazole, which will

reduce the activity of the thyroid gland. The vet may also recommend surgically removing 1 lobe of the thyroid gland or only parts of the gland. Radioiodine therapy is also a treatment option and may give permanent results.

Hope this info helps
Till next week
Dr Ruan

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Times

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**HO IAT SENG**

Ending gaming's 3+3 system would promote competitiveness

LYNZY VALLES

CHIEF Executive-elect Ho Iat Seng pledged last week that he would address the gaming sector's 3+3 system, adding that the future amendment bill in the gaming law would clearly stipulate the maximum number of gaming concessions.

The official was speaking during a press conference in Beijing last week before flying back to the MSAR after being officially confirmed as Chief Executive-elect (CE).

The current gaming conces-

sion and sub-concession model remains an issue because it relies on a loophole in the law.

"This appears to be the first time a CE or a CE-designate has admitted that the 3+3 concessions [model] is a legal issue," said Ben Lee, managing partner of Gamix Management & Consulting.

Ho told the press that the current government had already drafted possible amendments to the gaming law and that the changes will depend on how the gaming law is amended.

"The current gaming concession system is a model of three plus three. But actually, the ga-

ming law only stipulates [a maximum of] three gaming concessions, which means that [the existence] of the three others is a historical issue," Ho said.

He then assured the press that the lead-up to the expiration of the three gaming concessions and three sub-concessions would be conducted in a smooth manner.

Meanwhile, lawyer and political commentator Sérgio de Almeida Correia, who advocates an end to the sub-concessions regime, noted that the gaming law should be changed in order to allow the number of concessions required for the healthy development of

the gaming industry in Macau.

The move would also reinforce internal and external competitiveness.

This concession tool sets strict rules according to Law 16/2001, of which Article 7 clearly states that there is a maximum of only three allowable concessions.

"It makes no difference to me to say right from the law that there are six or eight concessions to be granted, or that they can be up to eight or more, leaving the government the possibility of deciding the opening of the international public tender and how many it will award," explained Correia.

"What cannot happen is for the law to say that the concessions will be three and then there to be six or a dozen in practice. This is a total discredit of the system," he added.

Meanwhile, commenting on Ho's statement that the government would clearly stipulate the maximum number of gaming concessions, Correia warned that the move might be a hindrance to the government.

According to Correia, this move has already been tried before and it was a mistake, as it resulted in the government deciding to grant sub-concessions that were not foreseen in the law.

"The laws should not be changed every time government policies change," argued the lawyer. "The legal system must be stable."

Meanwhile, the Chief Executive-elect also highlighted that he would start preparing for the policies and measures mentioned in his election campaign platform. Some may also recall an earlier promise to continue the policies of his predecessor and the implementation of the "one country, two systems" principle.

However, Correia pointed out that Ho is still unsure regarding his "immediate platform" that he intends to put in place.

"He needs to elaborate more over this issue and to explain in words so that everybody understands what he really wants to do. He has to abandon the 'round speech' as it is of no use and only appreciated by those who have no ideas or nothing to say," said Correia.

Speaking on possibly implementing universal suffrage for legislative elections in the future, Ho pointed to the SAR's Basic Law, noting that it rules out the possibility of this.

However, Ho would not rule out the possibility of having universal suffrage to elect the Chief Executive, though no timetable currently exists for that, he stressed.

"Mr. Ho is Mr. Status Quo. That's why he was chosen by Beijing. In fact, it is the only reason to choose him," commented Correia.

Ho is set to become the Macau's third Chief Executive on December 20.

Economy expected to return to growth by year-end

MACAU'S economy is set to return to growth in the second half of 2019, according to the latest forecasts from the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), which expects a contraction of 1% for the whole year.

The latest figures released by the Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC)

show that the economy of the territory contracted by 2.5% in the first half of 2019. However, DSEC drew attention to the fact that Macau's economy contracted by 1.8% year-on-year in the second quarter, an improvement compared to the 3.2% decline in the first quarter of 2019.

For 2020, the EIU fore-

casts economic growth at a rate of 3.2%, although it does not expect large variations in key indicators. The major exception might be gross fixed capital formation, or investment, from a negative rate of 21% this year to improve to a negative rate of 11.2% in 2020.

The report refers to the forecast of economic

growth for 2020, led by an increase in service exports, although it states that the gaming sector will continue to slow due to the absence of new casinos and reduced gambling spending by mainland tourists.

Government efforts to diversify the economy will remain unsuccessful, according to the EIU, which

mentions that gambling operators are diversifying tourism offering by focusing on entertainment and leisure activities not directly related to gambling.

The EIU also notes that public investment projects, such as a new social housing area, a medical complex in the islands and the first phase of the Ma-

cau Peninsula light railway, will slightly boost gross fixed capital formation.

In contrast, public spending will continue to be the fastest-growing gross domestic product component in the near term, with the local government using this aggregate to bolster the economy.

MDT/MACAUHUB

CHUMA A



THE ONLINE CASINO BOOM CHINA IS STRUGGLING TO CONTAIN

KOANH HA, JINSHAN HONG & ANDREO CALONZO

IT'S 6:30 on a Monday morning in China, and the Guangdong Club online gambling platform is humming as a stream of wagers placed in Chinese yuan flows through the portal. The club, which lists its place of registration as Costa Rica, hosts operators offering hundreds of sessions for such popular games as baccarat and blackjack, lotteries, and sports betting—many of them in Chinese. A single baccarat table can draw betting volumes touching 75,000 yuan (\$10,500) in a 30-second game.

This is gambling with a digital twist, and it allows Chinese to bet without traveling to Macau or Las Vegas. It's also a growing problem for China's Communist Party, which says the transactions are draining hundreds of millions of yuan from the country. Beijing views betting as a vice that fuels social unrest, and Chi-

nese law prohibits gambling on the mainland—including online. But the anonymity the internet affords has Chinese bettors flocking to digital gaming halls. They're fueling growth in Asia's online gambling sector, which is expected to reach \$24 billion in sales this year, according to market researcher Technavio.

Beijing has begun lobbying jurisdictions that permit online gambling—including the Philippines and Cambodia—to shut down the industry, an ambition made more urgent as China's economy slows and it grapples with an escalating trade war with the U.S. Yet stopping the businesses is proving difficult, because there's little incentive for these countries to hamper a lucrative industry. "It's become a cross-border business, and it's very difficult for China to prosecute," says David Lee, a partner at Taipei-based law firm Lin & Partners.

Value of Online Gambling

Market, Estimates and Projections

The Guangdong Club hosts virtual casinos operating out of Cambodia as well as others licensed in the Philippines, countries where gambling sites catering to international players are permitted. Costa Rica, where the club's website says it's registered, doesn't have an industry regulator or laws banning online casinos that provide gambling services overseas. The Guangdong Club didn't respond to emailed requests for comment, and its website lists no phone numbers. "Many online gaming companies operate under the radar," says Ben Lee, a Macau-based managing partner at Asian gaming consultant IGamiX. "There are so many of them. It's like China's trying to whack a mole."

The Chinese government has tied a number of problems to online gambling, including telecommunication fraud and citizens being lured to work illegally in the Philippines. The websi-

tes allow wagers of as little as 10 yuan, making them within reach of lower-income bettors. Online gaming halls also threaten to lure bettors away from Macau, the only city under Chinese control where casinos are allowed (though online gambling is still prohibited). The Guangdong Club has a logo that resembles that of a Macau junket operator called Guangdong Group, but the Macau company says it has no relationship with the online platform.

Gamblers on the Guangdong Club platform can deposit money and receive their winnings via accounts at several Chinese banks, including some of the country's largest, such as Bank of China Ltd. and Industrial & Commercial Bank of China Ltd., according to the club's website. The banks declined to comment.

Many platforms also allow gamblers to use popular online payment systems from Tencent Holdings Ltd. and billionaire Jack Ma's Ant Financial Services Group.

The payment systems have been willing to talk about how they're helping the government's effort to curb online gambling. In recent weeks, some virtual operators have warned gamblers that Tencent's WeChat app and Ant Financial's Alipay have tightened controls. In a statement, Tencent said it takes measures to help identify transactional risks and act against those attempting to use its system for illegal gambling. Ant Financial says it uses an AI-powered risk engine to intercept suspicious transactions and has zero tolerance for online gambling. When a merchant is confirmed to be engaged in gambling, Alipay limits its ability to collect payment, stops working with it, and reports the case to police.

China is winning some concessions from its neighbors. In response to pressure from Beijing, Cambodia has said it won't issue any new online gambling licenses and won't renew existing ones when they expire.

Most of China's pushback has been directed at the Philippines, where online betting sites have contributed to a small economic boom. Following China's calls for a crackdown, the Philippines has said it will stop accepting applications for new licenses at least until the end of the year. That's short of the full ban China wants to see. President Xi Jinping brought up online gambling in August when he met Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, who's since rejected the call for a ban. The Philippines isn't interested in drastic steps that will have an adverse effect on the economy and will instead regulate the sector, Chito Sta. Romana, the Philippine ambassador to China, said in a Bloomberg TV interview on Aug. 30.

Meanwhile, work continues in Manila on two multimillion-dollar online casino hubs intended to house operations and workers. "We are legal, we ensure fair play," Andrea Domingo, head of the Philippine gaming agency, said in a recent speech at an industry event, adding that online casinos "are here to stay."

Courtesy Bloomberg. Additional reporting by Siegfried Alegado, Lulu Yilun Chen, and Jun Luo

Gov't confirms Macau gaming receipts climbed 13.7% last year

TOTAL receipts of the gaming sector increased by 13.7% year-on-year to 304.71 billion patacas last year, according to data released Friday by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), with gross gaming revenue (MOP302.86 billion) accounting for the vast majority.

Meanwhile, receipts from the food and beve-

rage component totaled MOP541 million last year, dropping 4.6% and signaling a higher reliance on gaming within the industry, contrary to efforts to diversify the economy. According to DSEC, interest receipts leapt by 258.3% year-on-year to MOP526 million, on account of an upsurge in deposits and loans granted by enterprises.

Last year, total expenditure in the gaming sector amounted to MOP127.8 billion, up by 11.2% year-on-year. Expenditure on purchase of goods, commission paid and customer rebate rose by 13.3% to MOP68.97 billion (54% of total), while operating expenses increased 14% year-on-year to MOP31.84 billion (24.9%), mainly

incurred on complimentary goods and services provided to customers (MOP14.62 billion), management services and contractual services (MOP6.08 billion) and market research and publicity (MOP5.68 billion), representing growth of 13.2%, 17.3% and 18.4% respectively.

Compensation of em-

ployees went up by 4.9% to MOP22.37 billion in 2018, while non-operating expenses (including depreciation and interest paid) totaled MOP4.62 billion, a decrease of 2.9% compared with a year earlier.

Gross value added, which measures the sectoral contribution to the economy, grew by 13.6% year-

-on-year to MOP203.38 billion, the highest value since 2014.

Driven by the completion of large-scale tourism and gaming facilities, as well as the extensive equipment enhancement projects of enterprises, gross fixed capital formation of the sector in 2018 rebounded by 617.2% to MOP6.8 billion. **DB**



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Property of the Week



Big car park space, Tjoi Long Meng Chu

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Big car park space, enough for 2 cars, with independent exits.



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Property Hotlist



Carpark in Manhattan, Taipa

\$1,380,000



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Tai Nin, Macau

\$9,200/mth 1 1

Lovely furnished one bedroom apartment near Senado Square. Bright open planned living room, dining room and kitchen. Great size double bedrooms built in wardrobe in bedroom. Fourth floor of a walk up building very close to cafes, shops, banks, bus stop, a unique chance to live in Central Macau.



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2nd floor carpark, Happy Valley, Taipa

\$1,750,000



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Car Park, One Grantai, Taipa

\$2,500/mth



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More Listings

For Sale

- [Taipa] Kinglight Garden Loft 1 1 \$6,980,000 800 ft² (ref: 19055005ST)
- [Macau] One Central 2 2 \$13,575,000 1,269 ft² (ref: 19070002)
- [Coloane] Large apartment 3 2 \$13,800,000 2,530 ft² (ref: n/a)
- [Cotai] One Grantai 4 2 \$25,600,000 2,556 ft² (ref: n/a)
- [Taipa] Nova City 1 4 3 \$17,800,000 2,503 ft² (ref: 19015574)

For Rent

- [Macau] La Marina Studio 1 \$11,200/mth (ref: n/a)
- [Taipa] Nova Grand 2 1 \$16,000/mth 986 ft² (ref: 19055007RT)
- [Cotai] One Grantai 3 3 \$23,000/mth 2,122 ft² (ref: 19030001RT)
- [Taipa] Manhattan 4 2 \$27,800/mth 2,305 ft² (ref: n/a)
- [Cotai] Ocean Gardens 4 4 \$35,000/mth 3,700 ft² (ref: n/a)

Recent Movements

Sold Hellene Garden, Coloane, 1,663 ft², 3 bed



Sold Duplex, Macau, 1 bed



Rented Manhattan, Taipa, 1,720 ft², 3 beds

JML in the Community



Cradle of Hope



Caritas Macau

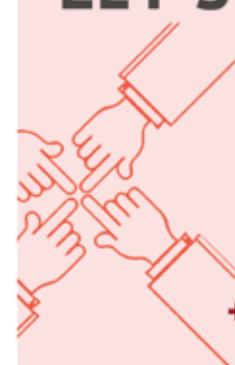


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RENATO MARQUES

AIR Macau is celebrating its 25th year of operations.

As part of the celebrations, the company has announced its intention to reach an agreement with Irish lessor AerCap for three Airbus A321neos as part of the company's fleet renovation efforts. According to Flight Global, the announcement was made amid the 25th anniversary celebrations, but another agreement with AirLease for two aircraft of the same model was signed late last year. Air Macau expects the two Air Lease aircraft to be delivered between the end of this year and spring 2020.

According to the same source, the first A321neo is expected to arrive at the Macau International Airport in November 2020 when the current exclusive concession from the company will expire, while the other two aircraft are likely to join the fleet about one year later.

Air Macau said at the beginning of the year that the local government's move to liberalize the market would promote significant changes to the airline's strategy and development. The airline had previously held an exclusive concession that permitted it to operate certain routes without competition.

On the sidelines of the celebrations for Air Macau's 25th anniversary, which were held last Friday, the president of the Civil Aviation Authority (AACM), Simon Chan, told the media that several companies would be in-

Celebrating 25 years, Air Macau adds new aircraft to fleet

terested in establishing a home base in Macau, but noted these intentions depend on a central government decision.

Chan said that after Air Macau's exclusive concession expired next year, the airline would still be able to continue operating in Macau.

Currently, 32 airlines offer flights connecting Macau to more than 60 cities. In part due to this marketplace activity, Chan noted that the ending of Air Macau's concession will not impact the development of Macau aviation.

"According to the [Macau] Basic Law, the central government [is the entity] that has to establish the new policy for the aviation sector," Chan said, adding, "we have been communicating with them but we don't have [the] full details yet."

Chan also noted that the only work that was under the competence of the AACM was the drafting of a plan for future policy. During a meeting with the head of the government on Friday, chairman of Air Macau, Zhao Xiaohang, said that the company has achieved success, especially in the past decade, noting the growth of the airline's fleet to 21 aircraft, the reduction of the average age of the planes and the increase in profits earned over the last 10 consecutive years.



AIRPORT EXPECTS 9 MILLION PASSENGERS THIS YEAR

THE Civil Aviation Authority of Macau (AACM) expects the Macau International Airport will serve more than 9 million passengers this year, according to AACM director Simon Chan. On average, the passenger traffic volume of the airport has increased by be-

tween 17 to 18% this year. Chan is confident that the growth will continue for at least the next few months.

SPORTS | BASKETBALL

'Beermen' prepare for Terrific 12 in Macau

RENATO MARQUES

FIVE-TIME Philippine Cup champions and newly-crowned Commissioner's Cup champions the San Miguel Beermen are preparing to take on China's Shenzhen Aviators and Japan's Ryukyu Golden Kings at the East Asia Super League's Terrific 12 tournament in Macau from September 17 to 22.

The Filipino team will lead a contingent of teams from the Philippines Basketball Association (PBA) in the tournament, including TNT Katropa and Blackwater Elite.

The tournament, which hosts teams from the Philippines, Japan, China

and South Korea, promises to bring plenty of quality basketball to the Tap Seac Multisport Pavilion in Macau. This event promises to be an upgrade from last year's tournament, which was won by the Ryukyu Golden Kings, after beating the Guangzhou Long-Lions to claim The Terrific 12 championship.

The San Miguel Beermen will play in Group B for the first stage and will face serious competition from the reigning champions this Thursday at 7 p.m.

The tournament kicks off at 3 p.m. tomorrow, with a match between the Seoul SK Knights and Blackwater Elite.

In the group stage, teams

will be divided into four groups of three teams, each playing two games per group. The top team from each group will advance to the semi-finals.

During the first three days of the group stage, there are games scheduled at 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Friday, September 20 is reserved as a rest day before the tournament resumes, with the semi-finals to be played at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

The top two teams will then compete for The Terrific 12 championship, while the two eliminated teams will compete for third place on Sunday, September 22, the final day of the tournament.

A TASTE OF LOCAL GASTRONOMY TRAVELS TO UNESCO WORLD FORUM

THE Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) director Helena de Senna Fernandes shared Macau's experience as a Creative City of Gastronomy with UNESCO members at the UNESCO World Forum on "Culture and Food: Innovative Strategies for Sustainable Development".

The event was held in Parma, Italy, making it the country's first UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy forum. It attracted the attendance of renowned chefs and tourism officials from different countries and regions.

The event, which took place on September 12 and 13, saw Macau in-

vited as one of the cities showcased as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy. The forum brought together government officials, international organizations, representatives and experts from around the world to discuss "Culture and Food: Innovative Strategies for Sustainable Development".

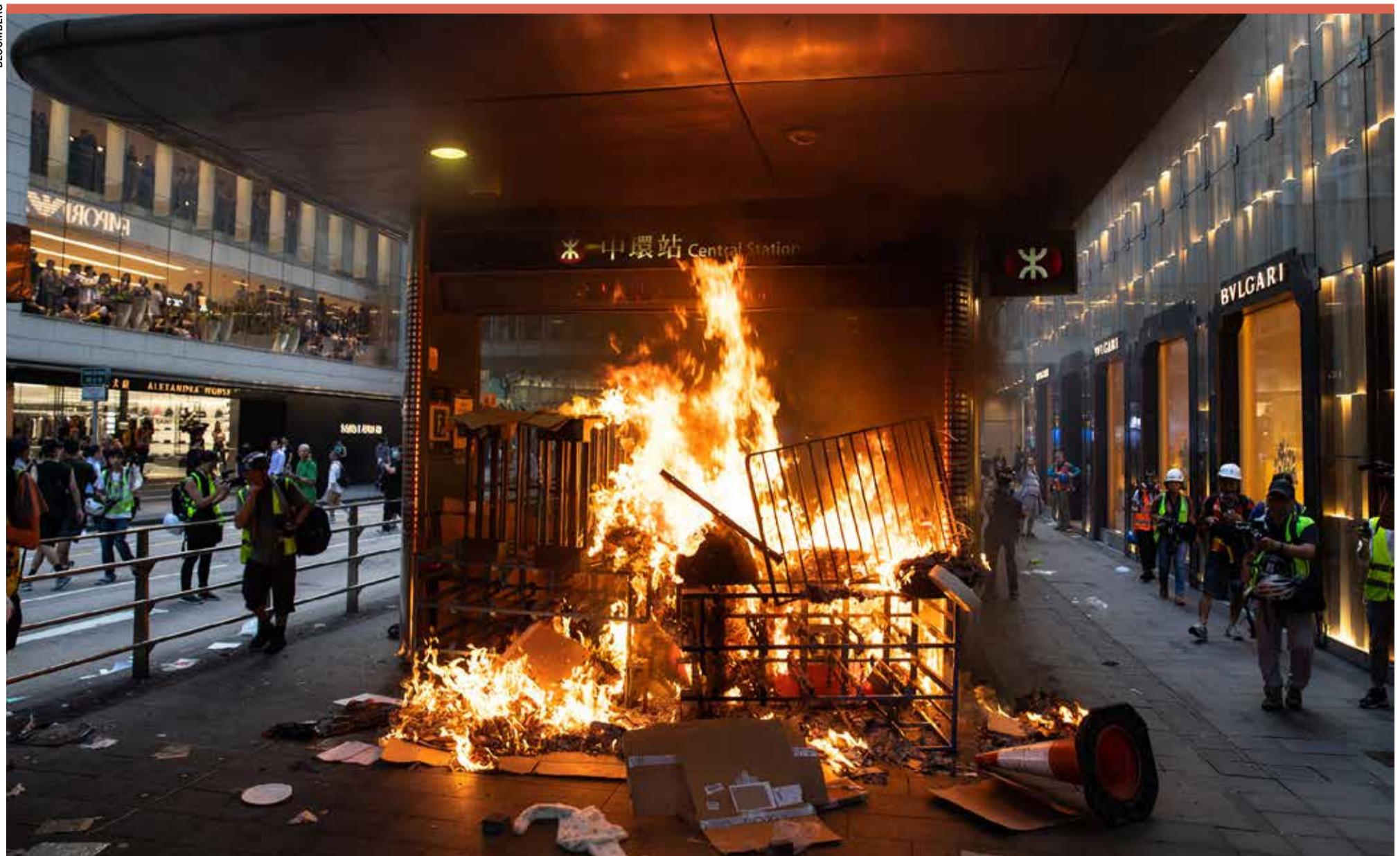
There were also sharing sessions from another five Creative Cities of Gastronomy, namely Östersund, Sweden; Florianopolis, Brazil; Panama City, Panama; Parma, Italy and Tsuruoka, Japan, during a panel on

"the examples of UNESCO Creative Cities of Gastronomy".

According to a state-

ment from MGTO, Fernandes' presentation focused on the initiatives undertaken since 2017, the year Macau was listed as a UNESCO Gastronomy City, and addressed topics such as food culture heritage preservation, fostering gastronomic creativity and sustainability, and shared ways these initiatives are generating a positive impact on the practices and branding of the city.

The two-day event also included other panels, including topics related to food culture and exploring innovative pathways for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. RM



HONG KONG

WORLD-CLASS SUBWAY PRESSURED BY REPEATED ATTACKS

BRUCE EINHORN
& SHAWNA KWAN

FROM Sydney to Stockholm, governments looking for help with their rail systems turn to Hong Kong's MTR Corp., renowned for its speedy, clean and reliable commuter trains.

That polished image is now tarnished at home, as months of unrest frequently boils into violence and vandalism on Hong Kong's subway. MTR facilities have looked more like battlefields on some weekends. Protesters have smashed windows at stations and set a fire blazing outside a station in the main business district. Police have fired pepper spray and been seen beating people aboard a train. Black-clad activists have protested at MTR-owned shopping centers and obstructed services on the network, which has more than 90 stations.

For many activists, MTR has become an antagonist, working with the government and the police to suppress their pro-democracy movement by closing stations and preventing people from going to and from protests.

"They are sacrificing passenger safety for the police," said Katherine Chau, a 26-year-old airport

worker who has taken part in protests, now in their 15th weekend. In early September, she began jumping over MTR turnstiles rather than paying as a way of opposing the broader system.

This has turned into a challenge for a new leadership team struggling to maintain MTR's expansion abroad while also containing the damage from a 2018 construction scandal that severely damaged its reputation in Hong Kong.

Overseas, MTR operates rail networks in Australia, Sweden and the U.K. Closer to home, the company runs trains in mainland China and will operate a light rail system scheduled to open soon in Macau.

MTR's Chief Executive Officer Jacob Kam has been on the job since April and Rex Auyeung became chairman in July. They have to contend with weekly crises as clashes between demonstrators and the police repeatedly cripple the network's busiest arteries. The pair also face revenue declines from a slowing economy. Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd. on Sept. 11 reported its biggest drop in passenger traffic in more than a decade, a bad sign for a company like MTR that counts on tourist spending, according to Michael Wu,

a Hong Kong-based analyst with Morningstar Inc.

"The Airport Express line is going to be hit the hardest since it's very tourism-driven," Wu said.

MTR did not respond to requests for comment on the business impact of the unrest. In a statement on Sept. 8, the company said it condemns the violence and closes stations only "as a last resort for the sake of staff and passengers safety."

MTR has taken heat from both sides of the conflict. While anti-government protesters target the company, China's state-owned media also issued blistering attacks last month, when MTR was running additional trains to accommodate a surge in demand from people participating in demonstrations.

"MTR operates exclusive train for violent protesters," the official Xinhua News Agency said in an Aug. 22 tweet. "MTR, a means of public transport? Or an accomplice to rioters?"

On the weekend of Sept. 7 and 8 alone, MTR closed seven stations, including major interchanges such as Prince Edward. On Sept. 8, a fire blazed outside Central station in Hong Kong's main business district.

In an open letter to MTR passengers released on Sept. 8, the two top officials criticized violence and vandalism, which they said threatened the safety of MTR staff.

The letter didn't refer to concerns protesters have raised about the company's cooperation with the government and police.

"At this crucial moment, we wish all sectors of the community could treasure and safeguard this railway network which has been carrying our collective memories over the past few decades," Auyeung and Kam wrote.

The beleaguered train operator has one major advantage: a captive market that depends on its transportation network. Despite the weekend disruptions, the metro system still operates as usual most of the time, serving millions of passengers a day.

"You may see a reduction in ridership, but the general public is still going to be using the mass transit system," said Ralph Ng, a Moody's Investors Service analyst.

Beyond the protests, the operator faces more difficulties. Kam and Auyeung took charge as part of a housecleaning effort following alleged safety violations caused by a contractor's construction short-

cuts on a long-delayed new line between Shatin, a suburb in the New Territories, and the Central district. A government investigation is ongoing and MTR is in discussions with authorities on a settlement, the company said in a July 18 statement. MTR in July set aside HKD2 billion (\$256 million) to provide for costs associated with the Shatin-Central project.

Overseas, a Stockholm commuter train service that the company manages "will likely remain in a loss-making position for a few years," MTR said in a mid-year report published on Sept. 4. A joint venture in the U.K. with FirstGroup Plc in 2017 began operating between London and southwestern England, but MTR announced in May a provision of 43 million pounds (\$53 million) to cover potential losses.

Even with its diversification, MTR still depends on Hong Kong for about 60% of its revenue, so the turmoil at home will continue to weigh on its prospects.

"MTR's profit faces serious risks amid escalating protests in Hong Kong," Bloomberg Intelligence analysts Denise Wong and Patrick Wong wrote in a Sept. 2 report.

Until Lam's government finds a way to end the crisis, protesters are likely to keep targeting the train operator.

"MTR is the easiest venue for people to revolt," said Chau, the turnstile jumper. "Ninety percent of the population uses it."

BLOOMBERG

POICE fired chemical-laced blue water and tear gas at protesters who lobbed Molotov cocktails outside the Hong Kong government office complex yesterday, as violence flared anew after thousands of pro-democracy supporters marched through downtown in defiance of a police ban.

A mixed crowd of hardcore protesters in black and wearing masks, along with families with children, spilled into the roads of the Causeway Bay shopping belt and marched for over 2 kilometers to the central business district. Some waved U.S. and British flags, while others carried posters reiterating their calls for democratic reforms.

Police had turned down a request by the Civil Human Rights Front to hold the march, but the demonstrators were undeterred, as they've been all summer.

"I feel this is our duty. The government wants to block us with the ban, but I want to say that the people will not be afraid," said one protester, Winnie Leung, 50.

The march disrupted traffic, and many shops, including the Sogo department store in Causeway Bay, one of Hong Kong's largest department stores, closed their doors.

Protesters burned Chinese flags and tore down banners congratulating China's ruling Communist Party, which will celebrate its 70th year in power on Oct. 1. In familiar scenes, some protesters smashed glass windows and surveillance cameras at a subway station exit.

Hundreds of protesters later targeted the government office complex, throwing bricks and gasoline bombs through police barriers. Police responded by firing volleys of tear gas and using water cannon trucks to spray chemical-laced water as well as blue liquid

Violence flares after HK protesters defy police ban

AP PHOTO



that helped them identify offenders, in a repeat of confrontational scenes from the last several weeks of the protests.

Protesters retreated but regrouped in the nearby Wan Chai neighborhood, setting fires outside a subway station exit and on the streets. They fled again after riot police advanced and the cat-and-mouse battles went on for a few hours before calm returned.

Police fired tear gas again later in the nearby North Point area after protesters obstructed traffic after brawling there earlier with pro-government supporters.

Hospital authorities said eight people were injured throughout the day, including three in serious condition.

The protests were triggered in June by an extradition bill that many saw as an example of Chi-

na's increasing intrusion and at chipping away at Hong Kong residents' freedoms and rights, many of which are not accorded to people in mainland China.

Hong Kong's government promised this month to withdraw the bill, which would have allowed some criminal suspects to be sent to mainland China for trial, but protesters have widened their demands to include direct elections

for the city's leaders and police accountability.

More than 1,300 people have been arrested amid increasing clashes between protesters and police, who demonstrators have accused of abuses.

The unrest has battered Hong Kong's economy, which was already reeling from the U.S.-China trade war. It is also seen as an embarrassment to Beijing, which has accused foreign powers of fomenting the unrest.

Earlier Sunday, hundreds of protesters waved British flags, sang "God Save the Queen" and chanted "UK save Hong Kong" outside the British Consulate as they stepped up calls for international support for their campaign.

With banners declaring "one country, two systems is dead," they repeated calls for Hong Kong's former colonial ruler to ensure the city's autonomy is upheld under agreements made when Britain ceded power to China in 1997.

Demonstrators held similar rallies Sept. 1 at the British Consulate and last weekend at the U.S. Consulate.

On Saturday, pro-democracy protesters and supporters of the central government in Beijing clashed at a Hong Kong shopping mall and several public places. Police arrested more than a dozen people and hospital authorities said 25 were injured.

The clashes amid the mid-autumn festival holiday came after several nights of peaceful rallies that featured protesters belting out a new protest song in mass singing at shopping malls. Thousands of people also carried lanterns with pro-democracy messages in public areas and formed illuminated human chains on two of the city's peaks on Friday night to mark the major Chinese festival. MDT/AP

HONG KONG

TAX ON DEVELOPERS AIMS TO LOWER HOUSING COSTS

HONG Kong is pushing ahead with a vacancy tax in the hope that a more affordable property market could help quell anti-government protests.

The government has gazetted the so-called vacancy tax proposal - an official procedure a bill must go through before being introduced into the Legislative Council. The government is prioritizing the bill and said it would submit it in the first regular Council meeting after the new legislative session begins.

Under the proposed bill, if a new apartment remains unsold for 12 months after it's completed, the developer will be subject to a vacancy tax unless the

unit is rented out. The tax would be a flat rate of 200% of the unit's estimated annual rental value.

The move may be a sign that Carrie Lam, the city's embattled leader, is trying to regain trust from discontented protesters using housing measures. "Housing is the most important livelihood issue," Lam said on her Facebook page Thursday. "More government policies to increase housing supply to come - we won't break our promise."

But developers are already opposing it. The Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong, an association representing all major players including Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd.,

CK Asset Holdings Ltd. and New World Development Co., has urged the government to withhold the bill. The proposed tax could create a threat to the financial system if home values slump as a result, the association said in a statement.

"The government has to consider whether there's any urgency for the tax when the economy is now being adversely impacted," Victor Lui, deputy managing director at Sun Hung Kai said in a post-earnings media briefing last week. "Waiting a bit longer to see how the economy is affecting real estate before making any decision is a safer thing to do."

BLOOMBERG

HONG KONG

AIR TRAFFIC TUMBLES AMID SHY VISITATION

HONG Kong's air traffic declined last month as protesters took a toll on the city.

"Hong Kong International Airport handled 6 million passengers in August, down 12.4% from a year earlier, according to figures published by the Airport Authority yesterday. It said the decline was mainly due to lower visitor numbers. There was also a 'significant' fall in passenger traffic to and from mainland China, Southeast Asia

and Taiwan, it said.

"In the past few months, there have been huge challenges to airport operations at times," C.K. Ng, executive director of airport operations, said in the statement.

The airport has become a focal point of the more than three months of unrest in the city, with protesters staging sit-ins and at times bringing operations to a halt. The airport authority has since obtained injunctions against people holding de-

monstrations there and blocking roads.

Tourism to Hong Kong declined almost 40% in August from a year earlier, Financial Secretary Paul Chan wrote in a blog post last weekend. That's the worst drop since the 2003 SARS epidemic. Chan wrote Sunday that the government would increase annual spending on construction in areas such as public housing and hospitals to HK\$100 billion (\$12.8 billion) over the next few years.

MDT/BLOOMBERG

OPINION**CAN LONDON'S GREAT WALL AGAINST HONG KONG HOLD?****Chris Hughes, Bloomberg**

Hong Kong Stock Exchanges & Clearing Ltd.'s tilt at London Stock Exchange Group Plc has achieved one thing: It has extracted a helpful checklist of requirements for any other would-be buyer of the venerable U.K. exchange. Hong Kong will struggle to address all of the concerns London set out on Friday – but it's too early to say for certain it will fail. It could always throw money at the problem.

The LSE has firmly rejected Hong Kong's proposal even as a basis for discussion. It notes regulatory approval for a deal is highly uncertain and there would probably be scant clarity in the next few months. To pursue a deal that might never materialize, LSE would have to ditch its planned takeover of data provider Refinitiv. As things stand, the bird in the bush is worth less than the bird in the hand.

LSE also questions the fundamental strategic selling point of the Hong Kong tie-up – that it provides a conduit for Chinese deposits to enter the global capital markets. It would rather tap that opportunity directly, citing its own recent tie-up with the Shanghai Stock Exchange. Merging with HKEX would be to double down in conventional share trading and there are other ways to access China.

How the combined business would be controlled – in particular the government of Hong Kong's right to appoint the chairman and approve five directors – is unacceptable in London.

Some, but not all, of these non-financial issues can be addressed. Regulatory uncertainty is somewhat circular: it would diminish if the LSE was onside and working in partnership for clearance. In theory, Hong Kong could reform its board to make its oversight independent of government. But in practice?

As for the strategy, HKEX is what it is. The future status of Hong Kong as a financial center is hard to predict amid the recent unrest.

To the extent Hong Kong is unable to resolve all these concerns directly, it still has the option of offering a stupidly high price in mitigation. That would put incredible pressure on the LSE to enter talks.

So far, HKEX hasn't done that. Its part-cash, part-stock offer is worth about 82 pounds (\$102) a LSE share based on the most recent closing price. That is less than what the LSE thinks it will be worth after buying Refinitiv. The U.K. bourse won't put a number on itself, but analysts at Berenberg reckon that the combination would be worth 83 pounds a share.

Hong Kong could certainly afford to add more cash to its proposal. But it needs to keep combined leverage modest, and certainly lower than what the LSE would have after buying Refinitiv. Given the systemic importance of the exchange, it will be easier to get regulatory approval if it is clear the combined company's balance sheet is strong.

Many LSE holders will discount the value of Hong Kong-listed shares, which they may not be able to own. Perhaps Hong Kong can get round this by simply chucking in even more stock or by raising cash locally through a share sale.

Price can overcome a lot – but not everything. The politics of this situation are highly charged, and they will probably settle the matter.

BLOOMBERG



Charles Li, the chief executive officer of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing

A SCATHING LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE SENDS HKEX PACKING

CHARLES Li isn't taking "no" for an answer.

Rejected by London Stock Exchange Group Plc directors, the chief executive officer of Hong Kong's bourse is ready to make his case for the 29.6 billion-pound (\$37 billion) takeover directly to investors.

LSE shareholders "should have the opportunity to analyze" the proposal in detail, according to a statement Friday by Hong Kong Exchanges & Clearing Ltd. Beyond the political, regulatory and commercial hurdles, HKEX is also demanding LSE walk away from its own \$27 billion deal for data provider Refinitiv.

"The Hong Kong exchange is seeing London Stock Exchange holders over the next few weeks to walk through the benefits of their offer," said Guy de Blonay, a fund manager at Jupiter Asset Management Ltd. in London. "That means going hostile is not out of the question."

The dealmaking involves some of the world's highest-profile financiers. Stephen Schwarzman's Blackstone Group is on one side, as lead investor in Refinitiv; on the

other, Ken Moelis's firm is advising HKEX. The winner side will have to persuade the \$320 billion Qatar Investment Authority, the sovereign wealth fund and the LSE's biggest shareholder, which has so far declined to comment on the HKEX proposal.

Early Friday, LSE rejected HKEX's offer, citing problems in "strategy, deliverability, form of consideration and value."

"Your assertion that implementation of a transaction would be 'swift and certain' is simply not credible," LSE said in its statement. "We see no merit in further engagement."

The London exchange pointed to HKEX's unusual relationship with its government as another sticking point.

"We are not a Chinese company," Li asserted last week. He even claimed "we are not even a Hong Kong company," referring to its international aspirations.

But LSE begs to differ. "There is no doubt that your unusual board structure and your relationship with the Hong Kong government will complicate matters," it said.

The Chinese territory's go-

vernment holds 6% of HKEX's stock and appoints 6 of the 13 board members. The city's chief executive - a person appointed by Beijing - picks HKEX's chairman.

LSE also has a problem with HKEX's old-school business model. "The high geographic concentration and heavy exposure to market transaction volumes in your business would represent a significant backward step for LSEG strategically," it said in the Friday statement.

HKEX responded by saying it's still seeking negotiations with LSE's board and hasn't decided yet to take the hostile route of directly making a tender offer to LSE shareholders, a person with knowledge of the matter said.

In the meantime, HKEX has quietly begun its campaign on the ground, citing analysts' criticism of the Refinitiv deal, according to people familiar with the matter. An Aug. 13 Commerzbank AG analyst report pointed to sluggish growth at Refinitiv and said a substantial part of its revenue base is in "structural decline."

For its part, the LSE has

pinned its future on a world dominated by data with its bid for Refinitiv, the business that used to be Thomson Reuters Corp.'s financial and risk unit. Bloomberg LP, the parent of Bloomberg News, competes with Refinitiv to provide financial news, data and information.

Speaking to reporters on Wednesday, Li touted the benefits of enabling two-way capital flows between East and West, "bringing together significant financial centers of Asia and Europe" and facilitating an 18-hour trading day.

The business arguments may prove moot amid rising global political tensions. Protests in Hong Kong and U.S. President Donald Trump's trade war with China could make the sale of the LSE to China-backed interests too fraught.

In London, U.K. Business Secretary Andrea Leadsom said on Wednesday the U.K. would "look very carefully" at anything with "security implications." The British political class may also be unwilling to court controversy given the drama over delivering Brexit.

MDT/BLOOMBERG

CHINA has banned flying kites, drones and captive pigeons over central Beijing for more than two weeks as it prepares for a military parade and other celebrations to mark the 70th anniversary of Communist Party rule on Oct. 1.

Flying activities that affect flight safety are prohibited in seven of the capital city's 16 districts from Sept. 15 to Oct. 1, according to a notice posted yesterday on the Beijing municipal government's website. The banned activities also include flying balloons and lanterns.

Military planes flew over the parade route yesterday as China held rehearsals for the second weekend in a row. Tanks and other military vehicles rumbled along the same road the previous night. The broad road was closed to both vehicles and pedestrians, with any onlookers kept behind barriers at least one-block away.

The parade is part of a huge ceremony planned at Beijing's Tiananmen Square to mark the founding of the People's Republic of China on Oct. 1, 1949. Communist forces took power after defeating Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist army in a civil war. The Nationalists retreated to the island of Taiwan,

No kites, pigeon flying as Beijing preps for 70th anniversary

where they set up a rival government called the Republic of China.

President Xi Jinping will deliver a speech at the ceremony, and more than 100,000 people will take part in what is described as a "mass pageantry." Organizers have said that the military parade will be larger than ones held on the 50th and 60th anniversaries, as well as the last one held in 2015 to mark the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II.

Tiananmen Square was closed to visitors over the weekend and due to reopen on Monday at 10 a.m., the official Xinhua News Agency said. Some roads and subway stations were also closed at various times, as well as access to buildings along the parade route.

Training pigeons is a traditional pastime in China, and racing the birds is a popular sport. Pigeon coops can be seen on the roofs of buildings in old neighborhoods in Beijing. AP



Key witness in murder trial of Chinese American scion jailed

THE prosecution in the murder trial of a wealthy San Francisco Bay Area real estate scion has hit a major snag: A key witness has been arrested on suspicion that he tried to contact a witness for the defense.

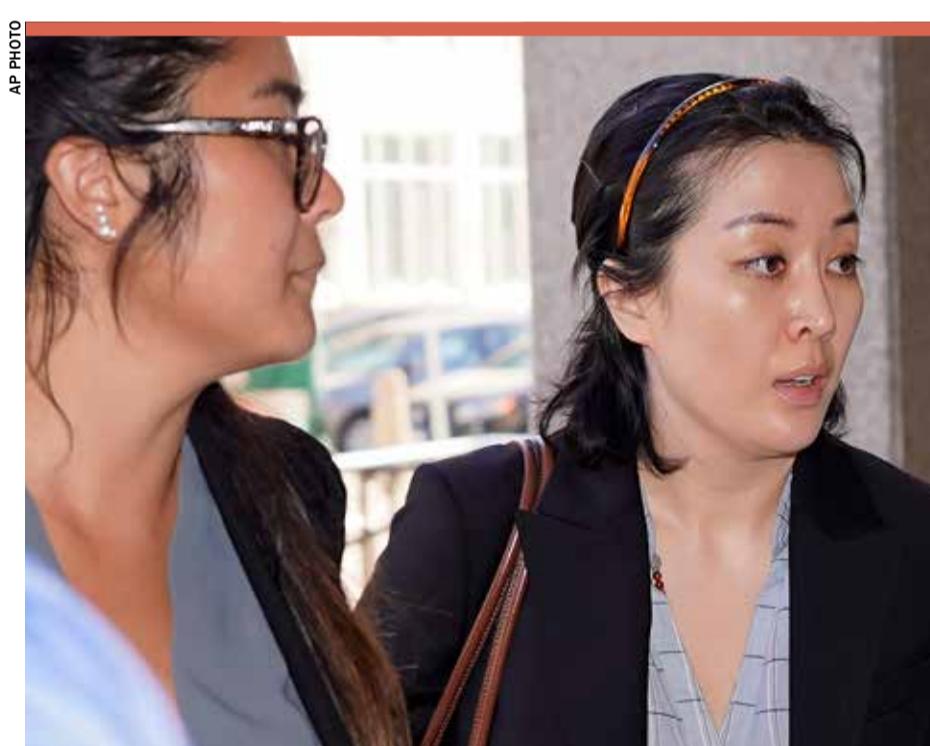
Prosecutors now may not allow Olivier Adella to testify at the trial of Tiffany Li and her boyfriend Kaveh Bayat, the Mercury News in San Jose reported Friday.

The couple is charged with murder in the 2016 killing of Keith Green, the father of Li's children.

Adella was arrested Thursday, the day the trial was scheduled to begin. Opening statements are now set for Tuesday.

Li has been free on bail since 2017 after her family, which made millions from Chinese construction projects, posted an astonishing \$35 million bail that has allowed her to stay in her Hillsborough mansion pending trial. Bayat was never able to post his bail and remains in custody.

Green's body was fou-



nd along a dirt road in Sonoma County nearly two weeks after he had been last seen meeting with Li to discuss custody of their children. Prosecutors say she feared losing custody to him.

Adella is a former co-defendant who was expected to testify that the pair asked him to dispose of Green's body.

Defense attorneys say

Adella is an unreliable witness who reached a plea deal for a reduced charge. They say he reached out to his former girlfriend after not talking to her for years, saying he knew she was working with the defense.

"We were having difficulty convincing her to come because she was already afraid of him," said Geoffrey

Carr, Li's attorney.

But Adella's attorney, Dek Ketchum, said the messages were the result of "bad judgment" and they never had a conversation about the case.

Green and Li met around 2009 when he was 21 and she was 23. He was a high school football star from a blue-collar neighborhood while Li was rich and educated. AP

PHILIPPINES ARRESTS 277 CHINESE ACCUSED OF INVESTMENT SCAM

JIM GOMEZ, MANILA

PHILIPPINE immigration agents have arrested 277 Chinese in a raid against an online investment scam syndicate that defrauded hundreds of people, officials said Friday.

The arrests Wednesday in the Ortigas financial district in Pasig city in the Manila metro-polis came after the Chinese Embassy provided information about the fraud, which has victimized more than 1,000 Chinese, Immigration Commissioner Jaime Morente said.

Morente said he initially ordered the arrest of four Chinese but authorities caught 273 other suspects "in the act of conducting illegal online operations."

The Chinese government cancelled the passports of those arrested, making them illegal workers in the Philippines. They would be charged and detained in an immigration jail prior to deportation, the immigration bureau said.

"Their presence in the country is a risk to public security," Morente said. "These fugitives will be hunted, deported, and will be blacklisted, effectively banning them from reentering the country."

China has been cracking

down on crimes by its citizens in Asian countries, including in the Philippines, where tens of thousands of Chinese nationals have traveled to work in online gambling outfits, which are illegal in China.

Last month, the Chinese Embassy said many Chinese have been illegally recruited to work in the gambling industry in the Philippines, often without work permits. The online gambling and gaming outfits cater to mostly Chinese clients in mainland China.

The embassy said Chinese money was flowing illegally into the Philippines involving crimes such as money laundering and that many Chinese recruited to work in online gambling outfits were mistreated, with their passports seized, confinement and physical abuse.

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation has stopped issuing licenses to offshore gambling outfits while contracts and security and legal issues are reviewed. The gambling regulator said the Philippine government has collected nearly 12 billion pesos (USD235 million) in revenues from those gaming and gambling outfits from 2016 to last year alone. AP

AP PHOTO



A computer screen showing images of Chinese President Xi Jinping (right) and U.S. President Donald Trump

GOV'T BACKS US FARM PURCHASES AS TRADE TALKS ATMOSPHERE WARMS

CHINA said it is encouraging companies to buy U.S. farm products including soybeans and pork, and will exclude those commodities from additional tariffs, in the latest move to ease tensions before the two sides resume trade talks.

The Commerce Ministry's announcement on Friday follows a move earlier this week to exempt a range of American goods from 25% extra tariffs put in place last year, as the government seeks to lessen the impact from the trade war. China didn't specify the amount of purchases of pork and soybeans, which are key exports from agricultural states important for President Donald Trump's 2020 reelection bid.

Equity markets have rebounded in recent days as both Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping sought to lower tensions that are clouding the outlook for the world's biggest economies. Adding to the pressure on Beijing, China is facing pork shortages that are pushing up prices during a holiday period, prompting officials to ration sales in some areas. Still, major differences on the substantive issues that sparked the trade war remain.

"It is hoped the U.S. side can keep goodwill reciprocity with China through practical actions," Global Times editor-in-chief Hu Xijin said in a tweet shortly before the move was announced.

Trump administration officials have discussed offering a limited trade agreement to China that would delay and even roll back some U.S. tariffs for the first time in exchange for Chinese commitments on intellectual property and agricultural purchases. Working-level teams from both countries are set to meet next week.

"The ice is thawing," said Chua Hak Bin, an economist at Maybank Kim Eng Research Pte. in Singapore. "China's reciprocity to Trump's goodwill gesture will set the stage for more cooperative trade talks."

Soybean futures were little changed in Chicago after the Xinhua announcement. Prices had jumped 3.3% on Thursday and hog futures rose the most allowed by the exchange amid optimism that China will boost imports of American farm pro-

ducts. The U.S. government also cut its outlook for soybean stockpiles more than expected in a monthly crop report.

The Shanghai Composite Index increased for a second consecutive week, and the S&P 500 Index was on course for its third

“China's reciprocity to Trump's goodwill gesture will set the stage for more cooperative trade talks.”

CHUA HAK BIN
ECONOMIST

straight week of advances.

The Chinese government is growing increasingly concerned about soaring prices and its potentially to mar celebrations for the 70th anniversary of the People's Republic of China's founding on Oct. 1. China is hoping to import 2 million tons for the year, some of which would be added to state reserves, according to people with knowledge of the plans.

tons of U.S. soybeans free of retaliatory import tariffs, people familiar with the situation had said.

The goods exempted from additional tariffs this week by China included pharmaceuticals, lubricant oil, alfalfa, fish meal and pesticides. The exemptions are effective from Sept. 17 to Sept. 16, 2020, and will cover 16 categories of products worth about USD1.65 billion, according to Bloomberg calculations based on China's 2018 trade data. Further rounds of Chinese exemptions will be announced in due course, the ministry said.

Wednesday's exemptions apply to the round of tariffs Beijing imposed on U.S. goods starting last July in retaliation for higher U.S. levies. China began accepting applications for tariff exemptions in May, but it is the first time they have stated which products will be excluded. The U.S. Trade Representative's Office has announced six rounds of exclusions for the punitive tariffs on \$34 billion in Chinese goods since December.

"We can all see there is a likelihood of a mini-deal given China's pork problems and to a lesser degree the 2020 election issue," said Michael Every, head of Asia financial markets research at Rabobank in Hong Kong. "Does this mean we get a 'real deal'? Let's just say that this is still highly unlikely." **BLOOMBERG**

POLITICS

Malaysia's two top opposition Malay parties forge alliance

TWO major opposition parties in Malaysia forged a political alliance Saturday to consolidate support from the country's majority ethnic Malay Muslims, a move that could threaten Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's government in the next general election.

Mahathir's alliance scored a surprise win in May 2018 general elections, unseating the National Front coalition that had led since the country's independence from Britain in 1957. But many Malay Muslims, who account for 60 percent of the country's 32 million people, still support the parties in what is now the opposition.

The linchpin of the National Front, the United Malays National Organization, and its former enemy, the Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party, said inked a pact Saturday that they say will unite Malay Muslims. The two parties secured 75% of Malay votes in the last election but that didn't transla-

AP PHOTO



te into a majority of seats in part because they fielded competing candidates for many seats and split the Malay vote.

The two parties have now agreed not to contest against each other, paving the way for straight fights with Mahathir's Hope Alliance in the next election, whi-

ch is due by 2023.

"Now that they are formally allied and switched to a more effective election strategy of pooling together electioneering resources and putting forward the most winnable candidates from either party, they pose a substantially clear and present electoral threat"

to the Hope Alliance, said Oh Ei Sun, a senior fellow at the Singapore Institute of International Affairs.

The defeat of the UMNO-led National Front was attributed to anger over a massive corruption scandal involving former Prime Minister Najib Razak. Najib is cur-

rently on trial after being charged with multiple counts of corruption linked to the multibillion-dollar looting of the 1MDB state investment fund.

UMNO's President Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, a former deputy premier who took over the party after Najib stepped down, has also been charged in a separate graft case.

Zahid said in a speech Saturday that the new union will uphold Islam but that it will not cause racial enmity as he promised to respect the rights of other races. Malaysia has large ethnic Chinese and Indian minorities.

"We are confident that this national cooperation pact, it will inspire us further in our joint cause," he told thousands of supporters.

PAS currently controls the legislatures two of Malaysia's 13 states, while UMNO controls none.

Bridget Welsh, an Asian expert at the John Cabot university in Rome, said the "alliance of convenience has a good chance of winning power based on previous voting patterns."

Many Malays fear their privileges under decades-old affirmation action policies could be threatened under Mahathir's government, while non-Malays feel the government is not being inclusive enough, she said. She said PAS and UMNO are trying to capitalize politics of division. AP

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Attention

INDONESIA SELLS OFF 30 COMPANIES OVER FOREST FIRES

NINIEK KARMINI
EILEEN NG, JAKARTA

INDONESIA has sealed off 30 companies amid a row with Malaysia over forest fires that are spreading a thick, noxious haze around Southeast Asia, officials said Saturday.

The plantation companies, including a Singapore-based company and four firms affiliated with Malaysian corporate groups, are under scrutiny and waiting for decisions on possible punishment, said Sugeng Riyanto, the law enforcement director at Indonesia's Forestry and Environment Ministry.

Nearly every year, Indonesian forest fires spread health-damaging haze across the country and into neighboring Malaysia and Singapore. The fires are often started by smallholders and plantation owners to clear land for planting.

Indonesia's forestry and environment minister, Siti Nurbaya Bakar, told reporters Friday that the government will prosecute a number of companies as a deterrent to setting fires.

The move came days after she disputed that the smoke was

AP PHOTO



coming from Indonesia, noting that hotspots were also detected in Malaysia's Sarawak state.

Malaysia's environment minister, Yeo Bee Yin, responded immediately, telling Indonesia "not to be in denial." She cited data that showed that the haze impacting parts of Malaysia originated in Indonesia.

The head of Indonesia's Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency, Dwikorita Karnawati, dismissed claims by

Malaysia that haze from Indonesia has drifted to the neighboring nation for days. She said the haze began to enter the area above peninsular Malaysia and Serawak state on Thursday morning.

She said the agency's satellites and its Geohotspot analysis on Thursday detected 1,231 hotspots on Sumatra island and 1,865 on Borneo. It also detected 412 hotspots in Malaysia's state of Serawak and 216 in Sabah.

Officials have said Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad would write to Indonesian President Joko Widodo to press for urgent action to tackle the cross-border haze.

Many areas of Indonesia are prone to rapid burning because of the draining of swampy peatland forests for pulp wood and palm oil plantations.

Poor visibility caused by smoke had caused delays of several flights in Indonesia and Malaysia

and prompted authorities to shut schools in some parts of the two countries this week.

Malaysia's primary industries minister, Teresa Kok, expressed her concern over the action taken by Indonesian authorities against the land belonging to the subsidiaries of four major Malaysian-owned palm oil plantation companies.

"This is a very serious accusation indeed," Kok said in a statement on Friday.

She said she would talk with her Indonesian counterpart and hopes to resolve the matter quickly and amicably.

The Indonesian Disaster Mitigation Agency said Saturday that 99% of the hotspots were caused by deliberately set fires, leading to very poor air quality in six provinces with a combined population of more than 23 million. The provinces have declared a state of emergency.

The agency said 42 helicopters have dropped nearly 240 million liters of water and 160 tons of salt for cloud seeding as part of the fire-fighting efforts.

Indonesian authorities have deployed more than 9,000 people to fight the fires, which have razed more than 328,700 hectares of land across the nation, with more than half in the provinces of Riau, Jambi, South Sumatra, West Kalimantan, Central Kalimantan and South Kalimantan. AP

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AP PHOTO

**TERRORISM**

White House says bin Laden son killed in US operation

ZEKE MILLER, WASHINGTON

THE White House announced Saturday that Hamza bin Laden, the son of the late al-Qaida leader who had become an increasingly prominent figure in the terrorist organization, was killed in a U.S. counterterrorism operation in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region.

A statement issued in President Donald Trump's name gave no further details, such as when Hamza bin Laden was killed or how the United States had confirmed his death. Administration officials would provide no more information beyond the three-sentence statement from the White House.

American officials have said there are indications that the CIA, not the U.S. military, conducted the strike. The CIA declined comment on whether the agency was involved.

The White House statement said Hamza bin Laden's death "not only deprives al-Qaida of important leadership skills and the symbolic connection to his father, but undermines important operational activities of the group." It said Osama bin Laden's son "was responsible for planning and dealing with various terrorist groups."

The U.S. officials had suspected this summer that Hamza bin Laden was dead, based on inter-

elligence reports and the fact that he had not been heard from in some time. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence matters. Defense Secretary Mark Esper told Fox News Channel in a late August interview that it was "my understanding" that Hamza bin Laden was dead.

A U.S. official familiar with the case who spoke on condition of anonymity about intelligence-gathering said bin Laden was killed in the past 18 months. Confirming such a high-profile death can take a long time, said the official, who declined to say what led the U.S. to report bin Laden's death with certainty.

The younger bin Laden had been viewed as an eventual heir to the leadership of al-Qaida, and the group's leader, Ayman al-Zawahri, had praised him in a 2015 video that appeared on jihadi websites, calling him a "lion from the den of al-Qaida." Bin Laden's death leaves Zawahiri with the challenge of finding a different successor.

The U.S. government in February said it was offering USD1 million for help tracking down Hamza bin Laden as part of the State Department's Rewards for Justice program. The department's notice said he was married to a daughter of Abdullah Ahmed Abdulla, an al-Qaida leader and

Egyptian charged for his role in the 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in East Africa. They were said to have two children, Osama and Khairiah, named after his parents.

He was named a "specially designated global terrorist" in January 2017, and he had released audio and video messages calling for attacks against the U.S. and its allies. To mark one 9/11 anniversary, al-Qaida superimposed a childhood photo of him over a photo of the World Trade Center.

Osama bin Laden's son 'was responsible for planning and dealing with various terrorist groups'

Video released by the CIA in 2017 that was seized during the 2011 U.S. raid that killed Osama bin Laden showed Hamza bin Laden with a trimmed mustache but no beard at his wedding. Previous images have only shown him as a child.

Hamza bin Laden is believed to have been born in 1989, the year of the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, where his father became known among the mujahideen fighters. His father returned to Saudi Arabia and later fled to Sudan after criticizing the king-

dom for allowing U.S. troops to deploy in the country during the 1991 Gulf War. He later fled Sudan for Afghanistan in 1996, where he declared war against the U.S.

As al-Qaida's leader, Osama bin Laden oversaw attacks that included the 1998 bombings of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, as well as the bombing of the USS Cole off Yemen. He and others plotted and executed the 2001 attacks against the United States that led to the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan. U.S. Navy SEALs killed the elder bin Laden in a raid on a house in Abbottabad, Pakistan, in 2011.

This past March, Saudi Arabia announced that it had revoked the citizenship of Hamza bin Laden. The kingdom stripped Osama bin Laden's citizenship in 1994 while he was living in exile in Sudan when Hamza bin Laden was just a child. It was unclear where Hamza bin Laden was at the time of the Saudi action.

Hamza bin Laden began appearing in militant videos and recordings in 2015 as an al-Qaida spokesman.

"If you think that your sinful crime that you committed in Abbottabad has passed without punishment, then you thought wrong," he said in his first audio recording.

After the Sept. 11 attacks, a U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan sought to topple the Taliban, an ally of al-Qaida, and seize the elder bin Laden. He escaped and split from his family as he crossed into Pakistan. Hamza was 12 when he saw his father for the last time — receiving a parting gift of prayer beads.

"It was as if we pulled out our livers and left them there," he wrote of the separation.

Hamza and his mother followed other al-Qaida members into Pakistan and then Iran, where other al-Qaida leaders hid them, according to experts and analysis of documents seized after U.S. raid that killed Osama bin Laden. Iran later put the al-Qaida members on its soil into custody. During this time, Hamza married.

In March 2010, Hamza and others left Iranian custody. He went to Pakistan's Waziristan province, where he asked for weapons training, according to a letter to the elder bin Laden. His mother left for Abbottabad, joining her husband in his hideout. On May 2, 2011, the Navy SEAL team raided Abbottabad, killing Osama bin Laden and his son Khalid, as well as others. Saber and other wives living in the house were imprisoned. Hamza again disappeared.

In August 2015, a video emerged on jihadi websites of al-Zawahri introducing "a lion from the den of al-Qaida" — Hamza bin Laden. Since then, Hamza had been featured in al-Qaida messages, delivering speeches on everything from the war in Syria to Donald Trump's visit to Saudi Arabia on his first foreign trip as president.

But he hadn't been heard from since a message in March 2018, in which he threatened the rulers of Saudi Arabia. AP

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**ONENESS: CALLIGRAPHY BY PROFESSOR JAO TSUNG-I****TIME:** 10am-6pm (No admission after 5:30pm; closed on Mondays)**UNTIL:** September 30, 2019**VENUE:** Jao Tsung-I Academy**ADMISSION:** Free**ENQUIRY:** (853) 8598 6718**Offbeat****YAK ON RIDE TO BUTCHER SHOP ESCAPES TO VIRGINIA MOUNTAINS**

Authorities in Virginia say a yak on its way to the butcher's shop escaped to the nearby mountains avoiding animal control officers and treats trying to lure it back into a trailer.

The News & Advance reports the yak named Meteor was on its last ride Tuesday from Buckingham, Virginia, to the butcher when it got out of its trailer.

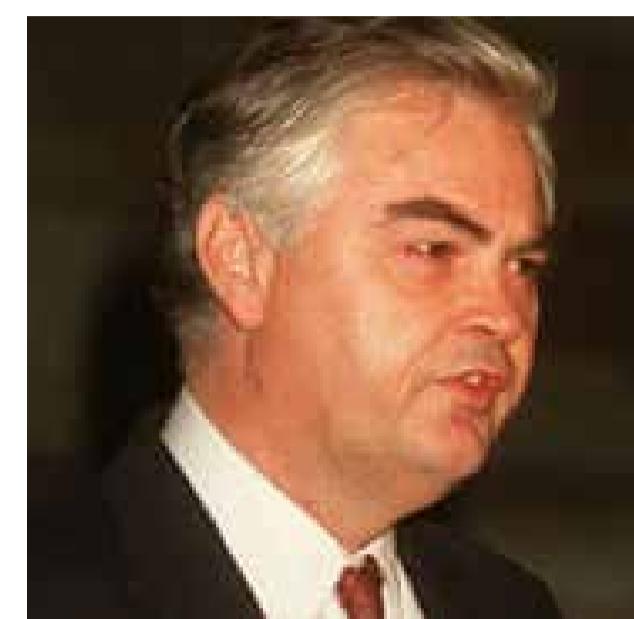
The escape was called in as livestock on the loose, and Nelson County Animal Control officer Kevin Wright says he figured he was looking for a cow.

Wright says the yak crossed a busy highway and avoided officers trying to capture it by heading for the mountains.

The yak was last spotted Wednesday at an inn, where the owners tried unsuccessfully to lure it into a trailer using treats.

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****ROOM 3****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****1992 UK CRASHES OUT OF ERM**

The government has suspended Britain's membership of the European Exchange Rate Mechanism.

The UK's prime minister and chancellor tried all day to prop up a failing pound and withdrawal from the monetary system the country joined two years ago was the last resort.

Chancellor Norman Lamont raised interest rates from 10% to 12%, then to 15%, and authorised the spending of billions of pounds to buy up the sterling being frantically sold on the currency markets.

But the measures failed to prevent the pound falling lower than its minimum level in the ERM.

The second rise in the interest rate was reversed by the beleaguered chancellor soon after the withdrawal from the ERM, setting it at 12%.

The move is a dramatic U-turn in government policy, as only last week Prime Minister John Major reaffirmed the government's commitment to remaining within the mechanism.

Mr Lamont admitted it had been an extremely difficult and turbulent day, but a Downing Street spokesman said he would not resign.

The shadow chancellor, Gordon Brown, said colossal errors of judgement by the prime minister and chancellor had betrayed the British people.

Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown said the government's policy had failed.

"They have lost control of the economic situation," he told the BBC.

But both politicians stopped short of calling for the chancellor's resignation.

Britain's decision to join the ERM in October 1990 represented a major shift in the direction of the government and has become a cornerstone of the country's European policy.

But Conservative MP for Stone William Cash, said the policies of the government and the chancellor should now be reconsidered.

"I think that the position of Norman Lamont at the moment is extremely precarious... We are in a state of political shambles," he said.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

All member countries agreed to keep their currency value within set limits linked to the German mark.

As a consequence they were forced to adopt the anti-inflation policies of the German Bundesbank.

Membership of the ERM has become a Brussels-imposed condition to joining the Euro - Europe's single currency. Britain did not rejoin after 16 September 1992 - a day which became known as "Black Wednesday".

Seven months later in May 1993, Norman Lamont was replaced as chancellor by Kenneth Clarke. He became a fierce right-wing critic of John Major's government.

In the 1997 general election he lost his House of Commons seat and a year later was made a life peer.

YOUR STARS**ARIES**

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Can't decide whether to take the plunge on a big purchase, a new relationship, or another potentially perilous venture? You may be acting too cautiously - beware of second-guessing yourself.

**TAURUS**

Apr. 20-May. 20

In a relationship, focusing on your partner ensures that you won't ever take him or her for granted. In life as in sports, you have to live in the moment and be paying attention.

**GEMINI**

May. 21-Jun. 21

Lean on a strong relationship today when you feel yourself falling back into old bad habits or contemplating calling up an ex. You may see your ideas as nostalgic and fun visits to the past.

**CANCER**

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Hot topics at work or in school are awakening viewpoints you never realized you had. Today could mark the beginning of a very active intellectual phase for you.

**LEO**

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Looking back can be very educational and enlightening today. You'll notice a real pattern of behavior that will help you move forward. This is a day to be confident of your decisions.

**VIRGO**

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

You will start this day with a lot of bright energy, but if you are looking for more, look no further than your closest friends. Get in touch and see what is going on with them.

**LIBRA**

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Grab on to the craziest idea you can think up, and look at it without any emotion. If you want to do it, attack it with strategy and skill. You are capable of blowing people's minds.

**SCORPIO**

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Understanding the value you bring to any situation is the most important way to understand how much influence you have. Step back and evaluate how much you bring to a school group or work team.

**SAGITTARIUS**

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Despite the fact that you are loaded with energy and eagerness right now, today is not the day for the green light. Forward movement is not advised.

**CAPRICORN**

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

The only way to increase your confidence is to meet a challenge head on and conquer it. So keep an eye out for the chance to prove yourself. Whatever tough tasks you take on, you'll come out stronger than ever.

**AQUARIUS**

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

While observing romantic couples today, you might end up feeling confused - so many people seem to be connected at the hip, and you are wondering what the benefit of that closeness could possibly be.

**PISCES**

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

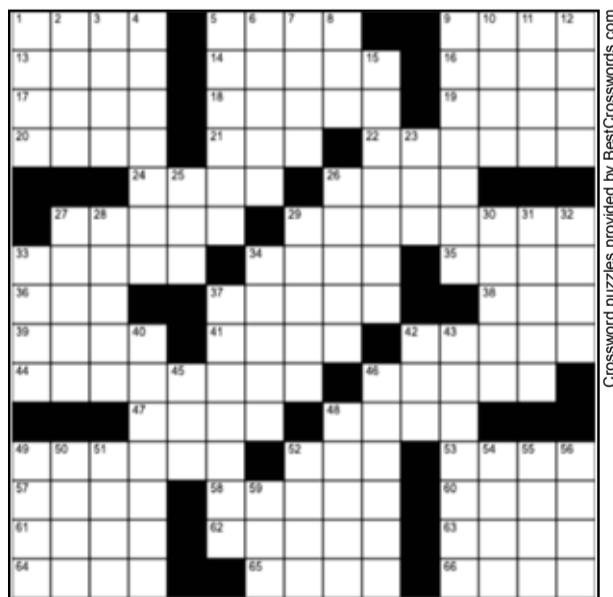
Your creativity will really be sparkling today, and you should follow whatever urge you have to create something - no matter how inconvenient it is. If you want to repaint your bedroom, go for it!

CROSSWORDS

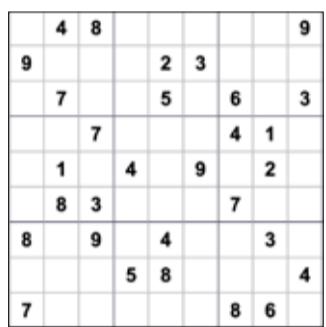
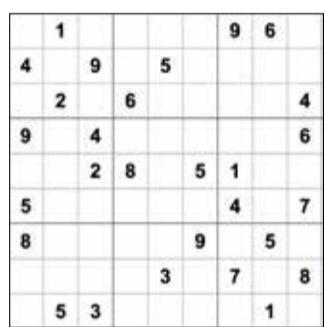
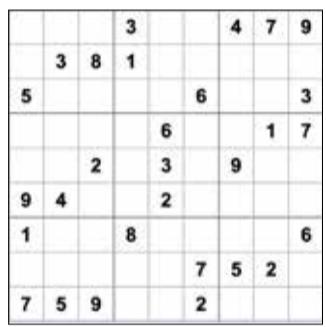
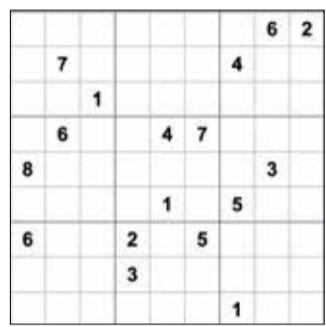
ACROSS: 1-Sinclair rival; 5- My word!; 9- Mgr.'s helper; 13- Entrance; 14- Loft dwelling; 16- ___ speak; 17- Group of two; 18- Luges; 19- Loyal; 20- Dextrous, lively; 21- Actress Carrere; 22- Alarms; 24- Hollow grass; 26- Second letter of the Greek alphabet; 27- ___ is human; 29- Nomad; 33- Fenced areas; 34- Anjou alternative; 35- Superb; 36- Suffix with pay or plug; 37- Chilling; 38- JFK's predecessor; 39- Plenty; 41- Mines; 42- Jowl; 44- Since I was ___ to a grasshopper (young); 46- Rose; 47- Word that can succeed building, web or burial; 48- Cap'n's underling; 49- Looks after; 52- TV alien; 53- Cupid; 57- ABM part; 58- Angry with; 60- Bullpen success; 61- One of the Jackson 5; 62- Slur over; 63- Woody plant; 64- Idyllic place; 65- Closing word; 66- Cravings;

DOWN: 1- Water swirl; 2- Protein bean; 3- Rise sharply, as a bird would; 4- Commanded; 5- Christian festival; 6- Icy; 7- Extent of space; 8- Accomplished; 9- Greek goddess of justice; 10- Feeling achy; 11- Astound; 12- Some digits; 15- Spirit; 23- ___ be my pleasure!; 25- Hosp. areas; 26- Foundation; 27- Claw; 28- Take to the soapbox; 29- Value; 30- Cowboy display; 31- Wrapped up; 32- Smell to high heaven; 33- Yellow of an egg; 34- Light grayish brown; 37- Embodiment; 40- Official sitting; 42- Short change?; 43- Frankness; 45- Strike; 46- Cushion, as a blow; 48- Part of an ice skate; 49- Glut; 50- "National Velvet" author Bagnold; 51- Major ending?; 52- Take ___ view of; 54- Uncommon; 55- Hot spot; 56- Recognizes; 59- Menu phrase;

Friday's solution



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom**SUDOKU****EASY****EASY+****MEDIUM****HARD****WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
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
WORLD			
Moscow	17	22	moderate rain
Frankfurt	21	33	clear
Paris	22	32	clear
London	16	24	clear
New York	18	27	clear

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Macau Daily Times 28 716 081

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[Macau] One Central 2 **\$13,575,000** 1,269 ft² (ref: 19070002)

[Coloane] Large apartment 3 **\$13,800,000** 2,530 ft² (ref: n/a)

[Cotaia] One Grantai 4 **\$25,600,000** 2,556 ft² (ref: n/a)

FOR RENT

[Macau] La Marina Studio 1 **\$11,200/mth** 2,352 ft² (ref: n/a)

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

[Cotaia] One Grantai 3 **\$23,000/mth** 2,122 ft² (ref: 19030001RT)

[Taipa] Manhattan 4 **\$27,800/mth** 2,305 ft² (ref: n/a)

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CARDI B, A\$AP ROCKY SUPPORT RIHANNA'S DIAMOND BALL

LIKE many kids, Rihanna dreamed of someday growing up to be rich, but helping others was at the forefront of her vision.

"It's always been important to me before any success," she said at her annual Diamond Ball charity gala.

She's made a lot more than that as superstar singer and now fashion and beauty mogul, and with her Clara Lionel Foundation has doled

out money around the globe to help support education programs, women's health and emergency response organizations for people in need.

Cardi B and Offset, A\$AP Rocky, Karlie Kloss, DJ Khaled, 21 Savage, Pharrell Williams and others came out to support the glittering charity dinner, which even featured an impromptu performance by Rihanna and Williams.

MUSEUM SAYS NOT EVERYTHING GLITTERED IN DUTCH 'GOLDEN AGE'

AP PHOTO



NOT everything glittered in the 17th century when what is now the Netherlands was a mercantile, military and artistic superpower, so a Dutch museum has decided to stop calling that era the "Golden Age."

In a statement this week, Amsterdam Museum curator Tom van der Molen said the term is strongly linked to national pride over prosperity and peace but "ignores the many negative sides of the 17th century, such as

poverty, war, forced labor and human trafficking."

The decision has ignited some heated responses, with Prime Minister Mark Rutte, who studied Dutch history in college, on Friday calling the move "nonsense."

"I'm a bit tired of discussions about one term," Education Minister Arie Slob told reporters in The Hague.

In a tweet, populist lawmaker Thierry Baudet called the move "pure brainwashing."

NEPAL FESTIVAL SEASON STARTS WITH GODDESS, DANCE

DEVOOTEES pulled a girl believed to be a living goddess, Kumari, around Nepal's capital on a wooden chariot as tens of thousands of people lined the streets to get a glimpse and receive a blessing.

President Bidhya Devi Bhadari and other top officials were among those seeking a blessing Friday from the girl, one in a long series who have been worshipped as a living goddess.

Indra Jatra is an eight-day festival celebrated mostly by the Newar community, the native residents of Kathmandu. It is also known

as the festival of deities and demons. It especially honors Indra, the Hindu god of rain, to mark the end of the monsoon season.

Indra Jatra begins a festival season that runs until October, during which both Hindus and Buddhists celebrate with family, feasts and merry making.

Families gathered Friday for feasts and at shrines to light incense for the dead, and men and boys in colorful masks and gowns representing Hindu deities danced to traditional music and drums, drawing throngs of spectators to the city's old streets.



AD

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FMCC champions Breakfast Meetings in town with key speakers sharing their views on current business affairs. Our monthly events take place every last Wednesday of the month at Sofitel Macau at Ponte 16. Open to all!

FMCC Breakfast Meeting
Wednesday, 25th September 2019

Lionsgate Entertainment World - Where Movies Come Alive!
Speaker : Mr. Rick Zeng, Deputy General Manager & Marketing and Sales Director, Lionsgate Entertainment World®

Introduction:
Introduction of the making of Lionsgate Entertainment World, a fascinating experience in Hengqin. Deep insights on how it represents the new trend of developing urban social entertainment projects riding on movie IPs, and how to turn movie stories into location-based entertainment facilities.

Date: Wednesday, 25th September, 2019
Time: 9:00a.m. -10:30a.m. (Reception: 8:45am)
Venue: Sofitel Macau at Ponte 16
6th floor, Promenade Meeting Room

RSVP before 2p.m. on 23rd September
info@francemacau.com or Tel: (853) 8798 9699

- 2019 FMCC members join free-of-charge*
- Guests and non-members @ MOP188*
- * Breakfast included

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FRANCE MACAU Chamber of Commerce 法國澳門工商會

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FMCC Networking Event
Cheese Master Class and Tasting with Master of Cheese, Mr. Patrice Marchand

Introduction:
FMCC has the great honour to invite Mr. Patrice Marchand, Maître Affineur de France (Master Cheesemaker and Ripener), holder of the Guinness world record for the largest cheese display of cheese varieties, and one of the three celebrated Marchand brothers from one of the oldest families of French cheesemakers. Marchand cheese is found on the most renowned gastronomic tables across the globe. This is a unique opportunity to learn from the Master while tasting amazing cheese with great wines in a unique venue, the ABA wine cellar at MGM MACAU.

Date: Friday, 27th September, 2019
Time: 6:30p.m. - 8:30p.m.
Venue: ABA Bar, MGM MACAU
Ground Floor, ABA wine cellar

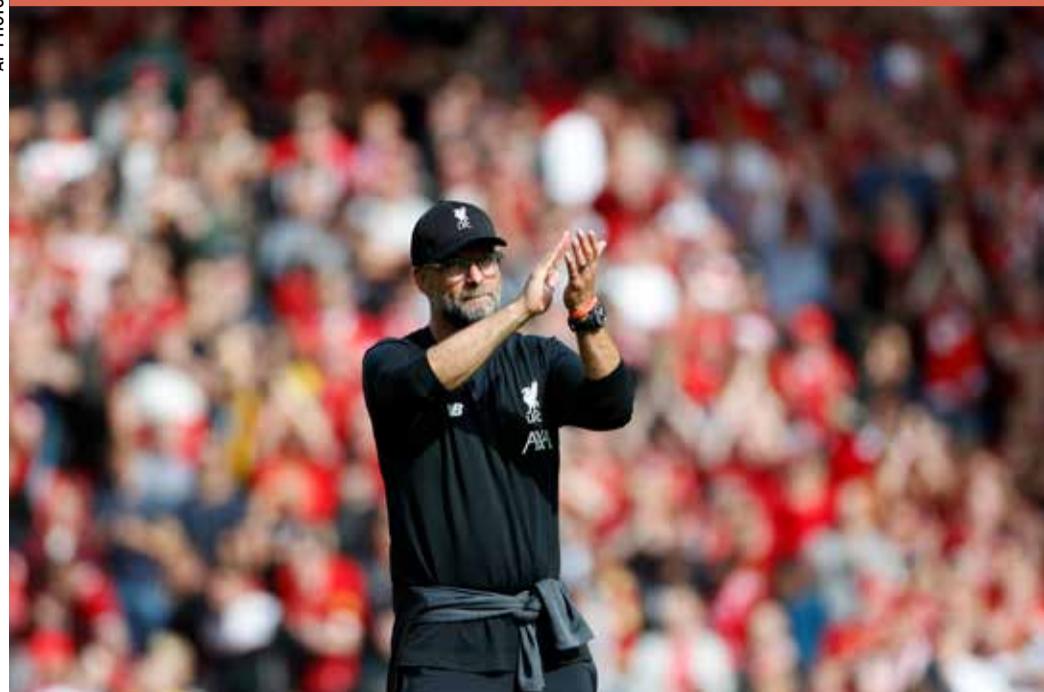
RSVP before 2 p.m. on 24th September
info@francemacau.com or Tel: (853) 8798 9699

- 2019 FMCC members join @ MOP280*
- Guests and non-members @ MOP350*
- * Price includes cheeses and free flow of wine.
Strict No-Show/ Late Cancellation policy applies for this event.

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*Organizer • France MACAU Chamber of Commerce 法國澳門工商會 • Sponsor • SUEZ NWS • Partner • MGM 美高梅

AP PHOTO



Left: Liverpool's manager Jürgen Klopp applauds after the English Premier League soccer match between Liverpool and Newcastle. Top right: Chelsea's Tammy Abraham celebrates scoring his side's fourth goal of the game. Bottom right: Norwich City's Alexander Tettey (left) and Sam Byram celebrate at the final whistle

FOOTBALL | EPL

City beaten at Norwich, dropping 5 points off Liverpool

JAMES ELLINGWORTH

MANCHESTER City's defense of the English Premier League title is already in trouble.

Hapless defensive errors helped Norwich beat City 3-2 on Saturday and leave the defending champion five points behind perfect Liverpool after just five games.

City hadn't lost a league game since January—and drawn only once in that time—but conceded two goals to Norwich inside the opening half-hour. A team which soared last season was brought to earth.

"The people cannot expect we win every time or make 100 points [every season]," manager Pep Guardiola said. "Even with the [score at] 3-2 we had chances to make another one. The team never gave up."

First, Kenny McLean evaded City's marking to head in a corner from Emi Buendia, then City was caught unawares by a Norwich counterattack. Teemu Pukki and Todd Cantwell broke together, Pukki drawing the defenders before delivering the ball to give Cantwell an easy finish.

Sergio Aguero revived City with a goal just before halftime—he's scored in all of City's first five games—but sloppy defending just after the break undid his work.

Nicolas Otamendi failed to notice Buendia running in behind him and was robbed of the ball on the edge of the penalty area before Buendia passed for Pukki to score his sixth goal.

Rodrigo's low, hard shot for an 88th-minute goal gave City hope, but Norwich's defense and goalkeeper Tim Krul weathered the storm for an unlikely win.

Indeed, Norwich had to deal with more than just the Premier League champion. A wave of injuries left the underdog with a squad so depleted that it couldn't find six outfield players as substitutes, instead picking two goalkeepers on the seven-man bench.

As McLean put it: "When we have our backs to the wall we come out fighting."

LIVERPOOL STILL PERFECT

Liverpool stayed perfect with five wins from five after beating Newcastle 3-1, but it wasn't easy.

Jürgen Klopp's team went behind to a sweetly struck early goal from Jetro Willems, but fought back to win and preserve its record.

Sadio Mane continued his strong start to the season with two goals before halftime, taking him to six from six games in all competitions. Mohamed Salah made certain of the win with a third goal late on.

"You have to play much quicker than we did in the first part of the game. In the moment we did that we started having chances and we scored two wonderful goals," said Klopp.

"In the second half we scored only one goal but we played really good football and I liked it a lot."

CHELSEA YOUNG GUNS

What a day for Tammy Abraham. Chelsea's new first-

-choice striker scored a hat trick, then an own goal, then went off injured.

It's all part of the youth revolution under new manager Frank Lampard—a little chaotic but effective.

"He has to sustain it and has to get even better. He has to be hungry, which I know he is. He can never rest on his laurels, because there is more work to be done," Lampard said of Abraham, who is the league's joint-top scorer alongside Aguero with seven.

In the 5-2 win over Wolverhampton Wanderers, Chelsea became the first ever team to have 11 straight league goals scored by players aged 21 or younger. It's quite the turnaround in four games since the opening-day 4-0 defeat to Manchester United.

In addition to Abraham's three, Fikayo Tomori and Mason Mount also scored.

Both Wolves goals, including Abraham's own goal, came after Chelsea scored five, and meant little. Abraham did not seem seriously hurt, though teammate Antonio Rudiger needs an exam on a groin problem before Chelsea plays Valencia in the Champions League on Tuesday.

SON SHINES

Tottenham didn't hang around to beat Crystal Palace, scoring all of its goals in the first half for a 4-0 win.

As so often when Tottenham plays Palace, Son Heung-Min was the star. The South Korean scored twice and had a hand in another goal, feeding Harry

Kane to deliver a cross for Erik Lamela to score.

Son scored his first league goal against Palace and became the first scorer at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium against Palace in April. It was Tottenham's first win since the opening day of the season and the first time it had scored four since beating Huddersfield in April.

UNITED SCRAPES A WIN

Manchester United earned its first win for a month, but it was far from convincing.

An eighth-minute penalty from Marcus Rashford led United to beating Leicester 1-0, but it was a game they could have easily drawn or lost if not for good saves from goalkeeper David de Gea. "Of course, we want to play better than this," manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said.

DJENEPO'S SKILL

Southampton continued its recovery from a slow start to the season, beating Sheffield United 1-0 thanks to a moment of skill from Moussa Djenepo.

The Malian dribbled past three Sheffield defenders before knocking the ball past goalkeeper Dean Henderson. It was his second goal in three league games since arriving in the offseason, and leaves Southampton on a four-game unbeaten run in all competitions.

Brighton and Burnley drew 1-1 after Jeff Hendrick's stoppage time goal salvaged a point for Burnley. A volley from Neal Maupay gave Brighton the lead, but the draw left both clubs without a win in four games. AP

CAMP NOU DISCOVERS BARCA'S TEEN SENSATION

A teenage sensation led Barcelona to a commanding victory over Valencia in the Spanish league on Saturday, while Eden Hazard made his long-awaited debut for Real Madrid before both rivals face tough Champions League openers. Barcelona youth Ansu Fati took over a starring role from the injured Messi with a goal and an assist to lead a 5-2 rout of Valencia. His second-minute goal made him the youngest player to score at Camp Nou at the age of 16 years, 318 days. It was his third appearance since his Aug. 25 debut. He established a milestone in his second match as the youngest player to score in La Liga in the club's history in a 2-2 draw at Osasuna. "[Fati] is a player that has something special," Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde said. "He is a striker who is mature beyond his years." Spanish league leader Atlético Madrid is ahead of Real Madrid and Athletic Bilbao by one point. Barcelona is two points behind.

JEERED BY PSG FANS, NEYMAR SCORES WINNER

Amid loud jeers and insulting banners from his own fans, Neymar scored a stunning bicycle kick during injury time for French league leader Paris Saint-Germain to beat Strasbourg 1-0 on Saturday. Neymar met Abdou Diallo's left-wing cross as it drifted behind him, brilliantly hooking it in with his left foot as he was falling backward. Even as Neymar celebrated, PSG ultras behind the goal where he scored still jeered him. He angered those fans with his public desire to rejoin former club Barcelona in the offseason. The forward, who scored for Brazil last week, sat out four league games as he tried to force a move back but talks broke down. "I stayed calm. We all know what happened; I understand that it's very difficult for them," Neymar said. "But as from now I am a PSG player. If they want to whistle me, no problem."

CONTE QUICKLY MAKING HIS MARK AT INTER

Three rounds into Serie A, Inter Milan is already displaying the same grit, energy and determination that have been the hallmark of Antonio Conte's teams. The Nerazzurri overcame a strong performance by 10-man Udinese for a 1-0 win on Saturday to extend their perfect start and establish a two-point lead over eight-time defending champion Juventus atop the standings. "We're taking our own path," Conte said. "We're not following anyone." Conte spent last season idle after winning multiple trophies at Juventus and Chelsea—plus a spell as the coach of Italy—and he's picking up right where he left off. For the full 90 minutes, Conte ran up and down the sideline, gesticulating and urging his team on from the coach's box. "We need to fight for every match," Conte said. "Today was a very, very difficult match. Udinese stayed in it until the end. We could have been a bit more decisive."

OPINION

Rear Window

Severo Portela



POLISHING CHUI SAI ON'S LEGACY

Both President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang, who handed the appointment certificate to Chief Executive-elect, unequivocally praised Ho Iat Seng on his contributions to the work of the National People's Congress Standing Committee and as president of the Legislative Assembly. President Xi went further by specifically referring to Ho Iat Seng's merits on reform, opening-up and modernization both at national level and locally in his role facilitating the prosperity and stability of the Macau SAR.

Even if we care to discount the solemnity and the formality associated with the appointment ceremony, Ho Iat Seng may fly down to the SAR with an upper political endorsement to replace the sitting Chief Executive.

Nonetheless, this political endorsement is not of the blank cheque type: Central Government does not give cheques, it gives variously tight or loose instructions to the Chief Executive of the Special Administrative Region. Apparently, besides general considerations for political stability, the Basic Law and the "One Country, Two Systems," the political message aims to subtly warn the CE-in waiting not to allow himself any shortcomings in the handling of the Macau SAR. Give or take subtlety, this could be an indirect way to criticize the overall two-terms of the departing Chief Executive.

Still in the realms of subtlety, we do have to note that Ho Iat Seng is instructed to carefully manage Macau as it enters the "next chapter" and is urged to seriously plan the strategy for "Macau's future development." If this is not a mere gap in the canonic "continuity," it is an indirect assault on Chui Sai On reclaiming legacy. So much so, the ground of the so-called stability and social harmony on which his successor will operate had to be built for the good, for the bad, or worse, under Chui Sai On's decade at the helm of the MSAR. But he is fighting discontinuity whenever appropriate or possible.

As an example, the incumbent Chief Executive made a call for continuity of ongoing work related to the mid-term review of the Five-Year Development Plan for the construction of the World Centre for Tourism and Leisure. Chui underlined the idea that Macau should give priority to projects related to the quality of life for residents: as we take it, the ubi mantra of non-political politics.

One more example of the alleged fight against that induced discontinuity is the congratulatory message Chui sent to his replacement Ho Iat Seng. He congratulated Ho on obtaining 98% of the electorate, 392 votes from the 400-strong small circle designed under his watch. But this one is out of the realm of subtlety.

This column's closing notes go to Macau University of Science and Technology, better known by its acronym MUST, who managed to inaugurate the first medical degree in the Macau Special Administrative Region. MUST relegated the good intentions of UM to expand into health sciences to just an inconvenient memory. MUST made agreements with Harvard University, signed MoUs with the universities of Lisbon and Porto, as well as with Beijing University.

No doubt, the winds are blowing smoothly in MUST...who was selected to welcome the "2019 Guangdong-Hong Kong- Macao Greater Bay Area Film Production Investment and Trade Fair."

Finally, legislator Mak Soi Kun is urging the government to build a surveillance system dubbed "Sky Net". Security (the government) will have a system of exactly 1620 cameras across town by 2020 ...dubbed "Eyes in the Sky." Meanwhile... the Personal Data Protection Office has determined it will be referred to as "Facial Recognition Technology" instead of "Facial Recognition System" on the grounds that "system" has a broader meaning and could cause confusion. Yes, it can!

EXPLODING GENERATOR STARTED DEADLY BRAZIL HOSPITAL FIRE

Police experts say a blaze that killed 11 people in a Rio de Janeiro hospital was triggered by the explosion of a generator in the building's basement.

The preliminary conclusion was reached Saturday despite difficulties accessing the basement of the Badim hospital because of accumulated water and poor visibility. Police officials were still investigating why the generator failed.

The fire began Thursday night and spread through the

hospital, forcing staff to wheel patients into the streets on stretchers. Many of the 11 dead were elderly.

Most victims died of asphyxiation as smoke filled the wards, and some died when life support equipment stopped working in the fire.

The hospital is a short walk from Maracana stadium, which was used for World Cup matches and the 2016 Rio Olympics.

THE BUZZ

India A sightseeing boat capsized on a swollen river in southern India yesterday, killing 12 people and leaving 35 others missing, an official said.



Israel A visibly frantic Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is in the fight of his political life as the country heads to national elections for the second time this year.



Iran denied yesterday it was involved in Yemen rebel drone attacks the previous day that hit the world's biggest oil processing facility and an oil field in Saudi Arabia, just hours after America's top diplomat alleged that Tehran was behind the "unprecedented attack on the world's energy supply."

Bahamas Tropical Storm Humberto moved away from the Bahamas on Saturday after dumping rain on parts of the archipelago's northwest region that were already hammered by Hurricane Dorian two weeks ago.

Tunisia Residents are casting ballots in their North African country's second democratic presidential election, choosing among 26 candidates for a leader who can safeguard its young democracy and tackle its unemployment, corruption and economic despair.



France The warehouse that French President Emmanuel Macron visited was hundreds of miles and a world away from the prestige of the G-7 summit he hosted a few weeks earlier.



UK The British prime minister who called the 2016 Brexit referendum and then saw the public vote to leave the European Union, creating the nation's prolonged political crisis, says he is sorry for the divisions it has caused.

CLEANUP RESUMES IN BAHAMAS AS HUMBERTO SWIRLS AWAY

AP PHOTO



DÁNICA COTO,
BAHAMAS

JEFFREY Roberts lifted a mustard-yellow curtain from the ground to hunt for passports and other documents at the place where his family's home stood before Hurricane Dorian blasted into Grand Bahama Island.

What was underneath was sodden and unrecognizable. He shuffled across a white tile floor, the only clear sign this had once been a house, and found a pair of rusty old pliers, only to toss them in frustration. They clattered across the tiles, breaking the silence that had enveloped the fishing community of McLean's Town.

Roberts was one of thousands of people beginning to return to salvage what few scraps they can from the devastation of Dorian, even as the dark storm clouds of Tropical Storm Humberto hovered above Saturday to remind that that the storm season has not yet passed.

"We got to take what God gives us," Roberts said.

In this case, at least, that was a break: Humberto narrowly missed the island over the weekend and was projected to curve north and then northeast, staying well off of Florida's east coast.

By Sunday morning, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said the storm was located about 135 miles (220 kilometers) north-northwest of Great Abaco Island

and was moving at 7 mph (11 kph) north-northwest with maximum sustained winds of 60 mph (95 kph).

The U.S. National Hurricane Center said it would likely become a hurricane by Sunday night, but would remain far from the Bahamas and the U.S. coast by the time it reaches that strength.

The storm briefly shuttled a couple of small airports, sent people in damaged homes to seek shelter and threatened to interrupt the distribution of sorely needed supplies, including food and water.

As the storm passed, however, Roberts and others were already returning to the task at hand:

resuming their cleanup and recovery efforts in communities such as McLean's Town devastated by Hurricane Dorian two weeks ago.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres visited the nearby island of Great Abaco on Saturday to support humanitarian efforts in the wake of the storm, which left thousands in need of food, water and shelter.

"Hurricane Dorian has been classified as Category 5. I think it's Category Hell," the secretary-general said, adding he was horrified by the "level of systematic devastation."

The islands' official death toll from the hurricane remained at 50 and the number of missing at an

alarming 1,300 people, although officials cautioned the list is preliminary and many people could just be unable to connect with loved ones.

Meanwhile, detritus was piled high in the fishing village at the eastern end of Grand Bahama as neighbors tried to salvage what was left behind.

Patrice Higgs stood barefoot in her backyard with gray mud caked on her feet, staring listlessly at the horizon. She occasionally pointed at some of her belongings that remained tangled in the debris and out of reach, including a cream-colored loveseat?

She said she lost five relatives to Dorian.

"My sister, my niece, my nephew, my aunty and my cousin," she said, as dark clouds threatening rain hung overhead.

The couple then took a break and sat outside as they watched a neighbor, Cecil Leathen, pry his boat out of fallen trees with the help of a backhoe operated by another neighbor.

Friends nestled a soggy couch cushion between the backhoe and the boat's motor to protect it as they successfully pushed it onto a trailer.

Then Leathen raised his right fist into the air in celebration.

"It takes some time," he said. "But we'll get it back together." AP