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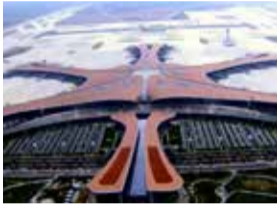
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MACAU IS ALIGNED WITH DIRECTIVES TO PROTECT ENDANGERED WILDLIFE, THE GOV'T TOLD THE TIMES, CONTRARY TO THE FINDINGS OF A RECENT REPORT P2

LIAISON OFFICE WANTS REAL OPINIONS FROM MACAU'S POLITICAL ELITES P2

THE CULTURAL WEEK OF CHINA AND PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES JOINS A BUSY MONTH OF OTHER PROGRAMS THIS OCTOBER P6-7

AP PHOTO



China President Xi Jinping yesterday inaugurated a second international airport for the Chinese capital with the world's biggest terminal ahead of celebrations of the Communist Party's 70th anniversary in power. More on p11

Hong Kong A senior Chinese official in Hong Kong expressed confidence in the ability of local authorities to restore calm to the protest-ravaged city. More on p8

AP PHOTO



Philippines The coast guard said seven rowers drowned and 14 others were rescued when their dragon boat overturned yesterday after being lashed by strong waves during a practice run off a popular resort island.

AP PHOTO



South Korea The government yesterday said it was intensifying efforts to clean farms around the country as it scrambles to contain the spread of the highly contagious African swine fever that has ravaged farms near its border with North Korea.

AP PHOTO



Thailand Police yesterday arrested a male model accused of taking an unconscious woman home, boasting online about his sexual exploits, and leaving her lifeless body in the lobby of his building. More on backpage

'SHRINKING SPACE' FOR UNIVERSITY FREEDOM

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POODAR CHU



BLOOMBERG



A HONG KONG BILLIONAIRE FAMILY ON WHY THE RICH NEED TO HELP

 P8-9

ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRADE

MACAU ALIGNED WITH INT'L DIRECTIVES, INSISTS DSE

IN response to the findings by a U.K. non-governmental organization (NGO) about Macau's lack of governance in deterring the trade of endangered species, the Macau Economic Services Bureau (DSE) has cited Law No. 2/2017 as the legislation governing the activity, as well as emphasizing its efforts in inspection and law enforcement.

The reply was made to the Times following an inquiry on the matter.

The Times reported yesterday on a 96-page report from the NGO criticizing Macau's lack of work in combating the trade of wild and endangered species.

The report determined that imports of certain endangered species into Macau had doubled in the past decade, and yet further growth is expected.

It also noted that Macau was found to be the third-largest destination market for shark fins by value. Food establishments that

serve shark fin dishes can easily be seen in various districts in Macau. In tourist areas, there are even eateries that focus solely on the dish.

As a result, the NGO is urging the Macau government to implement "stronger legislation, enforcement," and promote awareness of the situation.

The bureau noted that it was aware of the 96-page report. It also disclosed that "the content of the report is being followed at present."

The bureau thought it was "worth noting" that Macau has been in line with the requirements stipulated in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), also known as the Washington Convention. A law was enacted in 2017 as the "Enforcement Law of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora" to bring the region "closer

to the current international standard," the bureau advised.

All types of endangered species governed by the appendices of CITES, according to the DSE, whether alive, dead, in parts or as derivatives, are covered by the law and its complementary legislation.

The report had offered three suggestions to the Macau government to further the implementation of CITES in Macau, namely the tightening of the relevant laws (which are reportedly lax compared to those in Hong Kong and mainland China), the introduction of better regulation for the shark fin market, and the education of consumers to drive market changes.

The DSE said that regular checks are carried out in co-operation with Customs and the Municipal Affairs Bureau, to ensure the lawful import of goods. The DSE promised to build awareness of the protection of endangered species. **AL**



Dried shark fin as seen in a Macau store

POLITICS

Liaison Office wants real opinions from Macau's elite

THE Macau Liaison Office wants the Macau members of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Congress (CPPCC) to voice their real opinions to the Liaison Office, according to Fu Ziyang, director of the Liaison Office in Macau.

"The Liaison Office is prepared to hear the truth. I am confident in the Liaison Office listening to the truth," said Fu at the spiritual learning conference of the central committee of the CPPCC and the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the CPPCC.

Fu also urged Macau members of the CPPCC to speak the truth in order to let the Liaison

Office learn about the actual situation in both Hong Kong and Macau.

Fu mentioned the months-long Hong Kong protests, having remarked that there are many channels reflecting public opinion on Hong Kong's situation that are meant for Macau as well.

In addition to this specific call for truth-sharing, Fu wants CPPCC Macau members to integrate the spirit of President Xi Jinping's speech, to deepen the understanding Xi's speech, and to give full play to their role as CPPCC members.

During the meeting, 17 Macau CPPCC members voiced their

opinions, consisting mostly of political statements, such as insisting on the 'one country, two systems' framework, promoting Macau's stability, and its incorporation into the broader development program of the country.

One of the members, Chief Executive Chui Sai On, offered his opinion by expressing that he hopes CPPCC Macau members can strengthen their ideological and political leadership, broaden consensus, and focus on the concerns of both national and Macau residents.

Regarding his understanding of Xi Jinping's spirit, Chui

said that Macau members of the CPPCC should "seriously study the spirit of President Xi Jinping's important speech on the basis of learning truly, understanding truly, and believing truly."

Xi Jinping's speech states that "it is necessary to guide Hong Kong and Macau CPPCC members towards supporting the SAR government and the Chief Executive in their administration according to the law."

Chui said that Xi's speech shows the Chinese President's earnest expectation and instructs Hong Kong and Macau CPPCC members to treat their duty as a 'sacred' mission. **JZ**

CRIME

DEFRAUDED WOMAN CLAIMS BRACELETS WORTH 65 MILLION YUAN

A junket promoter is being investigated for allegedly defrauding a woman of her pair of jade bracelets, which the woman claimed were worth a combined 65 million yuan (73.5 million patacas).

The suspect, surnamed Chan, is a 41-year-old local man, while the victim is a 48-year-old mainland resident. They are both from the same hometown and have known each other for nearly 10 years. The victim frequently visits Macau to gamble.

The victim contacted Chan asking him to prepare HKD10 million for her and another six friends to gamble with in Macau.

Chan, after having discussed with another middleman, requested that the victim use her two jade bracelets as a deposit. The victim agreed.

Last Thursday, when she

and her friends arrived in Macau, Chan fetched the victim's jade bracelets and disappeared without giving them the HKD10 million.

The victim then reported the case to the local police authority, having declared the high value of her bracelets.

On September 22, the victim successfully contacted Chan and arranged a meeting with him in a local hotel.

Chan showed up for the meeting and was seized by the Judiciary Police (PJ). However, the jade bracelets were not found in his possession, as Chan said they had been taken by the middleman.

The PJ believes Chan and the middleman defrauded the woman together. Chan was charged with aggravated fraud and presented to the prosecution authority. **JZ**

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ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Report: Education institutions facing 'shrinking space for ideas'

LYNZY VALLES

AN international network of academic institutions based in the United States has said that academic freedom and the quality of higher education in both Macau and Hong Kong have been eroded, citing the influence of the central government.

In a report published earlier this week titled "Obstacles to Excellence: Academic Freedom and China's Quest for World-Class Universities," Scholars at Risk (SAR) noted that both Hong Kong and Macau's academic freedom are confronted with "a shrinking space for ideas."

SAR's research was conducted in the form of interviews with scholars and students based in mainland China, Hong Kong and Macau.

According to the report, more than a dozen sources declined to be interviewed due to fear of retribution.

"For decades now, the Chinese government has invested heavily in academic institutions and programs designed to compete with the world's finest," said SAR executive director Robert Quinn. "This positive ambition is undermined, however, by state policies and practices that fail to protect academic freedom."

According to Quinn, "this poses grave personal and professional risks for Chinese scholars and students," as documented in the report, "and serious academic, reputational, and financial risks for foreign academic institutions with partnerships with Chinese counterparts, in China or abroad."

Despite Macau and Hong Kong having differing levels of institutional autonomy compared to their counterparts in mainland China, the report cited the fact that higher education communities in both special administrative regions have been subjected to pressures intended to restrain academic activity and expression following their return to China.

"Scholars are raising concerns that institutional autonomy is threatened by China's central government, pointing to unusual interference in university governance by pro-Beijing individuals and institutions," the report stated.

"These challenges threaten quality higher education institutions nurtured in Hong Kong and Macau over the years, and suggest an increasingly fragile environment for free inquiry and expression in the SARs," it added.

Sources said that both Macau and Hong Kong face similar pressures related to academic inquiry and expression, however, Macau has a lower number of reported incidents and visible public responses.

The report recalled cases of local scholars who have expressed their opinions on the city's higher education institutions, as well as two cases that faced consequences for exercising academic freedom, including Eric Sautedé and

Bill Chou, both scholars of political science.

The University of St. Joseph (USJ) dismissed Sautedé back in June 2014 for intervening in "local political debates."

The academic was reportedly under pressure from USJ officials to cancel a talk featuring Frank Dikötter, a University of Hong Kong professor and author of "The Tragedy of Liberation: A History of the Chinese Revolution, 1945-1957", a book banned in mainland China.

Chou's contract was alle-

giance that violations of academic freedom in Hong Kong and Macau have not reached the level of severity seen in mainland China, the overt threats targeting scholars and students indicate that space for inquiry and expression is increasingly under attack.

"Without more public and meaningful efforts by regional authorities to protect and promote academic freedom and institutional autonomy, universities in Hong Kong and Macau may find it more difficult to attract top global talent and interest from international partners," the report stated.

It added that the two semi-autonomous territories may find their reputations and perceived advantages as bridges between China and the world tarnished.

"Safeguarding the academic freedom and autonomy of these universities should therefore be a priority not only for the Hong Kong and Macau Special Administrative Regions, but also for Beijing," the report stated.

The report also tackled similar issues from the northern stretches of Inner

Mongolia and Xinjiang, where it noted that scholars and students face "intimidation, surveillance, [and] harassment." In more severe instances, these people face prosecution and imprisonment merely for asking questions and exchanging ideas.

Scholars and students in and

from Tibet, Inner Mongolia, and Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Regions report intensive levels of surveillance,

and the threat of censorship, and the threat of imprisonment under the China's increasingly strict security policies, the report found.

The report also noted that there are also challenges in accessing quality higher education due to language policies that tilt towards a Mandarin-only approach. Since 2017, a growing number of scholars and students from Xinjiang's minority communities have been targets of an unprecedented government crackdown,

which, many rights groups and experts believe, has resulted in more than one million individuals being wrongfully detained in so-called "re-education" camps or have disappeared.

Meanwhile, the association also highlighted that a small but growing number of international universities have responded to academic freedom concerns by scaling back or terminating partnerships with institutions in mainland China and with PRC-supported institutes on their own campuses. Others have stayed out of the public dialogue.

SAR has called on government officials and higher education leaders in the three regions to uphold academic freedom and institutional autonomy, as well as to refrain from surveillance mechanisms that constrain scholars' and students' academic freedom.

It also recommended that the three regions remove ideology-based restrictions on access to information, and suspend or roll-back ideological education and research funding schemes that limit students and scholars from exploring issues against or in tension with the Chinese Communist Party.

"Pressures on academic freedom in China mirror those we see around the world, as documented in our annual Free to Think reports," said SAR's advocacy director, Clare Robinson.

"But given the size of its higher education sector, and China's important and growing position on the global academic stage, it is more important than ever to discuss the issues raised publicly and to work together to institutionalize policies and practices that safeguard academic freedom and recognize its central role in world-class universities and scholarship."

Previously, the Times reported that some scholars believe that academic censorship in the SAR is low, given the freedom that institutions and scholars have to publish their research when compared to their peers in China.

However, a few expressed concerns whether scholars are still working on contentious issues, while being able to receive subsidies from the government.

FEW SMES DELAY REPAYMENTS OF GOV'T LOANS

Approximately 4% of local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) which received subsidized loans from the Macao Economics Services Bureau (DSE) delayed their loan repayments, according to DSE director Tai Kin Ip. This group of SMEs, which delayed loan repayments typically across more than two semesters, saw the Financial Services Bureau (DSF) taking mandatory measures to collect the debts. Since the launch of subsidy programs for SMEs, a total of 1,148 SMEs awarded a subsidy did not succeed, having terminated their operations. This figure represents 11 percent of the total number of approved subsidized SMEs. In 2013, DSE launched a subsidy program to help young entrepreneurs. As of today, the program has received 1,500 applications.

70% OF SHOPS INSTALL E-PAYMENT DEVICES

Approximately 70% of Macau local shops have installed e-payment devices, according to Tai Kin Ip, director of the Macao Economics Services Bureau (DSE). In 2017, DSE launched a program to subsidize the installation of e-payment devices by local SMEs. Tai thinks that the 70 percent coverage is a high penetration rate. As of today, Macau has a total of 33,000 related e-payment equipment and QR codes. The number of transactions made in January this year through these devices exceeded the total number of transactions made during the whole of last year. Currently, according to Tai, the majority of the shops that have not yet installed e-payment options are micro-enterprises or stalls.

SSM CALLS FOR WITHDRAWAL OF STOMACH MEDICATION

The Health Bureau (SSM) has announced that four types of stomach medication should be withdrawn from the market on a retail level, as they have been contaminated by traces of pollutants. The medicines concerned are all manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline and sold under the brand name "Zantac", namely Zantac Tablet 150mg, Tablet 300mg, Syrup 150mg/10ml and Injection 25mg/ml. The main ingredient of the medicines is ranitidine. The manufacturer has notified the bureau that a recall is underway. The import agents, meanwhile, have notified clinical establishments about the withdrawal. As such, patients in possession of the medicines should consult the bureau for assistance. The contaminant is N-Nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA), a type of environment pollutant found in food and water. Meat, vegetables and dairy products are common carriers. The Health Bureau has also conducted tests on the affected medicines and is waiting for the results, which it said will be made public once available.



AirAsia's Macau-Japan routes under study alongside hub plans

ANTHONY LAM

AIRASIA has plans to further expand services in Macau, the leader of the low-cost carrier's local arm disclosed on the sidelines of a business event yesterday.

Speaking on behalf of the company was Celia Lao, chief executive officer of the airline's Macau and Hong Kong Office, who affirmed the company's interest in making Macau a hub.

Previous reports disclosed the airline's intention to set up a hub in Macau. Currently, the airline is in communication with the government in terms of the criteria it should meet.

"We have the intention," reiterated Lao. "Once the criteria are issued, we will further our work.

For the time being, we will focus on expanding our network." Air Macau is currently operating a concession in Macau, which grants it exclusivity on the airline's preferred routes. Consent from Air Macau needs to be obtained should anybody want to operate routes to and from Macau. However, the 25-year concession will conclude in November next year.

Besides its origin in Malaysia, AirAsia has hubs in several other jurisdictions, including Japan. This year saw the expansion of routes to Tokyo by Air Macau. When asked whether AirAsia is interested in opening Japan routes to Macau, Lao disclosed that the airline's office in Japan has already applied for an approval. Calculation for its operational

capacity is also underway.

Currently, AirAsia operates in 150 destinations with a fleet of 270 aircrafts. Lao is confident in the company's operational capacity and readiness to open new routes.

ROKKI, a subsidiary of AirAsia and official in-flight entertainment and connectivity provider, presented its business-to-business capabilities at the same event.

It equips AirAsia flights with in-flight connections so that passengers can enjoy audio-visual entertainment with their own smart devices. ROKKI is not only an e-magazine that shows content, but also a point-of-sale system on which passengers can make purchases on and off their flights.

Yesterday, the firm signed a collaboration agreement with a local magazine, Phoenix Skyscape, which from now will be the sole agent of the system in Macau.

Sargunan Seenivasan, chief executive officer of ROKKI, said he and his team saw the passion in the magazine's team, which turned the collaboration into a reality. He also recalled that it is the first time the company has collaborated with a company outside of Malaysia.

The executive saw this as an opportunity to help Macau brands globalize and expand to other markets. "We want [Macau brands] to talk with people they have not talked with before," he said.

AirAsia continues to work closely with Airbus on A320neo issue

In a reply to a Times Inquiry this week, low-cost carrier AirAsia has stressed that it follows all requirements mandated by the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) regarding the center of gravity issue with the Airbus A320neo aircraft.

AirAsia sometimes uses the A320neo type on routes to and from the city. Macau's flag

carrier, Air Macau, which also uses the aircraft, abides with all regulations effective governing the operation of the aircraft type at both a city and global level, according to the Civil Aviation Authority of the Macau SAR.

The group's head of safety, Ling Liong Tien, wrote in a statement to the Times that the airline "continues to work

closely with Airbus" regarding to the A320neo issue, as instructed by the EASA.

The A320neo aircraft was reported to have an issue with its center of gravity. As a new type of engine is installed on the plane, it has been planned by the manufacturer, Airbus, to take six more passengers by pushing the rear washroom cabinet further back.

The new configuration, however, has resulted in an altered center of gravity, which may limit the plane's ability to fly into the sky after an aborted landing.

It has also caused some European airlines, among them Lufthansa of Germany and British Airways of the U.K., to not sell tickets for the last row on this aircraft type.

Unlike Lufthansa and British Airways, AirAsia has a configuration that does "not require [the airline] to restrict the sale of last row seats" on A320neo flights, disclosed Ling.

With that said, the airline has undertaken extra effort to guarantee the safety of its flights.

The company's statement noted that it had deployed additional measures to help ease any possible center of gravity issue. One of these measures is to ensure an even distribution of cargo weight under the passenger deck. **AL**

DANIEL BEITLER



Sands China oversees 122 staff trained in responsible gaming

DANIEL BEITLER

CASINO operator Sands China yesterday wrapped up its seventh annual Responsible Gaming Ambassador Advanced Training program, adding 122 certified employees to its growing ambassador roster.

Over the course of the two-day event, the trainees were taught how to detect the early signs of problem gambling, as well as how to provide the appropriate response and assistance to patrons exhibiting these signs.

The trainees were taught intervention tactics and crisis management skills and had the chance to try out the techniques in roleplay simulations.

Participants were also educated on the procedures of the self-exclusion and third-party exclusion programs, and were introduced to the 24-hour gaming counselling services provided by Sheng Kung Hui.

The program is led by responsible gambling expert Professor Bo J. Bernhard, executive director of the University of

Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) International Gaming Institute.

Bernhard told the Times that he has observed a rapid transformation in the way responsible gambling is treated in Macau since the program's inception in 2013. To keep up, he and his team are fine-tuning the program each year based on the participant feedback and the evolving science.

Professor Bernhard also thanked lawmaker and gaming professor Davis Fong yesterday for his contributions to the program over successive years.

Fong heads the University of Macau's Institute for the Study of Commercial Gaming.

According to company representatives, over 600 responsible gaming ambassadors have been trained since the advanced training program began in 2013.

The program is held to support the measures advocated by the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau, according to Sands China. New and enhanced elements are integrated each year.

Enrolment in the program was extended to all manager-level and other senior employees this year, including those from departments such as gaming, marketing, security, human resources, food and beverage, and guest services.

"This type of event shows our company's commitment to responsible gaming efforts. The establishment of a new department like the responsible gambling team is a part of that effort," Winnie Wong, Chief Responsible Gaming Officer at Sands China, told the Times on the sidelines of the event. "We want to lead industry standards [in terms of responsible gambling], and not just meet but exceed the Macau government's expectations."

20 BUSINESS LEADERS ON UM'S NEW BUSINESS PROGRAM

Twenty business elites from the Greater Bay Area have been taken on as students of the University of Macau's (UM) new Doctor in Business Administration (DBA) program, said the university. These DBA students work in senior management positions at enterprises in the Greater Bay Area. Their positions include CEO, general manager, partner or company secretary. As introduced by Prof. Jean Chen, Dean of the Faculty of Business Administration, the three-year DBA program is designed to broaden an international vision and develop an innovative perspective among senior working executives. Rector Song Yonghua was present at the opening ceremony and gave a welcome speech.

DISCRIMINATION LAWSUIT FILED AGAINST SAIPAN CASINO

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission alleges in a lawsuit that a Saipan casino discriminates against women workers. The agency filed a lawsuit this week alleging sexual harassment against Imperial Pacific in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The lawsuit cites examples such as sexual advances and demands for sexual favors by casino customers. The agency says Imperial Pacific shrugged off employee complaints and that those who complained were fired or faced other retaliation. Imperial Pacific didn't immediately return messages seeking comment.

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Cultural Week adds Brazilian Cinema to

RENATO MARQUES

THE program and schedule for the 11th Cultural Week of China and Portuguese-speaking Countries will kick off on October 12 at the Macau Fisherman's Wharf (MFW) and was presented yesterday by the organizers in a press conference held at the Permanent Secretariat of the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries – Macau (Forum Macau).

The event features two changes to the program this year, namely the inclusion of the third Brazilian Movie Festival in China, which will include Macau on its tour through several cities and regions of China.

Another significant change, highlighted by Forum Macau's Deputy Secretary-General, Rodrigo Brum, is the change to the scheduling of the "Theater Performances" that will take place in addition to the week's program in order to offer the audience a longer period of activities, and, above all, as Brum noted, "not to create a direct competition with the other activities of the program."

In this way, the Theatre Performances will take place at the Old Court Building starting from October 22 until 27.



The Brazilian Cinema Festival

will be held after November 24, added the Coordinator of the Support Office of Forum Macau, Teresa Mok, but the dates have still

not been confirmed. Questioned by the media as to precisely the number and similarity of events held in the month of

October - which includes not only the Cultural Week but also the Lusofonia Festival and the Macao International Trade and Investment

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program

Fair (MIF), Brum noted that the overlap would create synergies between related activities. "Although there is not a formal partnership of any kind established, in fact, the idea to have these events happening simultaneously or consecutively is a way to take advantage of the synergies created," said Brum.

He added that it might "even allow some of the artists and performers that come to the Cultural Week to stay a little longer and join the Lusofonia Festival or other events. It's a way to take advantage of their stay and travel to Macau."

As for the other activities of the program, they will run from October 12 to 18 mostly at the MFW as well as at other venues across town.

They will include art exhibitions; an arts and crafts fair from China and Portuguese-speaking countries; stage shows of music and dance and several gastronomy events including food tastings from different Portuguese-speaking countries named "Flavors of the

World"; as well as cooking workshops, with some to take place at the Institute for Tourism Studies and at the Macau University of Science and Technology.

Besides the main stage entertainment at the MFW, there will be several stalls to allow visitors to experiment with food products, snacks and traditional games from Portuguese-speaking countries.

Questioned on the topic, Mok added that this year's budget for the whole event is about MOP9 million.

As a special note, and besides the two new additions to the program, Brum noted in his speech a third aspect in which this year's Cultural Week would be different. According to the official, the Forum Macau has invited, in a bid to promote a wider disclosure of the events, media outlets from different Portuguese-speaking countries who will carry out wider media coverage of the event abroad.

Meanwhile, questioned on the status and progress

of the construction of the new Forum Macau building in the Nam Van landfill area, Mok said that the first phase, including mostly meeting and administrative spaces, was expected to be concluded by the end of this year.

"As for the second phase, in which would be included the offices and also the exhibition space, we do not have yet a tentative date for the conclusion of the works since that second phase has not been tendered yet," said Mok. "We will only do that when the first phase is about to be concluded."

On the same topic, and admitting that he has not yet visited the building, Brum said, "we can see that the building in terms of its structure and outer finishing is about done. I have not visited the interior yet, but I believe that it is according to the expected."

The building, announced several years ago as an important milestone for the consolidation of Forum Macau and its activities in the city, began construction in 2017. At the time, the tender that established the rules for the construction of the first phase of the building forecast that the construction would last for a period of 600 days.

CHINESE MEDICINE TO REMAIN KEY IN MACAU-GUANGDONG TIES

JULIE ZHU

THE 2019 Traditional Medicine International Cooperation Forum (Macau) kicked off yesterday at the Venetian Macao, with the vice governor of near-by Guangdong Province promising that traditional Chinese medicine would continue to be an important part of the province's economic and cultural cooperation with Macau.

The Forum is co-hosted by the local government and the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine of the People's Republic of China and coordinated by the Traditional Chinese Medicine Science and the Technology Industrial Park of Co-operation between Guangdong and Macau (GMTCM Park).

More than 700 people from mainland China, Macau, the European Union, ASEAN and Portuguese-speaking countries and regions participated in the Forum in order to discuss cooperation in the development of traditional medicine.

Under the theme of "Sharing Achievements of Traditional Medicine, Deepening International Exchange and Cooperation," attending guests will carry out discussions and exchanges on policy support, development opportunities, technology, research and development, market expansion, and investment into the sector.

Zhang Guangjun, vice governor of Guangdong Province, remarked yesterday that traditional Chinese medicine is a unique health resource, an economic resource with huge potential, a scientific and technological resource, as well as an excellent cultural resource.

Zhang believes that the exchange and cooperation between Guangdong and Macau in the field of traditional Chinese medicine has become closer and deeper in recent years. Already, achievements stemming from the cooperation have been noted, said Zhang.

According to the provincial official, cooperation

in the field of traditional Chinese medicine will continue to be an important part of Macau-Guangdong ties in future.

At the inauguration of the Forum, a signing ceremony was held for the projects between the GMTCM Park and international institutions, enterprises and universities.

Today, the Forum will present the Investment and Financing Forum, Business Matching Forum and Scientific and Technological Achievements Sharing Forum. In his speech yesterday, Secretary for Economic and Finance Lionel Leong, said that traditional Chinese medicine is highly valued by the SAR Government.

Leong believes that the GMTCM Park will help domestic and foreign outstanding enterprises and products "go global and bring in investment" through Macau. Leong said that the Forum has been successful in terms of brand establishment and resource matching.

AD

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A Hong Kong billionaire family on why the

DAVID RAMLI, SHAWNA KWAN
& VENUS FENG

SHAM Shui Po, one of Hong Kong's poorest districts, is a concrete warren of rag traders and cheap street stalls that was once a hub for refugees. More recently, it's become a battleground for the weekly clashes between riot police and black-clad protesters.

Up a narrow staircase here you'll find the unlikely philanthropic front for one of the city's most elusive property barons.

"We have to find a way to play a part because the government has limitations so we can't rely on them and traditional charities have limitations," said Peterson Group Managing Director Tony Yeung. "With the resources at my disposal, if I'm not helping then who can?"

Yeung, 41, leads one of the most private of Hong Kong's private, family run companies. Peterson Group held a party to mark its 60th year of operations in May. Bloomberg estimates the family's wealth is at least \$1.8 billion in Asia, based on public filings and research, but a person familiar with the firm's businesses says its net assets are worth between \$4 billion and \$5 billion once all the overseas holdings are included.

Those assets span the globe, from apartment blocks in Canada to stakes in U.K. shopping malls and offices in Australia. The Yeungs also own part of Alvarium Investments Ltd., a fund manager with around \$16 billion in assets under advisory, as well as London-based property fund Queensgate Investments LLP.

"There are prominent family developers, private, not listed, and Mr. Yeung certainly is one of them, but he's one of the lowest key," Henderson Land Development Co. Vice Chairman Colin Lam said. Pe-

BLOOMBERG



Peterson Group Managing Director Tony Yeung

terson, he added, would also rank as one of the largest.

Hong Kong has been at the heart of the group's operations since the company was set up in 1959 by Tony's grandfather, who had fled the advance of Communist forces in China a decade earlier and worked odd jobs till he had enough to start his own trading firm in an office with a rented typewriter.

PLASTIC FLOWERS, WRISTBANDS

"It did anything that sells - plastic flowers, wristbands," the younger Yeung said. His grandfather, called Peter, paid garbage men to deliver trash thrown out by his rivals, copying the return addresses on envelopes for potential sales leads.

Peter's younger son Ben studied

dentistry in North America, while the older one, Franco, joined the family business - learning Italian and living in Europe to work with clients. When his father suffered a stroke in the early 1980s, Franco took over.

At that time, Hong Kong's property market was booming as the city transformed from a manufacturing hub into a financial center, and Franco used the family's money to buy land, from farms on the border with China to run-down city blocks. Dubbed the 'King of Buying Old Buildings' - a phrase with more poetry in Cantonese - he knocked on doors and sought creative deals to convince villagers and residents to move out so he could turn their properties into new apartments.

Inevitably, he crossed paths with Hong Kong real estate behemoth Henderson, which had its own

team digging through registries for properties.

Henderson patriarch Lee Shau Kee deployed his usual playbook and sought a meeting to discuss buying out the Yeungs. Franco proposed instead they work together.

Lee asked Yeung, "What are your terms?" said Lam, who was Lee's right-hand man for decades. Franco replied: "You lead, I'll just have a fair share. You'll have all the say, we'll be very happy to follow." It was deals such as these - struck with handshakes over tea, often without signed contracts - that transformed the family fortune.

The money Franco made in Hong Kong was plowed into China, from granite mining and polishing facilities to a northeastern brewery that made "Silver Wheat" beer. Peterson contributed capital of 23.5

million yuan (\$3.3 million) in 2002 to Weichai Power Co. and helped bring diesel-engine technology to the nation. Filings show it later made more than \$300 million via share sales between 2010 and 2016.

While Franco built the business in Hong Kong, much of the family, including his wife and son Tony, had moved to Canada, a well-trodden path for many Hong Kongers seeking a life abroad and a Western education for their children.

"It was very difficult and very isolating," Tony said of his early childhood in Vancouver. "When people were going to Scouts, I went to Chinese school, and when parents were going to hockey games, my mother was watching TVB episodes at home," he said, referring to one of Hong Kong's most popular television channels.

Chinese official says HK can handle its protests

A senior Chinese official in Hong Kong expressed confidence yesterday in the ability of local authorities to restore calm to the protest-racked city.

While not definitive, his comments reinforce thinking that the Chinese government is not preparing to intervene, even though the protests are expected to mar celebrations next week of 70 years of Communist Party rule in China.

"We believe the [Hong Kong] government has the capability to calm down

AP PHOTO



the current situation," said Song Ru'an, deputy commissioner of the foreign ministry office in the semi-autonomous Chinese city.

Months of protests with no end in sight prompted speculation earlier that China might send in troops to end the disturbances.

Protesters unfurled a huge banner reading "I wish glory to Hong Kong" inside a luxury shopping mall Wednesday. More protests are planned this weekend and on the Oct. 1 anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

Song said it was to be expected that the "one country, two systems" framework under which Hong Kong was returned to China in 1997 would encounter difficulties because of its unprecedented nature.

"Indeed we have come across some problems in

implementing 'one country, two systems' here in Hong Kong, and some problems are grave, which need serious consideration," he said, answering questions through an interpreter at a briefing for foreign media.

Under "one country, two systems," the former British colony became part of China but retained its own legal system and greater freedoms than in mainland China.

The protests were sparked by a proposed extradition law that would have allowed suspects to be sent to China to face trial.

Activists saw that as a threat to the legal rights that Hong Kong residents have under the framework.

The Hong Kong government has said it will withdraw the legislation, but the protesters' demands have grown to include fully democratic elections, an amnesty for arrested protesters and an investigation into alleged police violence against demonstrators.

Song said the Chinese government is reflecting on both the successes and insufficiencies of "one country, two systems" to improve its implementation, but that its original mission and principles would remain unchanged. AP

rich need to help

DOT.COM BUST

Tony attended the Prince of Wales Secondary School, alma mater of Kim Campbell, Canada's first female prime minister. Friend and former schoolmate William Lai Yu Tse remembers him as someone who always planned ahead. "When we played in his house, you'd see stock market and finance books on his shelf, while I was reading comics and car magazines," he said.

Yeung went on to Washington University in St. Louis with ambitions to ride the tech boom. But after the dot.com bust, he wound up joining the family business back in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong's property market was in a long decline in the wake of the Asian financial crisis and then the 2003 SARS virus, with prices dropping 68%. The group was close to missing its obligations and Tony had to weigh the value of every meeting against the cost of a cab fare.

"The business wasn't in good shape at all," Yeung said, adding the company survived with the support of friends who lent money so it could stay afloat.

As SARS passed, the market and Peterson Group bounced back. Having learned the risks of concentration, the family diversified, selling the Chinese brewery and mines and putting a cash pile of "about \$1 billion to \$2 billion" into a family office to buy property and other assets globally.

Today, the office owns 35% of Alvarium, in which Dilmun, a New York family office with ties to the Qatari royal family, also has a stake. Beyond the U.K., it's an owner of properties in Japan and other parts of Europe. Tony is also a general partner and co-owner of Queensgate, which manages about 3 billion pounds (\$3.7 billion) in assets. In March, Queensgate bought four Grange Hotels in central London for 1 billion

pounds.

Tony's uncle Ben runs Peterson in Canada as a separate, independent company and has turned it into a major developer there. Hong Kong still accounts for about half the family's wealth, mostly from its commercial properties. Peterson owns the LKF Tower in the Lan Kwai Fong party district, the Hotel Panorama and a shopping mall in the suburbs among others, said Yeung.

Those property assets put the Yeungs and other real-estate empires in the city at the center of the debate surrounding the reasons for Hong Kong's in-

taken to publishing full-page ads urging reconciliation from both sides.

Yeung remains optimistic and is looking to buy properties from those trying to sell based on the latest upheaval.

"I don't think there's going to be flight of capital anytime soon," Yeung said. "Even during 2008 and the global financial crisis, where the whole world almost crumpled, in Hong Kong we had a dip and then came back up."

Yeung declined to comment on the cause of, or the solution for, Hong Kong's woes. But he is trying to help address some of the city's inequalities, funding ventures such as Light Be, which works with landlords willing to charge lower rents for families that acquire new skills; and Hatch, a co-working factory for domestic brands that train locals to do jobs that might otherwise move elsewhere.

In a sign other developers are also looking to alleviate stresses in the property market, New World Development Co. said Wednesday it would donate 3 million square feet (278,710 square meters) of land to help with the city's housing crisis. New World is working with Light Be to provide affordable apartments.

One of the chief funnels for the Yeung family's efforts is Social Ventures Hong Kong, the philanthropic hub in Sham Shui Po. Co-founder and CEO Francis Ngai says Yeung has been one of its strongest supporters, using his hotels, properties, money and connections to fuel its efforts with little fanfare - a rarity among people in his income bracket.

"Right now, I feel helpless and powerless too like many Hong Kongers," Ngai said on a recent visit with Yeung. "But together with his friends I think we can get more resources, get them together and build our own community." **BLOOMBERG**

Further erosion of autonomy or a crackdown in Hong Kong will cause the city, and by extension, mainland China, to lose its special economic and trade arrangement with the United States.

REP. JIM MCGOVERN

creasingly bitter and violent demonstrations.

Protesters say the conflict is about democracy and have issued five demands they say must be met. None of them is about real estate, yet Chinese state media has blamed the city's housing crisis as the real cause of the unrest, even calling on the Hong Kong government to "recall" land from developers.

The city has topped lists for the world's least affordable housing for almost a decade, with local media regularly reporting on the lives of people forced to live in cages or parking spaces that sell for \$760,000. Its top five listed property firms have lost a collective HKD140 billion (\$17.9 billion) in value and real estate tycoons like Li Ka-shing have

HK developer to donate own land for housing

NEW World Development Co., one of Hong Kong's largest home builders, will donate 3 million square feet of land to help with the city's housing crisis.

The move comes as developers in the former British colony have been widely criticized by Beijing for helping to push home prices to unaffordable levels. Protests that have rocked Hong Kong for months now are in part fueled

by anger over sky-high property prices.

New World will donate the plots, about the size of Grand Central Station in New York, from its farm landbank, Adrian Cheng, executive vice-chairman, said at the company's post-earnings media briefing Wednesday. It's already leased 28,000 square feet for HKD1 (\$0.13) to Light Be (Social Realty) Co. until 2047 and intends to grant an additional 1 million

square feet to the social enterprise, which provides affordable housing for the underprivileged, the company said.

Cheng also said New World is open to giving some of the land for free to the government to use for public housing. Authorities have no mechanism in place currently for such a transfer but if one were introduced, "we can donate it and support their development of public housing,

addressing social need," he said.

New World has 16.9 million square feet of farmland, company filings show, so the donation would total almost 20% of that.

The project with Light Be will provide more than 100 affordable apartments and is expected to be completed in 2022, subject to the time required for land-use conversion. The units will be offered to low-income families with children at discounted rents. New World may contribute to some of the construction costs and help build the apartments, it said. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

ADVERTORIAL

GREAT TIMES

How to enjoy cheese, according to the experts

CCHEESE is one of the most beloved foods in the world, but it takes a sophisticated palate to fully appreciate its diverse deliciousness. But how exactly do you become a cheese aficionado? The Aux Beaux Arts restaurant in MGM MACAU has the answer. MGM is always offering new food experiences and this time it's a cheese add-on weekend brunch by renowned cheesemongers Les Frères Marchand, where you can take your passion for cheese to the next level.



With a family history of passionate cheese makers, Les Frères Marchand have been aging cheeses since 1880. They've been voted the most "Traditional Cheesemaker of the Year" in Paris and also hold the Guinness World Record for the largest cheese platter. For many years they've travelled the globe to spread their love of cheese, share their knowledge and learn from other cultures. Now, they're coming to MGM to host an expert's guide to cheese brunch event.

For the brunch, Patrice Marchand from the Marchand family will prepare a selection of 32 gourmet cheeses from different categories: goat's and ewe's milk, bloomy rind, mountain cheese and blue cheese, 2 of which are exclusive to Les Frères Marchand - Brie De Meaux Truffle Les Frères Marchand and Le Petit Gros Lorrain Des Frères Marchand. Through Patrice's expertise you'll be taught the ways of a true cheese connoisseur, learning the correct eating order to enhance the flavours. And it's not just about the cheese, there will also be condiments, bread and a wide selection of wine specially chosen by Aux Beaux Arts' sommelier to pair perfectly with each cheese.

Visit Aux Beaux Arts on September 28 & 29 from 11:00 to 15:30 to enjoy a spread of some of the finest cheeses in the world at one of the biggest cheese events in Macau!





COLLAPSE OF THOMAS COOK IS A REALITY CHECK FOR CHINA'S FOSUN

SHIRLEY ZHAO & JINSHAN HONG

THE collapse of Fosun Group's flagship European investment, Thomas Cook, is proving to be a reality check for the Chinese conglomerate's ambitions to create a global travel empire via flashy acquisitions.

After months of talks to hammer out a \$1.1 billion bailout package, Shanghai-based Fosun - the biggest shareholder in Thomas Cook Group Plc - decided against committing any more money toward rescuing the British inventor of the package vacation. For want of an additional 200 million pounds (\$249 million) demanded by creditors, the indebted tour operator filed for liquidation this week.

Banking on a boom in Chinese outbound travel, particularly to Europe, Fosun's pursuit of Thomas Cook made sense initially. But its reluctance to see the deal through shows the company may be reconsidering a game plan that saw it buy about \$18 billion of assets over the last five years at home and abroad, including iconic French resorts brand Club Med SAS in 2015.

With the global economy cooling and the trade war altering the landscape for offshore acquisitions, the Thomas Cook setback could also signal a pause in the

wider plans of Hong Kong-listed Fosun, which has assets spanning brewing to fashion labels.

"Fosun is facing the headwinds of a slowdown," said Andrew Collier, managing director at Oriental Capital Research Inc. in Hong Kong. "It's a difficult time to be expanding."

GLOBAL FOOTPRINT

Led by billionaire Guo Guangchang and founded in 1992, Fosun has lately been focusing on hospitality, health care and finance - businesses its chairman prefers to refer to as happiness, health and wealth. They operate broadly under its listed units Fosun International Ltd., Fosun Tourism Group and Shanghai Fosun Pharmaceutical Group Co.

Fosun is the last of the few Chinese conglomerates still chasing overseas deals, while giants such as HNA Group Co., Dalian Wanda Group Co. and Anbang Insurance Co. have been reined in and are selling off assets to pare hefty leverage piles racked up by offshore acquisition sprees. Total debt at Fosun International stood at \$28 billion as of June 30, compared with cash and equivalents at \$22 billion, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

In the tourism space, Fosun started expanding by acquiring control of Club Med in 2015 after a protracted takeover battle. Later

the same year is bought the stake in Thomas Cook.

After building an 18% holding in the London-based company, Fosun was seeking to replicate its model at Club Med - the once flagging resorts brand - by tapping wealthy Chinese tourists traveling to destinations in Europe. Official data show about 150 million travelers from China traveled overseas last year.

But sputtering growth in the world's second-biggest economy means a dip in demand. China's slowdown, partly triggered by the fight over trade with the U.S., has hit consumer spending, factory output and the job market. A weaker yuan has also added to concerns over tourism and spending.

It isn't just China that is under pressure. Parts of Europe are in recession or close to it, with World Bank President David Malpass saying this month the global economy is poised to decelerate more than previously estimated. Brexit has also roiled the U.K.

FAILING BUSINESS

Going after an already failing business like Thomas Cook wasn't a great strategy for Fosun, said Brock Silvers, managing director at investment advisory firm Kaiyuan Capital in Shanghai. Sinking under the weight of debt from deals made a decade

ago, Thomas Cook had trouble keeping up with rivals as the travel business shifted online and the package holidays it made its name with fell out of favor.

"Thomas Cook was massively indebted, bleeding red ink, with an outdated business model and no obvious fit with Fosun's portfolio," Silvers said. The latest developments raise concerns over Fosun's deal-making, making the conglomerate look "unfocused and undisciplined," he said.

A representative for Fosun declined to comment. Fosun had said last month it won't spend more than the 450 million pounds it committed to the bailout, and any additional amount needs to come from others such as core lending banks. The Financial Times, citing insolvency documents, reported that Thomas Cook was facing demands of almost 500 million pounds from hotel partners and creditors at the end of September.

POSITION UNCHANGED

In a statement on Monday - hours after Thomas Cook filed for bankruptcy - Fosun said it was disappointed Thomas Cook couldn't find a viable solution to secure the extra capital it needed. "Fosun confirms that its position remained unchanged throughout the process, but unfortunately other factors have changed," it said.

Shares of Fosun Tourism, which led the Thomas Cook rescue negotiations, fell 0.3% in Hong Kong yesterday, after slumping almost 7% in the first two days of the week. They have tumbled 39% this year, compared with a gain of less than 1% for the benchmark Hang Seng Index.

Thomas Cook isn't the only troubled acquisition under Fosun. Folli Follie, a Greek retailer in which it is the second-biggest shareholder, is battling a crisis after a hedge fund disputed its sales figures last year and shorted the stock.

And Fosun still has other deals in the works. It plans to buy assets in the mining industry, with a consortium led by the group in talks to acquire a majority stake in a Russian gold miner -- a transaction that could value the target at about \$1 billion -- people familiar with the matter said in June. Fosun has about \$2.2 billion of pending deals, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

In an interview in May, Kevin Xie, Fosun's chief representative in the U.S., said the conglomerate is easing up on investments in the U.S. because of growing regulatory scrutiny from the trade war, and is shifting its focus to emerging markets.

"The global atmosphere is now less favorable for China's outbound investors," Silvers said. "Chinese conglomerates face increased skepticism, and potential partners will now find little comfort in Fosun's interaction with Thomas Cook." **BLOOMBERG**



Beijing's giant new airport helps China rival US in the skies

KYUNGHEE PARK
& YAN ZHANG

JUST five years ago, Daxing was a dusty area of farmland to the south of Beijing, largely neglected by visitors to the city. That's no longer the case, now that an enormous airport has emerged there to thrust China even closer to toppling the U.S. as the world's biggest aviation market.

Beijing Daxing International Airport, an 80 billion yuan (USD11.2 billion) starfish-shaped structure hailed by state media as a "new gateway" to the country, opens just in time for the People's Republic of China's 70th birthday. A state-of-the-art terminal designed to eventually handle more than 100 million passengers a year is symbolic for President Xi Jinping, who faces a raft of challenges, including a trade war with the U.S., a slowing economy and mass protests in Hong Kong.

Xi has identified aviation as a key strategic industry. The president attended an official opening ceremony for the new airport, designed by the late Zaha Hadid, yesterday. Within two decades, annual passenger traffic in China's skies will reach 1.6 billion, according to the International Air Transport Association more than the country's population today. China has set a goal of having 450 commercial airports by 2035, almost double the number at the

end of 2018. It's also developed a jet to compete with Boeing Co. and Airbus SE.

The vast new airport should increase Beijing's passenger capacity by 60% and help unclog the capital's other international airport — the second busiest in the world behind Atlanta — to the north, which often has long delays despite a huge new terminal opening there ahead of the 2008 Summer Olympics. Bottlenecks at Beijing Capital International Airport likely capped annual passenger traffic growth at an average of 4% from 2013 to 2018, Bloomberg Intelligence analyst Denise Wong said.

FORCED HAND

China has little option but to spend big and fast to have a shot at keeping up with demand. In its latest annual report on the commercial aviation market, Boeing said it expects airline passenger traffic in China to grow 6% a year. McKinsey & Co. says the extra slots at Daxing — which will initially have four runways and eventually seven, including one for military use — could open new direct connections to places such as San Diego. Beijing now joins major cities including London, New York and Tokyo with more than one international airport.

"It can get 10 if not hundreds of new destinations connected to Beijing over the years," said Steve Saxon, a McKinsey partner in Shanghai. "This is the power of having large connecting hubs."

The goal is to restyle Beijing as an international transport hub as air travel surges with China's expanding middle class and a greater desire to venture overseas

Daxing also upends the government's traditional one-international-route-per-airline model that left long-haul services from Beijing in the hands of Air China Ltd. The new site will become a launchpad to Europe, Asia and beyond for the other two of China's "Big Three" carriers: China Eastern Airlines Corp. and China Southern Airlines Co. They'll both get their first-ever direct flights to cities including Paris and Moscow.

The goal is to restyle Beijing as an international transport hub as air travel surges with China's expanding middle class and a greater desire to venture overseas.

The opening of Daxing, which will also help closer integrate Beijing with Tianjin and Hebei, should put China on a stronger footing to compete with traditional transits such as Singapore and Hong Kong, as well as younger hubs like Bangkok, Seoul and Kuala Lumpur.

China still trails many major aviation markets in Asia in terms of connectivity, according to a report by OAG Aviation Worldwide published Tuesday. Singapore and Hong Kong are the region's most internationally connected hubs, the report showed. Shanghai Pudong International Airport, China's top entry, came in eighth.

IATA expects 4.6 billion people to take a flight in 2019, a figure that will almost double to 8.2 billion in 2037 as flying penetrates deeper into the enormous populations of India and Indonesia. Daxing is just one of many airport projects underway in Asia, collectively costing more than \$100 billion, in a race to handle all those passengers. A new terminal opened at Shanghai Pudong International Airport on Sept. 16.

TAKE A BREAK

The relaxation of China's one-route, one-airline policy at Daxing will encourage Chinese carriers to apply for international

routes once monopolized by their competitors, said Yu Zhanfu, a partner at Roland Berger Strategy Consultants in Beijing who focuses on aviation. "Beijing will be a good spot to take a break without making a big detour," Yu said.

Among the tons of steel and glass at Daxing, passengers will find five traditional-style Chinese gardens with ponds, wooden pavilions and stone bridges. The new airport also has facial recognition and paperless check-in systems using technologies from companies including China Unicom and Huawei Technologies Co.

The Civil Aviation Administration of China is offering airlines incentives to use the new airport. They'll get priority when it comes to obtaining rights for international flights, CAAC's deputy director of transport department, Yu Biao, said in July. Foreign carriers can choose to operate in both airports in Beijing, or one of them, but those that switch to Daxing can acquire new routes or more convenient slots, Yu said.

Daxing expects one fifth of its passengers to be transfers by 2025. Among international flag carriers, British Airways said in July it plans to shift its direct Heathrow-Beijing flights to the new airport from Oct. 27, helping it maximize a code-sharing agreement with China Southern. China Eastern has kept its Beijing-Shanghai route at the old airport, which is closer to the central business district.

"The next step will be for us to keep expanding new routes," said CAAC's Yu. "We'd like to see more foreign carriers operate in Daxing." **BLOOMBERG**

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



TARIFF WAR

GOV'T REJECTS TRUMP CRITICISM ON TRADE

CHINA urged President Donald Trump yesterday to listen to developing countries and oppose bullying after the American leader criticized its trade status at the United Nations.

A foreign ministry spokesman called on Trump to "meet China halfway" in settling trade disputes.

The two governments are locked in an escalating tariff war over complaints about

Beijing's trade surplus and technology ambitions. It threatens to tip the global economy into recession.

Trump complained Tuesday that the World Trade Organization improperly gives

China preferential treatment. He was referring to complaints China, the No. 2 global economy and biggest trader, is abusing the leeway given to developing countries to subsidize exports or delay opening markets.

The United States should "listen to developing countries' calls for rapid development, opposition to bullying and suppression and aspirations for peace and stability," said the Chinese spokesman, Geng Shuang.

China has insisted it has the right to pursue development in response to complaints by Washington and other trading partners that its industry plans violate Beijing's market-opening commitments and are based on stealing or pressuring companies to hand over technology.

U.S. and Chinese negotiators are due to meet in October for a 13th round of talks aimed at ending the trade war. There has been no sign of progress since talks deadlocked in May.

"The United States should see China's development with an open, inclusive and win-win attitude and meet China halfway to control differences on the basis of mutual respect," Geng said. AP

A FAMILY TRIED TO SKIRT PROPERTY RULES WITH 23 DIVORCES AND WEDDINGS

FAKING a divorce has been a ploy used by Chinese couples desperate to skirt the nation's property curbs.

But a family in the city of Lishui has taken the scam to extreme lengths, churning through 23 divorces and weddings in a month.

The ruse was aimed at winning greater compensation when their house was demolished for a new development. Under the system, each member of the household would be entitled to 40 square meters of space in the new development.

It all started with Mr. Pan, who lived in the house, remarrying his ex-wife, allowing her to qualify for the compensation plan, the city's official newspaper reported Tuesday. Two weeks later, he divorced her and married his sister-in-law, adding her to the plan.

On it went, with each new family member enlarging the amount of space to be awarded as compensation, until government authorities discovered the house suddenly was home to 13 people, and promptly arrested 11 of them, the paper said.

While it's an extreme case in property-obsessed China, where would-be home buyers have to navigate a shifting array of property curbs, it's probably more understandable given home prices in Lishui have surged as much as 31% in the past two years, according to data provider Fangjia.com. **BLOOMBERG**

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INDONESIA

Riot police clash with student protesters

INDONESIAN riot police shot multiple rounds of tear gas at thousands of stone-throwing students who attempted to reach Parliament in Jakarta yesterday to protest a new law that critics say cripples the country's anti-corruption agency.

Police said more than 300 students and police officers were treated in hospitals for injuries suffered in a similar protest in the same area the previous day.

The demonstrators are enraged that Parliament passed the law last week to reduce the authority of the Corruption Eradication Commission, a key body in fighting endemic graft in the country.

Police fired tear gas at protesters from several high schools yesterday afternoon as they tried to approach Parliament, turning nearby roads into a smoke-filled battleground. Protesters fought back, hurling rocks and bottles at riot police and setting fires to a nearby bus stop.

Clashes between protesters and police also occurred in other cities, including Padang, Palu, Garut and Bogor.

Police in Padang, the capital of West Sumatra, were unable to stop thousands of university students who stormed into the local parliament building. The angry protesters smashed windows and chairs and wrote insults against the government on the building's walls.

The protests are not associated



AP PHOTO

with any particular party or group, and instead are led by students, who historically have been a driving force of political change in Indonesia. Their demonstrations in 1998 triggered events that led longtime strongman President Suharto to step down.

Student groups have vowed to continue returning to the streets until the new law is revoked.

Jakarta police chief Gatot Eddy

said at least 265 students and 39 police officers were treated at several hospitals in the country's capital for wounds suffered on Tuesday, with the injuries ranging from minor to serious.

Officials at Jakarta's Pertamina Hospital said 90 students were treated there for injuries that included broken bones, head wounds and respiratory problems due to tear gas. Most were discharged

yesterday, but three with head wounds remained hospitalized.

Another student was undergoing surgery at Pelni Hospital after suffering bleeding in his brain and fractured shoulder bones.

The fallout from the new law has threatened the credibility of President Joko Widodo, who recently won a second term after campaigning for clean governance.

The demonstrators are demanding that Widodo issue a government regulation replacing the law, which reduces the commission's authority and independence.

Corruption is endemic in Indonesia and the anti-graft commission, one of the few effective institutions in the country of nearly 270 million people, is frequently under attack by lawmakers who want to reduce its powers.

Hundreds of officials from various branches of government have been arrested since the independent anti-graft commission was established in 2002 as part of people's demands during a reform movement following the ouster of Suharto.

Pramono said at a news conference that police arrested 94 people accused of violent acts in Tuesday's protests, which turned violent as darkness fell.

"We are still investigating whether they are students or other members of society with different interests," he said.

The protesters also demanded that Parliament to delay votes on a new criminal code that would criminalize or increase penalties on a variety of sexual activities, as well as other bills on mining, land and labor.

Opponents say the proposed criminal code would violate the rights of women, religious minorities, lesbians, gays, bisexual and transgender people, as well as freedom of speech and association. AP

Australian capital legalizes recreational marijuana

ROD MCGUIRK,
CANBERRA

AUSTRALIA'S capital has become the first part of the country to legalize recreational marijuana for personal use.

The Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly voted yesterday to legalize possession by adults of up to 50 grams of dried marijuana and cultivation of two marijuana plants beginning Jan. 31.

The assembly is the local government of Canberra, the national capital with a population of 400,000.

The law requires that adults not use marijuana near children and to store it out of their reach. Owners cannot sell or supply their marijuana to anyone else. Households are limited to growing no more than four plants, regardless of the



AP PHOTO

Michael Pettersson, the ACT Labor politician who proposed the legalization of marijuana for personal use and growing bills

number of occupants.

Attorney General Gordon Ramsay said it was time to treat drug addiction as a health issue rather than an issue of "right and wrong."

The opposition voted against the legislation, arguing that the change would

encourage more people to use marijuana and lead to more drug-induced psychosis.

Possession of small amounts of marijuana has been decriminalized throughout Australia, but the Australian Capital Territory

is the first of Australia's eight states and territories to take the next step of legalizing possession and cultivation.

But marijuana users in Canberra will still face some legal uncertainty because possession of small amounts of marijuana re-

mains illegal under federal law.

Chief Minister Andrew Barr said such prosecutions would require approval of federal prosecutors, who are "concerned with larger matters than the possession of a small amount of drug."

Federal prosecutors have declined to provide the government with advice on the likelihood of such prosecutions.

Barr said police charging Canberra marijuana smokers under federal law "would be outrageous," but the smokers could cite the territory law in their defense before a judge.

Australian Federal Police Chief Police Officer Ray Johnson said Canberra police had been advised to "focus on the traffickers," but that officers were free to enforce federal law.

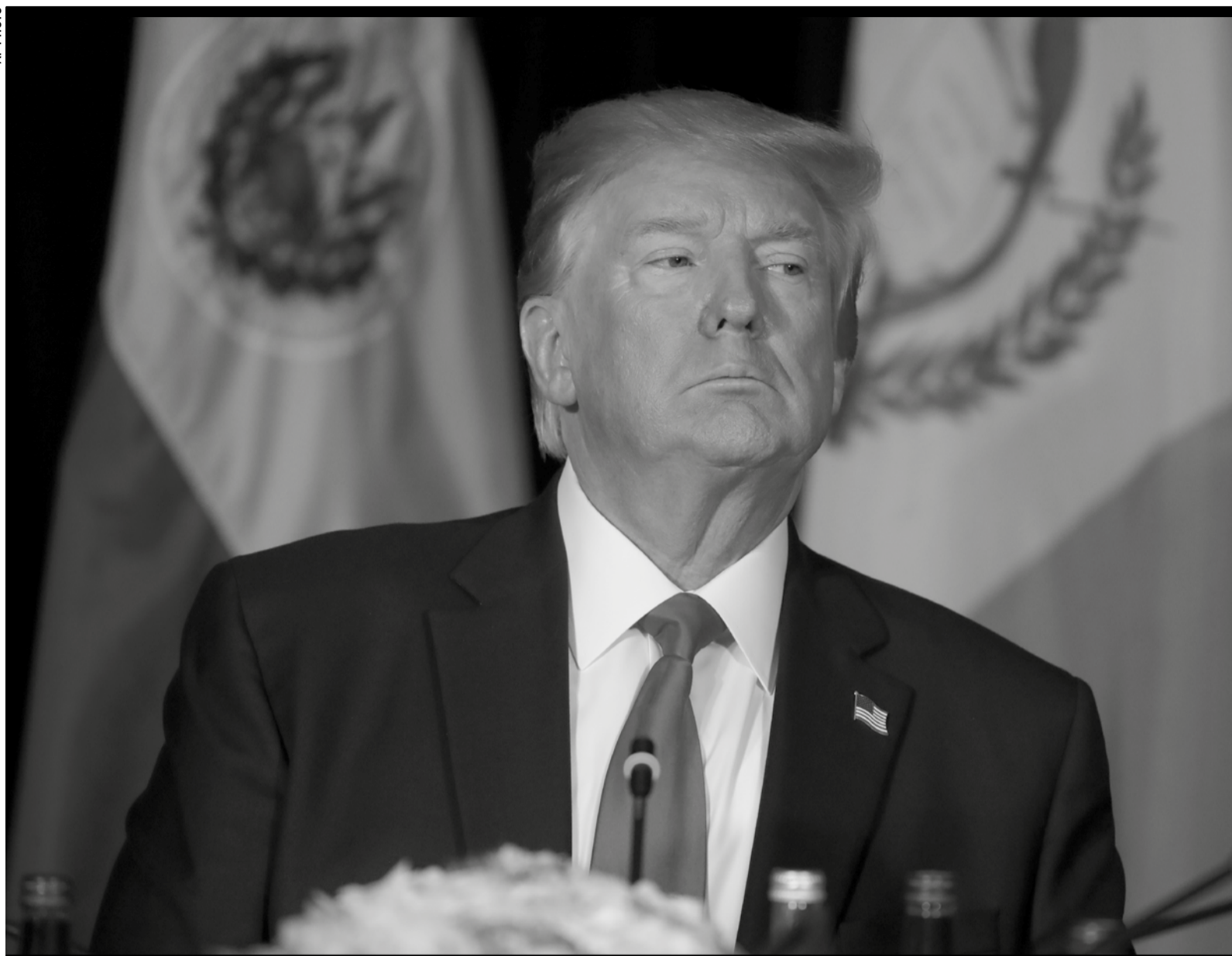
Former Australian Federal Police Commissioner Mick Palmer issued a joint statement with the Take Control drug law reform campaign congratulating the territory on the change.

"I welcome what I consider to be a courageous decision by the ACT parliament to put control into a completely uncontrolled environment," the statement said.

Medical marijuana has been available in Australia to patients with doctors' prescriptions since 2017.

The Australian Capital Territory is renowned for its liberal policies toward illicit drugs. In April, Canberra hosted Australia's first pill-testing facility at a music festival so that drug users could have their illicit substances analyzed for unexpected contaminants before taking them. AP

AP PHOTO



WASHINGTON PLUNGES INTO IMPEACHMENT PROBE INTO TRUMP

LISA MASCARO, MARY CLARE JALONICK & JULIE PACE, WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON plunged into an impeachment crisis yesterday, as House Democrats opened an investigation into President Donald Trump's campaign season dealings with Ukraine. Trump repeatedly prodded Ukraine's president to look into Democratic rival Joe Biden, according to a rough transcript released by the White House.

"Whatever you can do with the attorney general would be great," Trump said in the summer phone call. He was referring to Attorney General William Barr, the nation's top law enforcement official.

The president's words set the parameters of the political debate to come, with Trump dismissing it as routine and Democrats saying that it laid the predicate for an impeachment inquiry.

The release came against the backdrop of Trump's meetings with world leaders at the United Nations, a remarkable split screen even for the turbulence of the Trump era. On Trump's schedule yesterday: a meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, whose contacts with Trump are now central to the im-

peachment inquiry.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi launched the formal impeachment inquiry on Tuesday, yielding to mounting pressure from fellow Democrats and plunging a deeply divided nation into an election year clash between Congress and the commander in chief. The probe injects deep uncertainty into the 2020 election campaign and tests anew the nation's constitutional system of checks and balances.

Trump, who thrives on combat, has all but dared Democrats to take this step, confident that the specter of impeachment led by the opposition party will bolster rather than diminish his political support.

"There has been no President in the history of our Country who has been treated so badly as I have," he tweeted yesterday from New York. "The Democrats are frozen with hatred and fear. They get nothing done. This should never be allowed to happen to another 'President. Witch Hunt!'"

While Pelosi's announcement adds weight to the work being done on the oversight commit-

tees, the next steps are likely to resemble the past several months of hearings and legal battles — except with the possibility of actual impeachment votes.

Her brief statement, delivered without dramatic flourish but in the framework of a constitutional crisis, capped a frenetic weeklong stretch on Capitol Hill as details

The probe injects deep uncertainty into the 2020 election campaign and tests anew the nation's constitutional system of checks and balances

of a classified whistleblower complaint about Trump burst into the open and momentum shifted toward an impeachment probe.

For months, the Democratic leader has tried calming the push for impeachment, saying the House must investigate the facts and let the public decide. The new drive was led by a group of moderate Democratic lawmakers from political swing districts, many of

them with national security backgrounds and serving in Congress for the first time. The freshmen, who largely represent districts previously held by Republicans where Trump is popular, risk their own reelections but say they could no longer stand idle. Amplifying their call were longtime leaders, including Rep. John Lewis of Georgia, the civil rights icon often considered the conscience of House Democrats.

"Now is the time to act," said Lewis, in an address to the House. "To delay or to do otherwise would betray the foundation of our democracy."

At issue are Trump's actions with Ukraine. In a summer phone call with Zelenskyy, he asked for help investigating

former Biden and his son Hunter. In the days before the call, Trump ordered advisers to freeze \$400 million in military aid for Ukraine — prompting speculation that he was holding out the money as leverage for information on the Bidens. Trump has denied that charge, but acknowledged he blocked the funds, later released.

Biden said Tuesday, before Pelosi's announcement, that if

Trump doesn't cooperate with lawmakers' demands for documents and testimony in its investigations the president "will leave Congress ... with no choice but to initiate impeachment." He said that would be a tragedy of Trump's "own making."

The Trump-Ukraine phone call is part of a whistleblower's complaint, though the administration has blocked Congress from getting other details of the report, citing presidential privilege.

The whistleblower's complaint was being reviewed for classified material and could go to Congress by today [local time], according to a person familiar with the issue who was not authorized to discuss it publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Trump has sought to implicate Biden and his son in the kind of corruption that has long plagued Ukraine. Hunter Biden served on the board of a Ukrainian gas company at the same time his father was leading the Obama administration's diplomatic dealings with Kyiv. Though the timing raised concerns among anti-corruption advocates, there has been no evidence of wrongdoing by either the former vice president or his son.

While the possibility of impeachment has hung over Trump for many months, the likelihood of a probe had faded after special counsel Robert Mueller's Trump-Russia investigation ended without a clear directive for lawmakers.

Since then, the House committees have revisited aspects of the Mueller probe while also launching new inquiries into Trump's businesses and various administration scandals that all seemed likely to drag on for months.

But details of Trump's dealings with Ukraine prompted Democrats to quickly shift course. By the time Pelosi addressed the nation Tuesday, about two-thirds of House Democrats had announced moving toward impeachment probes.

The burden will probably now shift to Democrats to make the case to a scandal-weary public. In a highly polarized Congress, an impeachment inquiry could simply showcase how clearly two sides can disagree when shown the same evidence rather than approach consensus.

The Democratic-controlled House is expected to consider a symbolic but still notable resolution insisting the Trump administration turn over to Congress the whistleblower's complaint. The Republican-led Senate, in a rare bipartisan moment, unanimously approved a similar resolution Tuesday.

The lawyer for the whistleblower, who is still anonymous, released a statement saying he had asked Trump's director of national intelligence to turn over the complaint to House committees and asking guidance to permit the whistleblower to meet with lawmakers. AP

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



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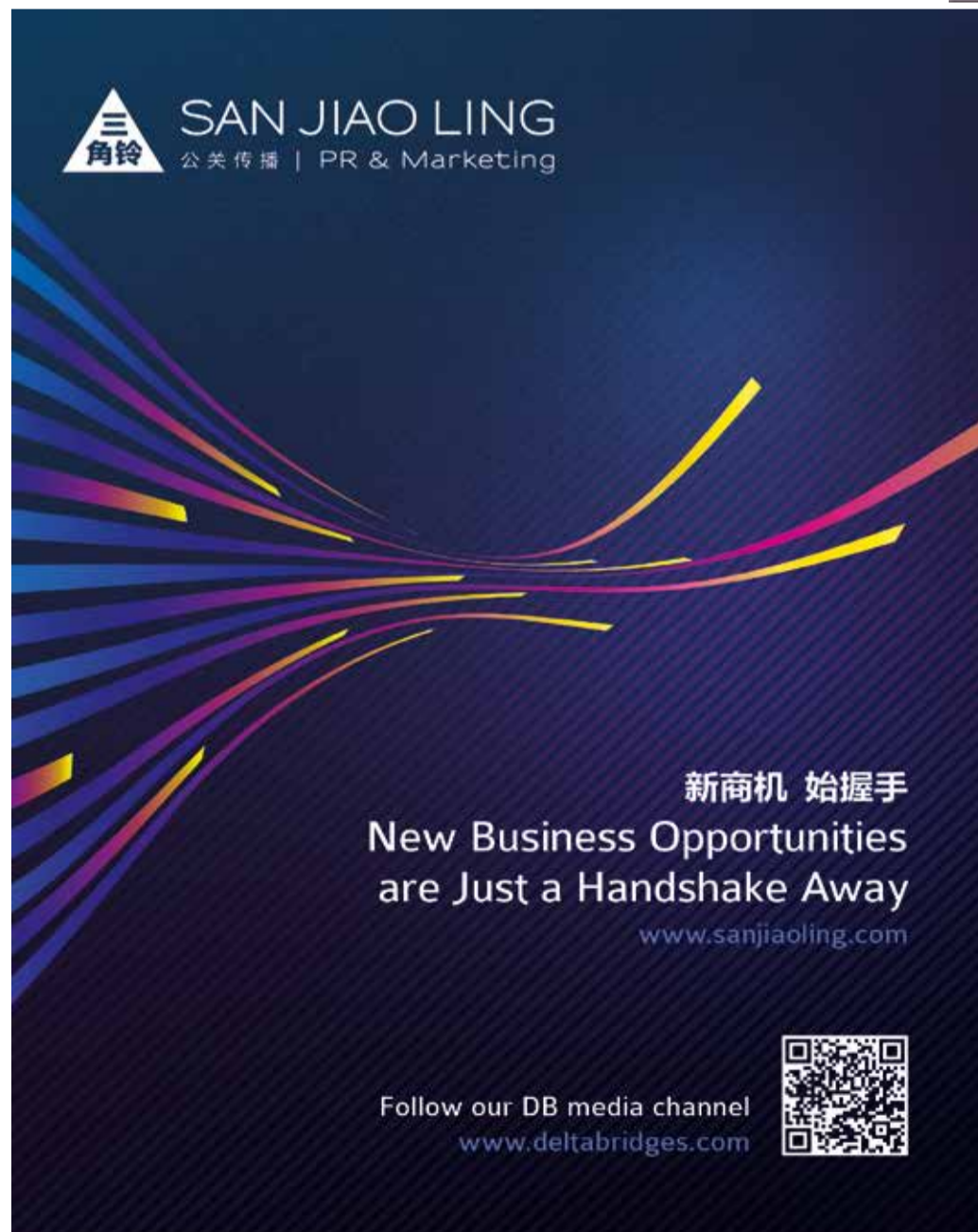
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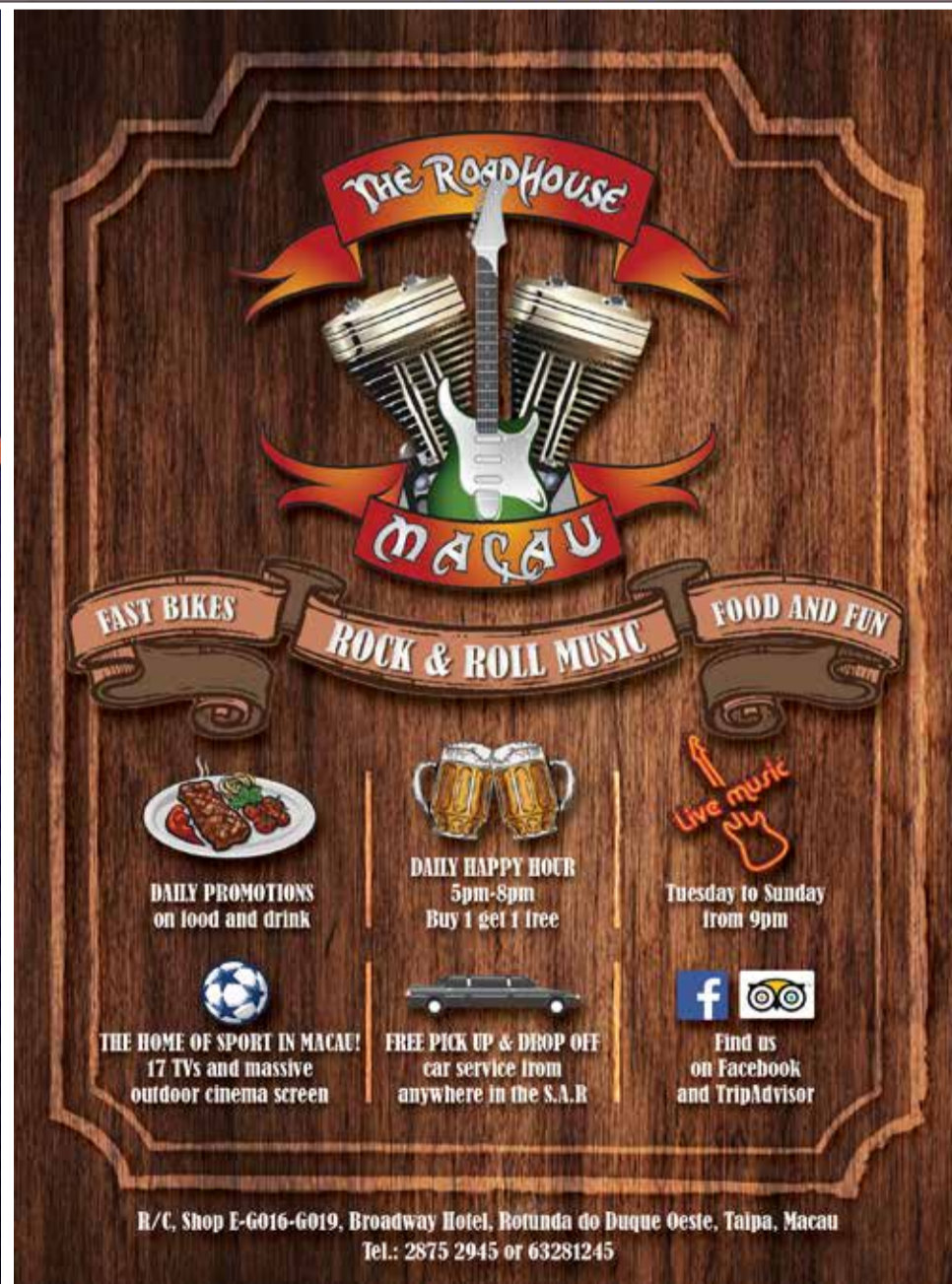
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what's ON



A CHERISHED MEMORY FROM 1999 – ARCHIVES EXHIBITION IN CELEBRATION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RETURN OF MACAU TO THE MOTHERLAND

TIME: 10am-6pm (closed on Mondays and public holidays)

UNTIL: December 27, 2019

VENUE: Archives of Macau, Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida 91-93

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2859 2919

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

ONENESS: CALLIGRAPHY BY PROFESSOR JAO TSUNG-I

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

UNTIL: September 30, 2019

VENUE: Jao Tsung-I Academy

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRY: (853) 8598 6718

THE GOLDEN AGE OF ARABIC SCIENCE: EXHIBITION FROM 1001 INVENTIONS

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

UNTIL: October 27, 2019

VENUE: Gallery 2, Exhibition Center, Macau Science Center

ADMISSION: MOP25 (several discounts available)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

Offbeat

BOTTOMS UP, FIRE'S OUT: GERMAN MAN DOUSES FIRE WITH BEER

A German motorist is being credited for his quick thinking after his engine caught fire on the Autobahn. He turned to a slightly different foam extinguisher to douse the flames: bottles of beer.

Police told the dpa news agency yesterday that the man was on the highway near the town of Hoesbach in Bavaria the day before when he smelled something odd.

Pulling over, the man spotted flames under the hood of his car. He quickly grabbed bottles of beer from a case in his car and quenched the fire.

Authorities say the fire department responded but there was nothing left for them to do.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Água de Mar
15:30	Zig Zag
15:45	Os Ursos Boonie e o Fantástico Outono
16:00	Viajante da Música
16:30	Quem Quer Ser Milionário
17:30	A Minha Tese
18:00	Amor Maior (Repetição)
18:55	TDM Entrevista (Repetição)
19:30	Ouro Verde Sr.1
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Semana Internacional
21:50	Tesouro Pirata nas Caraíbas Sr.1
22:15	Amor Maior
23:15	TDM News
23:50	O Último Reino Sr.1
00:40	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:25	RTPi Directo

cinema



CINETEATRO

26 Sep - 2 Oct



AD ASTRA

ROOM 1

2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm

Director: James Gray

Starring: Brad Pitt, Tommy Lee Jones, Ruth Negga

Language: English

Duration: 169min

THE FATAL RAID

ROOM 2

2:30, 7:15pm

Director: Jacky Lee

Starring: Patrick Tam, Michael Tong, Jade Leung

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 169min



IT CHAPTER TWO

ROOM 2

4:15, 9:00pm

Director: Andy Muschietti

Starring: Jessica Chastain, James McAvoy, Bill Hader

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 169min

BLINDED LIGHT

ROOM 3

2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm

Director: Gurinder Chadha

Starring: Vivick Kalra, Kulvinder Ghir, Meera Ganatra

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 169min

this day in history



1984 UK AND CHINA AGREE HONG KONG HANDOVER

Britain and China have finalised an agreement which will end more than 150 years of UK rule in Hong Kong.

The proposal - which will hand control of the colony to China in 1997 - creates an "island of capitalism" within a communist state.

In a ceremony at the Great Hall of People in Beijing the document was initialled by the UK ambassador to China, Sir Richard Evans, and the head of the Chinese negotiating team, Zhou Nan.

The British Government has been asked to give its approval to the treaty which ends two years of hard bargaining between the countries.

Under the accord, the Chinese authorities have agreed Hong Kong will maintain a high degree of local autonomy and keep power over its social, economic and legal systems.

But China will gain control of the city's defence and foreign affairs.

Britain, which has controlled the island of Hong Kong almost uninterrupted since 1842, has also persuaded the Chinese to leave the colony untouched for 50 years and provide a plan for its future.

Sir Richard said the joint declaration was "the practical embodiment of the imaginative concept of one country, two systems".

The Governor of the island, Sir Edward Youde, flew straight back from the ceremony to address a special meeting of the Hong Kong Legislative Council about the agreement.

"It constitutes a blueprint for a new stage in Hong Kong's development - as such I commend it to this council and to the community at large," he said.

The British Government has set up an assessment office to gauge the public response to the White Paper.

But although the people of Hong Kong can technically reject the proposals, the declaration makes it clear any other agreement may not go so far to protect their interests.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The agreement was finally signed in December 1984. Control of the colony was handed over to the Chinese at midnight on 1 July 1997 after a spectacular ceremony. Prince Charles and Chris Patten - the twenty-eighth and final governor of Hong Kong - left the island on the Royal Yacht Britannia.

They left a population with mixed feelings about the incoming regime and Hong Kong's Democratic Party already protesting against what it saw as the loss of democracy. The Provisional Legislative Council, led by Tung Chee-hwa and picked by Beijing, was sworn in almost immediately after the handover, replacing the previous elected body.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You have been adding more new projects and goals than your schedule can realistically contain, so you might find yourself scrambling today. Concentrate on finishing some current projects.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Even though having a routine in your life might get boring from time to time, you will find a great deal of comfort in knowing what's going on in your daily life for the next few days.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Keeping life easy and breezy will be a cinch today, especially if you are surrounded by friends who understand how to have a good time. Keep it simple, and keep it low-maintenance - and you'll keep smiling!



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Your insight is needed to help a friend untangle a confusing situation. You don't know all the facts yet - but when you do, you'll immediately know how to proceed.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Just like peanut butter and jelly or Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire, you and your best friend make an excellent combination right now! The two of you create a wonderful energy.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

This tension could cause you to lash out at people who try to push your buttons. It may serve them right, but if you add to the animosity, you aren't really doing yourself any favors.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

If you were a superhero, what would your superpower be? Would you like to fly? Be invisible? How about always being able to find a good parking spot? Give this question some serious thought today.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

With great power comes great responsibility - and you will have to deal with that fact today when your position in a group requires that you make one heck of a tough decision.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

For special insight on your latest quandary, turn to your coworkers or classmates today. You need to consult someone who either is in the same situation you're in or has been there before.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Take these questions one at a time. Do not expect yourself to answer all of them right away - or ever. Just being aware of such issues may be enough to prepare you to take opportunities as they come.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You are going to be exposed to an avalanche of new ideas, and some of them might confuse you a bit. This mental challenge may feel uncomfortable or strange.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Life just isn't fair all the time, as difficult as that may be for you to acknowledge. It's a messy affair full of selfishness and selfishness. Look at the big picture. As long as you think things are generally equitable, don't worry.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1-The most heavily populated continent on Earth; 5- Jessica of "Dark Angel"; 9- Perlman of "Cheers"; 13- Stinging insect; 14- Rips; 16- Seniors' org.; 17- Culture medium; 18- Between Venus and Mars; 19- Boy or man; 20- Spoollike toy; 21- Santa ____; 22- Likenesses; 24- Free ticket; 26- Geraint's wife; 27- Steakhouse order; 29- Coil site; 33- Most unfavorable; 34- Mata ____; 35- Deprived of sensation; 36- Jackie's #2; 37- Giving the once-over; 38- Hawaiian necklace; 39- The world's longest river; 41- Back talk; 42- Lower legs; 44- Inventor of the safety razor; 46- Harvests; 47- Help a hood; 48- Like Cheerios; 49- No way!; 52- Pound sound; 53- Liquid food; 57- Yours, in Tours; 58- Angry with; 60- Scat queen; 61- One of the Jackson 5; 62- Take to the ice; 63- "Show Boat" novelist Ferber; 64- Ollie's partner; 65- From the U.S.; 66- Letter opener;

DOWN: 1- On the road; 2- Palm starch; 3- Brit's cry; 4- Opportunely; 5- Army command; 6- Inclines; 7- Vamp Theda; 8- Illustrative craft; 9- Fast time; 10- Dutch name of The Hague; 11- Creator of Perry and Della; 12- Mimics; 15- Elaborate dance party; 23- DI doubled; 25- Picnic pest; 26- Merits; 27- Japanese gateway; 28- Edible European flatfish; 29- Bluffer's ploy; 30- Bell-shaped flower; 31- Harbingers; 32- Diamond stats; 33- Vera of fashion; 34- Marriott rival; 37- Prizes; 40- High spirits; 42- A collection of articles; 43- Yodel; 45- Flow back; 46- Roof timber; 48- Speak pompously; 49- Felines; 50- Working hard; 51- ____ bene; 52- According to the Bible, he was the first man; 54- Shoppe sign word; 55- It parallels the radius; 56- Carson's predecessor; 59- Wanted poster letters;

Yesterday's solution

SEAS	SMEAR	CASE
EAST	EAGLE	LAHR
ARIA	EDGED	AREA
ULTRA	ORDERED	
WHISTLER	NONOS	
JANIS	SLEET	BERTA
NIAS	APLEA	TIRE
ERNIE	SINCE	BAR
YEMEN	COMMANDO	
PULKA	REFIN	
PULSATE	LIMBO	
PERI	TOTED	MAIL
ASIF	YNOLA	AGOG
NOISY	RENAL	LISA

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Fire department 28 572 222	Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993	Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775	Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333	Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944	
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731	
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333	
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300	
IAM 28 387 333	
Tourism 28 333 000	
Airport 59 888 88	



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ABC'S MUIR HITS FIVE-YEAR MARK AT 'WORLD NEWS' ON THE TOP

DAVID Muir is celebrating his fifth anniversary as "World News Tonight" anchor with something that's rare in television: a larger audience. The ABC newscast finished its year-long season last week with an average of 8.6 million viewers a night, the Nielsen company said. It's the third straight year ABC has won the evening news ratings competition, with its largest margin over NBC in 23 years and CBS in 27 years, the network said.

"World News Tonight" was averaging 7.9 million viewers when Muir replaced Diane

Sawyer as anchor of ABC's flagship newscast in September 2014. At the time, NBC's "Nightly News" was the most popular newscast behind anchor Brian Williams, who was replaced by Lester Holt in 2015 after Williams was found to have made false claims about reporting in Iraq.

"David Muir has a unique ability to connect with the American audience," said Almin Karamemedovic, executive producer of "World News Tonight." "He's passionate and he's fearless and he delivers the stories in a way that really resonates."

FOX APOLOGIZES FOR 'DISGRACEFUL' COMMENT ABOUT THUNBERG



FOX News has apologized for a guest's "disgraceful" description of environmental activist Greta Thunberg as mentally ill but was silent on Laura Ingraham likening her to a murderous cult of children from a Stephen King story.

The network responded swiftly to a news segment Monday where Michael Knowles of "The Daily Wire" said the 16-year-old environmentalist was a "mentally ill Swedish child who is being exploited by

her parents and by the international left."

Knowles was immediately called out by a fellow guest, podcast host Chris Hahn, who said, "You're a grown man and you've attacked a child. Shame on you."

Hahn called on Knowles to immediately apologize. He didn't and won't get a chance again on Fox. The network later apologized to Thunberg and viewers for the comment and said it had no plans to book Knowles, who has no tie to the network, again.

A PREVIOUSLY UNRELEASED TRACK FROM FRANKLIN IS COMING OUT

CHRISTMAS is bringing the gift of a previously unreleased Aretha Franklin recording.

"Big Band Holidays II" from the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis has a holiday album that will feature the late icon singing "O Tannebaum." Franklin performed the song as she played the piano at a 2015

holiday concert at Jazz at Lincoln Center; her performance of the classic, in both English and German, was a surprise.

It will be featured on the album, which is being digitally released on Oct. 25 and will be in stores on Nov. 8. Few songs have been released from Franklin since her death in August 2018.



AD



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Macau Bats Rugby



Uruguay's Felipe Berchesi, runs past Fiji's defense

RUGBY

Uruguay shocks Fiji 30-27 at Rugby World Cup

URUGUAY pulled off one of the Rugby World Cup's largest upsets when it beat Fiji 30-27 in a match laden with significance for the disaster-ravaged town in which it was played yesterday.

Only days after coming close to a shock result when it led Australia 14-12 at halftime before losing 39-21, 10th-ranked Fiji found itself on the wrong end of a larger surprise, going down for the first time in four meetings to the 19th-ranked Los Teros.

Fiji scored first but Uruguay scored three first-half tries to lead 24-12 by halftime. Flyhalf Felipe Berchesi kicked two penalties to keep his team in front throughout the second half, finishing with three conversions and three penalties for 15 points.

His last penalty, in the 75th minute, gave Uruguay an eight-point lead and proved decisive in securing only its third win at a World Cup, its first in 16 years. Uruguay's other wins were over Georgia and Spain.

"I was thinking to myself to treat it just like in training, as if the stadium was empty," Berchesi said. "I had cramps in my legs so I focused on kicking like I do in training, and aiming for the middle, inside the posts. It went through, luckily."

Fiji threw everything at Uruguay in an effort to wrest back control of the game in the second half but its most ambitious attempts failed through passing and handling errors and it paid dearly for poor goalkicking by Josh Mata-

vesi and Ben Volavola.

A try after the fulltime siren to Niko Matawalu - his second of the match, which typically went unconverted - was enough to earn Fiji two losing bonus points. But the result severely jeopardized its hopes of winning a place in the knockout rounds.

"It is going to be challenging for us," Fiji coach John McKee said. "We are relying a lot on other points now and, for us, we just have to focus on our match against Georgia in eight days."

"That is the only focus for us now, to play well in that match and win the game and, if we can, securing the bonus point."

Asked if his team had taken Uruguay too lightly, McKee said, "I hope that we didn't." Fiji captain Dominiko Waqaniburotu said they did: "We underestimated a very good Uruguay team, congratulations to them."

The match was one of the most thrilling in World Cup history, full of dramatic twists and turns and brought to life by the indomitable spirit of the Uruguay team which was given a slim chance of upsetting star-studded Fiji.

"I'm really proud of my country, we're not the biggest or tallest but we came here to win, we have been preparing for four years," Uruguay head coach Esteban Meneses said. "We've never had anything granted, we always have to qualify first and you saw the passion."

Uruguay is the youngest team at the tournament, an assembly of home-based players who mostly are semi-professional and can't match the array of global stars which Fiji has at its disposal.

It played with magnificent discipline and organization to exploit Fiji's errors and lead through most of the first half after conceding an opening try

after only eight minutes.

It then showed extraordinary spirit to hold out Fiji as it mounted attack after attack in the late stages of the second half. The Uruguay players looked close to exhaustion and emptied their bench by the end of the third quarter.

But it continued to defend with unshakeable courage, led by captain Juan Manuel Gaminara who tackled himself to a standstill.

Fiji was denied a try in the 80th minute when replacement flyhalf Volavola lost the ball just short of the line. Matawalu then scored the final try but it came too late to shift the result.

Fiji scored twice early through hooker Mesulame Dolokoto and prop Eroni Mawi and from what appeared to be set moves. But Uruguay produced magnificent responses through scrumhalf Santiago Arana and and back-rower Diana before a try to Juan Manuel Cat ensured they led at halftime.

Fiji cut into the lead with a try to Tevita Ratuva but Berchesi kept his tiring team ahead.

The match brought consolation and new life to a fishing town struck eight years ago by a ruinous earthquake and tsunami.

It seemed almost all of the town's population of 35,000 were in attendance, along with Japan's Crown Prince Akishino.

Prior to kickoff at the Kamaishi Recovery Memorial Stadium both teams observed a minute of silence for the more than 1,000 people from the town who lost their lives. The March 11, 2011 tsunami destroyed 30 percent of homes, 60 percent of businesses, and the stadium is built on the site of two schools destroyed by the wave.

The somber note quickly passed, giving way to a celebration of rugby and of the town's spirit. **AP**

FOOTBALL

MLS lifts ban on anti-Nazi symbol following fan protests

MAJOR League Soccer is lifting its ban on signs and banners featuring an anti-Nazi symbol for the remainder of the season and the playoffs.

A handful of fans in Portland were prohibited from attending matches this season after challenging a ban on the Iron Front, a symbol with three arrows pointed downward and to the left that was first used by an anti-Nazi paramilitary group in the 1930s. The league had said the emblem violated a ban on political displays included in the MLS fan code of conduct adopted this season.

MLS maintained the symbol is political because



it has been appropriated by antifa, loosely organized militant groups of anti-fascists that sometimes engage in violence. Supporters' groups maintain the Iron Front represents opposition to fascism and perse-

cution — a human rights issue, not a political stance.

Portland Timbers and Seattle Sounders supporters' groups, as well as the Independent Supporters' Council, protested the ban, and some fans across the

league continued to use the symbol on flags, banners and signs at games.

Both sides met last week in Las Vegas to find a resolution. An additional conference call was held yesterday [Macau time].

MLS President and Deputy Commissioner Mark Abbott said in a statement the league would also form a working group, including representatives from the league, its clubs, the ISC and the supporters' groups, to re-examine the code of conduct going forward.

"This working group will include representatives from the league office and clubs and work collaboratively with leaders of

club supporter groups and a cross-section of diversity and inclusion experts," Abbott said.

The supporters groups also issued a statement.

"The Independent Supporters Council and supporter groups for the Portland Timbers and Seattle Sounders FC acknowledge the league's willingness to discuss these complex issues, as well as the league's affirmation of its long-time opposition to racism, fascism, white supremacy, white nationalism and homophobia," the statement said. "We appreciate Major League Soccer's willingness to engage, listen, and learn. We look forward to conti-

nuing the dialogue, moving away from direct action in the stands on this issue, and instead focusing our energy on making progress around the table."

The league's fan code of conduct, implemented this season, prohibits "using (including on any sign or other visible representation) political, threatening, abusive, insulting, offensive language and/or gestures, which includes racist, homophobic, xenophobic, sexist or otherwise inappropriate language or behavior."

Earlier this season, a fan waving a Trump 2020 flag was removed from Providence Park. **AP**

OPINION

Made in Macao

Jenny Lao-Phillips



CHUNG YANG: A FESTIVAL FOR LONGEVITY

The Double Ninth or Chung Yang Festival falls on the October 7 this year. The ninth day of the ninth month of the lunar calendar may not involve big celebrations for many people, but it has been one of the four most important festivals for worshipping ancestors. While Lunar New Year's Eve's ancestor worship is part of family celebration, Ching Meng, Chung Yang and Chong Yuan seem to have become festivals about remembering the dead rather than celebrations. But Chung Yang is not about the dead.

The traditional practices of Chung Yang include climbing mountains, drinking chrysanthemum wine, eating Chungyang cakes, and decorating with cornelian cherry. Actually, most of these customs are related to health and longevity. If we look at the legends related to the Double Ninth, we can see that it is a festival for life. One legend I have found and written about some years ago is about Huan Jing, who avoided a plague by taking his family, or some versions say he took the whole village, up to a mountain. They drank chrysanthemum wine and carried zhuyu (cornelian cherry) given to Huan Jing by an immortal to protect them from illness. So, to commemorate their lucky escape from death, every year during the ninth day of the ninth month, people would repeat the practice to prevent illness and death.

There are also stories saying that the festival originated from the royal families during the Han Dynasty, when ancient kings would go to the mountain to pray to their ancestors for longevity. The royal family would also appreciate chrysanthemum in the palace on the Double Ninth day, as the number nine and the chrysanthemum flowers are both symbols for longevity. Later this annual practice by the kings became known to civilians, so everyone followed the practices to pray for longevity on the day. While I was browsing through the legends related to Chung Yang Festival, I found an even older story of the origin, long before there were dynasties.

Legend has it that Chung Yang originated from the offerings to the "big fire." In the ancient days, our ancestors used to observe the "big fire" star, which we now know is the planet Mars, to tell time and to predict the changing of the seasons. The ancient people also worshipped the "big fire" star as a god. As the star started fading in autumn, they would parade with fire up the mountain to give their god, whom they believed went into hibernation, a send-off, because the fading of the star also signified the coming of winter. This fire celebration disappeared over time, however, seeing nature fade as leaves turned brown and flowers dying when autumn came, people still had the fear that the end was near, so they continued to climb the mountain during the season to escape from "the death" around them. That was the oldest origin I found of mountain climbing and praying for longevity during Chung Yang Festival.

There is no way to find out what the exact origin of the Chung Yang Festival was, but all these stories and legends seem to tell us that the Double Ninth Festival is a celebration of life and longevity. In the modern day, many people only relate Chung Yang Festival with mountain climbing and ancestor worship, but we have probably forgotten that all these rituals originated from escaping death and praying for longevity. The custom of drinking chrysanthemum wine and carrying zhuyu are practiced by very few nowadays, but as with mountain climbing, these customs are all for the purposes of escaping illness. So, don't forget to pray for good health and long life this coming Double Ninth Festival.

MULTINATIONAL CREW LIFTS OFF FOR INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

THE BUZZ

A multinational crew made up of an American, a Russian and the first space traveler from the United Arab Emirates blasted off successfully yesterday for a mission on the International Space Station.

A Russian Soyuz rocket lifted off as scheduled from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan and entered a designated orbit en route to the station.

NASA astronaut Jessica Meir, Oleg Skripochka of Russian space agency Roscosmos, and Hazzaa Ali Almansoori from the UAE are set to dock at the orbiting outpost six hours later.

The mission is the third spaceflight for Skripochka and the first for both Meir and Almansoori, who is on an eight-day mission under a contract between the UAE and Roscosmos.

The trio will join the crew already on the International Space Station: Russians Alexey Ovchinin and Alexander Skvortsov, NASA astronauts Christina Koch, Nick Hague and Andrew Morgan and European Space Agency astronaut Luca Parmitano.

Hague and Ovchinin are scheduled to wrap up a mission of more than 200 days on Oct. 3 and return to Earth with Almansoori. Meir and Skripochka plan to stay for more than six months.

MIGRANTS ARRIVE IN EUROPE WITH BIG HOPES, MANY QUESTIONS

AP PHOTO



RENATA BRITO, MESSINA

As the weary passengers aboard a rescue ship approached Sicily at the end of an agonizing journey from North Africa, 30-year-old Seke Awa called a friend back in Libya the moment she got cellphone reception.

"I told her we are on the big boat and sent her courage, that she needs to have hope. One day her suffering may end," said Awa, a native of Cameroon. "She was crying."

A total of 182 people, rescued a week ago from fragile boats off Libya's coast, arrived in Italy on Tuesday, filled with excitement and hope, but also myriad questions about what comes next.

Will they be allowed to stay in Europe? If so, in which country? And will they have a choice? Can they go to school even if they are adults? How much does a SIM card cost?

Nelson Oyedele, 37, said he fled violence and poverty in Nigeria with his wife and four small children.

"I don't know where I'm going to end up, I'm just going," he told an Associated Press reporter on the Ocean Viking, a Norwegian-flagged rescue ship run by the humanitarian organizations Doctors Without Borders and SOS Mediterranee. "My daughter says she wants to become a doctor. She could never become a doctor back in our country. Maybe here she will."

Oyedele was the only man on the ship traveling as part of a complete family.

The rest had left behind wives, husbands, children and parents in their home countries, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa.

Abdul Kerim, 20, said he fled persecution in Togo and wants to reunite with brothers and aunts living in Germany. He hopes to be granted asylum and is open to any kind of work, though he dreams of having his own construction company.

"I will work for Europe and give all I have," he said. "If possible I would like my family to join me." His wife and 2-year-old son are still in Togo.

However, Kerim and others disembarking in Messina will have no control over where they end up. Their fate will be decided in negotiations among a few European countries that agreed to take them in.

Asylum is typically reserved for people fleeing war and persecution. People escaping poverty in West Africa rarely qualify. In Germany, only 6.5% of Nigerians whose asylum cases have been decided this year received some sort of protection. For Syrians, it was nearly 84%.

The migrants on the Ocean Viking came from a number of countries, including Sudan, Cameroon, Guinea, Mali, Egypt, Morocco and Bangladesh. As they arrived in Messina, their immediate worry was contacting loved ones for the first time since they left Libya, where rape, torture and abuse are widespread at the hands of smugglers demanding ransom payments

from the migrants' families.

The Ocean Viking docked in Messina after receiving permission to enter Italy, a country that until a change of governments this month had closed its ports to humanitarian rescue ships, saying their activities encouraged human smuggling. Police and Red Cross workers waited for the migrants on shore.

As they approached Sicily, the passengers marveled at a gargantuan cruise ship docked on the Italian mainland across the Strait of Messina.

"Is there a hotel inside?" asked one of the men watching the floating behemoth from the deck of the much smaller rescue ship. "It's so amazing," said another. The children waved incessantly.

Halfway across the world, on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly in New York, members of the Italian government said most of the migrants on the Ocean Viking would be sent to other European countries.

They called for a permanent European solution to migrant arrivals, instead of the current practice of dealing with the issue ship by ship. They said they also intend to make it easier to return migrants who don't qualify for protection in Europe.

Premier Giuseppe Conte said Italy will soon deliver "good news about a much more effective repatriation system at a European level. Italy is preparing for a decisive turning point." AP

Thailand The number of Chinese tourists visiting Thailand topped 1 million in August for the first time in six months, brightening an otherwise dim outlook for the nation's economy. Chinese arrivals surged almost 19% to 1.03 million during the month compared with a year earlier.

India A 23-year-old law student who accused a leader of India's governing party of sexual assault was arrested yesterday on charges of extortion, police said.



Pakistan Authorities began distributing tents, food and water among thousands of earthquake victims in Pakistan-held Kashmir yesterday, as the death toll from a powerful 5.8 magnitude temblor that rocked a large swath of the country's northeast a day earlier jumped to 37, officials said.

New Zealand's education minister called yesterday for an investigation after reports that a student's body lay undiscovered in a university dorm room for nearly eight weeks.



UK British Attorney General Geoffrey Cox accused Parliament yesterday of being a "disgrace" as lawmakers returned for the first day of work since a bombshell Supreme Court decision deemed Prime Minister Boris Johnson's suspension of the legislature to be illegal.



USA President Donald Trump repeatedly prodded Ukraine's new leader to work with Rudy Giuliani and the U.S. attorney general to investigate Democratic political rival Joe Biden, according to a rough transcript summarizing the call released yesterday.