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CHINESE MEDICINE NEEDS TO DO MORE TO CHALLENGE THE PREMINENCE OF WESTERN MEDICINE, A BUSINESS EXECUTIVE SAID AT YESTERDAY'S FORUM P3

FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION CANCELS REGIONAL FRIENDLY WITH DUBIOUS CAUSE P7

CARRIE LAM HAS TASKED HERSELF WITH FINDING A WAY OUT OF HONG KONG'S POLITICAL IMPASSE. PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS HAVE PROVEN FUTILE P9

A TALE OF TWO CITIES



China Huawei Technologies Co. founder Ren Zhengfei is ready to license his fifth-generation networking technology only to one other company - and he wants that potential arch-rival to be American.

China has demanded that Washington drop sanctions imposed on Chinese companies and executives for transporting Iranian oil.



Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte has forgone helicopters, weapons and a proposed train line through Manila worth millions of dollars - all in defense of his deadly drug war.

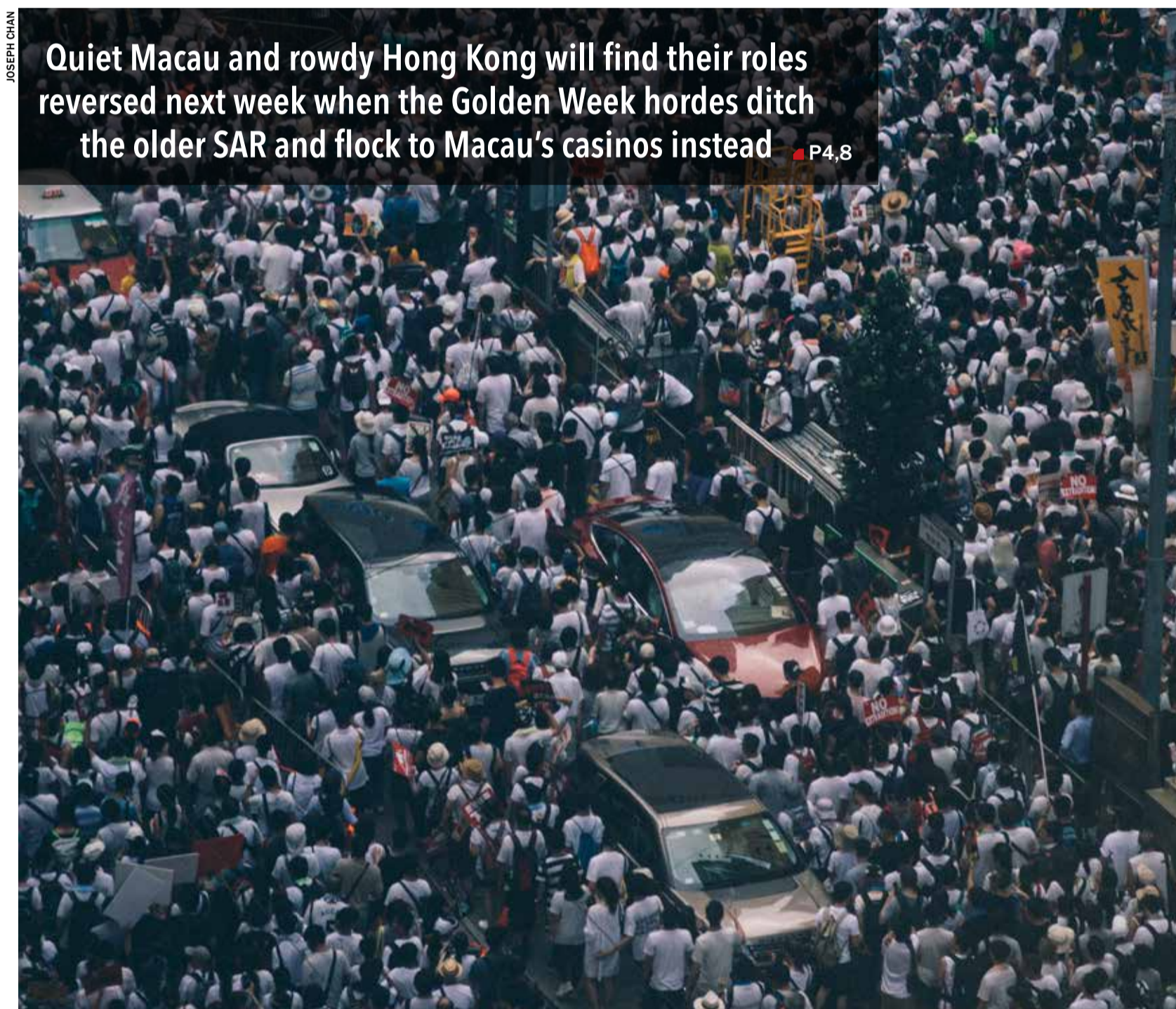
Thailand's army is stepping up purchases of U.S. weapons with a deal for eight armed reconnaissance helicopters, another sign of warming ties after the end of direct military rule in the Southeast Asian nation.



Indonesia A strong earthquake yesterday killed at least three people and damaged a bridge, hospital and other buildings on one of Indonesia's less populated islands.

Bangladesh A Cabinet minister says authorities will build barbed-wire fences around sprawling camps housing Rohingya refugees to stop their expansion.

More on backpage



Quiet Macau and rowdy Hong Kong will find their roles reversed next week when the Golden Week hordes ditch the older SAR and flock to Macau's casinos instead P4,8



SHELDON ADELSON ACCUSED OF TRYING TO CLOSE RIVAL NEWSPAPER P7



Climate change is making the oceans warm and rise ever faster, melting even more ice and snow

times Extra

DISTRIBUTOR HOLDS MASTERCLASSES ON FRENCH PRODUCE

FRENCH distributor Répertoire Culinaire has collaborated with the Macau University of Science and Technology to improve students' awareness of authentic French produce.

The day-long event this week featured masterclasses, in addition to teaching students how to prepare a buffet presentation.

According to Vincent Maréchal, managing director of Répertoire Culinaire, the collaboration is of value to both parties.

"I think this is a win-win situation. The students were really organized and were good listeners," he said.

The managing director also considered the event a step forward in promoting French cuisine amongst non-French speakers.

Some 24 students participated in the one-day workshop which featured masterclasses on a variety of French produce, including hams, foie gras, oysters and poultry.

"We are talking mahout oysters that you cannot find except in specific areas, the ones that are really fresh," he said when commenting on the quality of the products that the company distributes.



Vincent Maréchal

"In terms of quality, it has been increasing. What is required in Macau is quite a high-level quality. It's challenging sometimes but that's okay," he said.

Aside from MUST, the company has also partnered with other French food firms and associations, including Alliance Française and the

France Macau Chamber of Commerce.

The day ended with a food tasting that featured an array of hams, sausages, seafood and cheeses, amongst others.

Répertoire Culinaire specializes in the distribution of ambient, chilled and frozen gourmet food and is part of

Loste Tradi France, a family-owned company that has been producing premium charcuterie, foie gras and specialties for over 150 years.

Aside from Macau, the company also operates in other countries and regions including Hong Kong, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Australia and Singapore. LV

IPIM ORGANIZES THAI VISIT FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

THE Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) has organized a delegation consisting of 35 representatives of local businesses to visit Thailand in order to learn about the wider trading environment of the region. The visit was held between September 23 and 26.

The participants came from various sectors - including manufacturing, commerce, services, computer technology, catering, tourism and jewelry - and visited Thai enterprises such as a food processing factory and a famous furniture design company.

Through the visit, the participants deepened their knowledge of the commercial environment in Thailand, while also making contacts with Thai businesses. Some participants discussed aspects of business such as protecting brand image and developing innovative in practice.

According to a statement from IPIM, some members of the delegation reported that the trip had deepened their knowledge of the operating model of companies in the countries of the Belt and Road Initiative. They also said that the content of the activities had helped strengthen the business competitiveness of Macau companies.

The visit was organized by IPIM following a business training course, jointly organized with Thailand's trade promotion organization, in May of this year.

OCTOGENARIAN SUSTAINS FRACTURE AFTER BUS CRASH

A traffic accident involving a public bus and a woman in her 80s occurred earlier this week. The woman sustained fractures to her legs after allegedly being run over by the bus.

The accident occurred near the Border Gate, at the intersection of Istmo de Ferreira do Amaral and Rua da Tribuna. The intersection is at the bottom of a hill and the bus likely drove up Rua da Tribuna from Toi San District, where a red Post and Telecommunications Bureau service hut sits.

According to the traffic signs at the intersection, drivers are required to turn right into Istmo. Just after the turn however, the bus knocked the elderly woman over and allegedly ran over her before being able to stop.

The driver immediately exited the bus to attend to the situation. A large number of pedestrians were drawn to the scene and were also watching the driver.

Traffic nearby became heavily congested as the Public Security Police Force cordoned off the area for on-site care by paramedics and

a police investigation.

The woman was moved out from underneath the bus by paramedics upon arrival. She was sent to hospital suffering open fractures in her calves and feet.

Preliminary investigations by the police found indications that the victim may have illegally crossed the road.

The driver was a 61-year-old man who had worked for the bus company for seven years. At the time of the accident, he had been working for six hours. He tested free of alcohol. AL

CHURCH DRIVER CHARGED WITH CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

A local 55-year-old Aman has been charged with the sexual abuse of an 11-year-old girl, the Judiciary Police (PJ) reported.

The suspect, surnamed Chan, had worked as a driver for a church located in Coloane since 2017. The victim, a Macau resident, was placed under the protection of the church when her mother was sentenced to jail and a court awarded the church guardianship. The whereabouts of her father was

not disclosed by the PJ.

The abuse was suspected to have begun in mid-September and the victim was abused on three separate occasions.

Chan's daily duties consisted of driving a seven-seater car to pick up and drop off several children at different schools, including the victim. Chan was accompanied by other church staff at all times.

However, on September 13, 18 and 19, when the accompanying staff left the vehicle to pick

the children up from school, Chan found himself in the car alone with the victim. He then coerced the girl into sitting in the passenger seat, where he molested her.

On September 20, the victim told the church's dean what had happened. The dean then took the victim to the police station to report the case.

Chan was arrested on Monday and charged by the PJ. However, he has refused to cooperate with the police authority. JZ

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Forum attendees believe in Greater Bay's potential for Chinese medicine

JULIE ZHU

GUESTS at yesterday's Roundtable Discussion of the 2019 Traditional Medicine International Cooperation Forum (Macau) voiced their opinions on opportunities, challenges and financing strategies for China's comprehensive health and biotechnology industries.

During the discussion, Jason Wang, president of Zhongguancun Private Equity & Venture Capital Association (ZVCA), spoke about Chinese medicine cooperation in the Greater Bay Area, saying that his firm was optimistic regarding the development of Chinese medicine within the region.

"We are the most optimistic about the Greater Bay Area because of its capital, talented human resources and its policies. It is the best area in China," said Wang.

ZVCA is a national equity investment association in China which, according to Wang, has maintained a close relationship with the Chinese medicine indus-



trial garden in Hengqin, Zhuhai. The association wants to take the Greater Bay Area as an opportunity to create better communication between the government, investment organizations and entrepreneurs.

Wang believes that the renaissance in Chinese medicine and its growing influence abroad means there are more opportunities for the Chinese medicine industry.

Wang shared a story to demonstrate the growing influence

of Chinese medicine. "Earlier this year, I saw some African friends in Portugal performing acupuncture on stage. It gave us huge encouragement," said Wang.

In the past, China has created several initiatives, hoping to increase the country's global influence and connection with the rest of the world, including the Belt and Road Initiative, and the Greater Bay Area project.

In Wang's opinion, Chinese medicine plays a "very important"

role in helping these initiatives actually achieve their goals. However, Western medicine may be stopping Chinese medicine from playing its role.

"Increasing Chinese medicine's influence is very important. The Chinese medicine industry should be very big," said Wang. "However, at this moment, what we have been seeing is that in recent years, Western medicine is more influential."

In addition to Wang, Zhu Yonghong, another forum speaker and general manager of Tasly Holding Group, made remarks regarding Hengqin's Chinese medicine industrial zone, having considered the Hengqin land plot suitable for innovative projects.

"After all, Hengqin is a free-trade zone, it is an area facing the world but depending on the domestic market. Hengqin does not have too many land resources, so projects with low added value shouldn't go [to Hengqin]. Its land resources are limited, so it needs some innovative projects," said Zhu.

Zhu proposed that Hengqin should put more effort into scientific research and industrial transformation.

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

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).

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

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7-YEAR-OLDS NOW ALLOWED TO USE E-CHANNEL CHECKPOINTS

Starting from this Monday, children aged 7 and above will be allowed to use the e-channels at all of Macau's immigration checkpoints, the Public Security Police Force said. Currently, only children 11 years of age or older are allowed to use the e-channels. The new policy will apply to 7-year-olds and above, who are taller than 1.2 meters. Children holding either a Macau ID or a mainland travel document will be able to use the e-channels. In order to expedite the implementation of the new policy, some of the e-channels exclusive to Macau residents will be set up exclusively for use by children who cross the border daily to go to school.

CLINIC FOUND ADMINISTERING EXPIRED VACCINE

An infant has been given an expired vaccine at a clinic, the Health Bureau (SSM) reported. The clinic is the Medical Professional Diagnosis & Treatment Center located in Edf. Keng Ou. The SSM was notified about the case on September 24. The Infanrix Hexa vaccine that was given had expired in August. The child's parents reported the incident to the police authority and took the baby boy to Conde S. Januário Hospital. He is in a stable condition. Upon inspection of the clinic, the SSM did not find any more expired vaccines. The bureau has already opened a case file on this incident in order to pursue accountability of the relevant people. According to Macau's regulations, private clinic doctors cannot provide vaccines.

ELECTION AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ACCEPTS INDUSTRIAL SECTOR'S NOMINATION

At a meeting convened yesterday, the Legislative Assembly Electoral Affairs Committee (CAEAL) decided to accept the nomination list submitted by the industrial sector for the by-election scheduled for November 24. Speaking to the media at the end of the meeting, CAEAL President Tong Hio Fong said that CAEAL has already received the nomination list and electoral program. If there are no complaints, the nomination list will be published on October 3, said Tong. Sai Man, a local business sector veteran, is running to fill the seat left vacant by Chief Executive-elect Ho Iat Seng, after the latter resigned from the Legislative Assembly in July. Ho's departure from the legislature has created the need for the functional constituency to hold an internal vote to elect a replacement. As required by the law, the by-election, will decide a replacement to complete the remainder of Ho's term.



MGTO preparing to manage tourist flow during Golden Week

THE Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) will implement measures to manage visitor flows during Golden Week, which starts on Monday.

According to MGTO, it is encouraging visitors to use the "smart application for visitor flows" to assist in itinerary planning by showing the predicted density of visitor flows at various tourist attractions in Macau.

From tomorrow until October 6, the tourism bureau will also station personnel at 10 tourism spots to provide visitors with tourism information and guidance.

The bureau will present a special mapping show titled "Glorious Splendor in Celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China" at the Ruins

of St. Paul's on the nights of September 29 to October 1.

On October 1, the 30th Macao International Fireworks Display Contest will feature teams from France and China, while teams from Japan and Australia will compete on October 5.

A Macao Food Guide for the October 1 holiday will also be published, offering a list of restaurants and eateries open during the week-long National Holiday.

During Golden Week, the office will also carry out inspections at various tourist sites, ports of entry and districts, in addition to taking concerted action with police authorities to combat illegal accommodation.

Meanwhile, the Public Security Police Force's "Real-Time Information Platform of Border Ports" is a website which allows visitors to check real-time bor-

der-crossing images at the Border Gate, Outer Harbour Ferry Terminal, Taipa Ferry Terminal and Cotai Frontier Post.

The Zhuhai-Macau Cross Border Industrial Zone Border Checkpoint and Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge Frontier Post at Macau Port checkpoints will also be recorded.

MGTO's online platform will publish provisional visitor arrival figures of every previous day between October 2 to October 8.

In order to safeguard visitor rights and ensure tourism quality, MGTO has sent letters to industry operators to raise awareness about hygiene, fire safety, guest capacity, opening hours and occupational guidelines for tour group operation, amongst other things.

According to a report issued by GGRAsia, 13 of Macau's 27 major casino hotels are sold out

for five nights or more during Golden Week, with most of these located in Cotai.

As previously reported, gaming analysts Sanford C. Bernstein and Morgan Stanley are not optimistic regarding hotel businesses during the upcoming holidays.

"Room comps [competitions] will be high during the period, but likely [to] go to an average lower-spend customer than in 2018. Consequently, higher-end play will likely remain tepid during Golden Week and during the whole of October," analysts at Sanford C. Bernstein said.

MGTO is expecting a 15% year-on-year increase in the visitor numbers during the Chinese holiday. Last year, Macau welcomed over 890,000 visitors during Golden Week, registering a year-on-year rise of 7.2%. LV

Tourist tax study to complete by year-end

THE Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) intends to complete the study on the feasibility of imposing a tourism tax in Macau "by the fourth quarter" of this year, according to the bureau's director, Helena de Senna Fernandes.

Previously, the MGTO opened an online survey asking for residents to submit their opinions on whether the city should adopt such a tax. The feedback was inconclusi-

ve, according to tourism authorities, but those in favor had suggested the amount be set at over 100 patacas per visitor.

Now the tourism chief is warning that the timing for the proposed entry levy might be inopportune, considering the economic slowdown in mainland China, Macau's major visitor source market.

Senna Fernandes has previously indicated that she is opposed to the idea, arguing that an

arrival levy on tourists would be incompatible with Macau's objective of becoming an international tourism center.

The number of visitors to Macau rose 18% in year-on-year terms to 27.43 million during the first eight months of 2019. More than 70% of visitors were from the mainland, while a further 20% were from either Hong Kong or Taiwan.

Macau is still on track to break the symbolic

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

The rapid rise in the number of visitors has become a source of concern for the Macau public this year, especially as gaming receipts and other tourism spending are growing at a much

slower pace or not at all.

The situation has prompted discussion over whether a tourism tax could serve as a solution to prevent overcrowding on the city's streets and at its major attractions.

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



MGM GATHERS COMMUNITY TO CELEBRATE THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF MACAU SAR

Since its establishment in 2010, the Golden Lion Volunteer Team has served 26,300 members of our community in over 730 community service projects under the leadership of the management, who have set a great example for all team members. To date, the Team has accumulated over 60,000 volunteering hours, outperforming its industry peers in terms of volunteer hours per employee. This year, the Team has organized the "7th MGM Community Care Campaign", where 300 volunteers rolled their sleeves to serve the community members of all ages and created lots of heart-warming moments to remember.



WITH ELDERLY COUPLES

Out of all events from "MGM Community Care Campaign", "Love Moments" has to be the most special and significant event to all. In this year of Double Celebration, MGM brought back "Love Moments", where the Company invited 20 elderly couples for their first-ever wedding photos taken under the Spectacle roof of MGM COTAI, Macau's first architectural and structural GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS™ titleholder.

Elderly couples are invited from the Women's General Association of Macau, Caritas Macau as well as from MGM employees' family. Their average age is over 70 with around 50 years of marriage; all have witnessed the rapid development of new China and the glorious days of the past 20 years of Macau's handover to China. Among them, the oldest couple

are 92 and 81 years old, and the longest marriage is 62 years. Throughout the event, MGM volunteers took extra care of the couples, from photo-shooting, fitting to styling, engaging in the entire shooting with passion.

"I got married when I was 20, now I am 81. I had no wedding ceremony when my husband and I got married. I would now have the chance to enjoy having tea with my grandchildren and to share our wedding photos. They need to see how stylish their grandparents can be!" said Cheong Iun Mui, the eldest bride of the group.

Ms. Pansy Ho, Co-Chairperson & Executive Director of MGM China Holdings Limited said, "Every elderly couple of Love Moments has contributed so much of their lives to building our city brick by brick, and their hard-working spirit shall always be appreciated and inherited to the future generations. In this loving city, we express our sincere respect by utilizing our diligence, creativity and love to make them look perfect on their Big Day. These late wedding photos do not only bring blessings and joy to them, but also ever lasting memories."



WEAVING FOR WARMTH

The well-appreciated activity "Weaving for Warmth" has made its return since 2011. Last time, team members of MGM have knitted and donated 1,000 scarves in total to the community in need; this year, the team has doubled their target to 2,000 scarves in

celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Macau SAR. The activity has received high interested from team members of different levels, departments, ages and gender, where 400 signed up within a week after its launch. The scarves will be donated to various community service organizations this winter, spreading the love to every corner our city.

Carl Lin from Stewarding has also joined the line, "I have never knitted in my life since it has always been labelled as a girly activity. With the encouragement of my colleagues, clear tutorial provided by the organizing team members and not having to worry about finding yarns and needles, I easily got the hang of it in no time. In just a month, I have already completed 7 out of 10 scarves that I have pledged to knit. It is indeed a purposeful and fun activity to bring warmth to the people in need, and what is even better is that I have gained a new skill from it."



CREATING AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

"Dragon Boat Inclusion Experience" has been added to the lineup of the "MGM Community Care Campaign" this year in order to promote social inclusion. MGM Dragon Boat Team invited the athletes from Macau Special Olympics to paddle together. On the other hand, in the Macau Small Dragon Boat Mid-Autumn Festival Cup, MGM has teamed up with Fuhong to participate in "Macau Special Olympics Unified Dragon Boat Festive Tournament" and scored champion in the Silver Plate Category of the tournament.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

AD

30TH MACAO INTERNATIONAL FIREWORKS DISPLAY CONTEST

Duo Celebrations for Macao
20 30

Sea Area in front of the Macau Tower

PROGRAM

Date	Day	Time	Country	Artificer
28/9	SAT	21:00	South Africa	SAS BREZAC
28/9	SAT	21:40	Canada	Feu d'artifice Orion
1/10	TUE	21:00	France	SAS BREZAC
1/10	TUE	21:40	China	Lixiang New Year Fireworks Trading Co., Ltd
5/10	SAT	21:00	Japan	Marutamaya Ogutsu Fireworks Co., Ltd.
5/10	SAT	21:40	Australia	Cardie International Fireworks Pty Ltd

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MGS PARTNERS WITH CTM FOR 5G EXPERIENCE THIS YEAR

RENATO MARQUES

THIS year's "MGS Entertainment Show" will focus on technology, namely the development of 5G technology, Chairman of the Macau Gaming Equipment Manufacturers Association (MGEMA) Jay Chun said yesterday during the organizing committee's press conference.

Chun noted in his speech that 5G technology "will be a powerful driver in the development and promotion of many industries," in which he included the entertainment and gaming industries.

When announcing the event's collaboration with local telecommunications company CTM, Chun added that the 2019 MGS will be "the first technical application show in town to [adopt] 5G technology."

"This year, our collaboration with CTM will enable the recreational technology industry to participate in and make use of the on-site 5G network and technological applications, and take a major step towards innovation and industrial development. Besides, to create a personal experience for participants anticipating the charms of 5G, we and CTM will set up a special '5G Experiential Hall,' displaying various 5G applications - from VR entertainment apps [...] to 360-degree HD video transmission," Chun said.

Questioned by the media on how 5G technology could represent a step forward for the gaming manufacturing industry specifically, Chun said, "5G [technology] is the future of communication. But in the meantime, and especially in [the gaming] mass market, all the machines are linked through a landline [network] and when you try to move the machines it's a very complicated [process] as you need to move all the network cables."

"But, if in the near future we can connect the machines through 5G [technology], then we can move the equipment around very easily. And also, if we want to change or update the content of the games it would be very easy."



MGEMA Chairman Jay Chun

Chun said that the bet on the application of 5G technology has come in the wake of the "development pace of the Macau SAR's economic diversification."

As for the event itself, Chun said that this year, MGS would see its floor space to grow by one-third to a total of 20,000 square feet. This will feature seven major areas, namely leisure technology, integrated resort procurement, tourism culture, gaming equipment, hotel environmental protection, hotel supplies, and security products and services.

This growth is also expected to correspond with a similar growth in exhibitors.

In 2018, over 200 exhibitors participated in MGS and were visited by over 17,000 professionals in the sector from 54 different countries and regions. Buyers most commonly came from Japan, Singapo-

re and the U.S.

Following last year's MGS Summit topic theme, "Global Digital Entertainment," this year the digital gaming industry will continue to be at the center of the summit, with the theme "Innovative Forces, Winning Abroad, Competing in the Future." The 2019 Summit will include four major sections: "Transformation and Innovation of the 2019 Gaming Industry;" "Sina Asia Esports Industry Summit;" "Sail Scientifically and Survival and Challenges of Overseas Living;" and "Future Development Trends of 5G Cloud Gaming."

It will aim to create a professional communication platform for both the gaming and esports industries, and assist enterprises to export new technologies, skills and concepts, and promote the sustainable development of the industry.



Vegas Sun publisher says Adelson is trying to kill his newspaper

CHRISTOPHER PALMERI

A long-running dispute between two Las Vegas newspapers has turned into a partisan feud, with billionaire Republican contributor Sheldon Adelson being accused of trying to stifle a liberal voice in Nevada's largest city.

Brian Greenspun, the owner of the Las Vegas Sun, has sued Adelson in federal court, claiming the controlling shareholder of Las Vegas Sands Corp. and owner of the Las Vegas Review-Journal is trying to put him out of business.

The owner of the Sun said in a court filing Tuesday in U.S. District

Court in Nevada that Adelson is renegeing on the terms of a 30-year-old joint operating agreement under which the two publications shared a printing press and expenses.

In the past two years, Adelson has halted profit-sharing payments to Greenspun, eliminated joint promotions and has tried to hide the Sun's content, including political endorsements, according to the complaint.

Greenspun has fought a long legal battle to keep the nearly 70-year-old Sun afloat, including fights with past owners of the Review-Journal. Under the joint operating agreement, the Sun was

reduced to an insert in the Review-Journal. Each newspaper has its own editorial staff.

Benjamin Lipman, the Review-Journal's vice president of legal affairs and general counsel, said Greenspun's complaints are old and without merit, adding Adelson intends to fight.

"The one common denominator is Brian Greenspun," Lipman said. "This time around he makes it sound like the problems were created by the new ownership."

The lawsuit pits two prominent Nevadans against each other at a time when the state's demographics are shifting and the population is growing.

"Clark County is going to a bluish county," Greenspun said in an interview. "Sheldon is a bright red person, and he wants his voice to be the only voice."

Adelson, a cab driver's son from Boston, built Las Vegas Sands into the world's largest casino company by shrewdly betting on conventions in Las Vegas and growing demand for gambling in Asia. He is often ranked among the largest Republican donors in the country, and has been a big supporter of President Donald Trump. He acquired the Review-Journal for \$140 million in 2015.

The Greenspun family's wealth dates back to Hank Greenspun, a

former publicist for Bugsy Siegel's Flamingo casino who started publishing the Sun in 1950. After the elder Greenspun's death in 1989, his family formed the joint operating agreement with the rival paper to save the failing Sun.

Joint operating agreements have been used for decades as a way of preserving local journalism by having two papers share business operations but retain editorial independence.

Greenspun's son Brian has been editor of the Sun since 1989 and is the city's longest-running metro columnist, according to the suit. His disputes with the Review-Journal predate Adelson's ownership.

In the interview, Greenspun said the Sun's problems escalated after Adelson bought the Review-Journal and redesigned its front page to hide the Sun's contributions. Greenspun said a court-ordered arbitrator this year confirmed that the Review-Journal had been improperly counting expenses and granted him a right to an audit.

In a counterclaim last month in state court, the Review-Journal accused the Sun of publishing "substandard and often stale content" in its print edition and hoarding the best stories for its website, which operates separately. Adelson's newspaper also said the joint operating agreement is a legacy of another era, when the Review-Journal's advertising was much greater.

Newspapers operating under such agreements have been struggling everywhere, according to Alan Stavitsky, dean of the Reynolds School of Journalism at the University of Nevada, Reno, which is named after a former owner of the Review-Journal.

"I'm all for many voices in the marketplace - certainly the Sun is a voice worth saving," Stavitsky said. "But there's not a lot of independent journalism, local accountability being published in the Sun. This is more about business than attempting to silence a liberal voice." **BLOOMBERG**

Macau football team likely to miss HK friendly match

THE Macau Football Association (MFA) has recommended the Hong Kong Football Association (HKFA) postpone the upcoming annual Hong Kong-Macau Regional Friendly, local online media outlet Macau Concealers reported.

The report came after Hong Kong's Ming Pao Daily newspaper published the news. There has been speculation that the decision was made due to the current political situation in Hong Kong.

The MFA rejected the speculation by offering se-

veral other justifications, which were subsequently found to be false or dubious.

According to the Hong Kong newspaper's report, the HKFA confirmed that it had received the suggestion from the Macau side. However, the HKFA is still determining whether postponing the game is possible, as further negotiation with its Macau counterpart is necessary. In addition, the Hong Kong pitch's schedule is quite full, making any postponement inconvenient.

On September 25, the Macau FA replied to an inquiry by Radio Macau, saying that there was a schedule clash on October 12, the original date for the match.

Macau Concealers then made another inquiry. The MFA told the media that due to the ongoing local matches, it was worried that the regional friendly match could not be played. Therefore, the MFA considered postponing.

As for what matches had been scheduled on that date, the MFA told the on-

line media outlet to check the MFA website. The outlet found no scheduled match on the date, however.

Pressed for an explanation, the MFA informed Macau Concealers that even if there was no match on that date, the MFA might not send a team to Hong Kong. The players, the MFA explained, needed time to prepare for the match.

However, when asked how much time the players needed to prepare, the MFA refused to give an

answer. It also reiterated that the decision had been made by other parties. The MFA stressed that it would have been delighted to send a team for the match.

On June 11, the Macau football team was absent from a World Cup Qualifier match in Sri Lanka. The MFA refused to send a team to the South Asian country, citing "security concerns" following a series of terror attacks in the two months prior.

At the time, the regional football governing body, the AFC, had emphasized

the viability of the security plans submitted by Sri Lankan authorities. The Macau FA's Sri Lankan counterpart also promised to guarantee the team's safety. Macau was later assigned a 3-0 defeat for missing the match.

Earlier this month, the Iran national team also requested that their match with Hong Kong be moved to neutral ground, citing "safety concerns."

The AFC decided on a no-change and the Iranian team appeared as arranged, winning the game 2-0. **AL**



CHINESE TOUR GROUPS TO HK PLUNGE 86% FOR GOLDEN WEEK

JINSHAN HONG & QIAN YE

THE first week of October - China's national holiday break during which millions head out on vacation - marks one of the busiest periods for Hong Kong's tourism and retail industry.

As this year's "Golden Week" holiday approaches, the city's tour guides, hotel owners and shop assistants are staring down an abyss of empty planes, vacant hotel rooms and ghostly theme parks as anti-China protests enter their 17th week, scaring tourists away.

Chinese group tours for the Golden Week are set to plunge 86% compared to the same period last year, according to the city's Travel Industry Council. Flight prices from Shanghai to Hong Kong are 38% cheaper than last year's fares and only 30% of hotel rooms are booked for the holiday period.

Paranoid they could be targeted in the leaderless protests and wary after seeing footage of vandalized subway stations and flaming barricades, Chinese tourists - who swelled Hong Kong's population by a fifth during last year's Golden Week as 1.5 million visitors streamed in - are staying away this year. Losing its biggest source of tourist traffic will deal a body blow to the city's already hurting industries.

WEIGHING DOWN

It's also a worrying sign for consumer brands and luxury retailers that rely on Hong Kong as a top destination for millions of mainland shoppers. It is the biggest export market for Swiss watches and the regional base for luxury giants like Kering SA and Prada SpA. Retail sales by value dropped 11.4% in July and are likely to plunge further.

Sam Lau, the owner of five hostels in the bustling shopping

district of Tsim Sha Tsui in South Kowloon, has deployed two employees to approach passers-by, especially those with suitcases, and hawk rooms at negotiable rates.

"We have to accept the reality now," Lau said. "I can't see the future. I need to pay my employees," he said.

In past years, his rooms have always been full of Chinese visitors during Golden Week, but only 40% of rooms are booked right now, and he worries that even those may not show up. He's thinking of converting hostel rooms into apartments for long-term rental to pivot his business away from tourism.

Across the city, only around 30% of hotel rooms are booked a week before the start of Golden Week, compared to the usual 70%, said Yiu Si-wing, a Hong Kong lawmaker representing the tourism industry. He expects tourism arrivals to plunge 40% this Golden Week compared to the same period last year.

VISITOR VACUUM

The National Day fireworks next week have been canceled citing public safety concerns along with a golf tournament later in the month. A large-scale demonstration is expected on Oct. 1, with protesters calling for people to dress in black.

The chill over this year's Golden Week is also pressuring airlines. Even with carriers like Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd. reducing and re-routing flights after protesters disrupted airport operations last month, prices and bookings are down compared to Golden Week last year.

According to figures from Chinese travel portal Qunar.com, the price of a flight from Shanghai to

Hong Kong has dropped nearly 38% for this year's Golden Week compared to the same period last year, while the number of bookings has slipped by nearly 22%. For flights from Beijing, prices are unchanged, but bookings have plunged 46%.

"There has not been a single inquiry about traveling to Hong Kong in the past two months," said Mingxin Li, manager of Shunyuan Holidays, a retail travel agency in Beijing. "It's a huge blow to companies that rely heavily on Hong Kong tours."

Fifteen tour groups are scheduled per day for this year's Golden Week, a fraction of the 110 last year, according to the Travel Industry Council.

In the Chinese city of Hengqin, about two hours travel from Hong

Kong, 40 tour guides sat in a lecture hall this week taking a three-day class to qualify for a tour guide license in mainland China. They are the lucky ones: 1,000 Hong Kong guides had applied for those 40 spots, said Alice Chan, Council's executive director.

"There are 6,100 licensed tour guides in Hong Kong and many of them have no work now," she said. "They have the time to go to Hengqin to take the course and then they get one more chance to work. You can see how desperate they are."

Hengqin has promised a 3,000 yuan (\$421) cash incentive for Hong Kong or Macau guides who get a license in the district.

Hotel workers are also worried for their jobs. About 77% of people working in hotels have been asked

to take unpaid leave of up to three days while about 43% believe hotels will cut jobs if the situation worsens, according to a survey of 438 Hong Kong hotel workers conducted at the end of August.

ADVANTAGE MACAU

Macau is emerging as an alternative to Hong Kong for tourists during Golden Week, said Stephen Lau, president of Power of the Macao Gaming Association, an organization that represents casino workers.

If the protests continue, the Macau government may start marketing campaigns to attract visitors from China, Europe and the U.S. directly, he said.

Other nations such as Thailand are also benefiting from mainland tourists avoiding Hong Kong. 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 Thai economy.

Some Chinese consumers are looking for the opportunities in the crisis.

"Hong Kong has never been so affordable," said Michelle Zhang, a finance executive based in Fuzhou who frequents the city for its luxury shops. She's ready to seize a last-minute flight to the city if no major disruption erupts over the Golden Week. "Unlike previous years, there's no need to scramble to book a room or an air ticket."

Still, many have shelved their plans.

Xia Chen, a 50 year-old taxi driver in Rizhao, a city in China's eastern Shandong province, was going to visit Hong Kong with her husband as they planned to be in neighboring Guangzhou for the holiday.

"We were worried about our safety and decided in the end to wait for a safer Hong Kong."

BLOOMBERG



HONG KONG

Carrie Lam says it's up to government to deal with unrest

HONG Kong's embattled leader Carrie Lam vowed that her government would shoulder the responsibility of finding a way out of unrest as she began her first public dialogue event, before a skeptical crowd that repeatedly questioned why she hadn't agreed to key demands.

"In the past three-plus months, no matter what stance you take, everyone is very heart-broken, upset or even angry. The entire unrest is caused by the government's work in amending the extradition law," Lam said last night at the town-hall style session, referring to the controversial bill that first triggered protests. "The government is shouldering the biggest responsibility for finding a way out."

Lam acknowledged that she was "very worried every day" about the possibility of a casualty on the ground, as protests regularly devolve into violence. Hundreds of protesters gathered outside the venue as she spoke after earlier calls for people to form a human chain, chanting "five demands, not one less." Lam this week urged demonstrators not to disrupt the forum, which is part of an effort to assuage protesters ahead of the Oct. 1 anniversary of Communist rule in China.

Twenty-six out of the 30 members of the public who asked questions urged Lam to meet protesters' demands, with some asking for her resignation, along with that of Secretary for Justice Teresa Cheng and Police Commissioner Stephen Lo.



Multiple people asked Lam why she hadn't yet agreed to an independent inquiry into what protesters see as aggressive tactics by police in dispersing rallies, one of protesters' key demands. Three in a row questioned whether officers had acted professionally.

She was also asked how to solve the negative impact on the community caused by tear gas and rubber bullets, used by police in clashes with demonstrators. In response, Lam asked the public to give Hong Kong's current watchdog time to finish its probe.

Lam at one point acknowledged criticism that's been directed at her government over a long, hot summer of unrest

- and has at times included calls for her resignation. In the days leading up to the forum, she seemed prepared for anger that might come her way.

"No doubt, I will receive some harsh criticism. But I also hope to receive constructive suggestions to help this government meet the public's expectations for a more inclusive and fairer Hong Kong," she wrote in a Wednesday opinion piece in the New York Times.

She was joined at the forum by four influential ministers: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Patrick Nip, Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development Edward Yau, Secretary for Home Affairs Lau Kong-wah and Secretary for

Food and Health Sophia Chan.

Hong Kong's unrest began in June over legislation that would have allowed extraditions to mainland China, and has since widened into a broader movement against Beijing's increasing influence over the Asian financial hub. Lam's Sept. 4 withdrawal of the bill - her biggest concession to protesters yet - did little to calm often-violent rallies.

The town hall dialogue comes days ahead of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China on October 1. On the mainland, celebrations will include fireworks, a military parade and a speech from President Xi Jinping. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

US

CONGRESS UNITES BEHIND HONG KONG SPECIAL STATUS BILL

DANIEL FLATLEY

CONGRESSIONAL committees in the House and Senate approved legislation supporting pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong, warning China that any crackdown could revoke the city's special trading status with the U.S.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee has advanced legislation that would require annual assessments of whether Hong Kong is sufficiently autonomous from Beijing to justify its unique treatment under U.S. law. The Senate panel approved a bill sponsored by GOP Senator Marco Rubio of Florida a few hours after the House committee passed a companion bill sponsored by Republican Representative Chris Smith of New Jersey.

"It is absolutely essential that we speak out in regards to what's happening in Hong Kong," said Senator Ben Cardin, a Maryland Democrat and another one of the Senate bill's sponsors.

The Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019 would also require the president to report to Congress and impose sanctions on the individuals responsible for "abducting and torturing" human rights activists.

China expressed its objections to the move in a website statement by foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang. China will fight back against any U.S. actions that harm China's national interest, the ministry said.

Each bill will now head to a floor vote in their respective chambers. The swift advancement of both measures underscores the bipartisan support for the protesters in Hong Kong and concerns about China's reaction to the movement, which has gained momentum since the city's leader, Carrie Lam, introduced legislation to allow extraditions to China several months ago.

Last week, lawmakers heard from several of the protesters and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced her support of the bill. Senator Jim Risch, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, has said that Senate Majority Mitch McConnell will allow a floor vote on the bill. **BLOOMBERG**

AD

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HONG KONG

BATTERED STOCK MARKET IS POISED FOR A TURNAROUND

HONG Kong stocks will end the year on a high note after handing investors the world's worst returns this quarter.

That's according to analysts in a Bloomberg survey, who say attractive valuations, easing trade tensions and stimulus measures from Beijing will help lift the Hang Seng Index about 7.9% by the end of December from Wednesday's close. History is on their side, with data since 1989 showing stocks rise an average 5.9% in the final three months of the calendar year, at least twice as much as any other quarter. The 28,000-point target also implies Hong Kong shares will avoid a rare back-to-back annual loss, something that hasn't happened since 2002.

Investors will be glad to see the end of a painful three months, set to be the benchmark's worst since China's stock bubble burst in 2015. Already reeling from a tumbling yuan and the Sino-U.S. trade dispute, months of often violent street protests have added pressure on earnings for some of Hong Kong's biggest companies. The city's beleaguered stock market has lost more than \$400 billion since the end of June. The Hang Seng Index was little changed as of 1:28 p.m. on Thursday, after earlier rising as much as 0.6%.

"We are cautiously positive on Hong Kong for the rest of the year," said Jessie Guo, equity research strategist at China Merchants Securities HK Co., who sees China ramping up efforts to boost liquidity, retail consumption and industrial output.

The revival of Anheuser-Busch InBev NV's listing of its Asian



A listing ceremony at the Hong Kong Stock Exchange last year

unit is also expected to give a boost. The brewer pulled off one of the year's biggest initial public offerings the second time round, raising around \$5 billion only two months after scrapping the original share sale. The deal is seen propelling Hong Kong past Shanghai as the world's No. 3 market for initial public offerings this year.

"It's a good thing to have Budweiser in the market, as it increases depth and diversity to make Hong Kong more attractive," said Jackson Wong, asset management director at Amber Hill Capital Ltd.

The Hang Seng Index is lagging global peers by the most since 2006, when China's central bank began an interest rate-

-hiking cycle to curb excessive lending. As of Wednesday, valuations for companies on the gauge were about 10% lower than the 10-year average, according to data based on projected earnings.

Sell-offs accelerated in the three months since June after the U.S. and China levied higher tariffs on each other. Adding to the gloom was worsening economic data that pointed to deepening problems in Hong Kong and on the mainland. Fitch Ratings Inc. this month downgraded Hong Kong as an issuer of long-term foreign currency debt for the first time since 1995.

Challenges remain for the stock market, with no immediate resolution in sight for the city's

protests or the trade war. Still, Hong Kong stocks are "seriously undervalued" at a time when dovish central banks around the world are boosting sentiment, said Gary Ching, vice president of research department at Guosen Securities (HK).

"Hong Kong stocks are expected to recover over time," he said. "The trade tensions between U.S. and China will unlikely escalate further, while easing measures from major central banks may push up prices for risky assets."

As of Wednesday, mainland investors had bought HKD86.9 billion of Hong Kong shares this quarter, heading for the highest since the first quarter last year, according to a Bloomberg calculation. **BLOOMBERG**

BAIDU PLANS TO UNLOAD \$1 BILLION IN SHARES OF ONLINE TRAVEL SITE

ZHEPING HUANG

BAIDU Inc. is selling about a third of its stake in online travel site Ctrip.com International Ltd., generating around \$1 billion to counter a slowing economy and intensifying competition in its key advertising business.

Ctrip announced yesterday a proposed secondary offering of 31.3 million American depositary shares held by Baidu. That represents around 30% of its stake in Ctrip and is equivalent to around \$1 billion according to Ctrip's current share price.

Baidu will remain Ctrip's largest shareholder. It owned a 19% stake in the company after exchanging its shares in rival travel service provider Qunar in 2015. The share swap created China's biggest online travel agency, putting a halt to a cash-burning price war.

The proceeds will come in handy for the Beijing-based company. "Baidu may use the cash to meet its operational needs as its near-term sales falter amid macro-economic and competitive pressures," Bloomberg Intelligence analysts Vey-Sern Ling and Tiffany Tam wrote in a research note on Thursday.

Baidu over the past years has sold its food-delivery arm to Alibaba Group Holding Ltd.'s Ele.me, and merged its music streaming service with Chinese record label Taihe, allowing the search giant to focus on its key units such as advertising, smart speakers and autonomous cars.

More recently, the 19-year-old company has expanded its investment into content needed to attract and keep users, backing social media platforms including Q&A app Zhihu. **BLOOMBERG**

CORPORATE BITS

Beer fest returns to Sheraton Grand Macao



Sheraton Grand Macao Hotel is restaging its "German Beer Festival" in the lobby at the Palms Café and Bar from October 1 until the end of the year. The festival pays homage to Germany's iconic cuisine

and beer culture. There will be a limited German Beer Festival menu, featuring a range of imported German beers and authentic dishes that match perfectly with the beer. Diners can

enjoy a selection of premium German beers, including a classic Paulaner draught beer with its characteristically malty taste, as well as Jägermeister-inspired special cocktails.

As for food, a range of Bavarian specialty dishes will be available, including roasted pork knuckle with braised red cabbage and apple, traditional German sausages, a mixed Bavarian meat platter and authentic hand-made pretzels.

The signature Paulaner draught beer is priced at MOP68 for a 500ml mug of beer, and dishes range from MOP68 to MOP258. Loyalty members enjoy special discounts.

AirAsia, Grand Emperor Hotel offer joint privileges



Regional low-cost airline AirAsia signed an agreement on Wednesday with local hotel Grand Emperor to commence a strategically collaborative partnership. Passengers on

AirAsia flights to Macau are able to enjoy a series of discounts at various outlets within the hotel. The privileges can be enjoyed upon presentation of the passenger's

boarding pass. To be eligible, a passenger must fly with AirAsia within the seven days prior to the purchase of services at the hotel.

Upon presentation of an eligible boarding pass, passengers can enjoy 15% off dinner at the hotel's Grand Emperor Court restaurant, 20% off the dinner buffet at Royal Kitchen, 10-15% off lunch or dinner at Royal Robotayaki, the Japanese restaurant in the hotel lobby, and special prices on drink packages at The Windsor. A 20% off discount will be offered on all spa treatments at the Royal Thai Spa.

Terms and conditions apply to the abovementioned offers.



Advertisements placed by Li Ka-shing in newspapers on Aug. 16

Hong Kong protests threaten billionaires' ties with Beijing

SHIRLEY ZHAO
& BRUCE EINHORN

LESS than a decade ago, Hong Kong's richest man, Li Ka-shing, was granted an exclusive audience with China's then-President Hu Jintao, a rare honor. State television lauded the September 2010 meeting, saying Hu lavished praise on the tycoon for contributing to the city's prosperity and stability.

These days, as Hong Kong reels from months of violent demonstrations, China's government is weaving a much harsher narrative around the billionaires who dominate the business and politics of the city. In recent weeks, it's linked them to the rising inequality it blames for the social unrest, a new stance that threatens the close ties Hong Kong dynasties have forged with Beijing.

While most of Hong Kong's wealthiest families have sprawling property holdings, they also dominate industries from telecommunications to retail, giving them outsize influence. The 20 Hong Kong tycoons tracked by the Bloomberg Billionaires Index -- including moguls like Li and property magnate Lee Shau Kee -- have a combined net worth of more than USD200 billion. So any shift in China's posture toward those wealthy families has the potential in coming years to ripple through the city's \$360 billion

economy.

In a scathing article posted on social media earlier this month, China's Central Political and Legal Affairs Commission, the nation's most powerful law-enforcement body, lashed out at Hong Kong's property tycoons for "hoarding land and grabbing money." Next, the Communist Party's mouthpiece, the People's Daily, said the government should take away land from Hong Kong developers through compulsory acquisition.

"It is very clear that Beijing's attitude toward Hong Kong's property tycoons has changed," said Joseph Wong, who was secretary for commerce, industry and technology under the city's former leader, or chief executive, Donald Tsang.

China appears to be encouraging state-backed enterprises to expand in Hong Kong, a special administrative region, and, over the coming years, these companies likely will play a leading role in industries the tycoons have controlled, Wong said.

China Mobile Ltd., the mainland's biggest carrier, has increased its subscriber base in Hong Kong by more than 50% since 2016, according to data compiled by Bloomberg News. Mainland developers, including China Resources Land Ltd., bought almost

60% of the residential land sold by Hong Kong's government in the first half of this year.

Representatives at family holding companies of Li and Lee didn't respond to requests for comment.

While much of their power comes from these informal relationships, members of the wealthiest families in Hong Kong also have official positions, including on the election committee of

Hong Kong's billionaire families long hedged their risks because they knew their political and economic favors wouldn't last forever

about 1,200 people that selects the city's leader. Hong Kong business people sit on the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, an advisory body that meets once a year in Beijing.

Chinese leaders were friendly toward the tycoons when the mainland economy was opening up because they wanted to encourage them to invest across the border, said Ding Yifan, a former senior government researcher who now teaches world economy at Beijing Foreign Studies University.

"Now that things have hit the fan, they realize there are many things quite unfair in Hong Kong," he said. "Of course they need to deal with these problems."

Hong Kong's protests erupted in June in response to a proposed bill that would have allowed extraditions to mainland China. They've continued even after that legislation was shelved, with protesters making other demands, including universal suffrage and an investigation into police actions toward demonstrators.

China's office for Hong Kong and Macau affairs this month said it would support Hong Kong's leader, Carrie Lam, in efforts to address social problems such as the housing shortage, the large wealth gap and the difficulty in upward social mobility. Hong Kong has the world's least affordable housing.

At the end of July, about half of Hong Kong's new apartments for sale came from five of its largest developers -- including the Li family's CK Asset Holdings Ltd.; Henderson Land Development Co. of the Lee family; and Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd., controlled by the Kwok family -- according to an analysis of data from realtor Centaline Property Agency.

Meanwhile, half of the city's

mobile-phone users subscribe to providers controlled by the Li and Kwok families, according to government data and earnings reports. In some industries, the wealthiest Hong Kong Chinese families share power with dynasties that are a holdover from the British.

The Li family's AS Watson Group and Dairy Farm International Holdings Ltd., linked to the Keswick family, control 70% of the supermarkets, according to data from Euromonitor International. Representatives for the Kwok and Keswick family businesses declined to comment.

Beijing's priority has shifted toward pursuing social equality, said Li Xiaobing, a professor at Nankai University in Tianjin who has written on Chinese regional politics. "The central government wishes tycoons to contribute more to society," Li said. That shift has come as China searches for answers to end Hong Kong's protests.

On Wednesday, developer New World Development Co., run by the billionaire Cheng family, announced that it will donate 3 million square feet of land to help ease Hong Kong's housing crisis.

In recent weeks, several tycoons, including real-estate and casino magnate Lui Che-woo, have attempted to show Beijing their loyalty by issuing statements or placing newspaper advertisements condemning violence and pledging full support to the government.

Li earlier this month called for the government to "have mercy" on Hong Kong's young people and for the youth to show more understanding. But China's highest law-enforcement body lashed out, accusing Li of encouraging crime. The 91-year-old billionaire then said his remarks were misinterpreted.

Hong Kong's billionaire families long hedged their risks because they knew their political and economic favors wouldn't last forever, said Joseph Fan, a professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong who studies family-run businesses.

Some tycoons, in recent years, sold their businesses to mainland firms. In 2018, former city Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa's family sold its stake in a shipping line to state-owned Cosco Shipping Holdings Co. That year, the real-estate arm of Li's business group sold its stake in an office tower, The Center, for about \$5 billion to a consortium controlled by mainland companies.

Michael Tien, a pro-Beijing lawmaker in Hong Kong and a deputy to China's National People's Congress, expects more mainland firms to play leading roles in Hong Kong industries traditionally controlled by tycoons.

"In the long run, we all know that the future belongs to mainland Chinese capital," he said.

BLOOMBERG

JAPAN WELCOMES US TRADE PACT, BUT AUTOMAKERS APPEAL FOR HELP

MARI YAMAGUCHI, TOKYO

JAPANESE automakers yesterday urged the government to do more to support the industry after their government signed a trade deal with the U.S. that kept auto tariffs unchanged.

Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and President Donald Trump, both attending the U.N. General Assembly in New York, signed a trade agreement covering agricultural, industrial and digital trade.

The Japanese auto industry has been a main target of criticism from Trump. Automakers were hoping to see tariffs eliminated, but Japan only managed to keep them at 2.5% and win a U.S. promise of no more for now.

The agreement only allows Japan to delay auto tariff threats from the U.S. but does not resolve the issue. Chances that the Trump administration will agree to their elimination are considered slim.

Negotiations began last year after Trump complained about the huge American trade deficit against Japan and threatened higher tariffs and other measures.

Hours after the signing in New York, Trade Minister Isshu Sugawara and top ministry officials invited top automakers to



Akio Toyoda, president and CEO of Toyota Motor Corp.

a meeting in Tokyo, to gain their understanding about the trade agreement.

There, Toyota Motor Corp. President Akio Toyoda urged government to do more for the auto industry.

"The auto industry already fa-

ces extremely difficult challenges amid the rising Japanese yen, the possible impact from the upcoming sales tax increase and other uncertainties," said a grim-faced Toyoda.

"We do hope that the Japanese government understands the

severe situation and provide us further support to help the auto industry to strengthen its competitiveness and grow as a strategic industry," said Toyoda, who also heads the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association.

Sugawara said the deal would

help assure free and fair trade between the nations.

"This pact would promote a free and fair trade environment in the area of autos and auto parts between Japan and the United States, and we welcome that," he said.

Trump sought a bilateral agreement with Japan, the world's third-largest economy, after pulling the U.S. out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a Pacific-rim trade pact.

He wants to reduce a chronic U.S. trade deficit that totaled \$67.6 billion in 2018, according to U.S. figures.

The two sides reached a basic agreement in late August, but autos remained a major point of contention, with Japan worried Trump might slap new tariffs on autos that make up a significant amount of its exports to the U.S.

At a joint news conference, Abe said he specifically asked Trump and won his reassurance that the pact does not allow additional auto tariffs.

But a USTR fact sheet on the agreement does not even mention auto tariffs, and a joint statement signed by Abe and Trump only has an ambiguous phrase that the two governments agreed to "refrain from taking measures against the spirit of these agreements."

Washington also did not set a timeframe for eliminating existing tariffs on Japanese autos and their parts. **AP**

North Korea-born YouTubers offer peek into lives in homeland

HYUNG-JIN KIM, SEOUL

WEARING a fedora, Jang Myung-jin shouts "Hello, comrades!" as he starts his YouTube broadcast, titled "A North Korean man, Tango." Then, he talks about whether North Koreans raise pet dogs, what type of profanity they use and whether there are any transgender people in the country.

The 32-year-old Jang is among a handful of young North Korean refugees in South Korea who have launched YouTube channels that offer a rare glimpse into the everyday lives of people in North Korea, one of the world's most secretive and repressive countries.

While mainstream outside media reports on North Korea focus on heavy subjects like the North's nuclear program or its internal power hierarchy, these young YouTubers feed a



North Korean refugee Jang Myung-jin films himself in a demonstration of his YouTube broadcast during an interview at his house in Seoul

growing demand for softer news related to daily life in their former home country.

Their rise comes amid increased public attention to North Korea, whose young leader, Kim Jong Un, has made global headlines with a provocative run of weapons tests and high-stakes nuclear diplomacy with President Donald Trump.

"There are people who yearn for real scenes showing how people in North Korea live. There is a niche market for that," said Jeon Young-sun, a research professor at Seoul's Konkuk University. "Simply speaking, some people are curious about what beer North Koreans drink and what cookies they eat."

Jang uses his Samsung smartphone to film himself at his small Seoul apartment, and sometimes invites fellow North Korean refugees as guests and has friends shoot him when he ventures out. He often appears with his trademark dark fedora, but sometimes with a colorful wig, a false mustache or even a Kim

Jong Un mask.

Video clips uploaded on Jang's 2-year-old channel showed him saying that ordinary North Koreans usually raise dogs, rabbits, pigs and chickens, but to either eat or sell to markets. He said that calling someone "a baby born by a young female slave" is considered a profanity in North Korea, and that people there say "Do you want to have the order of your ribs revolutionarily reorganized?" when trying to intimidate others.

He also said he never heard about the existence of transgender people in North Korea, though he heard about gays in the country.

Jang, who has about 7,000 subscribers to his channel, said he does manual labor and delivers fried chicken as a means of living because his YouTube-related income is too small. But he feels it's worth it to keep his YouTube career going because some subscribers have left messages saying his broadcasts helped resolve their misunderstandings of North Korea.

"They cheer me up and

make me be positive. They are the reasons why I shoot YouTube videos today and tomorrow," Jang said, petting his Maltese.

He said the term "Tango" in his channel's title is an abbreviation of Korean words meaning "a plump cat," a reference to his friends joking that the round-faced Jang has a cat-looking face. Although he knew that tango in English is a type of dance, he decided to go ahead with that word because the liveliness of the dance matches what he seeks from his channel.

Other North Korea-born YouTubers talk about why they left their homeland and the experiences they've had in South Korea. Some also broadcast themselves putting on North Korean-style makeup or eating foods from the country.

The young YouTubers are mostly stylish, contrary to the stereotype of North Korean refugees as being rough and unsophisticated. About 32,000 North Koreans have fled to the South over the past two decades to avoid poverty and political repression. **AP**

BREXIT

Boris Johnson faces backlash over confrontational tone

JILL LAWLESS, LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson faced a backlash from furious lawmakers on yesterday over his use of charged and confrontational language in Parliament about opponents of his Brexit plan, as the Speaker of the House of Commons warned that the country's political culture had turned "toxic."

In a raucous and bad-tempered debate on Wednesday, Johnson characterized an opposition law ordering a Brexit delay as a "surrender act" and a "humiliation bill," said delaying Brexit would "betray" voters and brushed off concerns that his language might endanger legislators as "humbug."

Johnson took power two months ago with a "do or die" promise that Britain will leave the European Union on the scheduled date of Oct. 31, with or without a divorce deal. He's pitting himself against lawmakers determined to avoid a no-deal exit, which econo-



mists say would disrupt trade with the EU and plunge the U.K. into recession.

Opponents accuse him of fomenting extremism with his people-versus-politicians rhetoric.

Some in Parliament warned Johnson to be more cautious given the 2016 killing of legislator Jo Cox. The Labour lawmaker was murdered a week before Britain's

European Union membership referendum by a far-right attacker shouting "death to traitors."

Labour lawmaker Paula Sherriff brought up the death of Cox — and the death threats many legislators still face — and implored the prime minister to stop using "pejorative" language.

There was uproar in the Commons after Johnson replied: "I've

never heard such humbug in all my life."

Cabinet minister Nicky Morgan tweeted that "we all need to remind ourselves of the effect of everything we say on those watching us."

Johnson was criticized by members of several parties and by Cox's widower. Brendan Cox said he felt "a bit sick" at the way her name was being used.

"The best way to honor Jo is for all of us [no matter our views] to stand up for what we believe in, passionately and with determination. But never to demonize the other side and always hold onto what we have in common," he tweeted.

Wednesday's fiery session of Parliament came a day after Britain's Supreme Court unanimously ruled that Johnson's attempt to suspend Parliament for five weeks until Oct. 14 had the effect of stymieing its scrutiny of the government over Brexit. The court declared the suspension void.

Emotions spilled over as oppo-

sition legislators demanded Johnson apologize and resign for breaking the law. But Johnson ignored calls to step down or say sorry, showing no sign of contrition and redoubling his attacks on lawmakers he accused of blocking Brexit.

As lawmakers returned, Commons Speaker John Bercow urged moderation.

"There was an atmosphere in the chamber worse than any I've known in my 22 years in the House," Bercow said. "The culture was toxic."

Bercow implored members of Parliament to "treat each other as opponents, not as enemies."


Johnson says he wants to strike an agreement with the bloc, but the EU says it is still waiting for useful proposals to come from Britain to unblock stalled negotiations.

EU Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier said yesterday that he is "still ready to work on any new legal and operational proposal" from Johnson, but indicated insufficient progress had been achieved in the past few weeks.

"We are still waiting," he said.

The EU already had a deal with the U.K. on departure terms, but it was rejected in the British parliament. Johnson now wants to drastically renegotiate the agreement or leave without a deal on Oct. 31. **AP**

AD



BBAM
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Breakfast Briefing
Wednesday 9 October
Guest Speaker: **James Law**
Founder, Chairman & CEO
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Opod Tube Housing
Micro Homes in Concrete Pipes
"What Macau can learn from HK's housing crisis"

Cities such as Hong Kong and Macau are all becoming more expensive to live in. Many people struggle to afford to own or rent a decent size home. This has created frustration and anguish for many especially the young who have little hope to getting on a housing ladder. Some have had to resort to living in squalid conditions including in sub divided flats and caged homes. This talk illustrates this current difficult situation and highlights a project called OPod that seeks to alleviate this problem by creating affordable homes out of concrete water pipe in Hong Kong.

The St. Regis Macao, Cotal
Silk Room, Level 5
07:45 Registration
08:00 Breakfast
08:15 Presentation
09:00 Close

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

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

Date: Thursday, 10th October, 2019
Time: 1:00p.m. - 2:30p.m. (Reception: 12:45p.m.)
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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

UKRAINIAN LEADER BRISTLES AT RELEASE OF TRUMP TRANSCRIPT

UKRAINE'S president says his comments in a conversation with U.S. President Donald Trump shouldn't have been publicly released, and is playing down Ukraine's investigation of Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden.

The White House published a rough transcript of Trump's call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy yesterday (Macau time) showing that Trump pressed Ukraine to "look into" his rival Biden. The July 25 call is now at the center of a U.S. impeachment probe.

"I think such things, such conversations between heads of independent states, they shouldn't be published," Zelenskiy told reporters at the U.N. General Assembly in New York. He didn't indicate whether the White House warned him that the comments would be released.

But he also said he's "not afraid" of the publication and that "no one can pressure me." He said the Biden investigation is just one of "many cases that I talk about with leaders of other countries."

The Ukrainian general prosecutor's office, the office of former President Petro Poroshenko and other Ukrainian government of-

AP PHOTO



ficials wouldn't comment to The Associated Press on the transcript or the Biden probe.

While acknowledging that the Biden investigation is very "high-profile" in the United States, Zelenskiy said, "I don't know the

details of this case."

"Different leaders talk to me at many international meetings about various criminal cases," he said, noting other examples from Italy and Turkey. "I talk about such cases every day."

At a meeting with Zelenskiy in New York, Trump says he placed "no pressure" on the Ukrainian leader. But the rough transcript summarizing the call shows Trump repeatedly prodded Zelenskiy to work with the U.S. at-

torney general and Trump's personal attorney to investigate Biden, a former U.S. vice president.

The call is the subject of a whistleblower complaint against Trump and the basis for Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's decision to open an impeachment inquiry.


Zelenskiy also tried to smooth over tensions with Germany and France after the transcript revealed critical comments toward German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron.

"I am grateful for any assistance to Ukraine from our European leaders, from Ms. Merkel, from Mr. Macron, and from others," he said.

But he maintained criticism of the Nord Stream 2 project for a pipeline to send Russian gas to Europe. He called it "a big threat to our energy security" and said Ukraine would lose billions of dollars.


Merkel's office refused to comment on Trump's remarks in the transcript that the German leader "talks Ukraine, but she doesn't do anything." Germany's Foreign Ministry provided figures disputing Trump's account, telling The Associated Press that since 2014, German direct support to Ukraine amounted to 1.18 billion euros, in addition to another 200 million euros through European Union support. AP

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FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Água de Mar
15:30	Zig Zag
16:20	Sim, Chef! Sr.2
16:55	Quem Quer Ser Milionário
18:00	Corpo Clínico
18:25	Amor Maior (Repetição)
19:10	Portuguese In California
19:40	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2 - Fim
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Viagens em Série

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: Vivik Kalra, Kulvinder Ghir, Meera Ganatra

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 169min

this day in history

1968 MUSICAL HAIR OPENS AS CENSORS WITHDRAW

The American hippy musical "Hair" has opened in London - one day after the abolition of theatre censorship.

Until yesterday, some of the scenes in the musical, written by out-of-work actors Gerome Ragni and James Rado, would have been considered too outrageous to be shown on a stage in Britain.

The show, billed as an American tribal love-rock musical, first opened in New York on 2 December last year.

Many were angered by scenes containing nudity and drug-taking as well as a strong anti-war message at the height of the Vietnam conflict and the desecration of the American flag on stage.

The show's transfer to London's West End would not have been possible before the new Theatres Act which ended the Lord Chamberlain's powers of censorship dating back to 1737.

Prime Minister Sir Robert Walpole introduced play censorship to silence shows like The Beggar's Opera which contained biting anti-government satire.

The new Theatres Act does not give playwrights a completely free hand. Strong language and obscenity will still be liable for criminal prosecution.

Hair does contain some blasphemous and sexually explicit language.

But the scene that has aroused most controversy in the musical so far is where the cast appears on stage in the nude, emerging from beneath a vast sheet.

The director of the London production of Hair, Tom O'Horgan, said: "I think that the famed nude scene has been greatly over-emphasised.

"It has very little importance in the show itself and much of the publicity has obscured the important aspects of the play, which are also perhaps shocking to people because they deal with things as they are. We tell it the way it is."

Asked whether the timing of the opening was significant, he said: "We couldn't have done the play the way we're doing it prior to this time without drastic modifications."

The cast of the West End production appeared on Eamonn Andrews Independent Television show last night but decided against performing the nude scene. Mr O'Horgan said it would have given the wrong impression of the show.

Hair had a shaky start in New York. Its first two runs were cut short before producer Michael Butler became involved. He brought in Tom O'Horgan as director.

It took three months to re-vamp the musical - and when it finally appeared at the Biltmore on Broadway it had 19 songs in the first act compared with just nine in the original production.

Courtesy BBC News

Offbeat

EGG ROLL: OVER 136K EGGS FALL OFF SEMITRAILER ONTO ROADWAY



Police say more than 136,000 eggs splattered on a road when they shifted and fell out of a tractor-trailer driving through Pennsylvania.

The Republican Herald reports 11,340 dozen eggs and 2,260 gallons of egg product were ruined when a 66-year-old driver lost control of the rig earlier this week.

Hegins Township police say Miles had just picked the eggs up at Carl Faus Farm and was on his way to Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania.

Police say Miles was driving north on Route 125 uphill. As he approached the Route 25 intersection, the load shifted causing the eggs and egg products to fall and roll down the hill.

Miles reportedly did not realize the eggs had fallen and continued his drive.

A section of Route 125 was closed for several hours after the incident.

An investigation into the unsecured load is ongoing.

IN CONTEXT

Hair ran on Broadway until 1 July 1972, when it closed after 1,742 performances.

It played to mixed reviews across the United States and was the subject of at least two prominent court battles, in Boston, Massachusetts in 1970 and Chattanooga, Tennessee in 1975.

In Britain, the play also opened to mixed reviews. Drama critic Irving Wardle writing in The Times said: "Nothing else remotely like it has yet struck the West End. Its honesty and passion give it the quality of a true theatrical celebration - the joyous sound of a group of people telling the world exactly what they feel."

Another critic writing in The Telegraph said the "taboo-flouting seemed too defiant".

The actor Oliver Tobias starred in the West End production. He subsequently took the show to Israel and Holland. Despite the initial controversy, there have been numerous revivals of Hair.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Do not accept things at face value today - just because someone says something is true doesn't mean that it is. Your generous nature will make it difficult for you to be skeptical of others.

TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

It's time for you to yet again try to make an intellectual connection with that vibrant coworker you just don't get. To do so, you need to ask a lot more questions!

GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

If you want good service, then you need to learn how to be a good customer. Positive feedback is always the wisest way to communicate what you need and what you expect from someone.

CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

But since you don't have a crystal ball, you'll have to deal with this indecisive phase in another, more logical way. Ask the people you trust what they would do if they were in your shoes, and ask them to explain why.

LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

This is a great time to take another look at a person who tends to really annoy you. He or she has viewpoints that you have a hard time relating to - but some of these opinions deserve your attention.

VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Pursue anything (or anyone) that piques your interest today - your intellectual curiosity could lead you to some very amusing places. If someone says something that doesn't make sense to you, ask for clarification.

LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Your reputation for being easygoing and able to get along with everyone could be preventing some people from taking you seriously. You don't have to turn into someone you're not in order to get things done.

SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Letting go of your inhibitions is easy today - you're feeling a strong pull toward strangers, and you should explore what you may have in common with them.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

It's a wonderful tool you should start using more in your work and family life. By letting go of the restrictions of reality, you free yourself to come up with better ideas for everything.

CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Your thoughts have been taking you to some depressing places lately, but that is not necessarily a bad thing. Happiness and sadness are both important parts of life.

AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

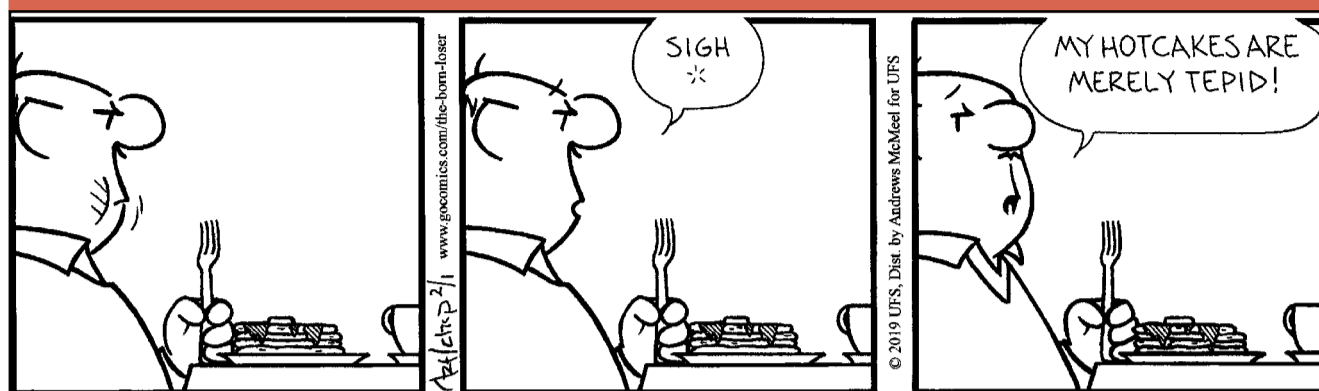
You're getting more in sync with the world around you, and you'll probably start to feel the need to be social - but not the 'let's get together and party' kind of social.

PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Motivation can come in many forms. For some people, it comes when they realize that they've become too much of a doormat - and things have got to change as soon as possible.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	18	26	drizzle
Harbin	14	21	moderate rain
Tianjin	19	24	drizzle
Urumqi	10	21	clear
Xi'an	17	19	drizzle
Lhasa	13	23	cloudy
Chengdu	19	24	heavy rain
Chongqing	28	35	cloudy
Kunming	18	26	cloudy
Nanjing	24	32	clear
Shanghai	24	31	cloudy
Wuhan	26	38	clear
Hangzhou	25	33	cloudy
Taipei	25	30	cloudy
Guangzhou	28	36	clear
Hong Kong	28	34	drizzle
WORLD			
Moscow	11	23	drizzle
Frankfurt	15	20	drizzle
Paris	15	20	cloudy
London	9	19	drizzle
New York	13	25	drizzle

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Lined up; 5- Laziness; 10- Corker; 14- Taboo; 15- Brief appearance; 16- At any time; 17- This, in Tijuana; 18- Author Zola; 19- Actor Penn; 20- Detective story; 22- Autocratic Russian rulers; 23- Nolo contendere, e.g.; 24- Sailor's direction; 26- Redbreast; 29- Plane figure having three sides; 33- Name on a bomber; 34- Crucifix; 35- Edge; 36- Hawaiian goose; 37- Carpus; 38- Scoop holder; 39- It's game; 40- Hopping mad; 41- Bring down; 42- To liquidate; 44- Metallic-sounding; 45- ___-bitty; 46- Beatty and Rorem; 48- Transitional state; 51- Cocks; 55- Show horse; 56- Diarist Nin; 58- Reformer Jacob; 59- Nike's swoosh, e.g.; 60- Martini's partner; 61- Winged archer; 62- Getting ___ years; 63- Colorado skiing mecca; 64- Permits;

DOWN: 1- Again; 2- ___ Hashanah; 3- Not fooled by; 4- Stack of firewood; 5- View; 6- Female demon; 7- Exclude; 8- Aviv preceder; 9- Cultivation tool; 10- Reduce; 11- Eye layer; 12- King of tragedy; 13- Coffee dispensers; 21- Forearm bone; 22- Afternoon affairs; 24- "___" by any other name...; 25- Catalog; 26- Oscar de la ___; 27- Late bedtime; 28- Small tuned drum; 29- Overused; 30- Adult; 31- Fabric woven from flax yarns; 32- Mineral made of corundum; 34- Insane; 37- Sealed document; 38- Scoundrel; 40- Sock ___ me!; 41- Former Fords; 43- Typewriter tape; 46- Library no-no; 47- Histological stain; 48- "Le Roi d'Ys" composer; 49- Wrinkle remover; 50- Biblical trio; 51- Coarse file; 52- De Valera's land; 53- Barrel of laughs; 54- Flat sound; 56- Southern constellation; 57- Turndowns;

Yesterday's solution

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AGAR	EARTH	HALE
YOYO	ANA	IMAGES
TBONE	RADIATOR	
WORST	HARI	NUMB
ARI	TYING	LEI
NILE	SASS	SHINS
GILLETTE	REAPS	
CANTRE	ARF	SOUP
ATOI	MADAT	ELLA
TITO	SKATE	EDNA
STAN	AMER	DEAR

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

TOP CHEF UPSET BY LOSS OF THIRD STAR TAKES MICHELIN TO COURT

CHEF Marc Veyrat, known for his black chapeau and his mountain cuisine, is taking the Michelin Guide to court to find out why he lost his third star this year — and how the publication that makes, and sometimes breaks, reputations in the world's prestigious kitchens could allegedly claim he used cheddar cheese in a recipe.

Veyrat, among France's most acclaimed chefs, has been fuming since La Maison des Bois, in a mountain village in France's Haute-Savoie region, lost its third star early this year.

Now he's taking action. A court date is set for Nov. 27.

In a statement, his lawyer, Emmanuel Ravanas, said Veyrat simply wants the "exact reasons" for Michelin's downgrade.

Veyrat said in an interview this week with FranceInfo radio that he no longer wants to be in the Michelin Guide — the bible of gastronomy — but claimed they won't even accept that.

He would not be the first chef to trade star-status, and the daily search for perfection, for a less demanding culinary life. Several noted chefs have done so, and



even Veyrat did that in 2009 when he needed a break for health reasons.

When the 69-year-old Veyrat lost his third star this year, he says he was devastated.

"I was dishonored. My team, I saw them cry," he told FranceInfo on Monday, adding that he fell into a depression.

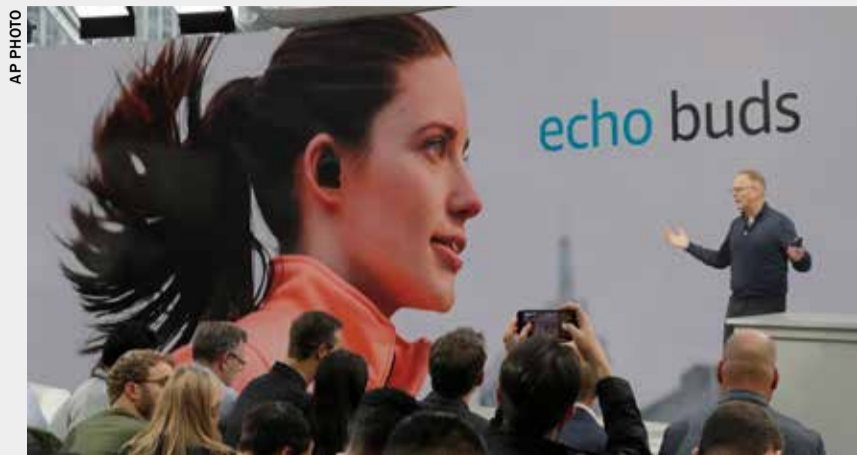
He said that if he has made mistakes, he accepts it. "Take away my star."

But he claimed they told him

nothing, and "we became bad from one day to the next."

Veyrat has complained publicly in the past about the loss of his third star, something Michelin suggests it regrets.

"We understand the disappointment of Mr. Veyrat whose talent no one contests," Michelin said in a statement. But it added that it "regrets his unreasonable perseverance in accusing and loudly communicating."



COMING SOON: ALEXA IN YOUR EAR AND ON YOUR FINGER

AMAZON wants Alexa everywhere.

The online shopping giant said yesterday [Macau time] that it will soon start selling wireless earbuds, finger rings and prescription eyeglasses with its Alexa voice assistant built in.

The goal: Get Alexa outside the home and wherever customers are.

"You can have Alexa with you 24/7," said Werner Goertz, a personal technology analyst at Gartner.

It also launched its first celebrity voice for Alexa:

actor Samuel L. Jackson. For \$4.99, Alexa users can now ask Jackson to sing them happy birthday or tell them the weather. There will be a "clean" version for those who don't want to hear Jackson curse. Amazon said other celebrity voices will be added next year.

While Amazon has succeeded in getting people to buy its voice-activated Echo speakers for their living rooms or kitchen counters, it hasn't found that same success outside the home.

Rivals Apple and Google

have smartphones, watches and other devices that have their voice assistants built in. But Amazon's smartphone failed to catch on and was discontinued several years ago.

With the Echo Buds, which cost \$130, users can order an Uber ride or find the nearest coffee shop as they stroll down the street. And later this year, Whole Foods shoppers wearing the black buds can ask Alexa what aisle they can find canned tomatoes or other groceries.

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RUGBY

Argentina has to deliver against Tonga in must-win WC game

JEROME PUGMIRE, OSAKA

Saturday, 12:45pm
Argentina v Tonga
H 1.04, D 81, A 19

Saturday, 15:15pm
Japan v Ireland
H 13, D 67, A 1.08

Saturday, 17:45pm
South Africa v Namibia
H 1.01, D 201, A201

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Argentina's Santiago Carreras

ARGENTINA has done the self-criticism following an agonizing opening defeat, and has to deliver against Tonga in their must-win Rugby World Cup match tomorrow.

Coach Mario Ledesma made a big statement by dropping flyhalf Nicolas Sanchez and hooker Agustin Creevy after the tense 23-21 loss to France. Argentina trailed 20-3 at the break, led 21-

20, conceded a dropped goal, and missed a last-gasp penalty after switching kickers.

"We are still hurting after France, but it's in the past. The World Cup isn't over yet, and there are still three games ahead of us," center Jeronimo De La Fuente says. "We reminded ourselves that you will always be left behind if you stop believing. We are fully confident that we will show up

against Tonga."

The players had better, because Argentina still has 2003 champion England to come.

Ledesma has handed Benjamin Urdapilleta his first start since June 2013 in place of Sanchez, whose kicking was off last weekend, and chosen Julian Montoya — a try-scorer against the French — instead of Creevy, the former captain.

Tonga also has to win after losing its opener to England 35-3 so Tomas Lezana — selected at No. 8 in one of four Pumas changes — knows what to expect.

"It will be a crunch, without a question," Lezana says. "Tonga is a very physical team and we should keep to our set-pieces and redouble our efforts on defense as well as in the contact area."

Tonga coach Toutai Kefu must cope with Argentina's expected backlash without his most influential player.

Flyhalf Kurt Morath might need throat surgery after trying to tackle England's imposing Manu Tuilagi, while center Nafi Tuitavake is also sidelined after breaking his arm in that game.

"We are gutted for them, they are two of our better players," assistant coach Richard Watt says. "Kurt worked so hard to make it after coming out of international retirement and Nafi was only just back from injury."

The 34-year-old Morath is

Tonga's all-time leading scorer at the World Cup with 73 points, and Tonga's all-time with 340 test points. He will be especially missed. He was impressive when the sides met at the World Cup four years ago, putting Tonga in the driving seat with an early try before the Tongans wilted in a 45-16 loss.

Morath is replaced by the younger and bigger James Faiva, whose five caps have all come in the last two months.

Tonga's task is made harder by the fact it has had one day less than Argentina to prepare for the game at Hanazono Rugby Stadium, on the outskirts of highly popular tourist destination Osaka.

"We've got to make sure our bodies and minds are fresh," Watt says. "It is a pretty quick turnaround for us and Argentina pose a similar physical challenge to England."

The Pumas are on the back foot in a tough-looking Pool C, but Watt expects them to be ready to handle the big-match pressure, simply because many of them are used to playing successfully for the Jaguares in Super Rugby and made the final this year for the first time.

Defeat to Tonga tomorrow would almost certainly end Argentina's hopes of reaching the knockout stages, and make it 11 defeats in a row. **AP**

AD

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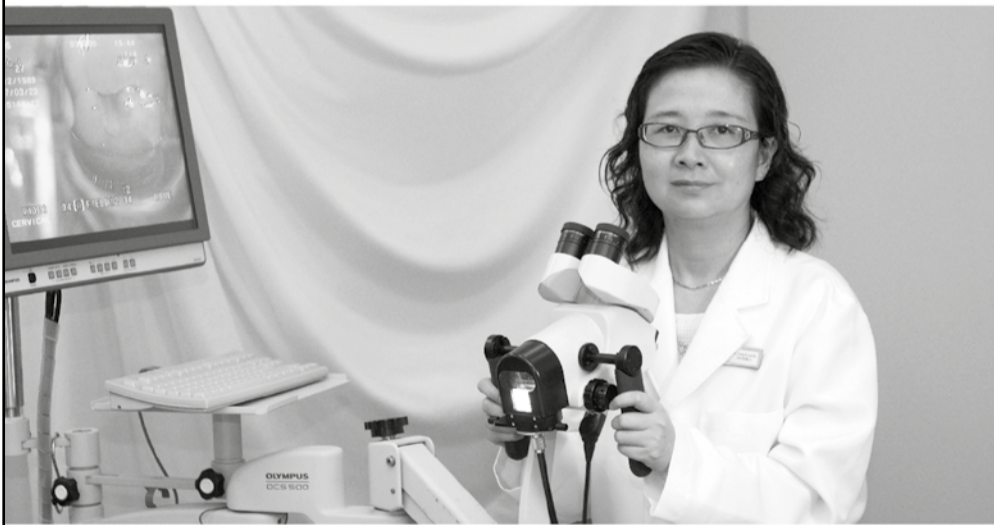
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OPINION

Kapok
Eric Sautede



WHO DOES WHAT?

The publication of the yearly report of the Legislative Assembly always provides an interesting snapshot of politics in Macao and a better understanding, albeit limited in depth, of who does what and why.

The report in itself has been trimmed this year — 38 pages for the 2018/19 session versus 48 pages for the previous one — and really pales when compared to the document issued by the Hong Kong Legislative Council — 175 pages in the latest file available in our sister SAR.

Moreover, starting in 2014/15 with the first report put together under the efficient-minded presidency of Ho Iat Seng, these reports have shied away from making any comparison with previous sessions when examining the number of laws passed.

Up to 2014, a simple graphic with a timeline would serve as a benchmarking for the current session: that year, only 9 laws had been passed, against 15 in 2012/13, and a multi-year bar chart reminded the casual reader that the most active legislative session ever had been the 2008/09 one, with a record 27 laws adopted. That session corresponded with the last year of Edmund Ho as Chief Executive: the vast majority of the bills are introduced by the government in Macao, and thus the idea was clearly to start with a clean slate for the next government after years of backlogging.

The year 2018/19 is no exception — although I had to go back to previous reports to establish that fact — as a total of 25 laws were adopted last year (almost on par with Hong Kong!), making it the most active legislative session of the Chui Sai On era. Almost three times more laws passed than in the least active year — only 9 laws approved in 2015/16. But Mr Chui should not feel mortified as only 6 laws were ratified in the very troubled session of 2006/07 at the time of Edmund Ho — the year of the downfall of Ao Man Long and the largest May Day protest.

Clearing the way for the upcoming Ho Iat Seng era was therefore the priority, and that was done quite efficiently: 28 laws were introduced in 2018/19, and 25 passed, that is a successful ratio of 89%... quite an improvement on the 48% of 2017/18! Yet, when one looks carefully, a good third of the 25 laws adopted are actually amendments of existing laws, even though, again, that is an improvement on the previous session when half the laws were mere revisions.

The report also provides insight on the commitment of individual legislators to their job. Again, there was a time when independent associations in Macao would survey the citizens regarding the performance of their legislators. There was also a time when a website — <http://almacau.net/> — would feed us with extremely detailed information about each and every lawmaker, allowing us to connect the way they voted with their political stance and vested interests in society. But these times have been gone for years and we are left with an ever shrinking and rather unsurprising report.

The least active legislators in raising questions to the government are the ones appointed by the CE or small-time businessmen-turned-politicians with dubious background and limited abilities, such as Cheung Lup Kwan and Chan Chak Mo, who spent the whole year formulating exactly ZERO oral or written interpellation addressed to the government. Cheung Lup Kwan together with President Ho Iat Seng, who resigned in July and was too busy preparing for his solo candidacy to the CE position, are the two legislators with the worst attendance for plenary meetings: respectively 35 and 34 recorded attendances out of 52 meetings altogether! Mr Cheung, who has been the least committed legislator ever since he was first elected in 2001, pushed the contempt for the function to a new height this year by showing up only ONCE in 65 meetings of the third permanent commission of the Assembly, despite that commission examining eleven laws!

Self-induced ignorance and inaction can indeed be rewarding!

PRINCE ANDREW SAYS DAUGHTER BEATRICE ENGAGED

Prince Andrew and his former wife Sarah Ferguson have announced the engagement of their elder daughter, Princess Beatrice.

They said yesterday that Beatrice is engaged to Edoardo Mapelli Mozzi.

Buckingham Palace says the couple became engaged during a



weekend in Italy earlier this month. The wedding will take place in 2020.

The 31-year-old princess is the granddaughter of Queen Elizabeth II.

Andrew and Sarah said in a statement they are “thrilled” with the engagement. “We send them every good wish for a wonderful family future,” they said.

Their younger daughter, Princess Eugenie, married Jack Brooksbank last year.

THE BUZZ

17 US STATES SUE FEDS OVER ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT RULES

GENE JOHNSON, SEATTLE

SEVENTEEN states sued the Trump administration yesterday [Macao time] to block rules weakening the Endangered Species Act, saying the changes would make it tougher to protect wildlife even in the midst of a global extinction crisis.

The lawsuit, in federal court in San Francisco, follows a similar challenge filed last month by several environmental groups, including the Humane Society and the Sierra Club.

The new rules begin taking effect today. They for the first time allow officials to consider how much it would cost to save a species. They also remove blanket protections for animals newly listed as threatened and make it easier for creatures to be removed from the protected list.

“It’s a death by a thousand cuts for the Endangered Species Act,” said Democratic Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson, announcing the lawsuit in a Seattle news conference.

The law, signed by President Richard Nixon in 1973, has been credited with helping prevent the extinction of more than 220 species, including bald eagles, grizzly bears and humpback whales. It requires the government to list species that are endangered or threatened. The law also protects about 1,600



AP PHOTO

plant and animal species, designates habitat protections for them, and assesses whether federal activities will hurt them.

Critics have long complained that the environmentalists have weaponized the law to block economic activity such as logging and mining, infringing on property rights. The Trump administration and congressional Republicans have said the new rules will improve the law’s enforcement.

The revisions “fit squarely within the President’s mandate of easing the regulatory burden on the American public, without sacrificing our species’ protection and recovery goals,” U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said when the changes were announced last month.

Scientists say that globally about 1 million species are at risk of extinction, mainly because of habitat destruction by humans, overfishing and climate change.

The states challenging

Trump’s rules are California, Massachusetts, Maryland, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Michigan, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington. The District of Columbia and New York City were also named as plaintiffs.

They argue that the rules changes contradict the goals of the Endangered Species Act and that the administration failed to provide a reasoned basis for the changes or analyze their environmental impacts as required by federal law.

The lawsuit cites challenges faced by creatures that include piping plovers in Rhode Island, orca whales in Washington state and desert tortoises in the Mojave Desert in Nevada.

“We are running out of time,” said Michael Ross, vice chairman of the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe in Washington. “These changes aren’t in the right direction.” AP



AP PHOTO

Afghanistan Millions of Afghans are expected to go to the polls tomorrow to elect a new president, despite an upsurge of violence in the weeks since the collapse of a U.S.-Taliban deal to end America’s longest war, and the Taliban warning voters to say away from the polls.



AP PHOTO

Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu began the daunting task of trying to cobble together a coalition government amid political deadlock that emerged from this month’s repeat elections, which had no clear winner.



AP PHOTO

France Jacques Chirac, a two-term French president who was the first leader to acknowledge France’s role in the Holocaust and defiantly opposed the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003, died yesterday at age 86.

Germany Authorities say they have arrested two Pakistani men accused of being part of a criminal gang engaged in a large-scale tax scam involving emissions certificates.

EU The European Union says it is still waiting for useful proposals to come from Britain to unblock stalled negotiations on Britain’s departure terms from the bloc.

USA An Arizona man has become the second person arrested on drug charges as authorities investigate the overdose death of rapper Mac Miller.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Paulo Coutinho/MDT



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