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“THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’”

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THE HKZMB WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR SURGING VISITOR ARRIVALS THIS YEAR, THE TOURISM AUTHORITY HAS CONFIRMED

SCAMS CONTINUE TO FIND VICTIMS IN ‘OBEDIENT’ UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

DEMOCRAT LAWMAKER AU KAM SAN HAS ACCUSED THE POLICE OF ARBITRARILY SUPPRESSING FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY



South Korean pop star and actress Sulli (pictured) was found dead at her home south of Seoul yesterday, police said. The 25-year-old was found after her manager went to her home in Seongnam because she didn't answer phone calls for hours, said an official from the Seongnam Sujeong Police Department.



Philippines The national police chief resigned yesterday after he faced allegations in a Senate hearing that he intervened as a provincial police chief in 2013 to prevent his officers from being prosecuted for allegedly selling a huge quantity of illegal drugs they had seized. More on p13



Indonesia At least 22 suspected militants plotting bombings and other attacks have been arrested in a counterterrorism crackdown following last week's assault by a knife-wielding militant couple who wounded Indonesia's top security minister, police said yesterday.

USA The White House says President Donald Trump has yet to watch a graphically violent parody video that depicts a likeness of him shooting and stabbing opponents and members of the news media, but based on what he's heard, he "strongly condemns" it. The video portrays Trump's critics and media members as parishioners in a church fleeing his gruesome rampage.

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BRAZIL OPENS ARMS TO INTEGRATED RESORTS

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FABIO ROQUE



AP PHOTO

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GTEF | PANSY HO

BRAZIL HAS THE BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR INTEGRATED RESORTS

LYNZY VALLES

IN response to a suggestion by Marcelo Álvaro Antônio, the Minister of Tourism in Brazil, regarding the country's plans to invite investors to open up resorts and theme parks, Macau casino magnate Pansy Ho noted that, from a gaming operator's perspective, Brazil has the basic requirements to open an integrated resort.

Ho made the comments during a press conference yesterday on the sidelines of the Global Tourism Economic Forum (GTEF) 2019.

According to Ho, Brazil, being one of the major countries and largest economies in Latin America, would also be able to develop similar types of integrated resorts to that of Macau. "I'm quite sure there will be some of the existing [gaming operators] that would be clearly interested [in investing]," she said.

Meanwhile, on the topic of economic diversification, Ho said she believes that private



companies have a big role to play to alleviate the problems within the sector. Ho, who is vice chairman and secretary-general of GTEF, said that the city's concessionaires, which are all conglomerates, should also con-

tribute to diversifying the sector.

"The conglomerates have all made a substantial investment in Macau. So obviously we do care, even if we're not the ones running the sector," said Ho.

"We do not want to see any

segment of the industry be faced with a big [setback]. What we can do, I think, is [for gaming operators] to work together and work alongside the government," she added.

Ho noted that gaming operators could provide more entertainment opportunities to alleviate some of the tourism operators' pressure.

"We should be the ones coming up with all the solutions. We would like them to help us in logistics planning and tell more people about Macau."

Yesterday, the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) confirmed the government's intent for the city to develop a total of 17 budget accommodation projects, with an unknown conclusion date. Currently, the Macau SAR has a total of 53 registered and licensed budget accommodation complexes with a total of 1,988 rooms.

"In the future, we think that there will be 17 new projects with 1,129 rooms to enter the market. They are mostly in the old district, quite old-scale," said

Helena de Senna Fernandes. The official did not announce when the project would be concluded.

Meanwhile, the tourism chief said that the bureau had been receiving opinions from the travel and tourist guide association, with some requesting government subsidy schemes in respect of the effect of the ongoing protest in Hong Kong, which has led to a drop in tourism arrivals by groups.

"We have heard from the travel agency sector that they do suffer due to the incidents [in Hong Kong] because of the decrease of the traditional Hong Kong-Macau tour groups," Senna Fernandes said.

"What has come up are individual travelers. [...] This has [dealt a] deficit in terms of tour group arrivals. There is a continuous change in the composition of these arrivals," she added.

In order to counter the effect in Macau of the social unrest in Hong Kong, Ho suggested Macau partner with other neighboring areas, including Hengqin and Zhuhai, to create itineraries that would fit the so-called "one travel itinerary on multiple stops."

"This social unrest is not going to have a major impact in Macau itself but it will be unfortunate if this is prolonged," said Ho. "Then it would make travelers [alter] their planned trips."

GTEF

Latin America easing entry requirements for China passport holders

LYNZY VALLES

ARGININA and Brazil – which are Macau's 2019 Global Tourism Economy Forum partners – are mutually collaborating on an easy visa acquisition scheme for Chinese passport holders in a bid to facilitate the exchange of tourism between the three countries.

Gustavo Santos, Minister of Tourism in Argentina, and Marcelo Álvaro Antônio, Minister of Tourism in Brazil, said that both regions hope to give a progress update regarding the measure on November

29 at a tourism summit of Mercosur, a trade block made up of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay, which will be held in Brazil.

The officials highlighted that there is a great distance between Asian countries and South American countries. Therefore, providing easier access to these countries would be one of the ways to encourage visitors to visit Argentina and Brazil.

According to Antônio, Brazil's president Jair Bolsonaro sees China as its biggest economic partner and believes that the massive country could also be its

largest partner in tourism.

"I think President Bolsonaro is trying to showcase that [Brazil considers] the Chinese people as its main economic partners and we want to transform that partnership and realize the potential in the tourism area," he said yesterday.

Currently, the countries are working on providing a one-time visa for the two regions in a bid to further attract tourists from Asia.

The minister considered that the two countries are just waiting for progress in regards to the visa measures relating to China.

"We need to create better

access for Chinese tourists to the rest of the world. We will facilitate the traffic of tourists in both Argentina and Brazil, and I hope we will have some good news on November 29," the tourism minister hinted.

Echoing the same sentiments, the tourism official of Argentina, Santos, shared that his country is also working on providing a 10-year visa to those that apply for a visa at Argentinian consulates.

"We want Argentina and Brazil to be perceived as a unit by the Chinese public so trips are easier. This is a joint strategy for the Asian



Gustavo Santos (left) and Marcelo Álvaro Antônio

market in general. [...] We need to convert the weakness that is the distance into a strength," said Santos.

"We can be closer to Asia, so to speak. To this very day, one of the important milestones [has been] the no visa requirement between Macau and Argentina," the official added.

Currently, Macau passport holders have visa-free access to Brazil for 90 days, while Argentinian authorities yesterday signed an agreement with local authorities to grant local residents visa-free access to the country for a maximum of 30 days. The measure will be effective from November 13.

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF (DIRECTOR) Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
MANAGING EDITOR Daniel Beitler daniel@macaudailytimes.com
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Eric Sautedé, Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Anthony Lam, Emilie Tran, Irene Sam, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Julie Zhu, Juliet Risdon, Linda Kennedy, Lynzy Valles, Paulo Cordeiro de Sousa, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Viviana Segui
DESIGNERS Eva Bucho, Miguel Bandeira | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES Associated Press, Bloomberg, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua
SECRETARY Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

SEND NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND PRESS RELEASES TO: NEWSROOM@MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM WEBSITE: WWW.MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM.MO

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com
OFFICE MANAGER Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com
ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84
Advertisement advertising@macaudailytimes.com
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TOURISM

HKZMB behind double-digit surge in visitor arrivals

MACAU'S tourism chief has accredited 2019's double-digit surge in visitor arrivals to the impact of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB). Preparing to mark its first anniversary later this month, the year-on-year growth in visitor arrivals is expected to moderate as early as next month.

The 55-kilometer long bridge-tunnel hybrid structure, incurring a total of RMB127 billion in construction costs, was officially opened on October 24 last year. The novelty of the bridge's opening attracted an influx of visitors to Macau in the first few months.

Year-on-year visitor growth tallied over 20% during the first six months of the year, appearing to slow only in the third quarter of 2019.

The growth fueled concerns of overtourism after the city was projected to breach the 40-million level, previously earmarked as the city's maximum capacity.



Macau's tourism institute determined earlier this year that the city is capable of comfortably handling 110,000 visitors per day, or 40 million per year.

Over the weekend, the director of the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) Helena de Senna Fernandes confirmed to the media that Macau is expected to receive 40 million visitors – or close to that figure – by

the end of the year. The revised projection follows the 38-million estimate made during the second quarter and is based on the popularity of the year-old bridge.

The tourism chief said that the year-on-year comparisons will become possible starting next month and so the visitor growth should slow considerably.

The prediction comes as recent data shows a slowdown in arrivals using the HKZMB. In July, there were approximately 553,000 visitors who arrived in Macau using the bridge, while just 448,000 bridge users a month later.

The Times inquired yesterday whether the tourism growth is expected to extend into 2020, but Senna Fernandes said it was too early to tell.

"There are lots of factors to consider – [such as] how the trade war will pan out, how the situation in Hong Kong develops, and [the effectiveness of] other works to promote tourism in the Greater Bay Area. There are a few things we are still considering, so we haven't made our predictions for next year," said Senna Fernandes.

"We cannot expect tourism to be growing all the time, so there will be times with adverse factors and we need to prepare ourselves for any situation." **DB/AL**

TOURIST PRICES CLIMB ON ROOM RATE SURGE

TOURISM prices climbed in the third quarter of 2019, even as tourists spent less per capita. This is according to the latest data released by the Statistics and Census Service, which attributed the third quarter increase to a 13% surge in hotel room rates during the summer holidays.

In comparison to the second quarter, the tourism price index for the third quarter grew 1.46% to 129.94, led by the steep rise in accommodation prices. The price index of transport and communications rose 2.78% from a quarter earlier, while the price index of clothing and footwear dropped by 10.29% on account of the seasonal sale of summer clothing.

Compared with the same quarter last year, the tourism price index for the third quarter dropped 0.65%, also driven by a change in the prices of hotel accommodation and clothing, which both registered declines. Meanwhile, rising charges for restaurant services and dearer prices of gold jewelry and local food products offset part of the decrease.

The tourism price index reflects the change in prices of goods and services purchased by visitors. Sections of good and services are categorized according to the consumption pattern in Macau. **DB**

Macau Daily Times contest



Oktoberfest 2019

MGM is hosting Oktoberfest from October 17 to 28 (excluded October 20). We are giving away a total of 10 sets of entry tickets and F&B spending wristband. Readers will have to correctly answer today's question to be in with a chance of winning. Each prize set includes:

Oktoberfest entry ticket (with one free drink) X2	\$360
F&B spending wristband	\$100
Total value	\$460

Question for readers:

Where does the original Oktoberfest come from?

Please email the answer to: Oktoberfest2019@macaudailytimes.com along with your name and contact details.

The highly anticipated event Oktoberfest Macau at MGM will soon return to MGM COTAI this October, rocking the town again with the 11-day Bavarian party! As one of the staple annual events in Macau, Oktoberfest this year is proud to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Macau SAR with jubilation by offering an exclusive discount to all Macau local citizens.

This year's event will continue to partner with the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Hong Kong and the German Macau Business Association, and will be supported by the Macao Government Tourism Office.

In the past 10 years, MGM has welcomed nearly 150,000 beer lovers with almost 150,000 liters of beer, over 40,000 kilograms of roasted pork knuckles and chickens. MGM captures the essence of the festivities through the traditional German food and beverage, entertainments and decorations, delivering the most authentic Bavarian party atmosphere to Macau. The beloved Hög! Fun Band will once again fly over from Munich for several nights of dynamic live performances to hype up the nights, while Löwenbräu, one of the six genuine German Oktoberfest brews, along with the

traditional German gastronomies, Bavarian patterned beer tent and ceiling wreaths with a touch of Macanese decoration, as well as a wide range of carnival game booths, all of these will make Oktoberfest Macau at MGM a guaranteed fun and alive event, just like the Oktoberfest of Munich.

Oktoberfest Macau at MGM 2019 will be held between October 17 and 28, 2019 (excluded October 20) at MGM COTAI's 1/F Roof Terrace. Admission tickets and table are available for sale at both MGM properties now. To celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Macau SAR, all valid Macau ID holders and Mlife members will be eligible to enjoy a MOP20 discount on each entry ticket and 20% discount on Oktoberfest merchandises. In addition, all Mlife members are entitled to receive two Oktoberfest entry tickets upon spending MOP500 at any F&B outlets of MGM MACAU or MGM COTAI. The number of tickets and tables are very limited, so get them soon before they are out!

Ticketing Information

Date: September 16, 2019 – October 28, 2019
Time: 6pm - 12am daily
Phone: (853) 8802 2666
Email: oktoberfest@mgm.mo
Ticket Counters: MGM COTAI and MGM MACAU

SAFP SAYS UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE NOT IMPOSSIBLE

The Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau (SAFP) has remarked that Macau's Basic Law does not rule out universal suffrage for the Chief Executive election. In reply to lawmaker Sulu Sou's interpellation regarding Macau's political reform and the Chief Executive election, the SAFP cited previous talks of Qiao Xiaoyang, a former chairman of the National People's Congress Law Committee. "The relevant regulation of the Basic Law regarding the 'Chief Executive is constituted through election of consult' does not rule out Macau choosing a Chief Executive via universal suffrage in the future," the SAFP wrote. "However, it must be stressed that, according to the Basic Law [...], if there is any change to the way of constitution of the Chief Executive, then it must be reported to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress for approval."

MACAU PARADE FLOAT AWARDED IN BEIJING

The Macau parade float at Beijing's 70th anniversary ceremony of the establishment of the People's Republic of China has been given the Hua Mei Award by the mainland department responsible for protecting the ceremony's service and for instructing the people's parade. The reward was given to Macau's parade float for its presentation of the combination of the new and the old through the setting of the Ruins of St. Paul and the campus of the University of Macau. The bridge decoration presented Macau's bridge function between Chinese and western culture, while the wave decoration showed that Macau is rich in festivals throughout the year.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON URBAN RENEWAL LAUNCHES

The government is inviting the public to share its views regarding a proposed legal framework for urban renewal advanced by the Government. During the 60-day public consultation period, which runs until December 9 inclusive, there will be three general consultation sessions open to members of the public, and a further three thematic sessions. The proposed framework and details of the public consultation process were presented last week by a joint group responsible for drafting the legal regulation related to urban renewal. The group is coordinated by the Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, and composed of officials from the Legal Affairs Bureau, the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau, and the Housing Bureau. The consultation document is accessible from government websites and available in either Chinese or Portuguese.

CHANGES TO SECURITY FORCES DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE ENTER EFFECT

RENATO MARQUES

THE changes announced in April this year by the Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, to expand the powers of the security forces disciplinary body have entered into effect, according to their publication in the government's Official Gazette yesterday.

The dispatch serves as an amendment to the regulation of the Macau Security Forces and Services Disciplinary Supervisory Committee (CFD).

According to the order of the Chief Executive No. 160/2019, the CFD sees its statutory scope and well as duties newly defined. It is now "an independent oversight body, independent from the activities of the Macau Security Forces, reporting directly to the Chief Executive, and responsible for the promotion and defense of the legality and respect for the fundamental rights of citizens by criteria of strict exemption, material justice, and objectivity."

In regards to its duties, the CFD is now clearly responsible for several tasks, including, "to supervise the compliance of the personnel of the security services with discipline, namely in what concerns the professional ethics of the officers, potential violations of the law, and behaviors that go against human rights and functional duties."

To recall, in the first version of the regulation of the CFD, approved and enforced by former Chief Executive Edmund Ho in 2005, the duties of the CFD were mostly to "issue opinions and recommendations." Without the



power to supervise nor intervene, it was mostly an advisory body.

Under its new duties, the CFD has the authority to investigate cases of misconduct, supervise the personal conduct of the officers and assess whether such conduct undermines the general trust of citizens in security institutions.

Although the CFD is stated to be an independent body working

under the direct authority of the Chief Executive, their assessment of the facts reported or known directly, as well as all supporting evidences or documents that support the infringement of the "functional duties, illegality or irregularity of operation," should be submitted through the Secretary for Security.

The CFD should also seek for the Secretary for Security's approval on any recommenda-

tions and suggestions deemed appropriate for each case.

The CFD will be composed of eleven members - "personalities of recognized reputation and civic representation" - all appointed by the Chief Executive.

One of these members will be appointed as the president of the Committee. All members' mandates are valid for a period of two years, renewable also by order of the Chief Executive.

GAMING

Fitch: casino operators might face 'onerous' terms under new licenses

DANIEL BEITLER

FITCH Ratings has said that Las Vegas Sands will very likely secure a new Macau concession once its current arrangement expires in June 2022. However, the credit rating agency also noted that it sees "plausible risk" in the casino operator being subject to more "onerous" terms under a new license.

In a note published on Saturday (Macau time), Fitch Ratings affirmed the

long-term issuer default ratings of Las Vegas Sands (LVS) and its subsidiaries at BBB-. The credit rating agency also affirmed Las Vegas Sands' and Sands China's senior unsecured debt at BBB-, while Marina Bay Sands' existing senior secured revolver and term loan is set at BBB. The rating outlook for the company and its subsidiaries is 'Positive', according to Fitch.

The Fitch note advises that the upcoming con-

cession negotiations prevent the Las Vegas Sands rating from being upgraded to BBB.

"The expiration of the Macau concession in June 2022 remains the main remaining credit risk preventing an upgrade of LVS' Long-Term IDR to 'BBB,'" the note reads.

"Fitch believes that the risk of the concession not being extended is very remote. A more plausible risk is LVS being subject to onerous extension ter-

ms, such as a higher tax, a concession payment, or a call by the government for significant lower ROI investments."

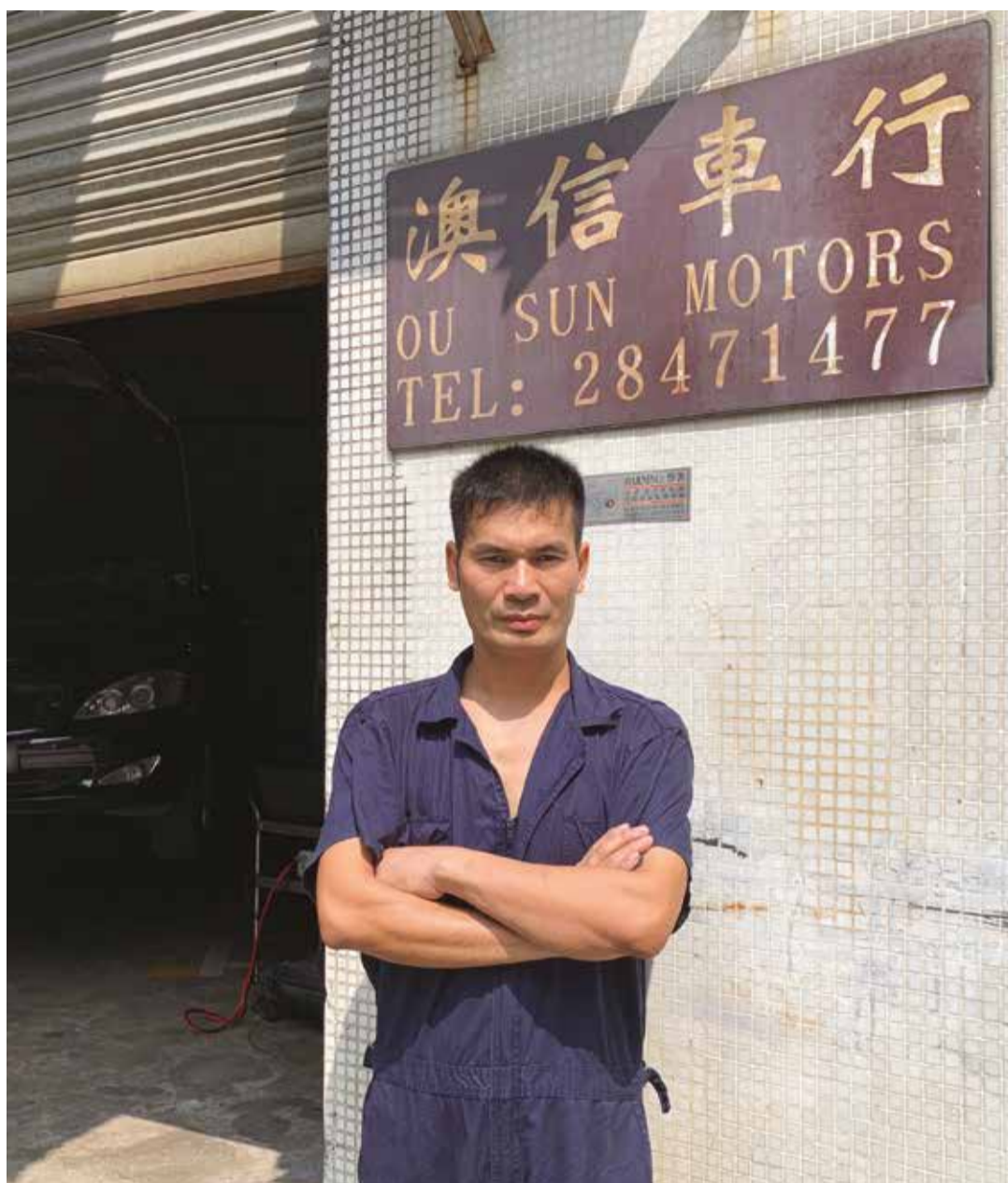
Also weighing into its rating calculation is the fact that Las Vegas Sands' subsidiaries are "well capitalized and are not reliant on the parent for support."

In general terms, the U.S.-based casino operator has a "favorable Macau exposure" via its subsidiary. Fitch expects the

company to experience mid-single digit growth at its properties and slightly exceed the broader Macau market, given its mass market pivot.

Sands Cotai Central could experience some disruption into next year as it undergoes its transformation into The Londoner Macao, however this is unlikely to dampen the overall credit profile of Las Vegas Sands and Sands China, added Fitch.

All six of Macau's gaming concessions are due to expire in June 2022. The government has disclosed little about the upcoming process, and most analysts expect no further information to be released until after the change in administration this December.



Automotive service develops business model, sales following partnership with Sands China

A local automotive service and repair store that has been in operation since 1993 has recorded a ten-fold increase in its sales following its partnership with Sands China in 2012.

Ou Son Motors, located in Taipa since 2009, has been providing car maintenance and repair for over 40 of the integrated resort operator's limousines.

The local firm's services to Sands China include regular oil changes and comprehensive vehicle maintenance inspections.

One of the owners of the company, Liu Yiangqiang, has expressed his gratitude to Sands China for allowing his operation to grow in terms of its business volume, as well as imparting to him the management culture of large-scale corporations like Sands China.

"We have had a ten-fold growth in terms of our sales, but other than that, we keep on learning from them," said Liu.

"Large corporations like Sands China have taught us to work more efficiently and formally, such as by issuing quotations via email or fax – which is different from how we did things before,

such as just writing on a blank piece of paper," he added.

Ou Son has also established a system to record all job orders for future reference, and this has improved their operations.

As a traditional small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) that has been partnering with the integrated resort operator, Liu said that they were also taught business model techniques that could be applied to the company's operations, such as using software to help check car parts, which the company now implements.

According to Liu, the business has always been mainly engaged in automobile maintenance and that it has experienced the high and low tides of the Macau SAR's economy.

Ou Son Motors has always had a "customer-oriented, service-oriented" motto to leverage against its competitors, "so that customers will be satisfied, and in that way, we will achieve a win-win situation, which is our ultimate goal," Liu explained.

"The collaboration between our company and Sands China

has been going well. Through effective and constant communication, we understand their needs and we really try our best to cooperate and complete every service order," said Liu.

According to him, their maintenance projects have also been increasing and that the turnaround time has also improved.

"I really feel honored to have this partnership with Sands China. Safety is the priority for us, which matches Sands China's major requirement," he said.

"Besides putting safety as our priority, we are on call in case of

"Large enterprises like Sands China have taught us to work more efficiently and formally."

LIUYIANGQIANG

emergencies, and we are located in Taipa, and I think those were positive factors when Sands China selected us to be its partner," he added.

In the future, Liu intends to

expand the development of his automobile business, hoping that his local firm will continually strengthen its collaboration with Sands China.

As part of its ongoing local procurement efforts, Sands China will host its fourth invitational matching session and graduation ceremony this month for the sixth group of local SME suppliers that have participated in the Sands Procurement Academy. The training academy is part of Sands China's E.I.T. programme (Financial Support, Invitational Matching, and Training and Development) for local SME suppliers, which seeks to continually increase and strengthen procurement between Sands China and local SME suppliers by enhancing their capabilities.

Local SME suppliers in the academy learn through tailor-made practical training modules, which are delivered by lecturers with several different areas of expertise.

Sands China has also been strengthening its efforts to boost the local SME suppliers it works

with, creating opportunities and platforms for them to gain experience and knowledge from working with a large-scale enterprise.

Sands China has been placing importance on the three categories of local SME suppliers it focuses on: local small, medium and micro suppliers, "Made-in-Macao" companies and Macao young entrepreneurs.

And in focusing on increasing procurement opportunities with local SME suppliers, Sands China benefits from having access to local expertise, customer service and delivery.

Sands China's local procurement efforts since 2015 are part of its Local Small, Medium and Micro Suppliers Support Programme, which is in line with the Macau government's initiative to "buy local" and demonstrates Sands China's commitment to supporting local enterprises as part of the company's corporate social responsibility efforts.

It is part of Sands China's supplier relationship management strategy, which guides the company's long-standing effort to support local suppliers, whom it views as its strategic partners.

JING XU



CRIME

SCAMS CONTINUE TO FIND VICTIMS IN 'OBEDIENT' UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

RENATO MARQUES

DESPITE the constant appeals from the Judiciary Police (PJ) and the numerous seminars held by the force, university students in Macau, namely the ones arriving from the mainland, continue to be "easy prey" for scammers that operate through phone or the internet.

They manage to keep swindling them for large sums of money, the PJ head of the Community Policing and Public Relations Division, Cheang Pou Seong, told media during a special announcement made during police press conference yesterday.

According to Cheang, the number of scammers making use of Internet communication applications and the phone has been growing and most of those targeted are young people studying at local universities.

He also noted that despite the many efforts of the force in creating awareness among such a population group, the PJ has been

registering a continuous growing number of cases involving students in the last few weeks; cases that, according to Cheang, are responsible for losses of about MOP9 million.

Questioned by the media as to why he thinks that such victims continue to fall for such scams, he pointed out that "there is a lack of consciousness namely from the students [in general]," and that in the case of the people coming from the mainland, "they are too obedient" regarding following orders from the scammers without questioning them.

The same person took the opportunity to reaffirm the previous appeals made by the police via media or in the seminars held at the local universities, which he noted had been attended by a total of 5,000 students.

STUDENT SWINDLED OVER 'BLOCKED' TAobao ACCOUNT

In one of the cases reported yesterday by the PJ spokesperson, a 30-year-old student from

the mainland has reportedly lost RMB32,400 over a claim that her Taobao account had been blocked for misuse.

The case occurred on October 11 around 4 p.m. when she was in class and received a call from an alleged Taobao employee saying that her account had been "frozen" because someone had illegally used it.

The same person asked the woman to transfer all the money from the original account to an allegedly secure one. Trusting such a person, she first transferred some RMB27,400 to the other account and later, by the request of the same person, another RMB5,000.

After that, and while talking with a school colleague, she was told that she had been targeted by a scam, and reported the complaint to the PJ. In a separate case presented by the same police force, another university student has been swindled out of some RMB35,000 over claims that her travel document had been misused and she could

not use it to return to the mainland.

Although the claims from the scammer were that she could not reenter the mainland with the document, she crossed the border anyway to transfer money to an account as requested, depositing a total of RMB35,000 into such an account.

She told the police that she only realized the scam later.

ANOTHER 200,000 YUAN LOST TO CURRENCY EXCHANGE

The PJ spokesperson also reported a case that occurred on October 10 when a woman, after losing all the money she had on her at the casino tables, tried to acquire HKD500,000 more through a man that she had met in the same casino.

According to the suspect, she could get the HKD500,000 by transferring a total of RMB456,250 into an account indicated by him.

On that same day, around 10:30 p.m., they arranged a

meeting at the casino, and she transferred RMB200,000, in four different banking transfers of RMB50,000 each.

The man then said that he needed to withdraw the money in Hong Kong dollars from an ATM in the casino, but after a few minutes he claimed to be experiencing problems in making the money withdrawal. The woman, feeling that she had been scammed, immediately reported the incident to the PJ.

Questioned on the case, the suspect refused to provide information to the police, saying only that he had been hired by a third person to perform the scam.

FAKE INVESTMENT PROMISED 1% RETURN PER DAY

A 50-year-old man has reported to the PJ that he has been involved in a scam that took place on August 28, in which he lost an amount equivalent to around HKD900,000.

He told the PJ that he was approached by two men in a hotel located in the Outer Harbor district and offered the chance to join a high-return investment scheme. The investment would grant him earnings of 1% per day on the capital invested.

As he said he knew one of the men, he decided to invest, handing them a sum of RMB150,000.

After the first few days, everything was going as expected and he had received the first few interest payments.

Then, the men called on him to step-up the investment to receive more earnings and he invested a total sum of RMB850,000.

After the increase in the investment, the victim was said to have lost contact with the men, filing a case at the PJ.

On October 11, the police arrested one of the men involved, who was trying to re-enter the region through the Border Gate checkpoint.

When questioned by the force, the suspect admitted to the crime and said that the money had all been lost at the casino tables.

He has already been presented to the Public Prosecutions Office, where he has been charged with aggravated fraud.

COURTS

Tutor sentenced to over 18 years for sexual assault

THE tutoring center teacher who was arrested for sexually assaulting at least seven students has been sentenced to jail for 18 years and six months.

The 36-year-old, surnamed Tam, is a male Hong Kong resident who had been employed for four years by a local tutoring

center located in the Fai Chi Kei area, where his criminal behaviors were conducted.

Between 2016 and November 2018, the criminal sexually assaulted male underage students at the center by ordering them to perform oral sex on him and to masturbate in

front of him. The criminal admitted to part of the charges.

The parent of one of the victims, aged 14, reported the suspect's criminal behaviors to the Judiciary Police (PJ). The victim claimed to have been forced by the suspect to perform oral sex six times

since October, after the suspect threatened to tell his parents that he was in a relationship with a girl.

According to the PJ's investigation, the suspect had been taking advantage of his students' psychological weaknesses to carry out the assaults. The suspect repeatedly threa-

tened victims by threatening to report their class behavior, for instance that they had failed exams, to their parents.

The other four victims were also forced to perform oral sex and masturbate.

Some of the victims were under the age of 14

when the assaults took place.

Due to the fact that the cases might be handled according to the different laws in effect when the offence occurred, the judge explained that the court has selected the lightest possible sentence for the criminal. **JZ**

LAWMAKER COMPLAINS POLICE QUASH FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

JULIE ZHU

DEMOCRAT lawmaker Au Kam San has accused the police authority of arbitrarily suppressing the civil rights of people in Macau, in particular, the right to organize assemblies and demonstrations.

In his recent interpellation submitted to the government, Au complained about the local police authority's recent banning of several public assemblies, having stated that the police authority abused its power and misinterpreted legal provisions.

"Recently, the Macau police authority has banned the conduct of a number of assemblies on the grounds that certain gatherings were a violation of the law. This arbitrary interpretation of the law and of the assembly clearly intends to reduce the space for Macau people to exercise their civil rights," said Au.

"We believe that the civil rights and the freedom of Macau people cannot be lost due to a



one-time event outside of Macau," wrote Au.

Au used the example of the police authority's rejection of a demonstration at the Senado Square on August 19, and the three assemblies of which the police authority recently received notice. All these demonstrations mentioned by Au, which opposed police abuse of power in the neighboring territory of Hong Kong, ended up being interpreted as de-

monstrations whose "purpose is violating the law."

The Court of Final Appeal recently ruled to uphold the police decision to ban the assemblies, citing as justification the motifs expressed by them, which the authorities had deemed incompatible with the law.

"Using [the justification that] 'the purpose goes against the law' to ban or to reject assemblies or demonstration

notifications never happened before the handover. It appears now that Macau people's civil rights is being suppressed," Au accused.

The lawmaker asked the government whether or not the police authority should interpret the law in a specific way so as to increase restrictions on the exercise of assembly and demonstration rights.

The lawmaker wants the police authority to explain why it has considered opposing the actions of police in Hong Kong as a "demonstration that violates the purpose of law."

"Presently, the police authority can prohibit assemblies or demonstrations on grounds of all sorts of strange and unseemable reasons. Is it setting up a censorship system that is completely incompatible with the legal provision [suggesting there is no need to attain permission to organize demonstrations or assemblies]?" questioned Au. "Isn't such police law enforcement an abuse of power?"

WEATHER BUREAU RELEASES EDUCATIONAL VIDEOS

TWO videos educating the general public about precautionary measures to be taken for typhoons or storm surge conditions have been posted on the Meteorological and Geophysics Bureau website.

The videos provide information to viewers in a lively manner. They aim to educate people about the knowledge that they should possess in case they are faced with either or both extreme weather conditions.

In the video about storm surge conditions, a family of three prepare themselves against the surge with helmets, goggles, raincoats and rain boots.

Afterwards, a professional-looking middle-aged man turns down their measures, saying that it is an exaggerated danger. The man instructs them to avoid staying in low-lying areas and basements.

In the typhoon video, the bureau reminds viewers to start preparing when any typhoon signal is hoisted. They should do so in case the typhoon changes its path or intensifies suddenly.

Apart from the website of the weather forecaster, both videos are also played onboard public buses. **AL**

AD

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TRUST DEPLETED, HONG KONG IS NOW A CITY DIVIDED

JOHN LEICESTER

As a police van sped past them, the 90-year-old woman and her 60-year-old daughter raised their fists, pointed their thumbs very deliberately down and yelled, "Triads!"

That silver-haired woman in Hong Kong no longer think twice about openly accusing officers of being in cahoots with mafia gangs shows how public trust in the city's 30,000-strong police force, once considered among the finest in Asia, has been catastrophically damaged in the storm of protest gripping the international business hub.

In trying to end the anti-government demonstrations, which broke out in multiple locations again on Saturday and are now in their fifth month, one of the most pressing problems to solve for Hong Kong leaders will be dispelling the now widespread public scorn for police officers. Protest graffiti likening officers to dogs and worse is all over the city, and protesters Saturday chanted for the force to be disbanded.

Overall, Saturday's rallies were lower-key and more peaceful than other far larger and more violent protests that have rocked the semi-autonomous Chinese territory. Riot police deployed but stayed far behind the day's largest rally, which drew thousands of peaceful marchers in Kowloon.

Police said rioters tossing gasoline bombs damaged a subway station, but there was no repeat of the more intense destruction and battles between protesters and police that have spread across Hong Kong.

Still, restoring any semblance of trust between police officers and the 7.5 million people they are sworn to serve and protect is going to be a long, hard battle.

Demonstrators widely decry the force's policing of the hundreds of

protests that began in early June as thuggish, with more than 2,300 people arrested. Its liberal use of tear gas and what has become a familiar sight of officers in full riot gear pursuing young protesters and making muscular, sometimes brutish arrests has come as a shock to a city that long prided itself on being safe.

"They beat the butts out of people," said the 90-year-old woman, Cheng Liang Yu, who angrily shouted at the passing police van with her 60-year-old daughter, Dorothy Lau.

One of Lau's daughters is a part-time police officer. Lau has her photo, proudly saluting in her police uniform, stored on her cellphone. But she was equally dismissive of the force her daughter serves.

"They're too violent," she said.

Together with another of Lau's daughters, Liz Yuen, the women joined a protest of about 200 people, many of them retirees, outside the towering police headquarters in central Hong Kong on Saturday. The peaceful rally held a minute's silence for victims of what protesters described as police abuse. Photos taped on the sidewalk showed X-rays of fractured bones that protesters alleged were broken in police custody.

Patrolling discreetly in their midst, a handful of plainclothes police officers tried to break the ice. They stopped traffic to allow elderly protesters, some with walking sticks, to cross a busy road to join the sit-in rally.

They also took heated verbal abuse.

"The police and the triads are brothers!" yelled 75-year-old Chiu Shuitin, directing his anger directly at officers who shuffled silently away. "The police don't protect us anymore!"

One of the plainclothes officers said the past few months have been tough on them, too. He said he wor-

ries that people who know he's an officer might leak that fact, along with his name and address, on the internet, so protesters can target him and his family. To lower his profile outside of work, he said he's now in touch with only a small circle of his closest friends.

He lamented that protesters who used to target officers with nothing more dangerous than paper planes now hurl bricks and gasoline bombs.

"That's very sad," said the officer, who didn't want to be identified because he wasn't authorized to give media interviews. "How can we talk?"

One of the protest movement's key demands is for an independent inquiry into the policing methods deployed against protesters and widely held conspiracy theories — repeatedly and strongly denied by the police force — that detainees have died in custody.

But protesters are also pessimistic that Hong Kong's leader, Carrie Lam, will bow to that or other demands, including universal suffrage. She is scheduled to deliver her annual policy address on Wednesday. If demonstrators don't turn out in force for that, it could be another hint — along with the toned-down rallies on Saturday — that the movement may be losing a little steam.

A 58-year-old teacher of English and history at the protest outside the police headquarters said she'd been terrified by the increase in violence this month, which included two police shootings of teen-aged demonstrators who were injured. She said trust in the police would take "a million years to rebuild." The teacher said she didn't want to be identified by name because her school wants "all the staff to stay absolutely silent."

"We can't do without the police, but we can't rely on the police," she said. "So what do we do?" AP



Homemade bomb intended to 'kill or harm' HK police

JOHN LEICESTER

A homemade, remote-controlled bomb intended to "kill or to harm" riot control officers was detonated as they deployed against renewed violence in Hong Kong over the weekend, police said yesterday, in a further escalation of destructive street battles gripping the business hub.

The "loud thud" Sunday night close to riot

officers who had been clearing away a protester-built road block marked the first known use of an explosive device during protests that started in June over a contested extradition bill and have snowballed into an anti-government, anti-police and anti-China movement.

"It exploded less than 2 meters away from a police vehicle. We have reason to believe that the bomb was

meant to target police officers," Deputy Commissioner Tang Ping-keung said at a news conference, speaking through a translator.

But despite spiraling violence and widespread vandalism and gasoline-bomb attacks by black-clad hardcore protesters, the movement is still rousing support from more moderate demonstrators.

A peaceful rally in central Hong Kong's swanky

business district last night drew crowds in the thousands, so large that the giant throng of singing, chanting demonstrators spilled out of a park into side streets.

No casualties were reported from the detonation Sunday night on a usually busy thoroughfare in Kowloon that was among dozens of protest hotspots.

"There was a loud thud," Chin-chiu Suryanto, an officer with the police force's bomb-disposal unit, said through a translator.

He held up a photo taken from a police vehicle dash-cam that showed a blurry spot of light, circled

in yellow on the picture.

"The intent [was] to kill or to harm the police officers at the scene," Suryanto said.

The "improvised explosive device that was controlled by a mobile phone" was concocted with a "highly effective" explosive and placed in plants, he said. He likened its use to "terrorist events" seen elsewhere in the world.

Switching tactics, small groups of hardcore protesters wreaked havoc by popping up Sunday in multiple locations across the city, overwhelming the fanned-out police deployment. Violence stretched into the night.

Police said they arres-

ted 201 people, aged 14 to 62, on Saturday and Sunday. They said 12 officers were injured, one of them slashed in the neck with a sharp object, severing a nerve.

Tang, the deputy commissioner, said two plainclothes officers were beaten bloody by rioters. A black-clad protester was also caught on video dropping a riot officer with a flying kick. Four men were arrested in those cases, Tang said.

Rioters also set a police vehicle aflame with a gasoline bomb and threw more than 20 gas bombs at a police station.

"They are crazy," Tang said. AP

AP PHOTO



Hong Kong Officer slashed in neck as violence continues

A Hong Kong police officer was slashed in the neck by a protester as clashes continued following an escalation of violence earlier this month in demonstrations that began in June.

Demonstrators spread out across 18 districts on Sunday in scattered, pop-up protests to pressure the government to meet their remaining demands, including the right to choose and elect their own leaders. Police said the officer suffered a neck wound after being attacked with a "sharp-edged" object in a subway station. Yesterday, police said the officer remained in hospital but was in stable condition.

Due to "serious vandalism," the city's rail operator MTR Corp. said yesterday all main subway lines, MTR buses and light rail would shut down early at 10 p.m. The Airport Express route was not affected, the company said, adding that it made the decision after reviewing ongoing repairs and conducting a "joint risk assessment" with the government.

Overall the disruption wasn't as bad as earlier this month, when the subway system was completely shut down due to widespread violence after leader Carrie Lam invoked emergency powers last used more than half a century ago to impose a ban on face masks. Prior to this weekend, some activists had urged others to scale back the vandalism that has shut shops, banks and train stations over concerns it could sap support for the movement.

Several events later this week could add fuel to the protests: Lam is due to give her annual economic-policy address, and U.S. lawmakers in the House of Representatives may vote on a bill that would require annual reviews of Hong Kong's special trading status and potentially sanction some Chinese officials.

"The protesters and the people in Hong Kong certainly would like to have more international attention, would like to secure international sympathy," Joseph Cheng, a retired political science professor and pro-democracy activist, said Sunday. "The concern obviously is that violent activities may lose international support. There is a definite awareness."

Protesters are also concerned that violence may give the government an excuse to delay local elections next month, particularly as demonstrators are still enjoying popular support. Lam's approval rating has been stuck near record lows for months.

U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday appeared to endorse the notion that the protests were waning in

a meeting in Washington with Chinese Vice Premier Liu He. The two sides agreed to "phase one" of a trade deal that reduced tensions between the world's biggest economies, even as thorny issues remain.

"We discussed Hong Kong and I think great progress has been made by China in Hong Kong," Trump said. "And I've been watching and I actually told the vice premier it really has toned down a lot from the initial days of a number of months ago when I saw a lot of people, and I see far fewer now."

The issue jumped into the forefront of debate in the U.S. over the past week after the general manager of the Houston Rockets basketball team tweeted support for the anti-Beijing protesters. The tweet was quickly deleted, but it triggered a backlash from Chinese companies and fans, leading to an exhibition game on Thursday in Shanghai not being aired or streamed in China.

While he didn't refer directly to Hong Kong, China President Xi Jinping told Nepal Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli that those attempting to split China will be crushed, the official Xinhua News Agency reported Sunday. Xi said any external force backing the split of China will be considered as delusional by the Chinese people, the report said.

The ongoing unrest was sparked by the Hong Kong government's plan to introduce now-withdrawn legislation that would've allowed extradition to mainland China. Protester demands have since broadened to include an independent commission of inquiry into police brutality and greater democracy. Lam's use of the emergency law raised the ire of protesters and paralyzed large parts of the city.

About 100 restaurants have closed because of the unrest, Financial Secretary Paul Chan said in a blog post Sunday. Around 2,000 employees have been affected as a result of the closures, Chan said, citing the catering industry.

Since protests erupted on China's National Day on Oct. 1, police have arrested about 500 people, including 77 for violating the mask ban, and fired almost 2,000 rounds of tear gas. Dozens of people have been injured, including two teenage protesters who were shot during fights with police.

Lam has refused to rule out further emergency measures, or even requesting Chinese military intervention to halt the unrest. "If the situation becomes so bad, then no option should be ruled out, if we want Hong Kong to at least have another chance," she told reporters. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**



AVIATION

BOEING CEO, REMOVED AS CHAIRMAN, NEAR LAST CHANCE ON 737 MAX

JULIE JOHNSON

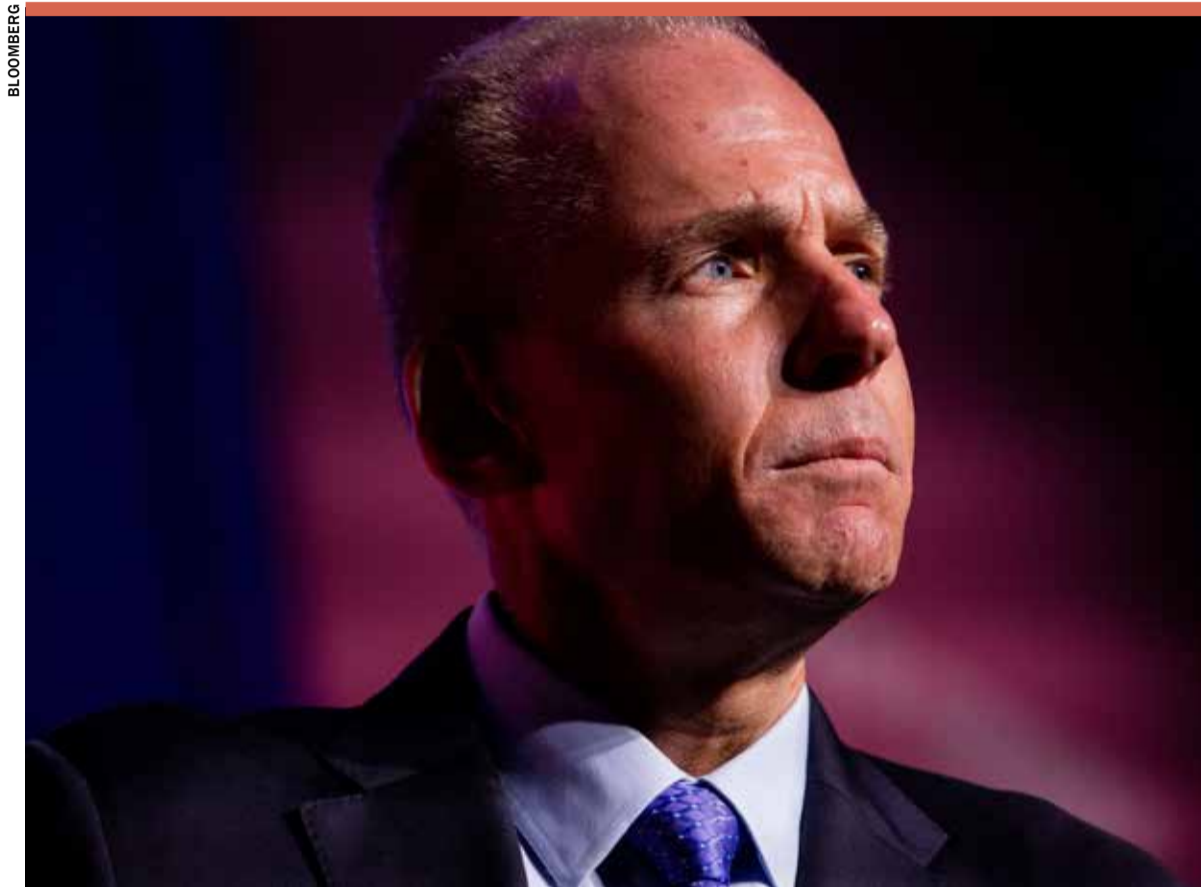
THE clock is ticking ever more loudly for Boeing Chief Executive Officer Dennis Muilenburg as the grounding of the 737 Max hits the seven-month mark.

The board removed him as chairman Oct. 11 after the close of the workweek, saying the change would enable Muilenburg to focus on returning Boeing Co.'s best-selling jet to service. The directors expressed support for Muilenburg but pledged "active oversight" as they handed his chairman's post to lead director David Calhoun, who has been mentioned in years past as a potential Boeing CEO.

The Friday-evening shakeup weakens Muilenburg, 55, as he tries to get the Max back in the air this quarter and prepares for a crucial appearance before Congress on Oct. 30. Boeing's reputation and finances have been battered since two Max crashes killed 346 people and prompted a global grounding, and U.S. regulators have yet to schedule a crucial test flight needed to re-certify the plane.

"If they're on course for re-certification in the fourth quarter as they maintain, then he could hang on," Richard Aboulafia, an aerospace analyst at Teal Group, said of Muilenburg. "If it slips much beyond then, then his job is definitely at risk."

The Chicago-based plane-maker is also a bellwether for trade relations with China, which may seek further talks with the U.S. before agreeing to a "Phase One" deal, according to



Boeing Chief Executive Officer Dennis Muilenburg

people familiar with the matter. Over the weekend, President Donald Trump announced a breakthrough in negotiations and said a partial agreement may lead to as much as \$20 billion in sales of Boeing aircraft.

Boeing shares were little changed at \$374.50 in pre-market New York trading on Monday, after closing Friday at \$374.92.

The shares are off a peak set in March before the second 737 Max crash and flying ban. Still, they've climbed 17% since mid-August as investors bet that the plane would soon return to service - the biggest gain on the Dow Jones Industrial Average over the

period. Investors who dinged Muilenburg early in the crisis for being slow with information and contrition now give him some credit for that partial recovery.

"He's kept the stock price at a relatively even keel given the circumstances -- a lot of people like that," Aboulafia said.

SCATHING REPORT

The decision to separate Muilenburg's roles and name Calhoun as the non-executive chairman came on the same day that a review panel of global aviation experts delivered a scathing assessment of missteps by the company and the U.S. Federal

Aviation Administration in the development and certification of the Max.

Boeing exerted "undue pressures" on some of its own employees who had FAA authority to approve design changes, according to a 69-page summary of the panel's findings. Regulators assessing the aircraft sometimes didn't follow their own rules, used outdated procedures and lacked the resources and expertise to fully vet the design changes implicated in two fatal crashes.

Muilenburg retains directors' "full confidence," said Calhoun, 62, a senior executive at Blackstone Group Inc. and a former

boss of General Electric Co.'s aviation division who stands out on Boeing's board for his deep aerospace experience.

Muilenburg will have two critical chances to shape perceptions about his handling of the crisis this month: When third-quarter results are released on Oct. 23 and when he testifies before Congress a week later.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Directors already should have insights into the financial results, which analysts anticipate to be dented by unexpectedly low deliveries of the 787 Dreamliner and other aircraft.

Boeing's third-quarter tally of 63 deliveries, down from 190 a year earlier, was 12 jetliners less than predicted by Cowen & Co. analyst Cai von Rumohr. The shortfall probably pared \$900 million from third-quarter revenue and 25 cents to 30 cents a share from estimated earnings, von Rumohr said in an Oct. 8 report.

When asked in an interview earlier this month if he was the right person to lead Boeing out of the deepening turmoil, Muilenburg responded: "This is not about me, right? It's about our company and what we do for our customers." He then said, "I will serve in this role with everything that I have as long as the board wants me serving in this role."

Last week's decision shows the board is willing to give Muilenburg time. Even so, it's a shot across the bow and a decision they came to reluctantly. Boeing had successfully resisted earlier pressure from shareholder activists to split the roles.

"They wanted to maintain the stability of having him as CEO but they also clearly wanted to send a message of change and introduce a somewhat new approach to leadership," Aboulafia said. "This really is going to focus attention on the next two months." **BLOOMBERG**

CORPORATE BITS

Wynn revives Cantonese gastronomy



From October 23 to 25, executive chef Tam Kwok Fung of Wing Lei Palace at Wynn Palace will restore six long-lost Cantonese dishes to their original glory at a very special banquet, "Ruyi Gas-

tronomy Experience: Rediscovering the Lost Flavors of Cantonese Cuisine".

RUYI tableware from the centuries-old French porcelain maker, Legle France, will be part of the stage for

presentation.

Tam preserves the legacy of Cantonese cuisine through his innovative creations. Dishes to be presented include Golden Fried Lace Fat Rolls and Scrambled Egg Whites with Buffalo Milk Cheese - traditional lace fat rolls with seasonal seafood - and Braised Giant Grouper Skin with Pomelo Peel, Kombu and Venison Tendon, a "Manchu Han Imperial Feast" inspired dish.

For dessert, he creates a Pear and Chuan Bei Soup with Deep-fired Almond Puff, a difficult dish to prepare. The golden-fried almond puff is crispy on the outside and smooth and silky on the inside.

MGM Cotai celebrates world's best chef



MGM will be celebrating World's Best Restaurant title-bearer, Michelin 3-star chef Mauro Colagreco's extraordinary achievement of scoring No. 1 at the World's 50 Best Restaurants 2019 at Grill 58 of MGM Cotai, from

October 18 to 20.

The world's best chef, also the celebrity consultant chef of Grill 58, will prepare an exclusive celebration menu for all gourmands to savor.

The promotion will present

courses such as "Hokkaido bay scallops, goma-sio, rice cream, seaweed", which is a large layered and fresh-seared scallop with a slightly nutty and mild fragrance to uplift the umami; "Char-grilled Carabineros, chicken supreme, 'Beurre blanc', combawa, trout eggs" and "Aveyron lamb rack, eggplants, black garlic, anchovies, lemon".

The latter features the finest, softest and most succulent Aveyron lamb, grilled to perfection, before being layered with flavors of smokiness, savory and citrus. The six-course dinner set is priced at MOP1,888, while the four-course lunch is set at MOP888.

BLOOMBERG



Steven Mnuchin, U.S. Treasury secretary

Trade with US shrinks again in September

CHINA'S trade with the United States fell by double digits again in September amid a tariff war that threatens to tip the global economy into recession.

Exports to the United States, China's biggest foreign market, fell 21.9% to \$36.5 billion, a deterioration from August's 16% decline, customs data showed yesterday. Imports of American goods sank 15.7% from the year before to \$10.6 billion, an improvement over the previous month's 22% fall.

"The external environment facing China's foreign trade development is still complicated and severe. Instability and uncertainty are increasing," a customs agency spokesman, Li Kuiwen, said at a news conference.

Tit-for-tat tariff hikes on billions of dollars of each other's goods have battered manufacturers and farmers on both sides and disrupted supply chains worldwide. Uncertainty has prompted some companies to postpone investments, adding to downward pressure on global growth and fueling financial market jitters.

China's global exports fell 1.4% from a year earlier to \$218.1 billion. Imports fell 5.8% to \$178.5 billion.

The slump adds to pressure on President Xi Jinping's government to shore up cooling economic growth and prevent politically risky job losses.

Chinese growth fell to its lowest level in at least 26 years in the quarter ending in June, decelerating to 6.2% over a year earlier.

Forecasters expect growth in the July-September quarter, due to be reported this week, to fall further to as low as 5.9%, sinking below the ruling Communist Party's official target for the year of at least 6%.

"While import growth should start to recover soon, it will take longer before export growth bottoms out," said Martin Lynge Rasmussen of Capital Economics in a report. "The mini U.S.-China trade deal reached on Friday doesn't alter the outlook significantly." **MDT/AP**

CHINA-US

'Fundamental agreement' reached on trade, Mnuchin says

THE U.S. and China made a "fundamental agreement" on several trade issues last week though there are still many details to be worked out and documented, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said.

"I expect there will be a deal," Mnuchin said yesterday on CNBC television. The sides made "substantial progress" last week in negotiations and Mnuchin said he expects President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping to finalize the accord at a summit in Chile next month.

Bloomberg reported earlier that China wants further talks as soon as the end of October to hammer out the details of the "phase one" trade deal touted by Trump before Xi agrees to sign it, according to people familiar with the matter.

Asked about reports that a deal might be further off, Mnuchin said he "wouldn't pay too much attention" to what he called speculation.

Mnuchin repeatedly said on CNBC that the countries have a "fundamental agreement" even though the wording and details are still to be worked out.

Beijing may send a delegation led by Vice Premier Liu He, China's top negotiator, to finalize a written deal that could be signed by the presidents at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit next month in Chile, one of the people said. Another person said China wants Trump to also scrap a planned tariff hike in December in addition to the hike scheduled for this week, something the administration hasn't yet endorsed. The people asked not to be named discussing the private negotiations.

The details of the verbal agreement reached in Washington last week between the two nations remain unclear. While Trump hailed an increase in agricultural purchases as "the greatest and biggest deal ever made for our Great Patriot Farmers in the history of our Country," China's state-run media only said the two sides "agreed to make joint efforts toward eventually reaching an agreement."

Geng Shuang, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesman, reiterated earlier yesterday that both sides had made progress and said he hoped "the U.S. will work with China and meet each other halfway."

Investors have struggled to determine whether the U.S. and China reached a breakthrough in an 18-month trade war, with global stocks mixed

The details of the verbal agreement reached in Washington between the two nations remain unclear

yesterday. Worse-than-expected September trade figures in China underscored the growing pressure on both Trump and Xi to reach a deal to avert a wider slowdown in the global economy.

China has become increasingly wary of any statements from Trump. Trust between the two sides suffered a big blow in

May 2018, when Trump put a stop to a deal for China to buy more energy and agricultural goods to narrow the trade deficit. The U.S. president further sowed distrust in August when he claimed that Chinese officials had called and requested to restart trade talks.

For Xi, it's seen as politically unfeasible to accept a final deal that doesn't remove the punitive tariffs altogether. Nationalists in the Communist Party have pressured him to avoid signing an "unequal treaty" reminiscent of those China signed with colonial powers.

"The U.S. must concede on its December tariff threat if they want sign a deal during APEC summit, otherwise it would be a humiliating treaty for China," said Huo Jianguo, a former Chinese commerce ministry official who is now vice chairman of the China Society For World Trade Organization Studies. "The U.S. has definitely shown some good gestures but we shouldn't exclude the possibility of another flip-flop." **MDT/AGENCIES**





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PIGS AT BAY

South Korea to deploy snipers to hunt down North's sick hogs

HEESU LEE

SOUTH Korea will send military snipers and civilian hunters to its northern border today to eliminate wayward, contagion-carrying pigs from Kim Jong Un's reclusive neighboring state.

The government will also use thermal vision drones to search for hogs infected with African swine fever near the civilian control line, a buffer region near the strip of land dividing the Korean Peninsula, the agriculture ministry said over the weekend. The intensified measures aim to exterminate feral pigs in areas including Incheon, Seoul, Goseong and Bukhan River.

Five wild boars were found dead in or near border areas this month before being tested positive for the viral hemorrhagic disease, officials in South Korea said. The finding reflects the freedom with which animals roam the area, and hints at a spillover of the deadly virus from North Korea, where unofficial reports indicate the disease is spreading out of control.

African swine fever has reached almost all areas of North Korea, and pigs in the western province of North Pyongan have been "wiped out," said Lee Hye-hoon, who chairs the National Assembly's intelligence committee, citing South Korea's National Intelligence Service.

By official accounts, the virus wreaking havoc across Eastern Asia has virtually skipped over North Korea. It killed just 22 hogs



in May on a cooperative farm about 260 kilometers north of Pyongyang, near the border with China, North Korea's agriculture ministry said in a May 30 report to the World Organization for Animal Health, or OIE.

But since then, there have been no follow-up reports to the Paris-based veterinary body, and scant coverage of the event in state media.

The Food and Agriculture Organization has no information beyond the report received by the OIE, said Wantanee Kalpravidh, the United Nations agency's Bangkok-based regional manager of the Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases. The FAO is awaiting approval to send a delegate to North Korea, she said in a text message Friday.

Widespread transmission of African swine fever, which isn't

known to harm humans but kills most pigs in a week, may put North Korea's food security in graver jeopardy.

Crop production there is forecast to be smaller than usual for the rest of 2019 due to below-average rainfall and low water supplies for irrigation, the FAO said last month. About 40% of the population, or 10.1 million people, are estimated to be food-insecure and in urgent need of food assistance, according to results from an UN assessment conducted last April.

African swine fever will worsen hunger and malnutrition, said Cho Chunggi, who fled North Korea in 2011 after spending a decade working for the government's animal disease control program. Many North Korean households raise pigs to earn money to buy rice.

"Pork accounts for about 80% of North Korea's protein consumption and with global sanctions taking place, it's going to be hard for the country to find an alternative protein source," said Cho, who now works as a researcher at Good Farmers, a Seoul-based non-governmental organization that supports developing nations to generate profit through agricultural activities.

"The virus is extremely destructive as people are now unable to make money through raising pigs, while the country's economy is restrained," he said.

Pigs raised by individual farms outnumber those on state-owned and collective farms, which will make it almost impossible to halt the spread, especially given North Korea's inexperience preventing and mitigating epidemics in animals, Cho said.

This lack of capacity is a threat to the entire Korean Peninsula, where the virus could become endemic, or generally present. That would make it more difficult to stamp out the disease through the usual steps of quarantining and culling diseased and vulnerable livestock. From there, it could also re-enter neighboring China and Russia.

The military and civilian hunters will be sent to Paju, Hwachon, Inje, Yanggu, Goseong from Tuesday to shoot dead wild boars, officials in Seoul said, adding that the number of pig-assassins will be decided Monday.

If the strategy is proven to be effective and safe, the government will consider deploying more troops across an expanded hunting area.

South Korea has deployed seven helicopters to disinfect parts of the 250-kilometer-long border-barrier, near which more than a dozen outbreaks have occurred on farms since the virus was first reported there a month ago.

Officials have culled 154,548 pigs at 94 farms as of Oct. 14, according to the nation's agriculture ministry. Routine tests for the virus on wild boars were introduced before Pyongyang reported the outbreak, the Ministry of Environment said in an Oct. 9 statement. Now, streams and soil near the border are also being tested.

South Korea has repeatedly asked Pyongyang to join a collective effort to fight the transmission, but its northern neighbor hasn't responded.

"The fact that North Korea has reported the outbreak to an international organization suggests the situation is probably getting out of their hands," said Ahn Chan-il, a former North Korean soldier who defected in 1979 and now heads the World Institute for North Korea Studies. "It's an apocalypse in the making." **BLOOMBERG**

PHILIPPINES

Police chief resigns amid drug allegations



Gen. Oscar Albayalde (right)

THE Philippine national police chief resigned yesterday after he faced allegations in a Senate hearing that he intervened as a provincial police chief in 2013 to prevent his officers from being prosecuted for allegedly selling a huge quantity of illegal drugs they had seized.

Gen. Oscar Albayalde said his decision relinquishing his post was accepted by Interior Secretary Eduardo Ano over the weekend but insisted on his innocence, saying he has never

been criminally or administratively charged for the alleged irregularity. Albayalde, a 55-year-old former special forces commando, resigned a few weeks before his scheduled retirement on Nov. 8.

Addressing the 190,000-strong police force in the last flag-raising ceremony he led at the national police headquarters, Albayalde ordered the policemen to continue serving the Filipino people well. "Do not let these challenges demoralize or stray you

from your path," he said.


The allegations against Albayalde were the latest dark cloud to loom over the national police force, which has largely been enforcing President Rodrigo Duterte's bloody anti-drug crackdown that has left thousands of mostly petty drug suspects dead, alarmed Western governments and human rights groups and sparked complaints for mass murder before the International Criminal Court.

Opposition Sen. Franklin Drilon, a for-

mer justice secretary, said Albayalde's resignation did not clear him of potential criminal liabilities and called for stricter vetting of candidates for the top national police post. He said he would work to amend regulations to prevent illegal drugs seized by law enforcers from being stashed and resold.

"The next Philippine National Police chief will have to work doubly hard to regain the credibility of the police community and the government's drug war," Drilon said.


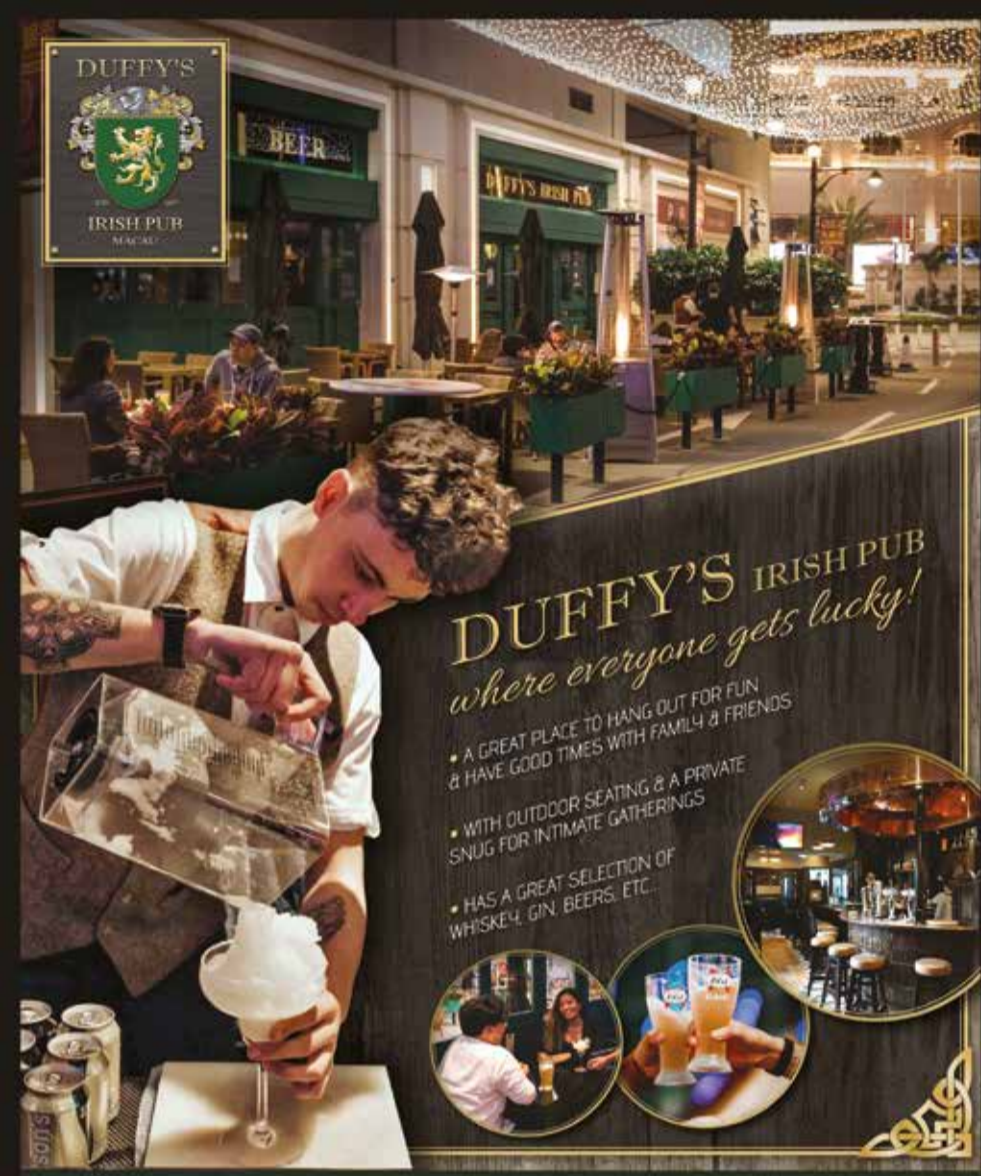
Albayalde's deputy, Lt. Gen. Archie Francisco Gamboa, temporarily took over the police force. **AP**



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US pulling out of northern Syria; full withdrawal possible

AP PHOTO



ROBERT BURNS, WASHINGTON

THE United States appears to be heading toward a full military withdrawal from Syria amid growing chaos, cries of betrayal and signs that Turkey's invasion could fuel a broader war.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper said yesterday [Macau time] that President Donald Trump had directed U.S. troops in northern Syria to begin pulling out "as safely and quickly as possible." He did not say Trump ordered troops to leave Syria, but that seemed like the next step in a combat zone growing more unstable by the hour.

Esper, interviewed on two TV news shows, said the administration was considering its options.

"We have American forces likely caught between two opposing advancing armies and it's a very untenable situation," Esper said.

This seemed likely to herald the end of a five-year effort to partner with Syrian Kurdish and Arab fighters to ensure a lasting defeat of the Islamic State group. Hundreds of IS supporters escaped a holding camp amid clashes between invading Turkish-led forces and Kurdish fighters, and analysts said an IS resurgence seemed more likely, just months after Trump declared the extremists defeated.

The U.S. has had about 1,000 troops in northeastern Syria allied with the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces to combat IS. The Pentagon previously had pulled about 30 of these troops from

the Turkish attack zone along the border. With an escalation of violence, a widening of the Turkish incursion and the prospect of a deepening conflict, all U.S. forces along the border will now follow that move. It was unclear where they would go.

The Pentagon chief did not say U.S. troops are leaving Syria entirely. The only other U.S. presence in Syria is at Tanf garrison, near Syria's eastern border with Jordan. The U.S. and coalition troops there are not involved in the Kurd mission, and so it seems highly unlikely the 1,000 being moved from the north would go to Tanf.

Critics say the U.S. has betrayed the Kurds by pulling back in the face of Turkey's invasion, but Esper said the administration was left with little choice once President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told Trump a week ago that he was going ahead with a military offensive. Esper said the Kurds have been good partners, "but at the same time, we didn't sign up to fight the Turks on their behalf."

The Kurds then turned to the Syrian government and Russia for military assistance, further complicating the battlefield.

The prospect of enhancing the Syrian government's position on the battlefield and inviting Russia to get more directly involved is seen by Trump's critics as a major mistake. But he tweeted that it

shouldn't matter.

"Others may want to come in and fight for one side or the other," he wrote. "Let them!"

Trump tweeted: "The U.S. has the worst of the ISIS prisoners. Turkey and the Kurds must not let them escape. Europe should have taken them back after numerous requests. They should do it now. They will never come to, or be allowed in, the United States!"

New Jersey Sen. Bob Menendez, the top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said Trump is weakening America. "To be clear, this administration's chaotic and haphazard approach to policy by tweet

"We have American forces likely caught between two opposing advancing armies and it's a very untenable situation."

MARK ESPER
DEFENSE SECRETARY

is endangering the lives of U.S. troops and civilians," Menendez said in a statement. "The only beneficiaries of this action are ISIS, Iran and Russia."

The fast-moving developments were a further unraveling of U.S. counterterrorism efforts in Syria, and they highlighted an extraordinary breakdown in relations between the United States and

Turkey, NATO allies for decades. Turkish troops have often fought alongside American troops, including in the Korean War and in Afghanistan.

Asked whether he thought Turkey would deliberately attack American troops in Syria, Esper said, "I don't know whether they would or wouldn't."

He cited an incident on Friday in which a small number of U.S. troops fell under artillery fire at an observation post in the north. Esper called that an example of "indiscriminate fire" coming close to Americans, adding it was unclear whether that was an accident.

Esper disputed the notion that the U.S. could have stopped Turkey from invading in the first place. He said Erdogan had made clear he was going to launch his incursion "regardless of what we did."

Strongly critical of the Turks, Esper said "the arc of their behavior over the past several years has been terrible." He added: "I mean, they are spinning out of the Western orbit, if you will. We see them purchasing Russian arms, cuddling up to President Putin. We see them doing all these things that, frankly, concern us."

The chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Rep. Eliot Engel, D-N.Y., said the U.S. and its NATO partners should consider expelling Turkey from the alliance. "How do you have a

NATO ally who's in cahoots with the Russians, when the Russians are the adversaries of NATO?"

In explaining Trump's decision to withdraw from northern Syria, Esper cited two weekend developments.

"In the last 24 hours, we learned that they (the Turks) likely intend to expand their attack further south than originally planned — and to the west," he said.

The U.S. also has come to believe that the Kurds are attempting to "cut a deal" with the Syrian army and Russia to counter the invading Turks, he said. As a result, Trump "directed that we begin a deliberate withdrawal of forces from northern Syria," Esper said.

Trump, in a tweet Sunday, said: "Very smart not to be involved in the intense fighting along the Turkish Border, for a change. Those that mistakenly got us into the Middle East Wars are still pushing to fight. They have no idea what a bad decision they have made. Why are they not asking for a Declaration of War?"

Esper said he would not discuss a timeline for the U.S. pullback, but said it would be done "as safely and quickly as possible."

The Pentagon had said before the operation began that the U.S. military would not support it, and the U.S. pulled about 30 special operations troops out of observation posts along the invasion route on the Syrian border to keep them out of harm's way. The Turkish offensive initially covered an area along the border about 125 kilometers (77 miles) wide and about 30 kilometers (19 miles) deep. Esper said it has since grown wider and deeper.

Esper said he was aware of reports of hundreds of IS prisoners escaping as a result of the Turkish invasion and of atrocities being committed against Syrian Kurds by members of a Turkish-supported Syrian Arab militia.

"It gets worse by the hour," Esper said. "These are all the exact things" that U.S. officials warned Erdogan would likely happen by ignoring U.S. urgings not to invade northern Syria.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin held out the possibility of quick action to impose economic sanctions on Turkey, a move that Trump has repeatedly threatened if the Turks were to push too far into Syria.

"If we go to maximum pressure, which we have the right to do — at a moment's notice the president calls me up and tells me — we will do this," Mnuchin said. "We could shut down all U.S. dollar transactions with the entire government of Turkey. ... That is something we may do, absolutely."

Esper was interviewed on CBS' "Face the Nation" and "Fox News." Mnuchin appeared on ABC's "This Week" and Engel was on NBC's "Meet the Press." AP

what's ON



EXHIBITION OF TUBEROSE
TIME: 10:30am to 6:30pm (closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: November 30
VENUE: 10 Fantasia, Kei Luen Bld, R. de São Miguel 17
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

THE GOLDEN AGE OF ARABIC SCIENCE: EXHIBITION FROM 1001 INVENTIONS
TIME: 10am-6pm (Closed on Thursdays)
UNTIL: October 27, 2019
VENUE: Gallery 2, Exhibition Center, Macau Science Center
ADMISSION: MOP25 (several discounts available)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

LYRIC POETRY – WORKS OF ARTISTS IN MACAU AND PORTUGAL FROM THE MAM COLLECTION
TIME: 10am-7pm (no admittance after 6:30pm; closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: November 4, 2019
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

Offbeat

A SOLUTION FOR FOOD WASTE IN SCHOOLS: GIVE IT TO THE PIGS



Maine has decided that eating like a pig could be a good thing, especially for schools looking to cut down on food waste.

A law saying schools can give food scraps away to pig farmers is now on the books in the state.

The practice of feeding human food waste to pigs goes back millennia, but some school districts in Maine have expressed confusion in recent years about the rules around the practice. So the Maine Legislature passed a clarifying bill that took effect Sept. 19.

The new standards will help school districts find a use for spoiled food that might otherwise end up in landfills, say supporters, including Republican sponsor state Sen. Stacey Guerin, of Glenburn.

"In Maine, that was a common practice when I was growing up. Hog farmers would come to the back door and take the waste at the end of the day," Guerin said.

The new rules state that any individual or institution, including a school, can donate garbage to a swine producer for use as feed even if they're unaware of the producer's licensure status. Guerin said the rule change made sense because the schools aren't responsible for monitoring the license status of hog farms.

Donations to hog farmers will also help school districts reduce the cost of waste disposal, said Ryan Parker, a Newport resident and farmer who advocated for the bill. Parker has raised pigs of his own and said his hogs were happy to indulge on old milk.

"It's one less thing they have to pay for — get the food waste out of the trash. And if you don't have food waste in your trash, it doesn't smell," Parker said.

Unlike most kinds of livestock, pigs can digest human food waste fairly easily, said Bobby Acord, a consultant with the National Pork Producers Council.

"And pigs have a voracious appetite," he said. "They eat whatever you put in front of them."

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Agua de Mar
15:35	Zig Zag
16:00	Viajante da Música
16:30	Quem Quer Ser Milionário
17:30	LiteraturAqui
18:00	Amor Maior (Repetição)
18:55	Semana Internacional (Repetição)
19:30	Ouro Verde Sr.1
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	TDM Talk Show
21:50	Livros com João Guedes
22:00	Todas as Palavras
22:25	Amor Maior
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Justiça de Chicago
00:30	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:20	RTPi Directo

cinema



CINETEATRO

10 - 16 Oct



JOKER
 ROOM 1
 2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm
 Director: Todd Phillips
 Starring: Joaquin Phoenix, Robert De Niro, Zazie Beetz
 Language: English
 Duration: 122min



GEMINI MAN
 ROOM 2
 2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm
 Director: Ang Lee
 Starring: Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Will Smith, Clive Owen
 Language: English (Chinese)
 Duration: 117min



47 METERS DOWN: UNCAGED
 ROOM 3
 2:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30pm
 Director: Johannes Roberts
 Starring: Sophie Nélisse, Corinne Foxx, Brianne Tju
 Language: English (Chinese)
 Duration: 90min

this day in history



1964 KHRUSHCHEV 'RETIRES' AS HEAD OF USSR

Nikita Khrushchev has unexpectedly stepped down as leader of the Soviet Union.

The official Soviet news agency, Tass, announced that a plenary meeting of the Communist Party Central Committee had accepted Mr Khrushchev's request to depart "in view of his advanced age and the deterioration of his health".

Mr Khrushchev, who is 70, took over as First Secretary of the Central Committee soon after Stalin's death.

He has held the role of both party leader and prime minister since 1958. These posts will now be divided with 57-year-old Leonid Brezhnev heading the Soviet Communist Party, while 60-year-old Alexei Kosygin, will take the post of prime minister.

The news has come as a shock to Soviet diplomats in London who were unaware that their leader might be unwell.

Governments of Western Europe have also been taken aback and fear the new leadership might shift away from Mr Khrushchev's policy of peaceful co-existence with the West.

A flamboyant character, Mr Khrushchev is described in the Times newspaper today as "the most colourful leader world communism has produced".

He took over from Joseph Stalin when he died in 1953.

In 1955 he began the first of several visits abroad to improve Soviet relations with the rest of Europe, America and Asia.

His first stop was Yugoslavia where he apologised in person to Marshal Josef Tito for Stalin's attack on Yugoslav Communism in 1948.

His denunciation of Stalin in 1956 in what's known as the "secret speech" to the 20th Party Congress gave Soviet satellite states such as Poland and Hungary new hope of more political freedom - which were soon crushed by Warsaw Pact troops.

During this speech, he also laid down the foundations of his foreign policy, moving away from the belligerent approach to capitalism and towards co-existence and competition.

For Western leaders, his brash and extrovert sense of humour was a refreshing change from the stern image of previous Soviet public figures.

He courted socialist parties abroad and encouraged cultural exchanges.

But his temper sometimes got the better of him - like the time he famously hit the table with his shoe during a United Nations debate in 1960 - and he was quick to warn of the USSR's nuclear weapons capability in his speeches in the international arena.

His leadership will also be remembered for bringing the world close to nuclear war by placing Soviet nuclear missiles in Cuba during the 1962 Cuban missile crisis.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The following day the Soviet government reassured the West it would continue the policy of peaceful co-existence.

It also indicated Nikita Khrushchev's departure was certainly not voluntary and criticised his "hare-brained scheming, bragging and phrase-mongering", without actually naming him.

There had been a growing opposition to his failed agricultural and industrial policies, quarrels with China, and his humiliating climb-down over the Cuban missile crisis.

There was also a feeling he was trying to create a cult of personality - much like his predecessor Stalin - in taking on the two roles of prime minister and head of the Communist Party.

Mr Khrushchev lived the rest of his life away from the public eye in Moscow and at his country dacha as a special pensioner of the Soviet Government.

In 1970 his memoirs were published in the United States and Europe, but not in the Soviet Union.

He died on 11 September 1971 but was denied a state funeral and interment in the Kremlin wall, and is buried at Novodevichy Convent Cemetery in Moscow.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
 Calling in sick at the last minute is not the right way to remove yourself from a situation (unless you are truly sick, of course). This type of flakiness might seem a harmless white lie, but it's still a lie.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
 Is there someone you've been meaning to have a difficult conversation with? Today is the day to do it. Instead of calling them up and plunging right into the issue, invite them over for a quiet dinner.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
 Give them the benefit of the doubt. Hold on to your suspicions for now and wait at least until the afternoon to sound any alarm bells. Being a tattletale isn't really your style, anyway.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
 Today might be an extremely busy one for you, but it doesn't have to be all work and no play! There is nothing wrong with adding a little fun to a business situation - so don't feel the need to take everything so seriously.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
 You'll be quite a whirlwind of activity today - and the people around you will have to step aside in order to give you room. Just like a hurricane, you will hit the scene with quite an impact.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
 You've got a lot of irons in the fire right now, and they're all starting to get too hot to handle. Before there's a total meltdown, you need to get active! Don't jump blindly into anything without first making a plan.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
 People who have been in conflict are finally settling their age-old differences (due in part to your level head, encouragement, and negotiations) and turning together to face the same positive direction again.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
 Let forgiveness and charity take over today - the peaceful resolution of a situation may require you to take the high road (yet again). You may not realize it, but you are a role model to many other people.

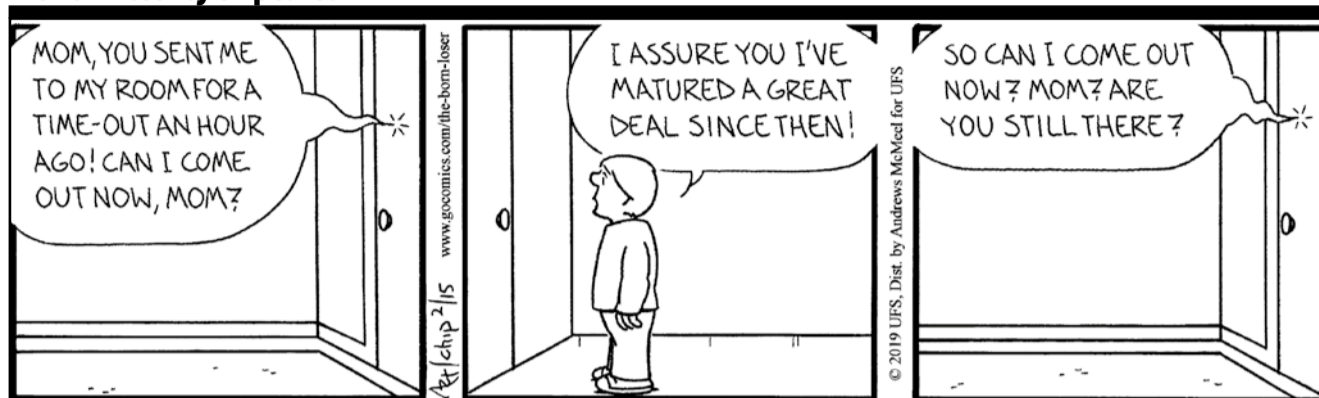
SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
 There may be a lot of noise and excitement around you today, but you will be all too happy to stay outside of the activity. Your energy will flourish in quieter surroundings, with few (if any) people around you.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
 It may be extremely tempting to let other people take the reins today and just follow along - after all, it is easier to just go where you are told to go and do what you are told to do.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
 Keep your head down and do not get sucked into the daily soap opera around you. There is no point getting down in the dirt - keep your eyes on the stars.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
 Get together with a group of other people and help make your world a better place! If you can't find a group to help you get things done, then organize your very own beautification project.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

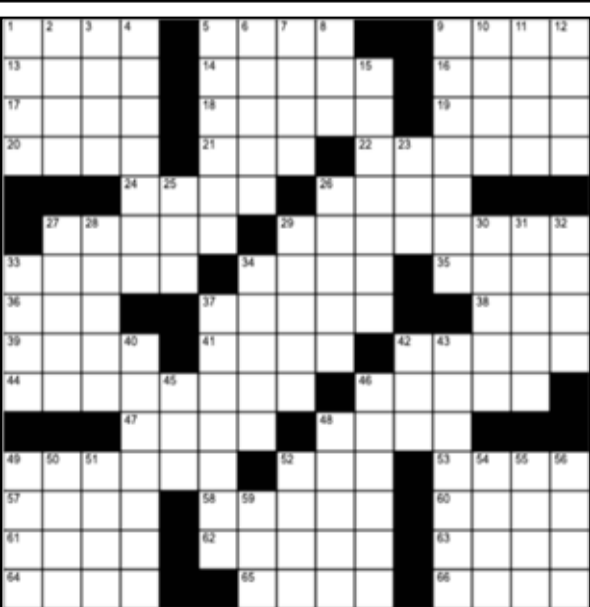
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	12	22	cloudy
Harbin	8	16	cloudy
Tianjin	13	22	overcast
Urumqi	11	21	clear
Xi'an	11	17	drizzle
Lhasa	6	19	cloudy
Chengdu	16	22	clear
Chongqing	19	22	drizzle
Kunming	13	23	cloudy
Nanjing	18	27	cloudy
Shanghai	19	27	cloudy
Wuhan	18	28	cloudy
Hangzhou	17	28	cloudy
Taipei	23	26	clear
Guangzhou	24	33	clear
Hong Kong	27	31	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	6	10	drizzle
Frankfurt	10	15	moderate rain
Paris	11	18	drizzle
London	9	18	cloudy
New York	11	15	drizzle

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Aforementioned; 5- Comic Johnson; 9- Confined; 13- Spumante; 14- Snickering sound; 16- Golfer Aoki; 17- Life stories; 18- Concocted; 20- Lawman Wyatt; 21- Columbus sch.; 22- Prima ballerina; 24- Corona fruit; 26- Ink spot; 27- Quickly; 29- Lofty; 33- Daisy variety; 34- Deli breads; 35- Queue; 36- Tin Tin; 37- Lower legs; 38- Writer LeShan; 39- Sheep shelter; 41- Benevolent; 42- Less cordial; 44- Collecting; 46- Rise to one's feet; 47- Musical composition for one; 48- Wall Street pessimist; 49- Too; 52- It's found in veins; 53- Greek letters; 57- Alpine lake; 58- Community character; 60- Truth; 61- Long poem, such as those attributed to Homer; 62- Contaminate; 63- Human bone, located in the arm; 64- Italian noble family; 65- First name in fashion; 66- Sideways look;

DOWN: 1- Kemo; 2- Home to most people; 3- Like not; 4- Show; 5- In; 6- Put back into service; 7- Drive; 8- Conger; 9- Polar; 10- Morales of "La Bamba"; 11- Hit dead-center; 12- Accent; 15- Blind; 23- Mazel; 25- Chiller; 26- Mix smoothly; 27- Self-evident truth; 28- Five; 29- Giving the once-over; 30- Marketing connection; 31- Wrapped up; 32- Letter opener; 33- "Jaws" boat; 34- Thick-skinned charger; 37- Frying pan; 40- Spirit; 42- Give rest; 43- Cautious; 45- Fa follower; 46- Handles; 48- Rodeo horse; 49- Suit to; 50- Drains; 51- Sealed document; 52- Presidential battleground state; 54- Account; 55- Stridex target; 56- Celestial body; 59- Tic Dough;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
- Fire department 28 572 222
- PJ (Open line) 993
- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IAM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
- Telephone - Report 1000
- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
- Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



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- [Coloane] Large apartment 2 3 2 2 2,530 ft² \$13,800,000 (ref: 19096000)
- [Taipa] Manhattan 3 2 2 1,720 ft² \$13,600,000 (ref: 19096006)
- [Cotai] One Grantai 4 2 2 2,556 ft² \$25,600,000 (ref: 19096001)
- [Taipa] Kinglight Garden 1 1 1 800 ft² \$6,980,000 (ref: 19055005ST)

FOR RENT

- [Taipa] Nova Grand 2 1 1 935 ft² \$17,800/mth (ref: 19091004)
- [Taipa] Manhattan 4 2 2 2,305 ft² \$26,800/mth (ref: 19091003)
- [Macau] La Marina Studio 1 2,352 ft² \$11,200/mth (ref: 19091001)
- [Cotai] One Grantai 3 3 3 2,122 ft² \$23,000/mth (ref: 19030001RT)

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

RUGBY ACADEMY

BATS WARM-UP IN JAPAN DURING WORLD CUP

DONALD SHAW
SPECIAL TO MDT, FUKUOKA

THE Macau Bats sent a U14 team to participate in the 2nd Asian Rugby Exchange Festival held in Fukuoka, Japan over the last weekend of September. Macau joined 15 other teams - seven from across Asia and eight local Japanese teams.

In the run-up to the festival the Macau players were the Japan Rugby Union's guests at the Italy v Canada World Cup match held in Fukuoka and had a training session with the Manakata Sanix Blues professional rugby team. However, on Saturday it was down to business with Macau drawn in a pool composed of Indonesia plus two Japanese teams - Fukuoka and Oita.

Macau's opening game against Oita saw them quickly fall 21-0 behind as Oita took advantage of a sluggish start from Macau. Early in the second half Macau briefly threatened a comeback at 21-14, however Oita scored a decisive fourth try to run out 28-14 winners.

Next up was a very strong Fukuoka team, expected to be one of the fancied teams for the tournament. Fukuoka established a comprehensive lead of 32-0 by halftime. However, the Macau heads did not fall and the team rallied to score three second half tries before going down 59-19.

Macau's third game was against Indonesia and once more Macau started slowly, allowing the Indonesian team to lead 14-5 at halftime. Another Macau rally was seen in the second half, scoring two tries to Indonesia's one, however it was not quite enough and Indonesia won the game 19-17.

Day 2 of the competition saw Macau up against Malaysia, Nepal and Fukuoka. The Malaysian team was a combination of physically strong players with several fast wingers and they proved to be too strong for Macau, winning 26-0.

Macau stepped up their game against Nepal and built a 19-0 halftime lead, they maintained their defensive shape to ensure that there would be no Nepalese comeback and Macau won the game 26-0.

The final match was against Fukuoka, with the Japanese team being the pre-game favourite. The match was a tight affair with Fukuoka scoring three tries to Macau's two to lead 17-14 at halftime. There followed a strong second half performance from Macau, scoring a further three tries to one, to finish the game 35-22 winners.

It was a tired but happy squad that returned to Macau, and coach Saj Fernando commented, "The team put together a good set of performances and represented Macau well. We definitely got stronger as the competition progressed. This has been a tremendous experience for the players and also to be in Japan during the hosting of the Rugby World Cup will be a treasured memory for them".



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

RUGBY

All Blacks, Irish to renew rivalry in World Cup quarterfinal

STEVE MCMORRAN

THE quarterfinal meeting between Ireland and New Zealand at the Rugby World Cup comes with a strong feeling of reckoning.

Ireland hadn't beaten New Zealand in 28 matches over 111 years until its 40-29 victory at Soldier Field in Chicago in 2016.

It did so again, 16-9, in Dublin in 2018, establishing Ireland as the one team in world rugby at present that regularly has the All Blacks' number.

Ireland went on, after Wales' brief tenure atop the world rankings, to become the No. 1-ranked team just ahead of the Rugby World Cup, displacing New Zealand from a spot it had occupied since the ranking system began.

Against that background, the match between Ireland and defending champion New Zealand at Tokyo on Saturday, which appears the most competitive of the quarterfinals, also seems a reckoning between the teams.

It occurs earlier in the tournament than expected. Japan's wins over Ireland and Scotland in Pool A went against pre-tournament predictions and saw the hosts emerge atop their pool, forcing second-place Ireland into a quarterfinal against Pool C winner New Zealand.

"The best part is we know who we're playing. They're a quality side, they've been No. 1 this year," All Blacks coach Steve Hansen said yesterday. "The last three results are 'loss, win, loss' so there won't be any complacency in our camp. It's pre-

tty exciting; we're right where we want to be."

Hansen said last year's encounter was a "titanic struggle" and Ireland was slightly better on the day.

"It's taken them a long time to get there and obviously they enjoyed it," Hansen said of the drought-breaking win, "so they decided to keep doing it."

With more at stake this weekend, Hansen said the game would have a different feel to recent head-to-head meetings.

"The big difference here is it's a do or die game for both teams. Both teams are in good nick — fresh, excited."

If there is an outside influence on the match it is the fact New Zealand's last scheduled pool match against Italy on Saturday was canceled because of Typhoon Hagibis, meaning they will go into the knockout round without a match since Oct. 6 when they beat Namibia 71-9 in a muddling performance.

Ireland go into the quarterfinal on the back of a much more emphatic 45-7 win over Samoa on Saturday, achieved with only 14 men. That gives Ireland the better preparation, leaving New Zealand to do the bulk of its lead-up work on the training field.

Ireland flyhalf Johnny Sexton was hopeful that Ireland's upset loss to Japan was the bad game they needed to get out of their system before the knockout rounds. Ireland has lost quarterfinals at the last two World Cups after being dominant in the pool stage. The fact they've beaten New Zealand twice



since the last World Cup was also a boost.

"I suppose we can take a little bit of confidence from the last few times we've played them," Sexton said. "I'm hoping that having lost a pool game that we've got that quarterfinal performance out of our system that we've had in other tournaments."

"The difference now is we're not favorites going into this quarterfinal whereas we were in the last two. So we're building nicely."

The match is one of two — the other is between Japan and South Africa — which will involve an evident contrast in styles.

New Zealand and Japan will both attempt to play an adventurous style, while Ireland and South Africa will attempt to slow down the game.

That may be an over-simplification but the evidence of the tournament to date is that Ireland may rely strongly on a pick-and-go style, on box kicking and on a swift defensive line.

The All Blacks showed a new ability to outflank rush defense in their pool win over South Africa but haven't been able to build on that in group matches against weaker opponents. New Zealand's high-tempo style often takes several matches each season to develop both in timing and accuracy. Their almost two-week layoff threatens a return of the rustiness they showed at the start of this season.

At the same time Ireland does not appear to be as strong as they were last year when it won 11 or 12 tests, beat the All Blacks, won the Six Nations title and was named World

Rugby Team of the Year. It's tactical focus has narrowed and it has become more forward-oriented and one-dimensional.

Because both teams and coaches know each other well, there are likely to be subtle changes in tactics and systems on Saturday.

All Blacks captain Kieran Read said his team had not been adversely affected by their longer than expected break before the quarterfinals. Their systems are strongly bedded in, their fitness is beyond question and they had used their down time productively.

"Final games are mental, as well as physical," he said. "The eight teams left are capable of winning the competition, physically and probably mentally."

"It's about who can step up to the pressure moment." AP

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OPINION

World Views

Scott Duke Kominers, Bloomberg

STARBUCKS STORES THAT ONLY ACCEPT MOBILE ORDERS SURE BEAT THE LINE

How worried should we be about Starbucks's recent announcement that it plans to begin testing a new type of store that only takes orders via mobile app — no cashiers?

At first glance the image seems vaguely dystopian: person after person filing through, inevitably wearing AirPods, to pick up caffeine-and-sugar infusions they ordered by pressing a few buttons on their smartphones as they were leaving home — all without a moment of human interaction.

But that's more or less what's happening right now at regular Starbucks stores: the company already accepts mobile orders, and has more than 16 million mobile users. The drawback is that those users crowd the stores and cause bottlenecks at peak times; in some outlets, the glut of mobile orders has gotten so bad that it's discouraging walk-in customers. Thus, the mobile-only store model is presumably a response to problems already created by mobile ordering.

Experiments of this kind are increasingly common. Amazon Go stores are cashier-less. Some grocery stores let you scan items as you pick them up and economize on checkout time. And mobile ordering is becoming widespread for foods ranging from salad to lobster. So we might not be too far away from the day when mobile ordering and cashier-less purchasing are the norm, rather than the exception.

Will we be better off for it?

In Starbucks's case, at least, mobile-only stores might actually work out well for customers. Those who want to order via mobile will be able to go to specialized stores optimized for handling them. And that will reduce congestion at other stores, meaning that people there won't have to spend as much time waiting for their drinks.

As with many forms of product differentiation, the change might even increase demand for Starbucks coffee. Anyone who previously found Starbucks too time-consuming to stop in during their morning commutes will have a new, faster option. And people who had been driven off by the throngs of mobile-order customers might be able to come back.

It's less clear, however, how mobile-only stores will affect Starbucks employees.

Some activists are trying to push for laws that would put limits on the shift to cashier-less shopping, requiring that stores must have humans on hand to ring up customer orders. That's an onerous proposal — analogous to saying that every ATM should also have a bank teller on hand.

But still, you can see why there's concern. Presumably, cashier-less stores will need fewer employees, even if they do pull in a large number of new customers. And reducing congestion in regular Starbucks stores might reduce staffing needs there as well.

Then there's the drudgery factor: Working in a mobile-only store will surely be a lot more monotonous, more like being employed on a factory assembly line than in a typical coffee shop, where give-and-take between workers and customers can be part of the appeal. There will be less human interaction — and what interactions there are might well be with upset customers.

It's also likely that the workers at mobile-only stores won't make nearly as much in tips. First off, customers might not feel an obligation to employees they don't interact with personally. Moreover, tipping using an app isn't observable to others, and there's solid evidence that people take prosocial actions more frequently when others are watching. In other words, people tend to tip more when they know they're being observed.

That said, the Starbucks app's default tipping options are on the order of 10% to 20% — higher than many people give with the typical change-in-jar approach. So if Starbucks pushes app tipping hard with notifications and alerts, there might not be too much of a shortfall. Better would be to still have a physical tip jar in mobile stores — or even to place a star on the order display board next to the name of anyone who tips.

So there's a chance that mobile-only Starbucks might be beneficial overall, rather than dystopian. Or at least not as dystopian as the pumpkin-spice latte.

European Union nations vented outrage yesterday at Turkey's military offensive in northern Syria against the Kurds and joined France and Germany in banning arms sales to Ankara, a rare move against a NATO ally for many of them.

Many EU foreign ministers were looking beyond a strong statement condemning the military operation that has destabilized the whole region and wanted to make sure their move would carry some sting.

They also prepared sanctions against Turkish companies and individuals involved in the gas drilling in the Mediterranean Sea close to EU member Cyprus and were poised, if necessary, to implement that at short notice. France and Cyprus are conducting naval maneuvers there now.

Over the years, Turkey has become increasingly less dependent on European nations for its defense needs and it was unclear what the impact of such a measure would be beyond applying diplomatic pain.



Abhijit Banerjee (left), Esther Duflo (center), Michael Kremer

THREE ECONOMISTS WHO STUDY POVERTY WIN NOBEL PRIZE

PAUL WISEMAN, STOCKHOLM

TWO researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a third from Harvard University won the 2019 Nobel Prize in economics yesterday for groundbreaking research into what works and what doesn't in the fight to reduce global poverty.

The award went to MIT's Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo and Harvard's Michael Kremer. The 46-year-old Duflo is the youngest ever to win the prize and only the second woman, after Elinor Ostrom in 2009. The three winners have worked together.

They revolutionized developmental economics by pioneering field experiments — something like pharmaceutical companies' drug tests — that generate practical insights into how poor people respond to educational, health care and other programs meant to lift them out of poverty.

"Without spending some time understanding the intricacies of the lives of the poor and why they make the choices they make ... it is impossible to design the right approach," Duflo told a news conference held by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, who awarded the prize.

Their work in rural Kenya and in India, for instance, found that providing more textbooks, school meals and teachers didn't do much to help students learn more.

Making the schoolwork more relevant to students, working closely with the neediest students and holding teachers accountable — by putting them on short-term contracts, for example — were more effective in countries where teachers often don't bother showing up for work. The winners' recommended program of remedial tutoring is now benefiting 5 million Indian children, the academy said.

Kremer and others found that providing free health care makes a big difference: Only 18% of parents gave their children de-worming pills for parasitic infections when they had to pay for them, even though the heavily subsidized price was less than \$1. But 75% gave their kids the pills when they were free. The World Health Organization now recommends that the medicine be distributed for free in areas with high rates of parasitic worm infections.

Banerjee, Duflo and others found that mobile vaccination clinics in India dramatically increased the immunization rates compared to traditional health centers that often went unstaffed. The immunization rate rose further if parents received a bag of lentils as a bonus for vaccinating their children.

Banerjee and Duflo, who are married, also have found that microcredit programs, which provide small loans to encourage poor people to start businesses,

did little to help the poor in the Indian city of Hyderabad; studies in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Ethiopia, Morocco, Mexico and Mongolia, produced similar results.

Despite enormous progress, global poverty remains a huge challenge, the academy noted. More than 700 million people live in extreme poverty. Five million children die before age 5, often from diseases that can be prevented or cured easily and inexpensively. Half the world's children leave school without basic literacy and mathematical skills.

Colleagues applauded the three winners.

"Well deserved!" tweeted French economist Thomas Piketty, author of a best-selling book on inequality.

"Fantastic decision!!" Max Roser, a University of Oxford researcher who founded the Our World in Data project, wrote on Twitter. "Even after two centuries of progress against global poverty I think it is clearly one of the very biggest problems in the world today."

Duflo said receiving the Nobel was "incredibly humbling" while noting that the profession is not always welcoming for women.

"Showing that it is possible for a woman to succeed and be recognized for success I hope is going to inspire many, many other women to continue working and many other men to give them the respect that they deserve like every single human being," she said. AP



Syria The United States appears to be heading toward a full military withdrawal from Syria amid growing chaos, cries of betrayal and threats by President Donald Trump to hit Turkey with "big sanctions." Trump had directed U.S. troops in northern Syria to begin pulling out "as safely and quickly as possible."

More on p15

Britain and the European Union said that divorce talks were making slow progress, as the U.K. government tried to look beyond Brexit with a wide-ranging policy platform read by Queen Elizabeth II in a pomp-filled ceremony. In terms of historical importance, the painstaking paragraph-by-paragraph talks at the EU's glass-and-steel Berlaymont headquarters outweighed the regal ritual in which an ermine-draped monarch delivered a speech on the priorities of a Conservative government that could be out of office within weeks.



Ukraine Shooting off flares and shouting "glory to Ukraine," thousands of far-right and nationalist activists marched yesterday through Kyiv, protesting President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's leadership and his long-awaited peace plan for eastern Ukraine. Zelenskyy sought to improve his patriotic credentials by visiting Ukrainian troops on the front line of the five-year conflict with Moscow-backed separatists, which has killed at least 13,000 people.

Spain Riot police charged at protesters outside Barcelona's airport after the Supreme Court sentenced 12 prominent Catalan separatists to lengthy prison terms for their roles in a 2017 push for the wealthy Spanish region's independence. Police used batons against the protesters who converged on El Prat airport after a call by the grassroots group Democratic Tsunami, which supports Catalan secession.