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SAFETY HAS BECOME A MAJOR CONCERN FOR NEW MACAU MEMBERS AMID A CLIMATE OF STIFLING FREEDOMS

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HK'S DE FACTO CURFEW IS NOT A SIGN THE CITY IS BECOMING A POLICE STATE

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WYNN RESORTS HAS CONFIRMED IT WILL NOT PURSUE AN INTEGRATED RESORT IN OSAKA, SAYING IT PREFERENCES THE JAPANESE CAPITAL

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AP PHOTO



China-US Fees paid by China to the United States and other countries to deliver packages will nearly triple through 2025 under an agreement by the global postal union following complaints by Washington, the Chinese post office said yesterday.

AP PHOTO



Japan The toll of death and destruction from a typhoon that tore through central and northern Japan climbed yesterday, as the government said it was considering approving a special budget for the disaster response and eventual reconstruction.

Pakistan is trying to avoid getting blacklisted by the Financial Action Task Force, a global watchdog, when it meets today in Paris.

Pakistan's prime minister left for Saudi Arabia yesterday amid his efforts to ease tensions between Riyadh and Iran after a recent attack on the kingdom's oil industry, a government statement said.

AP PHOTO



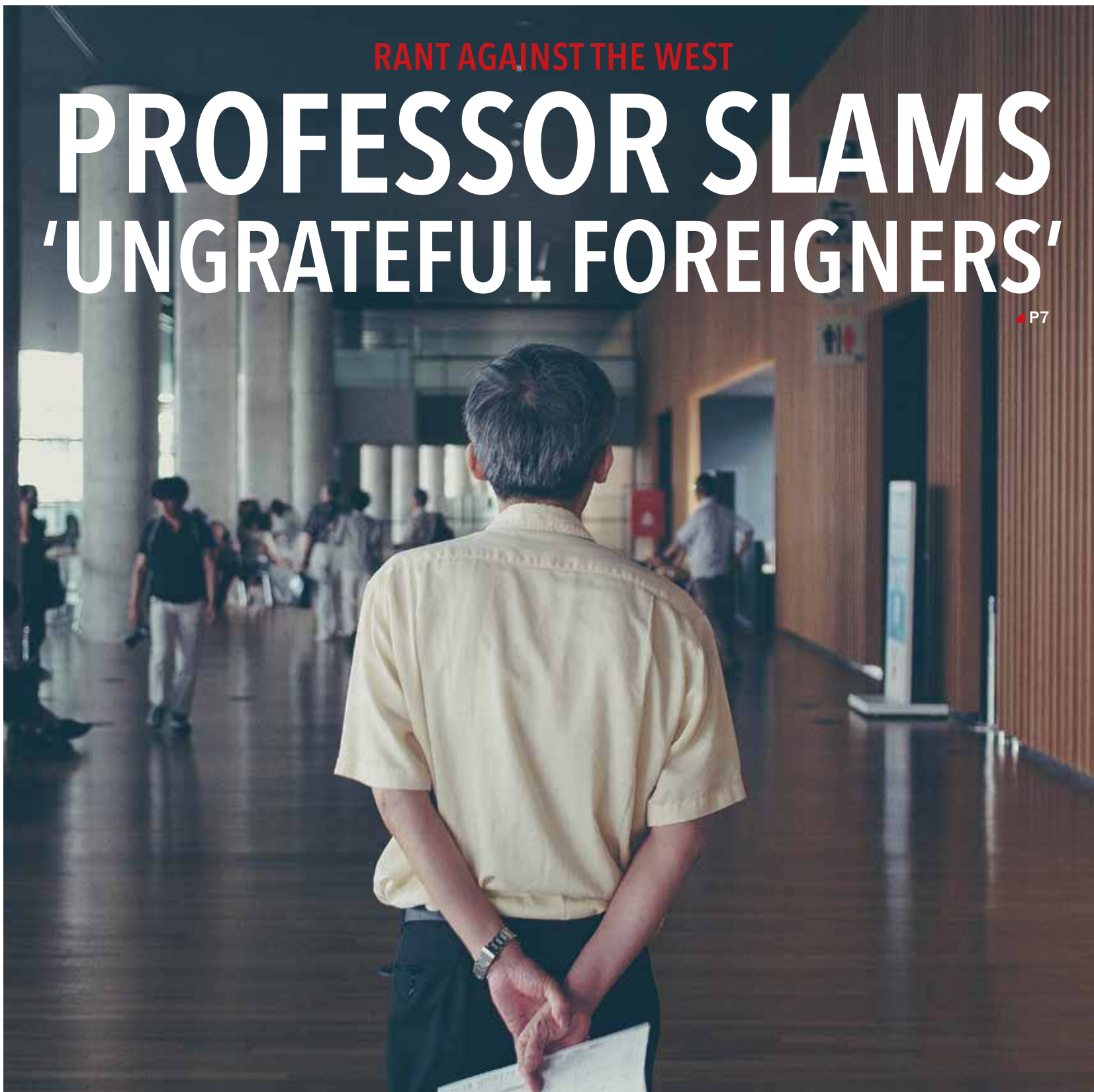
Papua New Guinea police said yesterday they were seeking the arrest of Prime Minister Peter O'Neill for official corruption but the former leader of the South Pacific island nation was refusing to cooperate.

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DATA PRIVACY HINDERING MACAU'S SMART CITY DEVELOPMENT

LYNZY VALLES

THE Macau SAR's rigorous enforcement of data privacy could hinder the city's progress in becoming a smart city, a Macau-based academic said yesterday.

The dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology at The University of Macau, Xu Chengzhong, spoke yesterday as part of a panel discussion at the Global Tourism Economic Forum 2019 titled "Smart Cities to Smart Destinations Towards Wellness and Happiness".

According to Xu, there is a challenge in the SAR that needs to be confronted to improve the overall quality of tourism in Macau.

"When we talk about smart tourism, we talk about information technology to improve efficiency of the government and improve the tourist experience in Macau," said Xu during the discussion.

"We would like to provide more public service with respect to management, and improve public safety and improve the customer experience," he said, explaining that smart tourism is one of his faculty's focuses.



However, Xu pointed out that big data plays a significant role, thus merging and analyzing this data in Macau should be well thought-through from the legal perspective.

Xu shared that building Shenzhen into a smart city was made possible through the collection of all kinds of data, including the tracking of the tourists' and residents' mode of transportation.

"How we could have this data collection in Macau [...] is a big challenge. There is a legislative

part in Macau that is sensitive; they are quite conservative in terms of data privacy," said Xu.

"If you want to provide a good user experience, [...] all these services are built on data. But whether it is allowed by Macau's data privacy laws or not, we need to put a question mark on that," the scholar added.

Xu added that striking a balance between privacy and the use of data remains Macau's biggest challenge.

As part of the SAR's Five-

-Year Development Plan, Macau aims to expedite smart city development, and facilitate the integration of industries and the internet. One approach has been to partner with different groups and associations, such as Alibaba.

NANJING IDENTIFIES TOURISM TRENDS

Meanwhile, according to Jin Wei Dong, director-general of Nanjing Municipal Bureau of Culture and Tourism, his office is focusing on providing services to government departments by analyzing big data to identify tourism trends in Nanjing.

The office also analyzes the consumption and spending data of tourists to better optimize the services it provides to visitors, as well as their itinerary data.

"This is serving government entities and we provide information on where these tourists come from [...] then we will have specific measures to target these tourists," he added.

For Nanjing, the biggest challenge is to how to better present diversified offerings and products for its tourists.

BRAZIL, ARGENTINA DABBLE IN BIG DATA

As discussed by the panel, both São Paulo, Brazil and Buenos Aires, Argentina are developing an intelligent tourism system based on big data. This can be used by the government to develop new policies to strategically target different markets.

However, turning their cities into smart ones also remains a challenge as they also aim to create more "livable" cities.

According to Fernando Amer, operations manager of the International Market at the Buenos Aires Tourism Board in Argentina, the country focuses on training and supporting new entrepreneurs and projects related to smart tourism products that benefit the city.

According to Amer, the move is to make the city a competitive one in terms of tourism.

"We provide support to companies and hotels that are interested in developing sustainable policies," the official said.

As for Vinicius Lummertz, secretary of Tourism of São Paulo State Government, his city has created new bus lanes and bicycle lanes in its cities.

"We have to have a friendly and livable city for the citizens. We will also launch an app at the end of this year to give small firms the opportunity to connect with visitors," he said.

MEMORY LANE

Isabel Canhota and Júlio Bucho

MDT/Renato Marques



Over 40 years has passed between these two photographs of Camões Square (Praça de Luís de Camões). The square at Saint Anthony's Parish, which faces St. Anthony's Church, was named after Portuguese poet Luis Vaz de Camões. In 2005, the square was listed as a World Cultural Heritage site, together with the Historic Center of Macau. The Chinese name of the square, White Pigeon Nest Square, is unrelated to the Portuguese poet but instead relates to a wealthy man surnamed Marques who lived at the location in the 1900s and had a hobby of raising white pigeons around his villa. The Portuguese name came after a monument to the poet was built in the garden, which is part of the Square of the Camões Grotto. The monument was built at this location. The first residences of the Portuguese in Macau are located in the surrounding areas. There are also several other important heritage-listed sites linked to the square, such as the Casa Garden, the Protestant Chapel (also known as Morrison's Chapel) and the Old Cemetery from the former East India Company. RM

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

GAMING | JAPAN

WYNN RESORTS CONFIRMS SHIFT FROM OSAKA TO KANTO

WYNN Resorts has confirmed its decision to drop out of the race to develop an integrated resort in Osaka, once touted as the most attractive location for foreign investors. Instead, the U.S.-based casino operator will focus on an opportunity in the Kanto region, which includes Tokyo.

"Although we have decided not to pursue an integrated city resort in Osaka at this time, we wish the city the very best and look forward to following its continued success," said Wynn in a statement cited by GGRAsia. "Wynn Resorts is currently focused on the Kanto area."

Last month, it appeared that the Osaka bid had narrowed to just three players - MGM Resorts, Galaxy Entertainment Group and Genting Singapore - after the other interested casino operators said they preferred alternative locations for their possible foray into Japan.



Matt Maddox, CEO and President of Wynn Resorts

Las Vegas Sands, which already has a presence in both Macau and Singapore, earlier withdrew from the Osaka race to focus on the Tokyo and Yokohama areas as potential locations to build a casino resort.

Melco Resorts & Enter-

tainment also dropped out, subsequently declaring a Yokohama-First policy to mirror MGM Resorts' Osaka-First policy in partnership with Orix Corp.

Caesars Entertainment Corp. dropped out of the entire Japan race at the end

of August, citing several reasons, including the upcoming merger with Eldorado Resorts.

Wynn Resorts did not make a prior announcement, but declined to submit a request for concept proposal last month, necessary to participate in the public offering.

Casino operators all over the world have been salivating at the once-in-a-generation prospect of opening resorts in Japan, which has the potential to become Asia's second-largest gambling market after Macau. CLSA predicts Japan's potential gross gaming revenue will reach \$20 billion annually.

The Japanese government has given preliminary approval for what's expected to be three major resorts. Analysts speculate those locations could be Osaka, Yokohama, Nagasaki, Wakayama or even the country's capital of Tokyo. DB

MORGAN STANLEY: GAMING CONTRACTION TO WORSEN IN Q4

ANALYSTS at Morgan Stanley predict gross gaming revenue in Macau will contract year-on-year during every month of the fourth quarter. The decline will be driven by a softening of demand for VIP gambling but may include moderation in the mass market segment.

Macau gross gaming revenue amounted to 220.3 billion patacas over the first three quarters of 2019, down 1.7% compared to a year earlier. Revenue during the fourth quarter of 2018 climbed 8.8% year-on-year to reach MOP78.8 billion.

"We expect fourth-quarter 2019 revenue growth for both mass and VIP [segments] to decelerate compared to the first nine months of 2019, driven by a high [2018] base, lower [tally of] overnight visitors and general economic slowdown," noted analysts at the firm.

Morgan Stanley's projections show that gross gaming revenue will fall by 6% year-on-year in October, followed by 9% declines in November and December. Based on these predictions, revenue in the fourth quarter of this year will fall 8% compared to a year earlier.

September's 0.6% gross gaming revenue growth closed out the weakest quarter of the year to date, with revenue down 4.1% year-on-year, versus 0% growth in the second quarter and a 0.5% contraction in the first. 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:

Name the band who will perform during Oktoberfest.

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



Safety becomes a concern for New Macau team

ANTHONY LAM

LAWMAKER Sulu Sou disclosed that his team at the New Macau Association has faced harassment and the threat of bodily harm from various sources in the past year.

The lawmaker discussed the threats and their impact at a

press conference dedicated to the review of work from his second year at the Legislative Assembly. The topic was brought up during the discussion on recent cases related to human rights and freedom of expression.

The lawmaker was asked to comment on the Public Security Police Force's refusal of a peaceful assembly announced by Jason

Chao, a well-known political activist. Sou said he found the refusal disturbing.

The police has recently turned down several assembly announced by local residents, among them a silent standstill originally planned to take place in Senado Square.

The reason for the refusal was that the topic of assembly had

not previously been verified or confirmed by any authority.

"I am worried that the police will use the same reason to ban future demonstrations," said Sou. "For example, if there is a protest against corruption in the government, which has yet been proved by a court, the police can easily turn down the announcement."

Later he was asked about the de facto survey his association had conducted in August. The event prompted harassment of New Macau members both in person and via the internet.

"We are humans," the lawmaker said when he was asked if he and his team are afraid for their own safety. "But

we will remain rational in expressing our views."

As for the new Chief Executive, Sou thinks he has the background to implement better governance.

"He has been working in the legislature and is familiarized with social issues," said Sou, adding that the former Legislative Assembly president had overseen the supervision of the executive and "now it is his turn to be supervised."

His report card in the second year shows that Sou attended 51 plenary meetings (98.1% attendance rate), 63 meetings of the 3rd Standing Committee (96.9%) and seven meetings of the Monitoring Committee on Public Administration Affairs (100%). Sou presented three motions for debate, 52 written questions, three oral questions, 14 speeches before the agenda and three motions of vote declarations.

The lawmaker has also "opened the door" of the legislature's closed-door committee meetings by publishing 16 "No Secret in the AL" blog articles.

The lawmaker pledges in the next year, he will continue to effectively use the legislative and monitoring power given by the citizens to monitor the new administration and the legislature. He will also encourage the public to monitor the work of their government and legislature.

Sou also pledged to continue advocating for the opening of the legislature's closed-door committee meetings, adding that it would be an irrefutable improvement to the work of the legislature.

MOTORSPORTS

Big names drop out of Macau Motorcycle GP

RENATO MARQUES

ALTHOUGH the entry list for this year's Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix is not yet known, important names in the road racing scene have already publicly expressed they will not be returning for the 53rd GP, to the surprise of many fans.

The first person to state this was the British rider Danny Webb, who announced last Friday that he had "parted ways with [the] Penz13.com team," noting that the decision would mean his withdrawal from this year's Macau Grand Prix.

Webb had been racing under the German-based team since 2016 and had competed in several road racing events, namely at the Isle of Man TT and the Macau Grand Prix. He took the 2018 title at the Interna-



Martin Jessopp

tional Road Racing Championship and just missed out on a podium finish in Macau, finishing fourth

racing under the MGM by Penz13 team.

Yesterday, another famous figure of road racing

and the Macau GP also announced that he would not race in Macau anymore.

In a short statement pu-

blished on social media, Martin Jessopp, one of the all-time favorites to win the GP said there "was a strange feeling of mixed emotions on that podium [in 2018] as I knew deep down this was going to be my last Macau Grand Prix. I have some amazing memories from that special race I will never forget."

The racer posted the caption with a photo of him standing on the podium after finishing third in 2018, making it his sixth podium finish in the Guia Race.

However, that is not all, according to one insider consulted by the Times. The number of important names dropping out of the event this year may shock observers, when the list of entrants is finally revealed by the GP organizing committee by the end of the week.

"There are several important teams that currently have no riders available," said the road racing expert, who is familiar with the teams.

The expert let slip that Tak Chun Group by PBM Ducati, in which Jessopp was supposed to race alongside road racing legend John McGuinness, was "one of those [teams]."

Questioned by the Times on the reasons for the marked number of important dropouts, the insider, who wished to remain anonymous, said, "As far as I know [the issue] is regarding budget."

The source of the problem could be a "change in the agreements" between the Macau GP Organizing Committee, the teams and riders, and a potential middleman of whom he did not disclose the name.

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PLPEX DOUBLES IN SIZE, BUDGET INCREASES 10%

RENATO MARQUES

THE third Portuguese-speaking Countries Products and Services Exhibition (PLPEX), which is held alongside the 24th Macao International Trade and Investment Fair (MIF), will feature a significant expansion of its exhibition space this year.

The exhibition will grow from 3,000 square meters last year to an area of approximately 6,000 square meters this year, said the Executive Director of the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) and Coordinator of the MIF, Sam Lei, during a press conference held yesterday for the launch of the event.

Questioned by the media, Lei noted that although the total exhibition space and number of exhibition booth remains the same, the budgets for both the MIF and the PLPEX have increased by over 10% each, reaching MOP33 million for the MIF and MOP8.9 million for the PLPEX.

The MIF and PLPEX will be held at the Venetian Macao from October 17 to 19 and have made the African country of Cape Verde their partner country this year, and Jiangsu province their partner province. Both regions have a highlighted role at this year's event.

The Cape Verde Pavilion will

cover a total of 180 square meters and will feature a "wide range of activity sectors and broader participation from all the different islands [that compose the country]," as explained by the President of Cabo Verde Trade Invest, Ana Lima Barber.

"We hope that through participation in the MIF we can gain more understanding about the economy and development trend of Macau, so that we can work further on the collaboration between Macau and Cape Verde," added Barber.

According to the official, Cape Verde will bring a large delegation to the MIF. It will include both the private and public sectors, and several government officials at the ministerial level.

Barber also noted that, of the 22 companies that will be represented at the MIF this year, "two are from agribusiness, six represent the commerce sector, eight are from the services sector and six from industrial sector, in which are included areas such as cosmetics, textiles, and food and beverage, among others."

As for the Jiangsu Province Pavilion, it will cover an area of nearly 300 square meters. It will feature not only the province's capabilities, but also ongoing collaborative projects between the province and Portuguese-speaking countries, in which Cape Verde is included.



Lionel Leong advocates Macau's platform role in Portugal visit

SECRETARY for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong met with Portuguese officials during his recent visit to Portugal and advocated Macau's role as a platform for trade and cooperation between China and Lusophone countries.

During the visit, Secretary Leong discussed topics such as the training of financial professionals to equip Macau for specialized financial services in future, youth entrepreneurship, the conference sector and e-commerce, according to a statement from the Macau government. The secretary hopes Macau and Portugal can enhance their cooperation on these matters.

The secretary met separately with Portugal's Minister of Economy, Pedro Siza Vieira, and the Secretary of State of Internationalization, Eurico Brilhante

Dias, of the European Union member state.

During his meeting with Vieira, Leong pointed out that the Macau SAR government was determined to develop specialized financial services.

These services were specifically identified as a mission for Macau by the Central Government in Beijing, as stipulated in the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area.

Macau is to make use of its historical advantages and transform itself into the Renminbi Clearing Center for Portuguese-speaking countries.

"Specialized financial services could be a major area for cooperation between Macau and Portugal," said the secretary. He added that both sides were already working to act as a

joint financial services platform to serve mainland China and the European Union.

Leong also mentioned that the role assigned to Macau in the advancement of the Greater Bay Area could help facilitate exchanges to encourage youth entrepreneurship between Portugal and other cities in the Greater Bay.

In his separate meeting with Dias, Leong stated Macau's role as a "platform" was not only a significant step in making use of the city's inherent strengths in its efforts to diversify its economy, but also a crucial point for Macau's future ties with Portugal and other Portuguese-speaking countries.

The term "platform" refers to Macau's developing role as a commercial and trade cooperation service between China and Portu-

guese-speaking countries.

Both Vieira and Dias confirmed that they were well informed of the latest developments in Macau. They both believed that Macau, Portugal and other Lusophone countries would benefit significantly from Macau in its role as a platform.

In addition, Leong met with Chinese investors in Portugal. He offered the entrepreneurs and company representatives updates about the current conditions in Macau, the city's prospects, and the outlook of the city's various industries, before he familiarized them with Macau's position as a bridge between the Lusophone world and China. Participants came from a vast array of industries, including the construction, financial services, commercial and trade, and legal affairs sectors. **AL**

HEALTH

HOME VISITS FOR CENTENARIANS COULD BE READY BY YEAR-END

MACAU'S Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, pledged that the government would expand outreach medical care to the homes of citizens who are at least 100 years old, to provide them with more appropriate home support services.

Tam said that the measure could be implemented later this year, noting that there are currently around 300 people over the age of 100 in Macau.

In celebration of the local Senior Citizens' Day last week, the official said that the SAR government would continue to allocate resources to continuously optimize and improve various services for the elderly, to provide the city's seniors with a more suitable living environment.

Tam added that medical professionals and even specialists will visit their homes and conduct a comprehensive health assessment, which includes an assessment of their ability to take care of themselves, their cognitive function and their emotional state.

Tam also clarified that the Health Bureau staff and expenditure would remain the same, despite the expansion of their health services.

The secretary also indicated his intention to gradually continue expanding the coverage of home medical services in the future.

He pointed out that the SAR government "attaches great importance to the happiness and health of the elderly in Macau."

RANT AGAINST THE WEST

Professor slams interference of 'ungrateful foreigners' in Macau

JULIE ZHU

IN a somewhat inflammatory speech made yesterday during the Annual Conference of Macao Studies 2019, a professor at the University of Macau (UM) denounced what he described as the interference of 'ungrateful foreigners' in the affairs of Macau and Hong Kong.

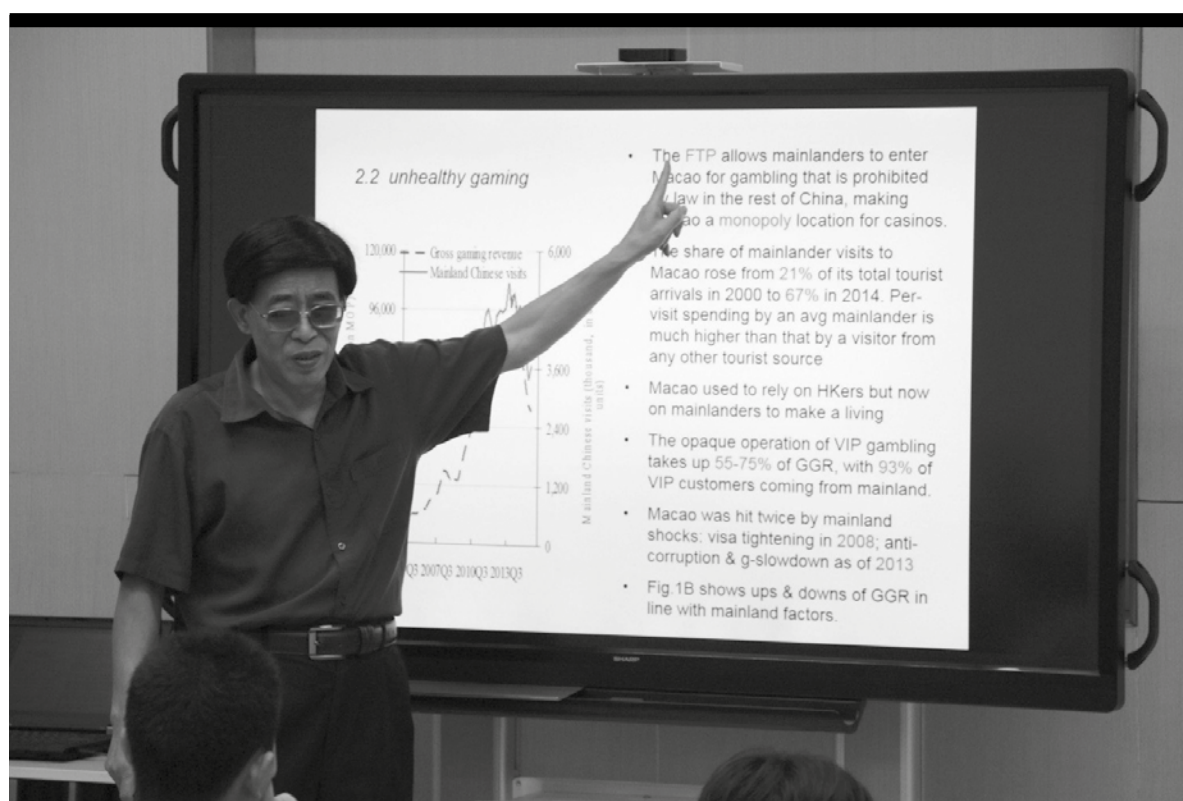
Gu Xinhua, a professor at the UM's Faculty of Business Administration, said that he was opposed to the support rendered by China in maintaining Hong Kong's status as an international financial center. Gu suggested that Macau be given the chance to replace its neighbor as the 'window to the world' for the southern China region.

The professor, who holds a Ph.D. in financial economics from the University of Toronto, said he was also tired of hearing casino executives at the U.S.-based gaming operators complain about Macau's tax rate on gambling activities.

"Whenever there is an international conference, America's experts and scholars always say that Macau's gaming tax is too high," said Gu, who accused the "Americans" of comparing Macau only with Las Vegas, while ignoring the situation in other countries, such as Australia or those in Europe.

"Macau's economic diversification is politically correct. But America's so-called experts and scholars relate Macau's economic diversification with gaming tax and say that [it is impossible for] Macau's economic diversification to succeed, unless Macau learns from Las Vegas," said Gu.

The professor insisted that Macau and Las Vegas serve a different type of customer. Las Vegas has more families visiting, whereas Macau receives more gamblers. In order for Macau to diversify its economy, the local government must impose higher taxes so as to have additional capital to help



other industries, according to Gu. "Macau's tax rate is too low. The American casinos' net profit here is three to four times that in Las Vegas," said Gu. "They make more than \$10 billion every year and they are still not satisfied."

Gu suggests two changes be made to governance of the industry. Firstly, the tax on the casino industry should be increased. Second, the length of the concession should be shortened.

"There is a necessity for Macau to consider not renewing the gaming concession for a period of 20 years in future," said Gu. "There should be a renewal every five years only."

With regards to Hong Kong, the professor accused "foreigners" – and specifically "white people" – of corrupting the judicial system. Gu also thinks that Hong Kong's rule of law is "bankrupt" because of the social unrest over the summer.

However, instead of maintaining Hong Kong's status as an international financial center and solving the social unrest, the Central Government should focus on developing Macau to replace its sister SAR. This must be achieved by any means necessary, he said.

"Macau's judiciary system is not controlled by white people. This is our advantage."

PROF. GU XINHUA

Macau is currently in the process of studying the establishment of a stock exchange in the city. Gu warned Macau against the risk of "the Americans dominating the [Macau stock exchange] like they are dominating the Macau gaming industry. Such a situation cannot happen again. They are already making 10 billion. Is it reasonable to let them make another 10 billion?"

During a question and answer session, one member of the audience asked Gu how Macau can launch a stock exchange when Macau does not possess the legal framework to support it. Gu answered that the establishment of these laws could be rushed in order to facilitate the creation of the stock exchange.

One reason that Gu regards Hong Kong unfit to continue as China's most international city is its currency's bond to the U.S. dollar, which the professor said leaves

Hong Kong's government with limited power to influence financial markets. The Hong Kong dollar is pegged to the U.S. dollar in a band that ranges between 7.75 and 7.85 to the U.S. dollar. In turn, Macau's pataca is fixed to the Hong Kong dollar at an exchange rate of 1.03.

Another reason is that Macau's judiciary system is more independent, according to the professor of business economics. "Macau's judiciary system is not controlled by white people," he said. "This is our advantage."

"Hong Kong's legal system is in the hands of white people and foreigners. Hong Kong people do not have judicial sovereignty, they only have administrative sovereignty."

"The mess of Hong Kong is due to Hong Kong's judicial system being too lenient [on those opposed to the government or police]," continued Gu. "Does this [nonsense] rule of law work? Hong Kong cannot be depended on anymore."

SULU SOU ASKS ABOUT USE OF FORCE IN POLICE OPERATIONS

Lawmaker Sulu Sou has written an interpellation to the local government asking whether Macau has established regulations that instruct police to use the minimum force necessary to achieve their objectives. Sou noted that Macau's law regulates the use of force and firearms. However, the policies do not specify the circumstances under which other so-called non-lethal weapons should be used and there is no description of the circumstances in which the riot squad can be dispatched. Sou wants the local government to explain the details concerning the abovementioned matters. He also noted that the issue concerns restrictions on police power.

70-YEAR-OLD FINED FOR SMUGGLING CIGARETTES

A 70-year-old local man has been found smuggling cigarettes into Macau, according to the Customs Services. On Monday morning, the customs authority found the suspect, who was sitting in his wheelchair, behaving suspiciously. Customs officers then searched the man, seizing 3,200 untaxed cigarettes from his person and the wheelchair. The customs authority has already charged the man in accordance with Macau's trade law. The authority reminds the public that each individual is only allowed to take 19 cigarettes daily into Macau for personal use. According to Macau's laws, the man will be subjected to a fine of MOP5,000 to MOP100,000 if convicted.

PORTUGUESE SCHOOL EXPANSION PLAN TO BE AMENDED

Plans for the expansion of a Portuguese school campus have been rejected by the Urban Planning Committee. The plan proposed a 1.5 meter gap between the school's sports field and the neighboring buildings. As this distance poses a negative impact on the school's lighting and students' exercise, the committee did not approve the plan. The Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau will proceed to make changes to the plan. In addition to the plans for the Portuguese school, several villas are planned to be rebuilt on a land plot of over 1,500 square meters at R. da República in southern Macau, the Urban Planning Committee has revealed.

SMOKING BAN RESPONSIBLE FOR SLOWING GAMING GROWTH

DURING yesterday's conference, Zeng Zhonglu, a professor from the Center for Gaming and Tourism Studies at the Macao Polytechnic Institute, said that the smoking ban inside Macau casinos had dampened the growth of the gaming industry.

"While there is no smoking ban in Las Vegas, in Macau, smoking [inside casinos] is banned," said Zeng.

"If you are a gambler and you want to smoke, [the casinos] ask you to smoke outside, and you will

lose your interest in gambling," said Zeng. "I don't [want to] mention that smoking is already banned in the mass market, but also banning smoking in VIP rooms? Banning smoking in VIP rooms is one of the direct causes behind Macau's gaming industry growth slowing down."

The professor highlighted how many studies show that people who like gambling also like smoking and drinking alcohol.

HK LEADER VOWS TO ADDRESS HOUSING CRUNCH IN SPEECH

HONG Kong leader Carrie Lam pledged measures to address the city's notorious housing shortage, as she prepared to deliver her annual policy address despite concerns about possible disruption by protesters.

Lam held up a copy of the text on Tuesday while previewing the speech in remarks to reporters. She said she'd attempt to deliver the address in the city's Legislative Council chambers, which were recently repaired after being ransacked by anti-government protesters in July.

"I'm sure you agree that the most important livelihood issue that a chief executive should address would be housing and land supply," Lam said, adding that she would present a total of 200 new initiatives.

The chief executive also condemned escalating protester attacks on police officers as the unrest gripping the city grinds into a fifth month. Over the weekend, a police officer was slashed in the neck by a sharp object,



BLOOMBERG

protesters lobbed a petrol bomb inside a subway station and an improvised explosive device was set off in Kowloon near a police vehicle.

Her comments also come as U.S. lawmakers consider bipartisan legislation that would establish annual reviews to determine whether Hong Kong is sufficiently

autonomous to justify continuing its special trading status. On Monday evening, thousands marched peacefully through the city's financial district waving American flags and calling on the U.S. to pass the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act.

Hong Kong has seen some of its worst violence

yet since China's National Day on Oct. 1, which was followed by Lam's decision to ban protesters from wearing masks under the colonial-era Emergency Regulations Ordinance. That emergency powers law could also potentially be used to detain and arrest protesters and censor publications. MDT/AP

HKMA CUTS BANKS' CAPITAL BUFFERS AS OUTLOOK WORSENS

HONG Kong took measures on Monday to help banks put more money in the hands of local businesses in a move to shore up the city's deteriorating economy after months of unrest.

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority, which operates like a de facto central bank, said it would reduce the amount of capital lenders have to maintain. The move is intended to make it easier for banks to lend to small and medium size businesses, which have been hit by months-long protests that have caused a precipitous drop in tourism, retail sales and property values.

The so-called counter-cyclical capital buffer was lowered to 2% from 2.5% with immediate effect, the authority said in a statement. The cut will allow banks to release an additional HK\$200 billion to HK\$300 billion (\$25 billion to \$38 billion) of credit, HKMA Chief Executive Eddie Yue said in a separate letter.

"We hope that banks will make good use of the newly released headroom to support SMEs," Yue said. Hong Kong's economic environment has "deteriorated significantly" since June, he said.

Lowering the capital buffer, which is built up in good times when the economy is growing and can be cut when it's not, "will allow banks to be more supportive to the domestic economy and help mitigate the economic cycle," he said.

Yue also reiterated the stability of Hong Kong's banking system, adding that the city was well-positioned to withstand market shocks, calling it "robust and sound, with strong capital positions, ample liquidity and good asset quality." BLOOMBERG

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Hong Kong under 'de facto curfew' as subway stations shut early

HONG Kong's subway system has closed early for more than a week, effectively cutting off the main mode of transportation for millions of residents. Many are now wondering how long it will last.

Following unprecedented vandalism on the night of Oct. 4, when Chief Executive Carrie Lam banned face masks after invoking emergency powers last used in 1967, many stations were left in tatters. The rail operator MTR Corp. shut the entire network for a whole day for the first time since 2007 before gradually reopening damaged stations.

The MTR has said it needs extra time to repair its stations. But as the service keeps getting curtailed, protesters have accused the company of helping the authorities prevent further demonstrations. In recent statements, the MTR has cited a "joint risk assessment with other relevant government departments" as a reason for the closures.

"Hong Kong has a de facto curfew," said a medical professional with the surname Wong, who said his commute from Kowloon City to Tin Shui Wai near the Chinese border recently took him 3.5 hours when an early closure prevented him from taking the subway. "It is not enforced by law, but by a monopoly on transportation."

For most of the time since protests against China's increasing grip over Hong Kong began in early June, it was entirely possible for many city residents to continue their daily lives uninterrupted apart from some inconvenience during the weekends. But the disruption to the MTR, the lifeblood of the city, has started to alter life in the Asian financial hub.

The subway handles roughly 5.9 million daily passengers in a city of around 7.5 million. Even though many stations have reopened, they still have extensive damage to escalators, turnstiles, security cameras and ticket machines.



In an emailed response to questions, Hong Kong's Transport and Housing Bureau called the subway "the backbone of the city's public transport network" and "of paramount importance."

The MTR "has taken all possible means to ensure railway safety while striving to maintain train service as far as possible," the bureau said. The company's arrangements "cannot in any way be equated or compared with the imposition of curfew."

The MTR's early closures, the increased violence and the denial of police permits for demonstrations have caused numbers to fall at recent protests, Steve Vickers, the former head of the Royal Hong Kong Police Criminal Intelligence Bureau, wrote in a threat assessment on Monday.

"Support for the protesters, their cause, and even for violence, is strong in some sectors of Hong Kong society, such as amongst some medical staff and other professionals, but may be waning on

the broader front by workers who are now suffering inconvenience," wrote Vickers, chief executive of Steve Vickers and Associates, a political and corporate risk consultancy.

During the early weeks and months of the protests, the MTR largely stayed open. However, as police began refusing permission for large rallies, protesters began launching spontaneous demonstrations by disappearing into the MTR network and reappearing at a new location - sometimes on the other side of the city. The MTR also allowed protesters an efficient route to and from the protests, with many changing outfits before commuting home.

But as the MTR began accommodating the government and riot police, protesters began targeting subway stations. They tried to delay subway cars at the height of morning commutes and later vandalized some stations to the point that they were shut down.

The closures have contributed

to a downturn in business across the city. Numerous major events - from investment conferences to concerts - have been canceled due to the protests, prompting the local economy to slip toward recession. Roughly 100 restaurants have been forced to close throughout the unrest, leaving around 2,000 employees without jobs, Hong Kong's Finance Secretary Paul Chan wrote in a blog post over the weekend.

Bonnae Gokson, who runs the luxury restaurant SEVVA on the

top floor of the Prince's Building in Hong Kong's central financial district, has seen her business suffer. After a \$1.3 million renovation, her restaurant reopened just a few days after some of the worst violence on Oct. 1, when a protester was shot for the first time, and people have been staying home.

One recent afternoon, only eight customers sat in her cavernous 22,000 square-foot restaurant, which has a large patio with views over Hong Kong's gleaming skyscrapers and iconic harbor. She said the MTR's trimmed back schedule, constant mobile alerts from police and a general sense of economic malaise is keeping people away.

"Normally, I can tell you at this hour, 4:30 p.m., my goodness, this place is packed," she said. "Do you really see anyone now?"

The unpredictability is part of what's keeping everyone away. Tourist arrivals in August were down 40% from a year earlier, the biggest year-over-year decrease since the SARS epidemic in 2003, as people cancel or revise travel plans.

Hong Hao, the chief strategist at Bocom International, said the protests constantly disrupt his work schedule, which often requires him to do TV interviews in Causeway Bay or Wan Chai late in the evening.

The tendency for protests to escalate in the evening and the fact that demonstrators frequently attack MTR stations are a great inconvenience for him and his colleagues, Hong said, noting that taxi drivers sometimes refuse to give them a ride.

"Whenever there's a protest we have to cancel plans because the situation can get quite intense," said Hong, who has lived in the city for eight years. "People are scared." **MDT/AGENCIES**

HK NOT REGRESSING INTO POLICE STATE

HONG Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam said yesterday that "it's totally irresponsible and unfounded" to suggest the semi-autonomous Chinese territory is becoming a police state.

Lam has defended Hong Kong's 30,000-strong police force, now widely detested by protesters for its riot-control methods and nearly 2,600 arrests.

Responding to criticism from visiting U.S. senators, Lam said that she challenges every politician to ask themselves what they would do if faced by the scale of violence seen in Hong Kong.

"The escalating violence and the use of these ho-

memade bombs and also the very deadly attacks on policemen, it just gives us even stronger determination to end the violence," Lam told reporters yesterday. "We should consider every means to end the violence."

Police said a radio-controlled improvised explosive device was detonated on Sunday evening near a police car in an effort to "kill and seriously harm" officers, the first time one has been used since the unrest began. A protester also slashed a police officer in the neck.

Hong Kong is likely to remain tense ahead of a major policy address tomorrow from Lam, whose popularity is near record lows. **MDT/AGENCIES**



CHINA TRADING BAN IS FUELING RISE OF CONTROVERSIAL CRYPTO COIN

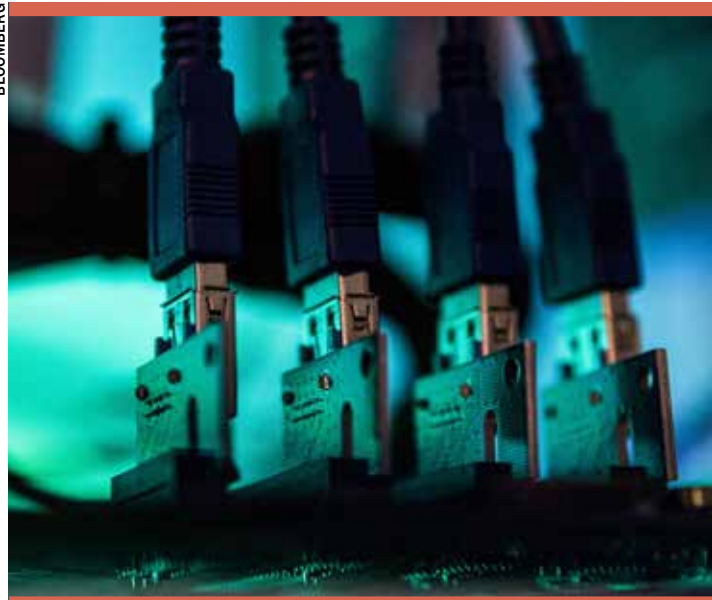
OLGA KHARIF

CRYPTOCURRENCY investors better not take their eyes off China, even after regulators there started to crack down on digital assets.

In recent months, over-the-counter crypto trading in China has exploded, just as Chinese spot traders began buying nearly all of their Bitcoin with the stablecoin Tether, according to a study by researcher Chainalysis Inc. Tether was used in 99% of Bitcoin spot trades in China this year, almost completely displacing the yuan, while Bitcoin trading in markets like Japan and Korea is still mainly conducted through fiat, the researcher found.

About 40% of the top-50 crypto exchanges in terms of Bitcoin on-chain activity are located in the Asia-Pacific region, according to Chainalysis. In the first half of 2019, these exchanges accounted for 35% of all Bitcoin received. The region's exchanges also dominate the trading in options and futures, with nearly 90% of the 2.36 billion contracts traded globally.

"People should be paying more attention to the price formation on the large Asian exchanges," said Philip Gradwell, chief economist at New York-based Chainalysis. "There's probably going to be a large amount of liquidity there that, for example, these OTC brokers will be providing. It



can move very fast." Binance, the world's largest crypto spot exchange, just launched a peer-to-peer yuan-trading service in China.

Tether began to dominate spot trading in 2018, right after the Chinese government prohibited its citizens from exchanging yuan for cryptocurrency directly through online sites and closed crypto exchanges. Since the 2017 ban, many people have been exchanging yuan for Tether via peer-to-peer trades or over the counter, which is legal in China. They would then use their Tether to buy Bitcoin and other coins.

Partly thanks to that rising demand, Tether's market capitalization has tripled since the beginning of 2018, as the

private Hong Kong-base company behind Tether issued more coins. The exact mechanism of the issuance is unclear. Earlier this year, Tether became the world's most used cryptocurrency, surpassing Bitcoin, which has a market cap that's nearly 38 times greater, according to CoinMarketCap.com.

Since the ban in China, over-the-counter crypto trading has been rising by leaps and bounds. Just 10 over-the-counter Asian brokers Chainalysis tracked received \$877 million of Bitcoin in the year ended in September, up 52% from the prior 12 months.

"The size is just kind of astonishing," Kim Grauer, senior economist at Chainalysis, said in a phone interview. **BLOOMBERG**

SINGAPORE HOME SALES SURGE TO HIGHEST IN A YEAR

KATRINA NICHOLAS

SALES of private apartments in Singapore jumped 13% in September to the highest in more than a year even as home-price growth moderated.

Developers in the city-state sold 1,270 apartments last month versus a revised 1,123 in August, according to data from the Urban Redevelopment Authority released Tuesday. That's the most since July 2018, when the government shocked the market by introducing curbs to take the heat out of residential real estate.

While home prices took a breather for a few quarters after that, they've begun to rise again. Private residential prices increased 0.9% in the three months ended Sept. 30 versus a 1.5% rise in the second quarter, URA figures released earlier this month showed.

There's also a supply glut - Singapore has some 24,000 vacant units

and another 44,000 in the pipeline, data released in June showed. The excess prompted the government to cut the supply of private residential units under its land sales program in the second half.

September's robust sales come "on the back of developers releasing more units, so buyers have a lot of choice and can take their time," said Nicholas Mak, the Singapore-based head of research at APAC Realty Ltd. unit ERA. "It shows underlying demand is strong."

Mak said that barring any market shocks, private home sales should average around 1,000 units a month going forward. He forecasts home-price growth will continue, but at sub 1% levels.

Additional cooling measures would be "detrimental because there's a lot of supply and the government should let the market absorb that," Mak said. **BLOOMBERG**

UBS SAYS RISK OF WEAKER YUAN REMAINS

THE yuan remains vulnerable to further weakness should additional tariffs kick in later this year, even after the U.S. and China agreed to a tentative trade truce, according to UBS Group AG's chief investment office.

The interim agreement is unlikely to provide a significant boost to markets due to the wide number of more contentious issues that remain outstanding, including the ban of Huawei Technologies Co. and other Chinese tech firms, currency transparency and intellectual property rights, as well as tariff hikes scheduled for December, analysts including Hartmut Issel said in a report Monday.

"Given the history of setbacks after previous preliminary agree-

ments, we would need to see more tangible signs of a comprehensive and also lasting solution if markets are to add on to previous gains," the analysts said. "Should additional tariffs in December kick in, we believe USDCNY will still be exposed to renewed upside."

The onshore yuan remains on a trajectory toward a top of 7.4 against the dollar in 2020, with China's economic growth expected to moderate to 5.5% next year, UBS said.

Still, if the December tranche of tariffs is delayed and further talks lead to more mini-agreements, the yuan could stabilize at current levels and trade near the lower end of the 7.0 to 7.4 range over the coming months, the analysts said. **BLOOMBERG**

CORPORATE BITS

Melco receives sustainability awards in the Philippines



Melco Resorts & Entertainment Limited has won the 2019 Sustainable Business Awards (SBA) Philippines for energy and employee sustainability.

The SBA, Asia's leading sustainable awards since 2012, recognizes companies that are proactive in tackling social, governance and environmen-

tal issues.

Melco has received special recognition for its workforce development program, which embraces a holistic "Whole Person Development" training approach. They empower employees to have a generalist career path beyond technical or function-only focuses and focus on their per-

sonal growth.

The company was also recognized for its efforts in tackling climate change, efforts which include their goal to achieve carbon neutral operations, improving energy efficiency and optimizing the building management system to track energy use at City of Dreams Manila.

Lawrence Ho, chairman and CEO at Melco said, "We appreciate SBA's recognition. We value our employees' career development and that is what motivates us to provide a nurturing environment. Meanwhile, being socially responsible and being a good steward to our environment are key priorities for Melco."

Four Seasons Macao holds 11th Run of Hope



The Four Seasons Hotel Macao will host the 11th Run of Hope Macao on November 10, in co-operation with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and The International School of Macao (TIS), along with sponsors and partners.

A total of 10 entries were received, and three students (Owen Hung, Jack Wong and Luis Filipe Chipenda Martins) won the poster design competition co-hosted with the TIS, with their illustrative yet meaningful design.

A night that combines artistry and philanthropy, Cocktails for a Cause aims to raise funds in a fun and engaging fashion. On October 25, guests are welcome to enjoy creative cocktails on the hotel's pool deck. The cocktails will be crafted by guest mixologists, who are some of Macau's favorite personalities with big hearts.

In order to raise additional funds for Run of Hope Macao, a silent auction has been launched on the event's official Facebook page from now until November 10. Luxurious items are on auction, such as accommodation at Four Seasons properties in various locations.

Apple criticized for sending browsing data to Tencent

MARK GURMAN

APPLE Inc. came under fire on Monday for sending web browsing data, including IP addresses, to China's Tencent Holdings Ltd., the latest criticism of how the company operates in the world's most populous nation.

For about two years, Apple has been sending data to Tencent as part of an iPhone and iPad security feature that warns users if a website is malicious or unsafe before they load it. The U.S. company checks addresses against an existing list of sites known to be problematic. That list is maintained by Tencent for users in mainland China and by Google for other regions, including in the U.S.

In newer versions of Apple's iOS operating systems, the company says this feature "may also log your IP address," potentially providing Tencent, a Chinese internet conglomerate with government ties, data such as a user's location. The safe browsing feature with Google was first added to iOS in 2008, but it was expanded to include Tencent with iOS 11 in 2017. Apple updated its description of the feature in more recent versions of iOS.

"We deserve to be informed about this kind of



change and to make choices about it," Matthew Green, a cryptographer and professor at Johns Hopkins University, wrote in a blog post. "Users should learn about these changes before Apple pushes the feature into production, and thus asks millions of their customers to trust them."

This isn't the first time Apple has been criticized for working with a Chinese company to handle local data. In 2018, Apple partnered with Guizhou-Cloud Big Data to store iCloud data locally for users in mainland China.

More recently, Apple has been scrutinized for appeasing China. BuzzFeed recently reported that Apple told creators of shows for

its TV+ streaming service to avoid portraying China in a poor light. The company recently removed the Taiwanese flag from the emoji keyboard on devices running in Hong Kong and Macau, after earlier pulling it from Mainland China. It also came under fire for removing a maps app in Hong Kong that the developer said was designed to help users avoid areas of protest. Apple said it was following local laws in both instances.

Apple said in a statement that the feature protects user privacy and safeguards people's data. The checks occur on the devices, and the actual web addresses are never shared with Tencent and Google, the safe browsing providers. The

feature is on by default, but can be switched off, Apple also said. The IP address of a user's device is shared when a website is found to be suspicious and a warning is sent.

Some users were concerned that data would be sent to Tencent globally because the firm is mentioned even on iPhones outside of China. Apple will likely clarify this in a future version of iOS.

The feature can be disabled under the Privacy & Security section in the Settings app by tapping the "Fraudulent Website Warning" toggle. If a user does that, IP addresses won't be shared, but Apple also won't be able to check websites against Tencent's or Google's lists.

BLOOMBERG

Vietnam takes 'serious' objection to animated movie 'Abominable'

NGUYEN DIEU TU UYEN

LESS than a week after politics eclipsed the NBA's exhibition games in China, an animated movie became the target of Vietnam's ire over disputed waters of the South China Sea.

The Southeast Asian country took "serious" objection to "Abominable," the movie from Comcast Corp.'s DreamWorks Animation, which depicted Beijing's version of its maritime boundaries with its neighbor. China's so-called "nine-dash line"

claims a vast part of the waters and is contested by Hanoi.

The government of Vietnam instructed cinema halls in the country to pull the movie and told them to stop all promotions. Culture Minister Nguyen Ngoc Thien ordered a thorough probe into who was responsible for granting permits to the movie in Vietnam, according to a posting on the ministry's website.

The controversy involving the fall season's first Hollywood animated picture is the latest exam-

ple of companies getting caught in the crossfire of Asian geopolitics. Chinese state television and Tencent Holdings Ltd.'s streaming platform last week blacked out two National Basketball Association games in Shanghai and Shenzhen, angered over a tweet by an official supporting the pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong. Vietnam, which fought a war with its fellow Communist country along their land border in 1979, has been the region's most forceful nation in pushing back against Beijing's

claims in the South China Sea. China's "nine-dash line" encompasses more than 80% of those waters, which the U.S. says could contain unexploited hydrocarbons worth USD2.5 trillion.

"Abominable" is a Chinese co-production featuring the voice of Chloe Bennett as a teenage girl named Yi, who finds a yeti on the roof of her home in Shanghai. She names him "Everest" and sets off to help him get home to his family. The movie opened in U.S. theaters late last month. **BLOOMBERG**

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GREAT TIMES

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Reserve your seat at the workshops and creative talks by registering online today. For more details and updates visit mgm.mo.

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TRADE

GOV'T TEMPERS HOPES ABOUT US TARIFF TRUCE

JOE McDONALD, BEIJING

A truce in a U.S.-Chinese tariff war and Beijing's promises to open more of its state-dominated economy are raising investor hopes. But Beijing is trying to temper expectations, while companies express frustration over the halting pace of market-opening.

The China Daily, an English-language newspaper aimed at foreign readers, warned yesterday the two sides have yet to put last week's agreement on paper after President Donald Trump suspended a planned tariff hike. In exchange, Trump said Beijing would buy up to \$50 billion of American farm goods, a pledge China has yet to confirm.

"There is always the possibility that Washington may decide to cancel the deal if it thinks that doing so will better serve its interests," said the newspaper. It called on the Trump administration to "avoid backpedaling."

Business groups welcomed the truce as a possible step toward ending the costly, 15-month-old fight but said it was a small one. Talks broke down earlier after Trump accused Beijing of backsliding on promises Washington believed were locked in.

Yesterday, a foreign ministry spokesman said Chinese importers have bought 20 million tons of soybeans and 700,000 tons of pork this year from the United States. He gave no details on when that happened.

China's imports of U.S. soybeans fell by about half last year to 16.6 million tons from 2017's 33 million tons.

"China will further speed up procurement of U.S. agricultural products," said the spokesman, Geng Shuang.

Friday's agreement coincided with China's announcement of a timetable to carry out a 2017 promise to abolish limits on foreign ownership of some finance businesses, starting with futures trading firms on Jan. 1. Securities firms and mutual fund managers follow later in the year.

Investors saw that as a commitment to freer trade. Chinese officials say it has nothing to do with the trade talks and isn't a concession to Washington.

Over the past 18 months, President Xi Jinping's government also has promised to allow full foreign ownership in banking, insurance and auto manufacturing in hopes of making its slowing economy more competitive and productive.

None addresses U.S. complaints that plans for government-led creation of Chinese competitors in robotics and other industries violate Beijing's market-opening commitments and are based on stealing or pressuring companies



to hand over technology.

Chinese market-opening initiatives follow a standard script. Authorities announce dramatic but vague promises that raise hopes abroad. Six months to a year passes while companies wait to see regulations. Many are dismayed when they impose costly licensing requirements or curbs on the size of a business.

Foreign companies are frustrated Beijing is moving so gradually 17 years after joining the free-trading World Trade Organization. China, the biggest global exporter, is widely seen as having benefited most from freer trade but faces complaints it violates the rules and spirit of the WTO by blocking access to its own markets and subsidizing Chinese competitors.

"China's opening-up process needs to move beyond piecemeal changes and instead embrace

an absolute approach in which China goes from 'increasingly open' to 'open,'" said Joerg Wuttke, the president of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China.

Chinese leaders want foreign capital, skills and competition for an economy where huge but inefficient state companies still control industries including oil and gas, telecoms, banking, insurance and power generation.

Beijing wants more foreign involvement to help improve China's finance industry, said Lester Ross, a lawyer in Beijing for the firm WilmerHale.

"There is a lot of attractiveness" for foreign banks, insurers and other competitors in China's fledgling market, he said.

Opening its own markets also gives Beijing leverage to ask the United States and other governments to let wholly Chinese-owned banks, insurance and other companies into their markets, Ross said.

Talks broke down earlier after Trump accused Beijing of backsliding on promises Washington believed were locked in

Beijing allowed full foreign ownership of electric car producers starting last year. Restrictions on commercial vehicle manufacturing end next year and for passenger vehicles in 2022.

That reflects confidence Chinese electric car brands including BYD Auto and BAIC, which are among the global industry's biggest producers by vehicles sold, can compete with foreign rivals.

Global automakers that until now were required to work through state-owned partners are so deeply enmeshed in those ventures that most plan to stick with them. Buying out partners could cost billions of dollars and the foreigners would lose their political connections.

"China is accelerating the pace of opening, but we still need to see those implementing regulations in place and how fast those are carried out," said Ross.

Foreign banks are applying to set up shop in China following an August 2018 pledge to allow full foreign ownership. But they need an eye-wateringly high minimum capital of 40 billion yuan (USD5.7 billion) to operate in China or 8 billion yuan (\$1.1 billion) to conduct cross-border services.

That is beyond the reach of all but the richest foreign institutions.

A handful of American, European and Japanese banks have been given approval to set up Chinese ventures. It is unclear whether they met the capital requirement or whether regulators eased that as a concession to Washington and other trading partners.

In insurance, foreign investors face a time-consuming licensing process that requires them to

apply in one of China's 36 provinces and major cities at a time and wait up to a year for approvals. Obtaining approval for the biggest provinces could take up to a decade.

"China's efforts to boost investor confidence face significant headwinds," said Andrew Coflan and Allison Sherlock of Eurasia Group in a report.

Another hurdle: government controls on the movement of money into and out of China. That adds to the cost and difficulty of bringing in capital and taking home profits.

Such obstacles "make entrance by foreign financial firms a challenge, even with no ownership caps," said Coflan and Sherlock.

Yesterday, the Chinese post office said fees it pays the United States and other countries to deliver packages will nearly triple through 2025 under an agreement following complaints by Washington.

Payments will rise 27% next year and by 164% in total through 2025 under the Sept. 25 agreement by members of the Universal Postal Union, the State Postal Bureau said in a statement.

The Trump administration complained the U.S. Post Office was subsidizing Chinese exporters, which it said pay too little to deliver the vast flow of packages generated by online commerce. AP

Australia deports woman to Vietnam over smuggled pork

ROD MCGUIRK,
CANBERRA

AUSTRALIA for the first time has canceled a tourist's visa over undeclared food as the country tries to keep itself free of African swine fever.

The 45-year-old woman who arrived at Sydney International Airport on Saturday had undeclared food in her luggage including 4.5 kilograms of pork, Agriculture Minister Bridget McKenzie said yesterday.

She was sent home to Vietnam and banned from returning to Australia for three years, McKenzie said.

Australia is free of the disease that has wiped out pig populations across Asia

and Europe. But the disease was recently detected in East Timor, a near neighbor where Australian veterinarians are working with local authorities on an eradication plan.

Sniffer dogs now examine luggage on direct flights from the East Timorese capital Dili to the northern Australian city of Darwin to prevent contamination.

"We need to keep our pest- and disease-free status as a country strong," McKenzie told reporters.

Australian border officials have seized 27 metric tons of cooked pork from luggage and parcels since February. The proportion of that smuggled meat contaminated with African swine fever had increased from 15% in February to 48% in

September, McKenzie said.

Margo Andrae, chief executive of industry promotion body Australian Pork Limited, said the greatest threat to the industry was if the disease took hold in Australia's wild pig population.

Australia has around 2.5 million domestic pigs while the feral herd was estimated to be five times larger.

Andrae said the devastation to pig herds across Asia had created export opportunities for Australian pig farmers in markets including the Philippines and Singapore.

But she said Australia did not have pork trade arrangement with China, which McKenzie said faces a 10 million metric ton annual "protein deficit" due to African swine fever. AP

PHILIPPINES

COURT RULING EXTENDS VOTE PROTEST OF MARCOS' SON



ANDREO CALONZO

THE Philippines' top court yesterday decided to release the initial results of the vice-presidential vote recount, which the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos' son said will delay his chance to assume the post.

Former Senator Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said he is "frustrated" by the court's decision not to resolve his election protest against Vice President Leni Robredo victory in the 2016 polls. Robredo is already halfway

through her six-year term.

The court instead decided to make public the result of the recount covering three provinces that will serve as basis for any further action on Marcos' challenge. It also asked the two camps to comment on Marcos' plea to nullify votes in three other provinces due to supposed irregularities in the 2016 elections.

"The proper vice president -- myself -- is being robbed of years of service," Marcos said in a televised interview. President Rodri-

go Duterte, who has faced questions on his health, has repeatedly said Marcos is his preferred successor if he had to leave office before his single term expires in 2022.

Robredo, leader of the opposition party, said she welcomes the court decision, as she urged the court to already junk Marcos' protest. "The mere fact that this has been dragging on for so long only provides Marcos a platform for his lies," she said in a separate televised briefing. BLOOMBERG

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SRI LANKA PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFUL SAYS WON'T HONOR DEAL WITH UN

KRISHAN FRANCIS, COLOMBO

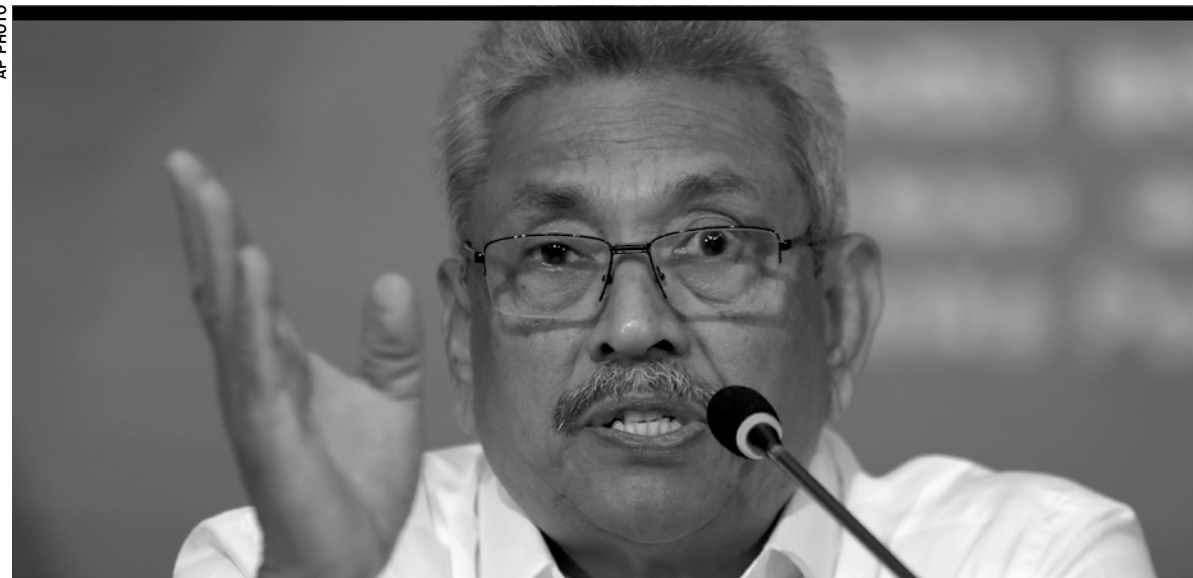
A former Sri Lankan defense chief who is a front-runner in next month's presidential election said yesterday that if he wins, he won't recognize an agreement the government made with the U.N. human rights council to investigate alleged war crimes during the nation's civil war.

If Gotabaya Rajapaksa wins the Nov. 16 election and follows through with his comments, it would be a severe setback to Sri Lanka's post-war reconciliation process.

"We will always work with the United Nations, but I can't recognize what they have signed" with past Sri Lankan governments, Rajapaksa said at a news conference.

"We have already rejected that, as a party we have rejected that agreement and in public we have rejected that. [...] On this issue, our policies and the present government policies are far apart," he said.

Rajapaksa was the top defense official during the last few years of the long civil war, which ended in 2009, serving under his brother, then-President Mahinda Rajapaksa. Under their watch, Sri Lankan



Gotabaya Rajapaksa

forces were accused of targeting hospitals and killing civilians and rebels who surrendered to the military at the end of the war, which saw the military defeat Tamil rebels who were fighting for an independent state for minority ethnic Tamils.

Rajapaksa is accused by opponents of being behind men in mysterious vehicles whisking away rebel suspects, journalists and activists. Many people taken away in the so-called "white van

abductions" were never seen again.

Rajapaksa said yesterday however, that Sri Lankans should look to the future rather than think about the past.

"We have to move forward, we have to forget about hanging on to old allegations and all that. We have a lot of things that we can do to the betterment of the people of that area," he said, referring to the island nation's north and east, where Tamils live in the majority.

He said those listed as missing are only war combatants who went missing in action.

"Even in the military, we know that there are more than 4,000 officers and soldiers missing [...] because when you go to war, when they are in the battlefield, there are certain instances even we could not recover our own bodies," he said.

Rajapaksa reiterated that immediately on being elected, he would release members of the ar-

med forces held for allegations of abductions and forced disappearances.

He said the soldiers and sailors accused of killing, abducting and attacking journalists have been framed for political reasons.

The daughter of a slain journalist has filed a case against Rajapaksa in a U.S. court linking him to her father's killing in 2009.

Rajapaksa says he has renounced his U.S. citizenship to contest the presidential election.

In 2015, current President Maithripala Sirisena's government agreed with the U.N. rights body to probe human rights in Sri Lanka as well as possible war crimes allegations.

Abraham Sumanthiran, a lawmaker from the Tamil National Alliance, the main political party representing minority Tamils, said Rajapaksa's stand can't be accepted. "It is an undertaking given by the government of Sri Lanka. Whichever party, it is bound by the undertaking," he said.

"He will have to necessarily implement all of the provisions in that resolution. We will continue to advocate for that," Sumanthiran said.

According to conservative U.N. estimates, some 100,000 people were killed in the 26-year civil war. But a later U.N. report said that some 40,000 civilians may have been killed in the final months of the fighting alone. AP

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EU: Brexit deal still possible this week, UK must act now

RAF CASERT, LUXEMBOURG

A Brexit divorce deal is possible ahead of Thursday's European Union summit but the British government needs to move ahead with more compromises to seal an agreement in the next few hours, the bloc declared yesterday.

Even though many open questions remained, diplomats made clear that both sides were for the first time within touching distance since an earlier EU-U.K. Brexit withdrawal agreement fell apart in the British House of Commons in March.

EU Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier said ahead of a meeting of EU ministers that the main challenge now is to turn the new British proposals on the complex Irish border issue into something binding.

Barnier said it is "high time to turn good intentions into a legal text." He wants a clear answer by Wednesday morning to tell EU capitals what should be decided once the bloc's two-day summit kicks off tomorrow.

Britain is scheduled to leave the EU on Oct. 31, and the EU



Michel Barnier

summit was long considered one of the last possible chances to approve a divorce agreement to accommodate that timeframe. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson insists his country will leave at the end of the month with or without a divorce deal, but British lawmakers have been adamant on avoiding a no-deal Brexit.

Irish Foreign Minister Simon

Coveney, who had a long, intense talk with Barnier yesterday, said from the EU side the belief is that "this is difficult, but it is doable."

He said Barnier addressed EU ministers and "did point to progress in the last number of days where the gaps have been narrowed."

Dutch Foreign Minister Stef Blok said the British proposals to

keep the Irish border protected from smuggling and fraud once the U.K. leaves the bloc are insufficient so far.

"The U.K. proposal contained some steps forward but not enough to guarantee that the internal market will be protected," Blok said.

"Even if an agreement will be difficult — more and more diffi-

cult, we think — it is still possible this week," Barnier said.

One EU diplomat said for things to work, technical negotiators would need to finish their text and make it available in a secure room by 10 a.m. Wednesday so European governments have time to assess them.

EU ministers insisted it was time for Johnson to make the next move — and he seemed to be listening. The British leader had a phone call with French President Emmanuel Macron to assess latest developments and shifted Britain's weekly Cabinet meeting from yesterday to today, so Johnson could give his ministers a better idea of Brexit progress.

Meanwhile, the insistence that the EU summit this week would be a cutoff moment for Brexit talks is quickly fading. Three EU nations have predicted the negotiations could spill over into next week.

Antti Rinne, prime minister of Finland, which currently holds the rotating EU presidency, said in Helsinki that he had given up hope for a quick breakthrough ahead of the Brexit summit.

"There is no time in a practical way, and in legal base, to reach an agreement before the meeting," Rinne said. "We need to have more time."

Blok, the Dutch minister, agreed, saying "let's use the remaining time until Oct. 31."

There has been increasing talk about having an extra EU summit close to the end of the month. **AP**

Spain targets online group behind Catalan separatist protest

ARITZ PARRA, MADRID

NEW disruptions to Catalonia's transportation network yesterday followed a night of clashes between activists and police over the conviction of separatist leaders, as Spanish authorities announced an investigation into the group organizing the protests.

Authorities said that three people were arrested and more than 170 others injured, including about 40 police officers, during the clashes well into the early hours of yesterday between angry protesters and riot police at Barcelona's international airport and elsewhere across the northeastern Spanish region.

Thousands of passengers were stranded at the airport, with many forced to walk with their luggage on highways and across fields.

The protesters were responding to an online campaign by Tsunami Democratic, a loose, leaderless



grassroots group that uses encrypted messaging apps to call for peaceful disobedience.

Spain's caretaker interior minister, Fernando Grande-Marlaska, said that authorities were investigating the group.

In a landmark ruling Monday, Spain's Supreme Court acquitted the Catalan politicians and activists from the more serious crime of rebellion for pushing ahead with a banned referendum on Oct. 1, 2017, and declaring indepen-

dence based on its results. But judges found nine of them guilty of sedition and handed down prison terms of nine to 13 years. Four of them were additionally convicted of misuse of public funds and three were fined for disobedience.

The court also barred all of them from holding public office. That has an immediate impact in the upcoming Nov. 10 election because six of them were planning to run as candidates to Spain's parliament.

The verdict is likely to be

a central issue in the run up to the vote but "it is unlikely to substantially alter the electoral outlook unless the situation worsens significantly in the region," said Antonio Barroso, a political risk analyst with the London-based Teneo consulting firm.

He said Catalan separatist politicians wanted to use the backlash against the ruling to woo pro-independence voters to the polls.

Others have feared that swelling support for Catalan separatism because of the convictions could make the next political term even more key to either breaking the deadlock with separatists or making it a chronicle problem. Spain's caretaker prime minister and Socialist leader Pedro Sánchez, who won the April election, but failed to get support for a minority government, is hoping to remain in office.

But even from the early hours after the 493-page Supreme Court ruling was

issued, very different views emerged from Madrid and Catalonia. While Sánchez called for beginning a "new phase" and urged Catalan separatists to abide by the law, the ruling invigorated the wealthy region's independence movement, with many of its leaders making new calls to work toward effective secession or repeating the slogan "we will do it again."

"We have to continue defending the right of Catalonia to self-determination," the regional president, Quim Torra, told foreign reporters in Barcelona. "A referendum is the most positive solution for solving this situation."

His regional minister for foreign action, Alfred Bosch, urged the Spanish prime minister to change his attitude. "We don't see any proposal, we only see 100 years of prison, exile and repression," Bosch said.

The caretaker Spanish foreign minister, Josep Bor-

rell, soon due to become the European Union's top diplomat, said the sentence wasn't resolving the underlying political problems that only dialogue "in the framework of the Constitution" could.

Spain's constitutional law says that the country is indivisible.

"Yesterday, today and tomorrow it is and remains a political problem that has to be solved," Borrell told foreign reporters, adding that Catalan separatists shouldn't ignore Catalans like him who are against independence.

"When one excludes part of the population because they don't think like one, and only considers as the people those who think like one, this is a totalitarian attitude," he said.

More protests took place yesterday, with on and off blockades of regional roads and railway lines. A three-day student strike begins today. **AP**

what's ON



CELEBRATION OF THE MOON – MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL 2019

TIME: 3pm-8pm (Mondays)
12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)

UNTIL: November 1, 2019
VENUE: Patio and Hall D1, Albergue SCM
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550

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

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

UNTIL: December 27, 2019
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ADMISSION: Free
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TIME: 10am-6pm (Closed on Thursdays)

UNTIL: October 27, 2019
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ADMISSION: MOP25 (several discounts available)
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Offbeat

UTAH FIREFIGHTERS GET PURPLE MANICURES AIDING GIRL IN CRASH



Two Utah firefighters responding to a car crash left the scene with purple manicures after calming a young girl upset over the collision.

North Davis Fire District Chief Allen Hadley and Captain Kevin Lloyd checked on the crying and screaming girl while medics evaluated her mother.

The two dads, both fathers of young girls, soothed the upset girl by allowing her to paint their nails after the car accident Saturday in the northern Utah city of Clearfield.

The North Davis Fire District is praising the firefighters for their quick thinking.

"This is how amazing our firefighters are," the district wrote.

Nobody was seriously hurt in the crash.

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



1996 HANDGUNS TO BE BANNED IN THE UK

The British Government has announced plans to outlaw almost all handguns following the shocking massacre at Dunblane in Scotland.

On 13 March Thomas Hamilton walked into the gym at Dunblane primary school and killed 16 young children and their teacher. He also injured 13 other children and three teachers. Hamilton, a former scout master, then shot himself.

Today's announcement follows publication of Lord Cullen's inquiry into the massacre which concluded Hamilton's horrific attack could not have been predicted.

But it made 23 recommendations to tighten rules on gun ownership and monitor those who work with children.

The proposal to ban all handguns - except .22-caliber target pistols - would leave Britain with some of the toughest laws on private possession of guns.

Home Secretary Michael Howard told a packed House of Commons he would make sure the measures were passed as quickly as possible through parliament.

But the move has angered both those for and against private gun ownership.

The Snowdrop Campaign, set up by victims' families after Dunblane, wants to see a total ban on handguns and called the plan an "unacceptable compromise".

The opposition Labour Party welcomed the report and the government's swift reaction to it but urged ministers to bring about a complete ban.

Shadow Home Secretary Jack Straw said politicians should have acted in a similar vein nine years ago after the Hungerford massacre.

Former Tory cabinet minister David Mellor also felt the proposals did not go far enough.

He asked: "Isn't it time to conclude that, literally and metaphorically, the game is up for handguns now?"

But gun club owners warned thousands of jobs would be in jeopardy if the proposal became law.

Speaking to the Daily Mirror newspaper, Ross Armstrong, owner of Medway Shooting Club in Kent said: "People are killed by drunk drivers but no-one demands a ban on cars. Further restrictions suit no-one."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Conservative Government's proposals became law in February 1997.

When Labour came to power three months later they brought in an amendment banning all handguns. This became law in November 1997. The Snowdrop Campaign was ended in the same year.

The Gun Control Network set up a few months after Dunblane as the UK's first gun control organisation continues to campaign for - among other things - a national gun register. Three months after the Dunblane massacre in March 1996, there was a national firearms amnesty that saw nearly 23,000 firearms and 700,000 rounds of ammunition surrendered.

This was considerably less than the 48,000 weapons surrendered after the Hungerford killings nine years before.

In January 2003 the killing of teenagers Charlene Ellis and Letisha Shakespeare in Birmingham provoked another gun amnesty.

Nearly 43,000 firearms and more than a million rounds of ammunition were handed in to police stations across the UK.

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.

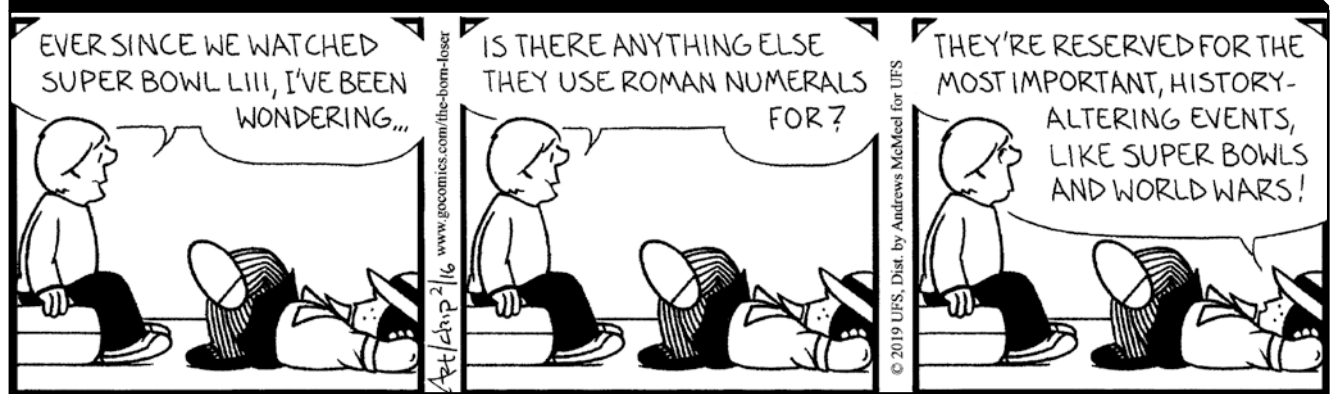


PISCES

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

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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			6		2			3
						7	1	6
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4			9		3			
7	6	4						
3			9		6			
				1		3	7	

HARD

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

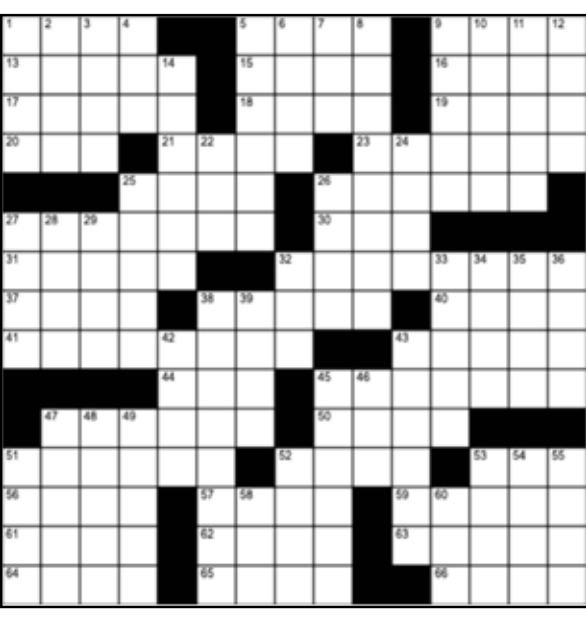
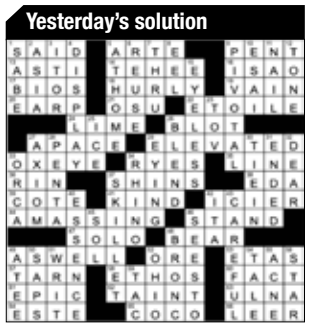
WEATHER

	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- Kett of the comics; 5- Foot covering; 9- Nile reptiles; 13- Big; 15- Fishing hole; 16- Melt; 17- Extraterrestrial; 18- Biblical birthright seller; 19- I could ___ horse; 20- Sgt., e.g.; 21- Contest, ethnicity; 23- Coffin; 25- Yellow of an egg; 26- Hunting cat; 27- Shoe parts; 30- From ___ 2; 31- Capital of South Korea; 32- Odoriferous; 37- Delineate; 38- Shoot-'em-up; 40- One of the Simpsons; 41- Class; 43- Hermit; 44- Got together; 45- Go back in; 47- Kathmandu native; 50- What ___ is new?; 51- Son of Mary, Queen of Scots; 52- Fuss; 53- Scale notes; 56- Bhutan's continent; 57- Sleeps briefly; 59- Get hitched quick; 61- Dark cloud; 62- Alleviate; 63- Continue a subscription; 64- Waiting for the Robert ___; 65- Perlman of "Cheers"; 66- Gives a hand;

DOWN: 1- Pizazz; 2- Soft mineral; 3- The Magi, e.g.; 4- Word that can succeed old, ice and bronze; 5- Small spots; 6- Engine attachment; 7- ___ whim; 8- Teacher; 9- Bikini blast; 10- Tremble; 11- Mum's mate; 12- Attack a fly; 14- Register; 22- Bass, e.g.; 24- Energy source; 25- Juvenescence; 26- Describes a gently cooked steak; 27- Spot in the ocean; 28- Playwright Simon; 29- Unspecified in number; 32- Had something; 33- Unaided; 34- Windshield option; 35- Words of comprehension; 36- Singer Vikki; 38- Brief joke; 39- Play beginning; 42- Latin I word; 43- Children of a ___ God; 45- It had a part in the Bible; 46- "Hold On Tight" group; 47- Kind of spray; 48- "South Pacific" joke; 49- Norman Vincent ___; 51- Practical joke; 52- Church niche; 53- Actress Anderson; 54- Copied; 55- Puts in stitches; 58- Sigh of satisfaction; 60- Pasture;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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- 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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2,530 ft² \$13,800,000 (ref: 19096000)

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1,720 ft² \$13,600,000 (ref: 19096006)

[Cotai] One Grantai 4 1/2 2 1/2
2,556 ft² \$25,600,000 (ref: 19096001)

[Taipa] Kinglight Garden 1 1/2 1 1/2 1 1/2
800 ft² \$6,980,000 (ref: 19055005ST)

FOR RENT

[Taipa] Nova Grand 2 1/2 1 1/2
935 ft² \$17,800/mth (ref: 19091004)

[Taipa] Manhattan 4 1/2 2 1/2
2,305 ft² \$26,800/mth (ref: 19091003)

[Macau] La Marina Studio 1 1/2
2,352 ft² \$11,200/mth (ref: 19091001)

[Cotai] One Grantai 3 1/2 3 1/2
2,122 ft² \$23,000/mth (ref: 19030001RT)

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FOR HUDA KATTAN, BEAUTY HAS BECOME A BILLION-DOLLAR BUSINESS



FROM a humble start of leaving the world of finance to write a beauty blog, Huda Kattan now has become one of the most recognizable names in makeup around the world.

The 36-year-old Iraqi-American now runs her eponymous empire Huda Beauty, a makeup line valued at \$1.2 billion that has fast become a favorite among A-list celebrities and artists around the world.

Her personality has been key in connecting to the public via social media, a major driver for her makeup known for its vibrant color and contouring popular among Arab women.

She's part of a growing vanguard of lines built around personalities, an expanding business model as more-established brands face slower sales.

"I do think the idea of makeup as a form of self-expression will just grow even more," Kattan told The Associated Press in Dubai. "I don't think it's going to be about beautifying anymore."

Kattan reaches customers through a YouTube channel where she uploads all her makeup tutorials. Her brand's Instagram account boasts more than 39 million followers, along with her seven million followers on Facebook.



TRUMP CALLS FOR SPICER VOTES ON 'DANCING WITH THE STARS'

PRESIDENT Donald Trump is trying to influence votes on ABC's "Dancing with the Stars."

Trump this week tweeted that viewers should vote for former White House press secretary Sean Spicer. The president called Spicer a "good guy" and wrote "he has always been there for us!"

Spicer tweeted his thanks with instructions on how viewers can cast votes.

Spicer has been paired

with professional dancer Lindsay Arnold as they compete for the mirror ball trophy.

He says he's doing it "to have fun and make it a really good experience."

Trump supporters have embraced Spicer, but opponents have criticized the program for inviting him.

Spicer told USA Today there's no question a "huge" amount of his votes come from Trump supporters.

QUEEN LATIFAH TO RECEIVE HARVARD BLACK CULTURE AWARD

MMUSIC artist and actress Queen Latifah is among the honorees being recognized by Harvard University this year for their contributions to black history and culture.

Harvard is set to award the W.E.B. Du Bois Medal to Queen Latifah and six other recipients on Oct. 22, according to the Cambridge, Massachusetts, school's Hutchins Center for African and African American Research.

Other honorees include poet and educator Eli-

zabeth Alexander, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution Lonnie Bunch III, poet Rita Dove, co-founder of Black Entertainment Television Sheila Johnson, artist Kerry James Marshall and Robert Smith, founder, chairman and chief executive of Vista Equity Partners.

The award is named after Du Bois, a scholar, writer, editor, and civil rights pioneer who became the first black student to earn a doctorate from Harvard in 1895.



AD



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Macau Bats Rugby



France's Romain Ntamack is tackled by Argentinian defenders

RUGBY

France flounders but frightens rivals in World Cup knockouts

WHILE their campaigns often take on elements of a French farce, it's seldom a laughing matter to strike France in the knockout stages of a Rugby World Cup.

No matter how they under-perform, flounder or bicker among themselves in the pool stages, France is adept at reaching at least the quarterfinals and of upsetting

higher-ranked or better-performing teams when they do.

Their knockout stage starts against Six Nations champion Wales in Oita on Sunday. The Welsh held off two-time champion Australia to win Pool D, while France placed second to England in Pool C — with both finishing unbeaten.

In every World Cup since the first in 1987, when they made the final, the French have never failed

to reach the tournament's knockout rounds. They have reached the final three times and lost in the semifinals on three other occasions.

Defending champion New Zealand is among teams which can attest to the dangerous nature of France as a World Cup opponent.

The All Blacks lost to France in the semifinals of the 1999 World

Cup and in the quarterfinals of the 2007 tournament, when they were overwhelmingly favored to end their 20-year run of World Cup failures. That loss almost ended the All Blacks coaching career of Steve Hansen, who was then an assistant to Graham Henry and is now head coach.

France also came within a whisker of preventing New Zealand from finally lifting the World Cup

trophy in 2011, losing 8-7 to the All Blacks in a cliff-hanging final.

The 2011 edition was an example of France's ability to transform itself within the course of a tournament. The French looked nothing like a World Cup-winner in pool play, losing 37-17 to New Zealand and then, staggeringly, 19-14 to Tonga.

But they beat England, 19-12, in the quarterfinals and Wales 9-8 in another nail-biter in the semis.

France entered the final as the perhaps the biggest underdog in Rugby World Cup history, against an unbeaten New Zealand team which seemed fated to finally regain the Webb Ellis Trophy.

Captain Thierry Dusautoir rallied his players to produce a magnificent performance and the All Blacks needed a second-half penalty to fourth-choice flyhalf Stephen Donald and an immense defensive performance in the last quarter to scrape home.

According to reports, then France coach Marc Lievreumont had been sidelined by the players who were concerned at his methods and tactics and took charge of their own campaign.

France's current tour has been only slightly less fraught with poor performances and internal turmoil. It produced narrow wins over Argentina and Tonga, a more convincing win over the United States but its game against England, which might more accurately have measured its form, was canceled because of Typhoon Hagibis.

France placed second in its pool and its real ability remains enigmatic. **AP**

FOOTBALL

Ronaldo nets 700th career goal in Portugal's loss to Ukraine

UKRAINE 2, PORTUGAL 1

CRISTIANO Ronaldo scored his 700th career goal but couldn't keep Portugal from losing 2-1 to Ukraine in qualifying for the 2020 European Championship yesterday [Macau time].

Ukraine qualified for Euro 2020 with the victory, its sixth in seven matches in Group B. Portugal remains in second place and will need to keep battling for its spot in the remaining rounds.

"We played more with the heart than with the head, especially after 2-1," Portugal coach Fernando Santos said. "We created opportunities but didn't score."

Ronaldo netted his milestone goal for club and country by converting a penalty kick in the 72nd minute, when the defending



European champions already trailed by two goals. It was the seventh goal in six qualifying matches for Ronaldo, and his 95th overall

with Portugal.

"The records come naturally," Ronaldo said. "I don't go after them, they come after me. I'm already

thinking about tomorrow, about scoring No. 701 in my next match."

Ronaldo has also scored 450 goals for Real Madrid,

118 for Manchester United, 32 for his current club Juventus, and five for Sporting Lisbon.

"It's not an easy number to reach," Ronaldo said. "I have to thank everyone who has helped me. It's unfortunate that it came in a loss."

Roman Yaremchuk had put Ukraine ahead less than 10 minutes into the match, and Andriy Yarmolenko added to the lead near the half-hour mark. Ukraine played with 10 men after defender Taras Stepanenko was sent off with a second yellow card for the handball that led to the penalty converted by Ronaldo.

Portugal kept pressing until the end but couldn't find the equalizer. Ronaldo had a few good chances, and Danilo came close with a long-range shot that struck the crossbar in stoppage time.

"We created enough situations to win the game," Danilo said. "There are days like these, when the ball just doesn't want to go in. No need to do the math now, we just need to win the next two games to reach Euro 2020."

Portugal's last two qualifying matches are against Lithuania and at Luxembourg.

Ukraine reached 19 points, eight more than Portugal and nine more than third-place Serbia, which won 2-1 at Lithuania.

Ukraine, which would have qualified even with a draw, has lost one of its last 19 matches and has only conceded more than one goal in four of its last 29 games.

Portugal and Ukraine had drawn 0-0 in their group opener in Portugal. **AP**

OPINION

World Views

Therese Raphael, Bloomberg

SINGAPORE-ON-THAMES
ISN'T GOING TO HAPPEN

British Conservatives, from the time of Margaret Thatcher, have long admired Singapore's economic success. Low tax rates, minimal regulation and hyper-modern infrastructure are a magnet for foreign direct investment and keep government coffers overflowing. Could that be Britain after Brexit?

The idea titillates Tories and terrifies European Union leaders. But such fears say more about the EU's own vulnerabilities than they do about the U.K.'s desire — or capacity — to transform itself in that direction.

"With the departure of Great Britain, a potential competitor will of course emerge for us," German Chancellor Angela Merkel said at the weekend. "That is to say, in addition to China and the United States of America, there will be Great Britain as well."

It's not the first time Merkel has voiced such concerns, which chime with those of French president Emmanuel Macron. Back in 2017, Phillip Hammond, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, had to give an interview to Le Monde to reassure the French that Britain's economy would remain "reasonably European" after Brexit.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's indication that the U.K. would not maintain a "level playing field" with the EU in certain areas, as his predecessor Theresa May promised, has revived those worries. Even if EU leaders agree a Brexit deal this month, the Singapore bogeyman will be at the center of any negotiations on a future trade relationship.

Merkel and Macron should relax a little. While the Brits can learn something from Singapore — particularly in education and infrastructure — the U.K. is nothing like a one-party city state of 6.5 million people. Indeed, Britain's two main political parties are moving in the opposite direction to Singapore-style capitalism.

Even if the government wanted to shrink the state and cut the tax burden, it would have to kill a sacred cow to do so. Commitment to the state-run National Health Service is a given for any party in Britain.

It's notable too that while the Queen's Speech setting out Johnson's governing agenda this week said nothing about tax cuts, there was a commitment to improving care for the elderly. That's going to be expensive.

Of course, the EU should expect a post-Brexit U.K. to try to make itself more attractive for foreign direct investment. But that doesn't amount to economic warfare. Britain's corporate tax rate is already relatively low and due to drop to 17% in 2020, so there's not much room for cutting deeper.

Corporate tax might edge a bit lower to attract new investment, but talk of mirroring Ireland's 12.5% seems overblown. Tax avoidance is an easy way to whip up voter anger, and there's not much political appetite for letting companies further off the hook.

Likewise, the idea that the U.K. will simply slash its regulations is fanciful.

The real fear underpinning the Singapore trope runs deeper than losing some jobs and investment over the English Channel: Berlin and Paris worry that a resurgent U.K., whose economy thrives on a different model to Europe's social democracies, will be a reminder that life outside the EU isn't just possible, but attractive.

The logic of EU expansion and integration is that countries in close geographic proximity, particularly those with an unstable history and with giant competitors such as the U.S. and China, are stronger together. That is largely true, so long as the EU acts as an economic force multiplier for member states and not as a break on growth or innovation.

Brexit's costs will take time for the U.K. to absorb; far more than the blithe statements of Brexiters suggest. And Britain, for all its clout, will never compare to China or the U.S. Still, a U.K. that thrives eventually outside the EU tent is a net benefit for Europe, its largest trading partner, too.

Of course, that might encourage others to go it alone (if the initial British separation is not too painful). Certainly, it would provide ammunition for populist parties. But if the EU can't earn its keep by delivering real, tangible benefit for its members, it can hardly complain if they re-evaluate that membership.

[Abridged]

North Korea held South Korea to a 0-0 draw yesterday in a World Cup qualifying soccer match, though it is unclear how many people saw the game in Pyongyang.

South Korean soccer officials were unable to watch a telecast of the historic game and believe it was played in an empty Kim Il Sung Stadium.

Specific details of the game weren't immediately available. Four players received yellow cards, two from each team.

North Korea kept out South Korean media and spectators and

refused to air a live broadcast from the stadium, casting the game into media darkness in the South.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino was in Pyongyang and planned to attend the match, but FIFA could not immediately confirm to The Associated Press if he was there.

The North had been expected to have a unique home advantage in the 50,000-capacity stadium devoid of South Korean fans. But the South Korean soccer association was surprised to find out there apparently was no home crowd support, either.

IT'S A TIE: ATWOOD
AND EVARISTO SHARE
FICTION'S BOOKER PRIZE

JILL LAWLESS, LONDON

CANADIAN writer Margaret Atwood and British author Bernardine Evaristo split the Booker Prize yesterday [Macau time], after the judging panel ripped up the rulebook and refused to name one winner for the prestigious fiction trophy.

Chairman Peter Florence said the five judges simply couldn't choose between Atwood's dystopian thriller "The Testaments" and Evaristo's kaleidoscope of black women's stories, "Girl, Woman, Other."

Partly inspired by the environmental protesters of Extinction Rebellion, who were demonstrating near the prize ceremony's venue in London's financial district, Florence said the judges refused to back down when told the rules prohibit more than one winner.

"Our consensus was that it was our decision to flout the rules," he said. "I think laws are inviolable and rules are adaptable to the circumstance."

Prize organizers didn't see it that way. Gaby Wood, literary director of the Booker Prize Foundation, said prize trustees repeatedly told the judges they couldn't have two winners, but they "essentially staged a sit-in in the judging room" as deliberations dragged on for five hours.

Wood insisted the decision "doesn't set a precedent." It means Atwood and Evaristo will split the 50,000 pound (\$63,000) Booker Prize purse.

Florence said both of the winning books "address the world today and give us insights into it and create characters that resonate with us."

"They also happen to be wonderfully compelling page-turning thrillers," he added.

Both winners said they were happy to share the



Canadian author Margaret Atwood

prize.

"It would have been quite embarrassing for a person of my age and stage to have won the whole thing and thereby have kept a younger one, at different stage of their career, from going through that door," said Atwood, who at 79 is the oldest-ever Booker winner.

Evaristo said winning the Booker was something that "felt so unattainable for decades."

"So I'm just absolutely

The judges
couldn't choose
between Atwood's
dystopian thriller
'The Testaments'
and Evaristo's
kaleidoscope of
black women's
stories, 'Girl,
Woman, Other'

delighted to have the prize and to share the prize," she said.

Atwood, who won the Booker in 2000 for "The Blind Assassin," had been the bookmakers' favorite to win the coveted trophy for a second time with her follow-up to "The Handmaid's Tale." Like that book — now a hit TV series — "The Testaments" is set in Gilead, a theocratic

republic taken root in the United States, where young women are forced to bear children for powerful men.

Florence, founder of the Hay literary festival, said Atwood's novel "does massively more" than just continue the story started in "The Handmaid's Tale."

"It's beautiful in its depth and exploration of the world of Gilead," he said. It might have looked like science fiction back in the day. Now it looks more politically urgent than ever before."

Evaristo, who is of Anglo-Nigerian heritage, is the first black woman to take the trophy.

"I hope that honor doesn't last too long," she said.

She has published seven previous books but is less known than her co-winner.

Florence said he wasn't worried Evaristo, 60, would be overlooked as people focused on

Atwood. He said that "there is something utterly magical" about the 12 characters from many walks of life who narrate "Girl, Woman, Other."

"They give a wonderful spectrum of black British women today," he said. "In that sense this book is ground-breaking — and I hope encouraging and inspiring to the rest of the publishing industry." AP



Turkey defied growing condemnation from its NATO allies to press ahead with its invasion of northern Syria on yesterday, shelling suspected Kurdish positions near the border amid reports that Syrian Kurds had retaken a key town.



Poland Jaroslaw Kaczynski has guided Poland's conservative ruling party to capture the biggest electoral share for any party in 30 years of democracy in Poland — yet the man who has dreamed of power since childhood is still a bit disappointed.



Russia Alexei Leonov, the first person to walk in space, has been laid to rest at a memorial cemetery outside the Russian capital of Moscow.

France The French government believes that the U.K. presented a "serious proposal" to exit the European Union, though it is too early to say if there will be a deal by the European summit later this week.



UK Britain's Prince William and his wife Kate kicked off a five-day tour of Pakistan yesterday, amid much fanfare and tight security.

USA Joe Biden's son Hunter is rejecting assertions by President Donald Trump and his Republican allies that he did anything wrong in engaging in foreign work in Ukraine and China.