



WITH THE SEPTEMBER DATA NOW IN, VISITOR ARRIVALS IN MACAU HAVE RISEN TO 30 MILLION SINCE THE START OF THE YEAR

EMPEROR NARUHITO CROWNED IN ELABORATE TOKYO CEREMONY

AS HARD ROCK PREPARES TO OPEN RENOVATED FLORIDA PROPERTY, ITS CEO ADMITS TO SCOUTING NEW ACQUISITIONS ON THE LAS VEGAS STRIP



Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte is cutting short his trip to Japan due to "unbearable pain" in his spinal column caused by his fall during a motorcycle ride last week, his spokesman said yesterday.



Thailand Police are investigating the death of a German woman after arresting a German man for allegedly dumping her body into a canal.

Malaysia Prosecutors yesterday sought a court change for Goldman Sachs's criminal trial over its role in the alleged multibillion-dollar ransacking of state investment fund 1MDB.

Sri Lanka The daughter of a Sri Lankan journalist assassinated during the country's civil war says she'll appeal a U.S. court's decision to throw out her lawsuit against Gotabaya Rajapaksa, the front-runner in Sri Lanka's upcoming presidential election.



India The Trump administration remains concerned about the ongoing crackdown in India-administered Kashmir, the restive Himalayan region stripped of its special constitutional status in August, but supports India's development "objectives" there, a U.S. diplomat said in a statement yesterday ahead of a congressional hearing in Washington.

More on backpage



MACAU GP DON'T COUNT FLÖRSCH OUT

German driver Sophia Flörsch was spotted yesterday at a Formula 3 International post-season training event held in Valencia, Spain, prompting speculation she is mulling a return to Macau

SANDS EXECUTIVES HOLD REINVESTMENT AS THEIR PRIORITY



MUTUAL DEGREE RECOGNITION GOOD FOR MACAU AND PORTUGAL

VISITOR ARRIVALS REACH 30 MILLION AS OF SEPTEMBER

VISITOR arrivals totaled 2.76 million in September 2019, up by 8% year-on-year, according to the latest data from the government, bringing the total to over 30 million arrivals in the city since the beginning of the year.

Visitors from Hong Kong (564,700) and Taiwan (88,300) grew by 27.2% and 6.4% respectively, according to data released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).

Visitors from the SAR's primary tourism market, mainland China, increased by 5.7% year-on-year to 1.92 million, with 49% of them coming from Guangdong province (942,000). Mainland visitors travelling under the Individual Visit Scheme (796,000) increased by 1%.

Political commentator Larry So previously told the Times that the SAR may expect an increase in the number of tourists from China, as some may prefer to visit Macau rather than Hong Kong due to the ongoing protests.

Tourist arrivals from the Greater Bay Area also jum-



BLOOMBERG

ped by 36% year-on-year to 855,000. Those coming from Zhuhai (269,300) and Guangzhou (167,900) soared by 49.9% and 26.8% respectively.

Analyzed by mode of transport, visitor arrivals by land surged by 32.5% year-on-year to 2.05 million in September.

Approximately 287,300 visitors arrived in the SAR via the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge.

The director of the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO), Maria Helena de Sena Fernandes, had previously confirmed that Macau is expected to receive 40 million visitors – or close to that figure

– by the end of the year.

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

However, MGTO could still not predict whether the city would also reach the 40 million mark in tourist arrivals next year, citing different factors, including the trade war and the social unrest in Hong Kong.

“We cannot expect tourism to be growing all the time, so there will be times with adverse factors, and we need to prepare ourselves for any situation,” the tourism chief told the press earlier this month. LV

GAMING

OCTOBER REVENUE FORECAST REVISED ON MID-MONTH INDICATORS

BROKERAGE Sanford C. Bernstein has revised its forecast for October gross gaming revenue upward by 3 percentage points. Analysts at the firm said they expect gaming revenue for the month to contract 3% in year-on-year terms, according to a note seen by GGRAsia, which is an improvement on the 6% decline previously forecast.

Bernstein estimated that gross gaming revenue amounted to MOP16.8 billion (\$2.3 billion) for the first 20 days of the month, meaning an average daily rate of MOP930 million. The average daily rate was up 5% in year-on-year terms, but 26% compared with September 2019.

“There could be potential upside to our estimate if [the] VIP hold rate stays above normal

range,” analysts stated in the note, according to the gaming news website.

Meanwhile, analysts at Nomura said that gross gaming revenue for the month “should settle around MOP27 billion.” It added that VIP volumes were tracking as much as 20% lower last week than in the same period last year.

Gross gaming revenue in October 2018 amounted to MOP27.32 billion, representing a rise of 2.6% over a year earlier.

“Our roughly flat GGR growth estimate for October is not a major deviation from last month’s 0.6 percent year-on-year lift,” the analysts wrote, according to GGRAsia.

Earlier in the year, analysts said they expected Macau’s casino

business to strengthen in the second half of 2019, owing to an easier comparison base from last year. This outlook darkened as China’s moves to clamp down cross-border gaming have squeezed liquidity for the junkets and hurt the VIP segment.

These analysts now expect further contraction in the fourth quarter, with some suggesting gross gaming revenue could tumble as much as 6% in year-on-year terms.

JP Morgan Securities (Asia Pacific) wrote last month that “there’s a good possibility that 2019 marks a cyclical bottom” for Macau’s casino sector, and that growth will “rebound into 2020 on easy [comparisons], better liquidity in China, and [the] alleviation of 2019 headwinds.” DB

MEMORY LANE

Isabel Canhota and Júlio Bucho

MDT/Renato Marques



Sociedade de Transportes Colectivos De Macau, S.A.R.L., more commonly known as TCM, has been operating in the Macau SAR since 1974, following the inauguration of the Nobre de Carvalho Bridge, the city’s first bridge linking Macau with Taipa. The company was formerly a ferry company, transporting passengers between Macau, Taipa and Coloane. The above photo (left) shows double-decker bus route 11, which links Macau and Taipa. According to the Transport Bureau (DSAT), when the first bridge was opened in 1975, British transportation experts from Hong Kong studied the feasibility of double-decker buses running in Macau. They then introduced British double-decker buses into the city, which circulated between the islands of Taipa and Coloane, and the Macau Peninsula. The DSAT noted that these buses were 14 feet in height and each double-decker bus could accommodate 90 seated and standing passengers. By 1988, these double-decker buses went out of circulation, after falling into disrepair and for the absence of air-conditioning systems. LV

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From left: Phil Mickelson, Ron Reese, Wilfred Wong, Li Haotong

Reinvestment is our priority: Sands execs

ANTHONY LAWRENCE,
MDT/MACAU INC.

SANDS China is looking at ways it can continue to help build Macau as a World Center for Leisure and Tourism, and its parent company, Las Vegas Sands, would look at “any opportunity” to further participate here, especially in the Greater Bay Area and Hengqin island.

This is according to Las Vegas Sands spokesperson Ron Reese, as well as Sands China President Wilfred Wong, who gave exclusive interviews this week to Macau Daily Times.

Reese, who was in Macau to oversee Phil Mickelson's events at the Macau Golf Club and Caesars Golf Club, said the company was excited by the opportunities it saw in the region.

“This is an exciting time for the company,” he said. “If you look back at the last year, we've had the announcement of the extension in Singapore, a \$2 billion-plus investment, and the redevelopment of The Londoner [also a \$2 billion-plus investment], all of which speaks to our commitment to developing non-gaming amenities in these markets.”

Reese noted that a lot of attention was focused on Japan at the moment. However, he steered the conversation back to Macau. “We have been active in Japan for more than a decade, and in Korea, we continue to have conversations,” he said. “But you know, from our perspective, we have the great ad-

vantage of operating in two of the greatest markets in the world, Macau and Singapore. For us, being able to reinvest in these markets is a great opportunity.”

The most important thing for the company was to ensure that it was maximising its various opportunities, Reese said. “We are continuing to work with the government to diversify Macau's economy,” he said. “No one has put as many resources as we have toward developing non-gaming amenities and if there are chances to invest further in non-gaming development we would look seriously at that.”

The most obvious opportunity would be across the border, in Hengqin, of course, and Reese acknowledged that it was something the company was open to explore. “Conversations about Hengqin have been ongoing since the mid 2000s,” he said. “We are committed to Macau and China for the long term, and if there is an opportunity to invest [in Hengqin] the chairman and senior management would definitely take a look at that.”

LVS preferred to think about the long term, Reese said. “Over

the years, it hasn't always been easy. But we have demonstrated our commitment to Macau. We have kept our promises and become part of the fabric of Macau. That is important to us. We spend a lot of time talking about how dedicated we are to Macau.”

Not only Macau, but its hinterland, too. “We also hear a lot about the Greater Bay Area, and how it's all about creating better connectivity among the cities,” Reese said. “However we can help in that process, we stand ready to assist, support or participate in any way.”

The clock was clearly ticking toward concession renewal, and, while not commenting directly on it, Reese acknowledged it.

“At about the time the Londoner is done, we will be looking for that next opportunity anyone wants to put in front of us,” he said.

Specifically, Reese said there seemed to be clear opportunities in hospitality training and management in the Greater Bay Area. “That is one way we could contribute,” he said. “We have demonstrated that no ‘ask’ is too big or too small for us. We are happy to have conversations with anyo-

“We are doing what we can to raise not only the profile of Macau, but also of the Greater Bay Area.”

WILFRED WONG
SCL

“We have kept our promises and become part of the fabric of Macau.”

RON REESE
LVS

ne about how we can continue to reinvest. Through our existing work with the Sands Academy in Macau, and through our work with UNLV, which is a global leader in hospitality management, we are looking at ways to develop this further here.”

There are multiple ways the company could engage beyond Macau, just as it does within Macau, Reese noted, citing the example of procurement and corporate social responsibility initiatives. “Our SME procurement program in Macau is arguably the best,” Reese said. “Whether it's through that, or the Sands Cares Ambassadors, volunteering in the community, our commitment here has been important for us. So there are many ways we can participate in opportunities presented to us.”

Sands China President Wilfred Wong reiterated Reese's comments, adding that the company's activities, such as the Mickelson events and many others, were all part of efforts to help Macau reach its goal of becoming a World Center for Leisure and Tourism.

“We are doing what we can to raise not only the profile of Macau, but also of the Greater Bay Area,” Wong said. “We are raising our standards, through enhanced

training of our own staff, in a way that will likely help the entire GBA by bringing the region to the forefront of China's hospitality industry.”

Sands was already looking at GBA opportunities, Wong said. “If the government agrees to give us the new concession, we would like to expand. Of course, Macau is short of land and so Hengqin is obviously a very good neighbourhood that we can go into. But all

this will depend on what happens to the concession. If we get it, we will go “all-in” on the next stage of development.”

What might that “all-in” look like, if Hengqin welcomed Sands? Investment in hotel rooms is the most obvious

need, Wong said. “We are running at 96% occupancy, and so we need more space, especially if we want to expand our MICE business. Perhaps we can do more of that over there – particularly activities that would be easier for Chinese to attend. We can even consider having two separate venues for the same event.”

Note: A longer version of these interviews will be published in the December issue of Macau, Inc., a special issue designed to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Macau Special Administrative Region.

HEALTH

MINOR FLU OUTBREAK AT TAIPA SCHOOL

SIX Primary 2 students studying at the Affiliated School of the University of Macau have been infected with influenza and are now under treatment, but have not required hospitalization.

The students, three boys and three girls, are all from the school's Primary 2A class. They are aged between six and seven years old.

They started showing symptoms of flu, particularly upper respiratory infections, on Monday, including rising body heat and a sore throat. They then sought medical help at various medical institutions.

The Health Bureau has collected samples of some respiratory secretions for examination. It has also instructed the school to conduct cleaning and sanitation procedures in a more cautious and frequent manner. The school management has also been instructed to ensure indoor airflow and ventilation to lower the risks of infection.

The bureau has also issued reminders to the general public in terms of flu (and other respiratory syndrome) prevention measures.

Members of the public are reminded to get seasonal flu shot every year, which is one of the many reliable ways to activate the immune system against the virus.

Furthermore, a lifestyle with sufficient sleep and exercise, as well as a balanced diet should also be adopted.

The public are instructed to cover when sneezing and wrap any secretion with napkins before disposing of it properly.

When ill, the public should wear face masks to avoid contaminating others, avoid crowded places, and stay at home for rest if possible. **AL**

MOTORSPORTS

Don't count Sophia Flörsch out of this year's Macau Grand Prix

RENATO MARQUES

GERMAN driver Sophia Flörsch's participation in this year's FIA Formula 3 World Cup race, to be held on the streets of Macau's Guia Circuit, has not been completely ruled out yet.

The Times has learned that Flörsch yesterday made her debut in a Formula 3 International post-season training event held in Valencia, Spain, driving a single-seater from German squad HWA RACELAB.

Her participation in the training event has prompted speculation that the young driver is mulling participation in the Macau F3 next month.

Last year, Flörsch suffered spinal fractures during the Macau Grand Prix F3 race, after her mono-seat collided at high speed with Japanese

driver Sho Tsuboi's car, going through a catch fence at the Lisboa bend. The car then hit a photographers' bunker on the perimeter and dropped to the ground.

The driver underwent a seven-hour successful surgery at the public hospital and was named as an ambassador of goodwill to Macau.

Rumors regarding Flörsch's possible return to Macau after last year's accident started earlier this month, when she hinted over social media that a major announcement would be made.

Several media outlets speculated that the announcement would be related to her return to Macau for the F3 race this year, however the attention-catching post was eventually removed, giving the impression that something had changed regarding her plans.

As reported by Hoje Macau, the German driver refuted comments made by the president of the Macau Grand Prix Organizing Committee (MGPOC), Pun Weng Kun, who suggested that during the presentation of the first version of the GP entry lists last week, the German driver's lack of experience had been pointed out which was the reason for her lack of participation.

Flörsch clarified the issue with the Portuguese language daily newspaper, saying the only issue preventing her from joining the event was budget and not lack of experience.

"I need 65,000 euros [MOP585,000] to do Macau," she said. "The 2018 accident cost me and my family about 80,000 euros [MOP720,000]. So, I am struggling with a lack of money."

Flörsch's participation in the last day of post-season tests might indicate that she has found a way to overcome her financial limitations over the last few days, simultaneously granting her some time behind the wheel of the F3 car to "gain more experience."

"This year I was two or three times ahead of [Dan] Ticktum in the Regional Formula," said Flörsch. Ticktum is the double winner of the Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix and his appearance on the entry lists was a surprise.

In other news from the last of tests in Valencia, Billy Monger and Max Fewtrell have returned to their original seats from day 1, turning out for Carlin Buzz and Hitech Grand Prix respectively.

Other notable returns included 20-year-old Lirim Zendeli, who had switched teams and appeared to be

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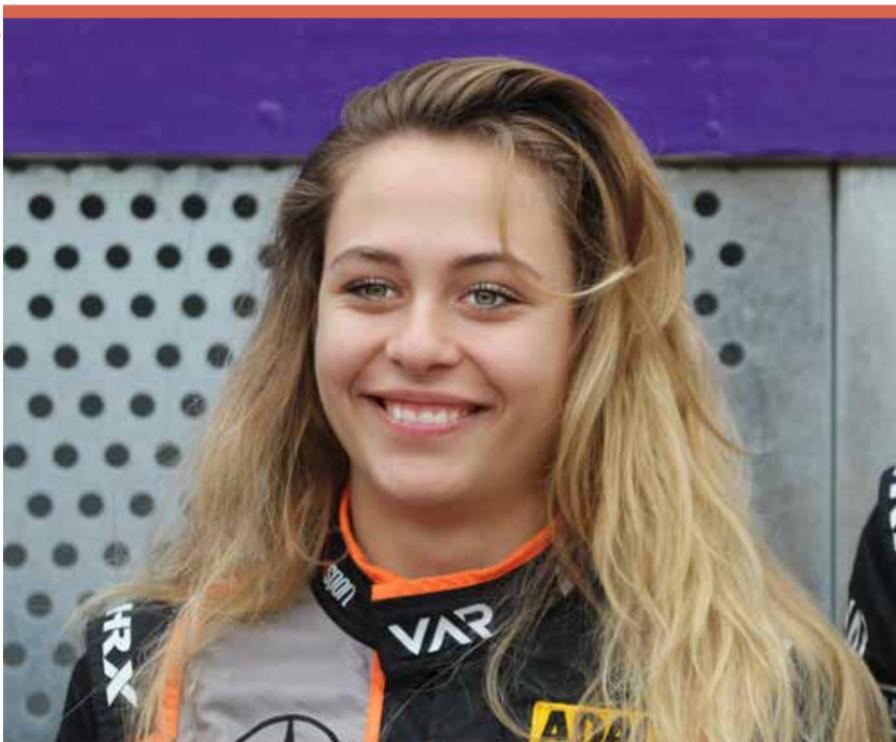


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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

RENATO MARQUES



driving a car from Trident, while Andreas Estner stepped into a Jenzer Motorsport machine.

DARUVALA BECOMES LATEST TO DROP OUT

The end-of-season game of "musical chairs" has resulted in another vacant seat, this time on one of racing's most celebrated teams. According to an official statement from SJM Prema

Theodore Racing, the team will be replacing 21-year-old Indian racer Jehan Daruvala in one of their cars. The racer had been presented on the team's lineup for Macau.

The short statement only notes that Daruvala "will not be able to drive in the 66th Macau Grand Prix, having suffered a knee injury in a training incident."

At this time, it is unclear

when this incident occurred and whether the extent of the injury justifies the dropout.

At the same time, the team said, "Jehan's health and fitness must come first and everyone at SJM Prema Theodore Racing wishes him a really quick recovery," and "a replacement driver for the team's number 3 car will be announced at a later date."

Exhibition promotes Guia Circuit through art

RENATO MARQUES

THE Macau Guia Circuit Promotion and Development Association (APDCGM) is once again holding an art exhibition as part of the association's activities, aiming to have Macau's unique Guia Circuit included as a UNESCO-listed heritage site.

The exhibition, inaugurated yesterday evening at Senado Square's Ritz Building, is located in the heart of Macau's historical center and is an annual event. It is also celebrating the third anniversary of the establishment of the association. This year, it includes works from a total of 25 artists who contributed pieces that range from Chinese calligraphy to painting, photography, ceramics, sculpture, and mixed techniques.

As a novelty this year, the exhibition is held not only inside the Ritz Building, but also outside in Senado Square, where a larger portion of the exhibition is displayed.



RENATO MARQUES

A Mini Cooper car painted by the artist Jacky Lee in a graffiti mix technique serves to attract visitors to see the rest of the exhibition.

As in previous years, the exhibition featured work that displayed or was inspired by the main motif, the Guia Circuit - from on-track racing action, to the Macau Grand Prix event, and other perspectives over the circuit and surrounding areas.

Another novelty for this year is the extension of the exhibition for a whole month,

until November 22. The organizer said that the extension would allow more visitors to see the exhibition, namely those that travel specifically to attend the Macau Grand Prix from November 14 to 17.

The exhibition is supported by several government departments, including the Macao Government Tourism Office, the Municipal Affairs Bureau, the Macao Post and Telecommunications Bureau, and the Casa de Portugal em Macau (Macau's Portuguese Association).

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LAWMAKER URGES RESPECT FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE RELICS

Lawmaker Ng Kuok Cheong has urged the local government to respect the religious and cultural background of heritage relics. In an interpellation written to the government yesterday, Ng asked about the projection of political symbols on the façade of the Ruins of St. Paul's in celebration of the 70th anniversary of China's establishment. Ng asked whether the government should cautiously review its arrangements on the façade of the religious facility, which did not acknowledge the facility's cultural significance and has disappointed the public. The lawmaker also asked whether the government had consulted the Catholic church before preparing the projection performance. Ng remarked that Macau has many cultural heritage displays with religious backgrounds. He wants to know if the government will talk to stakeholders about the facilities before arranging any activities.

GOVERNMENT ASKED TO EXPLAIN STOCK EXCHANGE PLANS

The Follow-up Committee of Public Administration Affairs of the Legislative Assembly (AL) will request that government principal officials provide an explanation regarding the plan for Macau to establish a stock exchange. Committee chairman Mak Soi Kun said that committee members learned about Macau's plans to set up a stock exchange via a news report. As the plans may have a significant impact on Macau's economy in the long term, all committee members agreed that government officials needed to explain about the proposed investment for the stock exchange, and the expected benefits, among other topics. The government should also listen to the opinions of lawmakers.

RENOVATIONS FOR RED MARKET OUTDOOR STALLS

The remodeling project for the fruit and food stalls outside the Red Market started yesterday. The stalls have been temporarily relocated to two other vendor areas in the neighboring streets around the Red Market. The project mainly focuses on revising the distribution of hawker stalls, standardizing the size of the stalls, providing the stalls with awnings and telescopic awnings, saving walking space between stalls and so on. The project is divided into two phases. The total construction period is expected to be 129 days. After renovations are done, the number of stalls will remain the same as before. It is hoped that the renovations will improve the commercial characteristics and hygiene of the environment.



HIGHER EDUCATION

MUTUAL DEGREE RECOGNITION MAKES FURTHER STUDY MORE CONVENIENT

JULIE ZHU

Tertiary education degrees between mainland China and Macau, and Portugal and Macau has the potential to make processes more convenient for students who wish to pursue further education and also improve the employment market, the Times has learned.

Last month, Macau signed a mutual degree recognition memorandum with mainland China. Then, only a few weeks later, the Portuguese government published policies for similar recognition between Macau and Portugal.

Both recognition plans suggest that Macau's associate, bachelor's, master's and PhD degrees will be recognized by mainland China and Portugal. In turn, mainland China and Portugal's tertiary level degrees will also be recognized by Macau.

Vong Sou Kuan, associate professor of Sociology of Education at the Faculty of Education of the

University of Macau, explained to the Times that the recognition may save students trouble when they plan to seek further education in Portugal.

According to Vong's understanding, without the agreement, Macau students who plan to study in Portugal would need to apply for a degree recognition certificate to be presented to the Portuguese universities at which they intend to study.

Besides concerns regarding students' overseas education, the absence of recognition may also create difficulties for Macau students who obtained their degrees elsewhere and then returned to Macau for work.

Without the recognition, Macau students who obtain their degrees in Portugal may have their degree tested and reviewed for local employers to confirm the level of their educational background, according to Vong.

"Now, with mutual recognition [with Portugal], it is much more convenient for our students. It

is actually convenient as well for Macau's tertiary education, which becomes more internationally-recognized," said Vong.

Earlier, Macau's Higher Education Bureau (DSES) stated that the SAR government is following up on the drafting of administrative regulations for automatic recognition of Portuguese higher education degrees and diplomas in Macau, and that the regulations are expected to take effect this year.

Vong believes that details must be included in Macau's regulations that clearly state which schools will be eligible for mutual recognition.

According to the memorandum signed between Macau and mainland China, it is suggested that both regions should provide each other with a list of recognized higher education institutes within their territories.

Currently, mainland students who obtain their degrees in Macau also must credit their Macau education certificate in mainland China.

The institutes include those which provide certificates for applied education [associate degrees], bachelor's, master's and PhD degrees. This specific memorandum proposes that mainland holders of applied education degrees from a mainland-recognized higher education institute can apply for a bachelor's degree in Macau, and that Macau holders of an associate degree from a recognized institute can apply for a bachelor's degree in mainland China. Bachelor's degree holders with excellent performance from both regions can apply for a PhD degree directly, skipping the master's degree.

As of 2019, mainland China has a total of 2,956 higher education institutes.

The Times contacted DSES to ask for more information on mutual degree recognition, including the number of countries or regions which have already signed an agreement with Macau. However, the Times did not receive a reply by press time.

MUST to present Tong King Sing biography

THE Research Center of Tong King Sing at the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) is preparing to undertake a biographical study into a specific part of China's modern industrial development centered around Chinese reformer Tong King Sing.

Earlier this week, the center held the first academic seminar on Tong's biography, with the participation of several researchers from both Macau and mainland China.

The seminar conducted an in-depth discussion on the preparation

of the biography, such as the drafting process and the collection of relevant documents.

The research team responsible plans to spend approximately three years completing a manuscript of over 1 million words to fully present the history of China's mo-

dern industrial development in relation to Tong.

Lin Guangzhi is in charge of the center and concluded the seminar by saying that Tong's biography should comprehensively reflect China's difficult path to modernization, as well as the Chinese pioneers'

spirit for pursuing national strength and wealth.

Tong is a well-known 19th century Chinese comprador, and was a supporter and practitioner of China's Self-Strengthening Movement. He has made great contributions to the modernization of China. JZ

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Bank of China hosts exhibition of bank notes

ALL five sets of the renminbi notes that have ever been issued are currently on exhibition at the Macau Tower as part of a currency exhibition held by the Bank of China, Macau Branch and the China Banknote Printing and Minting Corporation (CBPMC).

This is the first time the currency of the People's Republic of China has featured in a public exhibition held outside of the financial industry.

Besides the five sets of Chinese currency that have been printed in the last 70 years, the exhibition also shows the various commemorative coins.

In order to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the inauguration of the Macau Special Administrative Region, the bank has dedicated a section to the Macau pataca.

In this section, banknotes issued by the Bank of China Macau Branch are on display, along with the commemorati-

ve banknote issued in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Macau SAR.

The Bank of China Macau Branch is one of the two banknote-issuing entities commissioned by the Macau government's de-facto central bank, the Monetary Authority of Macao.

Macau's currency is printed by the China Banknote Printing and Minting Corporation, the national currency printing and minting body under the supervision of the country's central bank, the People's Bank of China.

The corporation also helped Macau design and print commemorative banknotes for the 2008 Beijing Olympics and the Centenary of the Bank of China in 2012 respectively.

Speaking at the exhibition, Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong recalled that among other banknotes, both commemorative banknotes designed and printed by CBPMC have been widely

applauded by the people of Macau.

On the exhibition, Leong said that it highlights the care and support offered by the mainland to Macau, considering it is the first exhibition of its kind.

In addition, he explained the design concept for the commemorative banknote. The design, featuring the Golden Lotus statue and the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, symbolizes Macau's economic achievements over the past 20 years, since its return to the motherland.

In the meantime, the building and inauguration of the bridge itself was a representation of the in-depth integration and interconnection between the jurisdictions of the Greater Bay Area of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau.

There are two versions of the commemorative banknote: one issued by the Bank of China and the other by Banco Nacional Ultramarino.



A commemorative banknote issued in celebration of the 20th anniversary of Macau

The front of the note depicts the Golden Lotus statue juxtaposed with the image of the issuing bank's headquarters. The back features an image of the "Chinese Knot" bridge towers of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, set against the image of the Historic Centre of Macau.

The 20th anniversary commemorative banknote was

also printed by CBPMC. Leong took the opportunity to thank the corporation for helping so that the project could be accomplished on time.

The exhibition will feature a workshop, in which experts from CBPMC and the Macau Numismatic Society will speak on the history of the Chinese renminbi and the Macau pataca. **AL**

AD



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Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam (left) and Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen

EXTRADITION

Hong Kong, Taiwan struggle to separate politics from justice

THE murder suspect whose case sits at the center of months of violent protests in Hong Kong is set to walk free today, as the city government bickers with Taiwan over how to prosecute him.

Both Hong Kong and Taiwan - divided over their views of the protesters and Beijing - accuse each other of letting politics get in the way of justice. The debate continued yesterday, even as Hong Kong authorities prepared to release the suspect, Chan Tong-kai, after completing his sentence for a related money-laundering charge.

Yesterday, Hong Kong's No. 2 official, Chief Secretary Matthew Cheung, hit back, saying Taiwan was exploiting the case for political gain.

"I really hope the Taipei authorities won't complicate a simple issue," Cheung said at a briefing. "At this point, we hope a breakthrough can be found -

i.e., the suspect can be returned to Taiwan as soon as possible."

Hong Kong's inability to prosecute Chan on allegations of murdering his local girlfriend while the couple were on vacation in Taiwan prompted Chief Executive Carrie Lam to introduce extradition legislation that sparked months of historic unrest. While Lam eventually scrapped the bill, the two sides still lack an extradition pact and haven't worked out a solution on how to handle Chan's case.

Chan, who admitted in court proceedings to killing his girlfriend in 2018, has expressed a willingness to return to Taiwan to face charges. Hong Kong opposition lawmaker James To yesterday accused Lam's government of delaying the process and urged the two sides to resolve the issue.

"We want the government to take proactive action to talk to Taiwan authorities," To told a news conference. "If you step

into the shoes of Taiwan's authorities, the Hong Kong police have not cooperated with them, have not delivered any evidence to them, have not given detailed evidence through Hong Kong operations. How can the Taiwan side trust you?"

The case sits at the center of a complex dispute that has sparked four months of unrest and a broader geopolitical battle that has embroiled Beijing and Washington. On one side sits Hong Kong, whose government answers to the Chinese Communist Party. On the other is democratic Taiwan, and it's pro-independence ruling party.

Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen refused to cooperate with Lam's original extradition bill over its inclusion of mainland China and her government now wants Hong Kong to hand over evidence against Chan before accepting his surrender. The Mainland Affairs Council in Tai-

pei, which governs the island's relations with China, said over the weekend statement that "political forces" were behind Chan's plan to turn himself in to Taiwan.

"Hong Kong should bring the suspect to trial directly as the suspect is in Hong Kong and the victim's family is in Hong Kong," Taiwanese Premier Su Tseng-chang said yesterday. "If the Hong Kong government is willing to provide judicial assistance to us, they should provide relevant evidence and documents so that we can try him."

Hong Kong authorities said they received "no reply" from Taiwan to its suggestions to send a delegation to discuss a "co-operation arrangement." The city's government said in a statement that Chan's plan "to surrender himself to Taiwan is purely out of his own free will," and that allegations of "political maneuvering are totally groundless." **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

HANDOUTS PLANNED FOR FLIGHTS AND HOTELS

The Hong Kong government is planning to announce subsidies for airfares and hotels to help revive tourism in a city that's been roiled by protests the past few months, local newspaper HK01 reported. The handouts will include subsidies of HKD120 (\$15.30) per air ticket and HKD100-a-night for hotels, subject to specific conditions, according to the report, which cited unidentified people. Hong Kong Financial Secretary Paul Chan is due to hold a briefing at 4 p.m. local time to outline initiatives to support businesses. The anti-government protests that have weighed on airlines, tourism and other industries have pushed Hong Kong into recession, according to Chief Executive Carrie Lam. Airlines operating in the city last month urged the government to introduce policies to offset damage to their businesses. Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd. has been one of the most high-profile casualties, warning last Friday that its earnings will weaken this half.

BEST WEEKEND FOR HOME SALES SINCE APRIL

Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam's plan to relax mortgage rules for first-time buyers appears to have already spurred sentiment, with the city recording its best weekend for home sales since April. The 10 biggest housing estates tracked by Centaline Property Agency Ltd. recorded 20 sales over the weekend, more than three times the weekend before. That's despite violent protests that have rocked the former British colony now since June. Secondary home transaction volumes have dropped since demonstrations against the now-withdrawn extradition bill began, while prices have slipped about 5%, data from Centaline show. "The government's decision to relax the loan-to-value ratio may help first-time buyers and upgraders who were previously only able to buy new flats because developers could offer financial benefits," said Joseph Tsang, chairman of Jones Lang LaSalle Inc. for Hong Kong. "With this change, buyers will shift to the secondary market, which offers plenty of potential stock and lower property prices."

BUSINESSES STILL INTERESTED IN HK, ACCORDING TO GOV'T

The numbers of companies in Hong Kong from overseas and the mainland, including start-ups, has continued to grow, according to two recent surveys published this week by the Hong Kong government. One of the surveys revealed that the number of business operations in Hong Kong with parent companies overseas and in the Chinese mainland has increased by 9.9% to 9,040 over the figure of 2017. The other survey found that there were 3,184 start-ups operating in major public and private co-work spaces and incubators in Hong Kong, up 42.8% from 2,229 in 2017. These start-ups employed over 12,400 persons, an increase of 97.4% over the 2017 figure.

Guangzhou's economy grew 6.9% in first three quarters

THE gross domestic product of Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong Province, grew by 6.9% in the first nine months this year to reach more than 1.78 trillion yuan (\$251 billion), according to official data from the

city's government. The city's government reported rapid growth in investment, a stable consumer market and a small rise in imports and exports in the January-September period.

A breakdown of the

data showed the fixed-asset investment for the first three quarters in Guangzhou grew by 21.1%, among which investment in infrastructure, industries and real estate rose 27.6%, 25.9% and 18.9%, respectively.

In the first three quar-

ters, the total retail sales of consumer goods in the city reached over 734.69 billion yuan, up 8.2% year on year.

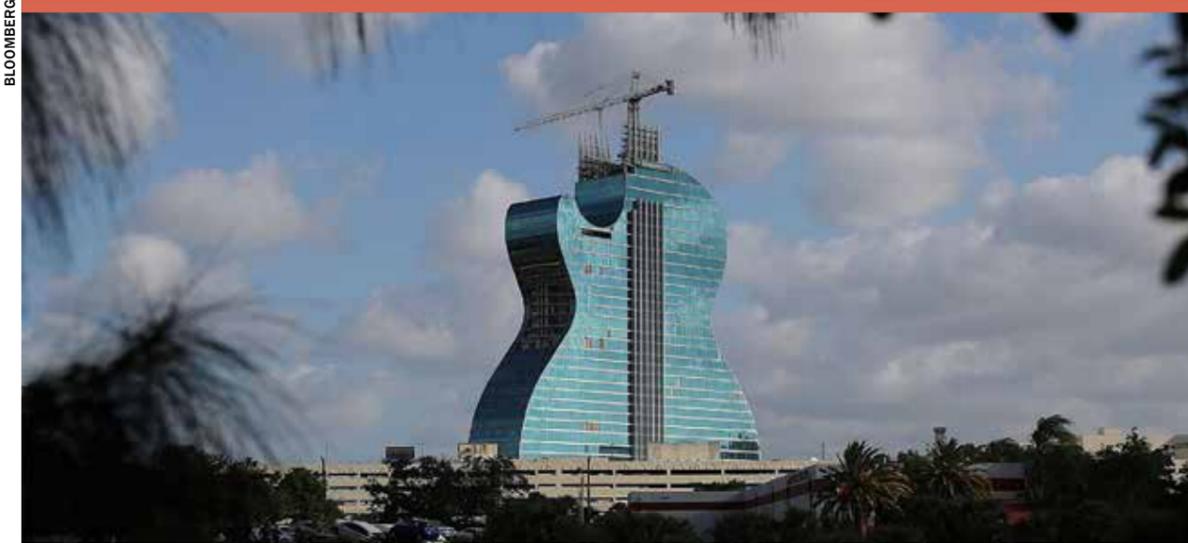
The city's economy has grown steadily during this period as Guangzhou has been making efforts to stabi-

lize production, expand investment, strengthen finance, promote exports, boost consumption and attract foreign investment, according to the city's statistics bureau.

Previous data showed that south China's economic powerhouse Guangdong Province's GDP rose 6.4% year on year to 7.72 trillion yuan (\$1.09 trillion) in the first three quarters of 2019. **XINHUA**

GAMING

HARD ROCK PONDERERS BUYING HOTEL ON LAS VEGAS STRIP



The guitar-shaped Hard Rock Hotel under construction in Hollywood, Florida

CHRISTOPHER PALMERI

WITH a \$1.5 billion casino expansion opening tomorrow in Florida, Hard Rock International Inc. may soon be turning its attention to other markets.

One option may be heading to the Las Vegas Strip with a new location - once an existing Hard Rock property in the city closes next year.

"Certainly on the Strip is one of the possibilities," Chief Executive Officer Jim Allen said in an interview Monday with Bloomberg Radio's Carol Massar and Jason Kelly. While the company isn't looking specifically at this point, being on the Strip is a big deal in the industry. "We look at this as a great opportunity for our brand," Allen said.

Hard Rock has grown since being acquired by Florida's Seminole Tribe in 2007, adding hotel locations in London and Cabos San Lucas, Mexico, this year alone. The expansion in Hollywood, Florida, north of Miami, introduces a 638-room,

guitar-shaped hotel tower and a private lagoon with bungalow cabanas reminiscent of the Bora Bora island in the South Pacific.

Allen said Hard Rock in Atlantic City, New Jersey, which opened last year in the former Trump Taj Mahal, now has the second-highest-grossing casino in that city after MGM Resorts International's Borgata.

The expansion effort has brought tragedy as well. A Hard Rock hotel under construction in New Orleans collapsed Oct. 12, killing three people. Allen said he was hopeful to be able to move forward with a hotel in the city, but the company plans to work with local and national officials to complete a full investigation of the accident.

"First thing, our prayers go out to the families and those that were injured and also the supporting businesses around the site," he said. "That is really where our focus is right now."

The company is still pursuing an opportunity in Japan, which re-

cently authorized casino gambling. The tribe still has a strong balance sheet, he said, although "that equity check would be substantial if we're selected."

The current Hard Rock Las Vegas, which is located off the Strip, wasn't one of the properties acquired by the Seminoles. It was sold last year and is due to be turned into a Virgin-branded resort by billionaire Richard Branson.

What could Hard Rock buy in Las Vegas? Eldorado Resorts Inc. said it may sell a property on the Strip once its deal to buy Caesars Entertainment Corp. closes next year.

Allen sees Caesars' Planet Hollywood as "very interesting" and thinks the company's Bally's casino occupies "one of the more legendary corners on the Las Vegas Strip" and was "one of the possibilities."

Allen said he wasn't interested in the Cosmopolitan resort, which owner Blackstone Group is said to be shopping for \$4 billion.

BLOOMBERG

AVIATION

Gulfstream unveils G700 in race for world's biggest private jet

GULFSTREAM is angling to reclaim bragging rights as builder of the world's biggest private jet.

The planemaker unveiled plans to make a roomier version of its flagship G650, which was unseated last year as the largest luxury jet by Bombardier Inc.'s Global 7500. Gulfstream's new G700, with an expected debut in 2022, will be capable of flying 7,500 nautical miles and cruise at just under the speed of sound.

At an industry conference Monday in Las Vegas, Gulfstream President Mark Burns said the G700 has "the tallest, widest, longest cabin in our industry."

Gulfstream, a unit of General Dynamics Corp., is betting that the \$76 million G700 will entice the world's wealthiest flyers with the bigger cabin and an upgraded range. The launch customer is Qatar Airways, which has ordered 10 aircraft for its charter service Qatar Executive.

But buyer unease is mounting in the luxury-jet market. A slowdown in orders could cause deliveries to begin flagging in 2021, according to a study by Honeywell International Inc. While an array of new aircraft models is expected to boost shipments this year

and next, longer-term threats are emerging from the U.S.-China trade war, the U.K.'s looming break from the European Union, and a shaky global economy.

Bombardier began deliveries of the Global 7500 in December, spurring speculation that Gulfstream would strike back with a larger plane. Bombardier's jet, which came to market two years later than planned, was based on a new design.

"Global 7500 is the industry flagship. It's a clean sheet design, built to perform like no other," said David Coleal, president of Bombardier's aviation unit. "Remember, anything else out there is just a stretch."

The Bombardier plane has a range of 7,700 nautical miles and can fly as fast as Mach 0.925, or just less than the speed of sound. The \$73 million aircraft has a wingspan of 104 feet, and its 111-foot length gives it room for four distinct seating zones.

Gulfstream waited to announce its latest plane until it delivered two new, smaller jets - the G500 and G600. The G600 began shipments to customers in June and the G500 debuted about a year earlier. The models were introduced in 2014. The G650 debuted in 2012. BLOOMBERG

CORPORATE BITS

Sands Resorts Macao announces festive offerings



Sands Resorts Macao will offer a range of celebrations, entertainment, accommodation and shopping offers plus dining for visitors from November 14, 2019 to January 10, 2020.

At The Venetian Macao, vi-

sitors will be enchanted by "Winter Wonderland" decorations throughout the lagoon area from November 15 to January 2, 2020, including a 48-foot Christmas tree and Christmas train fea-

turing Santa and his grotto. According to their statement, Sands Resorts Macao will also welcome back their signature 3D light and sound display and will project festive images, including a tribute to the 20th anniversary of the establishment of Macau.

Meanwhile, the Eiffel Tower's Grand Illumination Show Christmas Edition will run throughout the festive season from November 14 to January 2, 2020, from 6:15 p.m. to midnight. Another highlight of the winter celebrations is a 3D light and sound spectacular, "La Magie De Noël," which will project festive images on the sky ceiling of the Place Vendôme at Shoppes at The Parisian Macao.

MGM restaurants present variety of hairy crab delicacies



Imperial Court at MGM Macao and Chün at MGM Cotai are presenting a variety of creative hairy crab delicacies until November

30, made from premium hairy crabs only.

Hairy crabs fully mature in the ninth and 10th months of the lunar calendar, which

means this is the best time of the year to feast on the much-loved crustaceans.

According to a statement issued by the gaming operator, the Imperial Court's chef-recommended the "Braised fillet of Macau sole with hairy crab roe in casserole" which elevates the sweetness of the crab roe with the soft and fresh seasonal local sole, served in a hot stone pot.

A creative little twist on the classic crab roe noodle dish, "Braised buckwheat noodles with scallop and hairy crab roe" adds flavor to the crab roe by pairing it with al dente buckwheat noodles.

Huawei lobbying spend hits record with hire of Trump fundraiser

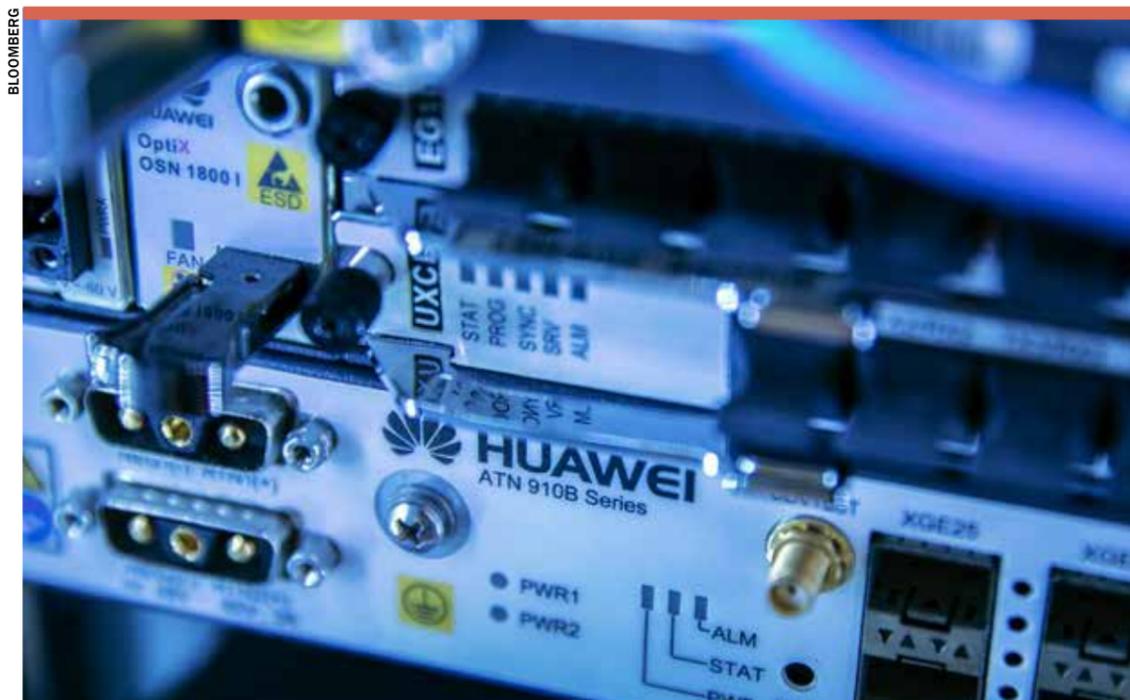
BEN BRODY

HUAWEI Technologies Co.'s lobbying spending spiked in the third quarter as the Chinese telecom giant hired a fundraiser for President Donald Trump with deep ties to Republican leadership to help it fight back against the administration's blacklisting of the company from the U.S. market.

Huawei spent a company record of \$1.8 million on federal lobbying in the three months ending in September, up from \$30,000 in the same period last year, when it had largely shut down its lobbying presence in Washington and whittled its office down to a skeleton staff.

Of the total, Huawei spent an eye-popping \$1.7 million to pay lobbyist Michael Esposito, according to federal disclosures. Esposito, whose hiring was disclosed in August, describes himself a member of Trump Victory, the joint fundraising committee that includes the president's reelection campaign and the Republican National Committee, according to a biography on the website of his firm, Federal Advocates Inc.

Even by K Street standards, the sum is extraordinary, and it exceeded the third-quarter spending of many trade groups considered among Washington's most powerful players, such as the Consumer



Technology Association, the American Petroleum Institute, and the National Federation of Independent Business, each of which spent more than \$1 million.

Huawei hired Esposito to help with its fight over a five-month-old ban by the Commerce Department, which blocks U.S. companies from selling components to China's largest technology company in the name of national security. Huawei denies that it's a threat.

Esposito lobbied at the White House, the Commerce Department

and its Bureau of Industry and Security, which oversees the so-called entity list that bans Huawei, according to a federal disclosure that he filed.

Huawei and Esposito didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

Huawei is also pursuing a legal and public-relations campaign against the ban, which requires American firms to obtain a government license in order to sell to it. The company has been increasing its outreach to the press. Last week, Huawei hosted a reception

for journalists during the International Monetary Fund meetings at the rooftop bar of a swank Washington hotel blocks from the White House.

Journalists nibbled on shrimp tempura, crab cakes and pork belly with views of the Washington Monument and Commerce Department in the background as they mingled with company executives, including Andy Purdy, a former security official for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security under President George W. Bush. Guests received tote

bags containing a collection of interviews with the company's founder and chief executive officer, Ren Zhengfei.

In March, Huawei registered lobbyists for the first time since 2012, including Samir Jain, a Jones Day partner who was a cybersecurity official under President Barack Obama. The company also hired Boston-based Racepoint Global Inc., a communications firm specialized in technology matters, and BCW LLC, a communications firm owned by global advertising and marketing group WPP Plc.

Huawei also has engaged law firms Sidley Austin LLP, Steptoe & Johnson LLP and Squire Patton Boggs. The company is fighting a U.S. criminal case for allegedly violating U.S. sanctions on Iran. Sidley Austin is defending Huawei and a U.S. affiliate against charges that they defrauded at least four banks by concealing business dealings in Iran in violation of U.S. sanctions.

Meng Wanzhou, Huawei's chief financial officer and the daughter of Zhengfei, was also charged in the case. She remains on bail with conditions in Vancouver while she fights extradition to the U.S.

The ban hasn't crimped Huawei's revenues, which grew 24% in the first nine months of 2019, boosted by a 26% jump in global smartphone shipments. **BLOOMBERG**

TARIFF WAR

Trump says China signals trade talks on target for November deal

JUSTIN SINK & JORDAN FABIAN

PRESIDENT Donald Trump said China has indicated that negotiations over an initial trade deal are advancing, raising expectations the nations' leaders could sign an agreement at a meeting next month in Chile.

"They have started the buying," Trump said Monday during a Cabinet meeting at the White House, referring to Chinese purchases of U.S. agriculture products that the president has pushed for as part of a deal. "I want more," he added.



Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross

Earlier Monday, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said that it was more important to get details of the agreement right than it was for Trump to sign it at an expected meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping next month in Chile.

Stocks in Asia gained yesterday after U.S. equities advanced as positive signs emerged on trade talks and ahead of earnings from some of the world's biggest companies. S&P 500 futures rose suggesting there is scope for the underlying gauge to extend gains after it surpassed 3,000.

Ross also told Fox Business Network that the "actual meat" of the agreement would come in two additional phases yet to be completed. While the White House touted a preliminary agreement earlier this month, officials in Beijing have yet to confirm any-

thing is set in stone.

U.S. officials have said China would significantly increase purchases of American agricultural commodities and agree to some intellectual property, financial services, and currency concessions. In exchange, the U.S. paused a tariff increase due to hit in the middle of October, just ahead of Christmas shopping season.

The agreement represents a pause in the 18-month trade war that has hurt the economies of both countries, but falls short of the dramatic overhaul of Chinese economic policy Trump has sought. The agreement also doesn't address Huawei Technologies Co., which has pushed forward with a global effort to sign 5G commercial contracts even as the U.S. seeks to persuade other countries to blacklist the firm. **BLOOMBERG**

COMPANIES ARE STRUGGLING TO OFFLOAD FOREIGN ACQUISITIONS, FROM YACHTS TO PIZZA

MANUEL BAIGORRI

CHINA Inc. is struggling to offload overseas businesses and the accompanying debt in an increasingly volatile market.

In just a few weeks, companies from yacht makers to luxury clothing and pizza outlets - acquired by Chinese firms in recent years - have either scrapped planned initial public offerings or sought alternatives to reduce their debt piles.

Ferretti SpA, the Italian superyacht maker controlled by China's SHIG-Weichai Group, shelved its planned Milan listing last week, citing weak market conditions. Shandong Ruyi Technology Group Co., which spent over \$4 billion on purchases including U.K. trench coat maker Aquascutum, introduced a local state-owned firm as its second-largest shareholder amid rising pressure to repay debt.

Chinese firms started selling off assets two years ago when the government tightened curbs on capital outflows and stepped up scrutiny on foreign acquisitions. Geopolitical factors from the U.S.-China trade war to Brexit and

protests in Hong Kong and Chile are hurting sentiment in deal-making on uncertain outlook.

"It's a big process of adjustment," Mark Webster, a managing director at investment banking adviser BDA Partners in Shanghai, said in a phone interview. "Some Chinese companies made overseas acquisitions at the top of the cycle and ended up overpaying for assets that did not make a lot of strategic sense. They are now finding it challenging to offload those businesses at fair values."

Attempt Stymied

Beyond luxury, sectors less sensitive to economic cycles are also having issues. PizzaExpress Ltd. hired a financial adviser to prepare for debt talks with its creditors, people familiar with the matter said earlier this month. The iconic U.K. casual dining chain has been struggling with its domestic market at a time when it's expanding in China after its acquisition by Chinese private equity firm Hony Capital in 2014.

The volume of Chinese outbound deals was at \$59 billion so far this year, a 13% drop from a year earlier, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. It's a far



cry from the peak of such M&A activities in 2016, when China National Chemical Corp. agreed to buy Swiss agrochemical maker Syngenta AG for \$43 billion.

China's HNA Group Co., once

among the most aggressive in foreign acquisitions, found itself stymied in an attempt to sell out of plane lessor Avolon Holdings Ltd. for a valuation of about \$8.5 billion, Bloomberg

News has reported.

"Bigger financial and regulatory hurdles and the global geopolitical instability make it even harder to get deals done now," Webster said. **BLOOMBERG**

Gov't has a new plan for P2P industry: small-time lending

IT was once a roughly \$150 billion industry - an innovative marketplace where individuals could lend to each other. But after years of fraud, defaults and few investor safeguards, China's regulators are embarking on a plan to radically transform its peer-to-peer lenders.

Authorities in Beijing are working with local officials on guidelines that would convert qualified online lenders into small-loan companies, Zhu Shumin, vice chairman of the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission, said Monday. Firms that don't fulfill current requirements will be pushed to exit the industry, he said, without providing more details.

The changes are the latest moves to rein in, and perhaps kill off, China's P2P sector. As policy makers cracked down on financial risk, they zeroed in on the lenders, whose customers were predominantly individual investors who could suffer ruin if things went wrong.



Zhu didn't say how widely the CBIRC's plans, which it's working on alongside the central bank, would affect the industry. Converting P2P platforms into small-loan providers would force them to comply with rules on capital requirements and leverage that other lenders have to follow, said George Xu, an analyst at Moody's Investors Service.

"It is in line with govern-

ment policies to rein in the P2P industry and improve transparency," he said.

Decline had already set in for the once-thriving industry. More than 1,200 online lenders have exited the market this year, leaving just 462 platforms, Zhu said Monday. As of September, the value of outstanding online loans was down 48% from the beginning of the year, he said.

Alarmed by surging de-

faults, fraud and investor anger, authorities have been working for years on plans to wind down small- and medium-sized P2P lending platforms nationwide. The lenders attracted heightened scrutiny as part of President Xi Jinping's crackdown on unsavory behavior throughout the finance industry, including the darkest corners of shadow banking.

Online lending became

popular in China after a tightening of bank credit in 2010 followed two years of stimulus spending to counter the global financial crisis. Scant oversight of P2P platforms allowed for massive growth, with outstanding loans ballooning from almost nothing in 2012 to 1.1 trillion yuan (\$155 billion) by May 2018.

Problems began to emerge amid a slowing economy and tightened liquidity. One early sign of trouble was the unraveling in early 2016 of a P2P platform described by authorities as a \$7.6 billion Ponzi scheme - China's largest ever - that defrauded 900,000 people.

The purge of the P2P industry began in places such as the financial-technology hub of Hangzhou, where regulators cracked down last year. The Hunan provincial government said in a statement last week that it had ended the operations of its 24 P2P platforms.

Across China, the outstanding value of P2P lending had shrunk to 610

billion yuan by September, according to WDZJ Research Center.

Even though the direction of China's approach is clear, there's a chance that some companies may be allowed to continue as they are, said Zhang Yexia, Shanghai-based director of WDZJ.

"China's regulatory stance is still uncertain as the authorities will still be allowing qualified P2P lenders to stay in some areas," Zhang said. "But the number would be rather limited."

Online platforms that don't successfully remain lenders may become service providers to financial institutions, said Xiao Sa, a member of the China Banking Law Society, an academic organization that studies the country's finance rules. Some of the companies have data-management systems, as well as client bases and brand recognition built up over years, that may be valuable to other firms, she said.

BLOOMBERG

ISABEL REYNOLDS

JAPAN completed the months-long coronation of Emperor Naruhito in an elaborate ceremony in Tokyo, as assembled global royalty and political leaders looked on.

Clad in layers of intricately patterned silk, Naruhito and his consort, Empress Masako, assumed their seats in a ritual at the Imperial Palace in central Tokyo yesterday. The emperor and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe both gave speeches at the formalities, at which about 180 countries were represented.

"I shall always wish the happiness of the people and the peace of the world, and stay together with the people while acting according to the Constitution and fulfilling my responsibility as the symbol of the state," the emperor said in a speech during the ceremonies after emerging from behind a purple curtain.

"We will make our utmost efforts to create a peaceful and brilliant future full of hope for a proud Japan," Abe said in a speech. He then bowed and shouted "Banzai" three times, using a traditional Japanese cry pledging a long life. His comments were followed by a cannon salute that reverberated around the palace.

The ceremony, steeped in centuries of tradition, includes the presentation of the sacred sword and jewel that are part of the imperial regalia, which has been passed through generations of monarchs who have ascended the Chrysanthemum Throne. A parade through the capital in an open-topped limousine set for yesterday has been put off until Nov. 10 out of respect for the victims of a typhoon earlier in October, which has killed at least 78 people and caused billions of dollars in damage.

Naruhito takes throne as Japan's first new emperor in 30 years



Naruhito and Masako hosted the first in a series of formal banquets at the palace yesterday, where traditional court music and dance will be performed. Abe will also host a banquet at a hotel the following day.

Naruhito, 59, is by the Imperial Household Agency's count, Japan's 126th emperor. His grandfather Hirohito, was the last emperor designated by tradition to be

a living god. After Japan's defeat in 1945, the U.S. kept Hirohito on the throne to build unity, but made the position of emperor one for a mortal who had no say in state policy.

Royalty, such as Britain's Prince Charles, are among those in Tokyo for the festivities. Unlike some royal households in other parts of the world, Japan's postwar imperial family has mostly dodged

major scandals.

Naruhito inherited the throne after his father, Akihito, became the first Japanese emperor in two centuries to abdicate, citing poor health. A new emperor means a new era in the Japanese calendar, so 2019 has also been dubbed the first year of Reiwa, which the government translates as "beautiful harmony." Akihito reigned from 1989 for three decades.

Naruhito was the first Emperor to be educated in the West, spending two years at the University of Oxford. One of the imperial couple's first tasks after his reign began in May was to host U.S. President Donald Trump and his wife Melania on a state visit.

Next in line to the throne is Naruhito's younger brother, Akishino, 53, followed by Akishino's son, Hisahito, 13. **BLOOMBERG**

Bangladesh to start relocating some Rohingya to island

AUTHORITIES in Bangladesh said yesterday that they want to start relocating thousands of Rohingya refugees to a Bay of Bengal island soon from cramped camps near the border with Myanmar, from where they fled.

Top government administrator in Cox's Bazar, Kamal Hossain, said they listed 100 families willing to move to Bhasan Char, an island hours by boat from the mainland. The government has said it will relocate 100,000 refugees to the island in phases.

Hossain said they wanted to start the relocations in late November or in December.

"Our government policy regarding the Rohingya

refugees is no force will be used to handle them. We have long been working with them for confidence building for the relocation," Hossain said. "I have a list of 100 families comprising of some 7,000 refugees."

He said they were working to try to convince more refugees to move to the island.

The government set several deadlines earlier to complete the development of the island, but no final dates were announced. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina repeatedly told the U.N. and other international partners that her administration would engage them before making a final decision on the relocation.

The government has

been building infrastructure on the island including homes, schools, mosques and flood protection embankments under a multi-million-dollar project.

The plan for relocation first came up in 2015, but no major progress was initially made. But the issue was never dropped despite criticism, including from the United Nations and global human rights groups, which said relocation to the island would further complicate the lives of the refugees because of how often it floods. Many Rohingya were also against the idea but things started to change in recent years, especially after a huge influx of Rohingya in 2017.

More than 1 million Rohingya currently live in Bangladesh, with over 700,000 coming from Myanmar since late August 2017 amid a violent crackdown on Rohingya by the country's military.

Syed Alam, a 32-year-old refugee, said yesterday that he listed his 11 family members for the relocation.

"I have seen a video of the island. I have seen concrete buildings there. Here we live in very bad conditions. I think my family will have a better accommodation there," he said.

Alam said many others in his camp have been consulted already and they are increasingly showing interest.

Another refugee, Mostafa Kamal, 45, said he convinced his children and wife to move to the island.

"Here our life is terrible. There is no space here. I don't think we will be able to go back in Myanmar very soon. We want to have a better place to stay," Kamal said.

In August, Bangladesh and Myanmar attempted to start the repatriation of Rohingya for a second time, but no refugees agreed to voluntarily go back, citing safety concerns in Myanmar. The United Nations said Myanmar needed to do more to build confidence among the Rohingya for the repatriation.

Rohingya Muslims have long demanded that Myanmar, a predominantly Buddhist country, give them citizenship, safety and their own land and homes they left behind. Myanmar has refused to recognize Rohingya as citizens or even as one of its ethnic groups, rendering them stateless. Rohingya also face other forms of state-sanctioned discrimination.

A U.N.-established investigation last year recommended the prosecution of Myanmar's top military commanders on charges of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity for the crackdown on the Rohingya. Myanmar dismissed the allegations. **AP**



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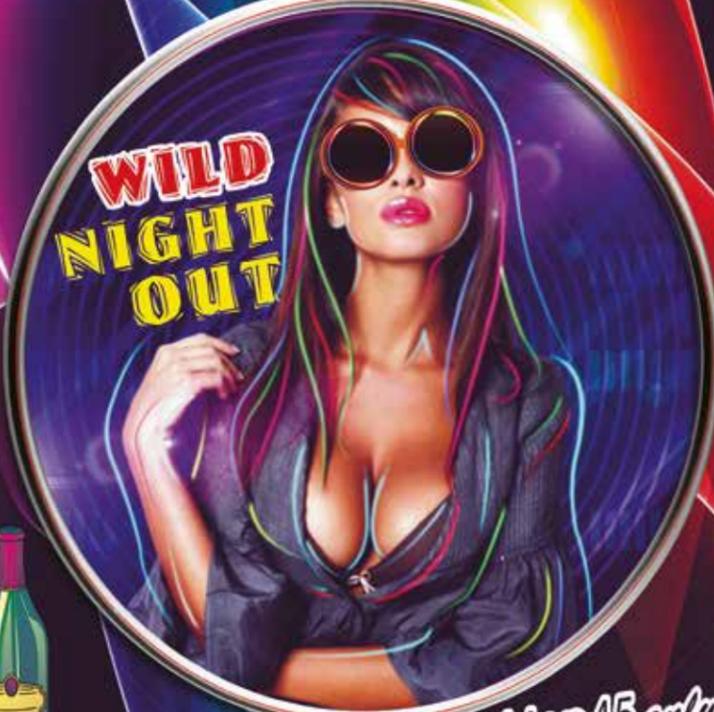
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AP PHOTO



US diplomat drawn into Trump's Ukraine effort set to testify

LYNN BERRY, KYIV

WILLIAM Taylor has emerged as an unlikely central player in the events that are at the heart of the impeachment inquiry of President Donald Trump.

The retired career civil servant was tapped to run the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine after the administration abruptly ousted the ambassador. He was then drawn into a Trump administration effort to leverage U.S. military aid for Ukraine.

And then he apparently grew alarmed.

"I think it's crazy to withhold security assistance for help with a political campaign," he wrote in excerpts of text messages released by impeachment investigators in Congress.

Now, members of Congress will hear directly from Taylor. The former Army officer was scheduled to testify behind closed doors yesterday in an inquiry trying to determine if Trump committed impeachable offenses by pressuring the president of Ukraine into pursuing information that could help his campaign as Trump with-

held military aid to the Eastern European country.

Taylor had been serving as executive vice president at the U.S. Institute of Peace, a nonpartisan think tank founded by Congress, when he was appointed to run the embassy in Kyiv after Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch was removed before the end of her term following a campaign against her led by Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani.

He was chosen for the post because he was among only a handful of former officials with experience in Ukraine who would be perceived as neutral by local officials and wouldn't raise objections at the White House, according to a colleague.

"It was a very short list, but Bill was at the top of it," said the colleague, who was not authorized to speak publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity. "We were very grateful he agreed to do it."

Taylor, who had served as U.S. ambassador to Ukraine from 2006 to 2009, was welcomed back to Kyiv as a steady hand.

"He's the epitome of a seasoned statesman," said John Shmorhun, an American who heads the agricultural company AgroGeneration.

He said Taylor's experience has shown in his handling of the Trump administration's efforts to pressure Ukraine. "He seems to know the difference between right and wrong," Shmorhun said.

"We need guys like Bill Taylor

Taylor's experience has shown in his handling of the Trump administration's efforts to pressure Ukraine

working in Ukraine, helping to deal with the politics in Ukraine, having a strong arm."

Before retiring from government service, Taylor was involved in diplomatic efforts surrounding several major international conflicts. He served in Jerusalem as U.S. envoy to the Quartet of Mideast peacemakers. He oversaw reconstruction in Iraq from

2004 to 2005, and from Kabul coordinated U.S. and international assistance to Afghanistan from 2002 to 2003.

He is a graduate of West Point and served as an Army infantry platoon leader and combat company commander in Vietnam and Germany.

He arrived in Kyiv a month after the sudden departure of Yovanovitch and the inauguration of Ukraine's new president, prepared to steer the embassy through the transition. He was most likely not prepared for what happened next.

In July, Trump would have his now-famous phone conversation with President Volodymyr Zelenskiy in which he pressed him to investigate unsubstantiated claims about Democratic rival Joe Biden and a debunked conspiracy theory involving a computer server at the Democratic National Committee. Trump at the time had quietly put a hold on nearly \$400 million in military aid that Ukraine was counting on in its fight against Russian-backed separatists.

In the follow-up to the call, Taylor exchanged texts with two of Trump's point men on Ukraine as they were trying to get Zelenskiy to commit to the investigations before setting a date for a coveted White House visit.

In a text message to Gordon Sondland on Sept. 1, Taylor bluntly questioned Trump's motives: "Are we now saying that security assistance and WH meetings are conditioned on investigations?" Sondland, U.S. ambassador to the European Union, told him to call him.

In texts a week later to Sondland and special envoy Kurt Volker, Taylor expressed increased alarm, calling it "crazy to withhold security assistance for help with a political campaign."

He said not giving the military aid to Ukraine would be his "nightmare" scenario because it sends the wrong message to both Kyiv and Moscow. "The Russians love it. [And I quit]."

In a stilted reply, Sondland defended Trump's intentions and suggested they stop the back and forth by text.

U.S. diplomats based at the Kyiv embassy have refused to speak with journalists, reflecting the sensitivity of the impeachment inquiry. The embassy press office did not respond to a request for comment on Monday.

Publicly, as in his texts, Taylor has continued to stand up for Ukraine, a country he describes as on "the front lines" of a war with Russia.

Speaking to university students on Aug. 31, Taylor said Ukraine was showing its commitment to a "democratic, European, prosperous future" and could count on U.S. support.

"We know you have challenges. We know your large neighbor has started a war against your country. We stand with you in resisting that aggression," Taylor said, according to remarks published on the embassy website.

It was a message that would be repeated in a "Music of Freedom" concert this past weekend by the U.S. Air Forces in Europe Band performing together with Ukrainian musicians.

Joseph Pennington, the acting No. 2 while Taylor is in Washington, addressed the mostly Ukrainian audience, saying he hoped they would "feel the support and commitment to democracy that our two countries cherish" and "recognize the power of the enduring partnership between the United States and Ukrainian armed forces."

The lyrics of the first song, "Over There," may have been lost on many in the audience as the refrain "the Yanks are coming" cheerfully rang out in the Kyiv concert hall.

But there was no missing the parting words from Pennington: "Glory to Ukraine." AP

what's ON



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

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

UNTIL: December 27, 2019

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2859 2919

Offbeat

TELEVISION'S WEATHER CHANNEL WADES INTO CLIMATE DEBATE

The Weather Channel is moving beyond cold fronts and heat waves to wade into the politics of climate change, with a special planned for early next month that includes interviews with nine presidential candidates on the topic.

The campaign's most prominent climate change skeptic — President Donald Trump — declined an invitation to participate.

The hour-long special, scheduled to debut Nov. 7, interviews candidates at various sites chosen to illustrate the impact of climate change. Sen. Bernie Sanders, for example, speaks at the site of a devastating California wildfire and Sen. Kamala Harris along a flood-prone area of the Mississippi River.

The Weather Channel has done specials on the impact of climate change in Alaska and along the Louisiana coast, for example, but this is the first time the network has gotten involved directly in a political campaign.

"It gets the conversation going in a big way," said Rick Knabb, the network's on-air hurricane expert and former director of the National Hurricane Center. He and meteorologist Stephanie Abrams traded off on the interviews.

The Weather Channel wanted to do the special through its own scientific lens, said Nora Zimmet, the network's senior vice president for content and programming. Although other networks inquired about joining and doing a town hall-style event, WTC turned them down.

"We didn't want to have a food fight about whose plan is better," she said.

While the special is something new for the network, Zimmet said executives weren't concerned about turning off weather fans who view it as a refuge from politics, or people like the president who see less urgency in addressing the issue. Despite a "vocal minority," surveys show most viewers want to learn more about the issue and potential solutions, she said.

Trump may not be there, but the special won't ignore him or what his administration has been doing, Knabb said.

Trump recently mocked Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg on Twitter for a United Nations speech to world leaders and skipped a UN meeting on the issue.

All three announced Republican challengers to Trump — Joe Walsh, former Illinois congressman, Bill Weld, former Massachusetts governor, and Mark Sanford, former South Carolina governor and congressman — are interviewed. For time reasons, organizers chose the top seven Democrats in the polls: in addition to Sanders and Harris, Sen. Cory Booker, Sen. Elizabeth Warren, former Rep. Beto O'Rourke and Mayor Pete Buttigieg. Former Vice President Joe Biden was not interviewed; his campaign said it was a scheduling issue.

Knabb said the interviews have taught him a lot about the complexities of proposed solutions.

"The public is going to learn a lot from this," he said.



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

17 - 24 Oct



MALEFICENT: MISTRESS OF EVIL
ROOM 1
2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm
Director: Joachim Rønning
Starring: Angelina Jolie, Elle Fanning, Harris Dickinson
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 117min



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

BRAVE FATHER ONLINE
ROOM 3
2:30, 4:45, 7:15pm
Director: Teruo Noguchi, Kiyoshi Yamamoto
Starring: Kentaro Sakaguchi, Kōtarō Yoshida
Language: Japanese (Chinese & English)
Duration: 114min



JOKER
ROOM 3
9:30pm
Director: Todd Phillips
Starring: Joaquin Phoenix, Robert De Niro, Zazie Beetz
Language: English
Duration: 122min

this day in history



1956 HUNGARIANS RISE UP AGAINST SOVIET RULE

Tens of thousands of people have taken to the streets in Hungary to demand an end to Soviet rule.

There are believed to have been many casualties in a day which started as a peaceful rally, and ended with running battles between police and demonstrators in which shots are said to have been fired.

The demonstrators are demanding that the former Prime Minister, Imre Nagy, be returned to power.

Mr Nagy was dismissed last year for his liberal policies, but has since been rehabilitated and was re-admitted to the Hungarian Workers' Party this month.

Other demands include free elections, freedom of the press, and a withdrawal of Soviet troops.

The uprising began as a rally in central Budapest, to express solidarity with Polish demonstrators who have recently succeeded in getting their deposed liberal leader, Wladyslaw Gomulka, returned to power.

The gathering turned into a mass demonstration for a similar Hungarian "declaration of independence" from Moscow's control.

As more and more people joined the demonstration, the First Secretary of the Hungarian Communist Party, Erno Gerö, made an unscheduled radio announcement, describing as "lies and rumours" reports that Hungary wanted to loosen its ties with the Soviet Union.

Mr Gerö is known for his hardline views, and tensions in Hungary have been high since he was appointed in July.

Immediately after the broadcast, the crowd marched on the broadcasting station.

The gathering was peaceful at first, but the crowd became restless and tried to force their way in.

They were driven back by security forces with tear gas and responded by throwing stones at the windows. One group drove a heavy lorry at the front door in an attempt to break it open.

The incident marked the start of an escalation of violence.

A running battle began to clear the crowd away from the building, while clashes between demonstrators and armed police broke out elsewhere in the city.

When the crowds refused to disperse despite police opening fire on them, Mr Gerö ordered Soviet tanks onto the streets.

The demonstrators, however, are showing no signs of giving up their protest, which is continuing into the night.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Hungarian Communist Party met the same night in emergency session and re-instated Imre Nagy as prime minister.

Soviet tanks were still on the streets, however, and the uprising continued.

On 25 October, tanks opened fire on a crowd in Parliament Square at point-blank range.

Hundreds died and were wounded, and the Communist Party was so shocked by the incident that it sacked Erno Gerö, replacing him with Janos Kadar.

Soviet troops began pulling out of the Hungarian capital on 30 October. Mr Nagy formed a government which was dedicated to lifting the shackles of Soviet communism.

By 4 November, the Soviet leader, Nikita Khrushchev, sent in the tanks in a ruthless crackdown in which thousands died and another 200,000 fled the country.

Imre Nagy took refuge in the Yugoslav embassy but was abducted by Soviet agents. He was executed in 1958 after a secret trial in Budapest in which he was accused of high treason.

In 1989, he was officially rehabilitated and reburied with full honours.

Hungary remained under Soviet control until the collapse of communism in 1989.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Being uncomfortable, either emotionally or physically, isn't necessarily a bad thing. Today, instead of wishing for more space or more compassionate energy around you, try to accept things as they are.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Someone you have been trying to get in touch with has been avoiding you, but don't give up trying to connect! All you need to do is get more inventive with your approach.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Today, spend more time with someone who embodies who you want to be someday. Inspiration can come from a song, or a beautiful sunset—but the best kind of inspiration can come from another person.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Are you mulling over an important decision—or are you merely procrastinating? Be careful that you don't get a reputation for being indecisive.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

You are clearly in a period of great ease right now, when you can put in half the effort to get the full reward. Things are coming to you more quickly, and people are working with your schedule.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Sometimes it may seem like patience isn't such a virtue! Your internal timetable is a lot tighter than everyone else's right now, which could be causing some tension.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

There is a new beginning coming today in one of your older relationships. Someone is suddenly seeing you in a brand-new light, and it is igniting deeper feelings.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Whatever is restricting your progress right now could actually be something that you think of as a positive thing. Take a second look at where you are putting all your energy—and ask if it is worth it.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

When you're put into a situation that involves delicate egos today, trust your judgment and play to fairness, not to politics. You have the strength of your ideals supporting your actions.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

When someone comes up with an awfully bizarre idea, be careful about blurting out what you really think right away—the person suggesting it thinks it's brilliant.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

One of your most cherished relationships is shifting into a lower gear, but that should not cause you any concern whatsoever. This is just a phase that the two of you are going through.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

This is not the time for heavy action—in fact, it is quite the opposite! Take a more passive role in any dealings you have today, and let someone else call the shots.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

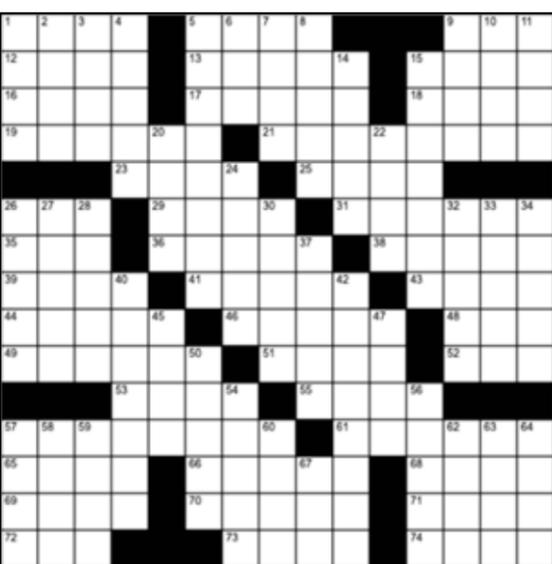
WEATHER

	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- Attention getter; 5- What you do to a joint, prior to a heist; 9- It's game; 12- Narrow path for walkers, cars or ships; 13- In a fitting way; 15- "Damn Yankees" vamp; 16- Mary Kay competitor; 17- Barrel part; 18- Oil-rich Islamic theocracy neighboring Iraq; 19- State of the art; 21- Longing; 23- Bangkok tongue; 25- Grounded fleet; 26- Tad's dad; 29- Possesses; 31- Swarmed; 35- Sun, delivery; 36- Russian retreat; 38- Handle; 39- Fall prey to a banana peel, say; 41- Fenced areas; 43- Willy Wonka creator Road; 44- Foil maker; 46- Hotel offering; 48- ___ Speedwagon; 49- Honeybunch; 51- Paraphernalia; 52- Sheet music abbr.; 53- ___ (razor brand); 55- Troop group; 57- Guiding light; 61- Crave; 65- North Carolina college; 66- Caribbean resort; 68- Plenty; 69- Dressed; 70- ___ is human; 71- Starchy food grain; 72- Japanese honorific; 73- Actor Pitt; 74- Fifth Avenue retailer.

DOWN: 1- Map out; 2- Rescue; 3- Reason to cancel school; 4- Creed; 5- Shipwrecked person; 6- Suitable; 7- Remain; 8- Santa's aides; 9- Singer Amos; 10- Economist Greenspan; 11- Group; 14- Brewer's need; 15- Paint oil; 20- Not barefoot; 22- Numbered rds.; 24- Early Peruvians; 26- Syrian president; 27- Ball girl; 28- Author Jong; 30- Gesture of indifference; 32- Stiller's partner; 33- Early anesthetic; 34- Sorrow; 37- Farewell; 40- Foreshadow; 42- Norm; 45- Broadcasts; 47- Pennsylvania city; 50- Really bother; 54- Chocolate substitute; 56- Autocratic Russian rulers; 57- Bodybuilder's pride; 58- Earthenware pot; 59- Bank transaction; 60- Repentant one; 62- Bones found in the hip; 63- Music genre; 64- French summers; 67- Bikini top;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



AD

FOR SALE

Keng Ou Office space, Macau
HK\$17,500,000 2,352 ft² 3 🚗

FOR RENT

Office Space in NAPE, Tong Nam Ah Building
\$26,000/mth 1,043 ft² 1 🚗

FOR SALE

- [Taipa] Apartment with balcony 2 🚗 1 🚗
787 ft² \$4,950,000 (ref: 19096008)
- [Coloane] Beautiful apartment 1 🚗 3 🚗 2 🚗
1,665 ft² \$8,500,000 (ref: 19070001)
- [Taipa] Manhattan 3 🚗 2 🚗
1,720 ft² \$13,600,000 (ref: 19096006)
- [Coloane] Large apartment 2 🚗 3 🚗 2 🚗
2,530 ft² \$13,800,000 (ref: 19096000)

FOR RENT

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

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SPRINGSTEEN SURPRISES MOVIEGOERS AT FILM PREVIEW SCREENINGS



BRUCE Springsteen surprised moviegoers by introducing his new concert film in his New Jersey hometown.

The Asbury Park Press reports Springsteen introduced two showings of "Western Stars" at the AMC Loews Freehold Metroplex Cinema in Freehold last weekend.

Springsteen is a native of Freehold borough.

Springsteen told audiences

that since his band knew it wasn't going to tour, he had to try to figure out a way to bring the music to his audience.

"Western Stars" is a concert film shot in a barn in front of a small audience at Springsteen's property in Colts Neck. The music album "Western Stars" was released in June.

A second preview screening is scheduled for tomorrow (Macau time). The film hits theaters on Friday.

ALEXIS BLEDEL IS THE MOST DANGEROUS CELEBRITY ONLINE

ACTRESS Alexis Bledel has been bookish and sweet on "Gilmore Girls" and "Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants." But the actress herself is now officially dangerous.

Cybersecurity firm McAfee on Monday crowned Bledel the most dangerous celebrity on the internet in 2019. No other celebrity was more likely to land users on websites that carry viruses or malware.

Trailing Bledel at No. 2 is talk show host James Corden, followed by "Game of Thrones" star Sophie Turner, actress Anna Kendrick, movie star Lupita Nyong'o, talk show star Jimmy Fallon, martial arts master Jackie Chan, the rappers Lil Wayne and Nicki Minaj, and finally Marvel actress Tessa Thompson at No. 10.

The survey is meant to highlight the danger of clicking on suspicious links. Bad actors will attach malware and malicious links to famous names, hoping fans searching for videos on the internet will fall victim. McAfee urges

AP PHOTO



internet users to consider risks associated with searching for pirated content and always apply updated security fixes.

"Consumers may not be fully aware that the searches they conduct pose risk, nor may they understand the detrimental effects that can occur when personal information is compromised in exchange for access to their favorite celebrities, movies, TV shows or music," Gary Davis, chief consumer security evangelist at McAfee,

said in a statement.

Davis explained that Bledel and Turner likely landed on the list this year due to their respective roles in the popular shows "The Handmaid's Tale" on Hulu and "Game of Thrones" on HBO, both subscriber-based services.

Talk show hosts Corden and Fallon probably landed on the list due to viral videos of their shows, while interest in "Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker" likely put Nyong'o so high.

Lil Wayne's summer tour with Blink-182 may have prompted fans to search for illegal downloads.

Bledel takes over top spot from Ruby Rose, who led last year's list largely because of interest in her playing Batwoman. This year's list also indicates interest in reality stars may have waned. Kristen Cavallari and Kourtney Kardashian, who both found themselves in last year's top 10 list, dropped to No. 214 and No. 222, respectively. AP

AD



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Macau Bats Rugby

FOOTBALL

Beckham's stadium complex for Inter Miami taking shape

TIM REYNOLDS,
FORT LAUDERDALE (FLA.)

PILES of steel sit at one end of the property, waiting to be lifted into place. Workers were going in all directions, some pounding nails into wood, others ready to pour concrete, others driving heavy equipment over piles of dirt.

For now, it's a construction site. Before long, Inter Miami will call it home.

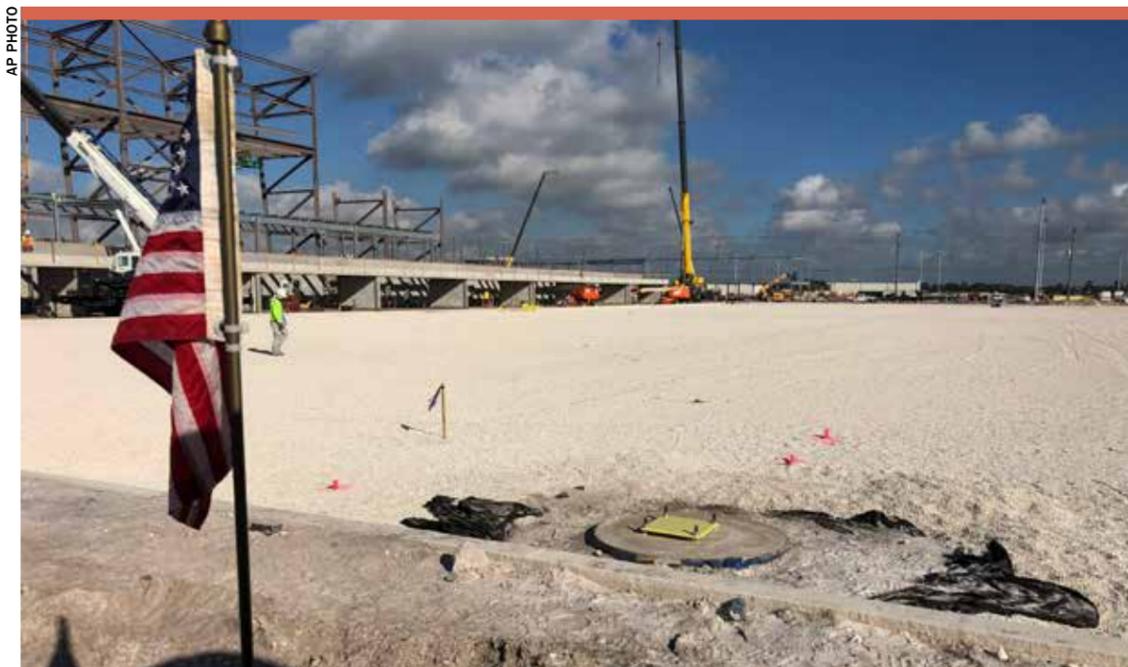
"Organized chaos," Inter Miami sporting director Paul McDonough said as he took a look around the site of the now-demolished Lockhart Stadium where work on a new complex is happening 12 hours a day, seven days a week. "But we'll be ready."

These are hectic times for McDonough and Inter Miami, the team headlined by soccer icon David Beckham that will embark on its inaugural MLS season starting early in 2020. The team doesn't have a coach yet. Or players. Or a schedule. Or even the first blade of grass for its new field.

Over the next few weeks, all those issues — and countless others — will be addressed. Construction is on schedule, with all signals pointing toward everything being ready for the team's first home match that's likely to come in March.

Still, that doesn't do much to help McDonough's sleep cycle.

"This takes up a ton of time and everything keeps me up at night," McDonough said. "But it's



Inter Miami MLS stadium under construction

OK. We're just on an accelerated timeline. There's so much stuff going on. But this is expansion. It's awesome. Everything we're doing here, we're trying to do it right."

At any given time, there are about 225 workers on the job site — the whereabouts of all of them tracked with an app that gets data from a chip attached to the back of their hard hats. If there's lightning in the area, work gets halted for 30 minutes until the cell passes. And that's a big deal, because even with next season still months away every minute counts.

Nothing is ready, yet — but it will be.

"The way it was built out, we're thinking of the athlete first from the minute they walk in," said Jacklyne Ramos, the team's vice president of communications as she stood inside what will be the building containing the locker room and other key spaces for the team. "The main stadium, that's for the games. Where we are now, this is where they'll live."

The Associated Press got a tour yesterday [Macau time] of what will be Inter Miami's inaugural home. The shell of the team's headquarters — locker rooms, equipment room, dining area, coach's office, what will become the sports performance

lab, the academy workout facilities and more — is coming together. Every detail has been thought of; the walk from the players' parking lot to the building will be short, the training room will be small ("I don't want them comfortable in there," McDonough said), and an area will be built just off the outside wall of the locker room to air out cleats after training sessions.

"They'll never be in the building," McDonough said. "Boots can stink."

Beckham spent about five years trying to get MLS back in South Florida, and after many sites were considered — there's still plans for

the team to eventually play in another stadium that Beckham and his partner Jorge Mas want built in Miami — they settled on the former Lockhart site. Lockhart is where the MLS' Miami Fusion played from 1998-2001, eventually folding because of poor attendance.

Inter Miami plans to play in Fort Lauderdale until the Miami stadium is complete, but what they're building at the Lockhart site is permanent; the training complex will remain the facility for Inter Miami's MLS, USL League One and academy teams.

The centerpiece of everything is the 18,000-seat stadium, and parts of what will become the field are already largely marked off. Drainage was installed first, followed by four inches of rock for a base. From there, sprinklers go into place and four thin pieces of wood are set in place to mark where the goalposts will go. About a foot of soil will be added in the coming weeks, watered and compacted and graded. Sod is scheduled to go in Nov. 14; from there, it'll be protected and fenced off and finally, what now seems like an oversized sand pit right now will look like a place to play soccer.

Behind that are more fields, including a turf one that can be used for high school football and other events. The other half-dozen grass fields will be for training and the team's affiliate clubs.

A coach will be hired soon. A roster is coming. There are plans for a soft opening a few weeks before the season and then, when the first match is played, all the mess and chaos will be forgotten.

"I wasn't ready for this. I'm still not," McDonough said. "I'm learning as we go. Conduits, positioning of poles, there's so many things that you don't realize until you live it. But that's what it takes and we're getting it done." AP

Asian soccer player of the year banned for five months

ASIA'S reigning player of the year has been banned for five months for confronting a referee in the Asian Champions League semifinals.

The Asian Football Confederation banned Abdelkarim Hassan, the left back of Qatari champion Al Sadd, from all its club competitions until March 20.

FIFA says Hassan will be able to play at the Club World Cup in Qatar in December, which will include Al Sadd. He can also play in domestic games.

Hassan reacted aggressively after being shown a yellow card for a foul in the first half of Al Sadd's 4-1 first-leg loss to Saudi club

Al Hilal in Doha on Oct. 1.

The AFC says the defender "was expelled by the referee for an act of violent conduct against a match official."

The five-month ban removes Hassan from this year's Asian Champions League and three group games in the 2020 edition. Al Sadd already qualified as Qatar league champion, which also earned a Club World Cup place as the host nation's domestic title winner.

Hassan won the AFC's 2018 award as the best player based in Asia. He helped Qatar win the 2019 Asian Cup in February and played in the 2019 Copa America in Brazil. AP



OPINION

Macau Matters

Richard Whitfield



A BETTER WAY TO MAKE HYDROGEN

The Hazer group (www.hazergroup.com.au), a West Australian based technology company, is developing a much cheaper and more effective way to make hydrogen based on original research done at the University of Western Australia. This is good news for our planet and the problems we have with climate change. It is also a great example of university-industry collaborations, and I would really like to see many more such collaborations in Macau.

Hydrogen gas (H₂) is an important industrial chemical. It is widely used in oil refining and the manufacture of fertilizers and explosives. There are also exciting potential new uses for hydrogen in fuel cells in energy generation and storage and as an alternative to batteries in long range electric vehicles. Fuel cells combine hydrogen gas with oxygen from the air to directly generate electricity and give off water as the only waste. Hydrogen production is now a steadily growing US\$100 billion global industry.

Unfortunately, hydrogen is a very small and very light molecule that is difficult to store safely. You may remember the Hindenburg disaster in the 1930's. Zeppelins, effectively hydrogen filled balloons, were becoming a popular type of air transport at the time but never recovered from this disaster.

The popular steam methane reformation process currently used industrially to make hydrogen gas from methane produces carbon dioxide as a waste which is vented to the atmosphere and severely damages to our environment. Globally, this is an important source of damaging carbon dioxide emissions.

By contrast, the Hazer process is the catalytic decomposition of methane using iron ore as the catalyst. It uses the same methane feedstock but converts it to hydrogen and carbon with no carbon dioxide waste gas. As part of the process the carbon can be made into different kinds of graphite. Graphite is already an important industrial chemical that is widely used in many types of battery and to make all sorts of carbon fiber products.

Researchers are also starting to successfully develop super-capacitors based on graphite which are an important complement to batteries in electric vehicles and other energy generation/consumption situations. Batteries rely on relatively slow chemical processes to store large amounts of electric charge, which is why your mobile phone battery takes so long to recharge. By contrast capacitors simply store electrons as surface charges so they can be filled very quickly but cannot hold as much energy as a battery.

Demand for graphite/carbon fiber is growing rapidly and it is expected to become a large global industry.

Thus, this new Hazer process totally eliminates a very dangerous waste (carbon dioxide) from the production of hydrogen from methane and at the same time creates a new low cost source for graphite. Environmentalists always talk about (1) eliminate wastes where possible, (2) if you cannot eliminate a waste at least reduce it, (3) if you must create waste then recycle it to become a new valuable product.

While I do not believe that there is a large role for Macau universities in fundamental research to develop new chemical processes and the like, I firmly believe that that there are many areas where industry-university collaborations in Macau could be beneficial. For example, the hotel industry is notorious for its lack of research and development but Macau universities are quite capable of contributing. For instance, I am sure that Macau universities and technology companies could collaborate to develop self-room booking and check-in/check-out software for hotels – websites for booking and paying for rooms combined with smartphone apps that act as room keys, and so on.

SOUTH POLE'S OZONE HOLE SHRINKS TO SMALLEST SINCE DISCOVERY

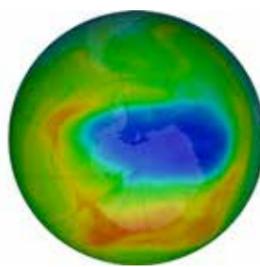
THE BUZZ

The ozone hole near the south pole this year is the smallest since it was discovered, but it is more due to freakish Antarctic weather than efforts to cut down on pollution, NASA reported.

This fall, the average hole in Earth's protective ozone layer is 9.3 million square kilometers. That's down from a peak of 26.6 million square kilometers in 2006.

This year's hole is even smaller than the one first discovered in 1985.

"That's really good news," NASA scientist Paul



Newman said yesterday. "That means more ozone over the hemisphere, less ultraviolet radiation at the surface."

Earth's ozone layer shields life on the surface from harmful solar radiation, but man-made chlorine compounds that can last in the air for 100 years nibble at the ozone, creating thinning and a gap over the Southern Hemisphere.

The hole reaches its peak in September and October and disappears by late December until the next spring in the Southern Hemisphere.



LOUVRE EXHIBIT ACCLAIMS DA VINCI, 500 YEARS AFTER HIS DEATH

MUCH about Leonardo Da Vinci remains an enigma: the smile of the "Mona Lisa"; why the world's most famous painter left so many works unfinished; and more recently, who bought the contentious "Salvator Mundi."

A new exhibit at the Louvre, however, opening tomorrow and marking the 500th anniversary of the Italian master's death, tries to sketch out as complete a picture of the artist and thinker as possible.

Drawing from the Louvre's permanent collection and institutions around the world, the exhibit brings together some 160 works. They include Da Vinci masterpieces, dozens of studies and scientific sketches, and pieces by other artists in Da Vinci's orbit. Visitors can also experience a virtual reality portion of the exhibit that delves into the story behind the "Mona Lisa."

"We wished, in order to pay homage to the artist, to be able to show the entirety of Leonardo Da Vinci's career and his development and to explain, ultimately, the sense of his life," curator Vincent Delieuvin told The Associated Press.

The exhibit runs through Feb. 24, 2020. Visitors must reserve tickets online in advance, and the Louvre said it has already pre-sold 220,000 tickets as of Monday morning.

More than 10 years in the making, the project began when Louis Frank, the exhibit's other curator, translated a Renaissance-era Da Vinci biography to round out existing knowledge about the painter's life. That biographical emphasis is evident in the exhibit's design, which traces the artist's trajec-

Drawing from the Louvre and institutions around the world, the exhibit brings together some 160 works

tory from his apprenticeship with Florentine sculptor Andrea del Verocchio to his death in France in 1519.

With a whole room devoted to his scientific pursuits, it seeks to capture the quest for knowledge and perfection of a man Delieuvin called "a universal genius."

"Leonardo Da Vinci, he is one of those rare men, those personalities who fascinate us, because he was universal," Delieuvin said. "He had an interest in all aspects of nature, we all see ourselves in his personality."

"Mathematicians, geometry specialists, doctors, artists, everyone sees a part of themselves in Leonardo," he added.

Several of Da Vinci's completed paintings will be on display, including "La Belle Ferroniere" and "The

Virgin and Child with Saint Anne." The "Mona Lisa" will remain in its case, upstairs. Visitors will be able to see "Portrait of a Musician" on loan from the Vatican and "Benois Madonna" from St. Petersburg, among other works the Louvre borrowed for the occasion.

Some pieces proved more difficult to obtain. The "Vitruvian Man," Da Vinci's famous drawing of the ideally proportioned male figure, arrived in France from Venice's Accademia Gallery only days before the exhibit's opening.

Italian heritage group Our Italy tried to block the loan, saying the drawing was too fragile to be moved. An Italian court originally suspended the loan before ruling last week that it could travel to France for eight weeks. In exchange, the Louvre will lend several works by Raphael to Rome next year.

The dispute fanned the flames of a broader debate about Da Vinci's legacy and Italian national identity.

"A Leonardo Da Vinci exhibit is very difficult to do, since Da Vinci has become a symbol," Delieuvin said, calling it "natural" that some museums are reluctant to lend pieces from their collections.

Though Da Vinci died in France, Delieuvin said Louvre officials recognize and celebrate the painter's Italian roots. AP



Turkey The presidents of Turkey and Russia met in the Black Sea resort town of Sochi yesterday, hours before a five-day cease-fire in northern Syria between Turkish troops and Syrian Kurdish fighters was set to expire.



Bolivia Rioting broke out in parts of Bolivia among opponents of President Evo Morales after electoral authorities announced that a resumed vote count put the leader close to avoiding a runoff in his bid for a fourth term.



UK British lawmakers from across the political spectrum plotted yesterday to put the brakes on Prime Minister Boris Johnson's drive to push his European Union divorce bill through the House of Commons in just three days, potentially scuttling the government's hopes of delivering Brexit by Oct. 31.



US Some Democrats are putting up caution signs for Hillary Clinton as she wades back into presidential politics by casting 2020 candidate Tulsi Gabbard as a "Russian asset," mocking President Donald Trump's dealings with a foreign leader and drawing counterattacks from both.



US Behind closed doors, President Donald Trump has made his views on Ukraine clear: "They tried to take me down."