HONG KONG CRITICIZES ‘GANGSTER COPS’ CONDUCT

China
A senior Chinese foreign-exchange regulatory official called for “special attention” to be paid to blockchain as the nation looks to gain advantages from digital finance. The State Administration of Foreign Exchange is looking to use blockchain and artificial intelligence in cross-border trade finance and macro-prudential regulation.

Australia
Ivan Milat, whose grisly serial killings of seven European and Australian backpackers horrified Australia in the early ’90s, died in a Sydney prison yesterday, ending hopes of a deathbed confession to more unsolved slayings. He was 74.

Afghanistan
 Officials have set a new date for announcing the result of last month’s presidential election, after several delays.

Pakistan
Pakistan’s ailing former prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, who was jailed on money-laundering and corruption charges, has remained in a government hospital where he was taken last week after suffering a heart attack.

Syria
Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the shadowy leader of the Islamic State group who presided over its global jihad and became arguably the world’s most wanted man, is believed dead after being targeted by a U.S. military raid in Syria.

Turkey
Kurdish fighters killed one Turkish personnel and wounded five others amid a shaky truce in northern Syria. Turkey’s army said yesterday, bringing its military death toll to 11 since the launch of its cross-border operation.
Restaurant sector reeling from revenue crunch

Pressure on the restaurant sector went unabated in August, with the proportion of interviewed establishments reporting a decline in their business prospects rising to 38% from 30% in July. The information was released in the latest business climate survey conducted on the restaurant and retail trade.

According to the information released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), the proportion of establishments that saw a year-on-year decline in revenue rose by 7 percentage points from August to 45% in September. At the same time, the proportion of interviewed establishments forecasting a year-on-year increase in revenue rose by 18 percentage points from August to 45% in September. September reduced by 2 percentage points to 18%.

Asked in August, most of the interviewed establishments expected their business outlook to remain unfavorable in September. The proportion of interviewed establishments anticipating a year-on-year decrease in receipts rose by 18 percentage points from August to 45% in September. At the same time, the proportion of interviewed establishments forecasting a year-on-year increase in receipts rose by 18 percentage points from August to 45% in September.

Regarding the retail trade, the proportion of interviewed retailers reporting a year-on-year decrease in sales rose by 5 percentage points from July to 40%, with the corresponding proportion of motor vehicle retailers (80%) surging by 40 percentage points. Retailers were cautiously optimistic about their business prospects in September, with 65% of the interviewed retailers anticipating their sales to increase year-on-year or remain steady. The proportion of interviewed retailers predicting a year-on-year sales decline in September decreased from 38% to 35%.

The business climate survey is compiled based on data provided by 180 restaurants and similar establishments, which accounts for 53% of the industry's receipts, and 136 retailers, that is 70% of the industry's receipts. DB

Ask the Vet

Best exercises for old dogs

Old dogs can still play like puppies. Don’t give up on exercise and games just because you have an older dog. A regimen of regular exercise will keep your dog fit and healthy. Here are five great ways to exercise your older dog.

Light walks great for dogs with arthritis

Walking is always a good choice. Even with arthritis, dogs can walk for a good distance. Be aware of your distance, however, and don’t overtire your dog. If possible, spend some time walking on grassy, uneven turf. This provides a lower-impact walk and may improve her balance. If your dog begins to limp or show signs of pain, let her rest. Don’t force your dog to walk if she is in obvious pain, but encourage activity as much as possible.

For dogs suffering from paralysis or severe hip dysplasia, dog carts can restore some mobility. Other walking aids include a sling-like device that can assist your dog as she goes up and down stairs and ramps that allow easier access to your car or truck.

Giving your dog something to retrieve

Fetching does not have to involve long throws or fast running. A gently rolling ball can entertain an older dog, and this is a great exercise for play days indoors. Be sure you use a ball that is large enough to prevent choking. In a Labrador Retriever-sized dog, a tennis ball may be too small. Pet supply stores carry oversized balls for larger dogs.

Swimming minimizes pressure on joints

For the love of hip dysplasia, dogs often find swimming to be very soothing. Water reduces the painful pressure on the joints and allows a freedom of movement that is impossible on dry land. If your dog is not used to swimming, ease her into a shallow area. Often a lake or pond is preferable to a swimming pool. The slippery surface of man-made pools can frighten some dogs. Enter the water with her if possible. Most-but not all-dogs can swim. Some very chat-happy dogs like Shih Tzus may not be able to swim safely.

Some vets offer water treadmills

Some veterinary clinics offer water treadmills. These devices allow your dog to walk naturally while being supported by the natural buoyancy of water. Originally used for surgical rehabilitation, they are being used more often for exercise in older or arthritic dogs.

Restaurant sector reeling from revenue crunch

Chinas ambassador to Portugal, Cai Run, has visited Portuguese agribusiness Monte do Pasto.

Cai led a delegation that included the embassy’s economic and social adviser, Xu Weili. His visit aimed to learn more about the activities of the company that was recently acquired by the Macau investment and services company CESL Asia.

Monte do Pasto will play an important role in CESL Asia Group’s Focus Platform, aiming to become the future operational base for food and green energy business between Portugal, Macau, China, and the Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa.

During the visit, the Chinese ambassador had the opportunity to learn about raising cattle outdoors as well as learning more about the sustainability and welfare practices that make this company a reference in the sector and a leader in Iberian outdoor cattle farming.

Monte do Pasto’s president Clara Moura Guedes said, “by integrating CESL Asia Group, Monte do Pasto can explore new expansion opportunities and reinforce its bet in obtaining international recognition to boost existing production, launch new sustainable agricultural and livestock activities and enhance the entire Alentejo region and the Portuguese economy.”

At this time, the property is mainly used as a free-range cattle pasture, but the company has highlighted on previous occasions that it can be developed through additional agricultural activities. RM
Workers in the transport sector grow 8.5%

The number of people employed by Macau’s transport and storage sector increased by 8.5% last year to 20,500, according to data released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). At the same time, the number of operators within this sector increased by 136 compared to a year earlier, reaching 3,190 in 2018.

According to the DSEC data, operators in the transport and storage sectors recorded a combined revenue of 24.53 billion patacas in 2018, up 9.3% in year-on-year terms. The revenue generated from passenger transport services rose 8.5% to MOP9.62 billion, attributed by the bureau to the growth of the air transport industry, while "services rendered" expanded by 7.5% to MOP9.45 billion.

On the other hand, following the commencement of operations of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge in late October 2018, receipts from the sea transport division inched down by 0.1% to MOP24 billion due to a decrease in the number of vehicles and operators remaining by sea. Official data released last week on the first anniversary of the bridge showed that it had been crossed by over 14 million passengers as well as 1.5 million vehicles. Expenditure of the transport and storage sector amounted to MOP20.57 billion, up by 8.1% year-on-year, with operating expenses growing 7% to MOP9.35 billion. Meanwhile, the purchase of goods and services and compensation remuneration went up by 11.2% to MOP7.14 billion, and compensation of employees grew by 5.6% to MOP4.08 billion.

A survey conducted among over 1,000 students in 10 tertiary education institutions shows that 16.5% of them identify themselves as part of the LGBTQ community, which stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer or questioning.

The study was led by a University of Macau professor of sociology, Spencer Li, who explained that 862 students identified themselves as homosexual, 134 as bisexual and 17 as heterosexual, while the remaining 19 were others.

The study is also aimed at seeking to understand the possible relationship between sexual orientation and risky sexual behavior. Meanwhile, the professor noted that members of the LGBTQ community are more likely to experience mental health issues.

For example, non-heterosexuals tend to have more mental health disorders and are more prone to alcohol and drug use, probably because they experience more social discrimination or victimization. We don't have [conclude] that, but it's a possibility," Li told TDM in an interview.

According to Li, the study's outcome is similar to those conducted in other tertiary institutions in other regions.

"It's a surprise to me personally but if you view the literature, you'll find that there is an increasing number of students - especially non-heterosexual students - who will identify themselves as non-traditional sexual orientations," he added.
SINGAPORE COURT BLOCKS AUSTRALIAN CASINO DEBT COLLECTION ATTEMPT

A Singapore court has struck out an attempt from an Australian-based casino company to collect a gambling debt amounting to 40.2 million Singapore dollars (238 million patacas) from a Singaporean high roller.

The decision made by the International Commercial Court put down the intentions from The Star Entertainment QLD, which decided to sue Singaporean national Wong Yew Choy, after a two-day hearing held last August.

Adding to the decision, the same court, under the ruling of international judge Jeremy Cooke, also ordered a reimbursement of the amount spend by Wong (about 118,000 patacas) to strike out the case. The grounds for the judicial decision are not yet known but it is expected that they follow similar cases in other jurisdictions, such as mainland China where, due to the non-recognition of the activity, there is no legal means to recover gambling debts.

According to information revealed on the case, the Brisbane-based Star Entertainment Group claimed the sum allegedly lost by Wong in baccarat games at The Star Gold Coast casino in Queensland.

In the defense presented by Wong, the Singaporean national said that the casino had made mistakes on the baccarat games he played in and he should not have to pay the debt.

The casino also mentioned that the management had met Wong on three occasions after the errors, during which there was no mention, discussion or agreement that the gambling losses would be waived.

The case against Wong resulted from a dishonored cheque he had signed. Wong’s lawyers argued that the reality is about recovering money The Star won on a wager disguised as a claim for an unpaid loan.

In the meantime, The Star is appealing against the court’s order to strike out the claims involving the largest reported casino debt sum filed in a Singapore court.

CROWN RESORTS BATS AWAY QUESTIONS ON ‘SENSATIONALIST’ SCANDALS

Crown Resorts Executive Chairman John Alexander batted away questions about recent scandals engulfing the Australian business, saying that the claims made by three major news outlets in the country were “sensationalist” and “unproven”.

The comments, made at the company’s annual general meeting last week, come in reaction to allegations that the company partnered with junket operators with links to drug traffickers as Crown sought to bring higher-roller Chinese gamblers to its Australian casinos.

First reported by the Age and The Sydney Morning Herald newspapers, along with the 60 Minutes television program, one of the institutions reportedly linked to Crown was known simply as “The Company”, an organized crime conglomerate run by triad bosses who allegedly used Crown-linked bank accounts and VIP rooms to launder money.

The allegations have been vehemently denied by Crown.

“There have been a number of sensationalist and unproven claims made, with many focused on allegations from over five years ago. Let me be clear — Crown does not tolerate illegal activity by its employees or its patrons,” he said in Thursday’s meeting, according to Australia’s public broadcaster ABC.

The Crown chairman shut down the few questions at the meeting concerning the allegations, instead blaming “interests and activists” with an “anti-Crown agenda,” according to ABC.

Crown Resorts is currently being investigated by three federal regulators and the watchdogs in each Australian state it has a physical presence in.

MEG-STAR DENOUNCES FALSE TIES TO VIRTUAL CURRENCY FIRM

Macau junket Meg-Star Group has denounced the use of its name by a Hong Kong-based company, which claimed to have business ties to the gambling promoter.

Philia Wealth Group, which listed its ties to Meg-Star on its website, operates a virtual currency named Wealth-Point that it claims can be used at partner casino VIP rooms.

But according to a statement uploaded on Meg-Star’s website last week, no such business relationship exists.

“The Group, including its affiliates and its related companies, has never established any partnership with and has neither had any commercial associations nor activities with Philia Wealth Group,” noted the statement.

“The Group has neither had plans to develop any business or commercial activities aforementioned in the conference, nor authorized or agreed any agencies to collect or use any virtual currency and all other related business transactions.”

Gambling news website Calvin Ayre earlier reported that the Hong Kong-based company had claimed to jointly operate VIP casino rooms at Macau resorts such as the Grand Lisboa, StarWorld and Wynn Macau.

Meg-Star also said that it has entrusted a legal team to follow up on the matter and that it will not be responsible for any loss accrued “as a result of the contents of the website.”

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Property of the Week

One Central high floor apartment, Macau
HK$13,575,000 1,269 ft² 2 2

High floor two bedroom apartment in One Central Residences. Overlooking Nam Van Lake and the famous Praia Grande, the apartment has spectacular views over Macau and China. The development is one of the leading projects throughout Macau, One Central has full club facilities including a swimming pool, gym, function rooms etc. and 24/7 security and management of the complex. Central location and easy access to downtown Macau, must be seen to be appreciated.

Property Hotlist

One Central, Macau Views Over Nam Van Lake
$13,950,000 1,269 ft²
2 2

One Central, Macau Stylish modern apartment
$14,839,000 1,349 ft²
2 2

Manhattan, Taipa Luxury residence
$23,800/mth 1,720 ft²
3 2

Furnished apartment, Macau
$12,500/mth 700 ft²
2 1

More Listings

For Sale

[Taipa] 2 connected apartment 4 2 1,404 ft² $8,680,000 (ref: 19096006)
[Taipa] Apartment with balcony 2 1 787 ft² $4,950,000 (ref: 19096008)
[Cotai] Large apartment 2 2 2,530 ft² $13,800,000 (ref: 19096000)
[Taipa] Manhattan 3 2 1,720 ft² $13,600,000 (ref: 19096006)
[Cotai] Beautiful apartment 3 2 1,665 ft² $8,500,000 (ref: 19070001)

For Rent

[Taipa] Taipa Village 1 1 740 ft² $11,800/mth (ref: 19101006)
[Macao] Office space 1 1 1,043 ft² $26,000/mth (ref: 19091008)
[Macao] Keng Ou 3 2,352 ft² $38,000/mth (ref: 19091000)
[Macao] La Marina Studio 1 1 $11,200/mth (ref: 19091001)
[Cotai] One Grantai 3 3 2,122 ft² $23,000/mth (ref: 1903001RT)

Recent Movements

**Sold** Nice Court, Taipa, 1,600 ft², 3 beds

**Rented** Duplex, Macau, 1 bed

**Rented** Pacifica Gardens, Taipa, 1,317 ft², 3 beds

JML in the Community

- Cradle of Hope
- Caritas Macau
- Macau Bats Junior Rugby Team
- Macau Golf Masters

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MUST exhibition showcases rare documents about Xiangshan

JULIE ZHU

The Xiangshan (Macao) Documents Collection Exhibition, held at the Macau University of Science and Technology’s (MUST) Library, is offering the public a glimpse into some rare documents related to Xiangshan, an historical district of Guangdong.

The exhibition, which is being organized by the Research Center of Tong King Sing, includes a total of over 60 pieces of historical documents, including ancient maps, photos and written records.

These documents reflect the deep historical relationship between Xiangshan and Macau, which was once part of the historical Xiangshan area. The county-level geographic entity was renamed Zhongshan County in the 1920s, in tribute to the founder of the Republic of China, Sun Yat Sen, a native of the area.

Speaking to the Times, Dai Longgi, the director of the MUST Library, who is also the director of the Research Center of Tong King Sing, explained that the collection demonstrates the preliminary results of the center’s research on Tong King Sing over the past year.

Along with Sun Yat Sen and others, Tong is recognized as one of the most important modernizers in the story of China. Tong came from the current Tangjia district of Zhuhai city, which was the former Tangjia village of Xiangshan county of Guangdong province.

The exhibition gathers maps related to Xiangshan and to well-known people from Xiangshan, including Tong.

The paper version of the documents only represent part of the center’s research material. In addition, there are digital documents as well.

Dedicated to learning more about Tong, the center has been encountering difficulties in gathering documents related to him.

According to Dai, a large number of documents related to Tong can be found in Shanghai Library, because Tong spent many years in Shanghai as a translator and compiler. Other places where Tong’s relevant documents can easily be found include Kaiping Enterprise, a coal mining company established by Tong.

Besides these two places, which hold a large number of documents related to Tong that are more accessible to researchers, some parts of Tong’s history are more difficult for the center to source and acquire. Between 1861 and 1863, Tong worked as a salesman at Jardine Matheson company. According to Dai, historical documents related to Tong’s time at this British company are kept at Cambridge University. The documents still belong to the company, hence permission must be given to parties which intend to use them.

Dai noted that researchers hope that the company can authorize the center to reproduce the documents so that the center may establish a specific collection of documents related to Tong. These documents are vital to the research of Tong as his history with Jardine Matheson is closely bound to Tong’s participation in China’s self-strengthening movement in earlier years.

The exhibition is ongoing at the MUST Library until November 24.

Annual meeting of architects kicks off with exhibition

JULIE ZHU

The 23rd International Council of Portuguese Speaking Architects (CIALP) kicked off on Friday with an exhibition on architectural photography.

A kick-off ceremony for the annual meeting was held at the Portuguese consulate along with the inauguration of CIALP’s Architectural Heritage Photography Exhibition, which showcased 30 photographs within the consulate’s hall. The exhibition marks the outcome of the first international photography competition organized by CIALP, a joint project with the Portuguese architects.

The 39 items in the exhibition are the final photos selected or pre-selected by the jury. An award will be given to three winners.

The theme of the exhibition is heritage in the Portuguese-speaking countries, and in the world.

“For us, this particular project is very important because it allows CIALP to reach out to everybody, namely architects and even the public in general. To have this collection of images is useful to promote our heritage and our cities,” architect Rui Leão told the Times on the sidelines of the exhibition.

He remarked that the exhibition is important for the association because it represents a large universe of around 150,000 Portuguese-speaking architects worldwide: in Angola, Brazil, Portugal, Mozambique, São Tomé, Macau, among other places.

“They are very different territories with very different scales and densities and so on. It’s important for us to somehow help promote this cultural universe which has its own characteristics and specificities, which makes us feel as we are part of a big family,” Leão said.

This exhibition also marks the beginning of the association’s 23rd annual meeting. Introducing his association, Rui stated that CIALP is an umbrella association whose members are national architects from all these countries.

Set up in 1991, the association is likely one of the widest Portuguese networks. Since its establishment, CIALP has been holding annual encounters, round tables, among other activities.

CIALP is a private non-governmental organization based in Lisbon, Portugal. The association is comprised of professional associations of architects from countries and territories of Portuguese official language. CIALP is an institutional partner of the International Union of Architects (UIA) and advisory observer of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries.

CIALP’s main ambition is to deepen the cooperation between its members, as well as to promote architecture among people who speak Portuguese, establishing itself as a platform for 150,000 architects of the Portuguese language, which is around 10% of the architects throughout the world, to a population of 250 million people of countries and territories with Portuguese as an official language.

CB requests fire maintenance records

THE Fire Services Bureau (CB) has requested the property management and the fire services installation contractor of Edifício Jardim Kong Fok Cheong to submit its fire maintenance records.

According to reports, the bureau has requested for the two parties to submit maintenance records of the building’s fire services installations within 10 days, following the fire that broke out on the sixth floor of the building on Sunday last week.

It took the CB about three hours to put out the fire because the building’s fire system was out of water.

The CB was required to pump water from its trucks to facilitate the operation as the water pressure from the residential building’s fire service installations were not strong enough.

The fire caused some 150 people to evacuate the building.

The bureau deployed 19 fire engines and 110 firefighters to the scene. Drones were deployed for the first time as auxiliary support and were used to assist the Fire Services to eval- uate the situation from a three-dimensional perspective.

Meanwhile, the Social Welfare Bureau is already providing assistance including temporary accommodation for the fire victims, as well as emotional support and counseling.
CHINA AUTHORIZES MACAU’S PORT ZONE IN HENGQIN

China’s top legislature on Saturday voted to adopt a decision on authorizing the jurisdiction of Macao’s port zone at Hengqin port and extended areas in Guangdong Province to the Macau Special Administrative Region (SAR).

The draft of the decision was reviewed at the bimonthly session of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress that ran from Monday to Saturday.

Lawmakers said the move was necessary in order to enhance the connection infrastructure between the Macau SAR and the city of Zhuhai in Guangdong and make the transportation, exchanges and trade between the places more convenient.

Macao will administer the port zone and extended areas from the day they are put into use in accordance with the laws of the SAR, according to the decision.

GUANGDONG TO HAVE NEARLY 35,000 5G STATIONS THIS YEAR

South China’s Guangdong Province is expected to build around 34,800 5G base stations by the end of 2019, local authorities said.

In recent years, Guangdong has been accelerating the construction of new infrastructures. By the end of September, the province had built 21,473 5G base stations, ranking top nationwide, according to the provincial department of industry and information technology.

Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Foshan are the top three cities that have the largest number of 5G base stations in the province.

Wang Wenjun, an official with the department, said telecommunication operation enterprises in Guangdong had invested around 11 billion yuan (about $1.56 billion) on 5G network development by the end of September.

For the next step, Guangdong will promote 5G network coverage, speed up free sharing of resources in public places and cultivate more 5G-related enterprises.

MACAU’S UM INAUGURATES RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN ZHUHAI

An inauguration ceremony for the University of Macau-Huafa Group Joint Laboratory and Zhuhai UM Science & Technology Research Institute was held on Friday, with officials from the university hailing the joint laboratory and the research institute as examples of cross-border industry-academia collaboration to align Macau’s development with national development.

The new building of the Zhuhai UM Science & Technology Research Institute took less than six months to complete, and the various research centers are now ready for use.

By bringing together innovative people and advanced technologies from Zhuhai and Macau, the laboratory and the institute hope to create a world-class hub for innovation.

At the ceremony, UM Rector Yonghua Song and Huafa Group General Manager Li Guangning signed a strategic cooperation framework agreement.

Manager Li Guangning signed a strategic cooperation framework agreement. Rector Song said that the joint laboratory will provide a platform for UM and Huafa Group to cooperate in various areas, for instance, by promoting the moderate diversification of Macau’s economy and industrial upgrading of Zhuhai.
HK protesters criticize ‘gangster cops’ conduct

Even though the Hong Kong government formally withdrew the extradition bill on Wednesday, it hasn’t had much effect on cooling the unrest, rally-goers said.

“Because the problem is much more than before,” said a protester who only gave his name as Nephs, citing heavy-handed police tactics. “We can see the future is controlled by China. We can see all the rules and even the law is starting to be controlled by the China government.

For the Hong Kong people there’s no say over our land and that is the problem.”

Nephs, who said he was 40 and worked in media, said he attended protests in support of younger hardcore protesters who have led violent confrontations with police.

At a rally on Saturday night organized by medical workers to oppose what they called “violent repression” by police in response to protesters, some demonstrators jeered and cursed at several officers observing from a footbridge.

Also Saturday, Hong Kong’s government won a temporary court order banning anyone from posting personal details or photos of police officers online. The order prohibits unlawfully “publishing, communicating or disclosing” officers’ details including their Facebook and Instagram account IDs or photos of officers or their families.

The movement has snowballed with the government having withdrawn the bill last week, but that has not satisfied the demonstrators, who say they want to keep pushing for demands such as an independent inquiry, universal suffrage and the right to vote for the city’s leaders.

Protesters ignored the order and continued to post photos and details of officers on an online forum. Supporters of the semi-autonomous Chinese territory’s protest movement have also had their details posted on the website.

This month, an 18-year-old was charged with intentional wounding for a slashing attack on a riot officer.

Despite repeated government appeals for people not to side with mobs involved in vandalism, throwing gasoline bombs and other violence, the protest movement is still soured determined support from more moderate demonstrators.

They’re broadly worried about the future and freedoms of the city that reverted to Chinese rule in 1997, with promises from Beijing that it would largely be its own boss, its way of life unchanged.

HONG KONG police fired tear gas yesterday to disperse a rally called over concerns about police conduct in months-long pro-democracy demonstrations, with protesters cursing the officers and calling them “gangster cops.”

Organizers called for the demonstration at a waterfront park, but police said the rally was unauthorized and engaged in a standoff with the protesters after ordering them to leave.

The protesters taunted the officers, calling them names, and the situation appeared tense.

Police have faced criticism for heavy-handed tactics including tear gas, pepper spray, rubber bullets and a water cannon to subdue protesters who have hurled bricks and firebombs.

Protestors said they will also march in support of the British colony’s ethnic and religious minorities, in a show of unity after police used a water cannon to spray a mosque over apparent fear of further damage after protesters trashed businesses following a recent pro-democracy rally.

Branches of state-owned Chinese banks across the city reinforced their glass fronts with thick walls of steel on Friday.

A Japanese noodle chain, a sushi chain and Starbucks outlets that have been targeted by protesters also covered up their shopfronts with wooden panels. The three are reportedly operated by a restaurant company founded by a tycoon whose daughter has denounced the protesters.

A welder put the finishing touches on grey steel panels covering up an Industrial and Commercial Bank of China branch in the city’s Wan Chai district.

Across the street, a state-owned China Travel Service outlet was getting the same treatment.

POLICE officers with their faces covered up detain a man after finding a gas mask in his backpack yesterday in Hong Kong

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FACEBOOK LAUNCHES A NEWS SECTION - AND WILL PAY PUBLISHERS

BARBARA ORTUTAY & TALI ARBEL

Over the course of its 15-year history, Facebook has variously ignored news organizations while eating their ad revenue. Sunrise News, a news app, offered them for video projects it subsequently abandoned, and then largely cut their stories out of its newsfeed.

Now it plans to pay them for news headlines — reportedly millions of dollars in some cases.

Enter the “News Tab,” a new section in the Facebook mobile app that will display headlines — and nothing else — from the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, Buzzfeed News, Business Insider, NBC, USA Today and the Los Angeles Times, among others.

Breitbart, a conservative news outlet that has been accused of running racist stories, will also be part of the news tab, as will local stories from several of the largest U.S. cities. Headlines from smaller towns are on their way, Facebook says.

Tapping on those headlines will take you directly to publisher websites or apps, if you have any installed. Which is one thing publishers have been requesting from Facebook’s news efforts for years.

It’s potentially a big step for a platform that has long struggled with both stamping out misinformation and making nice with struggling purveyors of news. Though media watchers remain skeptical that Facebook can really contribute to helping sustain the news industry.

Facebook declined to say who is getting paid and how much, saying only that it will be “a range of publishers for access to all of their content.”

At an event Friday in New York, Zuckerberg was asked why Breitbart was included in the news section over a few others. It’s “because of seasonality,” he said.

Facebook’s Mark Zuckerberg

Facebook killed its most revenue-generating service reportedly the “Today’s Story” section in the Facebook mobile app. It was a “welcome first step,” said David Chavern, head of the News Media Alliance, a publisher trade group. “The trouble is that most publishers aren’t included.”

Zuckerberg said Facebook aims to set up partnerships with a “wide range” of publishers.

“We think that this is an opportunity to build something quite meaningful here,” he said. “We’re going to have journalists culling this, we are really focused on provenance and branding and where the stories come from.”

At an event Friday in New York, Zuckerberg was asked why Facebook isn’t paying all publishers in the news section. He replied that the initial focus was on building a broad set of content and figuring how to compensate publishers with paywalls. The next step will be to add local and international sources to the tab, he said.

Facebook’s Mark Zuckerberg

News executives have long been unhappy about the extent to which digital giants like Facebook make use of their stories

Facebook killed its most recent effort to curate news, the ill-fated Trending topics, in 2018. Conservatives complained about political bias, leading Facebook to fire its human editors and automate the section until it began recycling false stories, after which the social giant shut it down entirely.

But what happens when the sprawling social network plays news editor? An approach that sends people news based on what they’ve liked before could over time elevate stories with greater “emotional resonance” over news that “allows public discourse to take place,” said Edward Wasserman, dean of the graduate journalism program at the University of California-Berkeley.

“It deepens my concern that they’ll be applying Facebook logic to news judgment,” he added.

The social network has come under criticism for its news judgment recently. In September, it removed a fact-check from a story about an anti-abortion activist’s video for claiming that abortion is never medically necessary. Republican senators had complained about the fact check.

Asked at the Friday event which publishers the company wants a “breadth of content.”

Facebook says a small team of “seasoned” journalists it employs will choose the headlines for the “Today’s Story” section of the tab, designed to “catch you up” on the day’s news. The rest of the news section will be populated with stories algorithmically based on users’ interests. That sounds similar to the approach taken by Apple News, a free iPhone app. But Apple’s effort to contract with news organizations has been slow to take off. Apple News Plus, a $10-a-month paid version, remains primarily a hub for magazines; other news publishers have largely sat it out.

Apple’s service reportedly offered publishers only half the revenue it pulled in from subscriptions, divided according to how popular publishers were with readers.

Zuckerberg said Friday that he hopes to have 20 to 30 million people in the U.S. using the news section over a few years.
China said parts of the text for the first phase of a trade deal with the U.S. are "basically completed" as the two sides reached a consensus in areas including standards used by agricultural regulators.

The Saturday comments followed a call Friday with Chinese Vice Premier Liu He, U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin. The trade negotiators "agreed to properly resolve their core concerns and confirmed that the technical consultations of some of the text agreement were basically completed," China's Ministry of Commerce said in a statement on Saturday.

In the statement from China, the two sides reached an agreement for the U.S. to import cooked poultry products from China, as well as to regard its catfish product regulation system as equivalent to the U.S.

U.S. officials have said the first phase of the agreement will also include Chinese commitments on intellectual property and currency provisions. China is also expected to resume purchases of U.S. agricultural products at a level last seen before the trade wars started in 2018, in return for a pause in further U.S. tariffs, according to people familiar with the matter.

Trump has said he wants to sign the first phase of a trade deal with China at an Nov. 16-17 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Santiago, Chile. But when he announced the phased deal earlier this month he also conceded the two sides still needed to work out many details and to put it in writing.

"We're doing very well with China" and "they want to make a deal very badly," Trump told reporters as he left the White House on Friday.

There are still major questions over whether the second phase of a deal will ever happen.

In a sign that not all issues had been resolved, USTR said discussions "will go on continuously at the deputy level" with Lighthizer and Mnuchin due to speak with Liu again "in the near future," China's statement also confirmed the plan.

White House officials were nevertheless eager on Friday to continue portraying progress in bringing at least a pause to the trade wars that have unnerved financial markets and businesses around the world for more than a year and contributed to a slowing U.S. economy.

"We had excellent talks this morning. That will continue," Peter Navarro, a White House trade adviser, told Fox News. "This is not one-and-done in phase one. This is phase one hopefully mid-November and then just keep rolling along," he said. "There's no chance that if we get all three phases of the deal that it will be watered down in any way." BLOOMBERG

SANDS CHINA NEWS

Sands China and Sands Cares Ambassadors Continue Service to Macao Community

Activities care for the elderly and conserve the natural environment

Sands China and the Sands Cares Ambassadors remain busy serving the Macao community, and recently spent time in service of the elderly and working to keep Coloane clean and green.

Sands Cares Ambassadors Visit Elderly at Ka Ho Centre

A group of Sands Cares Ambassadors visited elderly members of the Ka Ho elderly centre in Coloane Sept. 13, offering them service and good cheer.

The Sands volunteers led the participants in some light exercise, followed by the performance of a song by Sands China’s entertainment team. Then the Sands Cares Ambassadors did finger exercises with the elderly, played games with them, and distributed gift packs. The visit concluded with lots of laughter and love.

Sands China Remains Strong Supporter of UGAMM

Since 2010, Sands China has been a supporter of the elderly support services of the General Union of Neighbourhood Associations of Macau (UGAMM), and has donated MOP 2 million to the organisation to date, benefiting nearly 6,800 live-alone elderly.

The company has been a supporter of the Peng On Tung Tele-Assistance programme since 2010, has been providing a home maintenance team for the elderly since 2015, and has supported an elderly haircut initiative since 2018, most recently donating MOP 240,000 at this year’s event.

Coastal Clean-up Event

On Sept. 22, Sands Cares Ambassadors showed their support for International Coastal Cleanup day by joining the Green Future organisation to pick up rubbish along the Coloane coast.

Besides cleaning up at the beach, the volunteers helped classify the collected litter and record their data according to guidelines from International Coastal Cleanup (ICC). The systematic approach can help analysis litter sources and integrate the collected data to search for possible solutions.

Sands China’s community initiatives, including the Sands Cares Ambassador programme, are part of Sands Cares, the global corporate citizenship programme of parent company Las Vegas Sands Corp.

With the year’s end only a couple of months away, Sands China and the Sands Cares Ambassadors aim to continue their focus on corporate social responsibility as they look forward to continuing their volunteer work into 2020.
ALIPAY, TENCENT BEWARE: CHINA’S DIGITAL YUAN IS CLOSING IN

LU LI YULIN CHEN & ZHEPING HUANG

CHINESE billionaires Jack Ma and Pony Ma, who built their online finance empires by domi-
nating the country’s online pay-
ments industry, are facing what could be the strongest competi-
tor yet: the central bank.
The People’s Bank of China is
set to provide its own electronic
version of the yuan soon, poten-
tially the first major central bank
in the world to issue a digital
national currency. In doing so,
the PBOC is throwing down the
guantlet to Ant Financial’s Alipay
and Tencent Holdings Ltd.’s We-
Chat Pay for a share of China’s $27
trillion payments industry.

In China, smart-phone-ba-
based electronic payments are
ubiquitous, used for everything
from bus-rides and convenience
stores to vegetables at the local
market -- and 94% of those tran-
sactions are controlled by the two
firms. Yet private-sector primacy
in a critical industry is becoming
a rarity in China under President
Xi Jinping, spelling tougher times
ahead for the tech giants. A cen-
tral bank-backed digital wallet
could severely undermine the
payments services that are the
beating heart of Ant’s and Ten-
cent’s businesses.

“The central bank is trying to
regain the power it lost, as it sim-
ply can’t allow private companies
to dominate payments which lie
at the heart of the finance sys-
tem,” said Zhu Chen, the founder
of Wisburg, a Shanghai-based fi-
nancial and research consultan-
cy. He forecasts that the PBOC
could take as much as a third of
the payments business. “Expect
some big blows to WeChat Pay
and Alipay,” he said.

Much remains unclear about
the threat that the digital yuan
will pose to the existing busi-
nesses, including the extent to
which the public will be willing
or required to take it up. Executi-
es from both compa-
nies have also
not commented on it
in public, though
Ant Financial has
worked with the re-
gulator on it.

The PBOC has yet
to set a time-line
or plan of implemen-
tation, but official
speeches suggest it
could work some-
thing like this: Con-
sumers and busi-
nesses would down-
load a digital wallet
on their mobile phone and load
the token from their account at
a commercial bank -- similar
to going to an ATM. They then use
that like cash to make and receive
payments.

That’s subtly different from the
existing mobile payments func-
tion, which are essentially pro-
cessing claims on a bank account
much like a debit or credit card.
But the state token, if it gains ac-
ceptance, would help Chinese re-
gulators maintain a better grasp
of the country’s money supply.

Mobile payments for con-
sumption represent 10% of gross
domestic product in China, com-
pared with less than 1% in the
U.S. and U.K. where credit cards
are more popular. As the nation
becomes essentially cashless,
the authorities have been paying
ever more attention to the com-
panies that operate the financial
plumbing.

Ant Financial, owner of Alipay,
and Tencent declined to com-
ment for this story. The PBOC
didn’t respond to a fax seeking
comment on their digital curren-
cy plans.

It won’t be easy to uproot the
mighty incumbents though. For
years, users have linked their bank
saving cards to the apps, which
also include a wide range of other
useful services, to pay for daily
outlays. Alipay and WeChat Pay
each have more than 900 million
active users in the country.

The simple part of the plan is
that the token could replace exis-
ting cash -- part of an effort to
prevent money laundering -- but
if the PBOC wants to win more
payment share, it will have to
build a network where merchan-
tises are willing to accept the token
directly. That would require a lot
of work, said Ryan Zheng, co-
-founder of RiverPay, which helps
Alipay and WeChat Pay connect
with merchants.

The risk for the PBOC is that
adoption is weak, undermining
the institution’s reputation. That’s
a concern on the minds of many
central banks around the world
also grappling with the impact of
digital payments and currencies.

To listen to PBOC officials
though makes it clear that these
are just practical considerations
beside the bigger themes at stake.

“Currency means interest,
power, global politics and diplo-
macy,” said Wang In, director of
the People’s Bank of China resear-
ch bureau, during a conference
this year. “If a payments tool can
provide the function of a currency,
then it will definitely have impact
on legal tender, and affect how a
country manages its currency and
financial system,” BLOOMBERG
Australian serial killer Ivan Milat dies in prison at 74

ROD MCGUIRK, CANBERRA

INAN Milat, whose grisly serial killings of seven European and Australian backpackers horrified Australia in the early ’90s, died in a Sydney prison yesterday, ending hopes of a deathbed confession to more unsolved slayings. He was 74.

The road worker and self-styled cowboy who called himself “Tex” had been in custody since 1994. He was diagnosed in May with terminal esophageal and stomach cancer. Milat died in Long Bay Prison where authorities sent him from a hospital last week to ensure he ended his days behind bars, officials said.

Milat was convicted of murder in the deaths of three German, two British, and two Australian backpackers after giving them rides while they were hitchhiking. The serial killings came to light when the mutilated corpses were found in a forest near Sydney over 14 months in 1992 and 1993.

His sentencing judge had described as “inexorable” Milat having had an unknown accomplice. Speculation has also persisted that he is responsible for other homicides and suspicious tourist disappearances.

Clive Small, a former detective who led the murder investigation, said yesterday that he was confident Milat acted alone. But Small also suspects Milat had more victims, including three people whose bodies were found in other forests from as early as 1971.

“I had absolutely no respect for him at all. I thought that if he had one ounce of decency in him, he could have shown it before he died by admitting and clarifying a number of issues that are outstanding,” Small said.

The case set off a frenzy of attention that consumed Australians like few others. Police put a team of investigators on the case, a reward was offered and media intensely covered the hunt for the killer and the possibility of more victims.

The crimes also inspired the “Wolf Creek” horror movies and television series released since 2005.

In September 1992, two runners orienteering in the Belanglo State Forest southwest of Sydney found a corpse hidden under broken branches and leaf litter. Police unearthed a second body nearby, and dental records confirmed the victims were Britons Caroline Clarke, 21, and Joanne Walters, 22, whom had been last seen in Sydney five months earlier.

Two more bodies were found in November 1993 by a man searching for firewood. Police identified them as Melbourne couple Deborah Eyrist and James Gibson, both 19, whom gone missing in late 1989.

Police searches of the forest revealed the body of German Si- mone Schmidt, 21, and later in November the corpses of German couple Anja Habschüd, 20, and Gabor Neugebauer, 21, whom been missing since 1991.

Police established a 20-person team of detectives and analysts, posting a reward of 500,000 Australian dollars for information that would lead to the perpetrator. More than 300 police spent three months searching 3,800 hectares of forest.

Milat was arrested on May 22, 1994, following two months of searches for him and his car, which Australian police initially believed was a “development” enabled police to execute searches warrants targeting Milat.

A search of Milat’s Sydney house found several weapons including parts of a rifle that matched one used in the killings, as well as camera, tent and a sleeping bag believed to his victims. Milat had also given victims’ property he had as souvenirs to family members.

When his trial ended in 1996, Milat was found guilty of seven murders and sentenced to serve seven consecutive life sentences.

Small said of Milat’s death: “A lot of people are going to be very satisfied with the current outcome and will be pleased that it’s over.”

Ian Clarke, the Northumber-land-based father of British victim Caroline Clarke, said: “No matter how one might feel, you can’t help but be glad that this has happened.”

AP

Vietnamese village prays, awaits news on loved ones’ fate

LINH DO, DO THANH

HE rural village of Do Thanh in central Vietnam has relied on its sons and daughters working abroad to send money back home. Now it fears they could be among the dozens of people found dead in the back of a truck in England.

The mother and a sister of Bui Thi Nhung cried as they set up an altar with flowers and candles in the living room of the Tran Ngoc An family’s home in Do Thanh, for their missing 19-year-old. The family heard from a friend in the U.K. that “Nhung and many others have not been identified and very few documents were found with the bodies.”

Also Saturday, Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc ordered investigations into alleged human trafficking, according to a government statement. He also ordered Vietnam’s Embas- sassy in London to closely work with British authori- ties to identify the possible Vietnamese victims.

Vietnamese Ambassa- dor Tran Ngoc An visited the scene and worked with Essex police to deliver infor- mation from concerned Vietnamese families, the Vietnam News Agency re- ported.

A representative for Viet- nam Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc ordered inves- tigations into alleged human trafficking, according to a government statement. He also ordered Vietnam’s Em- bassy in London to closely work with British authori- ties to identify the possible Vietnamese victims.

Vietnamese Ambassa- dor Tran Ngoc An visited the scene and worked with
Pope’s Amazon synod proposes married priests, female leaders

NICOLE WINFIELD, VATICAN CITY

CATHOLIC bishops from across the Amazon called Saturday for the ordination of married men as priests to address the clergy shortage in the region, an historic proposal that would upend centuries of Roman Catholic tradition.

The majority of 180 bishops from nine Amazonian countries also called for the Vatican to reopen a debate on ordaining women as deacons, saying “it is urgent for the church in the Amazon to promote and confer ministries for men and women in an equitable manner.”

The proposals were contained in a final document approved Saturday at the end of a three-week synod on the Amazon, which Pope Francis called in 2017 to focus attention on saving the rainforest and better ministering to the Amazonian faithful.

The synod bishops didn’t come straight out and call for women deacons, but rather for the Vatican’s 2016 commission of study on the female diaconate to hear from the synod about “our experiences and reflections” and make a decision. The paragraph passed 137-30.

Francis in 2016 agreed to a request from the international or-
priests, female leaders

The commission delivered its report to Francis but the results were never released and Francis subsequently said there was no agreement among commission members.

Supporters of women deacons say there is no reason to preclude a ministry for women that existed in the early church; opponents say ordination of women deacons would spell the start of a slippery slope toward ordaining female clergy.

“I’m a supporter of having more married priests, though this Amazon experiment is the wrong way to go about it,” tweeted Damian Thompson, conservative commentator and associate editor of Britain’s The Spectator. And he added: “Women deacons will mean women priests and a Great Schism on the scale of 1054.”

The pro-ordination group Women’s Ordination Conference praised the decision to reopen debate on the diaconate, but said it was time to move beyond study commissions.

“Now is the time for the Church to not just recognize women's leadership, but transform its institutions to honor their leadership sacramentally,” the group said in a statement.

In addition to deacons, the final document called for the institution of a new ministry of “women leadership of the community” and for a revision of a 1960s church law to allow women to be trained as lectors and acolytes.

And it said cryptically that for a limited time a bishop can hand over “the exercise of pastoral care” of a community to “a person” who is not a priest, but not necessarily male, either.

However, in a sign that women still have a ways to go in church decision-making parity, no woman was allowed to vote on the final document.

Thirty-five women, among them religious sisters and superiors, were appointed as experts to the synod and contributed to the final document, but only the 181 men cast a vote.

While the question of married priests and women deacons dominated debate outside the synod hall, the bulk of the meeting and the 33-page final document focused more on the environmental destruction of the Amazon and the plight of its peoples.

Indigenous leaders thanked Francis for highlighting their concerns and for the words expressed, but called for action to put an end to the illegal logging and fishing, building of hydroelectric dams and mining that are ruining their homelands.

“Throughout the rainforests of Latin America, we are battling governments that treat us like criminals for saying no to projects that would damn our rivers, carve roads of ruin through our forests and turn our land into lifeless deserts and our rivers into liquid poison,” said COIA, the coordinating body of indigenous organizations that participated in the synod. AP
### Offbeat

#### Teen breaks into German prison in attempt to win back jailed ex

A teenager has broken into a German prison in an attempt to win back his ex-girlfriend.

Prison officials intercepted the man. He refused to climb back down, and the fire service was called to bring him down with a ladder.

It wasn’t clear whether the escapee succeeded in winning back the heart of the young woman, also 18, who had broken up with him by phone. The man is being investigated for trespassing and unauthorized contact with prisoners.

Regional broadcaster NDR reported that the man was half-naked, having taken off many of his clothes to avoid getting caught on barbed wire.

### this day in history

#### 1979 CHAIRMAN HUA ARRIVES IN LONDON

The first Chinese leader to visit Britain, Chairman Hua Kuo-Feng, has arrived in London at the start of a six-day visit.

He was welcomed at Heathrow airport by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who paid tribute to China as a “great and historical nation which has a crucial role to play in world affairs.”

She said the two countries enjoyed a “close understanding in many fields” and she hoped their talks would further improve relations.

In his reply, Chairman Hua stressed “the important role Western Europe has to play in defending world peace.”

He said this was why China had given “high priority to the development of good relations with the West European countries”.

Chairman Hua was given the kind of treatment usually reserved only for royalty and presidents.

The Coldstream Guards formed a guard of honour before he was taken to the luxury Claridges hotel, where he and his party will be staying.

Chairman Hua has an invitation to lunch at Buckingham Palace where the Queen will personally take him on a tour of the state rooms.

This is the Chinese leader’s first visit to the non-Communist world, apart from a short stay in Iran before Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlevi was forced into exile.

During his visit, he is expected to discuss trade, various bilateral issues, including the future of Hong Kong, and world peace.

It is hoped he and Mrs. Thatcher will sign a number of deals, including an air services agreement giving Chinese airlines the rights to fly to Britain.

Trade issues are expected to focus on the process of modernisation in China - in particular improvements to its armed forces, transport infrastructure and industry.

The Chinese delegation will pay a visit to Rolls Royce in Derby, BP and British Rail’s technical centre.

Chairman Hua, who spent 20 years of his life in the Chinese agricultural sector, will also be shown a farm in Wallingford, Oxfordshire, and fit in a quick visit to Oxford University, before flying on to Rome on Saturday.

He has already spent a week each in France and West Germany.

### IN CONTEXT

In an interview before his visit to Western Europe, Chairman Hua was quoted as saying “we want to see for ourselves the reality of advanced economic, scientific and technological experience to see how they could benefit China’s modernisation programme.”

The trip was a push to improved relations between Britain and China.

Official negotiations on the future of Hong Kong began in 1982 and were completed with the handover on 1 July 1997.

The Queen became the first British monarch to visit China in 1986.

However, the brutal suppression of pro-democracy protests in Tiananmen Square massacre in 1989 led to a breakdown in Chinese relations with the West.

China has since become the world’s leading growth economy, prompting greater trading links with the West. But in 2005 the EU and US were still enforcing embargo on arms sales to China imposed after Tiananmen Square.
YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Things might not feel like they’re moving along as quickly as you would like, which could cause a certain degree of frustration when it comes to your goals right now. But don’t worry...

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 20
Do you think someone is not being fair with you right now? Your instincts are right on. But their sighted status is not due to an inability to trust you.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Previously made plans with others might have to get reshuffled or canceled altogether. What you need to do is very important, and it’s something you should do by yourself.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
If you feel your blood pressure mounting today, you should do more than take a deep breath. Take a different attitude towards the situation! There is a funny side to any stressful situation...

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
If you are working on starting or strengthening or shoring up a romance today, you had better take it all the way! Have fun with it. Be over the top. Flirt to a take it all the way! Have fun with it. Be over the top. Flirt to a

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 20
Plus all this extra warm sun will give you the positive energy you require to succeed. Free worry out the window for today, and just do what you want to do - try what you want to try.

PISES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
People are going to respond a lot better to concise examples than to ambiguous concepts today, so if you have some ideas, you’ll have to do a validation task, sift down in black and white.

TARUSUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
Once you do get out into the world, you will get going and get encapsulated. Just be careful not to rush through the day too quickly. In the late afternoon, there will be some sweet moments.

SUDOKU

ACROSS:
1-Washstand vessel; 5- Waterfall; 10- Baum barker; 14- Seldom seen; 15- Medium Hard
2-PA; 3-Adam; 4-AM; 5-AM; 6-AM; 7-AM; 8-AM; 9-AM
10-AM; 11-AM; 12-AM; 13-AM; 14-AM; 15-AM; 16-AM; 17-AM; 18-AM; 19-AM
20-AM; 21-AM; 22-AM; 23-AM; 24-AM; 25-AM; 26-AM; 27-AM; 28-AM; 29-AM
30-AM; 31-AM; 32-AM; 33-AM; 34-AM; 35-AM; 36-AM; 37-AM; 38-AM; 39-AM
40-AM; 41-AM; 42-AM; 43-AM; 44-AM; 45-AM; 46-AM; 47-AM; 48-AM; 49-AM
50-AM; 51-AM; 52-AM; 53-AM; 54-AM; 55-AM; 56-AM; 57-AM; 58-AM; 59-AM
60-AM; 61-AM; 62-AM; 63-AM; 64-AM; 65-AM; 66-AM; 67-AM; 68-AM; 69-AM
70-AM; 71-AM; 72-AM; 73-AM; 74-AM; 75-AM; 76-AM; 77-AM; 78-AM; 79-AM
80-AM; 81-AM; 82-AM; 83-AM; 84-AM; 85-AM; 86-AM; 87-AM; 88-AM; 89-AM
90-AM; 91-AM; 92-AM; 93-AM; 94-AM; 95-AM; 96-AM; 97-AM; 98-AM; 99-AM
100-AM

DOWN:
1-PA; 2-PA; 3-PA; 4-PA; 5-PA; 6-PA; 7-PA; 8-PA; 9-PA
10-PA; 11-PA; 12-PA; 13-PA; 14-PA; 15-PA; 16-PA; 17-PA; 18-PA; 19-PA
20-PA; 21-PA; 22-PA; 23-PA; 24-PA; 25-PA; 26-PA; 27-PA; 28-PA; 29-PA
30-PA; 31-PA; 32-PA; 33-PA; 34-PA; 35-PA; 36-PA; 37-PA; 38-PA; 39-PA
40-PA; 41-PA; 42-PA; 43-PA; 44-PA; 45-PA; 46-PA; 47-PA; 48-PA; 49-PA
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70-PA; 71-PA; 72-PA; 73-PA; 74-PA; 75-PA; 76-PA; 77-PA; 78-PA; 79-PA
80-PA; 81-PA; 82-PA; 83-PA; 84-PA; 85-PA; 86-PA; 87-PA; 88-PA; 89-PA
90-PA; 91-PA; 92-PA; 93-PA; 94-PA; 95-PA; 96-PA; 97-PA; 98-PA; 99-PA
100-PA

WEATHER

CHINA
Beijing 10 16 drizzle
Harbin 2 18 cloudy
Tianjin 14 18 cloudy
Urumpi -2 9 clear
Xian 10 14 drizzle
Lhasa 4 17 cloudy
Chengdu 14 18 moderate rain
Chongqing 17 19 drizzle
Kunming 11 23 cloudy
Nanjing 15 25 clear
Shanghai 18 23 cloudy
Wuhan 12 25 cloudy
Hangzhou 15 25 cloudy
Taipei 19 25 cloudy
Guangzhou 22 30 cloudy
Hong Kong 23 28 cloudy

WORLD
Moscow 7 9 drizzle
Frankfurt 10 17 overcast
Paris 12 18 drizzle
London 10 14 drizzle
New York 5 17 clear

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency calls 999
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply – Report 2822 0088
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) 1830 300
IAM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
Airport 59 888 88
GERMANS FLOCK TO FRANKENSTEIN CASTLE FOR SPOOKY HALLOWEEN

MEDIEVAL. Frankenstein Castle has become a favorite haunt for Germans celebrating Halloween, a tradition that’s grown increasingly popular in continental Europe in recent years.

The crumbling castle, located 35 kilometers (22 miles) south of Frankfurt, has been staging spooky festivals since 1977 featuring monsters, gore and spine-chilling live shows.

On Saturday night, about 2,500 revelers — many in costumes — flocked to the castle, where they were entertained by 130 actors.

While the castle’s name reminds some of English novelist Mary Shelley’s 19th-century book about the man who creates a monster, historians are skeptical that it actually inspired the author.

The House of Frankenstein is believed to have first built a castle at the site in the mid-13th century.

SERVICE ORGANIZATION COMMISSIONS STATUE OF BUSH’S DOG

America’s VetDogs has commissioned sculptor Susan Bahary to create the bronze statue of Sully for placement in the east wing of the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum at Texas A&M University.

VetDogs President John Miller says the statue will depict Sully sitting with his leash in his mouth, the “retrieve” task VetDogs trains its dogs to perform. It will show Sully wearing his America’s VetDogs vest with the Great Seal of the United States on its back.

The yellow Labrador golden retriever assisted the former president for the last six months of his life before Bush’s death last November at age 94.

NEW CRUISE SHIP STARS A RAFT OF TONY AWARD WINNERS

TONY Award-winners Alan Cumming, Norbert Leo Butz and Laura Benanti are headlining an interesting venue for a clutch of Broadway stars — a cruise ship.

The trio of performers will be joined by Sierra BOggess, Jenn Colella, Norm Lewis and Taylor Louderman for the inaugural sailing of The Broadway Cruise from New York City to Bermuda from Oct. 10-14, 2020.

The cruise will borrow the Norwegian Pearl, which accommodates 2,000 people. The stars will perform multiple unique shows on the main pool deck.

The concept isn’t entirely new but the level of theater celebrity this time is high. Cruise ships have long highlighted Broadway shows onboard, with performances of everything from “Grease” to “Cats.” And some cruise lines have employed Broadway veterans to mix with the passengers.

Cabin prices begin at $995 per person.

Makeup designer Joe Dulude II will do demonstrations and interactive sessions with guests, costume designer Paul Tazewell will discuss his creative process and choreographer Kelly Devine will teach daily dance classes.

The concept isn’t entirely new but the level of theater celebrity this time is high. Cruise ships have long highlighted Broadway shows onboard, with performances of everything from “Grease” to “Cats.” And some cruise lines have employed Broadway veterans to mix with the passengers.

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OnlY oN TUESDAYs LArGE RoADHouSe SHARING PlATTER

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28.10.2019 mon
MACAU’S LEADING NEWSPAPER
STEVE DOUGLAS, YOKOHAMA

Despite an English sporting takeover with a twist, Wales or South Africa awaits in the semifinals this season. They are the only three of his colleagues to have ever won the Davis Cup that year.

Wales and South Africa will play each other in the semifinals this season. They are the only three of his colleagues to have ever won the Davis Cup that year.

Roger Federer delights hometown fans cruising past Tsitsipas

ROGER Federer delighted his hometown fans by cruising past Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-4, 6-4 in the Swiss Indoors semifinals on Saturday. Seeking a 10th career title in Basel, the 38-year-old Federer will play 20-year-old Alex de Minaur in Sunday’s final.

“Probably the most important thing is not to get frustrated,” De Minaur said. “You’ve got to know that he’s going to serve at least 40, 50 against you.”

Federer and De Minaur, who were born in February 1999, four months after the Swiss great played his first match at Basel, have never played each other on tour.<br>MDT/AP
PRIDE THAT BLINDS

Contrary to some (un)conventional wisdom, making the case for the gentle, well-behaved, realistic Macau, as against the fiery and doomed Hong Kong, we think there is no reason to silence professor Gu Xinhu’s scholarly considerations and recent comments made in public.

Let us be clear, professor Gu is entitled to voice his positions or opinions on matters related or otherwise to his courses at the Faculty of Business and Administration. And he does so openly to his students. It is called freedom…a staple food in academy!

Gu, who holds a PhD in Finance from the University of Toronto, displays a kind of self-confessed no-color blindness in his evaluation of the legal system in Macau and Hong Kong. Professor Gu blames foreign, almost a metaphor for ‘white people’, for engaging and sustaining the corruption of Hong Kong’s judicial system. Despite the race-grounded theme, Gu Xinhu is voicing discomfort with the current status of the common law, and at the same time he seems to be recommending some reconstructive surgery. Or perhaps not; it is just a matter of replacing white people!

The Toronto trained professor of the University of Macau goes further; chastising the evil-doers at the core of the judicial system in the SAR: “Hong Kong’s legal system is in the hands of white people and foreigners. Hong Kong people do not have judicial sovereignty, they only have administrative sovereignty.”

No mention about political sovereignty.

Professor Gu Xinhu refuses the idea that his comments could be deemed ‘racist’; he is sure he could spot the difference, as “racism is everywhere in America.” Interestingly, he views as an “advantage” the fact that “Macau’s judiciary system is not controlled by white people.”

May we believe his hubris when Professor Gu says his analysis is not race motivated, but white suppression seems to be his founding block toward the restoration of Hong Kong’s integrity: food for thought, indeed!

If we were prone to black states of mind - and please do forgive the black - we would be afraid this rationale would be a two-step dance: deconstructing the dominant narrative, deconstructing the judicial system.

Finally, we underline Professor Gu’s creativity, who opposes Beijing’s support of Hong Kong as an international financial center, which he revealed when giving an example of the “advantage” Macau could benefit from, given its judiciary is not controlled by white people, replace Hong Kong as the “window of the world” for Southern China. Now, Gu Xinhu is inviting MSAR people to a “Mystical Mistory Tour.” Ad lucem.

Final notes this week should go to the replacement of Carrie Lam at the helm of the Bauhinia (source: Financial Times). (Stubbins Lam waited until the 23rd of October to formally withdraw that extradition bill, ultimately, the start of her descent into chaos.) And there are frontrunners.

Norman Chan, former head of the Monetary Authority. A non-political, favored by the HK elite.

Henry Tang, CPPCC member, former Chief Secretary. Welcomed for placing Beijing… if it were not for the scandals.

Paul Chan, former Legco, former secretary for Development. Scandals. Regina Ip, of Article 23 notoriety, hard written into pro-democracy demonstrations.

All should be discarded. Bernard Chan, Executive Council, former deputy to NPC, will be the bet if the choice goes to a seasoned mandarin operator during the ongoing Hong Kong crisis. Even though, and because of it, he said he does not want a full-time job.

If everything goes wrong, the top job will go to current Chief Secretary, Matthew Cheung. He can replace Carrie Lam for a period of six months.

JOSEPH WILSON

POLICE and violent pro-tests in Spain’s restive Catalonia region clashed Sat-

Hundreds of mostly masked youths surrounded the National Police headquarters

BARCELONA

SEPARATISTS CLASH WITH POLICE AFTER HUGE RALLY

Hundreds of mostly masked youths surrounded the National Police headquarters in downtown Barcelona and threw colorful paint at officers on guard. When they switched to throwing down rocks and bottles, national police with backup from Catalonia’s regional police force charged with batons swinging and fired foam bullets. After a chaotic moment they managed to extend a perimeter while protesters set fire to trash cans in the middle of the streets.

Regional emergency services said 15 people were being treated for injuries as a result of the clashes, including an AP photographer who was hit in the face with a police baton. Catalonia’s regional police said one of its officers was seriously hurt. At least one person had to be put on a stretcher by medics and taken away in an ambulance.

Unlike the worst of the last week’s riots that lasted hours, order was restored relatively quickly.

Earlier on Saturday Barcelona’s police said 35,000 people!

Tiny beetle named after climate activist Greta Thunberg

Climate activist Greta Thunberg has a tiny new namesake. London’s Natural History Museum said Friday that a minute species of beetle is being named “Neolipotodes greta” in hon-

Tiny beetle named after climate activist Greta Thunberg

The beetle is less than 1 millimeter long and has no eyes or wings. It belongs to a 1960s collection from samples of soil and leaf litter in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, which was donated to the Natural History Museum in 1978. It is part of the Phyllidiidae family of beetles, which includes some of the world’s smallest insects.

Nine Catalan officials were given sentences of nine to 13 years for sedition by the Supreme Court. Four of those were also convicted of misuse of public funds. The other three were fined for disobedience. They were all acquitted of the more serious crime of rebellion, which carries sentences of up to 25 years. Spain’s most right-wing politicians called the verdict soft.

Spain’s government has told Catalonia’s separatists that the national Parliament would need to amend the Constitution, which considers the nation indivisible, to make secession by a region legal.

The largest pro-Spanish union grassroots group Catalan Civil Society has called for a rally in Barcelona on Sunday. About roughly one half of Catalonia’s 7.5 million people oppose severing century-old ties with the rest of the country.

The Catalan crisis is set to be a key issue in Spain’s Nov. 10 national election, where Socialist Prime Minister Pe-

Chile President Sebastián Piñera asked all his Cabinet members to offer their resignations Saturday as he prepared to shake up his government in response to a wave of protests, including one that drew more than a million people the day before.

Germany Voters in the German state of Thuringia are casting ballots in a state election that could boost a far-right politician known for his fiery anti-migrant speeches. Bjoern Hoecke has come under scrutiny from Germany’s domestic intelligence agency for possible extremist views.

Switzerland Prosecutors have indicted two men accused of recruiting people for the Islamic State group. The main suspect, a Swiss-Iranian dual citizen, allegedly traveled to IS-controlled territory in Syria and Iraq before he recruited several people for the group.

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