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**SHOP OWNERS MAY NOT RECEIVE REPLACEMENT UNITS UNDER THE GOVERNMENT'S FUTURE URBAN RENEWAL PLAN**

P7

**VICTIM OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY TURNS INTO EXTORTION SUSPECT**

P2

**USJ KICKS OFF A SERIES OF PUBLIC LECTURES ON 'SPIRITUALITY AND RELIGION IN SOCIAL SERVICES' TO UPDATE SECTOR WORKERS WITH NEW TRENDS**

P5



AP PHOTO

**Hong Kong** While groups of hardcore protesters tangling with riot police have become the movement's most visible symbol, others are using skin and ink to show their support. More on p9

**China's** ban on individual travel to Taiwan could see visitors to the island fall for the first time since the devastating SARS outbreak of 2003. China banned individual travelers from heading to Taiwan in July, although tourists are still allowed to visit in tour groups.



AP PHOTO

**Thailand** plans to seek talks with the United States on a decision to end preferential trade privileges on a range of Thai exports including seafood, officials said yesterday.

**Cambodia** About 150 people have joined the search for a young British woman who is missing on a Cambodian island popular with travelers, a senior police officer said yesterday.



AP PHOTO

**Vietnam** The government said yesterday that it has received documents from British authorities on four of the people found dead in the back of a truck in England last week to help determine whether they are Vietnamese.

More on backpage



**HAO VS ADELSON MULTIBILLION-DOLLAR LAWSUIT ADJOURNED**

**ANOTHER YEAR IN THE WAITING**

P3



AP PHOTO

**LGBT+ GROUP TO CONDUCT THIRD MACAU-WIDE SURVEY**

P6



AP PHOTO

**EU GRANTS 'FINAL EXTENSION' ON BREXIT**

P15





CRIME

# VICTIM OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY TURNS INTO EXTORTION SUSPECT

RENATO MARQUES

A man who was initially the victim of a case of mistaken identity, due to the contents of a bag which he left unattended, has turned into the suspect in an extortion case, a Public Security Police Force (PSP) spokesperson informed yesterday.

During the joint press conference of the police forces held at the Judiciary Police (PJ) headquarters, the PSP informed that on October 25, the force received a call from an unidentified person who reported a theft at the Estrada dos Cavaleiros in Macau.

After deploying officers to the location, the police found two men at the scene, one from Macau and the other from the mainland.

The mainland man told police that he found the local man stealing money from his bag, which

he had left unattended.

The mainland man and then-victim told the police that the local man had taken a total of MOP3,640 and RMB164 from his bag, when he was spotted and asked to return the money.

The local man admitted to taking the money from the bag, and when asked to return it, he immediately agreed and handed over the entire sum to the rightful owner.

However, the local man added that, after that, the mainland man had requested HKD2,000 in compensation in exchange for not reporting the case to the authorities. The man said that he had already handed over the mainland man the compensation sum when the police arrived.

The mainland man admitted to the PSP that he had asked for compensation, leading the police to file an extortion case.

The case was forwarded to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) on the same day as the accusation.

## THIEF CAUGHT ROBBING CHURCH DONATION BOX

A 33-year-old male from the mainland has been caught red-handed stealing around 3,200 patacas from the St. Augustine's Church donation box.

The PSP reported the case at the press conference, saying that the force had been alerted to the crime following a call from an unidentified citizen reporting the man's unlawful actions.

When the officers arrived at St. Augustine's Square, they found a man behaving suspiciously and throwing away items, which the officers soon found was the cash and the equipment used to commit the crime.

After being questioned, the

man finally admitted that he had stolen the money from the church's donation box, using a metallic string and double-sided tape to "fish" banknotes out of the box.

According to the police, he managed to steal a sum made up of three different currencies amounting to about MOP3,200.

He was presented to the MP for aggravated theft on October 26.

## UNLAWFUL SALE OF EX-HUSBAND'S HOUSE

A 33-year-old local resident has finally been detained by the PJ while trying to reenter Macau on October 24.

The police had been searching for the woman since 2018, when the force received an anonymous complaint accusing her of forging documents to sell a housing unit she shared with her ex-husband, whom she had divorced a year earlier.

The case began when her husband suddenly disappeared between 2012 and 2013.

After some years without any contact and after finding a new partner, the woman decided to file for divorce. In 2017, the courts granted her the divorce.

In the meantime, she had been living in a house she was unable to sell, due to her ex-husband's absence.

To get around this problem, she forged her ex-husband's identification documents and used her current boyfriend to impersonate her husband, going to a private notary office, where she obtained a power of attorney document that granted her the power to sell the unit. She subsequently sold the unit on July 2017, earning some HKD3 million.

After being questioned by the PJ, the woman admitted to the crimes, justifying them with reference to the large debt she had been left to pay. As for any remaining money from the sale of the house, she said she had lost it at the casino.

She was presented to the MP on the charges of aggravated fraud and document forgery.

The PJ spokesperson added that the force still has not managed to locate her boyfriend, who was an accomplice to the crimes.

## MAN DAMAGES CAR OUT OF JEALOUSY

A 34-year-old male from the mainland has been charged with aggravated damage, after he defaced another man's car in a moment of rage after finding the man at dinner with his wife.

According to the investigation carried out by the PJ after the incident, the police discovered that the man suspected his wife was cheating on him. He revealed during questioning that he had hired a person to spy on his wife, and that they reported to him in the early hours of October 26 that his wife was having dinner with a man at a local restaurant.

Enraged, the husband went to the location. But instead of approaching the table, he went to a car that he knew belonged to the other man, and caused extensive damage to the car's door and window using a brick.

The PJ's report says that the damage caused amounted to as much as MOP7,000.

After damaging the car, he turned himself in to the police, telling them the whole story and his motivations.

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CEO and chairman of Las Vegas Sands, Sheldon Adelson

COURTS

# Hao vs LVS trial postponed for one year

RENATO MARQUES

A case in the Macau courts pitting Marshall Hao's Asian American Entertainment Corporation (AAEC) against the Venetian Macau Ltd. and three U.S.-based subsidiaries of Las Vegas Sands, including LVS (Nevada) International Holdings Inc., Las Vegas Sands LLC, and Venetian Casino Resort LLC, has been postponed for another year. It will resume on September 16, 2020.

The acknowledgment comes from a filing made by the U.S.-based casino group on Friday where Las Vegas Sands Corp. (LVS), the mother company of Macau casino operator Sands China, noted the postponement on its third-quarter results statement.

AAEC, a company led by Taiwan entrepreneur Marshall Hao, is claiming compensation from the alleged breach of a profit-sharing contract with LVS. Hao says he was instrumental in helping the company to acquire a sub-concession in Macau.

The partnership of Las Vegas Sands and AAEC initially submitted a bid for a gaming concession in Macau in 2001, however LVS later switched partners in favor of Galaxy Entertainment Group, which secured a license.

As early as next year, the court will hear the details of the agreement between LVS and Hao, as well as the sum that would have stemmed from the acquisition of the Macau license. As a consequence, it will cover profits from the granting of the concession until mid-2022, when it is due to expire.

In Friday's statement, the company mentions that the trial, which was originally scheduled for September 11, 2019 at the Court of First Instance (TJB), has been postponed until at least September 16, 2020.

The postponement is explained in the document, which also details all the successive filings, court decisions and appeals made by both sides.

According to the document, on September 26, 2019, the TJB accepted an appeal from LVS regarding an earlier decision to grant AAEC's request to increase the amount of its claim to a total of \$12 billion (MOP96.5 billion).

Since such appeal is currently pending before the Court of Second Instance (TSI), on September 10, 2019, AAEC moved to reschedule the trial which had been scheduled to begin on the next day. The request was granted by the TJB, rescheduling it to the new date in September 2020.

In the document, the company continues to remark the intentions of the company to "defend this matter vigorously," noting also that the outcome on the matter is impossible to be determined with any degree of certainty.

As the Times previously reported, in early September this year, the TJB ruled in favor of AAEC in a request to have the compensation amount raised.

Hao called for an increase in the amount claimed to a total of around \$12 billion in a bid that was considered "acceptable" by the Macau court in light of the arguments presented by AAEC.

The lawsuit has been dragging in the local courts since 2012.

## AIRPORT ENVIRONMENT ASSESSMENT EXPECTED IN 2020

Macau's Civil Aviation Authority (AACM) will complete an environmental assessment report concerning the airport expansion project by the end of next year, according to a report released yesterday by TDM. The airport expansion project must fulfill the requirements of the Central Government, so the Environmental Protection Bureau and AACM are working together to complete the report. AACM director Simon Chen Weng Hong said that in order to complete the report, statistics from a full year of operations are needed, adding that the two bureaus will aim to release their assessment by the end of 2020. Besides the environmental protection report, AACM also plans to submit an application to the Central Government for a reclamation project to allow for the airport expansion.

## ILHA VERDE FIRE A SUSPECTED ARSON CASE

A fire that broke out at a recycling yard in Ilha Verde is suspected of being deliberately caused. On Sunday night, at the recycling yard next to the Ilha Verde social housing complex, a fire was spotted amongst burning iron racks and miscellaneous items. The incident was reported by people living near the site. They claimed they heard an explosion, which the firefighters believe was caused by exploding glass. The Judiciary Police (PJ) dispatched police officers to the scene, suspecting it might be an arson case. The case has now been transferred to the PJ's investigation department.

## GOV'T TO HELP TONG SIN TONG SCHOOL EXPAND CAMPUS

The government has reportedly promised Tong Sin Tong School that it will build a new campus for the school, according to a report by TDM. The school is located in the San Ma Lou area, confined to a limited space. Chairman of the Committee of Tong Sin Tong School, Chui Sai Peng, said that the association has already received approval from the local government to expand the school campus, and that the government will help Tong Sin Tong School with the expansion. The current campus will be reformed into the Tong Sin Tong School administration building. According to a survey conducted last year, Tong Sin Tong School is the local association which has received the most donations from the six gaming operators in Macau.

# K-pop star returns with album after Macau gambling scandal

K-POP star Shoo will release her first solo album in Japan next month, ending a year-long hiatus following a gambling scandal involving Macau casinos. The South Korean singer was charged with habitual gambling in foreign casinos and sentenced to six months in prison.

In August last year, Shoo was charged with gambling in foreign jurisdictions, including Macau, over a nearly two-year period from August 2016 to May 2018. She is said to have gambled 790 million Korean won (5.45 million patacas) in total.

Shoo was sentenced to six months in prison, with the sentence suspended for two years.

Casino gambling is illegal for South Korean nationals, even when they travel outside of the country.

The singer was also reportedly cleared of fraud charges regarding an alleged failure to repay a 600 million won loan she took out for the purposes of gambling. Shoo still faces a civil suit from one of lenders, according to The Korea Times.

The 37-year-old Shoo, also known as Yoo Soo-young, found fame in South Korea in the 1990s with girl band S.E.S.

Her album will be released in Japan next month, but it is still not known whether the singer plans to promote her album in Korea. According to The Korea Times, the singer has struggled to reconcile with the public over her gambling activities, with Korean society "still [giving] the cold shoulder to the scandal-hit singer." **DB**

# LOCAL ESPORTS PLAYERS TO COMPETE IN INT'L TOURNAMENT

TWO local eSports players who play under the screen names FAIZDX and macaokengaroo618 are set to represent Macau in the upcoming Esports World Championship in Seoul, South Korea on December 11.

On Sunday at Studio City, Macau's elite Tekken 7 and eFootball Pro Evolution Soccer 2020 (eFootball PES 2020) players fought it out for the right to represent Macau.

Leong Ka Kit, who plays as FAIZDX, and Leung Ka Kin, also known as macaokengaroo618, won the respective matches, winning the right to represent the SAR.

Competitors, including Florenzky, FAIZDX, kaiofong, 201910, and VPC\_Norris, battled it out on the Japanese franchise series Tekken 7.

According to a statement

issued by Grow up eSports Association, FAIZDX showed "Bruce Lee-like martial arts skills in the game as he pummeled his way through the early rounds."

Meanwhile, a second round-robin tournament was held to find the eFootball PES 2020 player in Macau and macaokengaroo618 maintained a perfect record throughout the tournament, beating competitors by multiple goals in every game.

One of the best-selling video game franchises worldwide, PES has sold over 100 million copies.

The Esports World Championship is organized by the International Esports Federation. The organization's mission is to have electronic sports recognized as a legitimate sport. **LV**

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# USJ kicks off public lectures to boost development of social services

LYNZY VALLES

**T**HE University of Saint Joseph (USJ) kicked off a series of public lectures on “spirituality and religion in social services” yesterday, aiming to provide a platform for local social workers and other professionals to be updated on the current trends and needs of the sector.

A series of public lectures will be held on a monthly basis, with the purpose of providing opportunities for such workers to continue their professional development, by inviting speakers from different fields and backgrounds.

Conducted by the university's Faculty of Social Sciences and the Mother Mary Social Studies Center of Caritas Macau, the public lectures also aim to close the gap between the world of academia and the practice of theory.

“We feel like there's always a gap between the academic world and practice, so we would like to open our classrooms and lectures to the public so we can actually have a communication platform. [...] Also, we can help social work professionals in Macau to improve their professionalism,” said Ning Tang, an assistant professor and coordinator for the Department of Social Work of USJ.

Although the project is still



Ning Tang (left) and Priscilla Hoi

being trialed for now, Tang said that the public lectures may be more significant once the law on professional accreditation schemes and registration for social workers is implemented next year.

“I'm sure that in the near future,

social workers will need and be required by the law to [receive] some continuous education, and we would like to try this project first and see what we can contribute,” the coordinator added.

The lectures will introduce a series of specific themes relevant

for the practice of counselors and other professionals in social, educational and health services.

The lectures will also include the topics of spirituality, religious beliefs, and conceptions about spirituality and religion. They will deal with the place and role

of spirituality and religion in the client's and counselor's life, and religion and spirituality in counseling practice and in the daily life of agencies.

For Tang, Macau's progress on social work has fallen behind that of other nearby countries and territories.

“We developed social work a little bit later than Hong Kong and we have many unique cultures that actually shaped the development of social work in Macau. So you really have to understand the culture inside the social welfare system in order to learn what we can do together,” she said.

“I guess the biggest challenge is to understand what's there and what are the needs. We don't even know what the needs are, so it's hard for us to develop anything practical,” the assistant professor added.

Meanwhile, Priscilla Hoi, training executive at the Mother Mary Social Studies Center of Caritas Macau, said that the public lectures would also invite experts from mainland China and Hong Kong.

According to Hoi, the lectures are open to the public and will also create an exchange of ideas, in a bid to foster collaboration between the city's social workers and professionals, and will boost the development of the city's social work sector.

## 2019 most serious year for vaccine violations

**T**HIS year, violations relating to the provision of unapproved vaccines were at their most serious, the Health Bureau (SSM) has announced.

Between January 1 and October 24, the SSM completed 931 routine inspections at medical service suppliers, finding two clinics suspected of providing unapproved vaccines. One of the two clinics was discovered in October.

From the 153 unconventional inspections conducted, nine clinics (10 medical services in total) violated vaccine regulations. Four clinics were identified from public reports, three of which were discovered in October.

Leong Pui San, a senior SSM official, remarked that no violations had been recorded from 2015 to 2016,



and since 2017, a total of only 14 violations were recorded. These involved 10 clinics that were providing

unapproved vaccines to patients or failing to store vaccines in accordance with regulations.

In 2017 and 2018, a total of 36 illegal vaccines were seized by the SSM. No expired vaccines were seized

vaccines, varicella vaccines and meningococcal vaccines.

Besides vaccines, some clinics were found to be in possession of expired medicines, including expired blood pressure-lowering medications, some of which had been expired for over a year.

Four of the clinics reported were Centro Médico MICC, AMBO Medical Center, Dr. Wong Shing Ngai and Dr. Wong Chio Iong's Clinic (Dr. Wong's Clinic), and Hong Yin Professional Clinic.

Some doctors were suspended for periods of seven days to one month.

According to the SSM, some clinics are advertising group purchase deals on mainland online platforms to attract people to receive their vaccinations in Macau. For example, three doses of cervical cancer vaccine were advertised for RMB6,500. **JZ**

during this period.

The SSM reported that this year's violations have been the most serious, because the clinics identified were in possession of a large quantity of vaccines, with the origin of some of the vaccines unknown.

As of last Friday, six medical service providers were found to be storing a total of 315 non-regulation vaccines, 11 of which were confirmed as being illegally brought into Macau, and four of which were expired. The health authority has already transferred the expired vaccines to the customs authority.

The vaccines seized include nine-valent HPV vaccines, four-valent HPV vaccines, Hepatitis B vaccines, influenza vaccines, 13-valent pneumococcal vaccines, herpes zoster



# LOCAL LGBT+ GROUP TO CONDUCT MACAU-WIDE SURVEY

A local association has commenced a Macau-wide survey to better understand the local LGBT+ community. Rainbow of Macau, the city's first pro-LGBT+ non-governmental organization, said that the survey, the third of its kind, will help to refine its public services.

Representatives of the organization said that it was their duty to strive to better understand Macau's LGBT+ landscape for a variety of reasons.

"It is our honor, mission, and dedication to supporting the LGBT+ community by providing representative and valuable data to non-governmental organizations, academics, the civil society and the government for better service offer and policymaking," said the director-general of Rainbow of Macau, Anthony Lam, who is also a Macau Daily Times reporter.

Activist Jason Chao, who is the spokesperson for the group and project manager of the survey, said, "the voice of sexual minorities has long been undermi-

AP PHOTO



A participant at the annual gay and lesbian parade held in Taipei, Taiwan

ned in Macau because of strong stigmatization. [...] The survey will give the LGBT+ community a chance to express their concerns."

The previous survey, which was conducted in April 2016, attracted more than 700 valid responses. The survey revealed that 6.6% of respondents had been the victim of domestic violence from their intimate partners.

More than 90% of respondents considered protection for same-sex couples in the anti-domestic violence legislation essential.

Rainbow of Macau is inviting members of the Macau LGBT+ community to respond to their latest questionnaire. It has 47 questions and takes less than 10 minutes to complete. The data collection period will remain open until November 9. **DB**

# CONSULATE CALLS FOR PATRONAGE OF IRISH-OWNED RETAILERS

DANIEL BEITLER



THE Irish Consulate in Hong Kong and Macau is calling for its compatriots to support Irish-owned businesses in the upcoming festive season as the neighboring city enters its 21st week of social unrest.

In an e-mail from the Consulate of Ireland in Hong Kong and Macau, the Consul-General, David Costello, said that his team has been liaising with government and non-government stakeholders, as well as Irish organizations in Hong Kong, acknowledging the economic impact of the ongoing protests.

"From an Irish perspective, I am also conscious that many of our compatriots make their living in the retail sector, which has been

significantly impacted by the consequent economic downturn," the diplomat said.

"Many of these businesses have been very supportive of Irish organizations and Irish events through the years. As we head into the Christmas shopping season, I would encourage you to give special consideration to patronizing Irish-owned businesses in the coming weeks," Costello added.

The diplomat also noted that another "Irish casualty" of Hong Kong's economic downturn is the halt in direct flights to Dublin from November 6.

These direct flights will only resume operation on March 30, 2020. **LV**

AD

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PUBLIC CONSULTATION

# Shop owners might not receive replacement units under urban renewal plan

JULIE ZHU

**C**OMMERCIAL property owners may not receive replacement units when their existing property is forced to be redeveloped under the government's future Urban Renewal Plan, according to director of the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL).

The public consultation process of the government's Urban Renewal Plan draft was held at the Legislative Assembly yesterday, with lawmakers present as well. Concerns over commercial property, underground spaces, community development and other issues were voiced by the lawmakers.

The recent announcement of the public consultation draft surprised the public, as it was announced suddenly by the Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, instead of being proposed by the Secretariat for Transport and Public Works, headed by Raimundo do Rosário.



Lawmaker Au Kam San pointed out that the proposal does not clearly state whether the owner of a commercial property can obtain a new commercial property after the redevelopment, and that the proposal only suggests two types of compensation for owners of commercial property.

"Shops can only be exchanged for cash or subsidies but can't be exchanged for another shop?" Au asked.

DSAL director Liu Dexue said

that although it was not written in the proposal, the government's general direction still leans towards giving property owners a new property whose purpose remains the same. For example, property owners can obtain new offices if their old property was an office. The same goes for shops.

However, according to Liu's response, there is still the possibility that shop owners may not be given shops once the government tears down their properties.

"Only when there are no equivalent properties, will we consider compensating them with cash," said Liu.

Liu gave the example of industrial buildings. "If an industrial building is demolished and there is not an equivalent building to compensate [property owners], then we will consider authorizing cash compensation."

Chui Sai Cheong asked whether underground spaces may also be developed.

Lawmaker Zheng Anting noticed that the proposal uses the term "within the plan" and asked the government about handling buildings which need redevelopment and yet are excluded from the plan.

Sulu Sou, who represents those living in old areas, voiced his concerns about the redevelopment of the community, instead of increasing the population of said community.

Overall, several lawmakers, including Ella Lei, focused on the percentage of agreement of property ow-

ners required to demolish a building for redevelopment.

In 2017, the government made a proposal which suggested a certain percent agreement with property owners that had to be reached before rebuilding a building. However, the new proposal has cut that percentage.

Lawmakers mainly worry that fewer property owners will be protected following the reduction, as the government will only need to reach an agreement with a small number of property owners in order to demolish a building.

Government representatives once again argued that a mechanism involving procedures for arbitration, lawsuits and a final acquisition method may need to be implemented for any disagreeing parties.

During the consultation, Liu repeatedly affirmed that the government wishes to balance the benefits to all property owners, and that the redeveloped buildings will be equipped with more modern facilities.

AD

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<b>講者 / Speakers</b>	<b>日期 / Date</b>
柳立子 博士 Dr. Liu Lizi	2019.11.10 星期日
李政立 先生 Mr. Bernard Li	10 November 2019 Sunday
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<b>嘉賓主持 / Panel Moderator</b>	
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主辦單位 引文化



# WAY OUT OF HK TURMOIL TO BE FOUND IN GREATER BAY HINTERLAND, SAYS FORUM

**O**FFICIALS, scholars and business representatives assembled in Hong Kong at a forum last week to discuss the development of the Greater Bay Area.

The participants heard that the development of the regional area might provide a solution to Hong Kong's recent turmoil and 'a way out' for the youth of the territory. But with protests now in their 21st consecutive week, not everyone appears convinced.

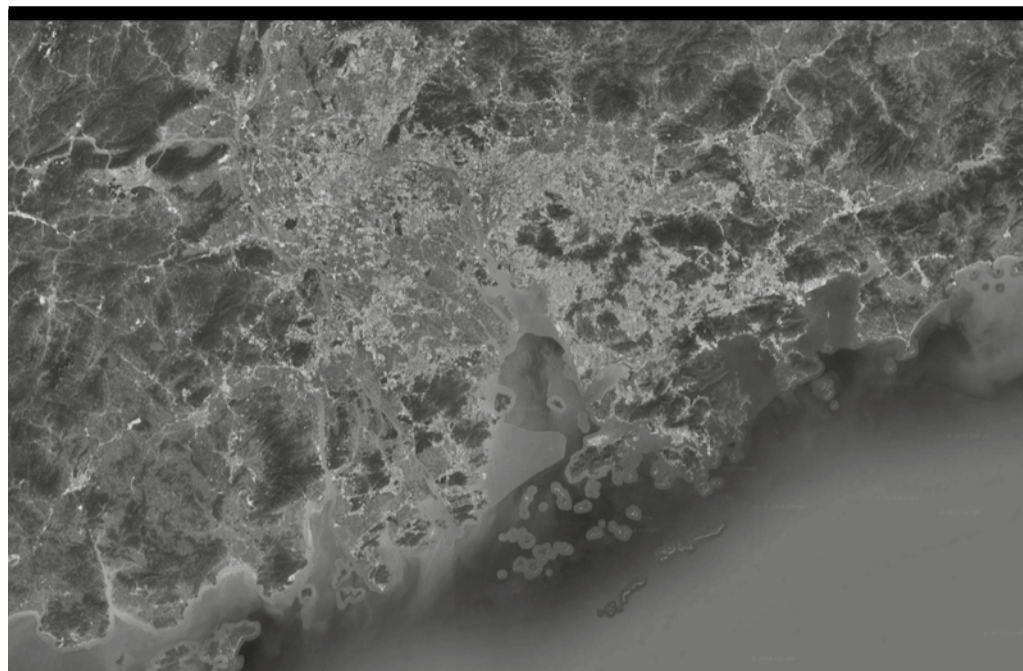
Consisting of Macau, Hong Kong and nine mainland cities around the Pearl River Delta estuary, the Greater Bay Area is home to 66 million people and has a combined a total gross domestic product equivalent to \$1.3 trillion.

Given various external and domestic headwinds in Hong Kong, the Chief Executive of Hong Kong Carrie Lam stressed that the Greater Bay Area provides new impetus to Hong Kong's economy and creates development opportunities for local people, especially youth.

Hong Kong should take a more proactive role in the Greater Bay Area with its strengths in financial and professional services, aviation, and innovation and technology, Lam said.

Hong Kong and Macau have a major role to play in the Greater Bay Area, said Xie Feng, the commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China in the HKSAR.

The two SARs will be able to expand space for economic development, open up new possibilities, and improve people's livelihood



A satellite image of the Greater Bay Area

such as employment, education and healthcare through enhanced cooperation with the mainland and better integration into national development, said Xie.

Analysts at the forum agreed that, although cities in the Greater Bay Area will generally reap benefits from the project, Hong Kong in particular will get a boost that might help it to overcome its current political and economic hardships.

David Gosset, a French expert and founder of the Europe-China Forum, said the Greater Bay Area offers the opportunity for Hong Kong to renew itself and resolve social and economic problems.

With traditional strengths in banking, finance, services and trade, Hong Kong, connected with the Greater Bay Area's eco-system, could evolve into one of the world's

leading smart cities, Gosset said. "Hong Kong's future cannot be separated from the Greater Bay Area and the rejuvenation of China."

Victor Fung, chairman of Hong Kong-based consumer goods export trading giant Fung Group, said the Greater Bay Area may provide cross-border social mobility for people on all sides of the Pearl River Delta. This, he said, will be a tremendous catalyst for Hong Kong to re-invent itself.

"It is really a lifetime opportunity for Hong Kong and especially for young people," said Fung, according to Xinhua.

However, despite all talk of Hong Kong youth finding opportunities on the mainland side of the Greater Bay, there is little evidence many are willing to take the plunge.

One survey conducted

earlier this year, prior to the eruption of protests across Hong Kong, found that 58% of youth respondents in the city would not consider working or living in mainland cities covered by the project. Conducted by a pro-Beijing group, the top two reasons for the respondents' disinterest in the project was a lack of knowledge on the plan and a desire to remain in or close to Hong Kong.

In Macau, which is often described as having closer ties to the mainland than its sister SAR, most youth said they would not work or live on the mainland side of the Greater Bay, citing lifestyle differences. It was understood, though not explicitly stated on one recent survey, that the lifestyle differences included censorship and information restrictions.

DB/XINHUA

## HENGQIN'S NOVOTOWN TO OPEN THIS DECEMBER



**H**ONG Kong-based Lai Sun Group announced yesterday that Novotown, an integrated tourism and entertainment hub located at the heart of Hengqin, will officially open on December 6.

Novotown features a mix of entertainment attractions combining state-of-the-art technology and innovative concepts. Two key attractions, Lionsgate Entertainment World and National Geographic Ultimate Explorer opened in July and September respectively, and have already garnered acclaim and market enthusiasm, according to a press statement issued yesterday.

Other establishments, including the Hyatt Regency Hengqin will open their doors in December when the location officially launches.

The Hyatt Regency Hengqin, which is developed in collaboration with Hyatt, promises to deliver a total of 493 guestrooms and suites, six dining outlets - which include restaurants that serve authentic Cantonese and Italian fare - and a rooftop bar. Other facilities include a spa, fitness center, outdoor and indoor swimming pools.

Novotown is already home to other well-known brands, including the popular noodle shop from Taiwan, Kiki Restaurant, which is making its entry in the Guangdong province, local dessert brands Xiao Man and Considerate Pear. An array of international brands are also set to join, such as the legendary Japanese sports fashion establishment Onitsuka Tiger, which will debut in Zhuhai for the very first time.

"Since we began this project in 2011, we recognized the great potential that Hengqin offered," said Larry Leung, managing director of Novotown, according to the press statement. "We look forward to offering more diverse leisure and entertainment experiences for our guests by integrating top notch technology, and further contributing to the development of Hengqin International Leisure and Tourism Island." DB

AD



## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

The Greater Bay project is coming and it will bring both opportunities and challenges to our little-big town. Macau Daily Times wants to hear your voice. We invite our readers to write in with Letters to the Editor on the topic of the Greater Bay Area.

Please email your letters to [gba@macaudailytimes.com](mailto:gba@macaudailytimes.com)



KELVIN CHAN

# HK protesters use skin and ink to support movement

**M**IKE Chan's tattoo needle buzzes gently as he draws a design on his customer's thigh — a figure wearing a helmet, goggles and mask.

Dipping his needle into pots of black, red and yellow ink, Chan hunches over his client's leg as he painstakingly brings to life the image of a Hong Kong protester clad in protective gear.

Using his art is Chan's way of contributing to Hong Kong's anti-government protest movement, which has consumed the semi-autonomous Chinese territory for months.

While groups of hardcore protesters tangling with riot police have become the movement's most visible symbol, others are using skin and ink to show their support.

"I am actually just a peaceful protester. I really want to go to the front line, but I don't have the courage yet to stand and fight against the government at the front because I'm very frightened," said Mary, who was getting the thigh tattoo, her first.

She chose her thigh because she could easily cover it up. She would reveal only her first name because she didn't want anyone she works with to find out.

Many protesters have sought to conceal their identities with face masks to avoid being identified, out of fear of arrest.

Hong Kong's protest movement erupted in June in opposition to an extradition bill that would have sent suspects to stand trial in mainland China, and later expanded to include full democracy and police accountability.

Rallies have frequently ended

AP PHOTO



in mayhem, with hardcore protesters wearing goggles and gas masks throwing bricks and firebombs at police armed with tear gas, pepper spray and water cannons.

Now in its fifth month, the unrest has polarized the city.

Mary, 29, said she has taken part in mass protests that involved peaceful activity, such as singing along to the movement's anthem.

But she added, "I really admire front-line protesters who fight at the front and are not afraid of getting arrested or being beaten up. Not everyone has this courage."

Mary said she had been thinking

about getting a protest tattoo for about two months. She hoped that it would inspire her friends to get them too.

Chan, who has been working as a tattoo artist for two years, said demand took off after he started doing the protest tattoos for free in July, though it has tapered off more recently.

"I do these resistance tattoos free of charge because I see this as part of protesting," said Chan, comparing himself to supporters handing out free water bottles during rallies in Hong Kong's sweltering heat.

He offers a few dozen variations of the mask and goggles figure for free and has done about 70 of them.

"I want to give them a choice, not just like a stamp that's all the same," he said.

He charges for other protest-themed tattoos such as slogans like "Free Hong Kong" and "Fight for freedom" done in calligraphy, because they take more time.

Tattoos in Hong Kong used to have unsavory connotations, usually signifying that the bearer was a member of an organized crime gang. But Chan and Mary say those attitudes have changed in recent years and their acceptance as an art form has grown.

After about half an hour, Chan is finished and Mary shows off her thigh, now decorated with a stylized figure of a protester wearing a yellow helmet, goggles and respirator mask with pink filters.

Even though it's permanent, Mary said she'd never regret it.

"Because of what has happened over the past few months, you actually can't speak out much or do anything much," she said. "This is the only thing that you can do to remember this for the rest of your life." AP

## HONG KONG

# Protests flare for 21st weekend amid global unrest

IAIN MARLOW

**H**ONG Kong pro-democracy activists demonstrated for the 21st straight weekend as unrest inspired by the movement spread around the globe, from South America to Europe to the Middle East.

Police fired tear gas on Sunday at protesters in Tsim Sha Tsui who blocked roads and disrupted traffic. That followed a night of clashes in the New Territories district of Yuen Long and a peaceful rally that drew thousands in Central. Some protesters set fire to shops in Jordan and hurled petrol bombs at a police station in Sham Shui Po, an area in Kowloon, while others threw smoke grenades at train exits.

BLOOMBERG



Yesterday morning's commute was normal, with nearly all train lines running as scheduled. Rail operator MTR Corp. announced that

all subway lines would shut down at 11 p.m., except for the Airport Express.

The rallies have become increasingly violent over

the course of October, with two protesters shot and a police officer slashed. Efforts by Hong Kong's authorities to quell the pro-

tests have largely failed, from banning marches and withdrawing the proposed extradition bill, to using an emergency law to outlaw face masks and pledging to make housing more affordable.

The protests have been cited as inspiration for demonstrators around the world who've flooded the streets of major cities this month over economic inequality, regional grievances and alleged corruption.

Spanish authorities are facing down separatist riots in Catalonia. In Chile, opposition to a 4-cent subway-fare hike has snowballed into the worst unrest there in decades, with at least 18 people killed so far. And in Lebanon, nationwide

protests for more than a week, including hundreds of thousands demonstrating in Beirut, have pressured the country's leader to shake up his cabinet. There have also been protests in Iraq.

Last week, reports surfaced that China's leaders were mulling a plan to replace Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam by early next year in a bid to calm public anger.

Data due in Hong Kong this week will likely signal a technical recession is under way after a contraction in the second quarter. The benchmark Hang Seng Index tumbled 8.6% last quarter, the biggest loss among major global gauges tracked by Bloomberg. BLOOMBERG



BLOOMBERG



## BRANSON READY FOR HIS BIGGEST TEST YET AS SPACE SHOT BECKONS

CHRISTOPHER JASPER

**RICHARD** Branson plucks a dried grasshopper from a jar, takes a bite, and pronounces the insect surprisingly tasty before slurping down a vegan yogurt and offering to trial the concoction on Virgin Atlantic Airways flights.

The U.K. billionaire, a serial creator of companies spanning record labels to airlines to fizzy drinks and bridal gowns, is in his element. He's meeting with fellow entrepreneurs at a so-called "Pitch to Rich" session in Israel, where the contest's winner gets a business-class flight to London for a week of hot-housing at Virgin's own innovation hub.

The event in Tel Aviv speaks to the appetite for fresh ideas that still drives Britain's best-known businessman in his seventieth year. Branson's own contribution to human endeavor is about to enter a critical phase as Virgin Galactic, the prime focus of his attention for 15 years, prepares to launch the first tourists into space next year.

Traveling straight from Israel to the U.S., Branson rings the opening bell in the New York Stock Exchange on Monday as Virgin Galactic becomes the first space-launch company to go public.

On a trip marking Virgin Atlantic's arrival in the Israeli market,

the Englishman said he's trying to quell his mounting anticipation about the upcoming space voyage given previous delays, including a hiatus following a fatal crash in 2014. Branson has pledged to personally be aboard the first public space shot.

"Virgin Galactic has been a difficult baby and it's gone through some tough teenage years, but we're now close to creating something very special," he said. "There need to be more test flights this year and I'm trying not to get too carried away until a few months before the launch, but I'm very excited."

### FIRED UP

The spaceflight is just one of a series of planned milestones in a 12 month period that's set to define the Virgin Group's future. With his iconoclast approach intact even after five decades in the business of disruption, Branson also has big plans for his airline, a satellite launcher and a cruise-ship business he plans to introduce next year, among other projects.

Boeing Co.'s future-technologies arm has pledged \$20 million for a minority stake in Virgin Galactic, a business finding itself in

increasingly hot competition for billionaire-funded space travel. Amazon.com Inc. founder Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin company plans to take payloads and tourists to the edge of space on an 11-minute flight, while Tesla Inc. CEO Elon Musk's SpaceX has also joined the

**Galactic is interested in developing hypersonic airline flights to slash global travel times, but the dream of linking London with Australia in just a few hours remains distant**

race with a pledge in to send passengers to the moon, Mars and beyond.

Rather than an IPO, Virgin Galactic is listing through a merger with a publicly traded investment vehicle, Social Capital Hedosophia. Its shares rose 11% Friday after the combination was completed. The new entity will be known as Virgin Galactic Holdings Inc. and trade under the ticker SPCE.

Galactic is interested in developing hypersonic airline flights

that would slash global travel times. While the dream of linking London with Australia in just a few hours remains distant, its technology could be more readily adapted to link far-flung U.S. cities, Branson predicts.

Branson speaks in glowing terms of 35-year-old Virgin Atlantic, the airline that took the brand from a quirky U.K. record label known for signing the Sex Pistols to a globally recognized force.

### INDIAN PLANS

Among Branson's travel frontiers is India, where he will seek to crack the burgeoning travel market with a service to Mumbai that kicks off this month. A route to Sao Paulo will follow next year as the carrier steps up competition with arch-rival British Airways, emboldened by a partnership with Delta Air Lines Inc.

In Delta, Virgin Atlantic now has an ally with shoulders broad enough to take on British Airways after years of often bitter competition - and courtroom clashes - with the larger carrier. That push could gain traction with an increase in flights following the opening next decade of a new runway at Lon-

don's Heathrow airport. Branson says he's been buoyed by the hub's positive reaction to his calls for a shakeup to the slot-allocation systems to allow his airline to become a second U.K. flag carrier.

He admits to a sadness surrounding the imminent reduction of his majority stake in Virgin Atlantic to a 20% holding, saying he's taking the step reluctantly to safeguard the carrier's future in an industry increasingly dominated by a handful of airline groups linked by cross-shareholdings and cost and revenue sharing.

"It's not a deal that I particularly like doing because from talking to the staff they'd quite like the airline to remain slightly more personal," he says. "But I've promised them I'm going to remain very involved."

Next year will also see the launch of the new Virgin Voyages cruise line, with the first ship commencing sea trials in the Mediterranean before being based in Miami, with three more to follow. Branson is pitching the business at people who would normally hate such a holiday -- "like me," he says -- and has asked managers to submit their own list of bugbears, headed by his own dislike of buffet dining, which he plans to eliminate.

Also in the pipeline are Virgin Orbit's first full "drop and fire" launch from the wing of a modified Boeing 747 in January as the satellite-deployment startup heads toward its commercial debut.

### PASSENGER PODS

Then there's the opening of Virgin Hotels in four U.S. cities that will more than double the size of a business founded as a bet on real estate after the 2008 crash, followed by the construction of Virgin Hyperloop One's link between Mumbai and Pune, marking the world debut of technology that shoots passenger pods through a tube at near-supersonic speeds.

Back in Tel Aviv, Branson regales his audience of Israeli startups with tales of how he became a one-man promotional campaign for the Virgin brand. They're familiar stories for many - death-defying stunts in hot-air balloons and yachts, getting arrested at Heathrow after painting a Virgin logo on the tail of a BA Concorde, crushing Coca-Cola cans in a Sherman tank in Times Square to promote Virgin Cola - but told with a renewed energy.

One thing seems certain: the man with the broad smile and surfer-dude wavy mane isn't about to step back from the fray.

"I enjoy every minute of my life and the variety of what we do," he says. "True, I sometimes glance in the mirror and wonder who the hell that is looking back. But I don't feel any older and I want carry on and use the experience that I have." **BLOOMBERG**



**C**HINA'S economic challenges have proliferated in the almost two years since Xi Jinping last convened a full meeting of the Communist Party. But politics remain at the top of his agenda.

The party's Central Committee is expected to gather behind closed doors yesterday for the first time since February 2018 -- the longest stretch the 200-plus-member body has gone without meeting since China began its reform era four decades ago. And Xi looks poised to pick up where he left off: solidifying control over the ruling party and the country of almost 1.4 billion people.

While such "plenums" are closely guarded affairs, state media have said party leaders would make "greater efforts in sticking to and improving the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, as well as strengthening China's system and capacity for governance." That arcane language suggests a sweeping agenda focused on further centralizing power around the president that may include reshuffling some key leadership roles when it ends on Thursday.

"Xi has defined China's governing system as really incredibly broad, encompassing everything from how the party manages politics to the economy to society to culture to itself to the environment," said Trey McArver, co-founder of Beijing-based research firm Trivium China. "It could end up being a relatively comprehensive or broad-based approach to everything."

Xi has repeatedly warned against complacency in recent months, complaining in a speech last month that some

# Xi uses China's biggest annual meeting for politics, not economy



cadres were "weak-kneed and unwilling to fight" against the party's growing and long-term challenges. China is projected to see the slowest growth in gross domestic product in almost three decades this year - a concern made worse by the trade war with U.S. President Donald Trump.

Some observers had expected this plenum to focus more on economic policies, since the one last year also dealt with politics. While a rash of negative economic data have

raised speculation that the party leadership might take more decisive action to boost domestic demand, Xi also needs to make sure the party's - and thus his - rule can endure the coming downturn.

"We'd like to see how the big topics such as growth, stability and reforms are being prioritized," said Peiqian Liu, China economist at Natwest Markets Plc. in Singapore. "For instance, the pledge for better party building might lead to higher confidence and

greater acceptance of slower growth among the top leaders, and that local officials can be more focused on reforms."

## 'LOW EXPECTATIONS'

The last time the Central Committee met 20 months ago, Xi secured the body's blessing to repeal constitutional term limits keeping him from serving as president past 2023. The move represented one of the party's sharpest departures from the model of collecti-

ve leadership embraced after Mao Zedong's tumultuous and personality-driven rule.

Still, plenums are rarely that dramatic and the results often take months or even years to come into focus. The outcome will probably first be detailed in a jargon-laden communique released after the meeting.

Although the communique may provide important signals about where China's political system and its economy are headed, it's unlikely to answer key questions such as how the leadership will manage slowing growth, mounting debt and a rapidly aging population.

China's list of economic headaches includes the down-draft from the trade war with the U.S, factory-price deflation, a fragile financial system and spiraling food costs in the wake of a catastrophic disease epidemic among the nation's pig herd. Even so, policy makers are wary of embarking on large-scale stimulus measures for fear of resurgent debt levels or bursting the bubble in the property market.

"We have pretty low expectations of this plenum producing a decision that will be meaningful for markets and investors," said Tom Raftery, principle China economist for the Economist Intelligence Unit. "What they are looking for is a clearer economic road map for the 2020s, but this plenum is not going to provide that." **BLOOMBERG**

# Taylor Swift helps Alibaba plug world's biggest shopping spree

LULU YILUN CHEN

**T**AYLOR Swift will headline Alibaba's Singles' Day next month in Shanghai, turning her considerable star wattage on the world's largest annual online shopping spree.

By most measures the biggest recording star on the planet, Swift is the highest-profile act to feature at Alibaba Group Holding Ltd.'s Nov. 11 extravaganza since its inception over a decade ago. She joins celebrities from Chinese singer G.E.M. to Japanese voice

actress Kana Hanazawa in Shanghai mere months after wrapping a similar Prime Day celebration for Amazon.com Inc.

Alibaba co-opted Singles' Day - an unofficial campus holiday for the unattached - and turned it into a national showcase for online bargains, netting more than \$30 billion of sales over a 24-hour period in 2018. Swift, who succeeds the likes of Mariah Carey and Nicole Kidman on Alibaba's stage, will be throwing her weight behind China's largest and perhaps

best-known corporation at a time Washington is trying to contain the Asian nation's ascendancy.

The 29-year-old, whose "Lover" sold better initially in China than in the U.S., underscores Alibaba's effort to take its signature event global. Two of Swift's previous albums, "1989" and "Reputation," were both certified for over 1 million copies consumed in China. That's despite a brief controversy over the title of the former collection, which some took to be a reference to the Tia-

nanmen crackdown of the same year, a politically charged and heavily censored event.

Alibaba said in a statement yesterday Swift will feature in a televised and livestreamed concert in the run-up to the start of 24-hour promotions. More than 200,000 brands will take part this year, offering a million new products. More than 500 million people are expected to participate -- about 100 million more than last year, according to the statement. **BLOOMBERG**







## US TRAVEL INDUSTRY TO CHINESE TOURISTS: WHAT TRADE WAR?

BANI SAPRA, WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, D.C., has dangled hotel discounts tied to the Chinese Lunar New Year.

Arizona has promoted its outdoor attractions to draw visitors during another popular Chinese holiday.

San Francisco has expanded its social media presence on Chinese apps to market year-round travel to millennial tourists.

Across the country, the U.S. tourism industry is trying to counter one of the casualties of the trade war with China that is still raging despite a temporary truce this month: A drop in the flow of affluent Chinese visitors to the U.S. As the conflict has dragged on for 15 months with no meaningful breakthrough, the travel industry is trying to minimize the damage.

It has good reason. An enlarged Chinese middle class has become a lucrative market for the U.S. travel industry. Close to 3 million Chinese tourists visited the U.S. last year. And they spent liberally: An estimated average of \$6,700 per person per trip — exceeding the average spending of international tourists by more than 50% — according to the U.S. Travel Association.

Concerns among U.S. tourism agencies have grown as Beijing has warned that Chinese travelers to the United States may face harassment. Compounding the problem is increased difficulty in obtaining U.S. visas.

The number of visitors from China dropped nearly 4% in the first half of this year after a nearly 6% drop in 2018. More broadly,

the U.S. share of the global travel market has slipped in the past year, and travel and hospitality groups blame the trade conflicts and intensified competition from rival countries. To close the gap, they've urged the government to extend funding for the U.S. national tourism marketing agency and to work more closely with overseas trade fairs and tour groups.

At the same time, tourism marketing agencies for states and cities are hedging their bets by intensifying their outreach to countries other than China. Utah and Los Angeles, among others, are trying to expand their presence in nations like India, whose large and youthful middle class is seen as a potentially rich source of tourist dollars.

Yet there is no easy way to replace a drop in Chinese tourism. Some U.S. tourism agencies say they worry that Chinese travelers feel unwelcome in the country under the Trump administration. Warnings from Beijing about traveling to the U.S. have likely reinforced that view.

"With the trade war, with some of the travel warnings, with some of our visa challenges that we've had, we've seen a little bit of a dip in Chinese visitors," said Theresa Belpulsi, a senior official at Destination DC, the city's tourism marketing office.

Tourism is one of the few industries where the U.S. has enjoyed a substantial advantage over China. In 2018, Chinese tourists traveling to the U.S. spent \$30 billion more than American tourists visiting

China did. Yet that edge may be shrinking.

"The U.S. is just losing market share," said Adam Sacks, president of consulting company Tourism Economics. "Something's made the U.S. uncompetitive, and I would target the trade war as one of the reasons."

Larry Yu, a professor of hospitality management at George Washington University, warns that once impressions of an unwelcome environment take hold, they're hard to erase.

### The US travel industry is redoubling its efforts to engage with Chinese tourists while waiting out the trade war

"The trade war creates a kind of environment in China that makes people think twice," Yu said. "Even though we know that Chinese demand is high, the current environment makes people substitute the U.S. for another place."

Beijing has issued two warnings to would-be visitors to the United States — one about gun violence, the other about harassment by U.S. law enforcement.

Visa approvals for Chinese visitors have meanwhile become more difficult. The rejection rate for Chinese tourist visa applications to the U.S. reached 17% in the 2018 fiscal year from a low of 8.5% in 2013.

Some tourism companies are feeling squeezed. DFS Hawaii, which operates duty-free stores in

Hawaiian airports, plans to shed a quarter of its workforce and has pointed to a drop-off in tourists from China and elsewhere in Asia as a reason. As of August, Chinese tourist visits to Hawaii are down 27% this year.

"There is no foreseeable indication this will be reversed in the near term," said Tim DeLessio of the DFS Group, parent company of DFS Hawaii.

Sacks of Tourism Economics says he holds out hope that local travel marketing agencies can reverse the trend. The District of Columbia, for one, says its outreach to China has intensified. Destination DC's latest initiative — hotel discounts for the Lunar New Year early in 2020, with events and performances tailored for Chinese tourists — builds on a sister-city partnership with Beijing.

San Francisco's social media expansion to three new Chinese apps marks its latest effort to draw more Chinese tourists. Ads the city created and hosted on two popular Chinese apps, WeChat and Weibo, drove 12 million people to a contest promoting the city's landmarks, according to the San Francisco Travel Association.

Arizona leveraged social media and Ctrip, a Chinese travel website, to urge visitors to check out the state's outdoor and wellness activities during the Golden Week holiday period this month.

At a gathering of industry CEOs in September, leading travel brands urged the government to stem the eroding U.S. share of the global market by guaranteeing future funding for Brand USA, a tou-

risms marketing agency. Entry fees paid by international travelers entering the United States fund that agency. But its dedicated funding expires next year. If it does, tourism from China and other countries could drop, travel industry officials warn, and American jobs might be put at risk.

"Without Brand USA, we would be in an even worse situation vis-a-vis our international competitors," said Heather McCrory, CEO of Accor, a leading hotel group.

Even New York City, which enjoyed a surge in tourism this year thanks in part to the new Hudson Yards development and World Pride Day, has grown concerned about attracting Chinese visitors.

"We can't control the market conditions," said Christopher Heywood of NYC & Company, the city's official tourism marketing agency. "The geopolitics comes into play."

In the meantime, some U.S. competitors may gain an edge. The European Travel Commission, which says Europe welcomed 14 million Chinese last year, has joined with its Chinese counterparts at travel shows and partnered with Chinese celebrities to share videos and social media posts involving Europe.

American tourism agencies say they're seeking other potential sources of visitors in India and elsewhere. But Indian tourists are still less accustomed to traveling in the United States.

"There's a great deal of interest," said Jamie Foley of the Los Angeles Tourism and Convention Board. "But that comes with the understanding that India is very different from China."

Left with little choice, the U.S. travel industry is redoubling its efforts to engage with Chinese tourists while waiting out the trade war.

"The trade war's an important subject, but it's seen as a temporary setback," said Sage Brennan, co-founder of the consulting firm China Luxury Advisors. "Over the next 20 to 30 years, China is going to continue to impact and shape the tourism market."

Mindful of that likelihood, David O'Donnell of the Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau, said that city has built a pipeline of projects to try to drive tourism from China. Boston is working with China's Hainan Airlines to showcase the city and with Boston's airports to develop additional routes to China. It's also seeking partnerships with China Union Pay and Ctrip, the Chinese travel website.

"Are we concerned that the trade war may impact the travel trade?" O'Donnell said. "Of course. Are we frustrated by new and more restrictive visa policies? Absolutely. But we know that Boston will always be very appealing to the China market. We are in to stay." AP



SOUTH KOREA

# Gov't proposes meeting on dormant tour project with North

HYUNG-JIN KIM, SEOUL

**S**OUTH Korea yesterday proposed a face-to-face meeting with North Korea on the fate of a long-shuttered joint tourist project at a scenic North Korean mountain, as their relations remain cool over stalemated nuclear diplomacy.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un last week ordered the destruction of South Korean-built facilities at the North's Diamond Mountain resort, saying they look "shabby" and "unpleasant-looking." North Korea later proposed an exchange of documents to work out details.

Yesterday, South Korea sent a message proposing officials from the two Koreas meet to discuss issues on the tourist project including the North's push to tear down South Korean-constructed facilities there, according to Seoul's Unification Ministry. Spokesman Lee Sang-min said South Korea hasn't yet proposed a specific date and location for that meeting.



Lee said South Korea has determined there should be "some sort of meeting" between the two Koreas to discuss the issue. He said "a unilateral action" by North Korea could damage inter-Korean relations and runs counter to public sentiments in South Korea.

North Korea didn't immediately respond to South Korea's proposal.

South Korean tours to the mountain began in 1998, providing a rare source of foreign currency for the impoverished North. The mountain was also one of

the few places in North Korea that South Koreans could visit. But the project was halted in 2008 when a North Korean soldier fatally shot a South Korean tourist who the North says entered a restricted area.

Pyongyang has called for the project's restart since it entered

nuclear diplomacy with Washington and Seoul last year. But Seoul cannot revive tours to the mountain and other massive stalled inter-Korean economic projects while international sanctions remain in place over the North's nuclear program.

Some experts say the North's threat to destroy the South Korean facilities, which include hotels, restaurants and spas, might be an expression of its frustration at the sanctions and a bid to put more pressure on Seoul to resume the tours.

Lee, the South Korean spokesman, said the South Korean proposal include the Seoul-based Hyundai Asan, the former tour operator at the mountain resort, attending possible talks with North Korea. The company built many of the facilities that North Korea wants to destroy.

North Korea is pushing hard to win broad sanctions relief to salvage its troubled economy. But the United States has maintained North Korea must first take significant steps toward denuclearization before getting big outside concessions. Their talks on the North's nuclear program largely remain largely deadlocked since a second summit between Kim and President Donald Trump in Vietnam in February fell apart due to disputes over U.S.-led U.N. sanctions on North Korea. **AP**

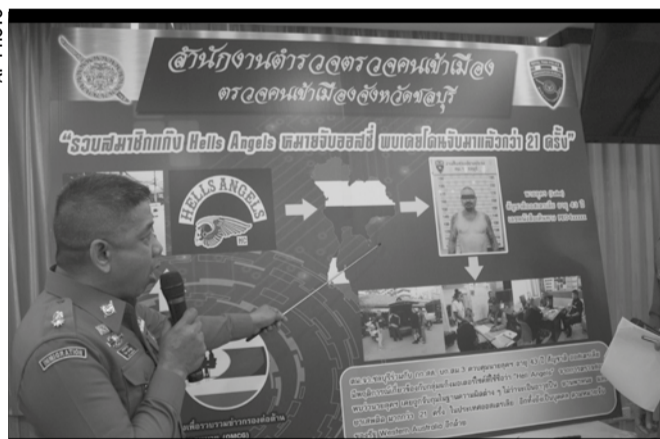
# Thai police arrest Australian Hell's Angel on drug charges

**T**HAI police said yesterday they have arrested an Australian Hell's Angels gang member who is wanted on drug charges in Western Australia.

Police say they arrested Luke Anderson on Thursday after meeting with Australian Embassy officials on the problem of outlaw motorbike gangs. They say they have revoked his visa and will deport him.

"We have informed the Australians and they have sent officials to escort him from Thailand to face charges in Australia," said police Maj. Gen. Archayon Kraithong, commander of the Immigration Bureau's Division 3. "We believe that he probably has more than one outstanding arrest warrant."

Police told reporters at a news conference in Bangkok that the arrest warrant dated back to 2017, but gave no details. They said he had been living with his Thai girlfriend in Pattaya, a coastal city notorious for crime and corruption.



According to a Thai police press release, Anderson has been arrested more than 20 times in Australia on a number of charges, including possession of illegal weapons and drugs.

An officer also confirmed that Anderson had been involved in a violent assault on two Thai brothers in Pattaya in September 2016, along with two other Australian motorbike gang members.

"Several years ago, he committed a crime by assaulting a Thai national," said Archayon. He said Anderson is also suspected of

"involvement in illegal trafficking of drugs and weapons, using Thailand as a meeting place, as a base to arrange activities in Australia. We consider him a dangerous person."

The Australian head of the Hell's Angels in Pattaya, Wayne Schneider, was bludgeoned to death in 2015 and buried in a shallow grave, in what was thought to be a drug-related dispute. Fellow Australian Antonio Bagnato was convicted of his murder and sentenced to death, but the sentence was commuted. **AP**

# BANGLADESH COURT ASKS NOBEL LAUREATE YUNUS TO SURRENDER

JULHAS ALAM, DHAKA

**B**ANGLADESH'S High Court yesterday asked micro-credit pioneer and Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus to surrender to a labor court by Nov. 7 over the firing of three employees by Grameen Communications, where he is chairman.

The order came in response to a petition seeking a stay of an arrest warrant for Yunus issued by the labor court last month, when he was abroad.

A two-judge panel at the High Court asked the authorities not to arrest or harass Yunus before he surrenders by Nov. 7, said his lawyer, Rokanuddin Mahmud.

The three employees filed the cases in July, saying they were terminated illegally after seeking to form a trade union.

Yunus founded Grameen Bank, which provides small loans to impoverished people and sha-



red the Nobel Peace Prize with him. He has faced several investigations by the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who has frosty relations with him. He was removed from the bank after surpassing retirement age.

A government-appointed investigation found that Grameen Bank violated its charter as a micro-lender by creating affiliates that did not benefit the bank's shareholders, and recommended the government merge those businesses with the bank. Yunus maintains those businesses are in-

dependent and should remain so.

Hasina was reportedly angered by Yunus' 2007 attempt to form his own political party backed by the influential army when the country was under a state of emergency and Hasina was behind bars. Hasina came to power in a 2008 election and ordered an investigation of Yunus.

Currently Grameen Bank has about 9 million members, 97% of whom are women. With 2,568 branches, the bank provides services in 81,677 villages, covering more than 93% of the total villages in Bangladesh. **AP**



# SYRIAN KURDISH FORCES SAY THEY KILLED CLOSE AL-BAGHDADI AIDE

SARAH EL DEEB, BEIRUT

**S**YRIAN Kurdish forces killed the right-hand man and spokesman for the Islamic State group in a joint operation with U.S. troops in northern Syria, just hours after U.S. special forces killed the extremist group's leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, a Kurdish commander said yesterday.

The comments came a day after President Donald Trump announced the killing of al-Baghdadi, a development that left IS without an obvious leader — a major setback for a terror organization that in March was forced by American troops and Kurdish forces out of the last portion of its self-declared “caliphate,” which once spanned a swath of Iraq and Syria.

Mazloum Abdi, the commander of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, said his group's intelligence cooperated with the U.S. military to target on Sunday al-Baghdadi's aide, Abu Hassan al-Muhajir, in a village near Jarablus, a town in northwestern Syria. It was part of ongoing operations to hunt down IS leaders, Abdi said.



If confirmed, the death of the would be another blow to IS. U.S. officials had no immediate comment on the Syrian Kurdish claim or on the fate of al-Muhajir.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights also reported al-Muhajir's death, saying he was travelling in a

convoy made up of an oil tanker and a sedan. The bodies of those killed in the attack were charred and it wasn't immediately clear how the al-Muhajir's identity could have been confirmed.

The U.S. raid that killed al-Baghdadi, the shadowy leader of IS who presided over its global jihad

and became arguably the world's most wanted terrorist, took place just before midnight on Saturday in Syria's Idlib province.

It was a milestone in the fight against IS, which brutalized much of Syria and Iraq and sought to direct a global campaign from a self-declared “caliphate.” A yearslong campaign by American and allied forces led to the recapture of the group's territorial holdings, but its violent ideology has continued to inspire attacks.

Syrian Kurdish forces spokesman Mustafa Bali said his fighters believe al-Muhajir was in Jarablus to facilitate al-Baghdadi's travels to the area, which is administered by Turkey-backed fighters.

“More [IS figures] remain hiding in the area,” Bali said late on Sunday.

Little is known about al-Muhajir, who assumed the role of a spokesman after his predecessor was killed in an airstrike in 2016. The name, a nom-de-guerre, indicates that he is a foreigner, and he was also believed to be a possible successor to al-Baghdadi.

Al-Baghdadi's identity was confirmed by a DNA test conduc-

ted onsite, Trump had said. The operation coincided with a low point in Trump's presidency as he is mired in impeachment proceedings and facing widespread Republican condemnation for his Syria policy.

Trump's decision to pull back U.S. troops from northeastern Syria raised a storm of bipartisan criticism in Washington, including statements that the American pullout could help IS regain strength after losing all the territory it once controlled. The pullback also was viewed as an abandonment of the U.S.'s only ally in Syria, the Kurdish-led forces, who fought IS for years with the U.S.-led coalition.

Trump said the troop pullout “had nothing to do with this,” and said Kurdish forces were among the many cooperating to execute the operation to kill al-Baghdadi.

Both Iraqi and Kurdish officials claimed a role. The Turkish military also tweeted that prior to the operation in Idlib, it exchanged “information” and coordinated with U.S. military.

Syrian Kurdish forces appeared ready to portray al-Baghdadi's death as a joint victory for their faltering alliance with the U.S., weeks after Trump ordered American forces to withdraw from northeastern Syria, all but abandoning Washington's allies to a wide-ranging Turkish assault. **AP**

AD



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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

# EU grants Brexit delay to Jan 31; UK ponders new election

SAMUEL PETREQUIN, BRUSSELS

**T**HE European Union agreed yesterday to delay Brexit until Jan. 31 next year — making the concession just three days before Britain was due to become the first country ever to leave the 28-nation bloc.

After a very short meeting of diplomats in Brussels, European Council President Donald Tusk said on Twitter that the EU's 27 other countries will accept "the U.K.'s request for a Brexit flexextension until 31 January, 2020."

In London, Prime Minister Boris Johnson's spokesman said it was Parliament's fault, not Johnson's, that another Brexit delay was needed.

Johnson secured "a great new deal, he set out a timetable that would have allowed the U.K. to leave on Oct. 31 with that deal — and Parliament blocked it," said spokesman James Slack.



Johnson now plans to seek an early general election with the goal of getting a Parliament that would back his Brexit plan, but he may not have enough support. Lawmakers met later in the House of Commons on Johnson's early

election call. Tusk added that the EU decision is expected to be formalized through a written procedure, meaning a special summit of EU leaders won't likely be necessary to approve the move.

hammering his "Get Brexit Done" mantra since he replaced Theresa May this summer, and his apparent willingness to consider leaving the bloc without a Brexit deal has spooked many British lawmakers.

Economists say a no-deal Brexit would hurt the economies of both Britain and the EU.

Tusk's announcement came after the EU diplomats met to sign off on the Brexit new delay. EU Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier told reporters "it was a very short and efficient and constructive meeting and I am happy the decision has been taken."

It's the second time the Brexit deadline has been changed since British voters in 2016 referendum decided to leave the bloc.

In London, British politicians are voting on whether to hold an early election to try to break the country's deadlock over Brexit. Johnson wants a Dec. 12 election, but looks unlikely to get the required support from two-thirds of lawmakers.

In a tactical chess move, two opposition parties — the Liberal Democrats and the Scottish National Party — plan to push for a Dec. 9 election if Johnson's proposal fails. AP

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**what's ON****2019 MACAU OPEN BADMINTON**

TIME: 9am (October 29-30)

12pm (October 31-November 3)

VENUE: Tap Seac Multisport Pavilion

ADMISSION: MOP150 per day (October 29 to November 1)

MOP400 per day (November 2-3)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 6698 9877

KONG SENG TICKETING SERVICE: 2855 5555

**EXHIBITION OF TUBEROSE**

TIME: 10:30am to 6:30pm (closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: November 30

VENUE: 10 Fantasia, Kei Luen Bld, R. de São Miguel 17

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

**Offbeat****LOTS OF GOOD TERNS:****BIRD READY TO FLY OFF ENDANGERED LIST**

After 34 years on the endangered species list, a tiny Midwestern bird is ready to fly free of federal protection.

Once diminished by hunting for feathers for hats and hurt by the damming of major rivers like the Missouri, the interior least tern population has increased tenfold since 1985, to more than 18,000.

The number of colonies has jumped from 48 to 480, said the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which this week proposed taking the bird off the list.

The delisting started six years after the service first suggested that the species has recovered and after computer modeling showed the population will be stable.

Even conservationists and advocacy groups that often battle the Trump administration over what goes on and off the endangered list hailed the migrating bird's recovery as an environmental success story.

"Delisting is reasonable," Center for Biological Diversity endangered species director Noah Greenwald said. "It shows that when we actually pay attention and care, we can help species and reverse damage we've done in the past. We can undo part of the damage we've done to these rivers."

American Bird Conservancy president Michael Parr said: "All around it's a pretty good news situation."

After nearly being hunted to extinction for feathers for women's hats in the 1800s, the Midwestern population of least terns started doing better until after World War II, Fish and Wildlife Service recovery biologist Paul Hartfield said. But then dams, especially on the Missouri River, eliminated the riverside beaches that these tiny birds need.

Working with the Army Corps of Engineers, biologists concentrated on a smaller bird population in the lower Mississippi River. Changes in water management increased the size of islands and created new ones in the river, making more places for the birds to nest and live, Hartfield said.

"The least tern in the Mississippi River exploded" from a few hundred birds in the 1980s to at least 10,000 now, he said.

Greenwald credited the Army Corps of Engineers but added that "the tern has been recovered, but the ecosystem hasn't."

There are three populations of least terns in the United States. One in California is still on the endangered list, and the eastern one is doing fine.

Least terns are the smallest of terns, but they travel far. Hartfield said one bird was tagged in South Dakota and later was found in Japan.

"That's how strong a flyer they are," he said. "It's really a tough little bird."

**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
17:20	Grande Entrevista - Nuno Morais Sarmiento
18:15	Contraponto (Repetição)
18:15	Aqui Há História (Repetição)
19:30	Ouro Verde Sr.1
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	TDM Desporto
22:25	Império
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Magazine Liga dos Campeões 2019/2020
00:25	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:10	RTPi Directo

**cinema****CINETEATRO**

24 - 30 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

A WITNESS OUT OF BLUE

ROOM 2

2:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30pm

Director: Chi Keung Fung

Starring: Jacky Cai, Kai-Chung Cheung, Jessica Hester Hsuan

Language: Cantonese (Chinese &amp; English)



JOKER

ROOM 3

9:30pm

Director: Todd Phillips

Starring: Joaquin Phoenix, Robert De Niro, Zazie Beetz

Language: English

Duration: 122min

**this day in history****1975 FRANCO'S 36-YEAR REIGN ENDS**

General Franco's dictatorship has effectively ended with the announcement heir designate Prince Juan Carlos will take over as provisional head of state for Spain.

The move comes as a result of the general's continuing illness. He has suffered a massive series of heart attacks and internal bleeding in the last three weeks.

The 37-year-old prince has been groomed for the role since he was named heir designate in 1969, continuing an agreement between General Franco and the Prince's father.

The urgent need of a leader for the country persuaded the prince to take over on a provisional basis, something which he had been reluctant to repeat.

He had previously been placed in charge last June when Franco was last ill but lasted a mere six weeks.

The prince will have to wait until the general dies, thought to be a matter of days, before he is officially sworn in as King.

The latest report on the health of General Franco said his condition remained grave. The onset of a mouth infection and an increase of liquid in the peritoneal cavity are said to be adding to the problems being faced by the semi-comatose dictator.

The placement of the Prince as King and commander-in-chief was deemed more favourable than other options, including a possible vote of incapacity by the Council of the Realm or getting the general to sign a transfer of power.

The first role for the new provisional leader will be to preside over a Cabinet meeting at Zarzuela Palace.

When sworn in he will become the first King of Spain for 44 years. After municipal elections in 1931 showed an overwhelming republican majority, the Prince's grandfather, King Alfonso XIII suspended the exercise of royal power and went into exile.

Courtesy BBC News

**IN CONTEXT**

General Franco died on 20 November 1975. The decision was made by doctors who had been keeping him alive through 34 days of critical illness.

In his last message to the nation the dictator said: "I ask pardon of all my enemies, as I pardon with all my heart all those who declared themselves my enemy, although I did not consider them to be so."

Prince Juan Carlos was sworn in as King of Spain on 22 November 1975. His first major role was to attend the funeral of the former dictator where he joined thousands of other mourners.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

**ARIES**  
**Mar. 21-Apr. 19**  
 You have been adding more new projects and goals than your schedule can realistically contain, so you might find yourself scrambling today. Concentrate on finishing some current projects.

**TAURUS**  
**Apr. 20-May. 20**  
 Even though having a routine in your life might get boring from time to time, you will find a great deal of comfort in knowing what's going on in your daily life for the next few days.

**GEMINI**  
**May. 21-Jun. 21**  
 Keeping life easy and breezy will be a cinch today, especially if you are surrounded by friends who understand how to have a good time. Keep it simple, and keep it low-maintenance.

**CANCER**  
**Jun. 22-Jul. 22**  
 Your insight is needed to help a friend untangle a confusing situation. You don't know all the facts yet - but when you do, you'll immediately know how to proceed.

**LEO**  
**Jul. 23-Aug. 22**  
 Acknowledge this attention, and go ahead and play up to it! Charm that barista, make that cab driver laugh and work that dynamic duo magic. It makes everyday activities so much more fun.

**VIRGO**  
**Aug. 23-Sep. 22**  
 The battle between your impatient side and your pragmatic side will rage on today, with little (if any) resolution. This tension could cause you to lash out at people who try to push your buttons.

**LIBRA**  
**Sep. 23-Oct. 22**  
 If you were a superhero, what would your superpower be? Would you like to fly? Be invisible? How about always being able to find a good parking spot? Give this question some serious thought today.

**SCORPIO**  
**Oct. 23-Nov. 21**  
 Avoid the urge to consult too many people about what you should do. Getting input is fine, but if you ask the same questions again and again, you might come off as too insecure.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
**Nov. 22-Dec. 21**  
 For special insight on your latest quandary, turn to your coworkers or classmates today. You need to consult someone who either is in the same situation you're in or has been there before.

**CAPRICORN**  
**Dec. 22-Jan. 19**  
 Take these questions one at a time. Do not expect yourself to answer all of them right away - or ever. Just being aware of such issues may be enough to prepare you to take opportunities as they come.

**AQUARIUS**  
**Jan. 20-Feb. 18**  
 You are going to be exposed to an avalanche of new ideas, and some of them might confuse you a bit. This mental challenge may feel uncomfortable or strange, but it will help you stay engaged with the world.

**PISCES**  
**Feb. 19-Mar. 20**  
 If you spend too much time thinking about how to make everything equal and fair between you and your friends, you will create way too much work for yourself.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sansom**



**SUDOKU**

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

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

**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	2	16	clear
Harbin	2	8	drizzle
Tianjin	5	19	clear
Urumqi	5	15	clear
Xi'an	6	19	clear
Lhasa	1	14	cloudy
Chengdu	13	21	clear
Chongqing	13	24	clear
Kunming	12	21	cloudy
Nanjing	10	22	clear
Shanghai	14	22	clear
Wuhan	8	24	clear
Hangzhou	11	23	clear
Taipei	19	21	drizzle
Guangzhou	18	27	clear
Hong Kong	21	27	cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	1	4	drizzle
Frankfurt	4	12	cloudy
Paris	8	12	drizzle
London	6	10	cloudy
New York	13	15	drizzle

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS:** 1-Cease moving; 5- Genuine; 9- Price paid; 13- Zeno's home; 14- Ready to hit; 16- Projecting columns at end of wall; 17- Take down \_\_\_ (humble); 18- Gong; 19- Become closer to; 20- Attention-getter; 21- Beer barrel; 22- Oddly picturesque; 24- Eternally; 26- Drinking vessels; 27- Distinguishing characteristic; 29- Unsullied; 33- Smell; 34- Small dabbling duck; 35- Diary of \_\_\_ Housewife; 36- Sidekick; 37- Amphitheater; 38- German article; 39- Concert halls; 41- Bicycle; 42- Florida's \_\_\_ National Forest; 44- Sweets; 46- Removes wrinkles; 47- Keep it, to an editor; 48- Thing; 49- Pretentious; 52- This \_\_\_ stickup!; 53- Shambles; 57- Freudian topics; 58- Petty; 60- First name in scat; 61- \_\_\_ of Eden; 62- Marisa of "My Cousin Vinny"; 63- Trim; 64- \_\_\_ bien!; 65- Not fem.; 66- Head of France;

**DOWN:** 1- Junker; 2- Heidi's home; 3- Wine sediment; 4- Two wrestlers on the same side; 5- Uproar; 6- Old anesthetic; 7- You're making \_\_\_ mistake!; 8- Flight; 9- Variety of rummy; 10- Dedicated to the \_\_\_ Love; 11- "South Park" kid; 12- Fruit-filled pie; 15- Strong liquor from Mexico; 23- Increases; 25- Itinerary word; 26- Stretch the neck; 27- Occupation; 28- Play parts; 29- Sneaks a look; 30- That is to say...; 31- Metal spikes; 32- Mystery writer Buchanan; 33- Footless; 34- Country singer Travis; 37- Side by side; 40- Hockey stat; 42- Metal-bearing mineral; 43- Remark; 45- Airport abbr.; 46- Sloping letter; 48- Cruise stops; 49- Internet writing system that popularized "pwn3d" and "n00b"; 50- Petri dish gel; 51- Prescription info; 52- \_\_\_ Rock; 54- Waiting for the Robert \_\_\_; 55- Strip of wood; 56- Overfill; 59- Pop's partner;


**Yesterday's solution**


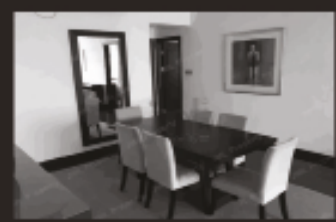
E	W	E	R	S	A	U	L	T	T	O	T	O
R	A	R	E	I	N	T	E	R	O	N	E	A
A	S	O	F	S	I	L	V	E	I	C	E	R
S	P	O	I	L	S	E	A	M	L	E	S	S
B	I	L	L	I	S	A	R	T	E	S		
A	T	E	F	I	L	L	E	N	F	M	C	E
S	S	T	S	D	A	N	A	E	F	C	T	O
I	M	B	E	E	H	E	N	R	T	I	U	R
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A	E	R										
D	E	L	E	S	S	W	A	G				

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**PJ (Open line)** 993  
**PJ (Picket)** 28 557 775  
**PSP** 28 573 333  
**Customs** 28 559 944  
**S. J. Hospital** 28 313 731  
**Kiang Wu Hospital** 28 371 333  
**Commission Against Corruption (CCAC)** 28326 300  
**IAM** 28 387 333  
**Tourism** 28 333 000  
**Airport** 59 888 88

**Taxi** 28 939 939 / 2828 3283  
**Water Supply - Report** 2822 0088  
**Telephone - Report** 1000  
**Electricity - Report** 28 339 922  
**Macau Daily Times** 28 716 081



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ART

### MASTERPIECE FOUND IN FRENCH WOMAN'S KITCHEN SELLS FOR \$26.6M

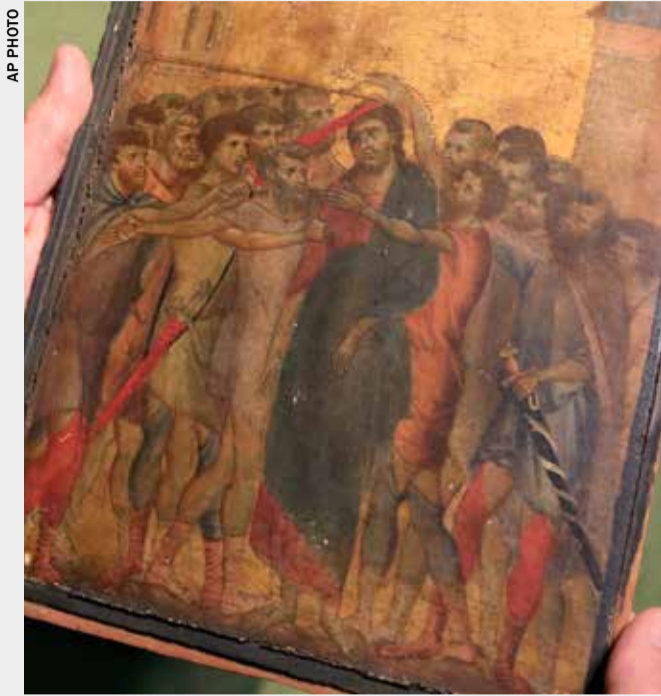
**A**N old painting found in the kitchen of an elderly French woman, who considered it an icon of little importance, has made her a multimillionaire.

The work, a masterpiece attributed to the 13th-century Italian painter Cimabue that was discovered earlier this year, sold for 24 million euros (\$26.6 million) yesterday [Macu time].

Dominique Le Coent of Acteon Auction House, who sold the masterpiece to an anonymous buyer near Chantilly, north of Paris, said the sale represented a "world record for a primitive, or a pre-1500 work."

"It's a painting that was unique, splendid and monumental. Cimabue was the father of the Renaissance. But this sale goes beyond all our dreams," Le Coent told The Associated Press.

An auctioneer spotted the painting in June while inspecting a woman's house in Compiègne in northern France and suggested she bring it to experts for an



evaluation. It hung on a wall between the kitchen and dining room.

The woman will now receive "the majority" of the sale money, the auction house said.

The expected sale price had been 4 million to 6 million euros (\$4.4 million to \$6.6 million).

Le Coent said experts

were off the mark because it was the first time a Cimabue had ever gone under the hammer. "There's never been a Cimabue painting on sale so there was no reference previously on how much it could make," he explained.

Titled "Christ Mocked," the painting measures about 10 inches by 8 inches.

### FRANCE'S LVMH WANTS TO BUY JEWELER TIFFANY FOR \$14.5 BILLION

**F**RENCH luxury group LVMH has offered to buy Tiffany & Co. for \$14.5 billion in cash, sending shares in the New York jewelers soaring.

The purchase would add another household name to LVMH's plethora of upscale brands. It owns fashion names such as Christian Dior, Fendi, and Givenchy as well as watchmaker Tag Heuer.

It would also give LVMH a much broader foothold in the United States and broaden its offerings in jewelry.

LVMH cautioned in a brief statement that "there can be no assurance that these discussions will result in any agreement."

Tiffany said the offer was for \$120 a share, which is about \$14.5 billion. The Wall Street Journal first reported on the offer over the weekend.

The New York-based



company said yesterday that it was considering the offer. Its shares jumped 31% to \$128.81 in premarket trading in New York.

The offer comes as Tiffany has struggled with stagnating sales as China's slowing economy has weighed on spending by Chinese tourists, who

make up a substantial portion of luxury spending. The strong dollar has also made Tiffany products more expensive for consumers outside the U.S.

LVMH competes with the Kering Group, which owns Gucci and Saint Laurent, and Richemont SA, which owns Cartier.

AD



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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

RUGBY

# World Cup is the last hurrah for a bunch of greats

FOSTER NIUMATA

**R**UGBY World Cups can be a bathtub of tears.

Of the 20 competing teams, 19 will have their hopes dashed. The 20th team won't be immune, either, as the champion sheds tears of joy.

But every team has players who know they are not only playing their last Rugby World Cup, but also their last match for their country.

With only the final and bronze matches remaining, some rugby luminaries are in the final week of their careers.

The chance to go out in glory in Saturday's final has been earned by the likes of South Africa's Schalk Brits, Tendai Mtawarira and Frans Steyn, and England prop Joe Marler. None have said they're retiring but expectations are they will.

Steyn could become only the second Springbok to win two Rugby World Cups, after Os du Randt, a teammate in the 2007 squad. Steyn missed the 2015 Rugby World Cup following the death of his brother, and he didn't expect to play in another until he was summoned in July by coach Rassie Erasmus.

"I'm at a stage now where you know there is not going to be 10 more years to make a wrong right," Steyn said. "So I get a little bit more serious before a test match."

Marler already retired once, but changed his mind 10 months later.

"I have worked my buns off to try to get back into an emotional

and mental state capable of contributing to the squad the best I can," he said. "And the physical state, too, that has been even harder."

Friday's bronze playoff between New Zealand and Wales will mark the last appearances in an All Blacks jersey for captain Kieran Read, center Sonny Bill Williams and fullback Ben Smith.

The All Blacks' loss to England in the semifinals was only Read's 16th in 126 tests. Like Williams, Read won unprecedented back-to-back Rugby World Cups in 2011 and 2015, after which he became the captain following the retirement of Richie McCaw.

"In your heart you want to play forever, but in your head you know that's not possible," Smith said.

Kenki Fukuoka's 27-year-old heart could have played on, but the Japan winger decided before this Rugby World Cup to quit test rugby to attend medical school. It's a family tradition to be a doctor. He wants to bow out of rugby in sevens at next year's Tokyo Olympics.

In the meantime, Fukuoka has returned to Top League club the Panasonic Wild Knights, where he will be joined by Australia flanker David Pocock, another who has retired relatively young from internationals. The 31-year-old Pocock endured a career disrupted by injuries, including six months out until September. That break made him feel like his year was just starting to hum until the quarterfinal loss to England.

"This is not how I thought I



Friday's bronze playoff will mark the last appearances in an All Blacks jersey for captain Kieran Read, center Sonny Bill Williams (pictured) and fullback Ben Smith

would end," he said.

At least he got to play. Teammate Sekope Kepu was a mere spectator at the end of his 110-cap run. Scrumhalf Will Genia also finishes with 110 caps.

"How lucky was I?" Genia asked. "Got to play 11 years for Australia, three World Cups."

Ireland captain Rory Best played in four World Cups, but a third consecutive quarterfinal exit had him in tears as he was replaced against New Zealand in the second half of his 124th and last test.

"There are big men in tears (in the changing room) and that is what happens when you put heart and soul into something," Best said.

Best had the whole second

half to see the end coming, unlike France captain Guilhem Guirado, who thought his team was advancing to the semifinals until the last minutes against Wales.

Louis Picamoles also hadn't envisaged his 82-cap France career would end in the quarterfinals. It might not have if teammate Sebastien Vahaamahina hadn't been sent off after halftime while they were leading 19-10. Vahaamahina retired from test rugby the next day, saying he was sorry and "I just lost control."

Very much in control was former captain Mamuka Gorgodze as Georgia bowed out with only one win in four pool games. Gorgodze quit in 2017, returned for the World Cup to help an injury-hit squad, played well, but had

no more tears for his second retirement: "I don't feel any pressure or sadness."

Tonga also won only once, but it was the perfect finale for captain Siale Piutau and Sione Kalamafoni. Tonga beat the United States, Piutau scored a try, was man of the match, and it was his 34th birthday.

"I see myself coming back, hopefully as a coach," Piutau said. "There's a calling for me to keep being a part of this team."

Family commitments are calling Kalamafoni.

"My wife and I had our third child just a few months ago and hats off to her for staying with them so I could do this," he said. "A rugby career involves a lot of sacrifices and it feels like the right time."

Other careers finished with a whimper. Typhoon Hagibis forced the cancellation of three matches, including the last for Canada and Italy.

DTH van der Merwe, Canada's all-time leading try-scorer, was denied a last chance to become the fifth player to score in four World Cups.

"Nobody has the divine right to have a fairytale ending," he said after 13 years wearing the red maple leaf.

Reports of Italy captain Sergio Parisse retiring after 18 years proved to be premature in the wake of the abandoned group game against New Zealand. He's available for the 2020 Six Nations, which conveniently finishes for Italy in Rome.

"My final page with Italy is still to be written," Parisse reportedly said on a fan site. "It won't be a typhoon to end my adventure with the national team."

Juan Manuel Leguizamon got to write his final page in style. Argentina dedicated its last pool game to its last Puma from the 2007 World Cup side, and Leguizamon was lifted on the shoulders of teammates in front of his wife and kids and singing fans.

"It's hard to say goodbye," Leguizamon said. But, "you have to do it." AP

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OPINION

Our Desk

Anthony Lam



LET'S WORK ON THE GRAPHICS

Recently, I attended a press conference where the Identification Services Bureau announced the new design of the Macau Special Administrative Region passport. The design did not undergo a huge change, so when I was required to explain this to my editor, I opted for a word popularly used in the car industry, "facelift," to describe the new design.

At this press conference, I asked the bureau head, Ao Ieong U, if she had thought about inviting Macau designers or artists to help design the passport in the future, citing the policy to encourage the cultural and creative industry which has been here for around a decade. Imagine if Eric Fok's eye-catching modern interpretation of antique Macau maps was featured on the passport – it could become a distinguishing feature of the MSAR's travel document.

Ao justified the small change to the design by saying that due to the relatively small number of Macau SAR passports issued, a big change to the design would require special effort and time to make border and immigration personnel aware of the new design.

As Ao Ieong U explained, border and immigration personnel in places such as Macau have to be familiar with the design of foreign passports in order to facilitate secure border control. Their familiarity with identification documents assists in the timely discovery of counterfeit ones, if any.

As a result, if the Macau SAR passport had been drastically changed, the bureau would be required to ensure foreign border and immigration services have knowledge of the new design so that Macau SAR passport holders will not or will be less likely to face hurdles or hassles when they arrive in a foreign country.

Of course, I am totally with the bureau head. The seamless passage through border and immigration checkpoints for Macau passport holders is a consideration that is paramount to the bureau.

The passport has updated several security features in the booklet's design and "facelift."

One of the new anti-counterfeit features is found on the data page of the travel document. There is a laser-cut image of the passport holder and two tactile images, one depicting the emblem of the city and the other a lotus flower.

Meanwhile, multicolor UV printing technology was employed on the same page. The encryption technology used in the chip embedded in the page has also been upgraded.

The bureau used the Guia Lighthouse, the Ruins of St. Paul's and the A-Ma Temple as illustrations on each page. They are juxtaposed with Macau's three bridges.

At the bottom of each page, the Great Wall and lotus flowers are connected in a series of patterns. Images of fireworks are also UV-printed onto each page.

The "face-lifted" passport will be issued from December 3, a little over a month away. The bureau's service was also updated, and it will commence e-applications for the passport at the bureau's e-service booths at several locations in the city on that same day.

Speaking of design, I think greater improvements can be made to the marriage and birth certificates of Macau. Currently, they are simply a piece of A4 paper with information printed by a regular printer.

Again, considering that Macau is a city with UNESCO World Heritage sites, holds the UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy title and has a policy encouraging culture and creativity, this genre of documents, which symbolize the decision of a lifetime to some, deserves better presentation.

Although designs can be a very subjective topic, Macau has had some wonderful ones in all these years. Let's keep the vibe vivid.

A German exporters' association is welcoming the European Union's decision to delay Brexit until Jan. 31, but says this should be the final extension.

The EU agreed yesterday to delay Britain's departure by three months, averting for the now the prospect of Britain falling out of the bloc in a chaotic no-deal Brexit. Holger Bingmann, the head of Germany's BGA association, said it was the right decision but "it is high time that we conclude

this issue."

He said a further impasse would be "a barely sustainable burden" for European and British business struggling with all the uncertainty over Brexit.

Bingmann says businesses need to be able to make plans. He added that he hopes a possible early British election in the next few months "brings more clarity politically and moves the country out of checkmate."

DAY OF THE DEAD PARADE  
HITS MEXICO CITY AS  
HOLIDAY EXPANDS

AP PHOTO



AMY GUTHRIE,  
MEXICO CITY

THOUSANDS of Mexicans took to the streets of the capital to dance beside giant skulls and skeletons yesterday [Macau time] as Mexico City rolled out its fourth edition of a Day of the Dead parade inspired by Hollywood, part of an ever-expanding menu of festivities for the holiday.

The city once again borrowed props from the opening scene of the 2015 James Bond film, "Spectre," in which Daniel Craig's title character dons a skull mask as he makes his way through a crowd of revelers. Festivities in the capital have expanded in recent years to capitalize on growing interest in the holiday, with temporary art installations in public spaces and colorful weekend events. Yet another elaborate parade is scheduled to traverse the city's iconic Reforma boulevard on Nov. 2, All Souls Day.

All told, the party in the capital will stretch out over more than two weeks, versus a traditional celebration of just a few days.

The show featured enormous, brightly painted puppets in shapes like

the Xoloitzcuintli, a hairless dog venerated by pre-Hispanic societies, and dancers decked out like skeletons moving to the brass sounds of marching bands. The carnival-like atmosphere was a celebration of all things Mexican, in contrast to the somber Day of the Dead affairs many Mexican families have long hosted in the privacy of their homes or at cemeteries.

All told, the party  
in the Mexican  
capital will  
stretch out over  
two weeks

"Festivities make the country happy in Mexico and anywhere else," said Cindy Saenz, the parade's coordinator.

For Avelina Bautista, who arrived to the capital a few days earlier from southern Mexico to sell woven handicrafts with her family, the spectacle was completely foreign.

In her town in Oaxaca, where the indigenous population speaks a Mixtec dialect, Day of the Dead is a three-day celebration that begins with children going house-to-house to receive sweet pumpkin treats from neighbors. At night, the townspeople ga-

ther in the local cemetery to sit vigil at their loved ones' graves, strewn with lit candles and orange marigolds. It's a booze-filled event with live music that lasts until sunrise.

"We say the rosary, we sing, we cry and we start to analyze, to remember all of our loved ones," she said.

Day of the Dead has religious roots: before the Spanish conquest, the Aztecs dedicated most of

August to their goddess of death, Mictecacihuatl. Some indigenous communities believed they could contact their departed family at altars or caves. As part of the Spanish repression of indigenous beliefs, the celebration was moved to coincide with Catholic holidays like All Saints' Day.

Mexican families who honor the tradition construct altars to their ancestors this time of year. They'll typically light candles and place flowers next to their ancestors' pictures, alongside an offering of their loved ones' favorite foods.

Hollywood adaptations of Day of the Dead festivities in movies such as Disney's *Coco* (2017) have drawn international attention to the holiday, which had fallen into decline in recent decades in Mexico. AP

Argentina's Peronists celebrated their return to power after incumbent President Mauricio Macri conceded defeat in a dramatic election that likely swung the country back to the center-left, saw the return of a divisive former president and threatened to rattle financial markets.

EU Members of the European Parliament met yesterday with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi ahead of a visit to disputed Kashmir, where India has imposed a harsh security crackdown.

AP PHOTO



Germany Mario Draghi leaves as head of the European Central Bank credited with having rescued the eurozone from disaster with a well-timed phrase and bold action to back up his words.

AP PHOTO



UK British Prime Minister Boris Johnson yesterday honored the 39 victims who died in a container as the truck driver made his first court appearance after being charged with manslaughter and conspiracy.

AP PHOTO



US As nearly 200,000 people remain under evacuation order from threat of wildfire, some of the millions of people in Northern California on track to get their electricity back may not have power restored before another possible round of shut-offs and debilitating winds.