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A LAW AMENDMENT UNDER STUDY AT THE LEGISLATURE WOULD SEE JOB AGENCY FEES CAPPED AT 50% OF A WORKER'S MONTHLY SALARY P3

SIXTY PEOPLE JOINED THE FIRE SERVICES' GAS PIPELINE DRILL P7

SUNCITY GROUP HAS ACQUIRED A MAJORITY STAKE IN A FIRM THAT WANTS TO BUILD A 400-TABLE INTEGRATED RESORT IN THE PHILIPPINES P6

China The government promised more improvements in conditions for foreign companies including an end to officials pressing them to hand over technology — a key irritant in its tariff war with Washington.



Philippines A powerful earthquake shook the southern Philippines yesterday, triggering landslides and loosening boulders that killed six people and injured more than 100 others in a region already damaged by a strong quake two weeks earlier, officials said.



Japan Sadako Ogata (pictured), who led the U.N. refugee agency for a decade and became one of the first Japanese to hold a top job at an international organization, has died. She was 92.



Iraq Masked gunmen opened fire at Iraqi protesters in the Shiite holy city of Karbala yesterday, killing 18 people and wounding hundreds, security officials said, in one of the deadliest single attacks on protesters since anti-government demonstrations erupted earlier this month.

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POLICE SEARCH POWERS RAMPED UP UNDER CYBERCRIME BILL P2



GLENN CARSTENS PETERS

ACTIVIST JOSHUA WONG BARRED FROM ELECTION IN MOVE SURE TO ANGER PROTESTERS

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CYBERCRIME

BILL TO EMPOWER POLICE SEARCHES STILL CONTAINS AMBIGUITIES

THE police authority has proposed amendments to the cybercrime bill, having suggested giving itself greater access to computer information. Now facing scrutiny at the Legislative Assembly (AL), lawmakers say there are still ambiguities that need to be resolved.

Yesterday, the First Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly discussed in detail the cybercrime bill amendment. Ho Ion Sang, chairman of the committee, highlighted the government's amendment to the article concerning giving the police authority access to more computer systems.

The government has proposed that either certain parts of a computer system, or a specific computer could be accessed, provided it was in accordance with the cybercrime bill currently in force.

Regarding this specific article, the committee will

invite government representatives to explain and give detailed examples related to the police authority's operation procedure in the next committee meeting.

According to the bill, the criminal investigation authority can search a computer before it gains approval from the court but a court search warrant must be acquired within 72 hours after the search is initiated.

The government will also be asked to explain whether the police authority will be able to require relevant people to give them access to their computer when the police authority holds a search warrant issued by a court.

Regarding whether the article will become a tool for the government to specifically target the media, Ho said that the committee will question the government about this later.

In addition to expan-

ding access to computer information, the detailed amendment allegedly also gives additional protection to other parties, especially operators of infrastructure, both public and private.

Previously, the cybercrime bill was intended to protect public organizations. The amendment uses the term "key infrastructure operators", which includes both public and private operators, such as the AL and the Macao Water Supply Company. The committee wants further explanation regarding the definition of key infrastructure facilities.

Further explanations are wanted from the AL regarding the specific crime of fraudulent mobile stations. Clarifications on terms such as "profit return" and "spreading pornography" are required by the lawmakers due to the terms' ambiguity.

According to Macau's

regulations, the AL committee must ask the opinion of the Macau Lawyers Association (AAM) on the bill's amendment.

Ho claimed that the committee will ask the association's opinion if necessary. According to Ho, 10 years ago in 2009, the AL asked the AAM's opinion on the cybercrime bill, however, the lawyers' body did not respond.

Besides the ambiguity in abovementioned articles, amendments related to the central government's organizations in Macau are also considered ambiguous and the government's explanation is sought on this as well.

The cybercrime bill, which has already been approved in general terms at the legislature, has been proposed to take effect from December 22. Ho said that the committee will expedite discussion with the government, but may require a postponement to a later date. JZ

FORUM

NORTHERN PORTUGUESE CITY EQUIPPED WITH 5G NETWORK

THE city of Matosinhos, in the north of Portugal, has been covered by a 5G mobile phone network in a partnership between Portuguese company NOS and Chinese group Huawei, NOS said in a statement, adding that the network is fully operational and available.

The statement said that by providing the city with a 5G network, "NOS is at the forefront of introducing this new technology and takes a leading role in innovation associated with smart cities and the development of societies 5.0."

The announcement also sets up a "lab" in a real environment, which will test 5G residential and business solutions and services, as well as services for municipalities and institutions.

The Huawei group released a list of 10 students selected for the "Seeds for the Future" initiative. The students will have the opportunity to join a training program at Huawei's headquarters in Shenzhen, China, and get to know one of the most advanced and innovative Research & Development facilities in the world.

The students selected are from the Electro-technical Engineering and Communications and Information Technology areas and come from various Portuguese higher education establishments and, in addition to the opportunity to train and establish contacts with Huawei engineers, will also be offered a cultural week in Beijing. MDT/MACAUHUB

MEMORY LANE

Karsten Petersen

MDT/Renato Marques



Built in 1848, Rua Central (Central Street) connects the busy Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro (San Ma Lou) to the Rua de São Lourenço and Travessa do Paiva, at the back and side of the current Government Headquarters building, formerly the Governor Palace in Nam Van. The street also connects, via a narrow street named Calçada de Santo Agostinho, to the Saint Augustine Square and Church, as well as to the Theatre Don Pedro V, making it an essential link to connect the upper part of the city to the lower areas. Alongside this street, there are several heritage-listed buildings as well as some of Macau's traditional shops like Moosa & Companhia Lda, a family-style company dedicated to producing several Macanese delicacies, namely dried fruits cookies. This photograph dating from 1973 was taken by the photographer Karsten Petersen. RM

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MacauDaily 澳門每日時報
Times

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A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

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Advertisement advertising@macaudailytimes.com

For subscription and general issues:

general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Job agency fees must be transparent, no more than half monthly salary

ANTHONY LAM

THE government has proposed to limit the fees charged to foreign workers by job agencies to no more than 50% of the worker's monthly salary, with the proposal currently under discussion at the Third Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL).

The Committee is now discussing the fourth draft of the related bill, submitted by the government via the Labour Affairs Bureau.

The bill seeks to govern the conduct of employment agencies. Agencies failing to abide to these conditions may be punished with a fine, suspension or termination of operation.

According to the bill's current form, service fees charged to employers will not have a ceiling.

At a post-meeting press conference yesterday, the Committee's president, Vong Hin Fai, said that the AL had provided significant feedback to the government, which has in turn taken many of their considerations into account.

The discussion yesterday centered on several matters, with service fees being one. Chargeable services have been clearly set out in the bill. Such services are job referral services and all supportive services related to employment. They include running procedures on behalf of employers or employees, assisting the employees to commute to the workplace for the first time, as well as the employees' return to their home country when the employment ends.

The bill also outlines provisions

RENATO MARQUES



Lawmaker and President of the Third Standing Committee of the AL, Vong Hin Fai

on refund or discount of service fees collected by job agencies. The Committee had questions about the amount being refunded or discounted if the employment is terminated during the probationary period.

The government has preferred not to stipulate the amount, adding that there would be exceptions, although these have not been disclosed by the Committee.

Service fees, on the other hand,

may be charged to either employers or employees, whoever requested the services.

The bill under discussion will also require job agencies to explicitly list their service fees in a transparent manner.

Severe or repeat violations may incur punishments including an order to cease operating. In order to better protect the public, the bill has also stipulated that the names of these agencies be announced in

the Official Gazette.

Announcement in the Official Gazette would not interfere with the enactment of such punishments, which would come into effect only once issued.

Entities to be governed by the future law are those private entities that operate job agencies, whether held by natural persons or natural-legal persons.

Job fairs or career activities held by a registered tertiary education

institution will not be covered by the bill. This exception also exists in Law 32/94/M, which governs similar areas.

Lawmaker Vong stressed that such activities organized by tertiary education institutions are normally not for profit, therefore this exception applies.

Vong also said that the government is inclined to have the legislation take effect 180 days after its approval at the AL.

EDUCATION

MUST FOUNDATION AND TIS ATTEND INNOVATION SUMMIT

THE Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) and The International School of Macao (TIS) participated recently in the 2019 Advanced Innovative Education 100 School Summit in Zhuhai.

The summit was organized by the Advanced Innovation Center for Future Education of Beijing Normal University, and by the university's School of Economics and Resource Management.

Rectors of various globally well-known schools, such as Columbia Univer-

sity and Peking University, attended the summit, where they discussed how to create an innovative international school.

Vice President of MUST, Tong Ka Lok, said in his speech that MUST proactively promotes the Greater Bay Area cultural and science research and education development, further remarking that the institution has signed a cooperation agreement with the Zhuhai government to work closely together with respect to several areas including inno-

vative education, advanced technology, medicine, health, big data and artificial intelligence.

Mark Lockwood, Head of School at TIS, also stressed that the Macau school encourages students to develop critical thinking and diverse faculties, adding that it also strives to respect each individual's uniqueness.

Summit participants visited MUST and TIS on Saturday to learn about their concepts and ideas in developing innovative education. **JZ**

UNEMPLOYMENT EDGES UP IN THIRD QUARTER

THE general unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage points to 1.8% during the third quarter of 2019, according to the latest data released yesterday by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). During this period, the unemployment rate of local residents also increased by 0.2 percentage points from the previous quarter to reach 2.5%.

As of September, the total labor force amounted to 394,000 people,

according to DSEC, with the number of residents employed totaling 281,100.

Total employment decreased by 100 people on aggregate quarter-to-quarter, according to DSEC. Analyzed by industry, employment in gaming and junket activities (84,900) dropped by 2,200 quarter-to-quarter, while that within the wholesale and retail trade (41,800) rose by 2,000.

With fresh graduates entering the labor

market during the third quarter, the proportion of new labor market entrants seeking their first job increased by 1.7 percentage points to make up 21% of the total unemployed.

Meanwhile, the median monthly earnings of the employed in the third quarter increased by MOP700 quarter-to-quarter to MOP17,000. The median monthly earnings of employed residents stayed the same as in the previous quarter, at MOP20,000. **DB**

NON-LOCALS FOUND OPERATING ILLEGAL FOOD STALL

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) has recorded two cases of illegal street food stall operation, involving non-local residents. Earlier this month, the IAM conducted four consecutive days of inspections in the Cotai area to crack down on unlicensed street food sellers. During the operations, the IAM spotted two cases in the vicinity of a public footbridge near the Cotai Strip. The operators of the unlicensed street food stalls are all non-local residents, according to the IAM. The sellers were using their backpacks and luggage to carry cooked food in boxes which they sold to passersby. The IAM prosecuted the food sellers, seized the food, and found more food boxes in luggage hidden under the footbridge. In total, the IAM seized and destroyed approximately 100 kilograms of cooked food.

MACAU EASES JAPANESE FOOD IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

Macau has recently lifted a ban on imports of Japanese produce from nine prefectures, reported several Japanese media outlets citing Japan's Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry's statement. The ban was enacted after the nuclear incident at Fukushima, which occurred in the aftermath of the 2011 East Japan Earthquake. The import of produce from Fukushima to Macau, is still restricted. With the ban lifted, products from the nine prefectures can be imported to Macau without nuclear contamination-free certification. The nine prefectures are Miyagi, Ibaraki, Tochigi, Gunma, Saitama, Chiba, Tokyo, Niigata and Nagano. These nine prefectures are either adjacent to or near Fukushima.

25 CROSS-BORDER TAXIS UNDER OPERATION

A total of 25 cross-border taxis between Macau and Hong Kong are currently being operated, according to a report by Macao Daily News. The Macau and Hong Kong governments granted 40 and 60 licenses to taxi operators respectively to provide cross-border taxi services between the two territories. As of October 21, there were four taxi operators (two from Macau and two from Hong Kong) operating 25 vehicles. As of October 18, these taxis served 483 orders from Macau to Hong Kong, and 489 orders from Hong Kong to Macau. From August, no violation has been found concerning the taxis. The governments of both special administrative regions will regularly review the number of licenses and increase them at the appropriate times.

ENVIRONMENT

CARBON REDUCTION EFFORTS MIGHT REQUIRE GUANGDONG'S HELP

LYNZY VALLES

HONG Kong's top environment official has called for collaboration with regions in the Greater Bay Area, particularly the city of Zhuhai, to fulfill its ambition of a low-carbon strategy for 2050.

The call is in line with the development outline set up by the central government that listed its aim to have the mega-project - that incorporates nine Guangdong cities along with Hong Kong and Macau - to operate as a clean energy and low-carbon region.

It also adheres to similar long-term planning by Macau's own environmental authority.

Among the goals of the three territories is to progressively develop renewable energy sources including wind and solar power, as well as to explore ways to improve electricity transmission networks and gas pipelines from Guangdong to Hong Kong and Macau.

The Hong Kong government has pledged to cut its annual carbon emissions from about 6 tons per person to between 3.3 and 3.8 tons by 2030, according to the city's environmental authority. That falls short of the target needed to meet the goals in the Paris Agreement, to which the People's Republic of China is a signatory.

In Macau, data shows that the city's fossil carbon dioxide emissions totaled 3.1 million tons in 2016, a yearly increase of 7.19%.

According to the data, carbon dioxide emissions per capita in Macau are equivalent to 5.07 tons per person - based on the city's population of over 612,000 in 2016.

The power industry remains the largest sector to produce carbon dioxide, which stood at 68.8% of total emissions, followed

AP PHOTO



by other industrial combustion, which was 23.3% of overall carbon dioxide emissions.

According to the most recent information available on its website, the SAR's greenhouse gas emissions in 2017 increased by 11.4% compared with 2016, mainly due to the 60% increase in local electricity production.

According to the Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA)'s 2010-2020 plan, one of its major action plans is to increase the rate of clean energy utilization by optimizing energy structure.

It notes that in the medium-term, the government will "conduct studies on carbon emission reduction and low carbon development for Macau to help reali-

ze the low carbon development vision."

It also mentioned in its long-term planning that the bureau aims to strengthen cooperation among Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau in respect of the clean production of enterprises, circular economy, environmental protection industries, and research and development of new and renewable energies.

Meanwhile, despite the ongoing social unrest in Hong Kong, the SAR's Secretary for Environment, Wong Kam-sing, said that the city could tap into the resources of the neighboring cities to proactively combat climate change over the next three decades.

"Hong Kong needs [to examine the issue] with a broader perspective by looking into regional cooperation," Wong told South China Morning Post.

"The sea territory is small in Hong Kong: only a tiny percentage of solar and wind energy can be generated from it. [...] How about the waters south of Hong Kong? This belongs to Zhuhai. I think there is room for sharing and cooperation among cities in the Greater Bay Area under the [national] strategy," he added.

The Times contacted DSPA to enquire about the bureau's current clean energy goals and its further plans to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, but no reply was provided by press time.

TNR plan should be reconsidered, say animal welfare groups

LAWMAKER Sulu Sou said the Municipal Affairs Bureau might reconsider its stand on the Trap, Neuter, Release (TNR) strategy for stray animals, which the bureau earlier refused to adopt.

Last Friday, six animal welfare groups and the Macau Clinical Veterinarian Association, accompanied by Sou, met with José Maria da Fonseca Ta-

vars, president of the Municipal Affairs Bureau. Sou expressed his support for the TNR strategy.

At the meeting, the representatives of the groups urged the president to reconsider the TNR strategy.

The TNR strategy has three steps in controlling the multiplication of stray animals: these animals are trapped using non-invasive tactics, sent for

neutering, and then released back into their neighborhood.

Currently, stray animals in Macau once caught by the bureau, will be sent to the kennel managed by the bureau. If they do not get adopted within a set period they will be euthanized.

Sou described the meeting as sincere. He also noted that he had observed

a change of attitude in the bureau.

"It isn't a dead end," said the lawmaker with regard to their willingness to change their strategy, adding that the bureau had shown a positive and open attitude. The bureau, according to Sou, did not outright refuse the strategy.

The groups planned to meet with the bureau again before the end of this

year. The meeting will be about specific plans needed to facilitate the TNR strategy in Macau.

According to the explanation by the various animal welfare groups, the TNR strategy is effective in quantity control.

The lawmaker recalled that the strategy was adopted by the bureau's predecessor, the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau, but was called off suddenly in 2015.

The animal welfare groups also pledged to do more work to introduce residents to the advantages of the strategy. **AL**



MGM Brings Series of Cultural Performance to Mark the Year of Double Celebration

SHOWCASING THE ALLURE OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE CULTURE

To mark the double celebration of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and the 20th anniversary of the Macau SAR, MGM collaborates with various world-renowned artists and performance groups to introduce an array of art and cultural events. The efforts are meant to promote traditional Chinese culture and patriotism among Macau's citizens. A lineup of Chinese ethnic art performances have been presented in MGM Theater, Asia's first dynamic theater featuring cutting edge technology for elevating various performances to a new artistic level. Its state-of-the-art lighting and audio-visual systems proved to steer the audience to indulge in unprecedented cultural appeal.

Mr. Kenneth Feng, President, Chief Strategic Officer & Director of MGM China Holdings Limited, said, "MGM grows with the Macau SAR over the past 12 years. As a pioneer in arts and culture, MGM blends innovation and cultural creativity to generate artistic vibes all across Macau, bringing Macau to the world. The efforts not only enliven the double celebration, but also foster the development of Macau into a City of Culture. Leveraging on our leading position in arts and culture and together with our revolutionary MGM Theater, we are dedicated to presenting top performances, which are conducive to passing on traditional Chinese culture in novel ways and strengthening people's sense of national identity.

ETHNIC PERFORMANCES AS A KEY TO TRADITION

In addition to double celebration, 2019 also marks the 60th anniversary of *Butterfly Lovers Concerto*, the legendary Chinese piece composed by world-renowned musician He Zhanhao. During the anniversary concert held in MGM Theater in August, He Zhanhao premiered his new Guzheng musical pieces to a full house of fans. He presented a special recognition to MGM for its contribution and continuous effort in promoting traditional Chinese art and culture.

The premiere of the Chinese folk dance drama *Jinggang Jinggang* in Macau represented another highlight of cultural performances during the year. Performed by dancers of the Youth Dance Company of Beijing Dance Academy at MGM Theater in September, the folk dance drama illustrates the hardships encountered by the Chinese Red Army during the war at Jinggang Mountains, the cradle of the Chinese revolution. The historical scenes were presented with the dance movements of Jiangxi Tea-picking Opera and classical Jiangxi folk music.

THE GLAMOR OF GUNPOWDER ARTWORKS

In keeping with its pledge of redefining public art, MGM recently acquired two iconic gunpowder artworks by internationally well-known artist Cai Guo-Qiang for its Chairman's Collection. Entitled *Alchemist* and *Study for Uffizi: A Bouquet of Flowers No.1*, the two magnum opuses represent prominent artworks of Cai's latest project, *An Individual's Journey Through Western Art History*. Their inclusion into Chairman's

Collection enriched both MGM's public art treasures and the enduring essence of humanities. In tandem with China's national day celebrations, Cai's documentary *Sky Ladder: The Art of Cai Guo-Qiang* was specially screened at MGM Theater, unveiling how his affinity for hometown and the miracle power of family has helped him realize his artistic dream for nearly two decades.

AN ELABORATE ARRAY OF CELEBRATION PROGRAMS

MGM also proactively supports other double celebration programs. A special celebration performance by Macau delegates to the CPPCC and local students was held at MGM Theater in early October. They sang beautiful songs representing different eras from 1940s to 2010s. CPPCC delegates from three generations remarked on the core values of Love the Country, Love Macau as well as the significance of inheritance.

On November 12, *New Oriental Chinese Music Scene* by Shanghai Chinese Orchestra will mesmerize the audience with a demonstration of inheriting national music in Shanghai style in MGM Theater. Meanwhile, China's Three Tenors Macao Concert featuring Warren Mok, Dai Yuqiang and Wei Song will take the stage of MGM Theater on November 19. Characterized by "East meets West" and "ancient times vs. modern times", the concert is expected to demonstrate Macau's unique position as an exchange center of Eastern and Western cultures and a platform for promoting Chinese culture.



GAMING | PHILIPPINES

SUNCITY BUYS MAJORITY STAKE IN MANILA INTEGRATED RESORT PROJECT

DANIEL BEITLER

HONG Kong's Suncity Group Holdings has announced the acquisition of a majority stake in a Philippines company, with which it will co-develop and then operate a five-star hotel and casino in Manila.

In a filing to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, Suncity Group said it would acquire about 51% of SunTrust Home Developer Inc's issued shares via its wholly-owned subsidiary, Fortune Noble. The acquisition is still subject to regulatory checks.

The project will be jointly managed by the Philippines' SunTrust Home Developers Inc and its new owner Suncity Group. It will be located at Westside City Resorts World, the fourth integrated resort being developed in Entertainment City, the casino hub of Manila.

According to a separate statement cited by Reuters, SunTrust said that the property would include a casino and a hotel with at least 400 rooms, and about 400 gaming tables and 1,200 slot machines for mass-market and VIP gamblers.

The deal marks the Hong Kong-based entertainment group's first foray into gaming in the Philippine capital, where foreign firms such as Lawrence Ho's Melco Resorts & Entertainment, Bloom-



BLOOMBERG

erry Resorts, and Universal Entertainment Corporation, formerly run by Japan's Kazuo Okada, are already present via their subsidiaries or joint ventures.

Suncity Group Holdings is controlled by Alvin Chau, who is

also the owner of Macau junket operator Suncity Group.

The company has been expanding its footprint in the hotel and casino business in Southeast Asia in recent years. It has also signaled an interest in bidding for a Macau

gaming license should the opportunity arise after the existing concessions expire in June 2022.

Andrew Lo, executive director at Suncity, told Reuters that that Manila was "the most decent city for gaming" outside of Ma-

cau because of the presence of international brands and airport facilities. The Philippine capital is home to three international airports, with a fourth domestic base currently under construction.

In the filing, Suncity noted that it "has been expanding and seeking opportunities to expand its tourism-related business, in particular, its hotel and integrated resort general consultancy services and casino management in the Southeast Asia region, including Vietnam, Cambodia and [South] Korea."

"The investment in SunTrust [...] marked the first step towards establishing the Group's footprint in the casino and entertainment market of the Philippines and allowing the Group to tap into this growing market as well as providing synergies to [its] overall tourism-related business."

Earlier this year, Chinese state media accused Suncity of running online gambling operations in Southeast Asia targeting gamblers from mainland China. The accusations were strongly denied by Suncity, which said that it is legally authorized to operate a junket business in Macau, but that it neither owns any gambling tables, nor operates any online gambling activities.

The industry is big business in the Philippines. Organized by Philippine offshore gaming operators, also known by the acronym POGOs, the online gambling sector in the Southeast Asian country is worth billions of U.S. dollars and may employ hundreds of thousands of mostly Chinese workers.

Annual event showcases authentic Nebraska beef recipes

GREAT American Barbecue - Nebraska in Macau" was held yesterday at Il Prato, celebrating its eighth edition of showcasing a variety of authentic U.S. Nebraskan beef barbecue recipes.

The "Great American Barbecue - Nebraska in Macau" kicked off in the SAR with more than 130 key food and beverage specialists from Macau.

The debut also included dozens of sponsors, including five U.S. beef processors that contributed products to the event. The event is also sponsored by the Nebraska Beef Council, the Nebraska Department of Agriculture and the Agricultural Trade Office of the Consul General in Hong Kong.



Joel Haggard, the Asia Pacific Region vice president of the U.S. Meat Export Federation said the event aims to showcase American food products and culture.

"The producers are very passionate in

showing to customers the end of this long export supply chain; what their products are all about," said Haggard.

"Every year they've been hosting a gathering of Macau's food and beverage industry to celebrate

Nebraska beef, sample their products and allow the community in Macau to get together in a very casual atmosphere," he added.

"We have number of stalls mostly featuring beef from America and different companies that export beef to different importing companies. These companies have the opportunity to meet and mingle with the chefs and the F&B personnel."

The annual event was expecting some 300 to 350 guests yesterday as it also celebrated Halloween.

According to data provided at yesterday's event, Macau imports of U.S. beef grew 36.8% in value terms in the first 11 months of 2018. LV

STREET FESTIVAL CELEBRATES EVOLUTION OF GRAFFITI ART FORM

PART of the inaugural Art Macao initiative, Outloud Street Art Festival was held over the past weekend with the theme of "back to the future".

This year the graffiti festival not only marked its third edition, but also its incorporation in the city-wide mega event, Art Macao. The event is led by the Macao Government Tourism Office and the Cultural Affairs Bureau under the purview of the Secretariat for Social Affairs and Culture.

The Outloud Festival was held at the Inner Harbor area of Praça de Ponte e Horta as well as in the streets and alleys around the plaza. It also made use of the abandoned cargo pier and warehouse opposite the plaza.

According to the organizer, the festival was held partly with the hope to revive the older district of the city.

About a century ago, the Praça de Ponte e Horta and its immediate vicinity was a bustling district in Macau, filled with moving people and cargo.

"Back to the future", being this year's theme, does not exactly relate to the future, but rather the past. The organizer explained they wanted to bring the public back to the 1980s when graffiti was considered a subculture.

The event brought viewers on a tour of its history in which graffiti was realized as an art form and gradually accepted by the public. AL

POLICE HOLIDAY COMPENSATION IS UNFAIR, SAYS SULU SOU

LAWMAKER Sulu Sou has urged for an equalization of holiday compensation scheme within the Public Security Police Force in his recent interpellation.

There are principles governing the work hours and related arrangements of civil servants, including those in the public security forces. However, these principles are not applicable to on-shift police officers.

Generally, when civil servants are required to work on public holidays, they are entitled to the corresponding number of compensated holidays.

On-shift police officers, however, cannot benefit from this policy, and only get 100 salary points of compensation, which is now

worth MOP8,500.

Furthermore, normal working hours are 36 per week, but these officers can sometimes be required to work for more than 44 hours per week.

Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak has explained that because they have monetary compensation, they are ineligible to be given extra holidays. Nonetheless, Sou pointed out that officers can get both monetary and holiday compensation when they are required to work on public holidays.

The lawmaker questioned if the holiday compensation scheme can be equalized. He also urged for improvements in other areas related to the provisions that govern the working hours of officers. **AL**

Sixty people participated in Fire Services' drill

JULIE ZHU

THE Fire Services Bureau (CB) and Sinoenergy Corporation held a gas pipeline leak fire drill in Cotai yesterday. Approximately 60 people participated in the drill.

The drill simulated a section of an underground high-pressure natural gas pipeline between the natural gas valve room and Sinoenergy Corporation Gas Station in the circular waterfront.

In the simulation, the pipeline ruptured due to construction works carried out by a third-party, causing several natural gas leaks to trigger the fire alarm and injuring one construction worker.

The Corporation immediately launched its emergency plan and informed the CB. In turn, the CB



dispatched eight rescue vehicles and 30 firefighters to the scene, where it immediately extinguished the fire and completed the rescue works, sending the

injured to the hospital. The CB said that the purpose of the drill was to strengthen the coordination ability of the fire department and Sinoenergy

Corporation in response to accidents.

The drill was smooth and the expected results were achieved, according to the CB.

Regarding Edificio Jardim Kong Fok Cheong fire case, the Office of the Government Spokesperson issued a statement yesterday afternoon regarding updates of the case.

The Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau will complete a report on the inspection of the building.

The CB has sent the fire safety investigation report and inspection report of the building to the relevant department and property management company. Since part of the fire protection system needs to be repaired, the CB will make a specific fire emergency plan for the relevant building.

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The Role of Government, Gaming and Accounting Sectors in Sustainable Development of the Greater Bay Area

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LUXURY SMUGGLING GANG BUSTED IN SHENZHEN

Customs officers in Shenzhen have broken up a gang who smuggled luxury goods and caught nine suspects, the city's customs authority said yesterday. A total of 105 cases of luxury brand items including watches, clothes and handbags were seized, according to the customs. Evidence collected by the customs show that the gang has smuggled luxury goods worth about 320 million yuan (about \$45.3 million) since 2016, with the volume of tax evasion exceeding 60 million yuan. The smuggling gang caught the attention of local customs officers in October 2018. An investigation showed that the network was suspected of purchasing luxury goods from Italy, the United States and other countries, keeping the goods in storage in Hong Kong before sending them to customers on the Chinese mainland by express parcels that were declared under false names and lower prices. The gang also paid "carriers" to bring the goods into Chinese mainland via Shenzhen as their personal luggage and then sent them to customers by courier services, customs officers said.

GUANGDONG SETS UP EMERGENCY FUND FOR VETERANS

Guangdong Province has set up a 1-billion-yuan (about \$141 million) emergency assistance fund to provide temporary support for veterans and special-care recipients facing hard living conditions. The fund covers a wide range of beneficiaries with permanent residential registration in the province, including Red Army veterans, soldiers transferred to civilian work, ex-servicemen and dependents of martyrs, according to the Guangdong Department of Veterans Affairs. Allocated by the provincial government and cities above the prefecture-level in Guangdong, the fund will be used to assist the recipients in dealing with critical illnesses, major incidents, family misfortunes and other special cases, said the department.

HONG KONG

HOUSING SALES JUMP AS FIRST-TIME BUYERS GIVEN BOOST

HONG Kong's move to make it easier for first-time home buyers to break into the world's least-affordable housing market has had an immediate effect, with sales surging in the past two weeks.

Sales in the secondary market have more than doubled since mortgage rules for first-time buyers were eased mid-October, Midland Realty Ltd. said. Primary home sales are also doing well, with all 167 units at China Evergrande Group's Emerald Bay project selling in six hours Monday, the Hong Kong Economic Journal reported.

The policy doubled to HKD8 million (\$1 million) the amount a first-home buyer with a 10% down-payment could borrow, as the government tries to quell protests fueled in part by the city's rising inequality.

"There is obviously a lot more interest from buyers now than before the new rule," said Ivan Wong, an as-



sistant district manager at Midland Realty. He said he began to receive more calls from clients the day after the policy change.

Meanwhile, sellers are acting as quickly as house-hunters. Asking prices have increased by 4%-5%, Wong said. "The sellers are now standing firm on their pricing. It's harder to bargain."

While property prices have been declining since often-violent protests erupted in June, the easing of mortgage rules has slowed the decline. Used-home prices slipped 0.14% in the week ended Oct. 20, the

smallest drop in two months, data from Centaline shows.

Hong Kong may report negative growth this year as the economy reels from the social unrest, Financial Secretary Paul Chan wrote in a blog post on Sunday. The economy in Hong Kong contracted in the second quarter, almost certainly in the third quarter and the data are still deteriorating. The question is how deep and prolonged the pain will be.

Once Asia's manufacturing powerhouse before the rise of mainland China,

Hong Kong's freewheeling consumer and finance-led economy is vulnerable to a potential collapse in confidence triggered by the turmoil.

The effects of the U.S.-China trade war combined with a lack of tourist spending power also raises the prospect of a contraction for the full year, compared with 2018. The downturn has been rapid, as declining exports and protests have erased any economic momentum from the start of 2019. Many economists see growth for all of 2019 sliding well below 1%. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

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Hong Kong bars activist Joshua Wong from running in election

HONG Kong disqualified activist Joshua Wong from running in District Council elections next month, in a blow to protesters' efforts to win greater electoral influence in the former British colony.

Wong confirmed yesterday that he was barred from seeking a seat in the Nov. 24 poll. The government said in a separate statement, without naming any candidates, that support for "self-determination" was inconsistent with Hong Kong's Basic Law and affirmed its support for the official who made the decision.

"I become the only candidate banned from running in November's District Council Election," Wong said in a tweet. "It proved how Beijing manipulates the election with political censorship and screening."

Wong, a former student activist who gained international recognition for his leadership role in the 2014 Occupy protests, has supported "self-determination" for Hong Kong.

He has been less important to the current protest movement,



which has been leaderless and whose participants have sought to remain anonymous. His activities have nonetheless made him a target of China's communist leaders, who have used him to accuse foreign powers of colluding with anti-China separatists to foment unrest.

City officials equate the support for self-determination with advocating independence.

Wong "has immense symbolic significance for young people" in Hong Kong and disqualifying him is likely to worsen the on-

going unrest, said Willy Lam, an adjunct professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong's Centre for China Studies.

"The disqualification of Joshua could become another cause celebre for the opposition to rally people and ensure that the confrontation will continue and even be exacerbated," Lam said. "It's a very stupid move on the part of the SAR administration."

Wong was banned because while he didn't associate himself with Demosisto in his applica-

tion, he is a founding member of the group, Radio Television Hong Kong reported, citing a notice from an electoral official. Demosisto is a pro-democracy organization advocating self-determination for the city.

The decision to bar Wong from running follows a pattern by the Hong Kong government to prevent more radical pro-democracy activists from securing elected office on the grounds that their views violate the law. In 2016, the government prevented some "localist" lawmakers from running

for the Legislative Council, and subsequently ousted others who secured seats in the chamber.

The move came shortly after the city's embattled chief executive, Carrie Lam - selected by a 1,200-member committee dominated by Beijing loyalists in 2017 - dismissed reports that Chinese leaders were planning to replace her next year.

Neighborhood councilors and half of Hong Kong's legislature are directly elected, but the rest are chosen by trade and industry groups while the top leader is handpicked by an elite pro-Beijing panel. The protesters' demands include full democracy.

The disqualification came as Lam ruled out finding a political resolution before ending protest violence.

"For the government to resort to measures that will appease the violent rioters, I don't think that is the solution," she told reporters. "Until and unless we tackle the violence and put an end to it, it is very difficult to continue the political dialogue we have done."

Hong Kong has been gripped since early June by the political crisis, with peaceful but often unauthorized marches descending into chaos as hardcore demonstrators hurling fire bombs and bricks battle police firing tear gas, rubber bullets and water cannon. Both sides blame each other for using increasingly aggressive tactics. **MDT/AGENCIES**

HONG KONG

Carrie Lam dismisses 'malicious' report she'll be replaced

IAIN MARLOW
& ALFRED LIU

HONG Kong leader Carrie Lam dismissed reports of her looming replacement as "very malicious," reiterating that she had Beijing's support despite more than four months of unrest.

Lam's comments before a meeting of the city's Executive Council Tuesday came after a Financial Times report said Beijing was mulling a plan to remove Lam after her administration failed to quell months of increasingly violent unrest. Pro-establishment lawmaker Michael Tien separately told Bloomberg News that Beijing was looking into a plan to replace the chief executive, and was considering candidates to fill Hong Kong's top job next year.

"The central govern-

ment has been very supportive and remains confident that I, myself, my political team, and the Hong Kong SAR government - particularly the police - will be able to handle the situation and end violence and return Hong Kong to normal as soon as possible," Lam said, referring to the city's status as a special administrative region of China.

Lam's introduction of legislation that would allow extraditions to mainland China sparked the months of protests against Beijing's tightening grip over the former British colony. The Beijing-appointed chief executive's decision to withdraw the bill and invoke a colonial-era emergency law to ban face masks have so far failed to stop the protests.

Lam's approval rating fell to a record low in early

October, with just 15% expressing confidence in her performance, according to the Hong Kong Public Opinion Research Institute.

Hong Kong's leader said she understood the concerns of the city's peaceful demonstrators, but was unable to engage in political dialogue until the violence abated. She said that people's tolerance for more radical protest tactics was making it more difficult to find a solution.

"I'm very committed to do that dialogue, to listen to people, and to change policies, and so on," she said. "But the first thing must be to stop the violence. If there are a large number of people legitimizing the violence or even glorifying the violence, I'm afraid it will make it even more difficult for us to tackle the situation."

Hong Kong is battling a

rapidly worsening economic situation, with Lam calling the situation "very tough" and saying negative growth was expected for the full year.

"If the third quarter experienced negative growth from the second quarter, followed by the negative growth in the second quarter, we can say that we're entering technical recession," she said. "The SAR government will closely monitor the economic downturn and implement measures that are needed."

She had pledged to address the city's notoriously expensive housing prices in a major policy speech Oct. 16. She was shouted down by opposition lawmakers and forced to deliver her address by video, and later heckled in the Legislative Council.

BLOOMBERG

HK REPORTER ACCUSES POLICE OF VIOLENCE

AHong Kong reporter disrupted a police news conference on Monday to protest what she called escalating violence by officers against journalists covering the city's pro-democracy protests.

The reporter interrupted the briefing by reading a statement alleging police mistreatment and obstruction of reporters covering the chaotic demonstrations.

To emphasize her point, she used a high-powered strobing flashlight similar to ones that police have used on photographers and video journalists.

The five officers sitting on the stage quickly left, leaving the reporter to deliver her remarks before staff intervened.

"They're stopping us from carrying out our duties to report what happened in the field," said the

reporter. "They tear off our gas masks and even deploy pepper spray on us every time," she said, adding that press freedom in Hong Kong was under threat.

She did not give her name but other reporters on social media identified her as Amy Ip, a freelance journalist. Sophie McNeill of the Australian Broadcasting Corp. tweeted that Ip helped produce a recent report on Hong Kong for the network.

Tensions are rising further between police and media after violent demonstrations on Sunday night in which police used aggressive tactics against media and detained a photojournalist overnight.

Police said they arrested 206 people over the past week for offenses including unlawful assembly, criminal damage and arson. **MDT/AP**

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

THE co-founder of China's SenseTime Group Ltd. was visiting New York to encourage more collaboration with the U.S. on artificial intelligence when he heard the news: The Trump administration had blacklisted his company. So much for more cooperation.

Xu Bing, the 29-year-old co-founder, knew SenseTime was at risk given rising tensions between China and the U.S., but the timing took him by surprise. He was spending a few days showing off his latest products and meeting other AI researchers earlier this month when the Commerce Dept. put his company and seven others on its "Entity List," prohibiting American companies from providing crucial supplies like semiconductors. His phone flooded with calls and emails from worried employees and investors.

SenseTime is emblematic of the clash between the world's two biggest economies. China is seeking to evolve economically by moving beyond manufacturing into the technology vanguard, with the explicit goal of dominating key fields like AI. Donald Trump's administration is increasingly adamant about containing China's rise, arguing that companies like Huawei Technologies Co. steal intellectual property and threaten national security, while startups like SenseTime and Megvii Technology Ltd. are complicit in human rights violations in the country's Xinjiang region.

The company's founders are a bit stunned at getting caught in the crossfire. They are mostly academics who decided to commercialize their technology five years ago, drawing attention from both U.S. and China governments because of the applications for surveillance. Now, they plan a shift away from hardware, which requires American chips, to focus on software for facial recognition and other applications. The founders think they can survive the existential threat.

TRADE WAR

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IS SCRAMBLING TO SURVIVE TRUMP'S BLACKLIST



"Long-term, the fundamentals of business are still most important," says Xu, "so that's what we will focus on."

SenseTime, whose \$7.5 billion valuation is the highest for an AI startup in the world, is trying to reassure investors, employees and customers. The company said in a statement that it is "deeply disappointed" at the blacklisting decision and will seek relief. It emphasized it complies with all laws in local jurisdictions.

"These are real risks for tech companies in China," says Crawford Del Prete, president of the market research firm IDC.

SenseTime has been preparing for the worst. The company raised about \$2.5 billion last year from investors including Japan's SoftBank Group Corp. and Singapore's Temasek Holdings Pte., according to a person familiar with the matter. That forestalls the need for an ini-

tial public offering any time soon. China surveillance giant Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Co. warned last week that it may lose customers in overseas markets because it was part of the U.S. blacklisting.

Megvii, another AI startup that was blacklisted this month, is pressing ahead with its IPO plans, effectively testing whether investors will take on the risks of a blacklisting. (Megvii also says it's done nothing wrong and plans to fight the U.S. ban.)

For SenseTime, the biggest challenge of the Trump move is that it will lose access to U.S. semiconductors, particularly from Nvidia Corp. The chips are incorporated into AI cameras and other hardware SenseTime sells to corporations and government agencies. Without them, SenseTime will be able to market software that customers or resellers can then ins-

tall on their own cameras or servers -- but not the hardware itself. That will likely cut into growth, given that hardware accounts for about half its revenue. Software sales tend to be higher margin.

Sales are likely to triple this year to about \$900 million, according to people familiar with the matter. Even though growth is expected to flag, revenue may still double annually for the next three years, the people said.

"We're very much prepared for the long game," says Xu Li, chief executive officer of SenseTime and another co-founder.

All this is a far cry from the company's debut in 2014. Xu Li was a PhD student in computer science at the Chinese University of Hong Kong when he hit it off with a few other AI academics and they founded SenseTime.

After nine months without any sales, Xu stumbled on an oppor-

tunity. Peer-to-peer lending was taking off in China, but fraud was so common that companies were desperate for help. SenseTime devised a system to conduct face scans with motion - turn your head, wink, stick out your tongue - to prove users were real people. The first client paid 20 million yuan (\$2.8 million). Soon, companies were lining up for its services.

Next, smartphone maker Xiaomi Corp. asked for support in creating customized photo albums for users. Then Bytedance Inc., the parent of viral short-video app TikTok, tapped SenseTime to build filters that beautify streamers by slimming faces and toning complexions in real time as they sing and dance.

Business really took off with security-camera technology. China's public security bureau owns about 30 million surveillance cameras, but only about 1% are so-called smart cameras that can analyze what they're recording. It costs \$500 to \$3,000 to upgrade a device, depending on how many functions one wants -- to identify faces, traffic, a fire or an explosion. Providing software to upgrade government cameras accounts for about 35% of SenseTime's revenue, according to people familiar.

The rest of the company's revenue comes from commercial clients like property developers, shopping malls and mobile phone providers, the people said. There were about 176 million video surveillance cameras monitoring China's streets, buildings and public spaces in 2016, compared with 50 million in the U.S., according to IHS Markit.

The company emphasizes it doesn't do business directly with government agencies. But the public security bureau can buy its software and products via third party providers. Its software is compatible with cameras made by Sony Corp., Samsung Electronics Co. and Panasonic Corp. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

CORPORATE BITS

Melco pledges to promote environmental sustainability



Melco Resorts & Entertainment continues to support the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment spearheaded by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme.

Published at the Our Ocean Conference in Oslo last week, the report is a transparent insight into how almost 200 businesses and governments are reshaping the plastics system. As a signatory of the New

Plastics Economy Global Commitment since March 2019, Melco said in a statement that the company is "driven by a strong focus around environmental sustainability, which is core to its strategy and daily operations."

Melco said that it also has committed to reducing the use of problematic plastics and promoting circular economy across its global operations, including at its integrated resorts City of Dreams Macau, Studio City, Altira Macau, and City of Dreams Manila.

The gaming operator noted it has become the first hospitality and integrated resorts company to sign up to New Plastics Economy Global Commitment.

MGM donates 2 million yuan to Congjiang County



MGM donated a total of 2 million yuan in cash and supplies to Congjiang County to support poverty alleviation and to enhance its infrastruc-

ture and facilities.

The donation was also made to purchase basic supplies for poor households at the town of Luoxiang, to improve their

living conditions and prepare them for the coming winter, according to a statement issued by the gaming operator.

Pansy Ho, co-chairperson and executive director of MGM China Holdings Limited, said, "With the principle of 'Fulfilling the Needs of Congjiang with Strengths of Macau', MGM will continue to cultivate collaborations with Congjiang on aspects of tourism, culture, industries and talent development in order to promote mutual growth."

"We will also help spearhead Macau's efforts to support this meaningful work of national poverty alleviation," she added.

Ho led the delegation to visit the province with MGM team members.

Baby shortage prompts China's unwed mothers to fight for change

FOR generations, a Chinese woman who gave birth out of wedlock was shunned by society and discriminated against by authorities. Now, as the Communist Party seeks to boost a slowing birthrate, that is starting to change.

Yue Li, based in the southern port city of Guangzhou, thought she would face a range of obstacles in getting her son legal documents after she gave birth last year following a separation from her ex-boyfriend. But she was surprised how easy it was to access maternity benefits and obtain a residential permit known as a hukou for her son-- so much so that she posted a step-by-step guide for others in a WeChat account for non-conventional families.

Even though authorities finally scrapped the one-child policy in 2016, along with rules requiring a marriage certificate for hukous, implementation has been mixed across China's 31 provinces. In Guangdong, where Yue lives, provincial authorities have removed fines that were levied against unwed mothers for flouting the nation's "family planning" laws.

"To be honest, the looser policies really gave me a lot more courage to have the baby," Yue wrote in the WeChat account named Diverse Family Network, which advocates reproductive rights and has more than 2,000 followers. "It would not have been possible a year earlier. The penalties would have cost tens of thousands of yuan!"

Zhan Yingying, who runs the WeChat account, said more than 100 unwed mothers from a dozen of China's most developed cities told her they hadn't been harassed by the authorities over fines or encountered problems getting hukous for their children.

"We do see signs of easing restrictions in places," Zhan said by phone, adding that more women are speaking out and pushing for change. "If they don't tell the stories, they will always be ignored."

Changing Attitudes

The societal shift is underway as the Communist Party gets desperate for newborns. The number of babies born in the country dropped to the lowest level in almost 60 years in 2018, signaling the looser two-child policy has done little to reverse its slowing birthrate, and worsening the outlook for growth in the world's second-largest economy.

After taking power in 1949, the Communist Party codified centuries of culture that placed the traditional nuclear family at the center of society into so-called

BLOOMBERG



"family planning" laws, leaving little room to accommodate single parents or same-sex relationships. While no law in China directly penalizes women for having children outside of marriage, for a long time almost every aspect of her child's life -- including during pregnancy -- was made harder without a father named on official paperwork.

There is no official data on single mothers in China. A state-run Shanghai media outlet called The Paper estimated that more than 1 million people have been born out of wedlock in China, based on the 2010 census and a study conducted by local academics in 2014.

Attitudes toward single parents are changing in China, as they are in the rest of the world. In a survey released in 2016 of about 2,800 Chinese by three NGOs including the Rainbow Lawyers Network, more than 86% of respondents said it was acceptable for a single woman to have a child, and 75% said it was acceptable for lesbian couples to have children.

He Yafu, a Guangdong-based demographer, said moves to give back reproductive rights to individuals would have "little impact" on the overall fertility rate as financial pressures, high housing prices and the demands of work often discourage both single and married women from having children. But, he said, the moves are "still significant as it means a departure from decades of family planning policies."

LOSING BATTLE

Although things are getting better, many women still struggle against ingrained biases in many parts of China. Zou Xiaoqi has been locked in a two-year court battle with the Shanghai Social Insurance Fund Management Center as it refused to reimburse her for medical expenses after having a child because she couldn't produce a document that required a marriage certificate.

"You won't find explicit discriminatory policies in official documents against unwed mothers but in reality they are everywhere," said Zou, the mother of a two-year-old son. "Unwed mothers' reproductive rights aren't explicitly denied in the country's national law, but once you get on the ground and start to claim your benefits, it's just impossible."

In China, employers pay into a government fund that covers its female employees' maternity

lawyer. "It's about the social awareness toward those women who are denied from their legal rights, just because they brought babies into this world without that piece of paper, a marriage certificate."

Unlike many in China, Zou is aware of her rights and has the means to fight for them. She's college-educated, works for a foreign company, and is able to afford a live-in nanny who charges 7,000 yuan (\$990) a month. Born in 1977, Zou came of age during China's period of opening up under former leader Deng Xiaoping, a time that led many to question the strictures governing daily life and assert their rights more strongly.

SEEKING CHANGE

For the younger generation, the question is even more fundamental. Alan Zhang, a 28-year-old single freelance film director, has sought to push China's lawmakers to reverse a rule that excludes single women from accessing state-operated sperm banks.

"Why do I have to get married to become a mother?" Zhang, whose Chinese name can also be translated as Ellen, asked in a January WeChat post seeking a sperm donor. "I'm ready physically and psychologically, but the sperm banks in China do not accept applications from unwed mothers."

Zhang got mixed responses to her post. Along with critics calling her irresponsible and radical, she also received applications from a dozen candidates both inside and

outside China, though none of them met her standards.

Zhang ended up writing letters to the 64 delegates of the National People's Congress, China's legislature, who are from Jilin -- the only province that doesn't exclude single women from the state-operated sperm banks. She asked them to push for the same reform nationwide, but never heard back.

One lawmaker who has sought change hasn't had much luck either. Huang Xihua, a delegate of China's legislature and the deputy secretary general of the government in Huizhou, a city in Guangdong, proposed removing all limits on family planning at this year's annual gathering. Women make up about a quarter of the NPC, which has almost 3,000 members.

Huang has also called on the National Health Commission to remove the specific regulations barring single women from sperm banks, but told Bloomberg News she hasn't received any feedback from them on her suggestion. The National Health Commission, which formulates the nation's family planning policies, didn't immediately respond to a fax seeking comment on the progress of reforms for unwed mothers.

"As a country modernizes, there is little it can do to boost fertility: reducing the cost of female births and introducing public measures are necessary, but not enough," Huang said. "What is needed is greater independence for women, a break with traditional patriarchal structures and recognition of the legal rights of children born out of wedlock." **BLOOMBERG**

The number of babies born in the country dropped to the lowest level in almost 60 years in 2018

insurance and salary when they have a baby, but requirements for making claims differ between cities and provinces. Zou's case is now before the Shanghai Supreme Court after she lost twice in lower courts.

"For us, it's no longer about claiming the benefits, or even about winning," said Li Jun, Zou's

GOV'T ACCUSES US OF 'ECONOMIC BULLYING' OVER EQUIPMENT BAN

CHINA yesterday accused the U.S. of "economic bullying behavior" after U.S. regulators cited security threats in proposing to cut off funding for Chinese equipment in U.S. telecommunications networks.

China would "resolutely oppose the U.S. abusing state power to suppress specific Chinese enterprises with unwarranted charges in the absence of any evidence," Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told reporters at a daily briefing.

"The economic bullying behavior of the U.S. is a denial of the market economy principle that the U.S. has always advertised," Geng said, adding the U.S. actions would "undermine the interests" of U.S. businesses and consumers, especially in rural areas.

"We would like to urge the U.S. once again to stop abusing the concept of national security," Geng said.

The Federal Communications Commission votes next month on whether to bar tele-



com companies from using government subsidies to pay for networking equipment from Huawei and ZTE.

The move mostly affects small, rural companies, since larger U.S. wireless companies do not use equipment from the two Chinese firms.

The agency is also exploring the impact of requiring companies to rip out their current Huawei and ZTE equipment, a demand a trade group for small rural wireless carriers has said would cost up to \$1 billion.

The government is seeking comments on how it can help companies financially if they're required to do that. Bills in Con-

gress have proposed setting \$700 million to \$1 billion aside for telecom companies to replace their networks.

The U.S. government says Huawei, the world's biggest supplier of telecom gear and No. 2 smartphone manufacturer, poses an espionage threat. It has presented no evidence of its equipment being used for spying by the Chinese government and both Huawei and ZTE have denied their equipment is used for such purposes.

The U.S. government also has been pressuring allies to ban Huawei from their networks and has restricted exports of U.S. technology to Huawei. AP

BLOCKCHAIN FRENZY THAT XI STARTED GETS WARNING FROM STATE MEDIA

CHINA'S state media said investors should avoid speculative behavior after comments by President Xi Jinping sent blockchain-related stocks surging on Monday.

"The future is here for blockchain, but we need to stay rational," the People's Daily said in a commentary.

More than 70 tech shares surged by the daily limit in Shanghai and Shenzhen on Monday, and Bitcoin rallied after Xi said China will increase investment in blockchain technology. The frenzy cooled yesterday, with the Shenzhen Stock Exchange Information Technology Index losing as much as 1.4%. Bitcoin was 2.1% lower at \$9,260.

Regulation for blockchain need to be improved as the technology is still at an early stage, according

to the People's Daily commentary, which was published on the WeChat account of the paper's opinion department. Technical innovations on blockchain aren't the same as speculative trading of virtual currencies, it said.

"The message is clear -- companies should focus on their main business and not jump on the blockchain bandwagon," said Sun Jianbo, president of China Vision Capital Management. "It's a warning that support for the sector does not equal an endorsement of speculative trading."

China's exchange operator also weighed in, sending inquiries to at least four firms whose shares jumped 10% Monday, including MYS Group Co. The companies were asked to spell out their involvement in blockchain technology and warn

investors of the many risks that could affect their share price.

Chinese investors are no stranger to speculative trades -- so far this year they've chased stocks linked to the next generation of telecom network 5G, industrial cannabis and hog breeders. While these stocks often offer some quick gains, the stakes are just as high once the trades unravel quickly.

State-controlled newspapers often run market commentary when moves get extreme, with a hugely profitable sneakers trade drawing their attention just this month. Their front pages can also signal Beijing's support for the market: in February, newspapers highlighted the growing bull case for Chinese shares, adding fuel to the stock rally. BLOOMBERG

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Tokyo officials feud with IOC over Olympic marathon switch

STEPHEN WADE
& MARI YAMAGUCHI, TOKYO

TOKYO city officials are in a public feud with the International Olympic Committee over IOC plans — made without consulting the city or local organizers — to move next year's Tokyo Olympic marathons 800 kilometers north to Sapporo to avoid the capital's summer heat.

The abrupt decision to shift the marathons and race walks was announced almost two weeks ago by the IOC.

Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike is angry about it. Her allies say no change is needed and have raised questions about who will pay if the move goes through, and have not ruled out a lawsuit to recover damages.

Taro Shirato and Hiroshi Yamada, members of Koike's political party in the metropolitan legislature, told a news conference yesterday that moving the marathon would cost at least \$34 billion yen (about \$310 million).

The IOC said it is making the change, thinking first of athletes' safety from Tokyo's blistering summer heat.

Koike's allies offered a different take. Koike is one of Japan's most influential politicians and just a few years ago was viewed as a potential candidate for prime minister. And she's miffed about not being consulted.



Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike

"Although they [IOC] talk about so-called athletes first, this can only be perceived as IOC first," Shirato said through an interpreter.

"You get the sense that no considerations have been made for the athletes," Shirato added, "or the spectators who had already bought their tickets and who were looking forward to these events, or the potential spectators who will be cheering on the streets, and also to the people involved in the operation."

In a statement to The Associa-

ted Press, the Tokyo city government said it wants to see "sufficient scientific evidence" to justify the switch. It also asked if any other city was considered besides Sapporo.

Don't expect the IOC to budge. It has inspectors in Tokyo this week looking at preparations with the Olympics opening in just under nine months on July 24.

IOC member John Coates heads the team and is an ally to President Thomas Bach. He has said repeatedly the IOC does not intend to

change its plans, and has told that to Koike.

The IOC fears worldwide television audiences might see a repeat of the recent world track and field championships in Doha, Qatar, where 28 of 68 starters failed to finish the women's marathon and 18 of 73 men failed to complete the course.

The races started at midnight in Doha with TV showing runners collapsing on the course. The scenes apparently shocked IOC President Thomas Bach.

Tokyo's soaring costs are also a major issue.

A government audit report last year said Tokyo was spending about \$25 billion to organize the Olympics, all of which is public money except for \$5.6 billion from a privately financed operating budget.

Tokyo said in its bid in 2013 that the Olympic would cost \$7.3 billion.

Yamada was asked who would pay for the increased costs.

"In the event this is changed to Sapporo, then I believe the citizens of Tokyo will not be convinced they need to pay," Yamada said. "What I can say is that the Tokyo Metropolitan Government should not be the one to pay."

Asked if the Tokyo government might sue for damages, Yamada hedged.

"That's very difficult to respond to, but I believe in terms of discussions we need to clarify the legal context," Yamada said.

Tokyo organizing committee president Toshiro Mori, a former Japanese prime minister, seems to have sided with the IOC and not with Koike. He suggested a few days ago that it was a done deal.

"Can we say no to the plan that the IOC and International Association of Athletics Federations already supported?" Mori said. "It's not a question of good or bad, but we just have to accept it."

He also said cost was a major issue in moving the marathon.

"Our overall cost has become a humongous amount, so it would cause us pain if the cost is added to our bill," Mori said. "So I mentioned that to Mr. Coates, and he said he will look into it. We won't be able to pay if it's a significant damage to our finances. I have reminded him of that." AP

Australian consumer watchdog sues Google over location data

ROD MCGUIRK,
CANBERRA

THE Australian consumer watchdog yesterday took Google to court alleging the technology giant broke consumer law by misleading Android users about how their location data was used.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission accused Google of collecting information on a users' whereabouts even after they had switched off the location setting.

The commission began proceedings in the Federal Court of Australia alleging Google breached the law through a series of on-screen representations made as users set up Google accounts on their An-



droid mobile phones and tablets

"We are taking court action against Google because we allege that as a result of these on-screen

representations Google has collected, kept and used highly sensitive and valuable personal information about consumers' location without them

making an informed choice," commission chairman Rod Sims said.

"This is a world-first case. This action — in relation to misrepresentations

in relation to the data Google collects, keeps and uses — has never been taken before," he added.

Google said it was reviewing the allegations.

"We continue to engage with the ACCC and intend to defend this matter," Google said in a statement.

The commission alleges that between January 2017 and late 2018, people setting up their

Google accounts on phones and tablets would have incorrectly believed that "Location History" was the only setting that affected whether the company was collecting a user's location data.

In fact, the setting "Web & App Activity" also had to be switched off if users didn't want their location

data collected.

"When people had their location history turned off, they may have felt that Google was not collecting their location data and recording it and keeping it, but in fact they were," Sims said.

"So you could have been walking around the city [...] thinking that your location history wasn't being collected, when in fact it was being collected and it was being kept," he added.

Sims said the watchdog believed some of the alleged behavior has continued. His commission will ask Google to admit the actions and promise to stop.

The commission also plans to ask the court to impose penalties, he said. AP

LION AIR VOWS TO FOLLOW RECOMMENDATIONS IN CRASH REPORT

NINIEK KARMINI, JAKARTA

THE CEO of the Lion Air, whose Boeing 737 Max 8 jet crashed a year ago off the coast of Indonesia killing 189 people, vowed yesterday to follow recommendations from a probe into the disaster.

Improving safety is a "never ending job," Edward Sirait, Lion Air's CEO, said as he expressed condolences to relatives of those who died when the flight from Jakarta crashed into the Java Sea minutes after it took off on Oct. 29, 2018.

Relatives of victims scattered flowers yesterday on waters where the aircraft went down.

"We from the Lion group deeply feel the loss of our brothers and sisters and hope that the families left behind will share their strength," Sirait said.

Indonesian transport officials released a report on the Lion Air accident Friday that said faulty design by Boeing, inadequate training for the pilots and lapses in maintenance doomed Lion Air flight 610.

A lawyer for Boeing expressed

AP PHOTO



his sympathies and urged family members of the victims to seek compensation from a \$50 million fund set up to help them.

The lawyer, Ibrahim Senen, said 25 people had received compensation and 40 were in the pro-

cess of obtaining it. Other relatives should come forward, he urged.

Each family is entitled to \$144,500, Senen said. Boeing has also set up a scholarship fund.

Senen said families should not worry that by accepting compen-

sation they might give up their right to sue over the crash.

"These funds are voluntary in nature and there is no obligation for recipients to sign any letters relinquishing victims' rights," Senen said.

Boeing Co. is still working to fix its best-selling plane seven months after all Max jets were grounded following a second crash on March 10 in Ethiopia, which killed 157 people.

Anton Sahadi, who lost two nephews in the crash, said his family welcomed Boeing's offer. He and other families said Lion Air was requiring families to sign an agreement giving up their rights to sue in order to obtain compensation.

"No matter how much compensation we get, it won't bring our loved ones back," Sahadi told The Associated Press after arriving back at a port in northern Jakarta following the anniversary memorial.

"But we accept the goodwill from Boeing and hope it will encourage Lion Air to do the same. We expect the Indonesian government to force the airline to do that," he said.

The Indonesian investigators faulted design decisions by Boeing that made the plane vulnerable to failure of a single sensor. They chastised U.S. safety regulators for certifying the plane.

They also criticized Lion Air, for inadequate pilot training and maintenance lapses. **AP**

AD

Oct 31

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Not over yet: New US Syria mission after al-Baghdadi's death

ROBERT BURNS, WASHINGTON

PIVOTING from the dramatic killing of the Islamic State group's leader, the Pentagon is increasing U.S. efforts to protect Syria's oil fields from the extremist group as well as from Syria itself and the country's Russian allies. It's a new high-stakes mission even as American troops are withdrawn from other parts of the country.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper says the military's oil field mission also will ensure income for Syrian Kurds who are counted on by Washington to continue guarding Islamic State prisoners and helping American forces combat remnants of the group — even as President Donald Trump continues to insist all U.S. troops will come home.

"We don't want to be a policeman in this case," Trump said Monday, referring to America's role after Turkey's incursion in Syria. In the face of Turkey's early October warning that it would invade and create a "safe zone" on the Syrian side of its border, Trump ordered U.S. forces to step aside, effectively abandoning a Kurdish militia that had partnered with U.S. troops.

Esper and Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, spoke at a Pentagon news conference to cheer the successful mission by U.S. special operations forces Saturday that ended with IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi blowing himself up. Esper called al-Baghdadi's death a "devastating blow" to an organization that already had lost its hold on a wide swath of territory in Syria and Iraq.

Milley said the U.S. had disposed of al-Baghdadi's remains "appropriately" and in line with the laws of armed conflict. He also said U.S. forces retrieved unspecified intelligence information from the site, which he described as a place in northwestern Syria where the IS leader had been "staying on a consistent basis."

A U.S. military dog that was slightly injured in the raid has recovered and is back at work, Milley said.

Esper hinted at uncertainty ahead in Syria, even though the Islamic State has lost its inspirational leader, with the Syrian government exploiting support from Russia and Iran.

"The security situation in Syria remains complex," Esper said.

A big part of that complexity is the rejiggering of the battlefield since Trump earlier this month ordered a full U.S. troop withdrawal from positions along the Turkish border in northeastern Syria. Even



as those troops leave, other U.S. forces are heading to the oil-producing region of eastern Syria, east of the Euphrates River.

Trump recently has proposed hiring an American oil company to begin repairing Syria's oil infrastructure, which has been devastated by years of war. Repeated U.S. airstrikes against facilities for oil storage, transport, processing and refining starting in 2015 inflicted heavy damage.

Esper said last week that a "mechanized" force would reinforce U.S. positions in the oil region, meaning a force equipped with tanks or Bradley infantry carriers. On Monday he provided no details about the makeup of the force.

He referred to "multiple state and nonstate" forces vying for control of Syrian territory and resources, including the oil. He said that while the main U.S. military mission is to ensure the "enduring defeat" of the Islamic State, that now will include denying oil income for the group.

"The United States will retain control of oil fields in northeast Syria," Esper said, adding that at the height of al-Baghdadi's rule, those oil fields provided the bulk of his group's income.

Esper's remarks echoed

Trump's focus on the oil. But whose oil is it?

"We're keeping the oil," Trump said during a speech to police officers in Chicago. "Remember that, I've always said that. Keep the oil. We want to keep the oil — \$45 million a month — keep the oil. We've secured the oil."

Esper emphasized that the purpose of securing Syria's oil region is to deny income to the Islamic State. But a reporter asked whether the mission includes preventing Russian and Syrian government forces from entering that area.

"The security situation in Syria remains complex."

MARK ESPER
US DEFENSE SECRETARY

"The short answer is yes, it presently does," Esper said, "because in that case we want to make sure" the Syrian Kurdish-led militia known as the Syrian Democratic Forces, "does have access to the resources in order to guard the prisons and arm their own troops, in order to assist us with the defeat-ISIS mission."

This area has been the scene of unusual confrontations with U.S. forces, such as a one-sided battle in February 2018 in which a pro-Syrian government force reported to be mainly private Russian mercenaries unleashed an artillery barrage near a small U.S. military outpost. As then-Defense Secretary Jim Mattis recounted the episode in congressional testimony two months later, he ordered the attacking force to be "annihilated - and it was" after Russian authorities insisted the attackers were not their troops.

Esper said Monday that he has seen no sign of Syrian or Russian forces challenging U.S. control of the oil fields.

In recent days, however, U.S. officials detected what they considered to be a significant massing of Syrian and Russian forces on the western side of the Euphrates River near Deir el-Zour, a U.S. official said Monday.

Russian officials were contacted by phone, and the U.S. was given assurances that the staged forces would not move east, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive issue.

Jim Jeffrey, the Trump administration's special envoy for Syria, seemed to refer to this episode

when he said last Friday, "We are currently very concerned about certain developments in the south, in the Deir el-Zour area. I've talked to my Russian colleague about that and we're having other contacts with the Russians concerning that situation. We think it is under control now."

After expelling Islamic State militants from southeastern Syria in 2018, the Kurds seized control of the more profitable oil fields to the south in Deir el-Zour province.

A quiet arrangement has existed between the Kurds and the Syrian government, whereby Damascus buys the surplus through middlemen in a profitable smuggling operation that has continued despite political differences. The Kurdish-led administration sells crude oil to private refiners, who use home-made primitive refineries to process fuel and diesel and sell it back to the Kurdish-led administration.

The oil was always likely to be a bargaining chip by the Kurds to negotiate a deal with the Syrian government, which unsuccessfully tried to reach the oil fields to retake them from IS. With Trump saying he plans to keep forces to secure the oil, it seems the oil will continue to be used for leverage—with Moscow and Damascus. **AP**

what's ON



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

TIME: 10am–6pm (Closed on Mondays and public holidays)

UNTIL: December 27, 2019

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2859 2919

MANDARIN'S HOUSE

TIME: 10am–6pm daily (Last admission at 5:30pm; closed on Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

ADDRESS: No. 10, Travessa de António da Silva

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8820

2019 MACAU OPEN BADMINTON

TIME: 9am (October 30)

12pm (October 31–November 3)

VENUE: Tap Seac Multisport Pavilion

ADMISSION: MOP150 per day (October 30 to November 1 to November 1)

MOP400 per day (November 2-3)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 6698 9877

KONG SENG TICKETING SERVICE: 2855 5555

QUIETNESS AND CLARITY: WORKS OF CHEN ZHIFU FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE NANJING MUSEUM

TIME: 10am–7pm (No admittance after 6:30pm; Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: November 17, 2019

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

Offbeat

CRANES REMOVE BUS PARTIALLY SWALLOWED BY PITTSBURGH SINKHOLE



A bus that was partially swallowed when a sinkhole opened during morning rush hour in downtown Pittsburgh has been removed from the hole.

Authorities said this week that two cranes arrived to remove the city bus. The city's official Twitter account later posted a video of the removal.

The Port Authority of Allegheny County says the driver and a 56-year-old female passenger were aboard when the bus plunged into the hole Monday morning. Officials say the passenger was treated at a hospital and released.

Public Safety Director Wendell Hissrich says the bus was sitting on three power lines, two of them 22,000-volt lines. He said there are also fiberoptic cables, and damage to them could affect communications in the tri-state area.

The lines and pipes will be assessed and repaired.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Agua de Mar
15:35	Zig Zag
16:00	Viajante da Música
16:30	Quem Quer Ser Milionário
17:30	A Minha Tese - Fim
18:00	Império (Repetição)
18:55	TDM Entrevista (Repetição)
19:30	Ouro Verde Sr.1
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Semana Internacional
21:50	Tesouro Pirata nas Caraíbas Sr.1
22:15	Telediscoodas as Palavras
22:20	Império
23:15	TDM News
23:50	O Último Reino Sr.1
00:40	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:20	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 & 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



1981 EUTHANASIA CHIEF JAILED OVER SUICIDES

The secretary of the UK's pro-euthanasia group Exit has been jailed for two and a half years for aiding and abetting suicide.

Nicholas Reed was found guilty on three counts of aiding and abetting suicide and one of conspiracy to aid and abet.

Mark Lyons, 70, Mr Reed's co-accused and the man who helped people commit suicide by providing pills and alcohol was given a two-year suspended sentence.

"If you get into trouble in the next two years you are going to cop it," the judge told him.

He was spared a jail term after the judge took into account his age and the fact he had already served 325 days awaiting the trial.

"I take into account the fact that you are not as young as you used to be. But you are not as old as I am," said the judge, Mr Justice Lawson.

The judge added that he believed Mr Lyons had learned his lesson and was "not going to start messing around with plastic bags and pills anymore".

The pair were tracked down after the death of a multiple sclerosis sufferer. As a matter of routine her death was reported to the coroner and a post-mortem revealed she died from taking a barbiturate drug with alcohol.

Two women at the inquest, who had been at the dead woman's house the day before she died, identified Mr Lyons as a visitor to the house.

When police went to Mr Lyons' flat in West Hampstead they found thousands of pills and tablets and several diaries that outlined visits to people wanting to commit suicide.

In court Nicholas Reed described how he had sent Mr Lyons on missions to "comfort and console" people but said he had no idea that he was helping people commit suicide.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Following the verdicts Exit released a statement reiterating their aim to change the law "so that everyone in Britain will have a right to medical help to secure an easy death if life has become intolerable because of incurable, painful or incapacitating illness".

The British Medical Association responded by saying: "The guidance given by Exit is squalid and bears no comparison with the help which can be offered by the NHS for those in need."

Nicholas Reed had his sentence reduced on appeal to 18 months.

Exit started out as the Voluntary Euthanasia Society in 1935 but changed its name to give itself a more punchy and dynamic image.

In 2002, Holland became the first country to legalise euthanasia.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Spend some time with people you love to laugh with, and take plenty of time today to talk about lighthearted matters. Forget about things you have no control over.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

One of the many good things about having so many people in your life right now is that you always have tons of feedback available at your fingertips. So why aren't you taking advantage of this abundance of honesty?



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Either your flexibility skills are at an all-time high, or the changes you expected weren't so drastic. Either way, you can breathe a great big sigh of relief today.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Accept the whole person - the good and the bad. Ending a relationship because of one event or conversation is shortsighted. Embrace differing opinions and contrary viewpoints.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

There will always be obstacles in your life - that's just a fact. Your attitude will make all the difference, so put a shine on your outlook! Whenever you need a lift in life, just remember all the successes you've had.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Inspiration will flood over you today - enjoy having your curiosity tickled and excited. You are extremely open to new ideas right now, so why not try a few new things?



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

You may think that you are judged by the company you keep, but that is not necessarily true. Today, don't worry about people basing assumptions about you on whom you are with.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

If you are in a mood to hide from the world, then today will offer you the perfect opportunity. The people in your life are a bit distracted with other things right now.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Your daily life is currently being polluted a bit by someone whose maturity level leaves a lot to be desired. Luckily, you will find the right words today to help this person grow up a bit.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

You basically have all the time you want, especially right now - your schedule is under your exclusive control for a limited period of time, and you should make the most of it!



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You feel strong, and you are strong - but you're vulnerable to a lot of potential problems that could pop up today if you aren't careful. Focus your energy on fixing up something around your house.

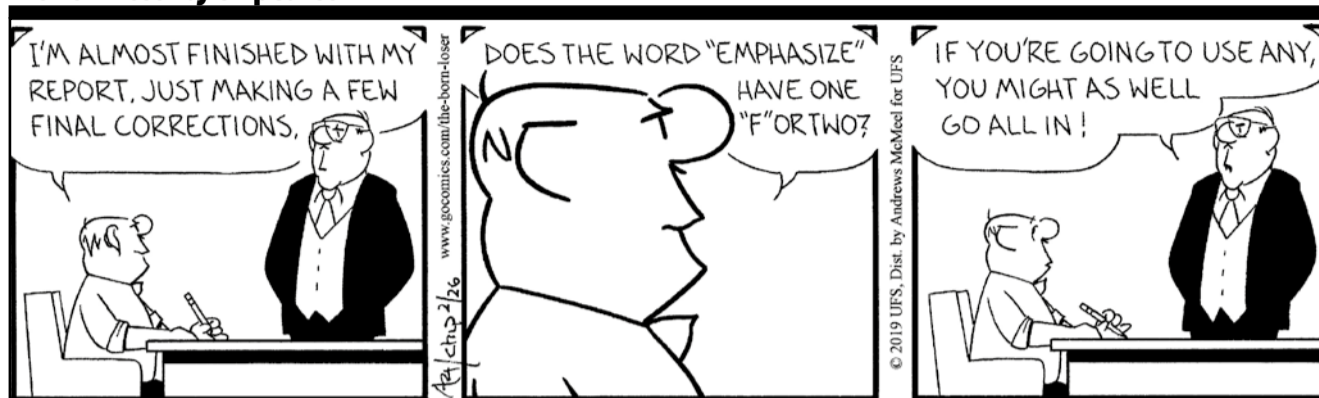


PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

To help yourself today, help other people - the overwhelming gratitude you'll receive from the people you've aided will lift your spirits higher than any retail therapy or self-indulgence ever could.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

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3						6		
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					2			7

HARD

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			3					8
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5		3						
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8				1				
						7		

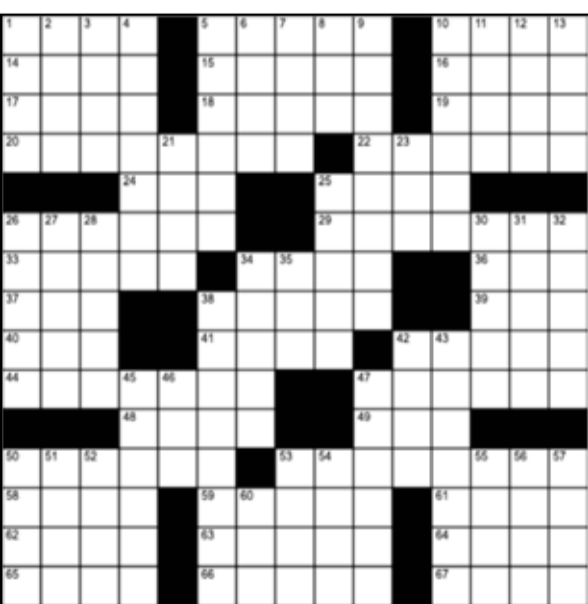
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	2	20	clear
Harbin	-2	12	cloudy
Tianjin	7	21	clear
Urumqi	7	17	clear
Xi'an	7	19	clear
Lhasa	2	16	cloudy
Chengdu	15	21	clear
Chongqing	14	22	cloudy
Kunming	12	22	cloudy
Nanjing	10	24	cloudy
Shanghai	14	22	cloudy
Wuhan	10	26	clear
Hangzhou	12	23	clear
Taipei	20	23	drizzle
Guangzhou	16	28	clear
Hong Kong	21	27	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	-4	-1	flurry
Frankfurt	1	11	clear
Paris	7	12	drizzle
London	5	12	clear
New York	12	18	drizzle

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1-Defendant's answer; 5- Orgs.; 10- Charitable contribution; 14- Crew needs; 15- Capital of South Korea; 16- Rake; 17- Composer Satie; 18-Speed; 19- Public walk; 20- Majestically, musically; 22- Tooth covering; 24- Christmas tree; 25- Rushed, drove too fast; 26- Call forth; 29- Lockjaw; 33- New Zealand aboriginal; 34- Prophet; 36- That, in Toledo; 37- Archer's skill; 38- Harbingers; 39- Organ of hearing; 40- Hosp. picture; 41- Chianti, e.g.; 42- Emblem; 44- Small bag; 47- Barrister; 48- Entice; 49- Cartoon cry; 50- Conductors' rods; 53- Exhaust; 58- Boy with a bow; 59- Certain fisherman; 61- Arabian Sea gulf; 62- Shredded; 63- The end of ___; 64- Gambling mecca; 65- Chimney grime; 66- Brown ermine; 67- Paint crudely;

DOWN: 1- Limerick, for one; 2- Dr. Zhivago's love; 3- Great Lake; 4- Requests; 5- On land; 6- Oceans; 7- Nothing special; 8- Crackpot; 9- Railway ties; 10- Spanish fleet; 11- Good earth; 12- Sterile hybrid; 13- Exchange for money; 21- Polynesian carved image; 23- Safety device; 25- Dictator's aide; 26- Mosque officials; 27- Currency unit in Nigeria; 28- Throw up; 30- Hard up; 31- Grammarian's topic; 32- More peeved; 34- Look happy; 35- Dusk, to Donne; 38- Abroad; 42- Boxer Max; 43- Clumsy; 45- Broom room; 46- Attila, e.g.; 47- Ogle; 50- Wagers; 51- Slangy suffix; 52- Bull; 53- Margarine; 54- Aloe ___; 55- Concert halls; 56- Bausch & Lomb brand; 57- Door part; 60- Med. specialty;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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HK\$13,575,000 1,269 ft² 2 1/2 2 1/2

FOR RENT

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

FOR SALE

[Taipa] 2 connected apartment 4 1/2 2 1/2
1,404 ft² \$8,680,000 (ref: 19096006)

[Taipa] Apartment with balcony 2 1/2 1 1/2
787 ft² \$4,950,000 (ref: 19096008)

[Coloane] Large apartment 2 1/2 3 1/2 2 1/2
2,530 ft² \$13,800,000 (ref: 19096000)

[Taipa] Manhattan 3 1/2 2 1/2
1,720 ft² \$13,600,000 (ref: 19096006)

FOR RENT

[Taipa] Taipa Village 1 1/2 1 1/2
740 ft² \$11,800/mth (ref: 19101006)

[Macau] Office space 2 1/2 1 1/2
1,043 ft² \$26,000/mth (ref: 19091008)

[Macau] Keng Ou 3 1/2 3 1/2
2,352 ft² \$38,000/mth (ref: 19091000)

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

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TRUMPS HAND OUT HALLOWEEN CANDY, GREET KIDS AT WHITE HOUSE



PRESIDENT Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump have handed out candy to hundreds of military families and local schoolchildren as the White House got a head start on Halloween.

The children dressed up as astronauts, military officers, pirates and dinosaurs as they greeted the president and first lady one-by-one. The Air Force Strolling Strings played "Thriller" from Michael Jackson, "The Ad-

dams Family" theme song and other spooky tunes to set the mood.

A Halloween display of Black Forest trees wrapped around the columns of the South Portico, while pumpkins lined the staircases.

Several agencies were also on hand to help in the fun, with the Secret Service showing off the presidential limo known as "The Beast" and NASA displaying the suit that astronauts wear for spacewalks.



WORLD-FAMOUS BAKERY SHARES SECRETS IN A NEW BOOK

If there is such a thing as baking royalty, Apollonia Poilâne might be its queen.

The 35-year-old is a third-generation baker for the world famous Poilâne in Paris. It was founded in 1932 by Apollonia's grandfather Pierre and has inspired chefs, musicians, poets, and artists worldwide for nearly 90 years.

Now, Apollonia Poilâne is opening the company's oven doors wide with her first English-language cookbook, "Poilâne: The Secrets of the World-Famous Bread Bakery," a weighty collection of nearly 100 recipes.

The recipes that Poilâne is

most proud of are her gluten-free cornbread, developed over the course of 15 years (using a mixture of corn flour, oat milk, and flax seeds), and her late father's "bread sandwich," which consists of a piece of thin bread, buttered and toasted, sandwiched between two slices of bread.

They are just two of a number of playful recipes in a book that celebrates the many and varied uses of bread and provides a blueprint for where the company might be heading next. As Poilâne states, "my family would appreciate that there are many more doors yet to open."

BRONX STEPS IN 'JOKER' MOVIE BECOME A TOURIST ATTRACTION

MOVE over, Rocky, there's a new stairway to climb.

A set of outdoor steps in the Bronx has become a tourist attraction in recent weeks since the release of the movie "Joker."

The stairs are between two buildings on Shakespeare Avenue, about a half-mile from Yankee Stadium.

In the movie, lead actor Joaquin Phoenix dances as he goes down the steps, wearing a bright red suit and clown makeup.

These days, neighborhood residents using the steps are being joined by tourists trying to recreate the scene.



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DOUG FERGUSON

GOLF | ANALYSIS

Woods tied with Snead, and no one else is close

THE toughest competition for Tiger Woods has always been history.

What captured the public's attention when Woods won the first of his 15 majors, the 1997 Masters, was whether he could match or beat the 18 majors won by Jack Nicklaus, long considered the gold standard in golf. That remains the ultimate target.

Until then, he landed a big one in Japan.

Woods was coming off a two-month break that began with a fifth surgery on his left knee, this one to repair minor cartilage damage. He opened his new season with three straight bogeys, and then followed with 27 birdies to win the Zozo Championship by three shots. It was his 82nd career victory, tying the record Sam Snead established in 1965, 10 years before Woods was born.

That's three victories in 13 months, and no indication it will be the last one.

"The ball-striking exhibition I've seen the last two days is a joke," said U.S. Open champion Gary Woodland, who played the final two rounds with Woods on a rain-soaked course northeast of Tokyo. "I don't see him stopping anytime soon. Eighty-two is pretty special. I think there's a lot more in store."

Expect plenty of debate until Woods makes it 83 and has the record to himself.

Snead always argued he won more than 82 times during his seemingly ageless career that stretched across three decades. He also has team events, like the Inverness Four-Ball Invitational, counted among his official tally.

The PGA of America ran tournament golf in Snead's time and there wasn't a standard tour

AP PHOTO



schedule like there is now. The PGA Tour researched the records and settled on 82 wins for Snead. Whatever arguments are made, that's the official mark.

That's what Woods matched, an astonishing feat considering the litany of obstacles he has faced — five surgeries on his knee, four surgeries on his back, the embarrassment of being caught in a personal scandal that cost him his marriage and universal corporate support, a mug shot from his DUI arrest two years ago

when he mixed pain medications.

"It's satisfying to dig my way out of it and figure out a way," Woods said. "There are some hard times trying to figure it out, but I've come back with different games over the years, moving patterns, and this one's been obviously the most challenging."

Woods has been linked with Nicklaus his entire career. He has been mentioned alongside Byron Nelson, not only for breaking his record for consecutive cuts, but for twice getting at least hal-

fway to Nelson's unthinkable 11 straight victories. Woods reached seven in a row on the PGA Tour through 2006 at Torrey Pines.

But the better measure of his greatness is not the legends Woods is chasing.

It's the players he is beating.

Generations are tough to compare even with simple numbers like 18 and 82. The game, the courses, the equipment, everything evolves. No one will ever know how Woods stacked up against Snead, Nelson, Ben Hogan or Bo-

bby Jones. No one can say how Nicklaus would fare against today's generation.

What made Snead's record 82 victories even more impressive than the number alone was that no one else was close to him. When he won the last of his official victories at the Greater Greensboro Open in 1965, only two other players had more than 50 career wins — Hogan (64) and Nelson (52).

Woods now has 82 victories.

That's more than Phil Mickelson (44) and Vijay Singh (34) combined. The other Hall of Famer from his generation is Ernie Els, who traveled and won worldwide but has 19 victories on the PGA Tour.

They all had access to the same game. Woods played better than anyone imagined.

Even after going through so many injuries that led to Woods going five years without a victory, his winning rate is still 22.8%. That's the highest ever for the PGA Tour with a minimum of 200 tournaments. Hogan is next at 21.3%, followed by Nelson at 18.1%. Nicklaus is sixth at 12.2%.

Dustin Johnson, the winningest player of this generation, with 20 PGA Tour titles, has a winning rate of 7.7%.

PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan was in Japan and could only think, "Wow," when he considered what Woods had done — and if it will ever be seen again.

"I'm a never-say-never kind of person, but you start looking back — the longevity, the consistency, what goes into it," Monahan said. "You start looking at some of the underlying elements like the 142 consecutive cuts, the seven tournaments that he won five times or more, 11-time Player of the Year, all the stuff that you've documented."

"It's just hard to imagine anybody doing that again." AP

RUGBY WORLD CUP

French referee Garces to handle final

JEROME Garces will become the first Frenchman to referee a Rugby World Cup final when he takes charge of Saturday's title match between England and South Africa in Yokohama.

South Africa has only won two of its last 11 test matches refereed by Garces, although one of them was the 19-16 semifinal victory over Wales last Sunday.

A group of fans in South Africa last week launched an online petition to have the semifinal referee appointments changed, but Garces handled the

game without any incident and there were no contentious calls in the game.

Scrumhalf Faf de Klerk found out about the appointment while he was answering questions at a news conference this week, and was diplomatic about World Rugby's decision.

"He traditionally is a good referee," de Klerk said. "We can learn from (the semifinal) on how he sees things, and how he officiates scrums and mauls. Got to make sure we don't get on his wrong side."

"We're just going to let him do his thing. If we let

the referee do his job, the game should flow."

It will be Garces' 11th World Cup match, and his 55th test match as a referee.

Garces' assistants will be Romain Poite, also from France, and Ben O'Keefe of New Zealand. New Zealander Ben Skeen will be the Television Match Official.

"I'm honored and delighted," Garces said. "It's a dream as a referee."

English referee Wayne Barnes will take charge of the bronze-medal playoff between New Zealand and Wales at Tokyo Stadium on Friday. It will be his 90th

test match, and his 21st at Rugby World Cup.

Jaco Peyper returns to official duties as an assistant referee, along with Pascal Gauzere of France, in the third-place game.

Peyper was overlooked for appointments in the semifinals after a photo of him with Welsh fans, making an elbow gesture which apparently ridiculed one of his decisions in Wales' comeback quarterfinal win over France, caused a stir on social media. His fellow South African, Marius Jonker, will be TMO. AP

AP PHOTO



Referee Jerome Garces

OPINION

Animal Farm

Albano Martins



SO POWERFUL AND SO POOR!

Sometimes I think that there are very unusual things going on in this world, such as the wrath of Mother Nature, increasingly sour with her s.o.b. children.

Thirty-nine people died in a lorry in the U.K. looking for El Dorado.

Man is miserable and is making the world in its image, despite supposedly being made in the image of God.

It seems that evil comes from all over – churches, governments, parties, the globalized and dehumanized business world, and what counts is the dollar sign and not the people, nature or our animal partners.

There are presidents who believe that what is happening in this world are mere mirages in their desert of ideas.

In Macau, we continue to push the “city” with a full belly but an empty head.

We do not find the beauty in our streets, nor any pleasure in seeing things organized, practical and done in an acceptable and timely manner.

A cost-benefit analysis would make almost every intervention a painful exercise of deficit, not of ideas, but of results. Arriving at Macau through the Outer Harbor, we come across third-world taxi drivers and the dirty entrance of a car park with walls wishing for a fresh coat of paint, for almost decades.

Then we see the Guia tunnel, which should have two very clear continuous lines in the middle, but instead has traffic barriers, a sign of the infantilism that rules our roads.

We descend upon Avenida da Amizade towards the city center, and we see the same traffic barriers. Everywhere there are traffic barriers on the road!

There are streets which have been closed for ages, and we just cannot understand why.

Everything is turned into a permanent shipyard, even where there is no work. This is a sign that there is no imagination or competence put to solving very simple problems.

If these simple problems have gone unresolved for decades, now imagine the complication of joining the Greater Bay altogether.

The Greater Bay Area would see people moving around, cars coming and going, the search for the best consumer goods, or the best port, synergies that can multiply everyone’s added value, different tax systems, different laws, different people (although mostly Chinese). It would have a huge potential!

Instead, we have cars with triple-license plates, expensive bridges used in quota systems where only those who have authorization have access, a CEPA deal that fills an entire library locked down by bureaucracy and the fear of trade.

After all, what is wanted is simply “control.”

This is control against the contamination of systems and people.

We have a country with two systems that would not match up.

It seems that what will happen is simply a final exercise of pure cannibalism. Who will eat whom?

Control prevents the exponentiation of mutual advantage.

What is simple, rational, and interesting becomes complicated, and the issues that complicate this marriage of the two systems are solved only by the hammer.

This is all too irrational!

Macau without the Chinese mainland is nothing.

The people in Macau are treated childishly, in the streets, in arguments, and even in advertising!

The tourism authority would be happy if Macau to have millions of more tourists every year.

The hotel occupancy rate today is 1.5 nights per visitor and 27 years ago was almost the same, 1.22 nights!

Macau is unable to enjoy the enormous modernization effort that casinos brought to this land.

Barcelona with eight million visitors no longer wants more tourism.

Venice is desperate with 30 million tourists.

But Macau will only be pleased when no one can move at all!

SWISS LAMENT GLACIER MELTING AS UN FOCUSES ON MOUNTAINS

THE BUZZ

A Swiss minister says over 10% of the Alpine country’s glaciers have been lost over the last five years — a depletion not seen in over a century — as the U.N.’s weather agency opened its first-ever meeting on how climate change is affecting mountains.

Minister for Home Affairs Alain Berset cited the “urgency” of the World Meteorological Organization meeting for his country, where mountains make up two-thirds of Switzerland’s territory.

The meeting, which runs Tuesday through Thursday, brings

together 150 experts to examine mountain glaciers, snow and permafrost — which regulate fresh water resources for about half of the world’s population — and find key areas in which to take quick action.

Changes in mountain zones have raised the risks of flooding, mudslides and landslides.

Berset said Switzerland has “completely” lost 500 glaciers since the start of the 20th century.

NUMBER OF KIDS ON YOUTUBE SOARS

AP PHOTO



THE number of young Americans watching online videos every day has more than doubled, according to survey findings released yesterday. They’re glued to them for nearly an hour a day, twice as long as they were four years ago.

And often, the survey found, they’re seeing the videos on services such as YouTube that are supposedly off limits to children younger than age 13.

“It really is the air they breathe,” said Michael Robb, senior director of research for Common Sense Media, the nonprofit organization that issued the report.

The group tracks young people’s tech habits and offers guidance for parents.

The survey of American youth included the responses of 1,677 young people, ages 8 to 18. Among other things, it found that 56% of 8- to 12-year-olds and 69% of 13- to 18-year-olds watch online videos every day. In 2015, the last time the survey was conducted, those figures were 24% and 34%, respectively. The margin of error was plus or minus 2.8 percentage points.

Overall screen time hasn’t changed much in those four years, the survey found. The average tween, ages 8 to 12 for the purposes of this survey, spent four hours and 44 minutes with entertainment media on digital devices each day. For teens, it was se-

ven hours and 22 minutes. That did not include the time using devices for homework, reading books or listening to music.

But the findings on video-watching indicate just how quickly this generation is shifting from traditional television to streaming services, of-

The findings indicate just how quickly this generation is shifting from traditional television to streaming services

ten viewed on smartphones, tablets and laptops. Among the teens surveyed, only a third said they enjoyed watching traditional television programming “a lot,” compared with 45% four years ago. Half of tweens said the same, compared with 61% in the last survey.

YouTube was their overwhelming first choice for online videos, even among the tweens who were surveyed — three-quarters of whom say they use the site despite age restrictions. Only 23% in that age group said they watch YouTube Kids, a separate service aimed at them and even younger children. And of those, most still said they preferred regular YouTube.

“It puts a lot of pressure on a parent to figure out what they can reasonably

filter,” Robb said.

When presented with the findings, YouTube said that, in the coming months, it will share details on ways the company is rethinking its approach to kids and families.

For now, Farshad Shadloo, a spokesperson for YouTube, a subsidiary of Google, reiterated the company’s terms of use on age: “YouTube is not a site for people under 13.” Among other things, the company also cited its restriction filters and YouTube Kids.

Even so, many children with online access are adept at getting access to regular YouTube or

other streaming content — partly because their parents are overwhelmed, said Sarah Domoff, an assistant professor of clinical psychology at Central Michigan University who studies tech’s impact on youth and families.

Those parents could certainly be doing more to track screen time, she said. But, as she sees it, filters on services such as YouTube also aren’t adequate.

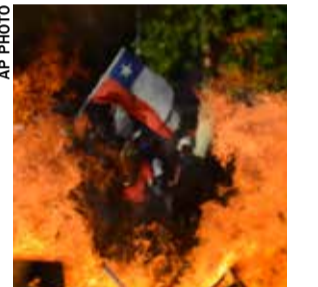
“It’s really hard to block out certain things unless you’re really standing over your child,” Domoff said. That’s especially hard to do when devices are portable.

Some are skeptical about how much YouTube will really change a service that easily leads its users, young and old alike, down a “rabbit hole” of video content, much of it created by everyday people. **MDT/AP**

Australia A judge sentenced a man to 36 years in prison yesterday for the murder and rape of an Israeli student whom he bludgeoned into unconsciousness moments after she stepped off a tram in Melbourne before setting her corpse on fire.

Armenia Russia’s defense minister visited Armenia yesterday for talks about military cooperation between the ex-Soviet allies. Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu hailed Armenia, which hosts a Russian military base, as Moscow’s “key partner.”

AP PHOTO



Chile Fresh protests and attacks on businesses erupted in Chile Monday despite President Sebastián Piñera’s replacement of eight key Cabinet ministers with more centrist figures and his attempts to assure the country he has heard calls for greater equality and improved social services.

AP PHOTO



UK Labor leader Jeremy Corbyn (pictured) says “we’re going out there to win” in the early election that Britain is now likely to hold in December.

US A military officer at the National Security Council twice raised concerns over the Trump administration’s push to have Ukraine investigate Democrats and Joe Biden.

AP PHOTO



US Robert Evans, the protean, fast-living Hollywood producer and former Paramount Pictures production chief who backed such seminal 1970s films as “Chinatown,” “The Godfather” and “Harold and Maude,” has died. He was 89.