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THE MONETARY AUTHORITY HAS CUT ITS BENCHMARK INTEREST RATE BY 25 BASIS POINTS, FOLLOWING AN IDENTICAL DECISION SIX WEEKS AGO

P2

STOCK EXCHANGE CHIEF SAYS CHINA'S LACK OF TRUST HURT HK EXPERIMENT

P9

CHINA SAID TO OFFER RENDEZVOUS IN MACAU FOR TRUMP TRADE DEAL, ACCORDING TO A FOX NEWS REPORT

P5

AP PHOTO



China Hackers with a history of state-sponsored espionage have intercepted the text messages of thousands of foreigners in a targeted campaign that planted eavesdropping software on a telecommunications provider's servers, a cybersecurity firm said. More on p12

China said last night that reports that a professor leading a Beijing-backed language and culture institute in Belgium was involved in spying are untrue. More on p12

AP PHOTO



Pakistan A raging fire swept through a train in Pakistan's eastern Punjab Province yesterday killing 74 people and survivors said afterward it took nearly 20 minutes for the train to stop amid contradictory reports about the condition of the train's brakes. More on p14

AP PHOTO



Japan A fire broke out early yesterday and spread quickly through historic Shuri Castle on Japan's southern island of Okinawa, nearly destroying the UNESCO World Heritage site. Firefighters battled the blaze for about 12 hours before bringing it under control in the afternoon.

North Korea fired two projectiles into its eastern sea, an apparent resumption of weapons tests aimed at ramping up pressure on Washington over a stalemate in nuclear negotiations, according to officials in South Korea and Japan.

More on backpage

ONE PATAACA, TWO SYSTEMS

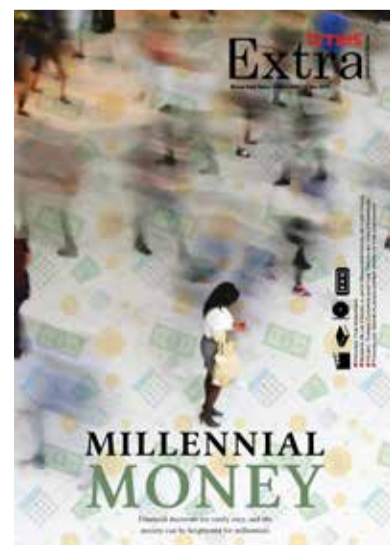
THE CHINESE CHARACTER OF THE WORD PATAACA ON BANKNOTES ISSUED BY THE BANK OF CHINA RAISES QUESTIONS AT A LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SPECIALIZED COMMITTEE – AND BUZZ ON SOCIAL MEDIA. THE MONETARY AUTHORITY SEES NO PROBLEM

P2



UK PARTIES SPAR IN ELECTION THAT MAY SETTLE BREXIT – OR NOT

P15



Financial decisions are rarely easy, and the anxiety can be heightened for millennials

times Extra

AL COMMITTEE RAISES QUESTIONS ON MOP CHINESE NAME IN BOC NOTES

ANTHONY LAM

A Chinese character on banknotes issued by the Bank of China, Macau Branch has raised concerns about the notes being printed differently from that outlined in the Basic Law, cited minutes of a Legislative Assembly Committee meeting.

The Committee Following-up Public Finance Affairs issued the minutes on August 5. The minutes detailed the discussion on budget execution in 2018 by the Executive branch.

Item 40 of the minutes was highlighted by social media users speculating that the issue may invalidate the money as legal tender. The item stresses that the legal tender in Macau, pursuant to the Basic Law, is 澳門元 (Ou Mun Yuen). In the item, the committee urged the government to adopt the correct term in the future.

This has given rise to concerns about the legal tender printed by the Bank of China, Macau Branch, as a different term is used on the notes. The term the bank uses is 澳門幣 (Ou Mun Pai), and it is printed on all the banknotes the bank issues.

Legally, pursuant to Article 4 of the Decree-law No. 7/95/M, the legal tender in Macau is called the Macau pataca in Portuguese, and designated as MOP in the ISO 4217 list of international currency codes. According to the legislation, the official name in Chinese is Ou Mun Pai, as pronounced in Canto-



Item 40 of the minutes which refers to Article 108 of the Basic Law

nese, which literally means "Macau currency" in English.

As a constitutional document, the Basic Law is the foundation of the Macau legal system. Any law that contradicts the Basic Law requires revision or nullification.

The Monetary Authority of Macao, in response to the Times' inquiry on the matter, cited the provisions in both laws, adding that Law No. 1/1999 did not expressly discuss the different terms for the currency.

In response they explained that, in the Monetary Authority's understanding, both Ou Mun Yuen and Ou Mun Pai are different only in name. The Authority does not see any difference in their nature.

Technically, the Authority remarked, the Chinese character 幣 (Pai) is used for general references

to currency or money.

Macau lawyer Vitor Tang holds a similar view. "Considering the issue to be a potential breach of the Basic Law may be a bit of an exaggeration," the lawyer said.

The Basic Law provision may have been there to ensure the smooth transition of power between two sovereign states, Tang postulated.

"The exact wording of the Article is 'The Macao Pataca, as the legal tender in the Macao Special Administrative Region, shall continue to circulate,' which I believe focused more on the continuation of the currency, instead of what it should be called," Tang said.

"At that time, ensuring no fluctuation occurred in the financial market was prominent," the lawyer added.

The lawyer also cited other laws that refer to the currency as Ou Mun Pai as examples of the widespread use of the term.

The same thing occurred in Hong Kong. The Hong Kong Basic Law uses Heung Kong Yuen, not Heung Kong Pai, to refer to the currency. However, "Kong Pai" (an abbreviation for Hong Kong Dollar in Chinese) is printed on the paper money.

"So, if it affects the Macau currency, it affects the Hong Kong one too," said Tang.

Considering the issue from another perspective, Tang thinks this problem may have been caused by something being "lost in translation." A mere word choice may be the root of the issue.

It is worth pointing out that when Macau was under Portuguese administration, written Chinese

was not even an official language of Macau until 1991.

Before 1999, when all laws were written in Portuguese, the currency would only be referred to as "pataca." The Chinese name may have become ambiguous, as both Pai and Yuen mean money.

Nonetheless, Tang pointed out that some laws were written in both languages even before 1999. In these laws, Ou Mun Pai was used to refer to the currency.

The lawyer pointed out that the 20th anniversary commemorative banknote used Ou Mun Yuen. An Executive Decree was issued in March, far earlier than the minutes of the Legislative Committee.

Prior to the actual issuing of paper money, the design and other specifications were to be determined by an Executive Decree. In the Executive Decree, the currency is referred to in Chinese as Ou Mun Pai, not Ou Mun Yuen.

"I don't think the matter can be raised up to the level of violating the Basic Law," Tang reiterated.

The legal tender of Macau is not issued by its de-facto central bank, the Monetary Authority of Macao. It is issued, under the authority's commission, by two commercial banks: the Bank of China and Banco Nacional Ultramarino. The latter has never explicitly used either of the full Chinese terms on their banknotes.

The Bank of China was also contacted for comment, but no response was received by press time.

Macau cuts benchmark interest rate for third time this year

DANIEL BEITLER

THE Monetary Authority of Macao (AMCM) has cut its benchmark interest rate by 25 basis points, following an identical decision six weeks ago.

Yesterday's lowering of the base rate to 2.0% is the third cut since the start of the year.

The quarter-point move follows the lead of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), which cut its benchmark interest rate yesterday in response to the U.S. Federal Reserve's reduction

in borrowing costs.

The Hong Kong dollar is pegged to the U.S. dollar in a band that ranges between HKD7.75 and 7.85 to the U.S. dollar. In turn, the Macau pataca is fixed to the Hong Kong dollar at an exchange rate of 1.03. As the Hong Kong dollar is pegged to the greenback, both special administrative regions essentially import U.S. monetary policy, although local banks are not obliged to follow with lower retail costs.

In a statement issued yesterday, the AMCM noted

that the policy rates in Hong Kong and Macau "should be basically consistent in order to maintain the effective operation of the linked exchange rate system."

Bloomberg reported that the move is unlikely to have much bearing on the local cost of borrowing, as lenders don't necessarily pass on the rate to their customers.

"It is hard to say whether the Hong Kong interbank rates may follow the U.S. rate," HKMA Chief Executive Eddie Yue said at a briefing yesterday. "However, the U.S. rate cut does reflect

the downward pressure on the global economy, to which Hong Kong is not immune."

"Looking ahead, we expect there's still downward pressure on the U.S. rate," said George Leung, HSBC Holdings' Asia-Pacific adviser, at a separate briefing held yesterday. "This is likely to make the operating environment for banks like HSBC more challenging in the future, but we hope that it will bring some relief to our customers and maybe a little bit of sunshine to the gloomy economic outlook."



DANIEL BEITLER

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Times

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF (DIRECTOR) Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
MANAGING EDITOR Daniel Beitler daniel@macaudailytimes.com
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Eric Sautedé, Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Anthony Lam, Emilie Tran, Irene Sam, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Julie Zhu, Juliet Risdon, Linda Kennedy, Lynzy Valles, Paulo Cordeiro de Sousa, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Viviana Segui
DESIGNERS Eva Bucho, Miguel Bandeira | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES Associated Press, Bloomberg, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua
SECRETARY Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

SEND NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND PRESS RELEASES TO: NEWSROOM@MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM WEBSITE: WWW.MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM.MO

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com
OFFICE MANAGER Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com
ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephone: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84
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10:00 for 10KM Family & Fun Course (Arrival time: 08:45am)
Cut off at 04:00pm

時間

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20公里體驗線 於早上九時正開始 (抵達時間: 早上七時四十五分)
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GAMING | LAS VEGAS

MGM SETS YEAR-END TARGET FOR MGM GRAND SALE



MGM Resorts International expects to announce a buyer for its flagship MGM Grand resort in Las Vegas by the end of year, marking one of the final steps toward its goal of becoming an "asset-light" casino operator.

The company agreed this month to sell the Bellagio resort in Las Vegas to Blackstone Group in a \$4.25 billion deal under which MGM will continue to manage the property. MGM is also selling its Circus Circus casino in the city

to real estate mogul Phil Ruffin.

Chief Executive Officer Jim Murren said on a conference call Wednesday that he'll use the proceeds from the MGM Grand sale to reduce debt and invest in new growth opportunities, including

a potential \$10 billion casino in Japan and sports betting in the U.S.

The company's transition should result in higher free cash flow per share and a more flexible financial structure that allows MGM to better capitalize on its strengths as a casino developer and manager, Murren said.

MGM Resorts is continuing to evaluate the sale of its remaining real estate assets -- including CityCenter, a joint venture with Dubai World that owns the Aria resort in Las Vegas. The company also plans to reduce its majority stake in MGM Growth Properties, a real estate investment trust, Murren said.

A half-dozen large real estate investors considered buying the Bellagio before Blackstone won out, according to Murren. He said the company is committed to reducing its stake in MGM Growth Properties to under 50% or less. The REIT could be a buyer of the MGM Grand.

"If it came down to a transac-

tion between a third party and MGP, we're always going to favor MGP in a close race," Murren said.

The company has been under pressure from activist investors to boost its stock price over the past few years. Murren has taken steps to do so, including two rounds of companywide cost cutting.

In 2016, the company put the bulk of its properties into MGM Growth. That entity also has an option to purchase a Massachusetts casino, the MGM Springfield, which will become the company's last wholly owned casino in the U.S. once the MGM Grand sale is completed.

Separately, MGM reported third-quarter sales that fell short of analysts' estimates as result of fewer Asian visitors playing baccarat in Las Vegas. Profit beat expectations on the acquisition of new regional casinos and the addition of new high-roller suites in Macau.

The shares were up 1.3% to \$29 in extended trading. The stock initially fell, but recovered after the MGM Grand sale plan was announced.

Murren reiterated his target of as much as \$3.9 billion in earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization next year. **BLOOMBERG**

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DANIEL BEITLER

ONE YEAR, TWO VISITS

China said to offer rendezvous in Macau for Trump trade deal

U.S. President Donald Trump was expected to sign an interim trade deal with his Chinese counterpart President Xi Jinping during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Chile. However, the summit was unexpectedly cancelled due to the social unrest rocking the South American country, leaving the two parties scrambling to find an alternative location.

Now Macau is being touted as a possible substitute, according to U.S. media reports.

It wasn't clear whether U.S. officials would be able to find an alternate venue for the meeting with Xi, and APEC summit organizers had indicated that they had no plans to hold the event elsewhere.

Citing a trade source familiar with the issue, U.S.-based network Fox News reported that China has suggested Macau as a possible replacement venue.

This suggestion has not been corroborated by another source, but Bloomberg reported that three people familiar with the state of U.S.-China discussions said that the teams have been looking at other locations in recent weeks and that China could be among them.

Meanwhile, Wei Jianguo, former vice minister of the Ministry of Commerce and current vice president of China Center for International Economic Exchanges, played down the effect of the cancellation at a press briefing in Singapore yesterday.

"I don't think the cancellation of the APEC meeting will have any impact on the U.S.-China trade deal," said Wei. "The venue could move to China, the U.S., or any third-party country. The two sides will surely talk about it."

A nexus of Chinese-American business interests, the casino enclave Macau is thought to be particularly vulnerable to any fallout from the trade war.

The symbolic venue of Macau would serve as a reminder to the U.S. of what is at stake if trade talks break down. It is where big Republican backers, like Sheldon Adelson of Las Vegas Sands make most of their money. It is also where Trump was part of consor-

BLOOMBERG



tium of billionaire investors that unsuccessfully bid for a casino license, back in 2001.

Though it is yet to be confirmed by official sources, it is widely speculated that Xi will visit Macau in late December to preside over commemorative activities

marking the 20th anniversary of the Macau Special Administrative Region. The Chinese president embarked on a three-day visit to Hong Kong in June 2017 to celebrate the neighboring city's milestone 20th anniversary.

December 15, just five days

prior to the handover celebrations, may provide to be a critical date in the coming months. That is when new U.S. tariffs on Chinese imports, such as laptops, toys and electronics, are scheduled to begin, but an agreement signed beforehand could avert them.

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MUST RESEARCH SHOWS PREFERENCE FOR CURRENT FREE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

RESEARCH into Macau's healthcare system conducted by the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) showed that two-thirds of respondents expect existing systems of free medical care to be retained.

Commissioned by the Health Bureau (SSM), the research team consists of scholars from Macau, mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and the U.S.

By way of questionnaire-

-based surveys and interviews, MUST received a total of 3,005 valid responses. The team also conducted interviews with representatives from government bodies, residents with special needs, medical groups, industry experts and others.

Some 66% of respondents want further efficiencies and improvements to Macau's current free healthcare system.

According to the research, at this stage, Macau's healthcare

system has distinct strengths in its coverage, effectiveness and cost control.

"In terms of safeguarding health, [the Macau healthcare system] provides free access to basic health services for all [residents], demonstrates high efficiency and high precision, and therefore is capable of establishing a protection network for all citizens in a low-cost, highly efficient fashion. [...] Such a healthcare system that benefits

all people is the best choice for the needs of Macau," the research team wrote.

The research team recommends that the government take two measures to improve the existing health care system. These are "encouraging and promoting voluntary private medical insurance through issuing insurance vouchers" and "setting up a disaster-relief medical fund" for people who are not entitled free specialist me-

dical services.

Following the announcement of MUST's research results, the SSM said that the bureau plans to carry out a detailed analysis of the conclusions and recommendations published in the report. The SSM also emphasized that at present, the majority of Macau residents enjoy free healthcare, and if the residents are asked to purchase insurance, there will be discontent. **JZ**

UM delegation visits Portuguese universities

A delegation from the University of Macau (UM) led by Rector Yonghua Song recently visited universities in Portugal. The UM delegation met with heads of the Portuguese universities led by University of Lisbon (ULisboa) Rector António Manuel da Cruz Serra, with the aim of strengthening collaboration between UM and Portuguese universities.

During the meeting, Song said that forging a long-term collaborative relationship with universities in Portuguese-speaking countries is a core part of UM's global strategy. Cruz Serra said the university would be happy to carry out full-scale strategic collaboration with UM. Both parties discussed

various matters, including teaching, research, and faculty and student exchange. Both parties also agreed to strengthen collaboration in areas such as clinical medicine, public health, dentistry and psychiatry.

Three ULisboa vice rectors, as well as representatives of UM's Faculty of Science and Technology, Faculty of Business Administration, Faculty of Health Sciences, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, and Faculty of Law also joined the meeting. The delegation later visited ULisboa's Institute for Systems and Robotics.

The UM delegation also visited the University of Coimbra (UC) and was received by its vice rector Cristina Al-

buquerque. During the meeting, Albuquerque expressed her hope of strengthening collaboration with UM through faculty and student exchange, launching dual-degree programs and research. Song presented UM's developments in recent years, adding that priority would be given to finalizing the details of UM's collaboration with UC.

The UM delegation also visited Manuel Heitor, Portugal's minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education; Cai Run, China's ambassador to Portugal; and O Tin Lin, director of the Macau Economic and Trade Office in Lisbon. The delegation additionally visited the University of Porto and the University of Minho.

PACKAGE TOUR VISITORS DROP 35% IN SEPTEMBER

PACKAGE tour visitors dropped 35.7% year-on-year in September, official data released yesterday showed, rounding out the first three quarters of the year with a 4.5% contraction.

According to the data released by the Statistics and Census Service, the number of package tour visitors in September amounted to 448,000. Apart from an increase in package tour visitors from Malaysia (4,300), all other countries and territories registered decreases, with those from mainland China (323,000), South Korea (32,000), Hong Kong (6,600) and Taiwan (58,000) dropping by 39.8%, 37.6%, 29.9% and 3% respectively.

September package tour arrivals bring the total number for the first three quarters of 2019 to over 6.79 million. Data released earlier in October showed that total visitor arrivals for the first three quarters had surpassed the 30-million



mark, representing growth of 17% year-on-year. The growth was led by a 30.6% surge in the number of same-day visitors to 15.93 million.

At the end of the third quarter, there were 121 hotels and guesthouses operating in Macau. The number of available guest rooms edged down by 0.6% year-on-year, on account of a 7.3% drop in the number of four-star hotel rooms. The number of five-star hotel rooms held steady at 25,000, accounting for the majority of Macau's 39,000 rooms in total.

At the same time, the city's guest rooms hosted 1.11

million visitors in September, up by 2% year-on-year. Guests coming from South Korea (42,000), Hong Kong (153,000) and Taiwan (44,000) rose by 5.5%, 30.9% and 7.7% respectively, while those from mainland China (754,000) inched down by 0.7%.

In the first three quarters of 2019, guests of hotels and guesthouses totaled 10.54 million, up by 1.7% year-on-year. The average occupancy rate of hotels and guesthouses rose marginally by 0.4 percentage points to 90.8%, while the average length of stay of guests remained stable at 1.5 nights. **DB**

Anima: Proposed IAM bill could lead to shut down of slaughterhouses

LYNZY VALLES

ANIMAL rights activist Albano Martins said that the Municipal Affairs Bureau's (IAM) proposed bill to euthanize animals as a last resort to prevent animal diseases could be a way of achieving its goal of shutting down the city's slaughterhouses.

On Wednesday, Secretary for Administration and Justice Sonia Chan and IAM representatives presented the veterinary disease prevention bill, which suggested that IAM authorize the right to euthanize animals when necessary.

Speaking to the Times, Martins said that he agrees with the move, stressing that live animals should not be slaughtered in the region, as it uses substandard methods to kill these animals.

The president of Anima Macau recalled that back in August, the organization had already said that by 2020, it would target the shut-down of the SAR's slaughterhouses due to their poor performance and the need for space.

Martins had previously said that the slaughterhouses in Macau were not profitable and that they were already making losses amounting to some MOP20 million.

"We don't need to have these live animals including pigs [...] sent to Macau. I don't believe that



this [proposed bill] is anything related to pets," Martins told the Times.

"It's more related [to] birds, pigs and this, for me, is good if they are concerned about it, because that is one of our fights – to close the slaughterhouses in Macau. There is no reason for these places to exist in Macau," he said.

Although the bill was not clear on which animals would be allowed to be euthanized, lawmakers have expressed their concerns about euthanasia on Wednesday.

Lawmakers, including Agnes Lam and Sulu Sou, mainly asked about government measures for strictly implementing the law when ani-

mals must be euthanized.

Others have questioned whether the government has had discussions with animal protection groups on whether they agree with the move.

As discussed at the Legislative Assembly, the animals received by IAM will first be sent into quarantine, followed by close monitoring of the animals' health and condition.

If medical treatment fails, euthanasia will become IAM's last option.

Anima's head clarified that they do not support the killing of animals, except for animals that may easily spread diseases such as swine flu.

Thus, he stressed that it is not

recommended that the region to have a slaughterhouse.

"Killing birds and pigs is normal, especially if they are spreading epidemic. But even if there is a law for that, it will not affect pets because pets do not create those problems," Martins said.

"It is dangerous to have a slaughterhouse in Macau because the way they work is far removed from modern techniques," he added.

In 2001, 40,000 birds were slaughtered after the detection of the H5N1 virus in two geese imported from the mainland. The government also culled 7,500 chickens in 2014, after discovering H7-type avian influenza in live poultry for the first time.

DSPA SETS UP PLASTIC BOTTLE RECYCLING MACHINES

The Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA) has set up plastic bottle recycling machines all over town. This is the first phase of the roll-out of this type of recycling facility. One machine will be located in the lobby of DSPA, one in Ilha Verde area and one in Seac Pai Van. According to DSPA, the plastic bottle recycling machines can take cleaned plastic bottles of less than 1.5 liters in volume and less than 12 centimeters in diameter. The paper with the barcode attached must be removed before the bottle is deposited. In order to use the machines, the barcode must be scanned so that the bottle type and weight can be automatically identified by the machine. If the bottle exceeds the standard weight, the machine will reject the bottle, indicating that there is still residue left inside the bottle.

MAINLAND MAN FOUND CARRYING A BULLET

The police authority has transferred a mainland man to the prosecution authority because he was found carrying a bullet. According to the Public Security Police Force (PSP), earlier this week, the 30-year-old mainland man and self-identified businessman flew from Macau to Hainan. At the airport, security personnel found a bullet in his carry-on luggage. The man said that the bullet was a gift from his friend to ward off evil spirits. He claimed that the substance inside the bullet was cinnabar. PSP had not confirmed the nature of the substance as of press time.

MAN FABRICATED TWO MARRIAGES

The Public Security Police Force (PSP) has identified two sham marriages, both registered by one local man. The suspect is a 58-year-old local resident who works as a security guard. PSP discovered that he had registered a marriage with a mainland woman in 2007. The woman then gave birth to a girl in March of the same year. The two divorced in 2012, and by this time both the woman and her child had obtained Macau IDs. The man then married another woman in 2014. The woman involved in the first marriage denied accusations and refused to participate in a DNA test which her daughter and the suspect undertook. PSP is still investigating the whereabouts of the second woman.

MGTO refutes existence of rude campers

JULIE ZHU

THE local government has indicated that tourists using camping facilities in Macau were well-behaved, according to a statement released by the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) and the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM).

Last month, local media reported that there were complaints from some Macau residents regarding tourists occupying Macau's camping spaces and leaving a mess behind.

The government statement explains that Ha Sac Beach Campsite provides space for a total of 108 tents divided into three zones (zones A, B,

C). During the holidays, two additional temporary camping areas are set up, increasing the total number of spaces to over 200.

Zone C is exclusive to Macau residents. Local residents can make reservations for campsites, whereas non-local residents cannot, which means that non-local residents can only use the camp by visiting the site and choosing a space on the same day.

Responding to the accusations against tourists, the bureau said that during Chinese National Day, no disturbance of other people, impact on the hygiene at the campsite or camping outside of the camp area were



found at the camp.

The Macau-resident exclusive Zone C was not full during the holiday. The temporary camping spaces were only used on October 1 and October 5, indicating that the camp was not as crowded as indicated by the complainants.

In addition, the two bureaus remarked that Macau does not currently have laws banning tourists from using camping

sites, and that there is no law that currently regulates accommodation for package tours.

The local government plans to revamp the campsite and change the number of tent spaces, remove the temporary camping area to increase the space and greenery between camps, and increase the number of barbecue spaces at the venue.

Moreover, the state-

ment also explained that a leader of a group is not equivalent to a "tour guide" and that the government authority will not directly assume a group tour leader is an "illegal tour guide."

The government stated that information available on the internet is insufficient evidence to charge people with being "illegal tour guides." Macau's law stipulates that group tours must be accompanied by a tour guide, but the law does not define group tours simply by the number of people in a group, according to the statement, which also says that tourism activities promoted online do not necessarily require tour guides.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

NO WINS FOR LOCAL TEAM IN BADMINTON TOURNAMENT

LYNZY VALLES

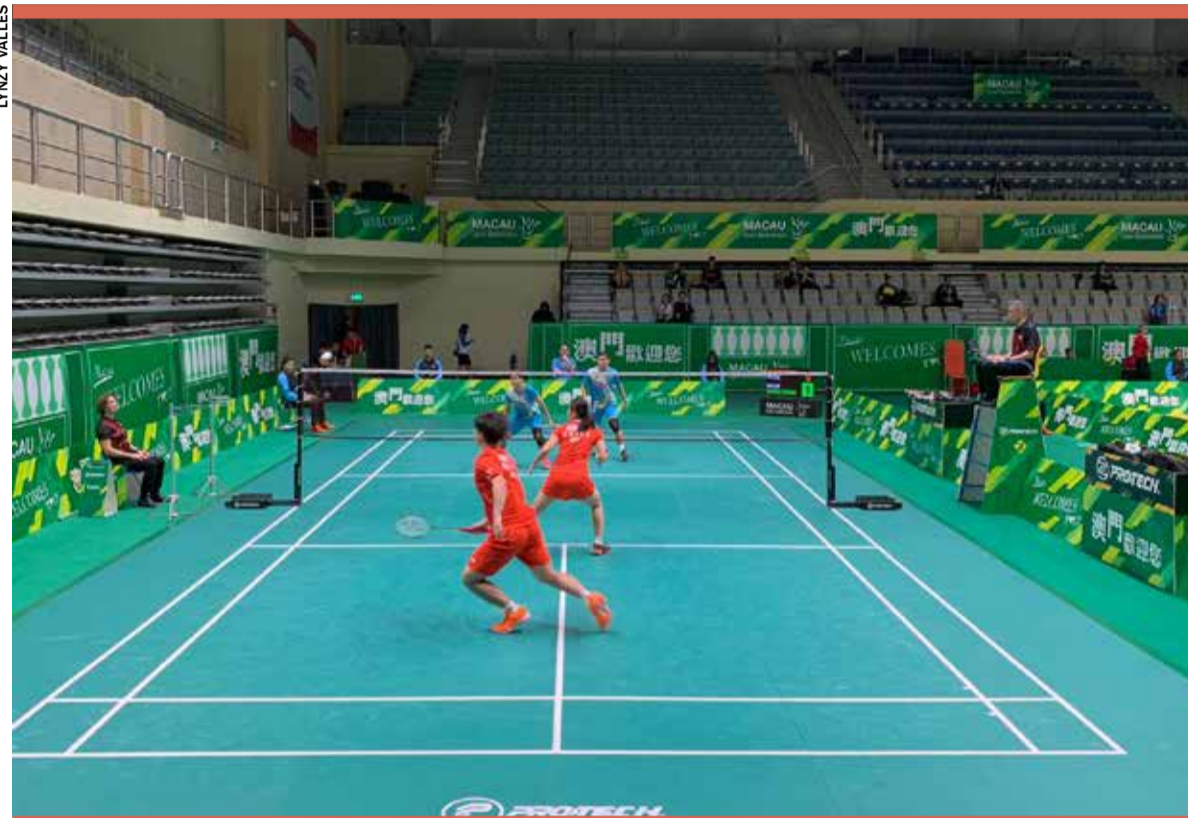
THE annual Macau Open Badminton is back until November 3, inviting approximately 280 players from 18 countries and regions to participate the tournament.

With a total cash prize of some MOP1.2 million, the event, which kicked off Tuesday, is a part of the HSBC BWF World Tour. Players can earn ranking points to qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics.

The tournament – a World Tour Super 300 event - sees players compete in the men's singles, women's singles, men's doubles, women's doubles and mixed doubles categories.

Yesterday, the tournament kicked off with the women's singles games. Canada's Michelle Li defeated Hong Kong's Leung Yuet Yee with a score of 21-17, 28-30 and 21-12.

The mixed doubles competition was held at the same time, with Thailand's Dechapol Puvananukroh and Sapsiree Taerattanachai winning against South Korea's Wang Chan and Jeong Na



Eun. They led the game 21-20 and 21-16 in the second set.

Meanwhile, five men and two women played for the Macau team in men's singles, women's doubles, men's doubles and mi-

xed doubles.

However, the local team lost the qualifying match of mixed doubles to Taipei with the scores 21-13 and 21-14. The local men's doubles team also lost to Hong

Kong with the scores 21-11 and 21-8.

The other local mixed doubles team lost to Korea with scores 21-10 and 21-9, while the women's doubles team lost to Taipei, with

the scores 21-15 and 21-12.

Macau's representative for men's singles lost to Thailand, 21-9 and 21-10.

Meanwhile, China's Shi Yu Qi, who ranks sixth globally in men's singles, and Korea's Son Wan Ho, who ranks 21st, hope to make up for lost time and opportunities to qualify for the Olympics.

Shi is currently ranked No. 54 in the Race to Tokyo standings, while Son is yet to play a tournament since the qualifying period began on April 29, 2019.

Shi had previously withdrawn from the Korea Open due to an injury, while Son injured his Achilles tendon at a domestic tournament.

Held at the Tap Seac Multipurpose Pavilion, the Macau Open Badminton was first organized in 2006.

Players come from Taiwan, Thailand, Malaysia, Korea, India, Australia and the U.S.A., among others.

The next tournament will be held in Fuzhou, China, from November 5 to 10, followed by the Yonex-Sunrise Hong Kong Open. The tournaments have an aggregate total prize money of USD700,000 and USD400,000 respectively.

As cited on the BWF World Tour website, Macau will put forward no representatives in the upcoming tournament.

AD

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ALFRED LIU

Hong Kong banking giants defy dire predictions amid protests

THERE may be protests, wafts of tear gas and the occasional burning Starbucks along the street, but inside Hong Kong's biggest financial firms the outlook for business is surprisingly status quo.

That was the takeaway this week as two banking giants in Hong Kong - HSBC Holdings Plc and Standard Chartered Plc - posted quarterly results that showed business there held up despite civil unrest. Now, one of the top experts on the financial hub is weighing in with his evaluation: Don't expect the city to lose any stature among global markets.

"It would take a huge structural change," for Hong Kong to cede its position as a financial center, K.C. Chan, the city's former secretary for financial services and the treasury, said in an interview. "That's not what I see today. The reason Hong Kong's financial markets are doing so well is because they have been serving China's economy. Has this changed? No."

Demonstrations led by pro-democracy activists have indeed disrupted local commerce and discouraged tourism, tipping the city toward a technical recession. Then there are more dire predictions: The unrest could prompt investors to move their wealth to rival hubs such as Singapore or lead major financial firms to rethink their presence in town.

But the votes of confidence by Chan and executives atop major banks in recent days underscored Hong Kong's unique position as China's gateway to international markets. The city's regulatory framework and laws, the argument goes, make it the indispensable venue for companies in the world's second-largest economy to tap capital from abroad.



That, in turn, has generated wealth in the city, drawing legions of private bankers and money managers to tend it.

"If you have your liquidity here in Hong Kong, you won't just move your money to Singapore in a flick," Chan said.

Few global companies have tied their fortunes as much to Hong Kong as London-based HSBC. When the firm posted third-quarter results Monday, it described operations in Asia as resilient. Adjusted pretax profit from Hong Kong, the bank noted, climbed 1% in the quarter to \$3 billion.

Still, HSBC took a \$90 million credit charge because of the dimming outlook for the local economy, where small- and medium-sized businesses in particular are suffering. And on Thursday it lowered its best lending

rate in the city for the first time in more than a decade, a move that the lender said should help the local economy and companies.

Some ultra-wealthy clients are drawing contingency plans for parking cash elsewhere, the company said, but very little has actually moved. Across the city, there hasn't been significant capital outflow, Hong Kong Monetary Authority Chief Executive Eddie Yue added at a briefing yesterday.

Standard Chartered said it earned more in Hong Kong, too. "Business is actually continuing to perform pretty well," Chief Financial Officer Andy Halford told Bloomberg Television on Wednesday, referring to the city. "Maybe not growing quite as much as it'd have done previously, but absolutely still growing."

Some clients, he acknowledged, have explored whether to set

up additional accounts elsewhere. For now, the number of people doing it isn't large, he said. And even if they shift money, the bank can just serve them from other locations.

To be sure, the situation is much starker for local banks, es-

pecially those catering to the residents and small businesses. Declines in home prices, office rents and the retail sector threaten to increase credit costs. Potential capital outflow and the monetary authority's intervention could squeeze net interest margins.

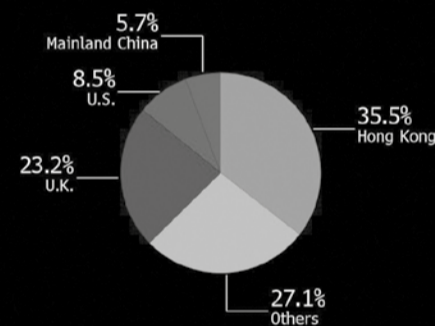
A stress test performed by analysts at JPMorgan Chase & Co. estimated lenders such as Hang Seng Bank Co. and Bank of East Asia Ltd. could see earnings slump 24% to 45% next year and 39% to 67% in 2021.

Others suggest things will snap back to normal.

"If you look back in history there have ebbs and flows in Hong Kong and it has a proven track record of resiliently coming through difficult situations," Standard Chartered's Halford said. "It is a very vibrant economy. It has got a huge reputation. Our hope and our belief is that over a period of time it will plow through this." **BLOOMBERG**

Dominating Market

HSBC gets more than one-third of its global revenue from Hong Kong



Source: Company filing
Note: Adjusted revenue for the nine months ended September 2019

Bloomberg

Stock exchange chief says China's lack of trust hurt Hong Kong experiment

CHINA'S plan to allow Hong Kong autonomy had "fundamental flaws" from the start because Beijing never trusted the former British colony to uphold its rule, the head of the city's stock exchange said.

Charles Li, chief executive officer of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd., told a crowd in London on Tuesday that Hong Kong's recent unrest had exposed problems underlying the "one country, two systems" framework devised before the city's return to Chinese

rule in 1997. The British gave the city a desire for self-rule that was always a "dead end" with China, he said.

"China never really felt confidence and trust that people in Hong Kong will not oppose to 'one country,'" Li told an annual dinner at the London Metal Exchange. "So that lack of trust is a key reason why China is reluctant to give Hong Kong people, the local people, the local self-determination, the 'two systems.'"

The remarks by Li re-

presented a rare high-profile criticism of China's framework for managing Hong Kong until at least 2047. Under it, Beijing promised to maintain Hong Kong's "high degree of autonomy," including its freedom of expression, independent judiciary, capitalist financial system and elected legislature.

A wave of protests that erupted in June against now-scraped legislation that would've allowed extraditions to China has since evolved into a broader demand for greater

democracy. The city's Beijing-appointed government has refused to revive plans for direct leadership elections after opposition lawmakers blocked a Communist Party-backed proposal in 2015 that would've pre-screened nominees.

"Hong Kong people need to ask ourselves, 'What do we want it for? What do you want to do with it?'" Li said Tuesday. "Because you want to use it to oppose Chinese sovereignty, that's a dead-end."

The one country, two systems concept was em-



Charles Li, chief executive officer of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing

braced by late paramount leader Deng Xiaoping as a model to eventually be used to bring Taiwan under Beijing's rule - a position reaffirmed by Chinese President Xi Jinping earlier this year. The Hong Kong unrest has helped erode Taiwanese support for that plan, with almost 90% of island residents saying they oppo-

sed the idea in a survey released earlier this week.

"Are we really putting the blame where the blame should be?" Li said. "If you think about it, the great concept, the great creation of one country, two system is really have some fundamental flaws at the very beginning of the implementation." **BLOOMBERG**



HONG KONG CRASHES INTO RECESSION AS PROTESTS HIT ECONOMY

ERIC LAM & ENDA CURRAN

HONG Kong's economy contracted sharply in the third quarter as it entered a recession, exceeding economists' worst estimates of the damage from nearly five months of protests.

Third-quarter gross domestic product retreated 3.2% from the previous three months, after a 0.4% contraction in the second quarter. That's the worst slump since 2009, in the aftermath of the global financial crisis. Two consecutive periods of negative growth mean Hong Kong has fallen into a technical recession.

The economic debate now is focused on how long the downturn will last, if recent glimmers of stabilization point to a bottom, and if the U.S.-China trade war and the demonstrations have done lasting damage. Financial Secretary Paul Chan said this week that a full-year economic contraction is "very likely."

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority cut its benchmark interest rate yesterday, in line with the city's currency peg to the dollar following the U.S. Federal Reserve's reduction in borrowing costs. The move is unlikely to have much bearing on the local cost of borrowing, as lenders don't necessarily pass

on the rate to the public.

The city hasn't seen significant capital outflow amid the unrest, HKMA Chief Executive Eddie Yue said at a briefing. The Hong Kong dollar rate, deposit level and exchange rate are broadly stable, he said.

The city's economy has shown the faintest of positive glimmers since the protests' initial impact this summer, when tourists began staying away. Small business sentiment has ticked higher, as has a gauge of the outlook among purchasing managers, though both remain close to their record lows. The real estate and financial services sectors have remained fairly resilient.

The MSCI Hong Kong Index tumbled as much as 18% from an April high, before recently clawing back some gains in October as relative calm descended on financial markets; the index remains positive for 2019. While property prices have slipped about 5.5% since June, the Centaline Property Centa-City Leading Index is up for the year, hanging on to gains after a February low.

HSBC Holdings Plc, the largest lender in the finance hub, said adjusted pretax profit fell 12% to \$5.3 billion for the third quarter. Looking just at its Hong Kong operation, adjusted pretax profit inched up 1% in the quarter to \$3 billion and executives said there hasn't yet been a significant outflow of funds. Standard Chartered Plc also said it earned more in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong's Monetary Authority has sought to maintain stabi-

The economic debate now is focused on how long the downturn will last and if recent glimmers of stabilization point to a bottom

lity in the city's financial markets. The Hong Kong dollar's peg to the greenback isn't likely in jeopardy despite the slowdown, said Jonathan Ostry, deputy director of the research department with the International Monetary Fund.

"That peg has survived over many decades and has been an important anchor for Hong Kong and its economy," Ostry told reporters.

One of the biggest factors in

determining if Hong Kong will recover - and how soon - is whether mainland Chinese tourists scared away by the protests will return. In the aftermath of the 2003 SARS epidemic, they came back, though it may be different this time given the demonstrations' anti-China tone.

Tourism from the mainland, which hit a record of more than 5.5 million visitor arrivals from China in January, had plummeted to half that by end-August. Mainland visitors still account for almost 80% of total arrivals in Hong Kong.

Chief Executive Carrie Lam said Wednesday that visitor arrivals in the first half of October were down about 50% on-year.

Economists say it's unlikely this recession will be just a mild dip, with the protests showing no signs of ending and the U.S. and China still negotiating over their trade differences.

"It seems that it is extremely difficult to achieve the forecast" of 0%-1% growth for the year, and GDP may very well decline in 2019, Paul Chan said in a blog post Sunday. The protests' "blow to our

economy is comprehensive."

"Hong Kong has experienced a very marked slowdown," the IMF's Ostry said. "We expect only a modest pick up in growth for 2020 with the risks I would say skewed to the downside, reflecting the possibility of protracted social unrest as well as a continued slowdown in China and in global trade."

The Hong Kong government has announced relief packages this year, but for most struggling businesses the best cure would be an end to the protests - especially as Hong Kong has little to no influence over the trade war.

"It's absolutely life and death for us," Douglas Young, co-founder of lifestyle and fashion retail chain Goods of Desire, said in an interview with Bloomberg Television. His firm is doing what it can to avoid layoffs, including unpaid leave, voluntary holidays and other ways to make the business more efficient, he said.

"If it ends with decent compromises between all the parties involved, I can see Hong Kong rebounding very quickly," Young said. "Not within my lifetime have I experienced something this serious. I'm very confident Hong Kong will bounce back, but the crucial thing is: When is this going to end?" **BLOOMBERG**

AS the scion of the Agnelli family's industrial dynasty, John Elkann honed his management skills under Sergio Marchionne, who brought Fiat back from the brink before turning it into a global force with the purchase of Chrysler. When Marchionne died suddenly last year, Elkann pushed ahead alone with their quest for another major partner.

Yesterday, Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV announced a combination with France's PSA Group to create a regional powerhouse rivaling Volkswagen AG with a stock-market value similar to that of Honda Motor Co. Elkann stands to gain a new sidekick: Carlos Tavares, PSA's 61-year-old chief executive officer, who has shown his mettle building an international automotive group while keeping costs under control. Those qualities would make him the heir apparent of the empire Marchionne built.

"Auto sector deals are incredibly complex to deliver upon and have no hope of success without a 'Great Man' CEO at the controls," said Max Warburton, an automotive analyst at Sanford C. Bernstein & Co. "It's clear that Tavares has spent years thinking about how a deal with FCA might work."

SECOND CHOICE

PSA, maker of the Peugeot brand, may not have been Elkann's preferred partner -- another merger attempt with Renault SA fell through in June after demands by the French government proved insurmountable. But Tavares best fits the mold of Marchionne, a shrewd operator who passed away after a short illness in July 2018 at the age of 66.

Both men turned around businesses that from the outside looked beyond repair. Marchionne accomplished that feat with Fiat, before combining the storied Italian brand with Chrysler to gain a global footprint. Tavares

In Carlos Tavares, Fiat family finds heir to Marchionne legacy



revived Peugeot after it was saved from the brink. Two years ago, he managed a bold reversal when he took over Opel from General Motors Co. and successfully integrated the notoriously unprofitable asset.

And both men have styled themselves as bold visionaries. Marchionne endlessly propagated the need for mergers, saying the industry is rife with duplication and could save billions if it pooled resources in areas like research and purchasing. Tavares, too, has been blunt about the need for car manufacturers to adapt or risk going under, and says global scale is key.

'PARTICULARLY OPPORTUNISTIC'

A merger with Fiat Chrysler would mark a reversal of fortune

for Tavares, who was forced into a bystander role earlier this year when Elkann approached Renault, PSA's French rival. At the time, Tavares didn't mince his words, calling the transaction "particularly opportunistic" for Fiat Chrysler and a "virtual takeover of Renault by Fiat."

Fiat and Peugeot have a long history of flirtation, dating back as far as the 2008 crisis when Elkann and Marchionne were hunting for a partner before engaging with Chrysler. In 2013, Emmanuel Macron, then a top adviser to President François Hollande, held preliminary talks with Fiat about a merger with troubled Peugeot. And at the end of 2014, Marchionne was told by some of his advisers that Tavares was interested in discussing a merger.

MAJOR TURNAROUND

Tavares, a racing enthusiast like Marchionne, joined PSA five years ago after serving under Renault-Nissan's now-disgraced former boss, Carlos Ghosn. That assignment bore significant risk, with PSA in trouble and lacking the heft to compete globally. A ruthless cost cutter, Tavares managed a turnaround by pushing unions to accept job losses and slashing costs on everything from printers to phones. He used the same methods when he took over Opel in 2017, restoring that business to profit within a year.

"It makes perfect sense that Carlos Tavares will run the show, given his experience restructuring businesses," said Arndt Ellinghorst, an automotive analyst at Evercore International Ltd. in London. "It looks like a merger of

equals; both companies are earning money, balance sheets are restored."

In its most recent quarter, PSA was able to weather a slump in the auto industry with demand for popular models like the Peugeot 508 and Citroen C5 Aircross. Its operating margin reached 8.7% in the first half of the year, exceeding the profitability of many rivals. By contrast, Renault slashed its outlook for revenue and profit this month.

COST SAVINGS

Tavares will have ample opportunity to put his integration abilities to the test at the enlarged group. Cost savings from the deal without plant closures are projected to be about 3.7 billion euros (\$4.13 billion). Some analyst have more ambitious projections, with UBS estimating they could reach as much as 6.6 billion euros every year by avoiding duplication of capital spending in new technologies.

Peugeot-Fiat would compete with GM - long Marchionne's proposed partner - for the spot of fourth-biggest carmaker, with more than 8 million vehicles sold per year and revenue in excess of 180 billion euros. It could surpass Volkswagen's profit margin, according to JPMorgan analysts.

Tavares will hold the CEO title for five years at the combined entity, while Elkann will be chairman, the companies announced early Thursday. No plant closures are planned, and any savings would come from more efficient pooling of resources, they said. **BLOOMBERG**

CORPORATE BITS

MGM receives social responsibility accolade



MGM has received the Outstanding Corporate Social Responsibility Award for the third consecutive year and earned its second Ambassadors of Corporate Social Responsibility honor at the 8th Cross-Strait-

Four-Region Outstanding Corporate Social Responsibility Award Ceremony organized by Mirror Post of Hong Kong.

Currently, MGM is the only enterprise in Macau receiving the acclaim.

The 8th Cross-Strait-Four-Region Outstanding Corporate Social Responsibility Award Ceremony was held at Hotel ICON in Hong Kong on October 28.

Grant Bowie, CEO and Executive Director of MGM China Holdings Limited, said, "We are very honored to receive this prestigious regional award for our corporate social responsibility scheme, as it highlights our dedication to the community, our employees and the environment."

"This award serves as a motivation to our continuous effort in innovative community projects and our enthusiasm in giving back to the community," he added.

Melco inaugurates platform for SMEs



Melco Resorts & Entertainment recently inaugurated the "Knowing You, Knowing Us" campaign, which aims to act as a communications

platform between SMEs and Melco.

Last week, Melco hosted its first food and beverage (F&B)-themed event named

"To the Table by SMEs," as part of the campaign to discuss food safety and hygiene standards with local businesses, and to provide an opportunity for direct dialogue between SMEs, the Melco culinary team and the company's F&B outlet representatives.

The event saw nearly 100 local F&B industry representatives from almost 60 Macau SMEs, including members of the Macau Union Suppliers Association and Macao Chamber of Commerce, specializing in a broad range of F&B categories, such as meats and seafood, fruits and vegetables, dry and frozen groceries, ready-to-eat foods and beverages.

AP PHOTO

SECURITY FIRM SAYS CHINESE HACKERS INTERCEPTED TEXT MESSAGES

TAMI ABDOLLAH,
WASHINGTON

CHINESE hackers with a history of state-sponsored espionage have intercepted the text messages of thousands of foreigners in a targeted campaign that planted eavesdropping software on a telecommunications provider's servers, a cybersecurity firm said.

FireEye said in a report issued yesterday that the hackers belong to the group designated Advanced Persistent Threat 41, or APT41, which it says has been involved in spying and cybercrime for most of the past decade. It said some of the targets were "high-value" and all were chosen by their phone numbers and unique cellphone identifiers known as IMSI numbers.

The cybersecurity firm would not identify or otherwise charac-

terize the victims or the impacted telecoms provider or give its location. It said only that the telecom is in a country that's typically a strategic competitor to China.

The spyware was programmed to capture messages containing references to political leaders, military and intelligence organizations and political movements at odds with the Chinese government, FireEye said.

FireEye's director of advanced practices, Steven Stone, said that none of the known targets was a U.S. government official.

The discovered malware, which FireEye dubbed MESSAGETAP, was able to collect data on its targets without their knowledge but could not read messages sent

with end-to-end encrypted applications such as WhatsApp and iMessage.

"If you're one of these targets you have no idea your message traffic is being taken from your device because your device hasn't been infected," Stone said.

FireEye said the hackers also

The cybersecurity firm would not identify the victims or the impacted telecoms provider or give its location

stole detailed calling records on specific individuals, obtaining the phone numbers they interacted with, call durations and times.

A government representative at China's embassy in Washing-

ton, D.C., did not immediately respond to an emailed request for comment.

FireEye did not identify the maker of the equipment that was hacked or specify how the hackers penetrated the telecom provider networks.

It said APT41 began using MESSAGETAP during the summer, which is around when pro-democracy protests began in Hong Kong. The firm said since its discovery, it has found "multiple" telecoms targeted by the malware.

FireEye said it has observed APT41 targeting four telecoms this year as well as major travel services and healthcare providers in countries it did not identify.

Details of the espionage operation come as the U.S. tries to persuade allied governments to shun Chinese telecom equipment providers led by Huawei as they build next-generation wireless networks known as 5G, claiming they represent a risk to national security.

The U.S. government already has banned government agencies and contractors from using equipment supplied by Huawei and ZTE, another Chinese company. It is now seeking to bar their use in telecom projects that receive federal funding.

Huawei vehemently denies that it has allowed China's communist rulers to use its equipment for espionage, and Washington has presented no proof of such. U.S. officials say a 2017 Chinese law requires organizations and citizens to help the state collect intelligence. **AP**

Beijing denies reports of professor spying in Belgium

CHINA said last night that reports that a professor leading a Beijing-backed language and culture institute in Belgium was involved in spying are untrue.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said some Western media have published "false reports of distortions about the Confucius Institute."

"This is completely untrue and has ulterior motives. We resolutely oppose this behavior that hinders normal exchanges and educational cooperation projects," Geng told reporters at a daily briefing.

Confucius Institutes at universities around the

world have come under increasing scrutiny as some accuse them of being tools of Chinese Communist Party propaganda and influence.

The professor in the Belgium case, Song Xinning, told The Associated Press by phone from his home in Beijing that the Brussels immigration office gave him a notice on July 30 stating that his visa would not be renewed because he "supported Chinese intelligence agencies' spying and interference activities in Belgium."

The accusations that he recruited intelligence personnel in the Chinese bu-

siness and academic community in Belgium were "invented from thin air," Song said.

Song is a professor at Beijing's Renmin University of China who specializes in European studies. For the past three years, he was head of the Confucius Institute at Vrije Universiteit Brussel. Song returned to China after his visa expired on July 31.

A spokesman for Belgium's VSSE state security service declined to discuss the case.

Song said he may have been targeted because he was known for organizing "lively" events when he was

leading the Confucius Institute, including monthly gatherings and academic dialogues to which people of all nationalities were invited.

In September, Song applied from Beijing for visas to Finland, Austria and Belgium for a work trip. He received a notice from the Belgian immigration bureau saying that he was banned from entering the Schengen Area, which encompasses 26 European states that have abolished passport controls.

Song said reports in Belgian media about his alleged ties to Chinese intelligence and spying were

"fabricated," adding that their descriptions of him as a "hard-liner within the Chinese Communist Party," were ironic since he's regarded in China as a liberal.

According to the Confucius Institute website, there are 184 institutes in Europe. The schools are hosted by foreign universities through partnerships with Hanban, an affiliate of China's Ministry of Education. Hanban provides teachers and directors from China, along with textbooks and startup funding.

Officials in the U.S. and Australia have called Confucius Institutes a threat to

national security and a tool for Chinese Communist Party interference in other countries.

A total of 26 have closed since 2014, most since mid-2018 and many over concerns about free speech, academic freedom and national security, according to the National Association of Scholars.

Some schools in the U.S. decided to cut ties following the passage of the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act that forbids universities that host the institutes from receiving Defense Department funding for Chinese language study. **AP**

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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PAKISTAN

SURVIVORS SAY BURNING TRAIN TOOK 20 MINUTES TO STOP, 74 DEAD

ASIM TANVEE, MULTAN

A raging fire swept through a train in Pakistan's eastern Punjab Province yesterday killing 74 people and survivors said afterward it took nearly 20 minutes for the train to stop amid contradictory reports about the condition of the train's brakes.

Three carriages were consumed by flames from a fire caused by a cooking gas stove and dozens of people jumped in panic from the speeding train.

Conductor Sadiue Ahmed Khan told The Associated Press the train's emergency braking system was in perfect working order and the train stopped within three minutes after the first signs of fire.

"This is the worst tragedy in my life as a driver," he said.

Investigators said they will be looking at the train's braking system to determine its condition at the time of the fire. Survivors recounted pulling at emergency cords that weave through the train to notify the conductor, but they said the train continued to speed down the tracks.

Ghulam Abbas, a passenger who had gotten on the train in the town of Nawabshah in neighboring Sindh Province with his wife and two children, echoed other passengers who said it took nearly 20 minutes for the train to stop. He recounted watching panicked passengers jumping off the speeding locomotive.

"We learned afterward that most of them had died," he said.



Abbas' wife, Sulai Khan Bibi, said she was horrified what would happen to their two small children. "We were so close to death, but Allah saved us," she said, clutching the children.

The train, which was traveling from the southern Arabian Sea port city of Karachi to Rawalpindi, just 10 kilometers (6 miles) from the federal capital, was carrying 857 passengers. Most of the dead were members of Tableeqi-e-Jamaat, an organization of Islamic missionaries. The fire was believed to have started in their compartment.

Mufti Wahab, a district chief of the Tableeqi-e-Jamaat, said as many as 52 members of his organization were "martyred

because of the fire."

The fire apparently started after one of several small stoves brought on to the train by the Tableeqi members exploded, setting other gas cylinders used to fuel the stoves on fire, said Deputy Railways Commissioner Jamil Ahmed.

Flames roared through the train engulfing three carriages as it approached the town of Liaquatpur in Punjab. Survivors recounted horrific scenes of fellow passengers screaming as they jumped through windows and off the train, flames billowing from the carriages.

"We could hear people crying and screaming for help," said Chaudhry Shujaat, who had boarded the train just a few hours ear-

lier with his wife and two children. "I thought we would die. The next car was on fire. We felt so helpless."

Kaleem Ullah, an official with the district emergency services, said of the 43 people injured, 11 were still in critical condition. Several of them had jumped off the train — many to their deaths — after the fire broke out and before it eventually screeched to a halt, said Ahmed, the railways official.

In Pakistan, poor passengers often bring their own small gas stoves on the trains to cook their meals, despite rules to the contrary, according to Railways Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed. Safety regulations are often ignored in the overcrowded trains.

Railway official Shabir Ahmed said bodies of passengers were scattered over a 2 kilometer- (1 mile-) wide area around the site.

People from nearby villages rushed to the train, carrying buckets of water and shovels to help douse the flames. "But it was impossible," said Ahmed.

Through the morning hours, rescue workers and inspectors sifted through the charred wreckage, looking for survivors and aiding the injured. Local Pakistani TV footage from the scene showed a huge blaze raging as firefighters struggled to get it under control.

Officials said they were still trying to identify the victims and that the lists of fatalities and those injured were not ready yet. Another train was dispatched to bring the survivors to the city of Rawalpindi, they said.

Yasmin Rashid, a provincial minister in Punjab, told reporters that medical staff were providing the best possible treatment for the injured at a hospital in Liaquatpur. Those critically injured were taken by ambulance to the city of Multan, the largest city nearest to the site of the accident.

Pakistan's military said troops were also participating in the rescue operation. President Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Imran Khan issued statements expressing their sorrow over the tragedy.

Khan took to Twitter to offer his condolences to the families of those killed and say he was praying for the speedy recovery of the injured. He also ordered an urgent investigation into the incident. AP

CAMBODIA

Police say body of missing British tourist found at sea

THE body of a British backpacker missing for more than a week in Cambodia was found at sea yesterday about 100 kilometers from the island where she disappeared, officials said.

The police chief for Preah Sihanouk province, Maj. Gen. Chuon Narin, said the body of 21-year-old Amelia Bambridge was discovered in the Gulf of Thailand northwest of Koh Rong, where she disappeared after attending a beach party on the night of Oct. 23.

It was found near another island, Koh Chhlam, close to Cambodia's mari-

time border with Thailand.

The Facebook page of Cambodia's deputy navy chief also reported the discovery.

Authorities had launched an intensive land, air and sea search that was joined by members of the woman's family who came after learning she was missing.

Bambridge's family had speculated that she might have become lost in the heavy jungle in the island's interior, but Cambodian officials had leaned toward the theory that she drowned because her bag with money and a cellphone was found on a rock near

the edge of the ocean.

Her brother, Harry Bambridge, who took part in the search, posted a message on his Facebook page last night saying he had seen the body and could confirm it was Amelia.

"I'm so sorry to all her friends and family there's nothing more I wanted then to bring her back alive," he wrote. "And I'm sorry to you Amelia Bambridge the round is on me when we meet again in heaven."

Deputy Navy Commander Tea Sokha said the body had been spotted by a fisherman, who notified authorities. He said it was

identified by the clothing and tattoos, which matched photos of the woman taken on the night she disappeared.

The body was taken to Sihanoukville Referral Hospital in Cambodia's main coastal city, Sihanoukville. Tea Sokha said forensic experts would confirm the identification and examine the body for the cause of death.

Bambridge's mother, father, sister and brother have been on Koh Rong and in Sihanoukville in recent days, but it was unclear if anyone other than her brother had viewed the body. AP



Roy Bambridge uncle of missing British backpacker Amelia Bambridge

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

DANICA KIRKA & JILL
LAWLESS, LONDON

HEALTH CARE OR BREXIT?

UK parties pick their election issues

THE opposition Labour Party kicked off its campaign for Britain's December general election with one overriding message yesterday: It's not just about Brexit.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn put the emphasis firmly on economic and social issues, calling the Dec. 12 vote a once-in-a-generation chance to transform the country. All seats in the 650-seat House of Commons are up for grabs in the early election, chosen by Britain's 46 million eligible voters.

In his first stump speech of the six-week campaign, Corbyn outlined the left-of-center party's plan to take on the "vested interests" and "born to rule" elites that he said are hurting ordinary people. The stance was an attempt to pivot the election battle away from the political turmoil swirling around Britain's stalled departure from the European Union.

Returning to his party's core issues, Corbyn called out prominent business leaders — including media mogul Rupert Murdoch and aristocratic landowner the Duke of Westminster — as he painted Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservatives as champions of the wealthy few.

"We're going after the tax dodgers. We're going after the dodgy

landlords. We're going after the bad bosses. We're going after the big polluters. Because we know whose side we're on," Corbyn told supporters at a rally in London. "Whose side are you on?"

Britain was supposed to leave the EU yesterday, and Johnson spent months vowing that Brexit would happen on schedule, "come what may." But after Johnson failed to get British lawmakers to pass his Brexit divorce deal with the bloc, the EU granted Britain a three-month delay, setting a new Brexit deadline of Jan. 31.

Johnson pushed to have this election two years early in order to break the parliamentary deadlock over Brexit.

While Johnson's Conservatives have a wide lead in most opinion polls, analysts say the election is unpredictable because Brexit cuts across traditional party loyalties. For many voters, their identities as "leavers" or "remainers" are more important than party affiliation.

The prime minister plans to campaign as a Brexit champion and blame his opponents for the delay.

"Today should have been the



day that Brexit was delivered and we finally left the EU," Johnson planned to say in later campaign stops, according to his office. "But despite the great new deal I agreed with the EU, Jeremy Corbyn refused to allow that to happen — insisting upon more dither, more delay and more uncertainty for families and business."

Labour is hoping that voters want to talk about issues such as health care, the environment and

social welfare — all of which saw years of funding cuts by Conservative governments — instead of more Brexit debates.

The party is divided between those such as Corbyn, who are determined to go through with Brexit, and others who want to remain in the EU. After much internal wrangling, Labour now says if it wins the election, it will negotiate a better withdrawal agreement with the EU, then call a referen-

dum where voters will be able to choose between that Brexit deal and remaining in the bloc. It has not said which side it would support.

"The prime minister wants you to believe that we're having this election because Brexit is being blocked by an establishment elite," Corbyn said. "People aren't fooled so easily. They know the Conservatives are the establishment elite." AP

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13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Agua de Mar
15:30	Zig Zag
15:30	Os Ursos Boonie e o Fantástico Outono
16:30	Quem Quer Ser Milionário
17:30	Literatura Agora
18:00	Império (Repetição)
18:50	TDM Talk Show (Repetição)
19:20	Livros com João Guedes (Repetição)
19:30	Ouro Verde Sr.1
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	TDM Reportagem
21:30	Viagens em Série
21:50	Solteira e Boa Rapariga
22:25	Império
23:15	TDM News
23:50	A Casa dos Mortos
01:20	Telejornal (Repetição)
02:05	RTPi Directo

Offbeat

LAWSUIT: FERTILITY DOCTOR USED OWN SPERM TO IMPREGNATE WOMAN

A family alleges in a lawsuit filed this week that a Colorado fertility doctor used his own sperm instead of that of an anonymous donor to impregnate a woman without her consent.

KUSA-TV reports that the lawsuit contends Dr. Paul Jones of Grand Junction committed fraud by using his own sperm to artificially inseminate Cheryl Emmons, allowing her to give birth to two daughters in 1980 and 1985, respectively.

The Mesa County District Court suit contends the daughters discovered they shared Jones' DNA with a number of strangers this year — including cousins of Jones, according to plaintiffs' attorney Patrick Fitz-Gerald.

It alleges negligence, fraud and other causes of action and seeks damages in a civil trial.

Attorneys Nicole Black, who represents Jones, and Ivan Sarkissian, who represents Women's Health Care of Western Colorado, where Jones practiced, didn't immediately respond to telephone messages seeking comment.

Plaintiffs include Emmons; her husband, John Emmons; and daughters Maia Boring and Tahnee Scott. They live in Texas.

The daughters' claimed discovery of shared DNA with at least five strangers — people born between 1976 and 1997 — came through use of Ancestry.com and 23andMe.com, KUSA reported.

The daughters confronted their mother, who disclosed earlier this year that she had had artificial insemination procedures by Jones to conceive.

"I would like to ask him, 'Why? Why did you do this?'" said Boring, who lives in San Antonio.

Jones, of Grand Junction, refused to answer when asked if he'd donated his own sperm to father the children.

"I don't deny it. I don't admit it," he told KUSA.

Jones, a specialist in obstetrics and gynecology, has been licensed to practice medicine in Colorado on July 11, 1972. He co-founded what's now known as Women's Health Care of Western Colorado, where the suit claims he saw Cheryl Emmons from 1979 to 1985.

Texas this year passed a law barring a fertility doctor from inseminating a patient without her consent. California and Indiana have so-called "fertility fraud" laws, but Colorado does not.

cinema

CINETEATRO

31 Oct - 06 Nov



TERMINATOR: DARK FATE

ROOM 1

2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm

Director: Tim Miller

Starring: Linda Hamilton, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Mackenzie Davis

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 128min



THE ADDAMS FAMILY

ROOM 2

2:30, 9:30pm

Director: Greg Tiernan, Conrad Vernon

Starring: Oscar Isaac, Charlize Theron, Chloë Grace Moretz

Language: English (Chinese)

ROOM 2

4:30, 7:30pm

Language: Cantonese (Chinese)

Duration: 87min



FORTUNA'S EYE

ROOM 3

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

Director: Takahiro Miki

Starring: Ryunosuke Kamiki, Kasumi Arimura, Yukiya Kitamura

Language: Japanese (Chinese & English)



JOKER

ROOM 3

7:15pm

Director: Todd Phillips

Starring: Joaquin Phoenix, Robert De Niro, Zazie Beetz

Language: English

Duration: 122min

this day in history



1990 HOWE RESIGNS OVER EUROPE POLICY

The UK's deputy Prime Minister, Sir Geoffrey Howe, has resigned.

He informed the Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of his decision at around 1800 on Thursday.

Sir Geoffrey said the reasons for his resignation were the prime minister's policies towards Europe and her opposition to a single European currency.

He is the fourth member of the cabinet to leave after disputes over Europe.

The prime minister is said to have had no prior warning that Sir Geoffrey had decided to go.

A statement from the prime minister's office said Mrs Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey had talked for 30 minutes before she accepted his resignation "more in sorrow than in anger".

Sir Geoffrey, 63, was the last remaining member of Mrs Thatcher's original 1979 cabinet.

He served as both chancellor and foreign secretary.

A short statement from Sir Geoffrey was read to journalists by his parliamentary private secretary, David Harris.

There were few details but Mr Harris told reporters Sir Geoffrey had no intention of challenging for the party leadership.

"I have absolute authority from Sir Geoffrey to say that there is no question of his standing against Mrs Thatcher in a leadership election," Mr Harris said.

Labour leader Neil Kinnock said Mrs Thatcher had got what she deserved and had been bitten by the man she had treated as a "doormat".

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Labour MP Dennis Healey once famously said being attacked by Geoffrey Howe was "like being savaged by a dead sheep".

But the former deputy PM's attack on Mrs Thatcher in a dramatic resignation speech on 13 November ultimately led to her downfall.

The speech spurred Mrs Thatcher's long-time adversary, Michael Heseltine, to stand against her in a leadership contest.

When she failed to win the contest outright in the first round, Mrs Thatcher resigned.

Geoffrey Howe retired from the Commons in 1992 and was given a life peerage taking the title Baron Howe of Aberavon.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



Mar. 21-Apr. 19

The connection you've got cookin' with someone else is getting more complicated right now, and today you might want to step back and look at things from an outsider's perspective.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

If you want to have a unique day, all you need to do is take a unique approach. All you need to do is see things from another perspective - try seeing the world as an audience you must entertain.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Try. This one little word could mean big things for you today. You see, there is a tremendous amount of value to be gained when you at least attempt things.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Things are going to work out differently than the way you assumed they would. And whether you'll respond really well or really badly is still up in the air.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Sure, you know that you are supposed to look before you leap, but do not forget that you also need to listen before you leap! Take in all the instructions that are given before you act today.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

It's the perfect day for you to stop what you're doing and take a moment to reach up and pat yourself on the back! It took you a lot of hard work to get to where you are right now.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Step out and do what you want to do today - take advantage of a great bargain, a wonderful dinner invitation or some other opportunity that is just too good for you to pass up!



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Think about your audience - what is most important to them? Focus on that, and show them how they can get what they want out of your plan, too. You have a lot of great sales skills that you don't always use.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

There is a very simple solution to your complex financial problem - stop spending money for a while! Try to think more like a fiscal conservative and hold on to your wallet like it's your lifeline.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Displaying too much aggression will do you more harm than good right now, so try hard to play nice - especially with the people who just love pushing your buttons!



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

If something confusing is starting to build between you and another person, don't try and fight it today. Even if you know this is definitely not what you want, one more day of experiencing it won't hurt anybody.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

You are going to get a lot of positive attention very soon - get ready to have a permanent blush! If a group is looking for a leader, you should step up and nominate yourself for the job.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

WEATHER

CHINA

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
Beijing	27	35	cloudy
Harbin	20	25	thundershower
Tianjin	27	35	thundershower
Urumqi	21	28	shower
Xi'an	24	35	cloudy
Lhasa	11	24	shower
Chengdu	24	34	shower
Chongqing	26	34	cloudy
Kunming	18	24	shower
Nanjing	29	36	cloudy
Shanghai	29	36	cloudy
Wuhan	28	37	clear
Hangzhou	28	38	cloudy
Taipei	26	30	overcast
Guangzhou	26	35	thundershower
Hong Kong	28	33	cloudy

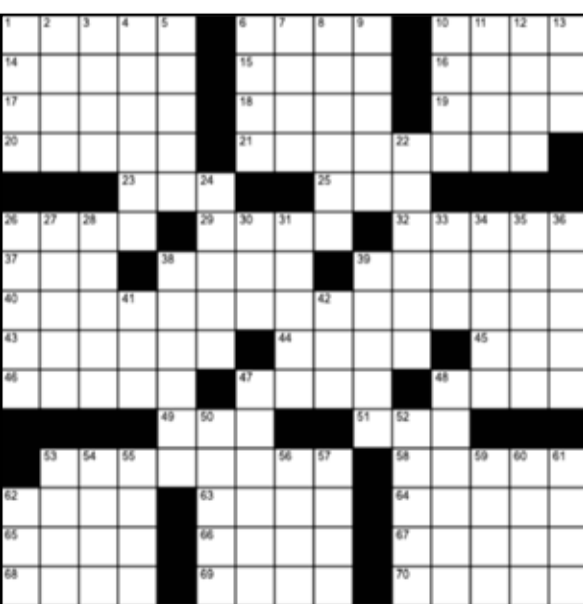
WORLD

Moscow	17	22	moderate rain
Frankfurt	21	33	clear
Paris	22	32	clear
London	16	24	clear
New York	18	27	clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- ___ mignon; 6- "Scientific American Frontiers" host; 10- Jazz technique; 14- Concert venue; 15- Intake; 16- Ages; 17- Forceps; 18- Role for Ingrid; 19- Appraise; 20- Break up; 21- Can be sent by post; 23- Formerly named; 25- ___-mo; 26- Corona fruit; 29- Confined; 32- Gaucho's rope; 37- Mined-over matter; 38- Meddlesome; 39- Gazes fixedly; 40- Obvious; 43- Vigor; 44- Praiseful poems; 45- It often follows you; 46- Later!; 47- Arthroscopy site; 48- Spoiled child; 49- Little piggy; 51- ___ de Janeiro; 53- Having ability; 58- Standards; 62- Actress Garr; 63- Engrave; 64- Bothered; 65- Annapolis sch.; 66- Countertenor; 67- ___ say more?; 68- Norse god of thunder; 69- Cat call; 70- Certain fisherman;

DOWN: 1- Destiny; 2- Press; 3- Give temporarily; 4- Car heart; 5- Flavor; 6- Take ___ view of; 7- Actress Kedrova; 8- Cease; 9- The least bit; 10- Balkan native; 11- Briquette; 12- Stud fee?; 13- Mao ___-tung; 22- Main arteries; 24- Strong adhesive; 26- Misplaces; 27- Actress Dunne; 28- Ruckus; 30- Clairvoyant's claim; 31- Parachute material; 33- Dig in!; 34- Believing; 35- Earth; 36- Thus far; 38- Invalidate; 39- Look of contempt; 41- Pan-broil; 42- Fruity quaff; 47- Pot; 48- Baby's sock; 50- Wee hour; 52- Ludicrous; 53- New Age musician John; 54- Cartoonist Peter; 55- Perjurer; 56- Prefix with plasm; 57- Arab sailing vessel; 59- Lively dance; 60- Created; 61- Agitate; 62- Boy king of Egypt;



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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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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RUGBY ACADEMY

BATS COMPETE AT THEIR FIRST HK FESTIVAL OF THE SEASON

DONALD SHAW, HONG KONG
SPECIAL TO MDT

LOCAL rugby team the Macau Bats competed in their first festival of the new season held at King's Park, Hong Kong last weekend. The festival hosts were USRC Tigers and the tournament kicked off on a warm and sunny morning. First up were the U7s against the Tigers. The young Bats played some good, flowing rugby and secured a 2-1 victory over the hosts. This was followed by draws, (2-2) against Sandy Bay and Hong Kong Football Club (HKFC), also 2-2, before a 1-3 loss to Valley Fort.

The U8s also had a mixed set of results - a win against Tai Hang Tung, a 2-2 draw with the Flying Kukris and losses against Valley Fort (1-3) and Sandy Bay (2-3). The team showed enough promise to be optimistic about upcoming tournaments. Meanwhile the U9s got off to an impressive start with wins over Sandy Bay (2-0), East Kowloon (4-1) and Shatin Sha Pei (6-1). The Bats came up against a good Tin Shui Wan Eagles team and lost an exciting game 2-4.

The U10s arrived with a depleted squad, however reinforced with some last minute additions the team went on to record four victories - 2-0 in a very tough game against South Lantau Buffaloes followed by wins over Shatin Sha Pei (3-1), HKFC (5-2) and Tai Po (6-1).

Last up at King's Park were the U11s who started with a 2-4 loss to South Lantau Buffaloes in what was a very even game until the Bats let in two late tries. However spirits soared as the Bats showed a more determined and ruthless streak in beating Tigers 5-0. The Bats continued their fine play against HKFC and quickly led 5-0 lead with a series of strong scores before letting Football Club back into the game for a final 6-3 score.

Over at Happy Valley on Hong Kong island the U12s were playing in the Bowl competition of the Richard Hawkes Cup. The Bats won their group with two wins and a draw to play in the final. This also ended in a 1-1 draw and will see the Bats promoted for the next round of the competition in November.

To complete a busy day of rugby the U19s played last season's champions USRC Tigers. The Bats acquitted themselves well, scoring three tries before going down 30-19 to a very good Tigers team. However, the team should take encouragement from how competitively they played against one of the favourites for the overall championship.



STEVE DOUGLAS, TOKYO

Saturday, 17:00
England v South Africa
H 1.53, D 26, A 3.1

ODDSCHECKER.COM

DURING one of England's practice sessions this week, front-rower Kyle Sinckler donned a hoodie and a pair of boxing gloves and started vigorously sparring with a strength-and-conditioning coach.

What better way to prepare for what could prove to be the most brutal Rugby World Cup final there has ever been.

After six weeks, 47 games and one deadly typhoon that briefly wreaked havoc with the first World Cup to be staged in Asia, the winner of rugby's biggest prize will be determined in a contest between the two most physically intimidating teams around.

England vs. South Africa.

"What we are going to witness," England defense coach John Mitchell said, setting the stage perfectly, "is the two most powerful rugby teams in the world."

Titanic. Brutality. Collisions. An immense battle. Fighting fire with fire.

They are all words or phrases that have been uttered by players and coaches in news conferences across Tokyo this week in relation to a final that will not be for the faint-hearted.

"We are going to see who is the bravest, who crosses that line, who wants to dominate the opposition," said South Africa flanker Pieter-Steph du Toit, clearly relishing what lies ahead.

The Springboks, World Cup winners in 1995 and 2007, and 2003 champion England have long prided themselves on their physicality. In one encounter — at Twickenham in 2002 — that got particularly nasty, then-South Africa captain Corne Krige lost his cool and swung a punch at an Englishman — only to miss and knock out his own flyhalf, Andre Pretorius.

One tweet, sent by former Ireland international Stephen Ferris before the World Cup, showed the Springboks squad posing for a photo with their jerseys off and muscles flexed. It is quite a sight.

Three members of South Africa's starting pack tomorrow are more than two meters tall. The eight-man forward pack weighs a combined 927 kilograms, 7 kilograms more than England's.

"The challenge has been laid out by South Africa," said Billy Vunipola, one of England's hard men, "and the challenge is going to be up front."

There's every chance, though, that the two giant packs will cancel each other out. It might come down to one or two inspirational moments from the players behind the scrum instead.

Will it be South Africa's scrumhalf Faf de Klerk, always busy and easily

RUGBY WORLD CUP

England, Boks meet in a final not for the faint-hearted



England's coach Eddie Jones



South Africa's coach Rassie Erasmus

identifiable with his flowing blond hair? Or his dynamic teammate Cheslin Kolbe, a fleet-of-foot winger with unreal acceleration?

As for England, George Ford is the director at flyhalf. Jonny May is a tall winger who knows how to find the tryline. How about backup scrumhalf Ben Spencer being the accidental hero, having only been called into the squad five days ago as an injury replacement?

"We need to be good in the arm wrestle," England coach Eddie Jones said, "and when we have the opportunities to break the game up, we are then confident and composed enough to take them."

The only northern hemisphere country to win the World Cup, England wouldn't want to have anyone else leading the team into the contest other than Jones, a wily Australian working with a fourth different country in nine editions of the tournament.

Jones led Australia to the 2003 final, consulted to the Springboks' winning campaign in '07 — when they beat England 15-6 in the final — and now he's back in the title match with England after masterminding a 19-7 win over New Zealand in the semifinals. That might go down as England's greatest ever performance, considering how comfortably the defending two-time champion All Blacks were smothered.

If England wins tomorrow, it will have beaten all three of the traditional southern-hemisphere heavyweights in the knockouts, a feat certainly deserving of the title.

And it will mark an amazing turnaround from the 2015 tournament that England hosted — and exited at the pool stage in embarrassing, unprecedented fashion.

The Springboks will start as underdogs but will be tough to subdue, having only lost once in 2019 — against New Zealand in the pool stage. They broke the hearts of host nation Japan in the quarterfinals and eked out an ugly victory over

Wales in the semis.

Rassie Erasmus took charge in early 2018 with the Springboks low on belief and ideas. He has got them playing to their strengths again — the set piece, heavy defense and a strong, tactical kicking game — and the results have followed.

"They've got a history of being the most physically intimidating team in the world," Jones said, "so we've got to take that away from them."

The sight of South Africa being led out by Siya Kolisi, the first black player to be appointed Springboks captain, will also be poignant for a country that is still trying to fully emerge from the apartheid era. AP

LINEUPS

ENGLAND: Elliot Daly, Anthony Watson, Manu Tuilagi, Owen Farrell (captain), Jonny May, George Ford, Ben Youngs; Billy Vunipola, Sam Underhill, Tom Curry, Courtney Lawes, Maro Itoje, Kyle Sinckler, Jamie George, Mako Vunipola. Reserves: Luke Cowan-Dickie, Joe Marler, Dan Cole, George Kruis, Mark Wilson, Ben Spencer, Henry Slade, Jonathan Joseph.

SOUTH AFRICA: Willie le Roux, Cheslin Kolbe, Lukhanyo Am, Damian de Allende, Makazole Mapimpi, Handré Pollard, Faf de Klerk; Duane Vermeulen, Pieter-Steph du Toit, Siya Kolisi (captain), Lood de Jager, Eben Etzebeth, Frans Malherbe, Bongi Mbonambi, Tendai Mtawarira. Reserves: Malcolm Marx, Steven Kitshoff, Vincent Koch, RG Snyman, Franco Mostert, Francois Louw, Herschel Jantjies, Frans Steyn.

ALL BLACKS AIM TO START NEXT WORLD CUP STREAK WITH BRONZE

Friday, 17:00
New Zealand v Wales
H 1.1, D 61, A 11

ODDSCHECKER.COM

A painful knockout loss in 2007 was the catalyst for an All Blacks resurgence that led to unprecedented Rugby World Cup success.

In his last game in charge, Steve Hansen wants his players to use another painful defeat as inspiration for a new dynasty for New Zealand's rugby team.

A 19-7 semifinal loss to England last weekend has the two-time defending champions playing Wales on the next-to-last day of the World Cup — for third place.

"It is different, you can't sidestep that. There's a lot of pain involved and a lot of hurt, but you've just got to make that work for you," Hansen said. The quarterfinal loss to France in 2007 "has earned us two World Cups because it's created a real pain that's personal and deep inside you.



"When you have adversity in sport, it makes you tougher."

Hansen and Wayne Smith were assistants to Graham Henry 12 years ago when the All Blacks were upset in Cardiff. The squad decamped almost immediately.

"Last time we didn't get another opportunity to play a game," Hansen said. "We had to wait four years to get it out of our system."

And get it out of their systems they did.

The coaching staff was retained, and it rebuilt the team that won the World Cup on home soil in 2011, ending a 24-year title drought. Hansen took over and led the All Blacks to victory in 2015 in England, when the home

team was unceremoniously bundled out in the pool stage. The All Blacks were the first back-to-back Rugby World Cup winners.

"Some people externally may be saying there's nothing on it, there's no pressure, so therefore they'll throw the ball around," he said. But, "there is a lot on the match; their whole year will be forgotten if they win this game."

Wales, on the other side, has "the chance to create a little bit of history against the All Blacks," Gatland said. "It has been a long time, 66 years, not to beat a side. We have had success against every other nation. The All Blacks have been that elusive team we have not been able to conquer." MDT/AP

OPINION

Bizcuits

Leanda Lee



OBSOLESCE MIND

Obsolescence: I've always had to rely on the spell-checker for this one, in maybe a subconscious attempt to deny the existence of the commercial form of this phenomenon. From the ludicrous idea that houses have lifespans of 35 years in the new world, to the need to renovate, renew and replace almost everything with the season, obsolescence is our way of life. We tend to replace rather than maintain our belongings.

You might consider darning the holes in that gorgeous Scottish lambswool cardigan your mother bought on that trip to the UK, but most things of lesser quality and sentimental value will more likely end up being chucked out. In our lives of abundance, the new is simpler.

A property I bought in 2009 had a quality SMEG refrigerator built into the kitchen cabinetry. The built-in nature suggested longevity was intended in the design, and the SMEG Italian reputation was consistent with that idea.

As can be guessed, 10 years on, and in the moist climate of Macau where even the best appliances fast deteriorate, the tenant noted his electricity bill soar and narrowed it down to the seals on the fridge.

Property management was approached for directions to a suitable repair man, on the basis that if it were happening with one fridge in the block, it would be happening with others. A sifu comes out to look, says the seals are no longer available and gives us a quote on the only refrigerator which will fit the cabinet. Gotcha!

HKD12,000 for a new Italian fridge with only 1-year warranty, but with a generous discount for lucky me. Installation of HKD650 and - this is what really grinds my gears - HKD350 to dump a perfectly good fridge that only needs replacement seals.

Hitting a brick wall with the local repair fellow, the throw-away mentality and the joy in the brand-spanking new, I go to work contacting SMEG from Melbourne to Milano for spare parts. I reason that given the quality reputation of the brand and Europe's refusal to continue to put up with planned obsolescence, this corporation will find them on a shelf somewhere.

A warning: there is tedium in the process to beat the planned obsolescence paradigm. (And should you consider a 10-year fridge beyond bothering with, my point is made.) After a couple of days of emails to SMEG I got through to a Sydney-ite who asked for the compliance plate details. A day later the tenant located it and a picture was sent off to the spare parts department. A few days later, another email with the same response as Macau, no parts, sorry, but they suggested I might try my luck with SMEG Italy.

One wrong email address and after a couple of days I tried another, to be sent an auto-response to expect an email within 3 working days. And this is where the quality name let me down: no indication of spare parts availability, just to contact the local representative!

In one last ditched effort to keep a good fridge working, calls were made to Hong Kong. From a process that began in September, this week, I found the seals for 50% down payment, HKD3,480 for the two sets of "gaskets", HKD500 inspection fee, and a five-week lead time.

With this type of obsolescence, we don't own what we have. Without the right to readily repair appliances, we are only granted their utility for a limited time. A one-year warranty is effectively a lease on utility for one year, anything more is just luck.

The costs that apply directly to me within our extraordinary industrial system lead me to choose to waste the embodied resources of the material, production and transport and disposal management along the supply chain of a new HKD12,000++ refrigerator - for one year! Cold comfort and expensive cold beers!

US OFFICIAL URGES ASEAN TO STAND UP TO CHINA IN SEA ROW

THE BUZZ

A senior U.S. official urged Southeast Asian nations meeting this weekend in Bangkok to put up a stiffer resistance to China's militarization of the disputed South China Sea.

At the same time, David Stilwell, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for East Asia and the Pacific, sought to downplay Chinese concerns over U.S. involvement in the region.

He told a forum in Malaysia that the concept of a free and open Indo-Pacific region was not a move to expand U.S. domination but reflected Washington's "enduring engagement" to make the area prosperous.

China's smaller neighbors including Vietnam, the Philippines and Malaysia contest Beijing's claims of ownership of almost all of the strategically important South China Sea. Beijing has asserted its claim by building seven man-made islands and equipping them with military runways, missile defense systems and outposts.

Stilwell, who is en route to Bangkok for regional summits with the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations, said the grouping should have resisted moves to militarize the South China Sea.

POLL: TRUMP APPROVAL STEADY AS IMPEACHMENT RAGES



PRESIDENT Donald Trump's approval rating is holding steady as the House presses forward with an impeachment probe that could imperil his presidency, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. But there are warning signs in the survey for Trump.

Though Trump remains overwhelmingly popular within his own party, some Republicans have a critical view of the president's honesty, his discipline and his respect for America's democratic norms. Overall, 61% of Americans say Trump has little or no respect for the country's democratic institutions and traditions, an issue that strikes at the heart of the impeachment inquiry focused in part on whether he sought a foreign government's help for personal political gain.

Trump has fought back against the House probe with the same strategy that has buoyed him throughout the other investigations and controversies that have consumed his first three years in office: casting the investigations as politically motivated and repeatedly disparaging his opponents, often in biting personal terms. Republicans are so far sticking with him, with 85% saying they approve of Trump.

"The Democrats will not let the president do his job," said Robert Little,

a 73-year-old Republican from Kannapolis, North Carolina. "Ever since he's been in office, he's done a lot of good things for the United States, but the Democrats' only agenda is to get rid of Trump."

Overall, 42% of Americans approve of Trump's handling of the job, in line with where he has been throughout his tenure. Just 7% of Democrats have a positive view of Trump as president.

Trump's job approval rating and other markers in the survey underscore the deeply divisive nature of his presidency, with Republicans largely favoring

61% of Americans say Trump has little or no respect for the country's democratic institutions and traditions

of the economy, including a quarter of Democrats. Trump inherited a growing economy from his predecessor, Barack Obama, and the trajectory has remained positive, with the unemployment rate hovering below 4%. But economists have warned that Trump's push to levy tariffs on China puts economic gains at risk, and a majority of Americans, 55%, disapprove of Trump's handling of trade negotiations with other countries.

Americans are more critical of Trump's handling of foreign policy, with 59% disapproving of how he's handling that issue. The public is also skeptical that Trump's actions as president have been good for America's standing in the world; 46% said his policies have done more harm than good, while 39% said they have had a more positive impact.

The poll was conducted almost entirely before Trump announced on Sunday that Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi had been killed in a U.S. raid in Syria.

Trump was elected in 2016 with low marks from voters on an array of personal attributes, including honesty, and those assessments haven't changed. Trump frequently repeats false statements and spreads conspiracy theories that have been debunked, including by members of his own administration. AP



Syria The Islamic State group declared a new leader after it confirmed the death of its leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi (pictured) days earlier in a U.S. raid in Syria. In its audio release by the IS central media arm, al-Furqan Foundation, a new spokesman for IS identifies the successor as Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi — tracing his lineage, like al-Baghdadi, to the Prophet Muhammad's Quraysh tribe.



USA Strong winds fanned new Southern California wildfires, burning homes and forcing residents to flee their homes in a repeat of the frightening scenario already faced by tens of thousands across the state. The latest blazes erupted in the heavily populated inland region east of Los Angeles.



Spain's interim leader has offered to have Madrid host an international U.N. climate summit next month that was originally scheduled to be held in Chile. Chilean President Sebastián Piñera yesterday [Macau time] canceled plans to host the Dec. 2-13 climate gathering, as well as a summit of Asia-Pacific leaders, to focus on restoring security in his riot-struck country.



Germany Judges threw out a lawsuit by three farming families who had taken Chancellor Angela Merkel's government to court and argued that it wasn't doing enough to tackle climate change. The suit was the first attempt in Germany to hold authorities legally accountable for pledges they have made to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.