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ANALYSIS: HO IAT SENG MAY ANNOUNCE HALF-REVAMPED NEW GOVERNMENT THIS WEEK

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US, CHINA SIGNAL PROGRESS TOWARD INITIAL TRUMP-XI TRADE DEAL

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FITCH RATINGS PREDICTS SINGLE-DIGIT GROWTH FOR MACAU CASINOS INDUSTRY IN 2020

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Thailand Seven Southeast Asian leaders skipped an important meeting with the United States yesterday after President Donald Trump decided not to attend their regional summit in Thailand. More on p13



Vietnam Police have arrested eight more suspects in connection with the deaths of 39 Vietnamese nationals found dead inside a refrigerated truck container in southeastern England.

South Korea Police said they're investigating a member of K-pop superstar group BTS over a traffic accident that left him and a taxi driver with minor injuries.



India Authorities restricted many private vehicles from taking to the roads of India's capital yesterday amid a public health crisis that has left New Delhi residents gasping and their eyes burning from toxic air pollution.



Australia A newspaper publisher appealing Geoffrey Rush's 2.9 million Australian dollar payout for defamation told an Australian court yesterday there was no evidence the Oscar-winning actor was unable to work or had fewer job offers because of damage to his reputation.

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CARITAS TO ALLOT MOP1 MILLION FOR NEW AGED CARE HOME

P3



MELBOURNE CUP

BILLIONAIRES STILL LOVE THE HORSE RACE THAT STOPS A NATION

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LEI CHAN U QUESTIONS ZONE E1 SEWAGE TREATMENT PLAN

Lawmaker Lei Chan U has questioned the necessity of building a sewage treatment facility in zone E1, according to an interpellation he recently submitted to the government. The lawmaker pointed out that Macau currently has five sewage treatment facilities, and that only one of them is treating sewage above its designed capacity. The government also planned to build a sewage treatment plant on the artificial island of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge. As the government plans to build a sewage treatment facility on the HKZMB, Lei questioned whether it is still necessary to build one in zone E1. He also questioned whether consideration should be given to the Macau airport sewage treatment plant being expanded to meet the projected increase in visitor numbers.

LAM LON WAI RECOMMENDS HARD-RUBBISH COLLECTION STATION

Lawmaker Lam Lon Wai has written an interpellation to the local government to install temporary collection stations for the disposal of large items. In his interpellation, Lam specifically pointed out that some members of the public and non-local residents have been illegally dumping furniture and large items on the streets late at night. Lam said that cleaning companies have no responsibility to handle such items, thus leaving them to pile up and eventually block the streets. He suggested that the local government install CCTV surveillance cameras at blind spots where such activities typically occur. He also specifically proposed that the government post signs in multiple languages to remind the public not to dump their rubbish.

NG KUOK CHEONG PUSHES FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIAL STORAGE

Lawmaker Ng Kuok Cheong has written an interpellation to the government asking about the specific location of the planned temporary warehouse for storing hazardous material and the temporary transit warehouse for storing fuel. In his interpellation, Ng pointed out that the Macau SAR government had indicated last year a decision to set up a temporary fuel transit warehouse on the artificial island of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge and to construct a temporary warehouse for storing hazardous material in the E1 area of the New Urban Zone. Earlier this year, the local government told Ng that it was yet to determine the location of the sites. Ng wants the local authority to explain whether they are still reviewing the original chosen sites and what the proposed timetable for the construction of the two warehouses will be. Ng also wants the government to promise that construction will commence this year.



TWO BODIES FOUND IN TAIPA

RENATO MARQUES

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) have advised that two bodies were found in separate locations on Taipa Island on Sunday.

Although the cases were unrelated, the PJ said that both cases are not currently being treated as suspicious and are under investigation as suspected suicides.

In the first case reported by the PJ, the police stated that around noon on Sunday, a worker on a construction site located in the area of the E1 plot of land in Pac On saw a body in the water by the shoreline, and alerted the Customs Services (SA) officers who patrol the area.

SA then submitted the case for investigation to the PJ.

After an inspection, the PJ indicated that the deceased had been dead for some time.

The police also noted that it was not yet possible to identify the body. There were no identifying documents found on the deceased male, who is thought to be aged between 35 and 40.

The PJ added that no wounds or marks that could lead to suspicions of a crime were found on the body.

The cause of death will only be determined after a forensic examination.

In the evening of the same day, the PJ were alerted to the second case by the Fire Services Bureau (CB). This case involved a resident woman aged

approximately 80 years old who was found dead on the podium of the building where she lived at the Avenida Olimpica in Taipa.

The CB had been notified of the case by a call to the 999 Emergency Hotline, advising that a person was on the verge of jumping from an apartment.

Upon arrival at the scene, the CB found the woman already dead on the building podium and called the PJ.

Following its investigation, the PJ has advised that the deceased lived with her family in a unit in the building and that they had had an argument around 4 p.m., but that things had been quiet after that.

This was until the residents of the unit just above

the podium level phoned the emergency number 999 to report finding the woman after she fell from the building.

Upon inspection of the flat, the PJ found that a gate on the caged window box was open, leading to suspicions that the deceased woman opened it herself and committed suicide.

The PJ said that upon preliminary evaluation, there was no evidence pointing to foul play and no other wounds were found upon the victim other than those consistent with falling from a height.

As in the first case, the cause of death will be subject to forensic examination. Both cases are still under investigation by the PJ.

Police crackdown on illegal car racing

THE Public Security Police Force (PSP) has intercepted five vehicles suspected of being modified and used in illegal car racing. According to the PSP's statement yesterday, the force had received several reports from the public complaining about suspected illegal car racing on Macau's islands. Following the reports, the PSP carried out an operation on Estr.

da Ponta da Cabrita to inspect cars driving along the road. During the PSP's operation, five cars were seized for having undergone suspected modifications. On Sunday, the PSP conducted further vehicle search operations in both Taipa and Coloane, identifying vehicles suspected of modification. These vehicles were taken back to the PSP's

transport department for further examination and processing. The crackdown on illegal car racing was carried out ahead of the upcoming Macau Grand Prix. Earlier in March, a 40-year-old resident sustained severe injuries in a car accident in Coloane. The PSP suspected he was speeding and illegally racing with two motorbikes. JZ



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NEW GOVERNMENT

Two to three secretaries will stay, announcement this week

THE next Chief Executive, Ho Iat Seng, who has been elected in Macau and appointed in Beijing for several months, has been silent about his choice of government officials, but a source familiar with the matter told the Times the announcement of the new cabinet members "will most probably be made this week."

Politicians and government officials heard by MDT, who asked to remain anonymous, agree that there will not be a full revamp of the government: two or three current secretaries will retain their positions.

Carlos Simões, a seasoned lawyer and president of the Macau European Chamber of Commerce, expects two of the five secretaries to stay.

Speaking recently to TDM-TV, Simões said that he believed Secretaries for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, and for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, would be retained in Ho Iat Seng's government.

His rationale was that both secretaries manage crucial portfolios. Leong has been working on the renewal of the gambling concessions, while Rosário has been involved in work on urban renewal, public housing and the Light Rapid Transit project.

To be fair, with the national-level policy of Belt and Road and the Greater Bay Area emerging, all secretaries have a lot on their hands.

Online English news outlet, Macau News, has compiled a list of names for each of the five positions.

For example, current Commissioner of Audit, Ho Veng On, Commissioner Against Corruption, André Cheong, and even Justice Fong Man Chong of the



Party time is over: Ho Iat Seng may announce new government this week

Court of Second Instance were named as possible choices for Secretary for Administration and Justice.

Other names suggested by the news outlet included Wong Soi Man, head of the Marine and Water Bureau; Tai Kin Ip, head of the Economic Bureau; O Lam, chief of office for the Office of the Chief Executive and Paulo Martins Chan, head of the Gaming Inspection and

Coordination Bureau.

Regarding the possibility that Rosário and Leong will stay, commentator Larry So considers it reasonable. "They do have a lot of work on their hands," So agreed. "In addition, a lot of rumors have been suggesting they're staying."

In terms of transport and public works, So said, "In Rosário's area, there are works related to the renewal of the bus

service concessions and the light rail."

The commentator said the light rail project, even if not considered the project of the century, is one that has been long anticipated by the general public. "[Rosário] has also hinted the opening day before the 20th anniversary of the handover," recalled So.

Additionally, So agrees that Leong might be staying, too.

"His biggest task is the renewal of the casino concessions," he pointed out. "But the project involves departments from other areas, so I won't say 'work' is the main reason he's staying."

However, the situation is ever-changing. "Recently, Leong has been out of the limelight. He's away from the camera," said the commentator. And this might be interpreted as a signal that, on the other hand, Leong is leaving his post.

Similarly, in the social and cultural areas, So noted that "[Secretary] Tam has been rarely seen recently too."

Political scholar Eric Sautédé considers that the quality of a person should prevail rather than the status of the person.

"It would be very interesting if the next administration chooses lawmaker Agnes Lam as the next Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture," said the academic, supporting his view with the fact that the lawmaker had garnered more than 5,000 votes in the previous election.

Sautédé also thinks she has been doing a good job as the "neutral" lawmaker in the legislature.

All officials currently serving the administration when questioned about their prospects stated that they would focus on their current responsibilities, emphasizing the fact that the choice is with the new Chief Executive, Ho Iat Seng. **PC/AL**

Caritas to allot MOP1 million from bazaar fund for new elderly home

LYNZY VALLES

CARITAS Macau is allotting 1 million patacas of the funds that were raised during its 50th charity bazaar to fund the construction of a new aged care home on a plot of land that it acquired last year.

The piece of land – which is about 600 square meters in area – is located near Kun Iam Temple.

However, due to the existence of an old building on the site, Caritas Macau is restricted as to the height of the new building that it plans to construct.

Currently, the non-governmental organization is in talks with the Cultural Bureau, as it needs to observe the bureau's conservation guidelines.

Paul Pun, secretary general of Caritas Macau, said that the planning would be completed soon, without giving an expected date.

"We will spend some money from the startup fund for the elderly home that we plan to build, which could amount to one million patacas, but we still need to raise [more]," said Pun in an interview yesterday with the Times.

"The place was already visited by the IC and we will soon be able to get the plan of the area," he added.

Meanwhile, Caritas Macau is also set to allot approximately 600,000 patacas to support communities in third world countries.

The organization also aims to extend the operating hours of its "Good Take Express" service, which provides accessible transport services for local residents with disabilities to travel between their homes and workplaces.

Currently, the service runs only during the day

but Caritas aims to extend its working hours to later in the evening.

"Good Take Express" provides services through its 12-vehicle fleet to some fifty people daily.

Another beneficiary of the funds raised from the bazaar will be the

"Upstairs and Downstairs Service," which services the elderly and handicapped people with mobility problems or who are confined to a wheelchair.

"We have support from the Macao Foundation, but of course there is a certain amount that they give,



so whatever the exceeded amount is, we need to raise to meet the needs of the individuals," said Pun.

The Caritas Macau Charity Bazaar was themed "With Love, We Come Together," featuring game booths and food stalls run by private companies, public departments, and civil-so-

ciety organizations.

A charity sale, raffle draw, flag sale and various stage performances were also held during the two-day community event.

Last year, the bazaar attracted more than 50,000 participants and raised more than 7.5 million patacas.

MACAU SOCIETY SEMINAR ON PROTOCOL

A seminar on Macau Society was recently held at the Macau University of Science and Technology. During the event, speakers discussed manners and China's foreign affairs protocol.

The seminar was held at the school with the participation of the former Director of the Protocol, Public Relations and External Affairs Office, Fung Sio Weng and Zhang Guobin, former Consul General at the Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China in Strasbourg.

During the lecture, Fung exhibited photos of the rankings of courtesies in Macau and the mainland, explaining the rules of precedence in Macau and the mainland when government hosts guests.

Fung also explained how to distinguish between high-ranking guests and others during a meeting.

He also discussed matters regarding the level of Macau and mainland government offices, making a comparison between the classification of the

mainland's government officials from the central government, the local government, and the classification of Macau's principal officials.

Fung also discussed the rules of precedence in international conferences and international activities.

Other guests, such as Zhang Guobin, talked about China's diplomacy and foreign etiquette.

Zhang said that China's large-nation diplomacy with Chinese cultural characteristics is based upon wisdom, and is not a diplomacy of oppression. Zhang cited quotations from Xi Jinping's speeches in the UN General Assembly and the G20 business summit.

Zhang provided a detailed explanation of diplomatic etiquette, ranging from greetings at diplomatic occasions, the discretion at reception and visits, seating arrangements, and the placement of western tableware. During question time, Zhang responded to queries about the necessary qualities of diplomats. JZ

HALF OF THE 13 HOTEL STAKES CHANGE HANDS

SOUTH Shore Holdings Ltd has sold approximately 50% of their stake in the local development, The 13 Hotel, according to a filing made to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. The filing notes the deal made with a group of offshore companies, including a subsidiary of the Hong Kong real estate developer ITC Properties Group Ltd, as reported by GGR Asia.

The filing details the plan to dispose of the parcel to the holding entity as a joint venture of the group of companies in a deal worth HKD750 million.

Following the announcement on Friday evening, South Shore Holdings Ltd, the parent company of Falloncroft Investments Ltd (the firm that made the disposal) saw its stock resume trading after shares were suspended on October 15.

In the initial October 16 filing, South Shore Holdings Ltd advised that Falloncroft Investments Ltd was ready to dispose of as much as 60% of its interest in The 13 Hotel.

In last Friday's filing, the company finally confirmed they had reached a deal to dispose of a total of 50% of its issued share capital to an aggregate of three buyers: Fine Intellect Ltd, Ease Link Investments Ltd, and All Fame Developments Ltd. All are offshore



companies based in the British Virgin Islands.

Fine Intellect Ltd is a wholly-owned subsidiary of HK's ITC Properties Group, a firm chaired by Cheung Hon Kit, while Easy Link Investments Ltd is wholly owned by HK-listed CST Group Ltd, a financial holding company with subsidiaries in e-logistics and mining. All Fame Developments Ltd is a company owned by former vice chairman of Citic Resources Holdings Ltd, Ma Ting Hung, and is seen as an independent third party on the deal.

The agreement details that Fine Intellect will also be granted an option to purchase an additional stake of 30% in the disposal company, Uni-Dragon Ltd. The option is valid for a period of

two years.

Friday's filing said that, pursuant to a shareholders' agreement, South Shore Holdings Ltd and Falloncroft Investments Ltd would be "required to provide financial assistance to the disposal company" – namely, a shareholder's loan for HKD250 million to be contributed by Falloncroft Investments Ltd and the continuation of an existing guarantee by South Shore Holdings Ltd in respect of the full amount of a bank loan amounting to an outstanding principal of HKD2.94 billion as of August 31. Adding to these, Falloncroft Investments Ltd would commit to funding the loan service advance in the first three years after completion. RM

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HOTELS AVERAGE OCCUPANCY RATE RISES IN FIRST THREE QUARTERS

The average occupancy rate of hotels and guesthouses in rose by 0.4 percentage points year-on-year to 90.8 percent in first three quarters this year, the SAR's statistics service said yesterday.

The latest report from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) showed that in the first three quarters of 2019, guests of hotels and guesthouses totaled 10,545,000, up by 1.7 percent year-on-year. The average length of stay of guests remained stable at 1.5 nights.

The report also said that there were 121 hotels and guesthouses operating at the end of September 2019, an increase of 5 year-on-year.

The number of available guest rooms edged down by 0.6 percent year-on-year to 39,000, with 4-star hotel rooms decreasing by 7.3 percent to 7,200, and 5-star hotel rooms remaining steady at 25,000.

In September, a total of 1,118,000 guests checked into hotels and guesthouses, up by 2.0 percent year-on-year. The average occupancy rate of hotels and guesthouses dropped by 2.1 percentage points year-on-year to 84.6 percent, and the rates of 4-star hotels (83.2 percent) and 5-star hotels (87.0 percent) fell by 3.0 percentage points and 1.5 percentage points respectively. **MDT/XINHUA**

Fitch Ratings: low single-digit growth rate for city's GGR

FITCH Ratings has predicted that the city's casino industry will only record single-digit growth in 2020.

Colin Mansfield of Fitch Ratings said in an interview with CNBC that short-term uncertainties are set to affect the SAR's gaming sector, noting that the main factor would be the macroeconomic conditions in China, namely the US-China trade war.

"What we're seeing right now is [the trade war] having an impact on the VIP business there right now. The good thing is that the mass market is performing quite well [and] you've had some new supply coming in the market in the last year," said Mansfield.

"To specifically address that segment, we are forecasting a low single-digit growth rate for 2020," he added.

Fitch Ratings expects that the city's VIP business will "remain flat," citing some potential downside risks if things escalate further in the



US-China trade war.

According to Mansfield, citing China's gross domestic product, Fitch Ratings is expecting a "China GDP-style growth for the mass gaming market" in Macau next year.

"Our economists have a 5.7% growth rate for that segment for 2020. So that comes out to be about a low-single digit [percentage GGR] growth for Macau in 2020 in our forecast," he said.

Meanwhile, Mansfield said that the increase of mass-market visitors in Macau would support the SAR's mass-market gambling segment.

"We see the mass market as a longer-term positive that's impacted by things like growing wealth creation in China, and infrastructure improvements in the Greater Bay Area," said the analyst.

Earlier, in October, JP Morgan Securities (Asia Pacific) stated in a note that "There's a good possibility that 2019 marks a cyclical bottom [for Macau's casino sector], and that demand can rebound into 2020 on easy [comparisons], better liquidity in China, and [the] alleviation of 2019 headwinds."

Meanwhile, the Internatio-

nal Monetary Fund also said last month that it expected Macau's gross domestic product to contract by 1.3% year-on-year in 2019, and 1.1% in 2020.

On Friday, data from the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau stated that Macau's gross gaming revenue recorded a 3.2% year-on-year decrease in October to MOP26.43 billion (\$3.28 billion).

The figure shows a contraction of 1.8% year-on-year for the first 10 months of 2019, showing further weakness amid China's economic slowdown.

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LOCAL YOUNG MAN FOUND STEALING FROM TAXIS

THE Public Security Police Force (PSP) has caught a 23-year-old local man stealing money from taxis. Yesterday, the PSP reported that the young male was found in the parking lot on Av. do Conselheiro Borja stealing from the glove box of a vehicle. The man has a record of six robberies from different parking lots. The suspect reportedly only stole from unlocked cars and admitted to having committed such crimes, further acknowledging that he was aware that some taxi drivers did not lock their cars when changing work shifts. He admitted to taking advantage of the shift changeover to steal small change from the vehicles, revealing that, in total, he stole 300 patacas. **JZ**

ANTHONY LAM



WARNING

Private vehicles frequently parked in fire lanes

FIRE Services Bureau (CB) Director Leong Lok Sam has said that private vehicles are frequently found parked in fire lanes.

Leong, together with lawmaker Song Pek Kei and other guests, was speaking on Sunday's TDM Macau Forum program.

During a discussion, Leong

revealed that it is common to observe private vehicles parked in service lanes reserved for fire services' vehicles.

The Fire Services Bureau is currently considering putting up signs on these lanes to remind the public not to obstruct them.

In addition, the CB will report the situation to the concerned law enforcement department.

During the forum, some residents complained that in their buildings staircases are always occupied with many miscellaneous items and, in some cases, even motorbikes, thus blocking fire escapes.

Paul Tse, President of the Property Management Business Association, proposed that, in the future, when the local government amends the city's

fire service regulations, more powers should be given to the fire services authority.

Other speakers voiced similar suggestions, having pointed out that currently, the Fire Services Bureau can only issue verbal warnings, but does not have the right to impose penalties on parties responsible for putting fire service installations at risk. **JZ**

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HONG KONG

POLICE SAY KNIFE-WIELDING ATTACKER DETAINED



District councillor Andrew Chiu receives medical treatment in Hong Kong, on Sunday

EILEEN NG, HONG KONG

HONG Kong police said yesterday that a 48-year-old knife-wielding man who slashed two people and bit off part of the ear of a local politician during weekend protests has been arrested, along with two men who attacked him in return.

Senior police official John Tse said the man struck a couple with a knife outside a mall late Sunday after an argument, before turning his teeth on the politician's ear. Tse said the assailant, whose name was not given, was then thrashed by an angry crowd, including two men aged 23 and 29. All three were arrested following the incident.

Five people were injured, including two who were in critical condition, police said.

"We do not tolerate any form of violence regardless of one's motive and political stance. We will certainly investigate fully

and bring offenders to justice," Tse said.

Local media cited witnesses as saying that before going on a rampage, the man told his victims that Hong Kong belongs to China. Television footage showed the man suddenly grabbing district councillor Andrew Chiu by the neck and biting his ear when Chiu tried to stop him from leaving after the attack. A man was left unconscious on the ground in a pool of blood.

The incident occurred shortly after police stormed the mall and several other shopping complexes to thwart anti-government protests as tensions continue to mount after five months of unrest in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

Although Chiu is a pro-democracy politician, it was not clear if that played any part in the attack.

"It shows that tempers are flaring up despite government

claims to promote reconciliation. It's a sign that the situation is getting out of hand. People are losing patience and throwing rational judgment to the wind," said Willy Lam, an adjunct professor at the Center for China Studies at Hong Kong's Chinese University.

Tse said there were several other bloody incidents over the weekend in which rioters attacked people with dissenting views. In one incident, a mob battered a Beijing supporter until he was unconscious and then stripped the man naked Saturday in a scene captured by local media.

"Such public shaming and bloody violence are totally against humanity," Tse said.

He said police arrested 325 people over the weekend. Operations were beefed up on Sunday to stymie unauthorized rallies and pursue radical protesters who had vandalized shops,

subway stations and committed arson the day before in a repeat of weekly violence.

"Rioters' destructive acts serve no other purpose than to vent their anger and grievances, real and imagined. Continuing this rampage is a lose-lose situation for Hong Kong," Tse said.

His comments were made through a Facebook Live broadcast after police called off their news conference when six journalists staged a protest and refused to leave. Wearing helmets with words that read "Investigate police violence, stop police lies," they were protesting against what they said was rising police violence against journalists covering the protests.

The demonstrations began in early June over a now-shelved plan to allow extraditions to mainland China but have since swelled into a movement seeking other demands, including direct elections for Hong Kong's leaders

and an independent inquiry into police conduct.

Many protesters are angry that Beijing is slowly infringing on the freedoms guaranteed to Hong Kong when the former British colony returned to Chinese control in 1997. There are no signs the unrest could stop any time soon as the government has refused to budge and Beijing has indicated it could tighten control over the territory.

"Protest has been integrated into the life of Hong Kong people," said software developer Ming Or, 31, as he watched a crowd chant anti-government slogans at a downtown mall during lunchtime yesterday.

"Young people want a more fair and just society instead of having a bigger cake that isn't divided equally, and we want our basic rights to be guaranteed. We cannot stop because we feel we are doing the right thing," he said. **AP**

GUANGDONG

Carbon market closes higher

CARBON emissions allowances closed at 26.36 yuan (about 3.75 U.S. dollars) per tonne yesterday, 1.35% up from Friday, at the China Emissions Exchange (Guangzhou), the largest local carbon market in China.

A total of 28,471 tonnes of allowances were transacted, with a turnover of 750,631.05 yuan.

The allowances, officially known as Guangdong Emissions Allowances (GDEA), are carbon

dioxide emissions caps assigned to companies. Firms whose emissions surpass their share must buy extra quotas from authorities or purchase unused quotas on the market from those that cause less pollution.

Since its opening in December 2013, the market has traded 134,205,537 tonnes of GDEA, with a total turnover of 2,620,125,288.16 yuan.

The carbon market in Guangdong covers all companies whose annual carbon

dioxide emissions surpass 20,000 tonnes from the province, except those in Shenzhen, which has a separate market. So far, more than 240 enterprises in sectors of power generation, steel, cement, petrochemicals, paper making and aviation have been included.

Activities on the market are reflective of the industry's emissions control cost in Guangdong, a manufacturing powerhouse and big energy consumer in China. **XINHUA**

CANTON FAIR CONCLUDES WITH GROWING EXPORTS TO B&R COUNTRIES

CHINA'S largest trade fair in southern Guangdong Province saw an increase in exports to Belt and Road (B&R) countries and regions, as well as a growing number of buyers from these regions.

The 126th autumn session of biannually-held China Import and Export Fair, also known as the Canton Fair, concluded yesterday with a turnover of 11.06 billion U.S. dollars from exports to B&R countries and regions, up 14.81% year on year, which accounted for

37.75% of the total transaction volume.

According to statistics, the number of participants from B&R buyers at this year's fair increased by 1.03% year on year to 85,445.

The China Import and Export Fair, held every spring and autumn in Guangzhou, capital of southern China's Guangdong Province, is widely seen as a barometer of China's foreign trade. **XINHUA**

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

ANDREW HEATHCOTE

The Melbourne Cup may have lost its title as Australia's richest horse race, but it remains a major lure for racing-mad billionaires.

Wealthy horse owners from around the world have sent their prized thoroughbreds to Australia's second-biggest city for a chance today to take home A\$4.4 million (\$3 million) for first place and an 18-carat gold trophy worth about A\$200,000.

Known locally as the "race that stops the nation", the Melbourne Cup has a unique place in Australia's sports-mad culture. Office tipping competitions and champagne breakfasts are held across the country while well-dressed punters make their annual pilgrimage to the race track in Flemington, an otherwise unremarkable suburb in Melbourne's inner north.

Retaining its premier status is becoming more difficult for the Melbourne Cup. A flashy, challenger event in Sydney, The Everest, has lifted its total prize pool to A\$14 million - dwarfing the Melbourne Cup's A\$8 million. Next year's Saudi Cup will be the richest horse race of all time, with a first prize of \$10 million and a total purse of \$20 million.

The Victoria Racing Club, which has been hosting the Melbourne Cup since 1864, has also had to contend with a rise in animal cruelty concerns after a series of reports on the mistreatment of retired race horses. Pop star Taylor Swift was set to perform in the mounting yard at this year's event - she canceled well-prior citing scheduling difficulties, amid criticism from horse-loving fans.

For many wealthy horse owners, the race's appeal is as strong as ever. The cashed-up



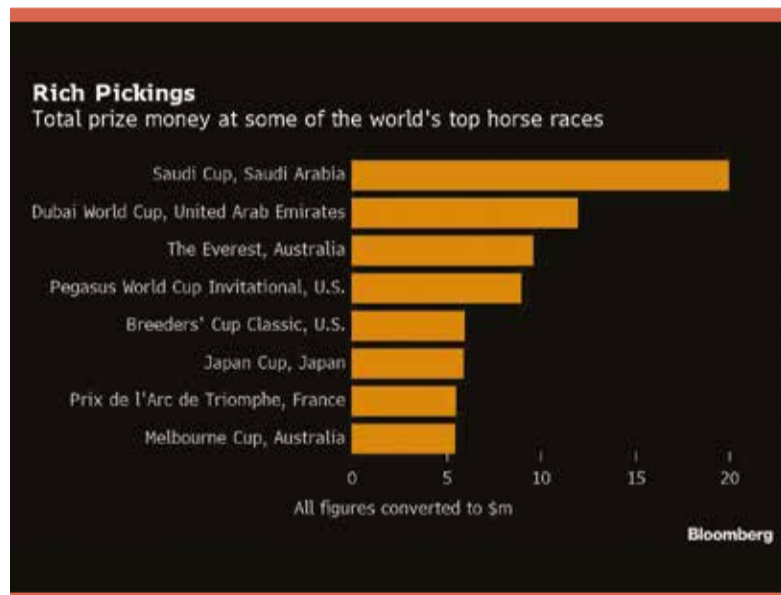
Billionaires still love the horse race that stops a nation

Godolphin stable, founded by Dubai-based Sheikh Mohamed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, won last year's Melbourne Cup with Cross Counter and will be trying for back-to-back wins with the same horse. Prince Khalid Abdullah, a member of Saudi royal family, is a co-owner of Finche, and Saeed Bel Obaida from the United Arab Emirates has Prince of Arran, a winner of lead-up race the Geelong Cup.

One of Australia's richest men Lloyd Williams is hoping for a seventh Melbourne Cup victory. Among his horses in this year's race is Master of Reality,

an Irish horse sired by unbeaten British-champion Frankel. Williams is the founder of the Crown complex in Melbourne, Australia's biggest casino.

The problem they all face is that vast riches can't guarantee success. Chinese billionaire Pan Sutong lost his chance to win the Cup when his horse Gold Mount suffered a career-ending injury in a lead-up race. "Gold Mount has given a lot of people an enormous amount of pleasure and will enjoy a well earned retirement at Mr. Pan's stud in South Australia," said trainer Ian Williams on Twitter. **BLOOMBERG**



CORPORATE BITS

Stories of the Sea - The Third Chapter at The Manor



The Manor at St. Regis is offering "an exquisite culinary experience" to patrons with the Stories of the Sea - The Third Chapter menu, featuring an all-new six-course menu showcasing the finest ingredients sourced from seas from every

corner of the globe, according to a note to the press.

Stories of the Sea - The Third Chapter introduces some of "the world's finest seafood and leading-edge presentation techniques."

On the "decadent six-cou-

rise menu," the signature dish is a French turbot with Brittany blue lobster, sourced from the cool waters of northern France. Served with a salted egg yolk lava stuffed within fresh pumpkin flower and accompanied by sautéed sea asparagus and orange purée, the dish presents diners "with an intense combination of rare flavors and textures that highlights the freshness of the fish and lobster," The Manor explains.

The new menu was crafted by The Manor's team of culinary artisans under the guidance of Chef David King, the Director of Culinary.

From yesterday until December 31, The Manor's set dinner menu is available daily.

MGM committed to Hiring Disabled Staff Recognition Scheme for seven consecutive years



MGM currently has over 40 team members with disabilities serving in different departments, "enabling them to unleash their potential and pursue continuous development," according to a press release from the company yesterday.

The statement adds that such efforts earned MGM recognition in both the 'employer'

and 'employee' categories of the 2019 Excellent Disabled Employees & Hiring Disabled Staff Recognition Scheme, a program co-organized by the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) and the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS). Inclusive of the new acclaim, "MGM received honors in the 'employer' category for seven years straight and saw

its employees earn distinctions for the fourth time."

Maggie Lei, who joined MGM Macau as Stewarding Supervisor nearly two years ago, received the title of Excellent Disabled Employee.

Grant Bowie said, "MGM believes that people with disabilities can also demonstrate high levels of competence and a strong work ethic. We place great emphasis on developing team members' capabilities and providing diverse training and learning opportunities."

To promote disability inclusion in the workplace, MGM has proactively collaborated with DSAL, IAS and other social organizations to hold a variety of seminars, workshops and activities.

Mega Trade Deal

Asian leaders plan to sign the world's largest regional trade deal next year

■ Asean ■ Other Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership negotiators
■ India to join when ready



INDIA EXITS BEIJING-BACKED TRADE DEAL AS 15 NATIONS READY TO SIGN

NATNICHA CHUWIRUCH, DANDAN LI & SANTOSH KUMAR

INDIA pulled out of a trade pact covering much of Asia, paving the way for 15 other countries to sign the China-backed regional trade deal next year.

India conveyed its decision to pull out of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, or RCEP, foreign ministry official Vijay Thakur Singh told reporters in Bangkok yesterday. The government took the decision in the national interest, she said.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi decided not to join the deal in order to protect service workers and farmers, an official told reporters in New Delhi yesterday. India had pushed the other 15 nations to address its concern over deficits and

open their markets to Indian services and investments, the official said.

"India has significant outstanding issues, which remain unresolved," RCEP countries said in a joint statement yesterday. "All RCEP Participating Countries will work together to resolve these outstanding issues in a mutually satisfactory way. India's final decision will depend on satisfactory resolution of these issues."

India is welcome to join RCEP whenever it's ready, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Le Yucheng told reporters in Bangkok yesterday. Asian leaders had hoped to announce a breakthrough on the trade pact this week.

"It's the 15 nations that have decided to move forward first," Le said, adding that a few issues won't be completed before the end of the year.

"There won't be any

problem for the 15 nations to sign RCEP next year," he added. "We are taking an open attitude -- whenever India is ready, it's welcome to get onboard."

China has sought to accelerate the pact covering a third of the global economy as it faces slowing growth from a trade war with the U.S., which withdrew from the Trans-Pacific Partnership after Donald Trump took office in 2017. A deal would further integrate Asia's economies with China just as the Trump administration urges Asian nations to shun Chinese infrastructure loans and 5G technology.

India has long been the main holdout on due to domestic opposition over worries it would be flooded by cheap goods from China. It made last-minute demands in the run-up to the Bangkok meetings

that ended up derailing the talks. The Philippines said Saturday that negotiations wouldn't be completed until February.

Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, who is leading a downgraded U.S. delegation to Asean, downplayed the significance of RCEP in an interview on Sunday. Most Southeast Asian leaders skipped a summit yesterday with U.S. representatives after Trump decided to avoid the annual meetings for a second straight year.

"RCEP is not much of an agreement," Ross told Bloomberg. "It's not a free trade agreement, it's not anything remotely like TPP, nor anything remotely like our separate arrangements with Japan and with South Korea. So I don't think you want to blow that out of proportion. It's a very low-grade treaty." **BLOOMBERG**

Macron's visit underscores economic tensions

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron is visiting China this week amid a push for Beijing to open its markets, despite festering trade disputes and weakened consumer spending.

Macron arrived yesterday in Shanghai, where he is to visit a sprawling import fair before traveling to Beijing for a state visit tomorrow.

The trip comes as France and its partners are demanding China make good on its commitments to boost imports of agricultural products and manufactured goods while opening its market for financial products and other services.

France and the European Union have joined the U.S. in complaints over Chinese trade practices they consider unfair.

Meanwhile, China is grappling with slumping demand that has kept economic growth to just 6% in the latest quarter, the lowest level in almost 30 years.

During a visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping to France in March, China signed an agreement to buy 300 aircraft from European plane maker Airbus in a deal estimated to be worth more than \$18 billion at list prices. Macron called that an "excellent signal" that shows the strength and reliability of the relations between the two countries.

In all, 15 business deals on energy, the food industry, transport and other sectors were signed during the visit, in addition to other bilateral agreements.

Macron also arranged for German Chancellor Angela Merkel and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker to meet with Xi during his Paris visit, underscoring France's push for a united European front in trade talks with China.

At a daily briefing yesterday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said the staging of the import fair demonstrated China's willingness to open its domestic markets.

"By doing this, we can also meet our domestic needs to pursue high-quality economic development, build a new pattern of opening up and constantly improve people's livelihood," Geng said.

"So I would like to tell the European side that please be assured, the Chinese side will spare no effort in fulfilling its promises and commitments," he said. **AP**



AP PHOTO



THE U.S. and China signaled further progress yesterday toward a breakthrough in trade talks that could culminate in a meeting between Donald Trump and Xi Jinping later this month.

China had hoped that if Xi traveled to the U.S. to sign a phase one trade deal it would be as part of a state visit, but is open to having him go even if it isn't, people familiar with the matter said. Chinese Premier Li Keqiang yesterday met a U.S. delegation that included National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien and U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross at a regional summit in Bangkok.

Before meeting Li, Ross told a morning business forum that the U.S. was "very far along" with "phase one" of a trade deal with China. Earlier, Trump told reporters that a trade agreement, if completed, would be signed somewhere in the U.S. No final decision has been made, said a Chinese official, who asked not to be named discussing the private negotiations.

In an interview with Bloomberg on Sunday, Ross expressed optimism the U.S. would conclude an initial agreement with China this month before working on additional phases. He also said licenses would be coming "very shortly" for U.S. firms to sell components to China's Huawei Technologies Co.

China's offshore strengthened as much as 0.27% to 7.0227 per dollar on yesterday, at one point breaking through its 100-day moving average for the first time since May.

Ross called the phase one agreement "particularly com-

US, China signal progress toward initial Trump-Xi trade deal

plicated" and said the U.S. was "making sure that each side has a very correct and clear, detailed understanding of what each side has agreed to." Iowa, Alaska, Hawaii and locations in China were all possible places for Trump and President Xi Jinping to sign the deal after the cancellation of this month's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Chile.

"We're in good shape, we're making good progress, and there's no natural reason why it couldn't be," Ross said. "But whether it will slip a little bit, who knows. It's always possible."

DOWNGRADED DELEGATION

Ross and National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien are leading a downgraded American delegation to meetings hosted by the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Thailand. Ross said yesterday that the Trump administration remained "fully committed" to the Indo-Pacific region, amid questions over U.S. strategy fueled by the president's absence.

Asian leaders were separately expected to announce a breakthrough on another trade pact, the China-backed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, at the end of the meetings. It remained uncertain whether the pact would include India, which jeopardized it with

last-minute requests.

Ross in the interview downplayed the significance of RCEP, which would lower tariffs in an area that represents roughly a third of the global economy, and defended U.S. engagement in Asia after Trump skipped the Asean meetings for a second straight year.

Contentious issues remain and the terms aren't yet known, but RCEP would at least partly fill a trade gap left by Trump's 2017 withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Southeast Asia collectively has the world's fifth largest economy and has struggled to wade through the economic fallout of U.S.-China trade tensions.

'CONSTRUCTIVE' CALL

Top American and Chinese negotiators both spoke on the phone Friday and described the talks as "constructive" as they look to lower tensions in a trade war that has roiled global growth. On Saturday after the call, Chinese state media reiterated the nation's core demands, including the removal of all punitive tariffs.

The deal would see China increase purchases of U.S. agriculture products, keep its currency stable and open financial services markets to American firms. In return, Beijing wants the U.S. to do away with new import ta-

xes due to take effect Dec. 15 on goods including smart-phones.

Ross remained non-committal on whether the Trump administration would suspend the December tariff hike. He also said further phases of the deal would depend on things involving legislation on the part of China and an enforcement mechanism.

Asked about a potential meeting between Xi and Trump, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang repeated that the two are in "in touch by various means" at a regular briefing in Beijing yesterday.

Chinese officials have cast doubts about reaching a comprehensive long-term trade deal even as the two sides close in on the phase one agreement, Bloomberg reported last week. China has stated for months that a final deal must include the removal of all punitive tariffs, and has balked at reforms in areas such as state-run enterprises that could jeopardize the Communist Party's grip on power.

Trump has placed dozens of Chinese firms on the Commerce Department's "entity list," hampering their ability to purchase American software and components. It first targeted Huawei in May for national security reasons, and last month added 28 more companies including artificial intelligence giants Sen-

seTime Group Ltd., Megvii Technology Ltd. and Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Co.

AWAITING LICENSES

Entities on the list are prohibited from doing business with American companies without being granted a U.S. government license, although some have maintained relationships with banned companies through international subsidiaries. China's government has signaled it will hit back over the blacklist, and the companies have denied wrongdoing.

The blacklist is also hurting American companies that do business with China, and particularly Huawei. Trump said in June after meeting with Xi in Japan that he'd "easily" agreed to allow American firms to continue certain exports to Huawei, and weeks later Trump said he'd accelerate the approval process for licenses.

Still, none have been granted so far. The president as recently as this month green-lit the approval of licenses in a meeting with advisers, according to people familiar with the matter, but an announcement has yet to be made.

Ross on Sunday said the licenses "will be forthcoming very shortly," noting that the government received 260 requests. **BLOOMBERG**

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

MOON, ABE MEET BRIEFLY, AGREE TO MORE TALKS TO SETTLE ROW

KIM TONG-HYUNG, SEOUL

SOUTH Korean President Moon Jae-in and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe met one-on-one yesterday for the first time in more than a year and called for more dialogue between the countries to settle a deep dispute over trade and history.

Seoul's presidential Blue House said Moon talked with Abe for 11 minutes on the sidelines of a regional summit in Thailand where they "agreed to the importance of South Korea-Japan relations and reaffirmed the principle of resolving pending bilateral issues through dialogue."

Moon proposed high-level talks and Abe in response said the countries should exhaust "every possible method" to settle the dispute, Blue House spokeswoman Ko Min-jung said.

"It was the first meeting between the leaders in a very long time, so we hope that the dialogue would pave way [for an improvement] in South Korea-Japan relations," Ko said at a news briefing.

The two U.S. allies in past months have seen their relations sink



to a low unseen in decades.

Japan has denounced South Korean court rulings calling for Japanese companies to offer reparations to aging South Korean plaintiffs for their World War II forced labor, insisting that all compensation matters were settled when the two countries normalized relations under a 1965 treaty.

South Korea accused Tokyo of

ignoring the suffering of South Koreans under Japan's brutal colonial rule of Korea from 1910 to 1945 and furiously reacted to Japanese moves to tighten controls on key technology exports to the country and downgrade its trade status.

Ko avoided a specific answer when asked whether the leaders were able to narrow their differ-

ences over wartime history. Japanese broadcaster NHK said that during his meeting with Moon, Abe repeated Tokyo's stance that Seoul abide by the 1965 agreement regarding the issue of compensating forced laborers.

The dispute has spilled over to security issues, with Seoul saying it plans to terminate a military intelligence-sharing pact with Tokyo

that symbolized their three-way security cooperation with Washington in face of the North Korean nuclear threat and China's growing regional influence.

Following an angry reaction from the Trump administration, Seoul said it could reconsider its decision to end the military agreement if Japan relists South Korea as a favored trade partner. The pact, known as the general security of military information agreement, or GSOMIA, will expire in late November.

Yesterday's meeting between Moon and Abe was their first since they held a summit on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly in September 2018. Abe passed up a chance for a meeting when Moon visited Osaka, Japan, for the Group of 20 events in June, weeks before his government announced strengthened export controls on certain chemicals South Korean companies use to produce computer chips and smartphone displays.

In recent weeks, South Korea has taken steps to de-escalate the feud, apparently because the deadline is approaching on the military agreement. Moon sent Prime Minister Lee Nak-yeon, Seoul's No. 2, to Tokyo last month to attend Emperor Naruhito's enthronement ceremonies and propose more diplomatic efforts between the countries. AP

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JIM GOMEZ & GRANT PECK,
NONTHABURI

Most ASEAN leaders no-shows in meeting with Trump's proxy

SEVEN Southeast Asian leaders skipped an important meeting with the United States yesterday after President Donald Trump decided not to attend their regional summit in Thailand.

Rather than Trump, the U.S. sent recently appointed national security adviser Robert O'Brien to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations gathering. The move contrasts with other allies of the 10-member regional bloc who sent their heads of government.

Only host Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha of Thailand and the prime ministers of Vietnam and Laos joined O'Brien and the foreign ministers sent by the other countries.

American officials, fearing a boycott, urged all Southeast Asian heads of state to attend yesterday's summit. But ASEAN leaders decided to send only Prayuth as host, the Vietnamese prime minister as host of next year's summit and the leader of Laos, who oversees ASEAN-U.S. relations, a Southeast Asian diplomat told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of a lack of authority to discuss the issue.

The annual summit allows Southeast Asian leaders to deal as a group with the world's major powers, leveraging their influence in making security and trade arrangements. It has served as an arena of rivalry between Beijing and Washington, which both seek to strengthen their clout in a geopolitically important region.

Trump's decision to skip the summit of heads of state and not send Vice President Mike Pence or Secretary of State Mike Pompeo left a diplomatic vacuum for other global leaders to fill, such as Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and especially Chinese Premier Li Keqiang.

"My guess is the leaders will attend the meetings when their counterparts are here," Philippine Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez told reporters. "It's just a matter of proper balance."

During the meeting, O'Brien read a letter from Trump, who invited ASEAN leaders to a "special summit" in the U.S. early next year.

ASEAN includes Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Together, they comprise a fast-growing regional market of nearly 650 million people.

At their annual gathering, the ASEAN leaders meet in their own summit before meeting separately with their counterparts from outside the bloc, including the U.S., China, Japan, Australia and India.

ASEAN leaders welcomed

what they said was the conclusion of seven years of negotiations for a massive free trade deal called the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership. Officials, however, said there were still final issues to be resolved by the 16 countries involved in the pact before it can be signed early next year.

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Le Yucheng said 15 countries involved in the negotiations could completely sort out some remaining issues by year's end and were ready to sign RCEP next year. India is welcome to

China has long warned Washington not to interfere in territorial disputes it regards as a purely Asian issue

get on board when it's ready, he said.

India has expressed concerns that its markets could be flooded with Chinese goods under the deal. RCEP, which does not include the U.S., aims to level trade barriers between ASEAN members and six other countries in a bloc encompassing roughly a third of all global trade.

ASEAN also reported pro-

gress in negotiations to craft a so-called "code of conduct" with China that aims to prevent armed confrontations in the disputed South China Sea. Four ASEAN states — Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam — along with China and Taiwan, have longstanding territorial conflicts in the sea, a key waterway for global commerce. Dwarfed by China's military, rival claimant states have looked to the U.S. for a counterweight.

During the meeting with his ASEAN counterparts, O'Brien made a swipe at China, saying Beijing was using intimidation to try to stop ASEAN nations from exploiting their offshore resources, blocking access to \$2.5 trillion in oil and gas reserves alone.

"These tactics go against the rules of respect, fairness and international law," he said.

"The region has no interest in a new imperial era where a big country can rule others on the theory that might makes right. America is helping our ASEAN friends uphold their sovereignty," he said.

China has long warned Washington not to interfere in territorial disputes it regards as a purely Asian issue. It opposes naval and aerial patrols by the

U.S. and its allies in the disputed waters, but American forces have maintained their presence and continued "freedom of navigation" sail-bys designed to challenge China's vast territorial claims.

Le, the Chinese envoy, said he was confident that a regional code that China is negotiating with ASEAN states could be concluded in three years. Responding to a question about O'Brien's comments, he said, "Regretfully, while the tree desires tranquility, the wind keeps blowing. Some non-regional countries have done everything to make trouble and raise tensions. They want to impose their will on our countries," he told reporters.

In addition to national security adviser O'Brien, U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross also traveled to Bangkok with a trade mission that is touring the region.

Despite the apparent downgrading of the ASEAN gathering by Trump, U.S. businesses and governments were seeking to emphasize the American commitment to the region with a privately led conference attended by about 1,000 business and government officials.

"The Trump administration is extremely engaged in and fully committed to this region," Ross told the meeting. AP



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AP PHOTO



MARCY GORDON,
WASHINGTON

From toast of town to toxic: Facebook CEO on outs with Dems

MARK Zuckerberg's social network in Washington is shrinking.

Bipartisan hostility against Facebook has been building for months, fueled by a series of privacy scandals, the site's role in Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential campaign and accusations that Facebook crushes competitors.

Now, with the 2020 elections approaching, Democrats especially are homing in on the conduct of the social media giant and its refusal to fact-check political ads and remove false ones.

"When you're the No. 1 monopoly, people are going to come after you," says John Feehery, a veteran Republican communications strategist. The challenge for Democrats, as he sees it: "They're facing a base that is very angry and restive. So they have to be much more aggressive in taking on corporations."

Zuckerberg enjoyed a cozy relationship with the Obama administration. But in the face of growing public outrage, the co-founder of the upstart born under the motto "Move fast and break things" is learning the art of smoothing over and piecing back together.

His new strategy: a personal blitz featuring serial private meetings in Washington with key lawmakers of both parties and President Donald Trump; small, off-the-record dinners at his California home with conservative journalists and opinion makers; and the occasional public address or TV interview.

He's become lobbyist-in-chief for a tech giant that has about 60 people officially playing that role. The company spent an estimated \$12.6 million on federal influencing last year.

The political ad issue hits close to home for Democrats. Facebook, as well as Twitter and Google, refused in September to remove a misleading video ad from Trump's reelection campaign that targeted top-tier Democratic candidate Joe Biden. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, another top Democratic contender, chose to hit back by running her own ad and making it personal by falsely claiming that Zuckerberg had endorsed Trump for 2020.

Warren, who has called for breaking up Facebook and other tech giants, acknowledged the ad's deliberate falsity to make her point.

Then came Zuckerberg's speech last month at Georgetown University in which he promoted free expression as the foundation for Facebook's refusal to take down content it deems newsworthy, even if the material violates company standards. The next week, during prickly questioning by Democratic lawmakers at a televised House hearing, Zuckerberg dug in on not fact-checking politicians' speech and the handling of hate speech and poten-

tial incitements to violence.

"This really is not about money," Zuckerberg insisted. "It is important that people can see for themselves what politicians are saying." Facebook says political advertising accounts for less than half of 1% of its total revenue.

In the lambasting from Democrats, Rep. Joyce Beatty of Ohio, the vice chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, focused on Facebook's track record on civil rights and diversity. She told Zuckerberg that he had "ruined the lives of many people, discriminated against them."

As part of a legal settlement

For Zuckerberg and the Democrats, 'it may be a nasty divorce'

with civil rights groups, Facebook changed its ad-targeting systems this year to prevent discrimination in housing, credit and employment ads. It previously had allowed such ads to be targeted to people based on age, sex or race, which is illegal.

At some points, friendlier Republican members of the House Financial Services Committee asked Zuckerberg how he was holding up through the six-hour hearing. "I'm doing OK," replied the 35-year-old co-founder, chairman and CEO. He's one of

the world's richest individuals, with a net worth currently estimated at \$71 billion.

Summing up, Rep. Maxine Waters, the California Democrat who leads the committee, told Zuckerberg, "You have opened up a discussion about whether Facebook should be broken up."

A mandated breakup would be the worst-case scenario for Facebook and the other big tech companies. Facebook says splitting up large tech corporations would make the election system more vulnerable to interference because the companies wouldn't be able to work together to prevent it.

For Zuckerberg and the Democrats, "it may be a nasty divorce," said James Thurber, a professor of government at American University who founded its Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies. "He clearly has taken a stand that's really quite unpopular."

Thurber called Zuckerberg's backstage celebrity approach to lobbying efforts "very dangerous." "You've got to be very careful about that, if you think you can do it yourself," he said.

Rep. David Cicilline, a senior House Democrat who leads the Judiciary Committee's investigation into the market dominance of big tech companies, is working

on legislation that may target the profits made by Facebook from political ads it knows are false. The measure likely would also apply to social media rivals Twitter and Google.

On Thursday, Twitter made the unexpected announcement that it will ban all political advertising from its service.

"This is a good first step," Cicilline tweeted. "Your move, Google/Facebook."

Zuckerberg's quick riposte, during Facebook's quarterly conference call on earnings, was to reaffirm the company's commitment to the value of free speech, including for politicians.

It's a sharp reversal of fortune for Facebook from the days of the Obama administration, when the company was hailed as an exemplar of innovation and an engine of economic growth. Campaign money flowed to the Democrats from big tech companies.

At an employees' town hall at Facebook's Silicon Valley headquarters in April 2011, President Barack Obama said: "My name is Barack Obama and I'm the guy that got Mark to wear a jacket and tie."

As they removed jackets and ties in unison and rolled up their shirt sleeves, Obama enthused, "Being here at Facebook is so exciting for me. You guys are at the cutting edge of what's happening." **BLOOMBERG**

what's ON



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

TIME: 10am-7pm (No admittance after 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: November 17, 2019

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

THE WORLD AS WILL AND IDEA – COLLECTIVE EXHIBITION OF EMERGING ARTISTS FROM MAINLAND CHINA

TIME: 10am-7pm (No admittance after 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: February 23, 2020

VENUE: Macau Contemporary Art Centre - Navy

Yard No.1, located at Rua de S. Tiago Da Barra

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791

EXHIBITION OF TUBEROSE

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

UNTIL: November 30

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

17

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

MANDARIN'S HOUSE

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

ADDRESS: No. 10, Travessa de António da Silva

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8820

ON THE WAY TO THE WORLD'S STAGE – MACAU AND THE INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBITION OF THE VENICE BIENNALE

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

UNTIL: November 17, 2019

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

AFA AUTUMN SALON 2019

TIME: 10am-7pm (Closed on Mondays and Public Holidays)

UNTIL: December 1, 2019

VENUE: Orient Foundation, Praça Luis de Camões,

No. 13, Macau

ADMISSION: FREE

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6064

Offbeat

CHICK-FIL-A BACKS SUNDAY'S NATIONAL SANDWICH DAY - OOPS!

Everyone who is a fan of Chick-fil-A knows that the chicken chain is closed on Sundays, in keeping with its founder's Christian faith.

But the Georgia-based fast-food chain apparently forgot when it sent an email to some of its loyalty members this week.

"Calling all sandwich lovers," the email said. "Some prefer it grilled, others fancy the original. No matter which Chick-fil-A sandwich you love, order yours on November 3 for National Sandwich Day."

Nov. 3, though, is a Sunday this year.

Another email followed Thursday with the subject, "Well ... this is awkward." The company says it was excited about National Sandwich Day and didn't realize it falls on Sunday.

Chick-fil-A spokeswoman Bekki Poelker says the whole situation was just an inadvertent mistake.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Agua de Mar
15:35	Zig Zag
16:00	Viajante da Música
16:30	Quem Quer Ser Milionário
17:30	LiteraturAqui
18:00	Império (Repetição)
18:55	Semana Internacional (Repetição)
19:30	Ouro Verde Sr.1
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	TDM Talk Show
21:50	Livros com João Guedes
22:00	Todas as Palavras
22:20	Império
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Justiça de Chicago
00:35	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:20	RTPi Directo

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

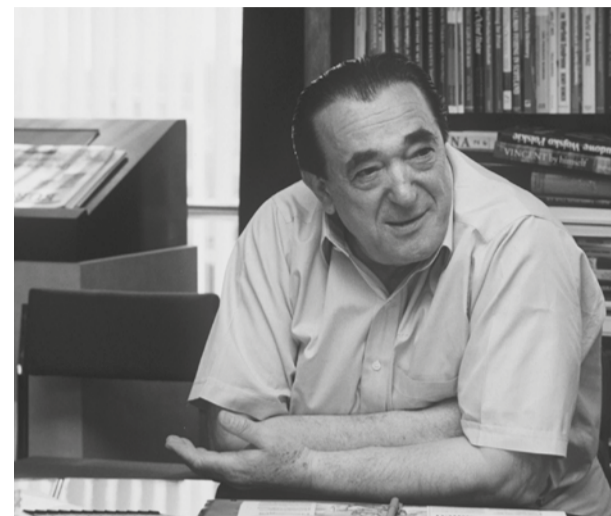
Director: Todd Phillips

Starring: Joaquin Phoenix, Robert De Niro, Zazie Beetz

Language: English

Duration: 122min

this day in history



1991 PUBLISHER ROBERT MAXWELL DIES AT SEA

The body of the millionaire newspaper publisher, Robert Maxwell, has been found in the sea off the coast of Tenerife.

Mr Maxwell's body was discovered at approximately 1800 local time (1700 GMT) and flown to Gran Canaria for identification.

The publisher had been cruising in the Canary Isles aboard his luxury yacht, the Ghislaine.

He is thought to have gone overboard early this morning but was not reported missing until about 1100 local time (1000 GMT) when he failed to answer a telephone call.

Two helicopters, rescue launches and a dozen ships were then sent to the area to assist in the search.

It is not yet known how Mr Maxwell ended up overboard.

The Prime Minister, John Major, has led the tributes to Mr Maxwell, calling him a "great character".

From humble beginnings in Czechoslovakia, Robert Maxwell became one of Britain's richest men.

He enlisted in the British army during World War II and was decorated for bravery.

He subsequently worked for the Foreign Office before building his business empire.

In 1984 he achieved a long-held ambition to own a national newspaper when he bought the Daily Mirror.

Earlier this year Mr Maxwell also purchased a New York paper, the Daily News, which had been on the brink of closure.

But at the same time he was being forced to sell off companies to reduce his debts, prompting criticism of his business methods and abrasive management-style.

Dealing in shares in Mr Maxwell's Mirror Group was suspended after the news of his disappearance became public.

Mr Maxwell's sons, Kevin and Ian, have been put in charge of his businesses.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

After Robert Maxwell's death it emerged that the Mirror Group's debts vastly outweighed its assets and £440m was missing from the company's pension funds.

In 1996, after an eight-month trial, Kevin and Ian Maxwell and another man, Larry Trachtenberg, were cleared of conspiracy to defraud Mirror Group pensioners.

In 2001 the Department of Trade and Industry released a report into the Maxwell affair which said "primary responsibility" for the collapse of the Maxwell business empire lay with its founder.

But it added that Kevin Maxwell and some leading City financial institutions also bore a "heavy responsibility" for the company's failure.

After Robert Maxwell's death campaigners for the 30,000 Mirror Group pensioners mounted a three-year campaign for compensation.

Their funds were largely recovered thanks to a £100m government payout and a £276m out-of-court settlement with City institutions and the remnants of Robert Maxwell's media group.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Things might not feel like they're moving along as quickly as you would like, which could cause a certain degree of fraying when it comes to your nerves right now. But don't worry...



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

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



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Do you think someone is not being totally open with you right now? Your instincts are right on. But their tight-lipped status is not due to an inability to trust you.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Previously made plans with other people might need to get rescheduled or canceled altogether. What you need to do is very important, and it's something you should do by yourself.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

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



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

For especially incisive insight on your latest problems, turn to one of your friends today. You need to consult someone who either is in the same situation as you are, or has been before.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

One of your friendships is starting to feel one-sided - and you are not on the right side. Do you feel like you are giving more than you get? Compromising more than they do?



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

If your routine is starting to get boring, resist the urge to create a problem just for the sake of having something to talk about! You need to avoid conflict now more than ever.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

If you are working on starting or strengthening or shoring up a romance today, you had better take it all the way! Have fun with it. Be over the top. Flirt to a ridiculous degree.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Plus, all this worry will drain away the positive energy you require to succeed. Toss worry out the window for today, and just do what you want to do - try what you want to try.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Don't be surprised if you meet up with a kindred soul who is motivated by altruism, too. They can stimulate your mind and engage your heart on a higher, newer level.

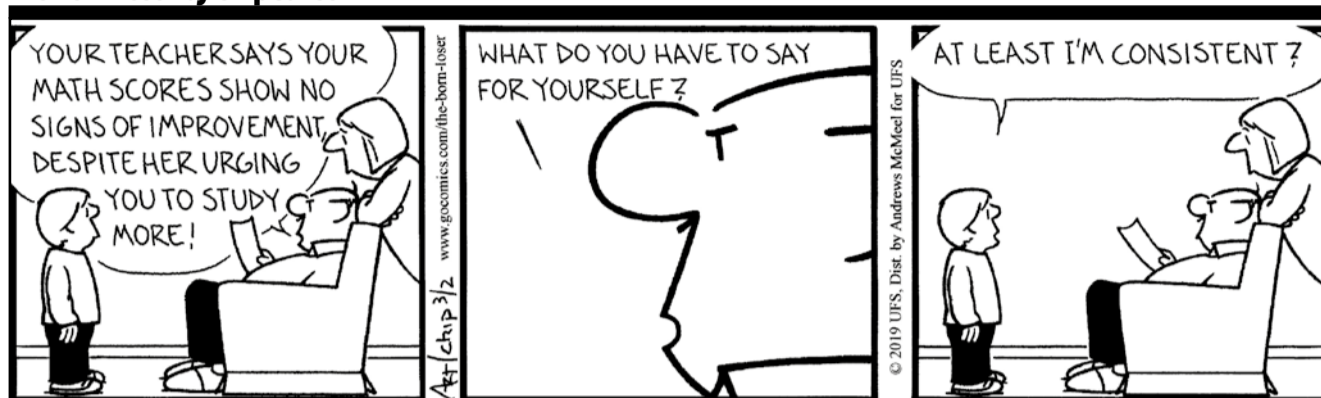


PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

People are going to respond a lot better to concrete examples than to ambiguous concepts today, so if you are trying to make a point or sell an idea, you'll have to do it with facts and figures, set down in black and white.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

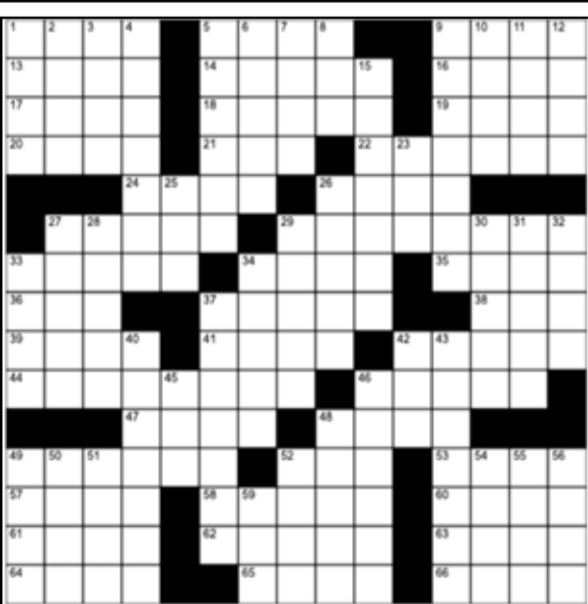
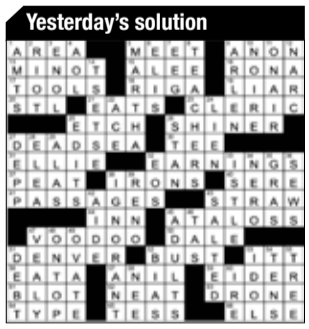
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	4	16	clear
Harbin	-4	6	clear
Tianjin	5	16	clear
Urumqi	5	13	clear
Xi'an	7	17	clear
Lhasa	2	17	overcast
Chengdu	15	17	drizzle
Chongqing	15	22	overcast
Kunming	10	21	shower
Nanjing	13	22	cloudy
Shanghai	16	21	cloudy
Wuhan	11	23	clear
Hangzhou	13	23	cloudy
Taipei	20	22	overcast
Guangzhou	20	29	clear
Hong Kong	22	28	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	10	12	drizzle
Frankfurt	7	14	drizzle
Paris	8	14	drizzle
London	7	11	drizzle
New York	0	10	clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Child, who has no home; 5- California wine region; 9- Blue-pencil; 13- Like ___ not; 14- Shake like ___; 16- Fork feature; 17- Fourth little piggy's share; 18- Outspoken; 19- Sea-going eagle; 20- Cut, old-style; 21- Writing fluid; 22- Female beast; 24- This is fun!; 26- Qom locale; 27- Diarist Nin; 29- Lively; 33- Signs off on; 34- Dosage amts.; 35- Traditional knowledge; 36- Chair part; 37- Cry out loudly; 38- Women's ___; 39- Makes a row?; 41- Canvas shelter used on camping trips; 42- Bounce; 44- Move in waves; 46- Actress Scacchi; 47- Water; Sp.; 48- Sketched; 49- Reduce; 52- Acapulco aunt; 53- Middle of QED; 57- Small purse; 58- Necklace fastener; 60- Come up short; 61- Other, in Oaxaca; 62- Bring forth from the egg; 63- Destroy; 64- Actor Penn; 65- Go by; 66- Affirmative votes;

DOWN: 1- Triumphs; 2- Lots and lots; 3- Actress Skye; 4- Toll-free turnpike; 5- Fleets; 6- Unescorted; 7- Quarter bushel; 8- Small battery size; 9- Endless; 10- Urgent; 11- Places to stay; 12- Driving aids; 15- Retailer of flowers; 23- Looker's leg; 25- Towel word; 26- Two cents, so to speak; 27- Ohio city; 28- Titled; 29- United; 30- Apartment sign; 31- Author Jong; 32- It's outstanding; 33- Island of Hawaii; 34- 8th letter of the Greek alphabet; 37- Steadfast; 40- Exhortation; 42- Palindromic preposition; 43- Objects of personal adornment; 45- T-shirt size; 46- Mathematical diagrams; 48- Flat circular plates; 49- 13 popes; 50- Novel conclusion?; 51- Chapter of the Koran; 52- Toodle-oo!; 54- Cad; 55- Home to most people; 56- Change for a fifty; 59- Child seat?;



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



FOR SALE

Nova City, Taipa (Ready to move in)
 HK\$12,300,000 1,515 ft² 3 2 2

FOR RENT

Manhattan, Taipa High Floor
 \$26,800/mth 2,305 ft² 4 2 2

FOR SALE

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

[Macau] One Central 2 2 2
 1,269 ft² \$13,575,000 (ref: 19070002)

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

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

FOR RENT

[Taipa] Manhattan 3 2 2
 1,720 ft² \$23,800/mth (ref: 19091006)

[Taipa] Nova Grand 2 1 1
 935 ft² \$17,800/mth (ref: 19091004)

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

[Macau] La Marina Studio 1 1
 2,352 ft² \$11,200/mth (ref: 19091001)

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

THREE ANCIENT SHIPWRECKS DISCOVERED OFF AEGEAN ISLAND OF KASOS



GREECE'S Culture Ministry says three shipwrecks from ancient and mediaeval times and large sections of their cargoes have been discovered off the small Aegean island of Kasos.

A statement yesterday said an underwater survey that ended last month also located cannons and other scattered finds — possibly from other foundered vessels that have not yet been pinpointed.

The oldest of the wrecks

found was a 2,300-year-old trader. Its surviving cargo included amphorae — large jars used to transport wine, oil or foodstuffs — and fine tableware. Archaeologists also located five stone anchors in the wreck.

The two other ships dated to the 1st century B.C. and the 8th-10th century A.D.

Kasos lies between Crete and Rhodes on what remains a key trade route linking the Aegean with the Middle East.

AP PHOTO



SEOUL POLICE INVESTIGATING BTS MEMBER OVER TRAFFIC ACCIDENT

POLICE said they're investigating a member of K-pop superstar group BTS over a traffic accident that left him and a taxi driver with minor injuries.

BTS' agency, Big Hit Entertainment, said 22-year-old Jungkook admitted that he caused the accident by violating traffic laws and reached a settlement with the driver. The agency said the singer and driver both avoided serious injury.

"We apologize again to the victim and also to fans for causing concern," the

agency said in an emailed statement.

Seoul police said Jungkook was booked and an investigation of his case was underway in line with traffic law.

A police officer in charge of traffic accidents in Seoul described the case as minor because the incident did not cause much human or property damage. The officer, who requested anonymity because the investigation was underway, also said the case didn't involve drunken driving or any other serious offenses.

GOLDEN GLOBES TO HONOR TV PIONEER ELLEN DEGENERES

THE Golden Globe Awards will give its new TV special achievement trophy to someone who has been a pioneering sitcom star, a TV talk-show host and a game-show MC — Ellen DeGeneres.

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association said yesterday that the Carol Burnett Award — the small-screen version of the group's film counterpart, the Cecil B. DeMille Award — will go to DeGeneres, a multiple

Emmy winner and Golden Globe nominee.

It is given annually to honor someone "who has made outstanding contributions to television on or off the screen." The first Carol Burnett Award last year fittingly went to Burnett herself.

In a statement, association President Lorenzo Soria hailed DeGeneres as "a pioneer who has captivated audiences for nearly 25 years with her undeniable charm and wit."

AP PHOTO



AD

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No admission under 18

OPINION

SOUTH AFRICA'S RUGBY VICTORY HAS LESSONS FOR ALL OF US

Mohamed A. El-Erian, Bloomberg

By winning the Rugby World Cup final against England on Saturday, South Africa became only the second country to secure three cup titles. In upsetting a heavily favored English team, it also achieved the unlikely accomplishment of winning every World Cup final in which it has appeared. All of that not only places South Africa among rugby's elite nations, it also gives the country a golden opportunity to unite to address deep and growing economic, financial and social challenges. Moreover, the country's victory not only inspires us, it provides an important lesson about succeeding in conditions of potential adversity.

South Africa went into the final in Japan as underdogs against an England team that shone in the semifinals against the legendary New Zealand All Blacks. Understanding the enormous challenge it faced, the team adjusted its approach and did so successfully. South Africa deployed brute force that dominated the English in set pieces, stifling and frustrating its opponent in the first half and opening the way for the exceptional scores that crushed England in the second. The result was a convincing 32-12 victory.

The ability to adjust to a stronger opponent was also evident when South Africa won its first World Cup in 1995 against New Zealand. It was similar in another way, too, providing inspiration reminiscent of when Nelson Mandela — the former freedom fighter, longtime prisoner of the previous regime and recently elected president of a country trying to "forgive but not forget" the terrible period of apartheid — wore the shirt of a sport and team that had been particularly cruel to all but the white South Africans. It was a historic moment that fueled the vision of a "rainbow nation."

This time around, the team was led by Siya Kolisi, the first black player to captain a South African rugby squad. Kolisi had grown up in the poor township of Zwide and was watched during the match by his visiting father, who had never flown on a plane before. Referring to how he had pulled himself out of extreme poverty and deprivation, he pointedly said after the game: "Growing up, I never dreamed of a day like this at all. When I was a kid, all I was thinking about was getting my next meal."

That is just one reason Saturday's victory goes well beyond making rugby history. It provides the country with the opportunity for an important and timely unifier to confront serious and deepening problems of poverty, marginalization and potential financial instability.

This inspiring moment in sports also carries important lessons for governments, companies and households dealing with realities that, only a few years ago, would have been deemed unthinkable: \$15 trillion of negative-yielding bonds, QE infinity in Europe, the transformation of the U.S. from a champion of liberalization and free trade into a supporter of protectionism, to name but three of a long and lengthening list. It shows how a combination of resilience, optionality and agility can help successfully navigate a worrisome and cloudy outlook.

This is the combination that economic entities need to navigate today's unusually uncertain world:

Resilience — Anchored by strong balance sheets, few debt maturity and currency mismatches and high cash flow and reserves, it allows them to stay in the game even if they make a mistake, just as South Africa did with its reliance on strong play.

Optionality — Anchored by forward-looking scenario analysis, creative thinking and more open-minded operating approaches, it allows them to evolve their reasoning and make mid-course adjustments as facts and signals becoming clearer, like the smart half-time adjustments by South Africa.

Agility — It allows them to strike when opportunities arise, similar to the two tries that South Africa scored out of nowhere in the second half that deflated England for good.

Whether they realize it or not, a growing number of countries, companies and individuals risk being turned into underdogs by developments they cannot control in the global economy. To win in such an environment, they need to go well beyond their usual game plan to better understand the changed circumstances, develop greater flexibility to respond and bounce boldly on the opportunities that arise. In doing so, they will be deploying the trifecta of resilience, optionality and agility that South Africa demonstrated is so crucial for winning.

AP PHOTO



Li Haotong (left) and Phil Mickelson chat before they tee off for the HSBC Champions golf tournament in Shanghai last week

GOLF

Mickelson's streak of 26 years in the top 50 comes to an end

DOUG FERGUSON,
SHANGHAI

THE streak ended with little fanfare, and that was just fine with Phil Mickelson.

He slashed his way to a tie for 28th in the HSBC Champions, with only 100 or so fans following along. Mickelson played his last nine holes right behind Rory McIlroy, but only because Lefty was in the first group to tee off on the back nine. He signed for a 68 in his final round of the year.

The number that stands out is No. 51, his position this week in the Official World Golf Ranking.

For the first time in nearly 26 years — 1,353 weeks to be exact — Mickelson is no longer among the top 50 in the world.

"It was a good run," Mickelson said. "Unfortunately, the last eight months I played terribly and have fallen out. But I'll get back in there."

The question is whether anyone can ever match it.

Jordan Spieth was not quite 4 months old when Mickelson first cracked the top 50 on Nov. 23, 1993, with a runner-up finish in the Casio World Open. Deane Beman was still the commissioner of

the PGA Tour.

Rory McIlroy compared Mickelson's streak favorably with Tiger Woods going 142 starts on the PGA Tour over seven years without missing a cut.

"Being top 50 in the world since 1993, that means no injuries, no breaks, that is nothing," McIlroy said. "Play your game, keep going."

That's all Mickelson has done.

He never reached No. 1 in the world, mainly because of Woods, partly because Mickelson was not on top of his game when Woods fell off and created an opportunity. Then again, Mickelson never won a PGA Tour money title or was voted PGA Tour player of the year.

His hallmark is consistently great play, and it is unrivaled.

"It's pretty amazing given he was there into his 40s like that, with how much time is taken from golf with your family," Spieth said. "You're not as sharp because you're not doing it as often. I give him more credit in the last seven to 10 years."

Mickelson nearly fell out at the start of 2018, and then he ran off four straight top 10s, culminating with his third World Golf Championships title

in Mexico City. He reached No. 17 with his victory at the Pebble Beach Pro-Am in February — his seventh win in his 40s, including a major — and was hopeful of a big year.

He hasn't finished better than a tie for 18th since then.

McIlroy is completing his 11th year in the top 50 — he first cracked the top 50 with a runner-up finish in Hong Kong in 2008 — and that's now the longest current streak. For everyone else but Mickelson, it seemed something always would go wrong, whether it was injury (Woods) or a spell of bad play (Adam Scott, Sergio Garcia, Justin Rose).

No one thought Woods would drop from the top 50 — much less No. 1, a spot he twice held for five straight years — until his personal life imploded and then his legs broke down, and his streak of 15 years in the top 50 ended in 2011.

The secret?

It starts with great golf, and Mickelson is among the best to ever play.

"You have to have good balance," Mickelson said. "Amy (his wife) is a big part of that, having a good balance of family and playing schedule, so when I do play I'm focused. Having kids on

the road early in my career was a big thing.

"For the most part, it's having the desire to work on it, and having passion for it and love it and enjoying it and competing."

McIlroy believes the record can be matched, and he thinks it goes beyond staying injury-free. McIlroy had back trouble very early in his career, and he missed a chunk of time in early 2017 with a rib injury, only the second time he went through an entire year without winning.

"I would have said that a few years ago," McIlroy said about injuries. "But I feel as good as I ever have."

He's also 30. What will he say 10 years from now?

"Hopefully, what Tom Brady says," McIlroy replied. "I feel better than when I came into the league."

McIlroy says a family and shifting priorities could become more of an obstacle than injuries, which impresses him about Mickelson.

Spieth is more impressed with Mickelson having played on the last 24 teams for the Ryder Cup and Presidents Cup, another streak that is ending. Mickelson qualified for 19 consecutive teams, and only recently had to rely on a pick. AP

OPINION

World Views

Pankaj Mishra, Bloomberg

DEMOCRACY IS ON THE MARCH, NOT IN RETREAT

Across the world, from Hong Kong to Ecuador, Sudan to Iraq, angry protesters are filling urban streets and squares, clashing with police, smashing shops and burning tires. They do not have a clear leadership. Yet, even in hopelessly sectarian Lebanon, demonstrators seem defiantly united against their rulers. And they have claimed three major scalps already: the leaders of Sudan, Algeria and Lebanon.

If it's hard to pinpoint a unifying cause behind the simultaneous protests, it is possible to dispel one myth. The unrest hasn't erupted, as the New York Times suggested last week, because "the expansion of democracy has stalled globally."

Such assessments owe too much to a conservative notion of democracy. Upheld by Cold War institutions such as Freedom House, this idea confuses democracy with elections and other procedural matters. It fails to grasp that democracy is, above all, a social sentiment, a potentially revolutionary demand for equality and dignity.

Alexis de Tocqueville, the sharpest analyst of democracy, prophesied that it was the inescapable fate of all societies, no matter how deeply hierarchical. He was clear that having "destroyed monarchy and aristocracy," democracy would not "stop short before the bourgeoisie and the rich."

Indeed, the European bourgeoisie and the rich of the 19th century spent much energy trying to contain democracy, and to keep ordinary people, especially the industrial working classes and women, in their place. Walter Bagehot, celebrated editor of the Economist, wrote obsessively on "what securities against democracy we can create." A broader suffrage beyond the propertied classes was mooted, and some social security offered to the struggling poor.

But one political shock after another revealed that, as Tocqueville wrote, people in the democratic age "have an ardent, insatiable, eternal, invincible passion" for equality, and that "they will tolerate poverty, enslavement, barbarism, but they will not tolerate aristocracy." This intolerance is again evident in the furious anti-elite revolts in the West today.

It is even more strikingly manifest in the postcolonial world, which since the Arab Spring has hosted the world's biggest mass upsurges.

Those above the age of 40 can recall a time in Asia and Africa when extreme deference, if not fear, marked the relationship between rulers and the ruled, rich and poor, and upper and lower classes and castes. Assured of immunity, the wealthy and powerful got away with murder -- sometimes literally. A small, incestuous elite stole from the state's coffers and splurged in London, New York and Paris, boosting the profits of real estate agents, Harrods and Bloomingdale's, not to mention party planners and glamorous escort services.

A reminder of those good times for the Suhartos, Bhuttos and Mubaraks of the Third World is provided today by Lebanon's recently departed Prime Minister Saad Hariri, who allegedly showered a \$16 million gift on a bikini model he met at a luxury resort in the Seychelles.

Even in India, supposedly the world's largest democracy, a single family dominated politics for decades, including a loyal few in its network of patronage but excluding countless others. Visitors marveled at the infinite forbearance of the degraded and suffering millions, wondering why they did not mutiny against their cruel masters.

Social hierarchies finally began to crack faster from the 1990s, with broader politicization and the growth of literacy, satellite television channels and digital media. Massive street protests against a corrupt ruling elite in India in 2011 were the first sign that Indian society and politics were about to be radically transformed.

There is no guarantee that the current upsurge against ruling elites won't empower demagogues. In late 19th century Europe, far-right and anti-Semitic movements also hijacked the demand for democracy, marginalizing left-leaning and liberal parties.

The practical challenge, now as much as then, is how to make mass democracy compatible with individual liberty - how to find political and economic institutions capable of deploying the tremendous energy of social mobilization for the larger good.

In the meantime, we should resist concluding that democracy is in decline. For, if democracy means rule of the people, and a demand for social equality, then we are witnessing its flowering in the most populous parts of the world.

[Abridged]

An advice columnist who says President Donald Trump sexually assaulted her in a New York City department store dressing room in the 1990s is now suing him for defamation.

E. Jean Carroll filed a lawsuit yesterday in New York. The suit says Trump harmed her reputation and career when he said she was lying and he'd never even met her.

A message requesting comment was sent to a law firm that has represented Trump in other cases.

Carroll first made the allegation in a New York magazine article in June. At the time, Trump said she was "totally lying" and called her "not my type."

He also said he'd never met her, though a 1987 photo shows him and Carroll in a photo with their spouses at the time.

TESTIMONY

FLAMES, GEAR AND RISKS OF PHOTOGRAPHING CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES



AP photographer Marcio Jose Sanchez (left) takes a selfie with fellow AP photographer Gregory Bull

MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ, SANTA PAULA (CALIF.)

IT'S ironic, but momentarily forgetting some of my safety gear ended up saving my life.

It happened as I drove late Thursday into the heart of a wildfire that had erupted near the city of Santa Paula, a two-hour drive west of Los Angeles. This was one of the dozens of blazes that have been springing up daily in Northern and Southern California the last couple weeks, an indication that we are now in the middle of wildfire season.

Dressed in flame-resistant clothes, heavy boots and carrying my two cameras, I spent a few minutes walking around and surveying the scene before starting to shoot photos. To get the best shots, you first need to fully understand a situation, everything from where firefighters are working to the winds.

After a few minutes, I realized I had forgotten my helmet and fire shelter, essentially a tarp that can be deployed to cover and protect your body if you can't escape flames.

So I began walking back to my car, and a few minutes later two large burning branches crashed in the exact place where I had been standing.

I have been covering wildfires since I began working with The Associated Press in 2002, and have had other near-death experiences. Still, the close call this week was so unnerving that I called my editor and a fellow photographer to make sure both had my wife's phone number. If something happened to me, they could tell her.

Unlike many states that limit access, in many situations California law

carry only two cameras, part of staying light on my feet to move as conditions change.

When friends ask what it's like to cover wildfires, the first thing I say is that there is nothing glamorous. It's smoky, it's hellishly hot and it's dangerous. I can't even say that I "like" covering them. Instead, like others on the AP's photo team, I see doing this as a duty to show the world what is happening.

"I began walking back to my car, and a few minutes later two large burning branches crashed in the exact place where I had been standing."

allows journalists to get as close as they want to the flames. This allows us to capture stunning images of the ferocious burning that in seconds can incinerate houses and kill people, but that access comes with risks.

I always tell my wife about the dangers, but I don't talk about them with my sons, ages 17 and 15. I don't want them to worry, and I do take many precautions. I've had wildfire training, I have high-quality protective gear and I

I'm no expert on climate change, but with each passing year I'm more convinced that climatic shifts are driving the fires to new levels. They are more frequent, more intense and more unpredictable.

If there is anything to be optimistic about, it's that firefighters seem to be getting better at fighting the blazes. They also conduct themselves with a clear sense of mission. At the fire where I was nearly crushed by torched branches, at one point I watched four firefighters boldly take on a giant wave of flames.

I don't know if this year's fire season will be more or less severe than previous years; If the last few weeks are any indication, we may be in for a rough couple of months. Whatever happens, my teammates and I will be ready. AP



Pakistan A court has freed on bail the daughter of Pakistan's ailing former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who was similarly released last week from custody for medical reasons.

Iran The European Union says it's still committed to Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, even as that deal continues to collapse following U.S. President Donald Trump's withdrawal from the agreement.



Ukraine's military has postponed a second stage of a weapons pullback in the country's conflict-ridden east, drawing criticism from the Kremlin's envoy to a group trying to help end the fighting.



USA McDonald's chief executive officer has been pushed out of the company after violating company policy by engaging in a consensual relationship with an employee.



Hollywood Two collectors said you're the one that I want to Olivia Newton-John's iconic "Grease" leather jacket and skintight pants at an auction in Beverly Hills. Julien's Auctions says the combined ensemble, which Newton-John's character Sandy wears in the closing number of the 1978 film, fetched \$405,700 total. The leather jacket sold for \$243,200 and the pants, which Newton-John famously had to be sewn into, went for \$162,500.