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TWO HK MEN IN DETENTION, ONE ON THE RUN ARE REPORTEDLY RESPONSIBLE FOR A CASINO VIP ROOM INVESTMENT SCAM

JASON NI SAYS GOING PLASTIC-FREE IS GOOD FOR BUSINESS

CHINESE E-COMMERCE GIANTS ALIBABA AND JD.COM REPORTED NEARLY USD60 BILLION IN SALES YESTERDAY PART WAY THROUGH SINGLES DAY



Myanmar was accused yesterday of genocide at the U.N.'s highest court for its campaign against the country's Rohingya Muslim minority, as lawyers asked the International Court of Justice to urgently order measures "to stop Myanmar's genocidal conduct immediately." Gambia filed the case on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

Thailand A court has issued arrest warrants for the former head of a major national park and three park employees accused of killing an ethnic Karen environmental activist.

India Prime Minister Narendra Modi's governing party has suffered a big setback in western Maharashtra state after its longtime ally broke away and joined two other parties to form the new state government. The Shiv Sena split with Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party yesterday and decided to form a coalition government with the BJP's key opponents, the Congress party and National Congress Party.



Australia's most populous state declared a state of emergency yesterday due to unprecedented wildfire danger as calls grew for Australia to take more action to counter climate change. New South Wales state Emergency Services Minister David Elliott said residents were facing what "could be the most dangerous bushfire week this nation has ever seen."

More on backpage

HONG KONG UNDER SIEGE



INTERVIEW ALLIANCE WITH THE NEIGHBORS TO SPREAD FRENCH: BASCAULE

Times

F3 WORLD CUP TO THE WIRE WITH STAR-STUDED LINE-UP

All about Grand Prix 66: News, views and interviews - the full coverage - starting with a look at the Queen of Races that will roar on Guia Circuit from Thursday

Q&A WILLIAM BASCAULE
DIRECTOR AFM

ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE'S MODERNIZING PROGRAMS, AIMS TO COLLABORATE WITH HENGQIN, ZHUHAI

LYNZY VALLES

ALLIANCE Française Macao (AFM) has outlined its goals for the next year, with a focus on strengthening its collaboration with local universities, renovating its premises and launching online study options for students who want to practice their French.

Speaking to the Times, William Bascaule, AF director, remarked that the non-profit organization has been through changes in the past two years following his mandate.

Bascaule previously headed Alliance Française Shanghai for ten years before heading to the Macau SAR.

For the director, the lack of competition in the city has become one of the challenges for AFM. Thus, the organization pledged to continue providing a modernized curriculum for its students.

AFM also aspires to participate in the Greater Bay Area initiative through collaborating with neighboring regions including Zhuhai and Hengqin.

Macau Daily Times (MDT) - You have been leading the organization for the past two years. What are the measures that have progressed or new ones that you've implemented?

William Bascaule (WB) - We had a big problem with the content of our courses. [...] It's been a long time since we have changed our content and modernized it. I would say that the AF does not have any competition, which means that you don't have to push yourself or go the extra mile. As a team, that's what we tried to achieve - to modify our content, and I think it was well done. Everything now is clearer and [higher in quality] in terms of program content and the level of information that we provide to our students. The second thing that was lacking were classes for children. The thing that surprised me when I arrived is that Macau is a family town. I clearly understood that we had to develop that because there was a demand. We developed classes for children aged three

LYNZY VALLES



to six years old and seven to 11 years old. However, we stopped doing the 12-16 years old classes due to content quality concerns.

MDT - Was it better to choose those particular classes?

WB - During [my] first year, we were recreating a lot content for a lot of different programs. We are a small team and we could not focus on everything at the same time. It was a good choice. We decided to focus on the adult classes and stop [teaching] after the B2 level. We focused on levels A1 to B2 as well as developing programs for children.

MDT - Can you remark on any differences in leading Shanghai and Macau?

WB - The students are really different there. The motivation and the purpose of learning French is completely different. Shanghai is such an aggressive and competitive market. You're always trying to have the best product and improve. If you don't do that, you're going to close soon. That was the biggest flaw in AF - the lack of competition.

MDT - How many students does AFM have at this moment?

WB - We formerly had some 900 students but for all the reasons that I have mentioned, we are down to 800. We lost around 100 because of the classes we decided to close but I guess it's going to come back as soon we are able to provide good quality classes for them.

"We will clearly have to redefine ourselves. I would say [collaboration] with Hengqin and Zhuhai."

MDT - The academic term is about to end. Are there any plans for the new term?

WB - The first phase was to create content. The second phase was to test it on the ground. The third phase is to tweak the program a bit - we are already in that phase. We understood that it was difficult to mix the kids and same content. There were just too many and we do not have enough facilities, teachers and revenue to run that many classes. We need to ad-

just the program a little bit to have different activities for most groups.

MDT - Looking further ahead, what are your goals for the next year?

WB - There are still a lot of things to do. We also focus on developing our collaboration with universities in Macau because that is really important. We are the only official institution that provides classes, so what we do in universities is really important for Macau because no one else in the city is doing that.

We are giving French classes to these students as their extracurricular activity.

It is an important time for me to keep focusing on these universities. We signed a new Memorandum of Understanding with City University and we are developing extra curriculum classes. We are also working on an educational trip to allow these students to go to France. [...] Another [goal] is to focus on the renovation of our facilities. We've been in the same place for 32 years. This building and its facilities start to become less appealing for the people. I think people would like to have a better environment to take classes

in. I would like to find a way to renovate those facilities.

MDT - Are you looking to renovate the place or move out to a private commercial building?

WB - We are looking at both options, but the market price is very high, so because we have been here for 32 years, it's more convenient and cheaper to stay. But it is still a lot of money to renovate. Moving out also means going to the private sector and depends on the landlord who may increase rent. For us it's a bit difficult.

MDT - Will there be plans to put your education online as a platform to practice French?

WB - It's a tricky situation. I know there are many solutions online [...] but you need to be able to have some human interaction and practice and do a lot of things that are not convenient online. It's really more difficult than what it seems. People sometimes are scammed by marketing, which [promotes online platforms as] an easy solution to learn a language. [...] We're going to start providing some simple solutions for people to be able to start. Not to learn French online because I don't think it is fully possible but to be able to practice their French online.

MDT - Do you see AFM taking part in this whole Greater Bay Area project? If so, what role would the organization take?

WB - We will clearly have to redefine ourselves. I would say [collaboration] with Hengqin and Zhuhai. It would be interesting because we need to find the right solution to provide our services in those areas. Do we have to open new small annexes and offices near Zhuhai or Hengqin? I don't know yet but for sure we will be part of that project and we need to redefine ourselves and solutions to be able to provide these services to these people who will [fill] the demand. We are already working with Sun Yat Sen University in Zhuhai. For now, we provide the official exam. Twice a year, they send their students to Macau. It's going to be interesting to see how we can develop all those domains.

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ON THE ROAD TO GP

Theodore is in 'good shape' to reclaim the title, team principal says

RENATO MARQUES

THE SJM Prema Theodore Racing team is ready and well prepared to aim for their record ninth win in the Macau Grand Prix, the team's principal Teddy Yip Jr said yesterday during the press conference, at which they presented the team that will compete in the FIA Formula 3 World Cup event.

"We believe we are in good shape to reclaim our title this year with the new FIA Formula 3 car," said Yip, adding, "In order to achieve this, we have three of the world's most talented and exciting rising stars: Marcus Armstrong, Frederik Vesti, and Robert Shwartzman."

Yip also stated that the successes of the three drivers who are joining the team's line-up this year over the whole season, combined with their experience gained in previous races on the Guia Circuit, could launch the team on the winning path during the GP event.

Shwartzman and Armstrong have raced the entire season in the F3 Championship and have reached the highest possible success, being respectively the Champion and the First Runner-up.

Vesti was another successful driver this season, taking the championship win on the Formula Regional European Championship (former F3 European



Frederik Vesti (left) and Teddy Yip Jr.

Championship) with a 131-point lead over the second classified place.

Vesti, the less experienced of the three, was a last-minute addition to the SJM Prema Theodore Racing team, replacing Jehan Daruvala, who had to be admitted for knee surgery to recover from an injury sustained during a training session.

During the same press con-

ference, Shwartzman noted the great season that led to his achievements this year, adding, "I am confident we [him and the car] can perform. It would be a dream to join some incredible drivers on the previous winners' list."

Hoping to achieve a better result than in his 2018 attempt is Armstrong. Last time, the New Zealander could not do better than the two eighth positions on

both the qualifying and the final race. Still, Armstrong finished both races in front of Shwartzman.

"It is my second time here and we are clearly targeting a better outcome than we had in 2018. I have had a good season in the FIA Formula 3 championship, finishing as vice-champion overall and now my aim is to win the F3 race [in Macau, which] every dri-

ver wants to have to their name," Armstrong said.

Picking up the opportunity created by Daruvala's injury, Danish Vesti does not want to waste it, aiming to put the "icing on his cake."

"It has already been a memorable season. A fantastic result here would be the icing on the cake. I am confident we can get a great result," he noted.

Professor appeals over dismissal due to borrowing from students

THE Court of Final Appeal (TUI) has set aside the appeal of a professor who asked for more than one million patacas in compensation over his dismissal from the Macao Polytechnic Institute (IPM).

Last week, TUI released a statement reporting the ruling regarding the IPM professor's appeal.

The former IPM professor started working at the institution back in 2003; his contract was renewed several times. In 2014, he was hired by IPM as a lecturer and taught

several courses.

Between 2013 and 2014, he borrowed money, on multiple occasions, from two of his students at the time, subsequently failing to pay the money back despite his promise to do so.

After a disciplinary procedure, IPM dismissed the professor in May of 2015 on the grounds that he had violated IPM's staff principles. The principles state that staff should not take advantage of their position for personal gain.

The former profes-

sor filed a lawsuit at the Court of First Instance (TJB) against IPM, stating that his situation did not constitute reasonable dismissal. He asked the school to compensate him with a total of 1.29 million patacas for his unfair dismissal, his retirement and non-property damages.

After the TJB turned down his appeal, the former IPM professor appealed to the Court of Second Instance (TSI) believing that his behavior had not violated his obligation to avoid con-

flicting interests, nor was it "too serious." Both the TJB and the TSI turned down the former professor's appeal.

TSI ruled that the appellant, clearly knowing that he should not have borrowed money from the students and that his behavior would bring damage to the students and his faculty, still sought to borrow the funds, which indicated that his behavior was intentional and the degree of intention was high.

The TUI supported the TSI's verdict. JZ

GRAND PRIX MUSEUM TO CHARGE ENTRY FEE OF 80 PATACAS

The city's soon-to-be-reopened Grand Prix Museum will charge an entry fee, according to a dispatch published in the official gazette. Visitors aged between 12 and 65 year will be charged 80 patacas. However, Macau residents will receive 50% off the standard price, paying only 40 patacas, and local children, senior citizens and other disadvantaged parties can enter for free. On specific holidays, the museum will provide discounted rates to visitors. All of the museum's revenue will go to the city's tourism fund. The museum, which has been closed since July 2017, is expected to reopen in the first quarter of next year.

TWO ILLEGAL GUESTHOUSES FOUND IN TAIPA

The Judiciary Police (PJ) has found two illegal guesthouses in Taipa, according to a statement released by the PJ. On Sunday, the PJ carried out an anti-crime inspection operation across town. In two residential units, the PJ found 15 mainlanders residing. After an investigation and confirmation of their identities, they were all released. The houses inspected have since been closed by tourism authorities. In addition, the PJ sent 42 crime investigators to inspect Cotai casinos and nearby areas. In total, the PJ inspected 118 individuals, of whom two men and 10 women were found to be involved in illegal currency exchange activities. They were taken back to the police station for further investigation. These 12 people were then transferred to the Public Security Police Force.

CRIME

JUNKET PROMOTERS VIP ROOM INVESTMENT SCAM

TWO detained Hong Kong residents and one unidentified man on the run are reportedly responsible for a casino VIP room investment scam, the Judiciary Police (PJ) reported yesterday during a joint police press conference. The two detained Hong Kong men are surnamed Chow and Wong.

The man on the run is suspected to be the mastermind behind the scam, and earlier this month organized an investment meeting inside a casino VIP room located at ZAPE. One victim has fallen for the scam to date.

According to the victim, who reported the case to the police authority, approximately 100 people attended a meeting during which the 'mastermind' introduced himself to the participants as a casino VIP room investor, showcasing his fake VIP room investment project to the participants and claiming that his project involved online betting and the blockchain.

The 'mastermind' also created a group chat on a mobile chatting app to teach the participants how to manage their investments. The scammer told the victim that, in the first month after investing, the victim could get 100 yuan for every 10,000 yuan she invested.

Confident in the investment, the victim, who is a mainland woman, transferred a total of 140,000 yuan to the man through a mainland bank account.

On November 6, the victim saw her money in her investment account. However, the next day, the money had already been withdrawn. She also could not get in contact with the man through the group chat.

After an investigation, the PJ determined that the 'mastermind' is not a casino VIP room



operator but only a junket promoter of a casino VIP room operator. The other suspect, Wong, was also a junket promoter of a casino VIP room operator. Wong and the mastermind were partners working for a junket promoter prior to the incident.

The two had invested in casino VIP rooms before, however their investment failed to yield profits.

Thus, on November 6, the mastermind organized the meeting to persuade people to invest in his "project."

In this specific case, Wong claimed that he was working for the mastermind and said that the organizer had taken all the scammed money.

The suspect Chow claims that he was only responsible for running errands and renting the meeting room for the presentation.

NON-LOCAL WORKER LOST HKD119,000 IN PHONE SCAM

A non-local man has lost HKD119,000 after falling victim to a phone scam, according to the Judiciary Police (PJ).

On November 9, the man, who is a blue-card holder, received a phone call from an unknown Mandarin speaker. The person told him that he is listed as a criminal by the mainland police authority because he mailed prohibited items to mainland China.

He proceeded to have several conversations with more individuals pretending to be mainland police officers and mainland prosecutors.

During his phone calls with the scam artists, he was instructed to transfer a total of HKD119,000 to a Hong Kong bank account.

After transferring the money, the victim went online to

search for information about scams which raised his suspicions that he had fallen victim to a phone scam.

MAINLAND STUDENT FELL VICTIM TO CHAT CON

A mainland student in his twenties reporting falling victim to a mobile chat scam.

Earlier this month, the student got to know a woman with whom he had several conversations through a social network.

On November 10, the woman told the victim that she had recorded his image and voice and she would use the recordings to make pornographic content. The woman asked the victim to pay her 3,431 yuan in order for the recordings to be deleted.

The student believed the woman's claim and transferred the money to the woman's mainland bank account. **JZ**

New law on animal epidemic prevention and control

A bill regulating the prevention and control of animal epidemics was reviewed in detail for the first time by the Legislative Assembly's First Standing Committee yesterday.

Introduced by the committee's president, Ho Ion Sang, the initial title of the bill was Animal Epidemic Prevention and Veterinary Law. The actual bill submitted to the legislature, however, is titled the Animal Epidemic Prevention Law.

According to Ho, the Executive branch intends to handle issues relating to domestic and livestock animals separately.

"The government advised that the aim of the legislation is to separate animal epidemic prevention from veterinary and animal-related commercial operations," explained the lawmaker. "There will be two different pieces of legislation supervising the two practices."

The bill proposes that if a veterinarian becomes aware of or suspects an animal epidemic, a report should be made to the responsible government department within 24 hours.

With regards to this proposed provision, some members of the committee expect future law enforcement could be difficult. Currently, Macau has no legal framework to recognize and regulate the establishment and operation of veterinary centers, nor for accrediting and monitoring veterinarians. As a result, the committee members made a request to the government for an explanation.

The bill has also set forth conditions of a disclaimer for the Municipal Affairs Bureau. After the enactment of the law, if any, when the bureau becomes required to mass-slaughter animals on the grounds of suspicion of an animal epidemic, the owners of the animals will not have the right to seek compensation from the government.

However, some committee members have studied the laws in effect in Taiwan and Hong Kong, which have mechanisms for compensation. In reality, compensation was given to affected animal owners when the two jurisdictions were forced to mass slaughter animals during an epidemic.

This bill also authorizes the Chief Executive to issue orders relating to quarantine and prohibitions. Violators will be prosecuted. However, this provision overlaps with a similar one in the Animal Protection Law. The committee thus enquired of the government which legislation should prevail. **AL**

PJ claims no bias in two graffiti cases

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) has taken two different approaches in two cases of damage done to a wall in Travessa da Pai-xão, according to a report by Cheng Pou. Last week, a 17-year-old schoolboy was charged by the PJ with damaging the wall. On October 29, the boy, together with two other

teenagers, was spotted graffitiing the wall with correction fluid.

Earlier, the son of gaming tycoon Stanley Ho and lawmaker Angela Leong, Mario Ho, graffitied a wall on the same street. The Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) claims it spoke with the relevant gover-

mental department regarding Ho's behavior. However, no updates have been provided on this matter.

After the more recent teenager's case was announced, some members of the public accused the police authority of treating the two apparently similar cases differently.

The PJ claimed in a statement that in Ho's case, he had graffitied a private building, not a building considered to be a cultural relic, whereas the teenage boy graffitied the wall of a classified cultural relic, which means the boy violated the city's cultural relics' protection law.

"The definition of the law is very clear. The two cases are very different, and the public should not be confused," the PJ statement reads.

The PJ claimed that, as a criminal police organ, it has acted strictly in accordance with the law and that there was absolutely no bias. **JZ**



Local firm significantly benefits from Sands Procurement training

THE Paris Store in Macau has opened its doors to the public to provide local residents a range of French products and produce.

Karen Chu, executive director of Paris Store Co. Ltd., started to enter the local market by retailing fine French wines, then moved to opening a French bakery.

Since the demand for quality products are getting higher in Macau, Chu decided to open the city's first French supermarket that features a wide range of French products.

Opening its first store in Taipa in April 2018, Paris Store continued to expand by opening its next two stores in Horta e Costa and by Rua do Campo in January and May 2019, respectively.

To ensure freshness, the company imports fresh fruits, vegetables and dairy products from France weekly, with a shelf life of only two to three weeks. These fresh foods are more popular in the market, but the cost of air transportation is higher.

According to Chu, 90% of her products are made in France, and the rest are mainly from other European countries including Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, and Belgium, among others.

Over 80% of the products are being imported to the SAR for the first time.

"We were thinking of bringing in something directly from France that is healthy, traditional and trendy," said Chu.

Paris Store kicked off its collaboration with Sands China in February 2019, and is currently supplying fresh fruits, vegetables and yogurt.

"A [Sands China] chef came over and found good quality products for his restaurant. When he found some produce that matched his expectations, he recommended us to Sands China's procurement team and our collaboration started," said the executive director. "Since then our sales turnover increased 20% in terms of our overall business," she added.

She recalled that at the beginning of their collaboration, the white fungus that was being supplied to Sands China was the standard retail packaging of only 250 grams, while the restaurant required a much larger portion each time. Through continual

and effective communication, Paris Store came to understand the restaurant's needs and managed to import white fungus in a larger package, which is also more environmentally friendly, in line with Sands China's Sands ECO360 global sustainability strategy.

"We've gained experience and capacity for working with large-scale international corporations like Sands China."

KAREN CHU

Recently, Chu participated in the Sands Procurement Academy, where Sands China shares business knowledge and skills to further the development of local SMEs.

For Chu, the eight modules that were provided throughout the course have, for example, helped improve the firm's warehouse operations and logistics management.

"We're thankful to Sands Chi-

na for sharing their business and practical knowledge with us. We've gained experience and capacity for working with large-scale international corporations like Sands China and we've increased our knowledge of logistics and warehouse management," said Chu.

"The Sands Procurement Academy provides eight modules in total. We learned a lot on how to manage our warehouse effectively, and increased our awareness of quality assurance and Sands China's related procurement contracts and requirements," she added.

The Sands Procurement Academy was the first such programme in Macau for local SME suppliers, and has graduated six cohorts to date, comprising nearly 180 representatives from local SMEs.

"I can recall that one of the most important modules for me was where a professor lectured us on how to avoid failures in business. That was a really helpful topic, since it has increased our awareness of our strategy and the market conditions," said Chu.

Currently, Paris Store is hoping to increase its partnership with Sands China by presenting business proposals that would benefit both parties.

As part of its ongoing local procurement efforts, Sands China recently hosted its fourth invitational matching session, featuring 10 participating local SMEs that offer sustainability-related products and services. Local SME suppliers were given the platform to showcase their companies' sustainable products and services and Sands China's sustainability team also delivered a presentation outlining the company's sustainability measures and goals.

The Sands Procurement Academy and the company's invitational matching sessions are part of Sands China's E.I.T. programme, which offers Financial Support, Invitational Matching, and Training and Development. Aimed at both existing and new local Sands China suppliers, E.I.T. is part of Sands China's Local Small, Medium and Micro Suppliers Support Programme, and seeks to continually increase and strengthen procurement between Sands China and local SME suppliers by enhancing their capabilities.

CARLOS NORONHA

Macau should step up CSR effort, says scholar



ANTHONY LAM

THERE is a lot more for Macau companies to do in terms of corporate social responsibility, says Prof. Carlos Noronha, Associate Professor of Accounting at the University of Macau and Vice Chairman of the Executive Council of the Macau Institute for Corporate Social Responsibility in Greater China.

The Institute was founded in May 2018 in the hope of promoting, facilitating and consulting on the importance and implementation of corporate social responsibility in Macau.

It is a scholarly organization consisting of academics and researchers, some of whom are students. They are all interested in the discipline of corporate social responsibility.

The Times talked with Noronha about the prevalence of corporate social responsibility, and other topics. "Currently in Macau, usually it is the larger enterprises implementing corporate social responsibility," explained Noronha, who noted that it is a common practice in the daily administration of the six gambling concessionaires. Several larger enterprises also implement CSR policy, often publicly listed companies that operate gambling-related businesses.

A forum held by the institute on Sunday discussed the fact that the

Hong Kong Stock Exchange mandates the disclosure of corporate social responsibility policies and efforts. In the future, publicly listed companies may be fined if they fail to make such disclosures.

Even so, many smaller companies in Hong Kong do have corporate social responsibility policies, according to Noronha, and this is an uncommon practice in Macau.

This is another key reason why Noronha, alongside a group of interested scholars, started the institute, to familiarize the city with the discipline, and to facilitate progress in corporate social responsibility management in the region.

"We are here to help the city catch up with the more advanced standards in the region, particularly in Hong Kong and Guangdong," said the scholar. Indeed, Hong Kong's stock exchange is not alone in putting forth requirements for corporate social responsibility efforts. The exchanges of Shenzhen and Shanghai also do so.

The scholar's opinion is that "Macau should start to learn from other places in terms of corporate social responsibility," adding that "governments can collaborate and exchange ideas, such as setting up centres and institutes to promote the discipline and supervising its implementation."

In the future, the institute has

plans to work with high-caliber academic bodies in the area, such as the Guangzhou Academy of Social Sciences, and is open to collaboration around the world.

"We are here to help the city catch up with the more advanced standards in the region."

Noronha also noted that corporate laws in the mainland have strict requirements for corporate social responsibility. "[Everyday happenings] in the mainland [have] become the foundation for related legislation in the mainland," said Noronha. "Such requirements are set forth in the national legislation."

"However, in Macau, there is not much collaboration, because there's no disclosure requirement," Noronha pointed out. "The government may think about taking the

lead to require standardized disclosure."

When asked why he, a scholar in accounting, founded an institute studying corporate social responsibility, Noronha said, "Because the implementation of corporate social responsibility policies may have effects – either good or bad – on the accounts and sheets of a business."

To implement the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations and the Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau Greater Bay Area (GBA), the primary concerns of government bodies are how to utilize limited resources, harmonize with nature, as well as care for and support various stakeholders. These have also become the competitive edge and core values for corporate entities in the GBA. This can be seen in the detailed requirements on corporate social responsibility disclosure for listed companies in the Stock Exchanges of Shenzhen and Hong Kong. The Outline Development Plan for the Greater Bay Area has also pinpointed planning

on aspects such as environmental protection and sustainable development. Through this Greater Bay Area-focused forum on corporate social responsibility, the institute hopes to strengthen collaborations among governments and corporations, foster structural and positive changes and explore sustainable development and lifestyles for the new megalopolis.

Noronha has extensive scholarly publications on corporate social responsibility and accounting disclosure. Apart from the experience of supervising masters and doctor of philosophy candidates, he is also experienced in editorial reviews, as he has been working on the boards of a number of international journals and book series, such as the Asian Business and Management, Sustainability Accounting, and the Management and Policy Journal. As a founder of the institute, he hopes that the message of corporate social responsibility can be disseminated to all kinds of businesses and organizations at all levels around the world, but especially to those in the Greater Bay Area.



JASON NI

Plastic-free is ultimate goal: Wynn Research Director



ANTHONY LAM

WORK on reducing the use of disposable plastic is in progress at Wynn Macau and Wynn Palace, alongside work in other aspects to promote environmental protection, as noted by Dr Jason Ni, executive director for research, planning and strategy.

Ni took the role of moderator at a forum held over the weekend to discuss corporate social responsibility management. As discussed at the forum, environmental protection is part and parcel of corporate social responsibility.

Ni's employer, Wynn Resorts (Macau) S.A., operates a corporate social responsibility program, called the Wynn Care Program. It has a wide coverage, from charitable undertakings to initiatives intended to reinvigorate and nurture the environment.

"Wynn Care has seven pillars, including higher education, helping local SMEs, [and the] conventional definition of sustain-

ability, which is more environmentally focused," explained Ni. Many people associate corporate social responsibility initiatives with donations and charitable events, but the forum on Sunday focused quite heavily on environmental efforts.

"As for real programs, we've achieved a breakthrough as we've gone beyond charity donations and into more practical programs which fulfil the policy direction of the government," said Ni. "For example, we've reduced the use of plastic."

Ni said Wynn has expanded efforts to spread the word to other small and medium-sized enterprises. "We not only did it for ourselves, but also [to] distribute this spirit [by means] such as offering paper straws to local restaurants for free," added Ni.

The resort operator has turned to paper straws instead of plastic ones. It did not stop at this, however, for it has started to provide reusable metal straws at their restaurants.

"In our restaurants, we've changed to drinking water supplied from a water fountain. We've also started using reusable [metal] straws [for dine-in customers]," said Ni.

"The most important thing is to find a substitute [for plastic]."

"Going entirely plastic free is one of our goals. I would say it's not [going to be] easy, but from an academic perspective, the most important thing is to find a substitute. It should be biodegradable: it can be paper or other materials. We've been looking into different options," the executive added.

cutive added.

As for the eco-friendly three-step initiative of "reduce, reuse, recycle," Ni discussed the efforts the company has taken. "Wynn has started initiatives to reduce food waste. We encourage our team members to avoid over-scooping food from the buffet line [during team dining]."

The executive considers this a good step: "At the corporate level, this is beneficial as well, because at the end of the day, such waste is sent to the incinerator, which involves extra costs. Therefore, we're trying to [consolidate] and categorize this waste so as to facilitate a feasible post-process."

In its annual report, the company has been taking into account the Sustainable Development Goals guidelines issued by

the UN.

In other aspects, there is a six-month program over the course of which Wynn works with the Macau Institute of Engineers. It also works with the University of Macau in smart city development, which has a more technological focus.

Originally from Taiwan, Ni joined Wynn Resorts (Macau) S.A.'s two properties on the Macau Peninsula and Cotai in September 2018 as the Executive Director for Research, Planning and Strategy. Before joining the company, he was assistant professor at the City University of Hong Kong. He has been involved in various research and consultancy projects in transportation and tourism planning in Macau. He earned his Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of California at Davis in the United States.



HONG KONG UNDER SIEGE

Police shoot protester, man set on fire

HONG Kong's leader pledged yesterday to "spare no effort" in bringing an end to anti-government protests that have wracked the city for more than five months, following a day of violence in which one person was shot and another set on fire.

Carrie Lam's comments are likely to fuel speculation that harsher legal and police measures may be in the works to curb the protests.

"I do not want to go into details, but I just want to make it very clear that we will spare no effort in finding ways and means that could end the violence in Hong Kong as soon as possible," Lam told reporters.

Lam also refused to accept the protesters' demands for political concessions.

"If there is still any wishful thinking that, by escalating violence, the Hong Kong SAR government will yield to pressure to satisfy the so-called political demands, I am making this statement clear and loud here: That will not happen," Lam said, using the initials for Special Administrative Region, which describes the city's status as a semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

Yesterday's violence is likely to further inflame passions in Hong Kong after a student who fell during an earlier protest succumbed to his injuries on Friday and police arrested six pro-democracy lawmakers over the weekend on charges of obstructing the local assembly during a raucous May 11 meeting. All were freed on bail.

China's ruling Communist Party has also indicated it may try to find a way to enact anti-subversion laws in the territory, after such measures were shelved previously due to public opposition.

While Beijing has dismissed reports it may replace Lam next year, the party last week issued a statement saying it would "perfect" the system to appoint and dismiss Hong Kong's leader and top officials.

In a widely distributed video, a police officer is shown shooting away a group of protesters at an intersection yesterday morning, then drawing his gun on a masked protester in a white hooded sweatshirt who approaches him.

As the two struggle, another protester in black approaches, at whom the officer points his gun. He then fires at the stomach area of the second protester, who falls to the ground. The officer appeared to fire again as a third protester in black joined the tussle.

The protester in white manages to flee, bounding up a nearby stairway, and the officer and a colleague pin the two in black to the ground.

Police said that only one protester was hit and that he was undergoing surgery. The Hong Kong hospital authority said the person was initially in critical condition but was stable after surgery.

It was the second time a protester has been shot since the de-

monstrations began in early June, although police have repeatedly drawn their firearms to ward off attacks. More than 3,300 people have been arrested in the protests.

Police fired tear gas and deployed a water cannon in various parts of the city yesterday and charged onto the campus of The Chinese University of Hong Kong,

Pro-democracy lawmakers accuse the gov't of trying to provoke violence to justify cancelling or postponing the elections

where students were protesting. Video posted online also showed a policeman on a motorcycle riding through a group of protesters in an apparent attempt to disperse them.

Police spokesman Tse Chun-chung said the shooting, burning and motorcycle incidents were all under investigation, but defended the officers' actions as necessary to safeguard their own safety. Tse said two people were arrested in the shooting incident, including the person shot, but no one has yet been detained over the burning.

Protesters built barricades and blocked roads at about 120 locations across the city of 7.4 million and demonstrations were still ongoing, Tse said.

"Continuing this rampage is a lose-lose situation for Hong Kong. Everyone is a loser," Tse said.

Rail service was partly suspended because of fires and obstacles on the tracks and windows were smashed at a branch of the state-owned Bank of China. Large parts of the downtown business district were closed to traffic as protesters surrounded by onlookers engaged in a standoff with police.

The protests began over a proposed extradition law and have expanded to include demands for greater democracy and police accountability. Activists say Hong Kong's autonomy and Western-style civil liberties, promised when the former British colony was returned to China in 1997, are eroding.

The video of yesterday's shooting was posted on Facebook by Cupid Producer, an outlet that started last year and appears to post mostly live videos related to local news.

The shooting occurred on a crosswalk at a large intersection strewn with debris that had backed up traffic in Sai Wan Ho, a neighborhood on the eastern part of Hong Kong Island.

In a statement, the Hong Kong government said police had been

responding to vandalism and disruptions to traffic, including protesters throwing heavy objects onto roads from above.

"During police operations, one police officer has discharged his service revolver, one male was shot," the statement said, adding that officers also drew their guns in the Shatin and Tung Chung neighborhoods.

The statement denied what it called online rumors that police had been ordered to "recklessly use their firearms," calling the allegation "totally false and malicious"

"All police officers are required to justify their enforcement actions," the statement said.

A patch of what looked like dried blood could be seen in a cordoned-off area after the shooting, as onlookers shouted insults at the police.

Masked protesters continued to try to block other intersections in the area. Police chased them away with pepper spray, hitting some bystanders as well.

MAN IN CRITICAL CONDITION

In a separate incident, a man who confronted a group of pro-democracy protesters was doused in a flammable liquid and set alight, according to a graphic video seen to MDT and widely shared on social media. The video shows an unidentified and unarmed man shouting expletives at protesters before saying "you're all not Chinese."

The man is in the hospital in a critical condition, the city's Hospital Authority told CNN. A Hong Kong police source said that they are investigating the incident which took place yesterday at the Ma On Shan subway station in the New Territories.

The city has been rocked by the death Friday of the university student who fell from a parking garage when police fired tear gas at protesters.

The territory is preparing for Nov. 24 district council elections that are viewed as a measure of public sentiment toward the government.

Pro-democracy lawmakers accuse the government of trying to provoke violence to justify cancelling or postponing the elections. **MDT/AP**



In this image made from video, a police officer (left) prepares to shoot a protester yesterday

MAJOR Hong Kong banks spent their morning telling employees to commute carefully, and by afternoon yesterday began urging them to consider going home as police lobbed tear gas at protesters on the streets outside.

"Your safety is our top priority," HSBC Holdings Plc wrote to staff around lunchtime, inviting them to use their judgment in leaving and noting the firm will remain open. "Please take laptops home if you are able to work remotely."

Most of the city's major investment banks and other financial firms tried to operate normally, though some lenders closed branches near flareups as a precaution, after the death of a student fueled a surge of unrest.

For much of Hong Kong, the morning presented one of the tensest commutes in months as demonstrations closed some subway stations. As employees arrived at JPMorgan Chase & Co.'s main offices, police in riot gear could be seen gathering across the street.

Pro-democracy demonstrations escalated further after an officer shot two protesters. By lunch, television footage showed workers in business suits and skirts covering their faces and flocking into the Landmark Mall in Central - an area flanked by bank towers - to escape tear gas. Meantime, banks sent workers fresh waves of emails urging them to be careful.

Bank of America Corp. and Goldman Sachs Group Inc. also gave employees the option of heading out, and UBS Group AG is planning a similar move, according to people with direct knowledge of the internal conversations.

"Ongoing public events are impacting travel and may continue in the coming days," HSBC said in its message to staff. "You are encouraged to make plans to leave

Hong Kong banks send some staff home as tear gas wafts outside



ve the office early and under safe conditions if you foresee disruption to your commute."

BNP Paribas SA promised workers it would monitor the situation and alert them to new de-

velopments. Employees there can confer with managers to decide what to do.

"Continue to exercise care and caution whilst traveling to or around our office premises," the

bank cautioned them in a memo. "Please also remember to carry your laptops to and from work on a daily basis."

Also yesterday, foreign consulates in Hong Kong were warning

their citizens to stay indoors last night. The French Consulate advised its citizens to go back home earlier than usual if they can manage their time to do so. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

CORPORATE BITS

MGM receives smart hotel accolade



MGM Macau and MGM Cotai have received the accolade of the "Elite Smart Hotel Award" from the "2019 Macao Smart Hotel Awards," organized for the first time by Macao

Post and Telecommunications Bureau (CTT) yesterday.

MGM has won two out of the six "Elite Smart Hotel Awards," the highest accolade within the Award,

the gaming operator announced in statement.

Grant Bowie, CEO and executive director of MGM China Holdings Limited, said, "Both MGM Cotai, [which] opened a year ago, and MGM Macau, [which has been] open for over 10 years, have received this accolade, which is a testimony [to] our continued pursuit [of] innovation."

"We are committed to provid[ing] an innovative entertainment experience to our guests, as well as convenient and efficient human resources services to our team members," he added.

Sheraton, St. Regis awarded as city's best employer brand



The Sheraton Grand Macao Hotel, Cotai Central and The St. Regis Macao, Cotai Central have been recently awarded Macao Best Employer Brand 2019 at the Employer Branding Awards Ceremony in Hong Kong.

The award acknowledges the Sheraton Grand Macao and The St. Regis Macao as having resources dedicated to achieving best practice human resources outcomes to attract and retain the best talent possible.

Janet McNab, Multi-Property vice president at Sheraton Grand Macao Hotel, Cotai Central and The St. Regis Macao, Cotai Central, remarked, "It gives me great pleasure to see our two hotels recognized and for us to win our first Best Employer Brand Award and be seen as 'employers of choice' in the highly competitive Macau labor market."

"As a service business that welcomes thousands of guests every day, it goes without saying that our people are our greatest asset, and I'm confident this award will further distinguish our hotels as being among the best places to work in Macau," she added, as cited in a joint statement.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

CHINA'S ALIBABA, JD REPORT BOOMING SINGLES DAY SALES

JOE MCDONALD, BEIJING

CHINESE e-commerce giants Alibaba and JD.com reported nearly \$60 billion in sales yesterday part way through Singles Day, an annual marketing event that is the world's busiest online shopping day.

The day was a temporary relief to retailers that face fading demand as Chinese consumers, anxious over slowing economic growth and the tariff war with Washington, tighten their belts.

University students created Singles Day in the 1990s as an alternative Valentine's Day for people without romantic partners. Alibaba adopted it as a marketing tool a decade ago. The creators picked Nov. 11 because the date is written with four singles — "11 11."

Rivals including JD.com, China's biggest online direct retailer, and electronics seller Suning joined in. The tactic has caught on in other Asian countries, too.

Yesterday, retailers offered discounts on goods from smartphones to craft beer to health care

packages.

"Yesterday night, I was browsing past 11 p.m. Many of my friends around me were staying up till 2 a.m. to buy stuff," said Zhu Yirun, a graduate student in Beijing.

Alibaba said sales by merchants on its platforms totaled 221.6 billion yuan (\$31.7 billion) by 6 p.m., passing last year's total of \$30.8 billion. JD.com reported sales of 179.4 billion yuan (\$25.6 billion) by mid-afternoon.

Alibaba kicked off the event Sunday night with a concert by Taylor Swift at a Shanghai stadium.

E-commerce has grown rapidly in China due to a lack of traditional retailing networks and government efforts to promote internet use. The country has 800 million people online.

Alibaba, JD.com, Baidu and other internet giants have expanded into consumer finance, entertainment and offline retailing.

Yesterday, was Alibaba's first Singles Day since its founder, Jack Ma, stepped down as chairman in September. He stayed on as a

member of the Alibaba Partnership, a 36-member group with the right to nominate a majority of the company's board of directors.

E-commerce has created some of China's biggest fortunes.

Ma, 55, is China's richest entrepreneur with a net worth of \$39 billion, according to the Hurun Report, which tracks the country's wealthy.

Colin Huang of Pinduoduo was No. 7 on Hurun's list at \$19 billion. Zhang Jindong of Suning was No. 15 at \$14 billion and Richard Liu of JD.com was No. 28 at \$11 billion.

Last year, Alibaba reported Singles Day sales of 213.5 billion yuan (\$30.8), or more than 13 times its daily average of about 16 billion yuan (\$2.3 billion).

Suning said sales of smartphones and other electronics passed 1 billion yuan (\$160 million) in the first minute after midnight. The company said later sales were up 86% over 2018's Singles Day but gave no total.

Dangdang, an online book retailer, said it sold 6.8 million copies in the first hour.

Chinese online spending is



growing faster than total retail sales but also is weakening as the economy slows. Growth declined to a multi-decade low of 6% over a year earlier in the quarter ending in September.

Online sales of goods rose 16.8% over a year earlier in the first nine months of 2019 to 5.8 trillion yuan (\$825 billion), according to official data. That was more than double the 8.2% rate for total consumer spending but down from an average of about 30% in recent years.

E-commerce made up 19.5% of Chinese consumer spending, compared with about 11% of spending for American consumers.

Yang Wei, a migrant worker in Beijing, planned to skip the online rush.

"I feel like the difference [in price] is not that big, and since everyone's buying all at once, the logistics and delivery are slower," said Yang. "I think that it's actually better for me to buy when not everyone's buying." AP

AD



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ELENA BECATOROS
& DEREK GATOPOULOS

Xi on investment drive in EU member Greece

CHINESE President Xi Jinping is meeting political leaders in Greece yesterday as part of a trip aimed at furthering a major global investment initiative inside the European Union.

China's state-owned transport giant Cosco controls Greece's largest port of Piraeus, near Athens, and Beijing is keen to boost Chinese investment in Greece as part of its global Belt and Road investment initiative.

Xi met with President Prokopis Pavlopoulos and Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis. He is due to join Mitsotakis later on a visit to the port facility.

"I think our cooperation can combine our advantages and benefit everyone. At the port of Piraeus, we can see that the result of our cooperation has made it the largest port in the Mediterranean," Xi said.

Greek officials said the two countries are planning to sign 16 bilateral cooperation agreements during Xi's three-day state visit — that will include a range of investment deals and the presence of the state-owned Bank of China in Athens.

Emerging from a decade-long financial crisis, Greece and its new conservative government are keen to attract overseas investment despite concerns from some of Athens' western allies over the rapid expansion of China's global influence.

"Greece recognizes Chi-

AP PHOTO



na not only as a great power but as a country that with difficulty has gained a leading geostrategic, economic, and political role," Mitsotakis said.

The Greek prime minister

traveled to Shanghai last week to meet Xi at the 2019 China International Import Expo.

In April, Greece joined a Chinese trade initiative launched seven years ago that in-

cludes mostly central and eastern European countries.

Thousands of Chinese investors have snapped up apartments around in Athens and other Greek cities under

a so-called "golden visa" scheme which offers a five-year residence permit to buyers who spend more than 250,000 euros (\$275,750) on the local property market. AP

Beijing confident Huawei will build Brazil's 5G mobile network

SAMY ADGHIRNI

CHINA'S government says it's confident that Brazil will choose Huawei Technologies Co. to build its ultra-fast fifth generation mobile network, a high-stake decision that would likely put President Jair Bolsonaro in collision course with the U.S.

Chinese President Xi Jinping is scheduled to meet his Brazilian counterpart in Brasilia this week - their second meeting in less than a month - during a summit of the BRICS group which also includes Russia, India and South Africa.

"I am confident in terms of the cooperation

BLOOMBERG



between China and Brazil over 5G technology", China's Ambassador to Brasilia Yang Wanming

said in reply to emailed questions. Brazil "will take into account its own development inte-

rest" when it analyzes Huawei's bid, he added.

Yang said that Brazil's attitude toward Huawei

has remained objective and rational amid a campaign of "bad faith and defamation" from the U.S.

Security Concerns

U.S. officials have warned their allies against relying on Huawei components in their 5G networks, saying this would facilitate spying by Beijing. U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo reiterated the warnings in a speech in Germany on Friday, saying the company can't be fully trusted, since it is under the thumb of China's ruling communist party.

For the past decade, China's vast appetite for raw materials such as iron and soy beans have made it Brazil's top trading partner. Chinese companies also invest heavily in Latin American nation, which is seeking foreign companies to participate in Bolsonaro's

program of privatizing hundreds of billions of dollars of state assets.

At the same time, Bolsonaro is a close ally of U.S. President Donald Trump, and Washington has warned that it could downgrade security cooperation with Brazil if it gives the Chinese technology company the go-ahead.

Xi will hold a separate bilateral meeting with Bolsonaro this week during the BRICS summit. Huawei is expected to bid in Brazil's 5G auction next year.

In the email interview, the Chinese Ambassador also ruled out any change in Beijing's support for Nicolas Maduro's administration in Venezuela. Brazil has requested its allies to instead recognize National Assembly president Juan Guaido as the legitimate president. BLOOMBERG



AP PHOTO

AUSTRALIA

COURT TO SAY IF WILL HEAR CARDINAL PELL'S APPEAL

ROD MCGUIRK, CANBERRA

THE most senior Catholic to be found guilty of sexually abusing children will learn this week whether Australia's highest court will hear his appeal against convictions for molesting two choirboys in a Melbourne cathedral

two decades ago.

The High Court of Australia confirmed yesterday that two judges will announce their decision tomorrow on whether all seven judges will hear Cardinal George Pell's appeal next year. The names of the two judges who will make the decision won't be announced

until tomorrow.

A unanimous Victoria state County Court jury in December found Pope Francis' former finance minister guilty of molesting two 13-year-old choirboys in Melbourne's St. Patrick's Cathedral in the late 1990s shortly after Pell became archbishop of Australia's

second-largest city.

The Victoria Court of Appeal in August rejected his appeal in a 2-1 ruling.

Pell, 78, was sentenced to six years in prison in March and is no longer a member of Francis' Council of Cardinals or a Vatican official.

He is currently in the Melbourne Assessment Prison, where the Herald Sun newspaper reported last month he had been given a gardening job. He will not attend the High Court in Canberra to hear the decision tomorrow.

If the court agrees to hear his appeal, a trial cannot take place before the judges return from their summer break in early February. The court rejects around 90% of applications for appeal hearings.

Pell's lawyers argued in their 12-page application for a High Court appeal that two state appeals court judges made two errors in dismissing his appeal in August.

The judges made a mistake by requiring Pell to prove the offending was impossible, rather than putting the onus of proof on prosecutors, the lawyers said.

They also said the two judges made a mistake in finding the jury's guilty verdicts were reasonable. Pell's lawyers argue there was reasonable doubt about whether opportunity existed for the crimes to have occurred.

Pell's lawyers also argue that changes in law over the years since the crimes were alleged have increased the difficulty in testing sexual assault allegations.

They argue Pell should be acquitted of all charges for several

reasons, including inconsistencies in the complainant's version of events.

But prosecutors argue there is no basis for the appeal, and that the Victorian courts made no errors.

In their written submission to the High Court, prosecutors wrote Pell's legal team was asking High Court judges to apply established principles to the facts of the case, which were already carefully and thoroughly explored by the state appeals court.

Pell was largely convicted on the testimony of one victim. The second victim died of an accidental heroin overdose in 2014 when he was 31 years old without complaining that he had been abused.

The surviving victim said after Pell lost his appeal in August, "I just hope that it's all over now."

Clerical sexual abuse and the Catholic Church's handling of such cases worldwide have thrown Francis' papacy into turmoil.

In a little more than a year, the pope has acknowledged he made "grave errors" in Chile's worst cover-up, Pell was convicted of abuse, a French cardinal was convicted of failing to report a pedophile, and a third cardinal, former U.S. church leader Theodore McCarrick, was defrocked after a Vatican investigation determined he molested children and adults.

Pell must serve at least three years and eight months behind bars before he becomes eligible for parole. As a convicted pedophile, he is provided with extra protection from other inmates and spends 23 hours a day in solitary confinement. **AP**

Gambia takes Myanmar to top UN court over Rohingya campaign

MIKE CORDER,
 THE HAGUE

GAMBIA filed a case yesterday at the United Nations' highest court accusing Myanmar of genocide in its campaign against its Rohingya Muslim minority and asking the International Court of Justice to urgently order measures "to stop Myanmar's genocidal conduct immediately."

Gambia filed the case on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

Gambia's justice minister and attorney general, Abubacarr Marie Tamba-dou, told The Associated Press he wanted to "send a clear message to Myanmar and to the rest of the international community that the world must not stand by and do nothing in the face of terrible atrocities that are occurring around us. It is a shame for our generation



AP PHOTO

Gambia's Justice Minister Aboubacarr Tambadou, center, and his delegation

that we do nothing while genocide is unfolding right before our own eyes."

Myanmar's military began a harsh counterinsurgency campaign against the Rohingya in August 2017 in response to an insurgent attack. More than 700,000 Rohingya fled to neighboring Bangladesh to escape what has been called an ethnic cleansing

campaign involving mass rapes, killings and the torching of homes.

The head of a U.N. fact-finding mission on Myanmar warned last month that "there is a serious risk of genocide recurring."

The mission also said in its final report in September that Myanmar should be held responsible in in-

ternational legal forums for alleged genocide against the Rohingya.

The case filed at the International Court of Justice, also known as the world court, alleges that Myanmar's campaign against the Rohingya, which includes "killing, causing serious bodily and mental harm, inflicting conditions that are calculated to bring

about physical destruction, imposing measures to prevent births, and forcible transfers, are genocidal in character because they are intended to destroy the Rohingya group in whole or in part."

Tambadou said in a statement: "Gambia is taking this action to seek justice and accountability for the genocide being committed by Myanmar against the Rohingya, and to uphold and strengthen the global norm against genocide that is binding upon all states."

The International Criminal Court's prosecutor also asked judges at that court in July for permission to open a formal investigation into alleged crimes against humanity committed against Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar.

Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda said she wants to in-

vestigate crimes of deportation, inhumane acts and persecution allegedly committed as Rohingya were driven from Myanmar, which is not a member of the global court, into Bangladesh, which is.

The International Criminal Court holds individuals responsible for crimes while the International Court of Justice settles disputes between nations. Both courts are based in The Hague.

Myanmar's U.N. ambassador, Hau Do Suan, last month called the U.N. fact-finding mission "one-sided" and based on "misleading information and secondary sources." He said Myanmar's government takes accountability seriously and that perpetrators of all human rights violations "causing the large outflow of displaced persons to Bangladesh must be held accountable." **AP**

Malaysia Ex-PM Najib ordered to enter defense in 1MDB case

EILEEN NG, KUALA LUMPUR

A Malaysian judge yesterday ordered former Prime Minister Najib Razak to enter a defense at his first corruption trial linked to the multibillion-dollar looting at the 1MDB state investment fund that helped spur his shocking election ouster last year.

Defense lawyers said Najib was shocked he wasn't acquitted. He will be the first defense witness to take the stand when the trial resumes Dec. 3.

High Court Judge Mohamad Nazlan Mohamad Ghazali said the prosecution had established its case on charges of abuse of power, breach of trust and money laundering. The seven charges relate to 42 million ringgit (\$10.1 million) that allegedly went into Najib's bank accounts from SRC International, a former unit of the 1MDB fund.

The judge said it was clear that Najib, who was also finance minister at the time, had "wielded overarching authority and power" in SRC and taken actions for "personal and private interest." He said prosecution had established an "ingredient of dishonesty" in the fund misappropriation.

Najib's top lawyer Muhammad Shafee Abdullah said the judge had chosen a "different interpretation of facts and laws" on the defense arguments. He maintained Najib was a victim of a conspiracy led by fugitive Malaysian financier



AP PHOTO

Low Taek Jho, identified by U.S. investigators as the mastermind in the pilfering of more than \$4.5 billion from the fund.

"You will hear the true story from the accused. He has to tell his story, his version of what happened in SRC," Shafee told a news conference. "This is a person who trusted the people around him and these people let him down."

Najib, 66, denies any wrongdoing and accuses Malaysia's new

government of seeking political vengeance. The patrician former leader, whose father and uncles were the country's second and third prime ministers respectively, could face years in prison if convicted.

Shafee said whatever verdict is reached, both sides will appeal until the case reaches the top court. It could last many years, "well beyond the next election," due in 2023, he said.

Najib is also charged in four

other cases over 1MDB corruption that led to investigations in the U.S. and several countries. His wife, several officials from his government, and the U.S. bank Goldman Sachs also face charges related to the scandal.

Yesterday's ruling was seen as a key test for the legal system and the credibility of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's government, which won a historic victory in the May 2018 election on an anti-corruption platform. The

polls led to Malaysia's first change of government since independence from Britain in 1957.

In an immediate reaction from the government, Sports Minister Syed Saddiq Syed Abdul Rahman tweeted: "Praise God. May justice be on the side of the people."

Mahathir, 94, was premier for 22 years until his retirement in 2003 but made a political comeback amid anger over the 1MDB scandal. His government soon reopened 1MDB investigations that had been quashed under Najib.

U.S. investigators say money stolen from 1MDB was laundered through layers of bank accounts in the U.S. and other countries to finance Hollywood films and buy hotels, a luxury yacht, art works, jewelry and other extravagances. More than \$700 million from the fund allegedly landed in Najib's bank account.

In all, Najib faces 42 charges of criminal breach of trust, graft, abuse of power and money laundering in the five criminal cases.

Shafee said yesterday's ruling isn't likely to affect Najib's ongoing second trial, where he faces 25 counts of graft for allegedly receiving and using more than \$731 million from 1MDB between 2011 and 2014.

He said a U.S. settlement deal last month with financier Low Taek Jho, better known as Jho Low, that will allow the Justice Department to recover almost \$1 billion stolen from 1MDB would bolster Najib's case that he was misled by Low. Low, who faces charges in Malaysia and the U.S., is still in hiding.

"You must draw the line between naive, too trusting or even negligence as opposed to having the intention to commit crime," he said of Najib. **AP**

Vietnamese court finds Australian guilty of terrorism

A Vietnamese court on yesterday sentenced a 70-year-old Australian to 12 years in jail on terrorism charges, state media reported.

The Tuoi Tre newspaper said Chau Van Kham, a Sydney resident of Vietnamese origin, was found guilty of "terrorism to oppose the people's administration" in a half-day trial at Ho Chi Minh City People's Court.

It said two Vietnamese men, Nguyen Van Vien and Tran Van Quyen, were also sentenced to 11 and 10 years respectively on the same charge.

The newspaper described the three men as members of Viet Tan, an overseas-based political group seeking Vietnamese political change that Vietnam's



AP PHOTO

government has branded "terrorist" since 2016. It said Kham was in charge of the group's Australian branch

and was assigned to raise funds to finance what it called "reactionary activities" in Vietnam.

Viet Tan called the charges "baseless" and said the legal proceedings were a sham.

"We challenge the Vietnamese government to provide any evidence linking them to 'terrorism.' The Vietnamese authorities are criminalizing human rights advocacy," Viet Tan chairman Do Hoang Diem said in a statement. Viet Tan said it "advocates for social justice and democratic change through peaceful means."

The newspaper said Kham was arrested in January when he crossed the border from Cambodia into Vietnam using false ID documents after taking Vien and Quyen on a training trip in Cambodia.

Kham served in South Vietnam's army during the Vietnam War and fled to Australia several years after the Communist Nor-

th defeated the South and reunited the country, it said.

He will be deported after serving his jail term, the newspaper said.

The group Human Rights Watch said Kham received "what is essentially a death sentence."

"He has been incarcerated on bogus, politically motivated charges that demonstrate just how fearful Vietnam is about people exercising their rights and demanding genuine democracy," Phil Robertson, the New York-based group's deputy Asia director, said in a statement.

The statement said Vietnam has recently arrested and imprisoned a number of people allegedly affiliated with Viet Tan. **AP**

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Turkey starts returning IS fighters, deports US national

SUZAN FRASER, ANKARA

TURKEY yesterday deported a U.S. citizen who fought for the Islamic State group as the government began a new push to send back captured foreign fighters to their home countries, a Turkish official said.

A German and a Danish national was also repatriated yesterday, while seven other German nationals would be returned on Nov. 14, Interior Ministry spokesman Ismail Catakli told Turkey's state-run Anadolu Agency.

The U.S. and Denmark did not immediately comment on Ankara's announcement. Germany said it will not refuse entry to its own citizens.

The move comes just over a week after the Turkish interior minister said Turkey was not a "hotel" for IS fighters and criticized Western nations for their reluctance to take back citizens who had joined the ranks of the extremist militant group as it sought to establish a "caliphate" in Iraq and Syria.

While Turkey has quietly deported IS sympathizers for years, it raised the issue more forcefully after Western nations refused to back its invasion of northeastern Syria and its offensive against Syrian Kurdish fighters, whom Ankara considers terrorists linked to Kurdish insurgents fighting inside Turkey. Many countries have



A Turkish army vehicle is driven in Turkey after conducting a joint patrol with Russian forces in Syria

voiced concerns that the Turkish incursion would lead to a resurgence of the Islamic State group.

Catakli did not provide further information on the IS suspects being sent home but said they were held in Turkish deportation centers.

"This morning, a foreign terrorist fighter from the United States was deported from Turkey after the procedures at the deportation center were completed," Anadolu quoted Catakli as saying.

Two Irish nationals, two German nationals and 11 French

nationals who were captured in Syria would also be transferred to their countries of origin soon, he added.

Turkey has been accused of enabling the influx of thousands of foreign IS sympathizers into Syria over the years and at the height of the extremist group's power, the Turkish border crossings were the main route for those hoping to join IS in Syria.

Turkey denies that it enabled foreign fighters to cross into Syria. It later stepped up security at its borders, including profiling pos-

sible IS fighters at airports and building a wall along parts of its porous border.

Turkey was hit by a wave of IS attacks in 2015 and 2016, including one by a gunman who opened fire at an Istanbul nightclub during New Year celebrations in the early hours of 2017 and killed 39 people.

In Berlin, German foreign ministry spokesman Christofer Burger said Turkey told Germany about its plan to deport one person yesterday, seven on Thursday and two more German nationals

on Friday. The group comprises three men, five women and two children.

So far, Burger said, German authorities cannot confirm that the 10 were involved with IS and, in the case of the person being deported yesterday, they know of no link to IS. There are indications that two of the women were in Syria, but neither of the children is believed to have been in Syria.

There was no dispute about these people's German citizenship, he said, and therefore no doubt about them being let back into the country — Germany can't and doesn't refuse entry to its own citizens.

Burger said that authorities have not yet been able to verify whether some 20 people — who are known to be in pre-deportation custody in Turkey — have German citizenship. Ankara has not yet officially notified Germany that it plans to deport them.

Turkey has over the past few weeks criticized Western nations, including Britain and the Netherlands, for refusing to take back their nationals who had joined the militant group and vowed to send back IS militants — even if their citizenship has been revoked.

Turkish Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu said last week that about 1,200 foreign IS fighters were in Turkish prisons and 287 members, including women and children, were re-captured during Turkey's offensive in Syria. He did not provide any numbers or further details on those who would be sent back.

Several European countries, including Britain, have stripped IS fighters of their nationalities, to prevent their return. AP

Brexit Party won't challenge Conservatives in UK vote

JILL LAWLESS
& GREGORY KATZ,
HARTLEPOOL

IN a major shift, Brexit Party leader Nigel Farage says his party will not run against Conservative candidates in almost half of the U.K. seats available in Britain's Dec. 12 election.

Farage said yesterday that the party will not run in 317 Conservative-held seats so it does not split the pro-Brexit vote, an announcement that should boost the chances that Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservatives win a majority.

Farage has been under huge pressure from Brexit supporters not to run candidates in seats where there is a risk of splitting the Brexit vote. Yesterday's



move represents a major change in tactics, for only last week Farage had threatened to run against the Conservatives in every race in the nation — 650 seats

are up for grabs — unless they agreed to team up with his Brexit Party.

Johnson refused the offer, which included a demand that he drop his

Brexit deal, saying that the Conservatives aimed to win.

Farage said the party has "unilaterally" formed a Leave alliance to prevent

a coalition of parties that want to stay in the European Union from winning.

Over the weekend, several right-wing British newspapers urged Farage to change tack, saying there was a risk that Britain might not leave the EU if the Labour Party comes to power.

Labour has vowed to renegotiate the Brexit divorce deal with the EU, then hold a new referendum for British voters to decide on whether to leave the bloc on those terms or remain.

On the campaign trail, Labour and the Conservatives were using Armistice Day to showcase their plans to improve the lot of veterans if they win the Dec. 12 election.

Johnson's party unveiled

proposals to make it harder to bring veterans to court over allegations of abuse that took place before the Human Rights Act took force in 2000, and announced a series of measures to help veterans get jobs.

Jeremy Corbyn's Labour Party said it would improve housing and work conditions for veterans.

Also, Corbyn's foreign policy adviser, Emily Thornberry, raised questions about Britain's nuclear deterrent when she told ITV it is not clear that Corbyn as prime minister would use nuclear weapons if Britain is threatened.

"It's impossible, I think, for any human to say whether they would be prepared to kill millions," she said. AP

what's ON



19TH MACAU FOOD FESTIVAL
TIME: 5pm-11pm (Mondays to Thursdays)
 3pm-12am (Fridays to Sundays)
UNTIL: November 24, 2019
VENUE: Sai Van Lake Square
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2857 5765

RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION ON THE PAST NATIONAL LOTUS FLOWER EXHIBITIONS
TIME: 9am-1pm & 2:30pm-5:30pm (Closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: December 31, 2019
VENUE: Guia Hill Nature Information Station (next to cable car station)
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: 2888 0087

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

Offbeat

SWEET OF TASTE OF FREEDOM: CHOCOLATE BERLIN WALL DESTROYED



So this is what freedom tastes like. A French chocolate sculptor celebrated the 30th anniversary Saturday of the opening of the Berlin Wall by taking a hammer to a chocolate replica of the infamous barrier, distributing the sweet chunks to applauding bystanders. Patrick Roger said it felt "amazing to share the taste, the values and a certain wind of liberty." Just as Berliners smashed chunks out of the concrete wall, Roger and an assistant attacked the replica with gusto. They quickly smashed a hole with their hammers and grasped an outstretched hand poked through it by someone on the other side. Made with 200 kilos of chocolate, the wall scrawled with the words "freedom" and, in German, "I am a Berliner!" was then brought crashing down onto the pavement in front of Roger's chocolate store in Paris, shattering into hundreds of pieces. Delighted bystanders gnawed on the chunks and carried away bags-full. "It's amazing, 200 kilos of chocolate gone in a few minutes," Roger said. The Parisians and tourists who came to watch the tasty spectacle included Cecile Reveret, who lived for a few years in East Germany before the wall's collapse, which was a pivotal moment in the fall of Communism in eastern Europe. "It is a magnificent idea. That's why I came. I have pieces of the wall now," Reveret said. "I wasn't there for the fall in 1989. But I was with all my heart supporting the reunification and these Eastern Germans that I had the chance to mix with, and who had tears in their eyes sometimes when they mentioned the wall."

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
14:55	Apresentação pelo Chefe do Executivo do balanço do trabalho do Governo referente ao ano económico de 2019 e da preparação do Orçamento para o ano económico de 2020 (Directo)
16:55	Conferência de Imprensa do Chefe do Executivo (Directo)
18:00	A Essência
18:25	TDM Desporto (Repetição)
19:30	Ouro Verde Sr.1
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	TDM Entrevista
21:50	Navegando pela Culinária
22:20	Império
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Motel Bates Sr.4
00:35	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:20	RTPi Directo

cinema



CINETEATRO

11-15 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



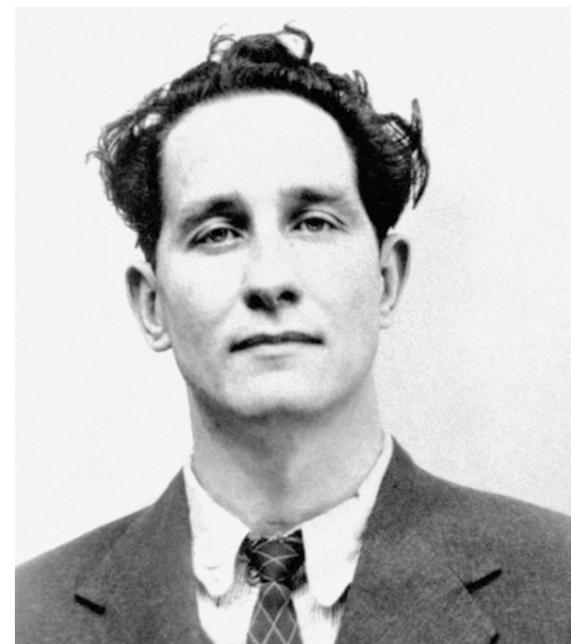
THE ADDAMS FAMILY
 ROOM 2
 2:30, 9:30pm
 Director: Greg Tiernan, Conrad Vernon
 Starring: Oscar Isaac, Charlize Theron, Chloë Grace Moretz
 Language: English (Chinese)
 ROOM 2
 4:30, 7:30pm
 Language: Cantonese (Chinese)
 Duration: 87min



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



1997 'GREAT TRAIN ROBBER' ESCAPES EXTRADITION AGAIN

The so-called 'Great Train Robber', Ronnie Biggs, is celebrating after Brazil's Supreme Court rejected a British request to extradite him. The court in Rio de Janeiro ruled that because Biggs' crime was committed more than 20 years ago he could not be extradited under Brazilian law. In 1963 Biggs was convicted of robbing a mail train, part of a 15-strong gang which stole more than £2.5m in what became known as "The Great Train Robbery". A spokesman for the Supreme Court said the ruling was final and the British Government would not be able to appeal. Ronnie Biggs said he was "totally elated and relieved" that the years of uncertainty were now over. "Finally I can get on with the rest of my life," he said. In London a spokesman for the Home Office said that it was "very disappointed" with the court's ruling. Former Scotland Yard detective Jack Slipper, who was involved in the investigation following the robbery, told the BBC he was not surprised by the decision. "It's a long time since the offence was committed and Biggs is an old man. I can't see any point in bringing him back," Mr Slipper said. Biggs has lived in Rio de Janeiro for 27 years. Just 15 months into a 30-year sentence for the robbery, he escaped from Wandsworth prison in London. He first fled to Australia where he hid out until 1970 before moving on to Brazil. But it was only in August, when Britain and Brazil formally ratified an extradition treaty, that his return home became a real possibility.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Ronnie Biggs had already frustrated two previous attempts to bring him home. In one attempt in 1981 he was kidnapped and taken to the Caribbean island of Barbados. During his years in Brazil, Biggs was a minor celebrity and his son became a child pop star. However, in 2001 Biggs returned to Britain voluntarily to receive medical treatment which he could not afford in Brazil. A series of strokes had left him partially paralysed and unable to speak. Biggs appealed to the British authorities for leniency but on his return was immediately rearrested. He was taken to the top-security Belmarsh prison in south-east London to serve out the remaining 28 years of his sentence. Biggs was released from prison on compassionate grounds in August 2009 and died in a nursing home in December 2013.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Paying close attention to how you come off to other people is not vain or silly - it's actually quite practical. After all, having a good reputation is very important.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Your plans are firm, and for once you cannot be the one who bends and make sacrifices in order to fit into someone else's plans. Use your charm and logic to enlighten the people you're dealing with.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

It's wise to behave well around a boss, but it is equally important to treat coworkers with the amount of respect that you would like to be given. After all, a partner can turn into an authority someday.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

You are not the first person to have problems at work, although you could be the first person to be going to these lengths to avoid dealing with them.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

First impressions are strong impressions, but they are not always correct impressions! Keep that in mind today when you are reunited with someone who turned you off with their arrogance at your first meeting.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

More often than not, your hard work pays off. So do not hesitate to put a little sweat equity into this day if you see a chance to get a little further in a goal or on a project.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Your old issues deserve to be where all old issues belong: In the past. Do not try to hold on to water as it flows under the bridge - you'll just end up getting all wet (not to mention frustrated).



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Keeping your gaze fixed so far into the future has created some distance between you and your people right now, and it's time for you to remember what it's like to live in the moment.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Follow any urge you might have today to penny-pinch! What's that? You don't have the urge to save money today? Well, try to get one! Money is getting tighter soon.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

No matter how much power and influence you have over people and judgments today, you cannot ensure a positive outcome. There is more out of your control than in your control.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You're the source of inspiration for someone today - bask in the glory of their admiration, and don't shy away from the spotlight that they're shining on you!



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

So go ahead - sing the praises of your most helpful coworkers, tout the skills of your favorite mechanic, or even just recommend your favorite sushi restaurant. Spread the praise around!

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

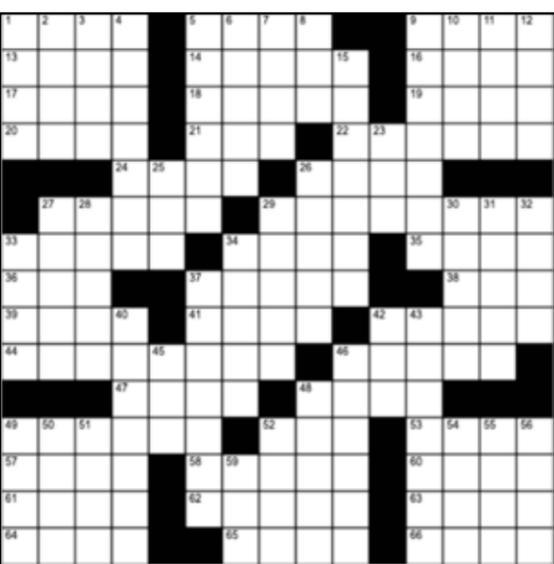
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	7	17	cloudy
Harbin	-3	6	drizzle
Tianjin	8	15	overcast
Urumqi	0	6	clear
Xi'an	4	18	clear
Lhasa	2	17	cloudy
Chengdu	14	19	cloudy
Chongqing	15	18	overcast
Kunming	12	18	shower
Nanjing	10	22	cloudy
Shanghai	12	21	cloudy
Wuhan	12	24	cloudy
Hangzhou	9	23	cloudy
Taipei	16	22	cloudy
Guangzhou	15	28	clear
Hong Kong	21	26	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	3	6	drizzle
Frankfurt	-1	9	clear
Paris	4	10	drizzle
London	3	7	drizzle
New York	0	4	clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1-Man, in Milan; 5- Spoiled child; 9- Palindromic time; 13- Pole, for one; 14- Scintillas; 16- Lessen; 17- Land of Molly Bloom; 18- Cancel; 19- ___ boy; 20- Take-charge type; 21- Soak (up); 22- One or the other; 24- Intake; 26- Sneaky guy?; 27- Injury; 29- Mountain climber; 33- Gone up; 34- Object of worship; 35- Hoity-toity sort; 36- Follow the rainbow; 37- Jalopy; 38- Pacino and Gore; 39- Kind of tide; 41- Crones; 42- Dawn; 44- Annoy; 46- Sharpens; 47- Narrow path for walkers, cars or ships; 48- Closet pest; 49- Like some rebates; 52- ___ Schwarz; 53- Plenty; 57- Capital on a fjord; 58- Put into office; 60- Apple or pear; 61- Goulash; 62- Longest river in France; 63- Entreaty; 64- Makes lace; 65- ___ about (approximately); 66- Pull abruptly;

DOWN: 1- Drew on; 2- Potpourri; 3- Female horse; 4- Late; 5- Tendentious; 6- Automaton; 7- At the summit of; 8- Cigarette ingredient; 9- Tidies; 10- Sworn thing; 11- Bone; Prefix; 12- Approach; 15- Spire; 23- "Lord, is ___?"; Matthew; 25- B & B; 26- Schemes; 27- Electrician, at times; 28- Movie award; 29- Old saying; 30- Nonsensical; 31- Alone, on stage; 32- Recipe amt.; 33- Hindu princess; 34- Teed off; 37- Wide strait; 40- Head rests; 42- Boozehound; 43- Sad; 45- Clavell's "___-Pan"; 46- Owl, e.g.; 48- Computer shortcut; 49- Lion's share; 50- Tinseltown terrier; 51- Belinda Carlisle's "Should ___ You In?"; 52- Sinn ___; 54- "Damn Yankees" vamp; 55- Warning sign; 56- Furniture wood; 59- Elton's john;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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FOR RENT

Beautiful apartment, Coloane
\$7,980,000 1,665 ft² 3 1/2 2 1/2 1 1/2

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- [Macau] Nova City 3 1/2 2 1/2
1,515 ft² **\$12,300,000** (ref: 19106001)
- [Taipa] Apartment with balcony 2 1/2 1 1/2
787 ft² **\$4,950,000** (ref: 19096008)
- [Taipa] 2 connected apartment 4 1/2 2 1/2
1,404 ft² **\$8,680,000** (ref: 19096006)
- [Macau] One Central 2 1/2 2 1/2
1,349 ft² **\$14,839,000** (ref: 19096004)

FOR RENT

- [Taipa] Manhattan 3 1/2 2 1/2
1,720 ft² **\$23,800/mth** (ref: 19091006)
- [Taipa] Nova Grand 2 1/2 1 1/2
935 ft² **\$17,800/mth** (ref: 19091004)
- [Cotai] One Grantai 3 1/2 3 1/2
2,122 ft² **\$23,000/mth** (ref: 19030001RT)
- [Taipa] Ocean Gardens 4 1/2 4 1/2
3,700 ft² **\$35,000/mth** (ref: 18040674)

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AD

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

ADVERTORIAL

GREAT TIMES

Tremendously Competitive Art – MGM Lion Dance Championship

The drums start rolling, the show picks up its pace. The mythic animal circles back to the center and clammers up a pole. The Chinese Lion Dance has been part of the Chinese culture for thousands of years, it goes far way back with many myths and legends. It is not just a performing dance but strength and artistry display, as well as the discipline of body and mind.



To let the tradition Chinese art of the beat of drums and the acrobatic performances to go on, MGM is proud to present the yearly affair "MGM Lion Dance Championship – Macau International Invitational 2019". The Championship is co-hosted by Wushu General Association of Macau, and supported by Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO), Sports Bureau, Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) and Dragon & Lion Dances Federation of Asia.

Similar to the previous years, the Championship has attracted formidable troupes around the globe to compete, featuring 28 troupes from 12 regions including China, Malaysia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Indonesia, Vietnam, Myanmar, Thailand, USA, Australia, Hong Kong SAR, and Macau SAR, to gather together in a test of skills and compete for the championship this year. All the best troupes will be giving their all during the competition with their best costumes and performing acrobatic stunts, endurance and creativity. The sounds of drums, cymbals and gongs pierce the air, dancers wagging the lion's head and tail, eyelashes bat and blink, its huge mouth open and close, climbing up and down poles meters high, and leaving audiences in awe!

What's more, MGM has been endeavoring to spread the art of lion dancing beyond by introducing the young generations the tradition and culture through the Junior Lion Dance Training Program, in collaboration with Hong Wai Dragon & Lion Dance Association Macau and supported by MGTO and DSEJ, introduced in 2015. Once again, the junior lions are going to make glamorous appearance on stage and perform their brilliant routines, imprinting impressive moves at the Junior Lion Dance Performance Competition.



Let the essence of the Lion Dance prestige performance brings in a vibrant mood for all of you, watch them battle with acrobatic performances and rhythmic beat of drums! The Championship is entirely free to enjoy!

Date: Nov 23 - 24, 2019
Venue: MGM Theater at MGM COTAI (Free Entry)

PETE DOHERTY ARRESTED AGAIN IN PARIS, FOR VIOLENT BEHAVIOR

PARIS authorities say British singer Pete Doherty has been arrested for the second time in the space of a week.

The Paris prosecutor's office said yesterday the 40-year old former Libertines and Babyshambles frontman was placed in custody Sunday for "violence by a person in a manifest state of intoxication."

It was just one day after he was released from custody. He had been detained in the night of Thursday-Friday over a foiled cocaine purchase.

The prosecutor's office couldn't confirm French media reports that the latest trouble involved Doherty punching at a teenager in the chic Saint-Germain area of Paris.

Since rising to fame in the noughties, Doherty, the ex-boyfriend of model Kate Moss, has been repeatedly arrested for drug offenses.



AP PHOTO

MEMOIR BY MARIAH CAREY TO BE PUBLISHED THANKS TO ANDY COHEN



AP PHOTO

A memoir by Mariah Carey is on the list of titles from Andy Cohen Books.

Henry Holt and Company announced last week that Cohen's self-named imprint will launch in 2020. It says the imprint will feature three nonfiction works by women.

Carey's memoir will be about her journey to superstar status.

The other works are "The Queen V;" by Dr. Jacqueline Waters, a cast member on Bravo's "Married to Medicine," and "Bodacious Dreams and Revelations," by Bevy Smith, a former co-host of "Page Six TV."

Cohen is the TV producer behind the "The Real Housewives" Bravo franchise and host of "Watch What Happens Live with Andy Cohen."

Holt is the publisher of Cohen's three best sellers: "Most Talkative," "The Andy Cohen Diaries," and "Superficial."

The imprint was announced in 2016.

STREEP, MIRANDA AND STONE ARE NAMED AS MET GALA CO-CHAIRS

NEXT year's Met Gala may be the closest we'll ever come to getting a Miranda Priestly moment at the starry event.

Meryl Streep has been named as a co-chair of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute. The Oscar-winner played Priestly, a thinly veiled fictional version of Vogue editor Anna Wintour, in the movie "The Devil Wears Prada."

Wintour clearly has no hard feelings because she selected Streep as a co-chair along with Lin-Manuel Miranda and fellow Oscar-winner Emma Stone. Designer Nicolas Ghesquiere rounds out the group.

The gala's theme is "About Time: Fashion and Duration," which the museum described as a meditation on the ephemeral nature of fashion.

It takes place on May 4, and will launch the spring exhibit. The show is curated, as always, by Andrew Bolton.



AP PHOTO

FOOTBALL

Ronaldo angry at coach Sarri after another substitution

DANIELLA MATAR, MILAN

CRISTIANO Ronaldo walked off the field and glared at Maurizio Sarri, muttering something indiscernible.

He then stormed down the tunnel.

It was the 55th minute of Juventus' match against AC Milan and Ronaldo had just been substituted for the second straight match after another disappointing performance.

His replacement, Paulo Dybala, went on to score the only goal, helping Juventus to a 1-0 victory on Sunday.

Italian media reported that Ronaldo wasn't around to congratulate Dybala or his teammates, having left the stadium shortly before the final whistle.

"I don't know," Sarri said when asked if that was true. "If it's true what you say then it's a problem for him to sort out with his own teammates."



Sarri, who took over as coach at Juventus this season, insisted he was more than fine with Ronaldo's reaction toward him. In

fact, he was glad about it. "If he gets angry at being substituted after all he has won, I'm very happy about that be-

cause it means he still has his head fully in the game and he wants to help the team at all costs," Sarri said. "I like it when a player reacts a bit when he gets taken off. I would be much more worried if it was the opposite."

Sarri said Ronaldo has been bothered by a knee injury for nearly a month and is playing through the pain.

However, former Juventus coach Fabio Capello said the 34-year-old Ronaldo is not the same extraordinary player.

"I didn't like it (his reaction), it wasn't nice," Capello said. "He should be a champion also when he comes off the field."

"The truth is Cristiano Ronaldo hasn't dribbled past an opponent in three years. When he played in Spain he always went past players and left them there ... at the moment he can't do the kind of moves that Dybala can."

Ronaldo finished last season — his first in Italy — as Juve's top

scorer with 28 goals in all competitions. He has six so far this season, two fewer than he had after the same number of matches last year.

Ronaldo's next matches will likely be for Portugal in European Championship qualifying matches against Lithuania and Luxembourg.

ASTORI REMEMBERED

Cagliari's match against Fiorentina was emotional for both teams and, especially, for Giovanni Simeone.

Play was interrupted in the 13th minute to remember former Fiorentina captain Davide Astori, who was found dead in his hotel room in March 2018 at the age of 31. The defender used to wear the No. 13 shirt and spent most of his career at Cagliari and Fiorentina.

Both sets of teams and fans stood to applaud.

Simeone, who joined Cagliari from Fiorentina in the offseason, was in tears as he pointed to the sky and saluted after scoring his team's third goal in a 5-2 victory.

"I will always carry this day with me in my heart," Simeone said.

Cagliari defender Fabio Pisancane also dedicated his goal to Astori. **AP**

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GAMING ANALYSIS
Is the US/China Trade war likely to affect Gaming in Macao?
Guest Speaker: **Andrew Scott**
CEO of Inside Asia Gaming

British Chamber of Commerce in Macao

britcham @ St. Regis Breakfast - Wednesday 13th November 2019

Inquiries and RSVP
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8:00 : Sit-down for breakfast
8.15 : Presentation and Q&A
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OPINION

Our Desk

Renato Marques



HISTORICAL CONFUSIONS

I am sure that by now everyone in Macau has heard enough about how 2019 is 'the' year of multiple celebrations.

Well, hearing this over and over, like music on a loop, I started to think a little more about it, especially considering why Macau has so much to celebrate this year.

My conclusion, although resulting from a complex process, is pretty simple – Macau has nothing to do with the celebrations of the 70th anniversary of communism in China – well at least until 2049, that is...

But before you panic in the face of such a bold conclusion, allow me to explain why I think that such celebrations are supposed to belong to the domains of privacy rather than among the general public.

The issue here is people tend to confuse a country or nation, and this country or nation's political system.

Going to a more practical example: I can love my country (the land in which I was born and of which I am a national), and at the same time, not fancy the current government or even political system that is in force in that part of the planet.

I think this should be obvious, but it is not. You see, there is no problem with not liking a particular government, leader, or political system, because all these factors change, adjust, and endure modifications with time and with the development of the society.

The confusion that I am arguing against here, and what some are attempting to engrave onto people's brains, is that to love a country is to love the government – and this extends to the president, the Prime-Minister, and all the other leaders chosen by them.

But if this is true, what happens if some of these governmental officials fall into disgrace? Does that mean that the country is disgraceful? Not at all!

So, let us not confuse topics, and keep governance separated from the governed land. This means we should also keep celebrations apart.

Logically, Macau is and always has been located in China, but the point here is that we are not celebrating 70 years of China, as China is not a 70-year-old civilization (according to the historical records, it is actually over 3,000 years old).

At this point, you may think that since 1999, Macau territory has been officially been under the administration of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and so we must comply with PRC celebrations.

This is precisely where I disagree with this idea, although I do think it is logical that mainland officials invite Macau, as part of the country, and Macau's people, to their celebration. But, as with any invitation, it should be up to Macau people to join the party (or not).

Have you ever tried to force someone to your party? Even if you succeeded, would you expect your guests to be happy if they are forced to attend it?

Adding to this comes another historical confusion, because if we say that we are celebrating the 70th anniversary of the country that rules over these lands, it is also accurate to say that Macau was born 20 years ago, when we all know that this was not accurate.

What we celebrate in Macau in 2019 is the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR), which is the establishment of a new political system with new leaders and new ideas for the same piece of land.

The Macau Basic Law, a document that you have surely heard a lot about, states that in the agreements that led to the creation of the MSAR, it was decided that Macau will retain, among many elements, its capitalist economic system for 50 years. We have 30 of those years yet to come.

Hong Kong regulators fined UBS Group AG 400 million Hong Kong dollars (\$51 million) for overcharging global wealth management clients during almost a decade and flagged concerns about serious and systematic problems with the bank's internal controls. The Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) found that UBS systematically overcharged private banking clients by manipulating the price on bond and structured product trades between 2008 to 2015, according to a statement from the regulator. UBS also charged some clients too much in fees between 2008 and

2017, the authorities said.

To hide the charges, UBS sometimes falsified account statements by misreporting the spread amounts for the trades, according to the statement.

"Although each overcharge represented a fraction of each trade, UBS's misconduct involved deception and a pervasive abuse of trust resulting in significant additional revenue for UBS to which it is not entitled," SFC's Chief Executive Officer Ashley Alder said in the statement.

AP PHOTO



The foreign ministers of Germany, Malta and Bulgaria chat in Brussels

**UN WATCHDOG: IRAN'S
 VIOLATIONS OF NUCLEAR
 DEAL INCREASING**

KIYOKO METZLER, DAVID RISING & JON GAMBRELL, VIENNA

The United Nations' nuclear watchdog reported yesterday that its inspectors have discovered uranium particles of a man-made origin "at a location in Iran not declared to the agency."

The revelation from International Atomic Energy Agency is the first time it has acknowledged in a report that allegations made earlier by the U.S. and Israel against Iran are true.

The IAEA did not identify the site in the confidential quarterly report that was distributed to member states and seen by The Associated Press.

In other details, the IAEA said Iran's stockpiles of low-enriched uranium are still growing in violation of the 2015 nuclear deal, and has confirmed that Iran is now enriching uranium at its underground Fordo facility, which is also prohibited by the nuclear agreement.

It also said Iran continues to enrich uranium up to 4.5%, above the 3.67% allowed by the deal known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA.

Since the U.S. under President Donald Trump unilaterally pulled out of the Iran nuclear pact last year and imposed new sanctions, Iran's economy has been struggling. In response, Iran

has been slowly violating its provisions to pressure the other major powers involved in the deal — Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia — to provide more economic incentives.

At talks in Brussels, European Union foreign ministers affirmed their support for the nuclear deal with Iran.

**Iran's stock
 stockpiles of low-
 enriched uranium
 are still growing
 in violation of the
 2015 nuclear deal**

EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said the ministers underlined their "full commitment to the agreement that remains crucial for our security, even if it's increasingly difficult to preserve it. We will continue our efforts to have a full implementation of the agreement."

A joint commission meeting of all the signatories is likely to be held in coming days.

In its report yesterday, the IAEA said as of Nov. 3, Iran's stockpile of low-enriched uranium was 372.3 kilograms compared to 241.6 kilograms reported on Aug. 19, and past the 202.8 kilogram limit.

It also confirmed the centrifuges at work in the Fordo facility, where Iran invited its inspectors in.

The nuclear deal had cal-

led for Fordo to become a research center. It is now home to more than 1,000 centrifuges.

An IAEA meeting last week included discussions about an undeclared site on the outskirts of Tehran that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu described to the U.N. in 2018 as a "secret atomic warehouse."

Although the IAEA report did not identify the location where its inspectors found the uranium particles, it said the information was reported by its acting director general to the board last week.

Senior Israeli intelligence officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to the AP at the time to discuss intelligence, alleged the site in Iran contained undeclared nuclear materials. They claimed there were "several other" similar clandestine nuclear facilities under the purview of Iran's Defense Ministry, not the country's civilian atomic energy agency.

Iran insists its program is for peaceful purposes. However, the IAEA has said Iran "carried out activities relevant to the development of a nuclear explosive device" in a "structured program" through the end of 2003. The Israeli officials said they believe equipment at the warehouse came from that program.

"The main concern is that this is the tip of the iceberg," one Israeli official said. AP

Afghanistan An official says a Pakistani delegation is in Kabul to meet Afghan authorities amid increased tensions. Yesterday's meeting is the first since the Pakistani Embassy closed its consular section in Kabul earlier this month, citing unspecified security concerns.

Russia President Vladimir Putin is complaining to his cabinet that widescale corruption at Russia's new space launch facility is continuing. The facility in the Far East, named Vostochny, is intended to reduce Russia's reliance on the Baikonur launchpads in Kazakhstan, from which all manned space missions and many other major rockets set off. But construction of Vostochny has been plagued by corruption.

AP PHOTO



Bolivia Opposition leader Carlos Mesa says former President Evo Morales was brought down by a popular uprising, not the military. Mesa's comments yesterday were part of a growing dispute over whether Morales' resignation on Sunday was the result of a military coup. Mesa says there was no coup and that the military had made a decision not to deploy in the streets because "they didn't want to take lives."

AP PHOTO



France President Emmanuel Macron marked Armistice Day yesterday by visiting the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier under Paris' Arc de Triomphe, as a giant tricolor flag flew overhead. Greeted by Prime Minister Edouard Philippe, Macron laid a wreath and inspected troops during the ceremony celebrating 101 years since the Armistice that ended the slaughter of World War I.

US President Donald Trump is set to offer a tribute to those who served in the armed forces as he kicks off New York City's Veterans Day Parade. Trump is to speak at the opening of the 100th annual parade organized by the United War Veterans Council in Madison Square Park. He is the first sitting president to accept the group's invitation to speak at the event.