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COMPOUND ANNUAL GROWTH IN MACAU'S CASINO SECTOR WILL RISE TO 9% OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS, PREDICTS BERNSTEIN

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NUCLEAR CREDITED FOR RISE IN GREATER BAY AREA AIR QUALITY

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LOCAL ELECTIONS ON SUNDAY COULD TURN OUT TO BE HONG KONG'S NEXT FLASHPOINT, WITH THE CITY BRACING FOR RENEWED VIOLENCE

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China A former employee of the British Consulate in Hong Kong says he was detained and tortured by Chinese secret police trying to extract information about massive anti-government protests in the territory.

More on p12

AP PHOTO

Thailand The Constitutional Court ruled yesterday that the maverick leader of a new political party that finished third in a general election in March violated election laws and cannot keep his seat in Parliament. The court said Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit [pictured], leader of the Future Forward Party, violated a regulation barring owners of media companies from running for Parliament.

AP PHOTO

Thailand Pope Francis arrived in Bangkok yesterday to begin a tour of Thailand and Japan, beginning a mission to boost the morale of those countries' tiny minority Catholic communities and speak about issues of concern including human trafficking and peacemaking.

India Twenty-two farmers were arrested in northern India yesterday for setting fires to clear their fields and contributing to some of the worst air pollution in the country, a government official said.

Sri Lanka Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe plans to step down, clearing the way for Parliament to choose a new prime minister to work with newly elected President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

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NOT ACCORDING TO THE RULEBOOK

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GAMING

BERNSTEIN PREDICTS COMPOUND ANNUAL GROWTH TO REACH 9% OVER NEXT FOUR YEARS

BROKERAGE Sanford C. Bernstein has predicted that the compound annual growth rate of Macau gross gaming revenue could reach 9% for the four-year period spanning 2019 to 2023.

The prediction comes as 2019 is proving to be poorest in terms of annual growth since the anti-corruption gaming slump ended in 2016.

Attributed to challenging geopolitical conditions and a VIP market under continual pressure, gross gaming revenue stood at 246.7 billion patacas for the first 10 months of 2019, down 1.8% compared to a year earlier.

Notwithstanding the difficult conditions – which are expected to endure in 2020 – Bernstein predicts that compound annual growth will return before 2023 on account of stable growth in the mass market and a VIP recovery in the medium- to long-term.

According to a report released on Monday and cited by GGRAsia, by the end of 2023, Macau's VIP gaming revenue will experience 7 percent compound annual growth, while the mass segment could experience 10 percent compound annual growth.

The VIP recovery will be primarily driven by the economic rise of China, even as the country's rate of expansion slows. This will fuel the growth of the high-net-worth population on the mainland,

BLOOMBERG



creating further demand in Macau, especially considering what Bernstein analysts describe as the "increase in the penetration of gaming in mainland China."

Meanwhile, the Bernstein report credited infrastructure improvements in Macau as partly behind the prediction for double-digit growth in the mass market segment.

The Taipa section of Macau's Light Rapid Transit system, which links Cotai to the airport, Taipa

Ferry Terminal and the Lotus Checkpoint, is widely expected to enter into operation before the end of this year. The local casino economy might find another boost in the linking of neighboring Hengqin to China's high-speed rail network and other railway infrastructure in the Greater Bay Area.

A near-term expansion in the number of Macau hotel rooms in Cotai will also help, most notably from Galaxy Macau's Phase 3 and the Grand Lisboa Palace,

the report noted. Looking further ahead, gross gaming revenue will find support from the expansion of other properties, as well as Wynn Palace's Phase 2, estimated to complete in 2024.

Separately, Morgan Stanley last week lowered its growth expectations for 2020 gross gaming revenue. The firm now predicts that revenues in the casino sector will grow by 2% year-on-year, down 100 points from an earlier prediction of 3%. **DB**

AMBROSE SO EXPECTS VIP REVENUE TO CONTINUE DECLINE

AMBROSE So, Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of SJM Holdings Limited, expects casino VIP room revenue to continue declining amid the U.S.-China trade dispute and the Hong Kong protests.

On the sidelines of yesterday's International Forum on Clean Energy opening ceremony, So said that VIP room revenue has fallen sharply in recent months while the mass market is performing well.

"VIP room revenue has fallen sharply, whereas [the] revenue of the mass market increased," said So.

In So's opinion, the increase in revenue of the mass market is helpful for the gaming operators in terms of profit, because the cost of operating in the mass market is lower than the cost of VIP room operation.

The decline has already gone on for 11 months this year. So believes that the situation will continue in 2020 because there are still no signs of change in the geopolitical and trade disputes.

Data from the Statistics and Census Bureau shows that visitor spending has fallen for the past four consecutive quarters. However, in So's opinion, the current drop has not affected mass market income. **JZ**

Visitor spending continues its plunge for fourth consecutive quarter

TOTAL visitor spending (excluding gaming activities) in the third quarter of 2019 dropped by 17.2% year-on-year to 15.2 billion patacas, with that of overnight visitors (12.19 billion patacas) and same-day visitors (3.01 billion patacas) decreasing by 20% and 3.2% respectively.

Although tourism arrivals continue to show

strength, data from the Statistics and Census Service shows that in the first three quarters of 2019, total spending of visitors amounted to 47.83 billion patacas, down by 6.7% year-on-year.

The total spending of overnight visitors (37.39 billion patacas) fell by 9.4%, whereas that of same-day visitors (10.45

billion patacas) increased by 4.6% on account of a 30.6% surge in number of same-day visitors.

The per capita spending of visitors decreased by 24.9% year-on-year to 1,532 patacas, marking a drop for the fourth consecutive quarter.

Per capita spending of visitors from mainland China (1,691 patacas) –

Macau's primary tourism market – decreased by 26.7%, with the spending of those travelling under the Individual Visit Scheme falling by 13.8% to 2,172 patacas.

Per capita spending of visitors from Singapore (1,842 patacas), Japan (1,805 patacas), Hong Kong (969 patacas) and Taiwan (1,339 patacas)

dropped by 17.4%, 6.6%, 16.2% and 21.7% respectively.

In terms of the type of spending, visitors primarily spent on shopping (45.2% of total spending), accommodation (26.9%) and food & beverage (20.5%). The per capita spending of visitors on shopping declined by 32.5% year-on-year to 693 patacas.

Analyzed by main purpose of visit, the per capita spending of visitors coming to the SAR for MICE events leapt by 67.4% to 4,319 patacas, driven by

an increase in number of relatively high-spending MICE visitors from mainland China, as well as a low base of comparison in the same quarter last year.

Over the weekend, Melco Resorts & Entertainment CEO Lawrence Ho told CNBC that the U.S.-China trade war and the devaluation of the renminbi have impacted consumers' spending. Ho believed that "the consumption numbers are certainly less than in previous years" and that spending is "a little bit lower" on the higher end of the business. **LV**

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Motorcycle Grand Prix decision contradicts rulebook

RENATO MARQUES

THE decision by the Macau Grand Prix Organizing Committee (MGPOC) to hand out a final classification for this year's interrupted Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix (GP) appears to contradict the sporting regulations published for the 53rd edition of this event.

Approved by the governing body for local motorsports, the Automobile General Association Macao-China, the Sporting Regulations under the responsibilities of the MGPOC Sporting Subcommittee indicate that the race should have been declared "null and void".

Under article 46, which governs the "Interruption and Restarting of a Race," it states that in the event of a situation where the clerk of the course decides to interrupt a race, the results will be calculated as follows: "If less than three (3) laps have been completed by the leader of the race and by all other riders on the same lap as the leader, then the race will be null and void and a completely new race will be run."

The paragraph also states, "If it is found impossible to re-start the race, then it will be declared canceled."

The situation provided by the event's sporting regulation matches the circumstances that occurred during the Motorcycle GP, when six riders were involved in a multi-vehicle crash at



Michael Rutter, who was handed victory in this year's Motorcycle GP

Police Bend which resulted in three riders being injured.

At the time, the initial information provided by an MGPOC staff member was that there

were no results or victory attributed. It was then said that due to the impossible nature of including a new race in the program on the last day of the GP,

the race would be canceled, according to article 46 of the sporting regulation.

The decision was not well received by teams and riders who rushed to criticize the MGPOC, with Peter Hickman, the leader of the race and the fastest rider over the whole weekend, expressing his displeasure over the decision, as the Times reported previously.

The MGPOC then decided to take a different approach, handing the victory to Michael Rutter based on the results of the only lap that had been fully raced after the restart. This second decision, which was also poorly received by the drivers and their teams, at least allowed the participants to collect their prizes.

Even Rutter, the rider who was attributed the win, was not happy with the decision. "It's a shame [for] the event. It's a shame for all the teams. It is always good to have a race," Rutter said, according to a report from TDM Radio.

On Sunday, during an evaluation of the event of this year, MGPOC president and chief of the Macau Sports Bureau, Pun Weng Kun, refuted the idea that there was a "first statement," saying that there was only one official statement and that was the one about the decision to attribute the results based on a single lap.

"Officially, there were never two results announced. Officially, there was only one single communication and that defi-

ned the final classification," Pun said, hinting that the first communication was not an official one, and that he was not aware of how it had been disclosed to the media.

In the MGPOC statement on Saturday following the publication of the final classification, the organizers said, "there was no opportunity to re-start the race for the second time. Regulations dictate that the result must be declared based on a single lap of the second race."

It was not clear which rule was used to award the victory to Rutter.

Rutter apologized to his teammate Hickman on social media, with a note to say, "Just heard that I've been given the win for today's race. It's a bit of a shame because Peter really deserved it. Sorry Peter."

Contacted by the Times to clarify the decision, the MGPOC said that the decision was made in a meeting held on November 16 and based on "article 17 and article 46.2 of the 53rd Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix Sporting Regulations - 2019."

Contrary to article 46.1, as already cited by the Times, article 46.2 refers to a situation in which "three or more laps have been completed... but less than two-thirds of the original race distance... the race will be restarted."

Article 17, which was also noted in the MGPOC's statement, discusses the "Interpretation of the Regulations" and states that "the interpretation of the Regulations, Bulletins and the choice of sanctions where the present Regulations have not automatically stipulated these, falls to the Race Direction," whose decision is considered final, except in the situations susceptible to appeal by the stewards, which is not the case here.

ENERGY

Nuclear accounts for 90% of Macau electricity supply

THE 8th International Forum on Clean Energy (IFCE) began yesterday with the participation of over 200 representatives from the government, industry and academia.

The forum focuses on the green development of offshore wind power, hydrogen energy, fuel cells, energy internet and other topics relevant to the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area.

He Yu, Executive Director General of IFCE, said that joint efforts have been made in the Greater Bay Area to develop non-fossil fuel energy, such as nuclear



and wind power, and to enhance the safeguarding of natural gas.

According to He, the supply of nuclear energy from Guangdong to Hong Kong

has exceeded 12 billion kWh per year, accounting for 90% of Macau's electricity supply.

He thinks that due to nuclear energy consumption,

the air quality of the Greater Bay Area has improved, "reaching the national annual average standard."

The forum also launched two editions of the 2019

Blue Book on clean energy at the opening ceremony.

Elliott Harris, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist of the United Nations, complimented China and specifically Denmark for their efforts in reducing energy demand.

"Decoupling GDP from energy growth is possible as China and Denmark have demonstrated, and efforts should be stepped up to reduce overall demand for energy through efficiency investments," said Harris.

In his opinion, the world should shift its existing flows of investment away

from the fossil fuel industry and into clean and renewable technologies.

The UN official remarked that in 2018, global energy investment was \$1.85 trillion, and over half of that investment came from developing and emerging economies.

He stated that despite all these various markets pointing to a position towards renewable energy, the world is still not moving fast enough.

"Clearly, more is needed. What can be done to speed it up? I think the answer lies in public policy," said Harris. JZ

'CHILD CE' TO BE PICKED BY SOCIALITES

The Women's General Association of Macau is organizing a mock election event to elect a symbolic "child Chief Executive." The child Chief Executive candidates will be reviewed and evaluated by well-known socialites. The association started calling for applicants in July. According to their plans, applicants will start their street campaigns on November 24, calling for support for their political platforms, which are all focused on topics that children are concerned about. It was suggested that well-known socialites would be invited as judges to select the candidates for the child Chief Executive election event. The children will be questioned by the socialites instead of by their "citizens". On December 7, the socialites will act as judges in the event's second round of selection. During the selection process, the participating children will have the opportunity to express their opinions about issues they are worried about. The child Chief Executive will be announced on December 29.

40% RISE IN CARS WITHOUT TAX RECEIPTS ATTACHED

As of October this year, the Transport Bureau (DSAT) has found 1,327 cases of vehicles without the relevant tax receipt attached to the body of the vehicle. The number represents a 40 percent increase. Some 1,227 of these cases correspond to motorcycles, 95 to light duty vehicles, and five to heavy duty vehicles. According to the DSAT's regulation, the bureau has already prosecuted the owners of all related vehicles. Some 673 owners have already paid the fine, while 647 are currently awaiting prosecution procedures and seven cases were not issued fines. The tax receipt should be attached on the front of each vehicle and should be clearly visible from the outside. When an owner fails to comply with the rule, they may be fined up to one-fifth of the total tax amount owed.

EDUCATION

THREE SCHOOLS CONFIRMED TO MOVE INTO NEW URBAN ZONE

The Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) has signed letters of intent with education organizations regarding the environmental improvement of some school campuses.

Escola dos Moradores de Macau, Escola Tak Meng and Escola Choi Nong Chi Tai will have their new campuses built on New Urban Zone A. These schools will be moved to the New Urban Zone at a time yet unannounced.

Meanwhile, the DSEJ signed the "Blue Sky Project" agreement with the Escola Tak Meng, the Santo António Education Association and other organizations.

The project, launched in late 2015, seeks to improve the environment of the city's schools to ensure that each education institution has a playground from which the children can see the sky.

The education authority has claimed that under the communication among the secretariat of the Social Af-



fairs and Culture, the DSEJ, and school stakeholders, the "Blue Sky Project" has achieved remarkable results.

A total of 14 schools and 15 podium buildings will be included in the project. The remaining 11 schools have signed a letter of intent for the "Blue Sky Project".

The DSEJ has also signed a cooperation agreement with the Portuguese School

to build a new Chinese-Portuguese school, which will join the DSEJ's free education network.

The DSEJ claims that the Portuguese School is enrolling more students and is capable of opening a new school. The new school plan is irrelevant in light of the Portuguese School's current campus expansion plan.

During the meeting, the

DSEJ said that the bureau will promote the launching of Macau's first flag raising team in the education sector, will set up a museum themed with the bindings to the country, will promote a safe and harmonious campus environment, enhance students' love of the motherland, and encourage students to study in mainland China. JZ

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Gov't proposes 25% expansion to Judiciary Police staff

ANTHONY LAM

THE government has proposed expanding the number of Judiciary Police (PJ) staff to about 1,600 through the introduction of new departments and divisions, it was revealed yesterday.

The PJ currently has a team of 1,266 employees. The government hopes to carry out approximate 25% expansion over the next seven years.

The expansion was proposed as part of the proposal to review Law No. 5/2006, a foundational law for the PJ. The proposal was announced and discussed by the Executive Council yesterday as one of three agenda items.

It is proposed that crimes related to information, the internet or national security be formally included under the authority of the PJ. In addition, in the hopes of improving efficiency, the government proposed that new means be added to

RENATO MARQUES



allow the PJ to obtain the civil and criminal data of a person.

Currently, the PJ can only access this data through a written application to the related authority. The new means proposed include, but are not limited

to, the mutual electronic accessibility of such data.

The proposal raised a lot of concern at the press conference, as it may lay down a path to personal data violations. A PJ official clarified that ques-

ts for data only occur during criminal investigations. In the meantime, official applications must be made and approval be issued.

Gun possession for retired PJ investigators hired under the "contract system," if supervisory legal requirements are met, was also proposed.

The government would also like to formalize the career system for forensic professionals in the PJ. These professionals do not have a career ladder under the current civil servant system.

The PJ considers building a professional team of forensic personnel to be crucial, considering the manner in which crimes are carried out now. Cyber-crime is a prominent challenge, the PJ advanced.

Additionally, the change is expected to help the PJ maintain a sufficient standard of forensics. It is also expected to attract more graduates holding forensics degrees or related de-

grees, such as pharmacy and law.

New and revamped positions will also be introduced, once the law is put into place. Amendments to the respective salary mechanisms will also be enacted.

The review of Law No. 5/2006 will come into effect on the next day of publication of the Official Gazette.

As for the special job descriptions for the PJ, this is an entirely new law. If approved by the legislature, they will come into effect 30 days after the public announcement in the Official Gazette.

The Executive Council also discussed a proposed Executive Decree that supplements the Internet Security Law No. 13/2019. The law will come into effect on December 22.

As the law has stipulations for an Internet Security Council, the Chief Executive will hence formalize its formation. It will include top officials, such as the Chief Executive and the head of the Personal Data Protection Office, among other entities.

The government's security branch will take on a significant role in internet security. The Decree will also go into effect on December 22.

AD

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Q&A MIKE GOODRIDGE

Appealing stories are the key, says IFFAM director explaining lineup



ANTHONY LAM

STORIES about Macau, when told as films, should not only be made for the city, but should also be made appealing to the world, recommended Mike Goodridge, artistic director of the International Film Festival and Awards - Macao.

Goodridge explained the lineup of this year's film festival at a commercial business briefing organized by the British Chamber of Commerce in Macao. As in previous years, there are different categories, such as Gala, New Chinese Cinema and World Panorama.

This year, the organizer has added the 20th Anniversary Macao Special Presentations to celebrate Macau, featuring five local productions. One of them is a compilation of nine short films produced in the last 20 years, collectively titled "Years of Macau."

After the briefing, Goodridge spoke to the Times about this

year's film festival and gave his suggestions to local filmmakers.

Macau Daily Times (MDT) - What is the main criteria for choosing the films this year?

Mike Goodridge (MG) - The excellence of the film. There are thousands of films – 20,000 films – made every year around the world, so the idea is to pick things that are fresh and original which I think the audiences will respond to – specifically audiences of Macau. As I said, we're gaining a combination of real crowd pleasers, and more art house or challenging films that we think people will respond to, [that] they will enjoy once they're in the cinema. The hardest thing is to get them into cinemas.

MDT - What is your definition of 'excellence'?

MG - [Excellence] is highly subjective, of course. But I do work with an amazing team of programmers and consultants. There're five of us, and between us we've got over a hundred years

in the film industry. We've been going to festivals and watching hundreds of films a year for, in my case, 30 years. We feel that we have a sort of good curatorial instinct to be able to narrow things down to 50 films. We're also looking for [...] brand new films that haven't appeared anywhere in Asia to give Macau that kind of special, exclusive moment with these films before they're released in cinemas.

MDT - You've mentioned several times that Macau doesn't have a strong film industry. Do you think it's difficult to choose the right films for the audience in Macau?

MG - The audience in Macau is very small. [...] Look at China, that's a country of billions of people. When a film works in China, like "The Captain" or "My People, My Country," these blockbuster films, you're making a film to appeal to vast audience. If you're trying to make a film for 600,000 people in Macau, that makes no financial sense. Nobody wou-

ld ever do that. Most films you make with a view to sell it around the world, so the idea is to get to a quality threshold in Macau where the Macau people will want to see the film, [and] also people in [North] America or Latin America, or Russia, or Europe will want to see the film too.

MDT - What suggestions do you have for ambitious local filmmakers?

MG - When they make the films, they have to think about how this film is going to work – not just in Macau, but everywhere. They have to think about telling a story that's universal. Think of one of the great foreign films you like. I'm sure you've seen French or German films that you consider great, but that's not your world, is it? But there are themes in there that resonate with you, because they're about human beings. I think that's what happens in Macau. The filmmakers have to be more ambitious and start to think of telling stories about Macau that will work everywhere.

TWO DETAINED FOR SELLING USED GRAND PRIX TICKETS

The Public Security Police Force (PSP) has detained two mainland residents for selling used Grand Prix tickets. In the first case, a mainland man and woman sold three tickets to a group of victims for HKD3,000. The man, upon being detained by the police authority, had another four tickets with him and HKD4,300, which was believed to be the profit collected from a previous sale. The PSP is still looking for the woman involved. In a second case, a mainland man was detained after selling tickets to two Hong Kong residents for HKD2,600. He claimed that he was paid by other people to sell used tickets.

DSAT REPORTS DISRUPTIONS TO TWO BUS STOPS AND ONE FLYOVER

The flyover between Avenida 1 de Maio and Avenida de Amizade will be closed temporarily, starting Saturday, November 23, the Transport Bureau (DSAT) informed in a statement released yesterday. Due to pavement works carried out by the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM), the flyover will be closed from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday. Buses 73 and AP1 will be diverted and will not stop at Avenida 1 de Maio/Kwong Wa. Passengers can take the buses at Av. Nordeste/Kwong Wa. The DSAT also reported that the Estádio/Jockey Club bus stop will resume operation on Saturday, and the Mayfair Gardens bus stop will be permanently canceled due to the current situation. Passengers can take routes 11 and MT2 at nearby Nam Sun Garden.

UM TEAM WINS DEBATE COMPETITION IN CHINA

The University of Macau (UM) recently won the 10th Portuguese Debate Competition for Higher Education Institutions in China and Asia, marking its first win at the tournament. Co-organized by the Macao Polytechnic Institute (IPM) and the Higher Education Bureau, this year's competition attracted 12 teams from Peking University, Beijing Normal University, Tianjin Foreign Studies University and Nankai University among others. Teams from Zhejiang International Studies University, Lanzhou Jiaotong University, the South China Business College of Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, Hanoi University, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies and the Macau University of Science and Technology also participated. The UM team was comprised of three fourth-year students from the Department of Portuguese, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Tang Jiaxuan, Zhao Zeyang and Liu Gaole. Liu also won the Best Debater Award at the preliminaries. Peking University and IPM placed second and third, respectively.

AP PHOTO



EVEN HK'S HOMEGROWN BANKERS ARE CONSIDERING MOVING AWAY

A senior banker born in Hong Kong plans to try getting a U.S. green card, just in case the city's social unrest worsens.

Two other executives in town are working with a recruiter in Shanghai to move there, betting its future may be brighter. And at the local outpost of one of Europe's top investment banks, a dealmaker says lifelong Hong Kong residents in his group are weighing their options, looking at a variety of countries.

Expats and mainland Chinese working in Hong Kong's financial hub were the first to talk about moving away when protests began escalating months ago. But the prolonged disruption to work and life since then, and the spotlight being cast on China's control of the city, have pushed some Hong Kongers to start weighing

the possibility of moving abroad.

There's certainly no exodus. But the private talks among colleagues, employers and recruiters show how badly nerves are fraying in a city where clashes play out daily on television and sometimes on streets outside major financial firms. With no end in sight for the fires and tear gas, a growing number of people in office towers are at least pondering how their industry may be affected long term and whether they should look elsewhere.

"They are in the prime of their career and now they are fed up with the social instability in Hong Kong and asking, 'Where is my next step?'" said Eric Zhu, the Shanghai-based recruiter at Morgan McKinley. "There are much fewer opportunities in Hong

Kong, whereas in Shanghai hirings are on the rise."

Zhu said he originally counseled the two managing directors who reached out from Hong Kong to avoid Shanghai, citing its higher tax bracket and different legal system, and to perhaps consider Singapore. But they couldn't be dissuaded, he said.

Some have come to believe China will favor Shanghai's continued expansion as a financial center, creating more opportunities there in the future.

The banker whose teammates are rattled said they, too, are considering mainland China, as well as the U.S. and Canada. Several lawyers also confided they are considering a move.

The mere thought of leaving - particularly for the mainland - is a sensitive subject in a city di-

vided over its relationship with China. Many residents have long taken pride in the unique character of their hometown, and have fretted for decades over losing certain freedoms unavailable on the mainland. Such concerns fueled departures before Britain returned the former colony to Chinese rule in 1997.

None of the people who described thoughts of moving agreed to be named for this story. Even some recruiters demurred, citing the charged times.

While statistics on recent departures are hard to come by, there is evidence of the interest: Applications are soaring for so-called certificates of no criminal conviction, an initial step toward moving abroad. More than 3,500 people in Hong Kong requested the documents in each of

the past three months, up from about 1,900 as the year began. Not everyone who receives the certification actually leaves.

Locals polls also have indicated an increasing share of residents are keen to move abroad.

Some recruiters in other financial hubs acknowledged they have seen an uptick in interest in leaving Hong Kong, but said there's been little movement so far.

"We have witnessed a small increase in the number of applications to roles in Australia from Hong Kong-based professionals," said Andrew Hanson, a managing director at recruitment firm Robert Walters in Sydney. But "the volume of the applications is not enough to suggest that there is a notable shift or trend in talent flow of professionals due to the political unrest."

It can be difficult to discern who's leaving because of the protests and who might be chasing business. One recruiter said he's hearing from a growing number of private bankers in Hong Kong who want to move to Singapore, where some clients are thinking about moving their assets.

Far more Hong Kongers are hunkering down and adjusting to life in a potentially changed city. Financial professionals, worried that its government-run schools have become far too politicized, are applying to move their children to international schools in the city or boarding schools overseas.

Others are merely developing contingency plans. Last month, the South China Morning Post reported that after the demonstrations began, sparked by a bill that would have allowed extradition to mainland China, the number of residents looking to snap up homes in countries offering visas to property owners has multiplied. But those countries - such as Greece, Portugal and Malaysia - also happen to be top vacation destinations.

And of course, many professionals from Hong Kong agree with the protesters' demands. As street demonstrations intensified in the central business district last week, some emerged from office towers to show support. **BLOOMBERG**

Senate passes bill to support human rights in Hong Kong

THE Senate on Tuesday easily approved a bill to support human rights in Hong Kong following months of often-violent unrest in the semi-autonomous Chinese city.

The Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act was passed by voice vote. It now goes to the House, which has already passed similar legislation.

China responded by threatening to take "strong countermeasures" if Congress proceeds with passage of the bill.

The measure mandates sanctions on Chinese and Hong Kong officials who carry out human rights abuses and require an annual review of the favorable trade status that Washington grants Hong Kong.

"The passage of this bill is an important step in holding accountable those Chinese and Hong Kong government officials responsible for Hong Kong's eroding autonomy and human rights violations," said Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., one of nearly 50 co-sponsors of the measure.

Mass protests in Hong Kong started in June over

a proposed extradition bill that would have allowed suspects to be sent to mainland China for trial. Activists saw the legislation as part of a continuing erosion of rights and freedoms that Hong Kong was promised it could keep when Britain returned its former colony to China in 1997.

China has opposed all criticism of the handling of

the Hong Kong protests as unwarranted interference in its domestic affairs.

In a statement Wednesday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said the aim of the bill was to "bolster anti-China, extremist and violent radicals who attempt to disrupt Hong Kong (and) damage Hong Kong's prosperity and stability" as part

of a plot to contain China's development.

The Hong Kong government released a statement expressing its own displeasure with such actions from the U.S. government, saying they are "unnecessary and unwarranted" and will "harm the relations and common interests between Hong Kong and the U.S." **AP**

SHELLY BANJO
& IAIN MARLOW

EVEN as Hong Kong grapples with a violent university siege that has captivated the world, things could potentially get even worse this weekend if the government scraps the first city-wide exercise of democracy since the unrest began in June.

Chief Executive Carrie Lam's government has threatened to postpone local elections on Sunday if there is a renewed spurt of violence, a move that risks inflaming protests. With most legal marches and rallies banned by the government in recent months, the historically low-key elections have emerged as one of the few ways Hong Kong's masses can voice their opinion on the state of the city.

"In times of such unprecedented crisis, where many people have been feeling so depressed and helpless, I think on the psychological side the election can help, providing an outlet allowing people to look forward for a change," said Alice, a Hong Kong-born school teacher in her 40s, who hopes to vote this Sunday. "Nothing should stop or postpone the election, or people's anger may not be eased."

With pro-democracy lawmakers predicted to make gains, a government decision to cancel the elections would almost certainly set off fresh protests building on the increasingly violent demonstrations this month. It would also likely lead to international condemnation from U.S. lawmakers pushing legislation that could further hurt the city's reputation at a time when China is exerting greater control over the financial hub.

'DRIVING FACTOR'

Although Hong Kong's local district councilors wield little real power, they help decide the makeup of a committee that picks the city's leader. That's all the more important given protesters are flooding the streets and paralyzing the city for demands like the right to nominate and elect leaders of their own choosing, something Beijing has refused.

"Any delay or cancellation would further fuel the protests and become a driving factor in the U.S. passing the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act," said Verisk Maplecroft, a business and political risk advisory firm, in a research note this week.

Lam can delay the election for as long as 14 days or even longer if she again invokes the colonial-era Emergency Regulations Ordinance used in October to ban face masks worn by protesters. That was ruled unconstitutional by a Hong Kong court earlier this week, a decision strongly criti-

Hong Kong's next flashpoint: the first vote since unrest began



zed by Beijing.

Administration officials have repeatedly warned that the worsening protests could make it impossible to conduct a city-wide poll that includes more than 1,000 candidates for 452 local positions, more than four million voters and 20,000 polling booth staff. And the worry about violence is real: One candidate has already been stabbed, and numerous mob attacks have taken place in recent months.

"If voters can't vote in a safe environment, it'd be difficult to hold a fair and just election," Lam said on Tuesday morning, as heavily armed police officers continued to surround a fortified university campus on the Kowloon side of the city's harbor. "As long as there is no violence or intimidation, we of course want to hold this election. But it's not the government who creates such violence or intimidation."

DIRECTLY ELECTED

Those elected to the 18 district councils don't have the authority to pass laws or make decisions on government policies. They mostly advise the city's chief executive on matters including fixing up parks, setting up recycling facilities and organizing community activities.

Still, they are directly elected by the public - a more democratic

Opposition politicians are looking to benefit from rising dissatisfaction with the government's performance

process than the one to pick the city's more powerful Legislative Council, which has reserved seats set aside for members of the business community. They also help appoint 117 of the 1,200 electors that select the city's chief executive, and could help set the tone for

the more consequential vote for seats on the local legislature next year.

Enthusiasm has never been higher: This is the first time that there have been competitive races in every seat. In the last decade, voters have mostly favored the so-called pro-establishment camp, with roughly 68% of local district council positions now held by pro-government politicians compared with just 28% for pro-democracy lawmakers, according to local news organization HK01.

But opposition politicians are looking to benefit from rising dissatisfaction with the government's performance, which has surged to 80% from 40% a year ago, according to the Hong Kong Public Opinion Research Institute. Lam's popularity has fallen to record lows over five months of unrest.

"The district council elections are an important opportunity for Hong Kong citizens to show their

stances on the extradition bill, use of force by the police, and the protests," said Icarus Wong, a co-founder of rights group Civil Rights Observer. "The government should try their best to ensure that they happen. It's a chance for Hong Kong citizens to express their voice in a peaceful way and make a difference."

For the last few weeks, councilors have unfurled election banners across the city. Many have spent hours on the streets, shaking hands with residents. Even lawmakers in the pro-establishment camp - generally aligned politically with Beijing - are calling on the chief executive to see that the elections happen as planned, despite the likelihood that they'll be hurt by the polls.

"We are fighting an uphill battle for our pro-establishment camp," said lawmaker Holden Chow. Still, he said, people will be angry if they aren't allowed to express their views: "The government has a duty to make sure the elections are carried out on a safe and fair basis." **BLOOMBERG**

JAPANESE TECH GIANT OFFERS RESEARCHERS MILLION-DOLLAR SALARIES

GRACE HUANG

TELECOM giant NTT Group is offering record pay to hire top scientists as it looks to match some of the basic research prowess of global powerhouses including Alphabet Inc. and Apple Inc.

The former Japanese telephone monopoly set annual salaries of as much as \$1 million for researchers at its Palo Alto, California, labs, said Kazuhiro Gomi, president of the company's research arm. That's more than the company pays its chief executive officer and 41-year veteran Jun Sawada, and a rare step for a traditional Japanese company like NTT.

The increased investment in basic science comes as NTT is regrouping its businesses to focus more on cloud computing services and data centers amid a dimming outlook for profit from its mainstay mobile phone carrier. Having star scientists on the lab's payroll, backed by a 25 billion yen (\$230 million) five-year budget, helps the group draw better technology workers and partners as it wages a global war for top talent it needs to expand globally, Gomi said.

"We are competing with companies like Google and Apple," said Gomi, explaining that the company had traditionally followed the Japanese norm of modest pay. "It wouldn't



be possible several years back."

Tatsuaki Okamoto, director of cryptography & information security for NTT Research, is an example of a star that has helped draw in other top researchers in encryption, where interest in crypto-currencies has led to surging demand for expertise. Okamoto, an NTT R&D fellow since 1999, is known globally as a key researcher on block-chain technologies for crypto-currencies.

The talent NTT is gathering is focused on cryptography, quantum computing and medical informatics in a bet that these fields can yield breakthroughs on a horizon of five years or more, said Kei Karasawa, vice president of corporate strategy for NTT Research.

The lab also needs big-name scientists because for most top researchers, high pay alone isn't enough, said Karasawa. Scientists

strongly prefer to work with the leaders in their field, he said

Moreover, NTT's pay isn't at the top of the range in all fields. Oracle Corp., the software maker that's racing to catch Microsoft Corp. and Amazon.com Inc. in cloud computing, offered a pay package worth \$6 million to hire a single expert in artificial intelligence, Business Insider reported. And while \$1 million a year dwarfs the pay of many IT professionals, it's far less than what most chief executives make at global companies of NTT's scale.

That too is a contrast with Japan, where average CEO pay at top companies is less than \$1 million, compared with more than 10 times that for the average U.S. boss of a big firm.

NTT is pushing for overseas growth while forecasting a 13% drop in net income at NTT Docomo Inc.,

its mobile carrier in Japan, this fiscal year, following a 16% decline in the previous year. NTT said it was forming a global technology and services provider by combining capabilities of 28 of its companies including NTT Communications Corp., Dimension Data Holdings Plc and NTT Security Corp. The goal is to create Top 5 global technology and business solutions provider with \$20 billion in revenue outside Japan, Sawada said at the time.

Shares of Nippon Telegraph & Telephone Corp., the parent, have climbed 23% this year in Tokyo after slumping about 15% last year.

Cryptography, the science of encoding and decoding data to maintain privacy, is fundamental to the internet's security and plays a role in block-chain and crypto-currencies, two red-hot areas of research and development. Quantum computing, which uses properties of quantum mechanics to speed up processing, has the potential to help discover new drugs and improve the algorithms that shape industrial logistics and supply chains.

The third area, medical informatics, presents an opportunity to apply powerful computing technologies to mapping molecules in a way that can help scientists better understand viruses and how to combat them. **BLOOMBERG**



Mike Cannon-Brookes

AUSTRALIA

BILLIONAIRES PLAN TO EXPORT SOLAR POWER TO SINGAPORE

JAMES THORNHILL

Two of Australia's richest people, Atlassian Corp. co-founder Mike Cannon-Brookes and Fortescue Metals Group Chairman Andrew Forrest, are investing in an ambitious project to export solar power from a giant plant in Australia to Singapore via a 4,500-kilometer transmission cable.

The project raised tens of millions of Australian dollars that will allow it to undertake development work ahead of an expected financial close in late 2023, according to developer Sun Cable's Chief Executive Officer David Griffin and a company statement. The plan incorporates a 10 gigawatt solar facility, which the company says will be the world's biggest, as well as battery storage.

"Each of these elements is pushing the limits of engineering, but not impossible," Cannon-Brookes, a campaigner for clean energy, said at an event last night in Sydney. "On a global level, this will be innovative for many years to come."

The total capital cost is seen in the region of AUD20 billion (\$13.6 billion), with commercial operations targeted to start in 2027. Grok Ventures, the private investment vehicle of Cannon-Brookes, and Squadron Energy, a natural resources exploration and development company set up by Forrest, were the co-lead investors on the capital raise, according to the statement.

The project could meet around a fifth of Singapore's energy needs, according to Sun Cable, helping to reduce the city-state's reliance on natural gas imports. The company is in discussions about offtake of the power, Griffin said in an email, without naming potential counterparties. "This will take quite a while to finalize," he said.

Singapore's power and gas utility, SP Group, declined to comment. The nation's electricity industry regulator, Energy Markets Authority, wasn't immediately able to provide comment. **BLOOMBERG**

CORPORATE BITS

Melco to hold Christmas Bazaar featuring local SMEs



Melco Resorts & Entertainment will host a month-long Christmas Bazaar open to the general public at Studio City from December 1 to 31, inviting small & medium enterprise (SME) business owners in Macau to participate.

This follows Melco's recent announcement of the launch of pop-up stores exclusively for local SMEs within the integrated resort in 2020 to continue its support for local vendors.

According to the gaming operator, the event will provide

rent-free booths to over 40 local SMEs to showcase products and services at the outdoor marketplace.

The bazaar will represent a wide range of business categories, from food and beverage, handicrafts, toys, decorations and furnishings, and other gifts.

The Studio City Christmas Bazaar will take place at the integrated resort's French Garden.

Geoff Andres, Property President of Studio City, said, "in addition to acting as a marketing and sales platform for SMEs, we believe the event will serve as a communications channel between SMEs and Melco by enabling Melco to learn about local SMEs and their offerings."

Sands China holds visit to Congjiang County



A group of around 60 Sands Cares Ambassadors and winners of the company's Because We Care Team Member Awards recently went on a three-day trip funded by Sands China to visit families in

Guizhou's Congjiang County.

The team members visited a local primary school of around 270 students, passing out schoolbags and stationery packs in classrooms and interacting with studen-

ts, who performed two songs to welcome the visitors.

According to a statement issued by the gaming operator, the team visited 25 families, where they gave away quilts, canned food, biscuits and sweets. Some team members had also purchased scarves, gloves and clothing storage boxes for the families.

While visiting the village, team members also took a look at the solar street lamps Sands China had finished installing in September. A total of 560 solar-powered street lamps has been installed in five Congjiang villages, with the six-month project requiring 1.6 million patacas to accomplish.

THE near-deal between the U.S. and China that fell apart six months ago is now being used as the benchmark to decide how much tariffs should be rolled back in the initial phase of a broader trade agreement, people familiar with the talks said.

The two sides, who are locked in tough - perhaps final - negotiations on a phase-one pact, are discussing linking the size of tariff rollbacks to the preliminary terms set in that failed May deal, according to the people, two of whom said the White House is still debating the precise percentage internally. The Chinese have demanded that all tariffs imposed after May be removed immediately and then tariffs imposed before that be lifted gradually, according to one of the people.

The duties under discussion for a potential rollback include the initial tariffs on some \$250 billion in Chinese goods that President Donald Trump imposed last year, according to two people. Some of his advisers had been pushing to keep those in place longer term, to ensure China lives up to its end of the bargain, but now are open to a partial relief in order to get the phase one deal signed.

With the economies of both countries - and, more broadly, across the globe - showing clear signs of softening under the weight

TRADE WAR

US, China to tie tariff relief to failed deal from May

AP PHOTO



of the tariffs, negotiators are under growing pressure to ink a deal, or at least part of it. But with thousands of products caught in the tariff tit-for-tat over the past year, the two sides have the complicated task of sorting through and deciding which goods get relief or not.

U.S. officials have differing views on how much phase one would cover and what portion of

the tariffs the Trump administration should agree to roll back, two people familiar with the matter said. The internal figure under discussion ranges from around 35%, pushed by U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer to the 60% that Trump has said the deal encompasses, according to the people, who asked not to be named because the talks are private.

Once both countries have settled on a number, either the tariff rate could be lowered by the agreed-upon percentage or tariffs could be eliminated based on that figure.

A spokesman for Lighthizer didn't respond to a request for comment and the White House declined to comment. The S&P 500 Index of U.S. stocks initially

advanced Tuesday on the news but ended the day little changed.

Analysts say the first phase covers significantly less than what Trump has been promising publicly because it leaves on the table most of the thorny issues at the heart of the trade dispute. There's also widespread skepticism on both sides that the countries would ever reach a second-phase agreement that would tackle structural reforms.

Trump, who calls phase one a "substantial" agreement, for weeks has been trying to sell the deal domestically and push back at criticism on the limited scope of the agreement.

"We will finish out the large Phase One part of the deal, then head directly into Phase Two," he tweeted on Oct. 13.

The Trump administration has import taxes in place on some \$360 billion in goods from China and has threatened to impose new levies on another \$160 billion in products Dec. 15.

Shortly after the May talks collapsed and escalation followed, the U.S. had 25% duties on some \$250 billion in imports.

The phase one deal, if finalized, would likely include the elimination of tariffs that went into effect in September and the additional batch that's set to take effect in December, two of the people said.

BLOOMBERG

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EX-BRITISH CONSULATE STAFF SAYS CHINESE POLICE TORTURED HIM

YANAN WANG, BEIJING

A former employee of the British Consulate in Hong Kong says he was detained and tortured by Chinese secret police trying to extract information about massive anti-government protests in the territory.

Simon Cheng said in an online statement and media interviews that he was hooded, beaten, deprived of sleep and chained to an X-shaped frame by plainclothes and uniformed agents as they sought information on activists involved in the protests and the role they believed Britain played in the demonstrations.

British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab summoned the Chinese ambassador in London to demand Beijing investigate.

"I summoned the Chinese Ambassador to express our outrage at the brutal and disgraceful treatment of Simon in violation of China's international obligations," Raab said in a statement. "I have made clear we expect the Chinese authorities to investigate and hold those responsible to account."

Chinese police in August announced Cheng's release after 15 days of administrative detention but gave no details of the reasons behind his detention.

China's foreign ministry responded angrily to the allegations and the summoning of the ambassador at a daily briefing yesterday.

Ambassador Liu Xiaoming will "by no means accept the so-called concerns or complaints raised by the British side," ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said.

"The Chinese ambassador to the U.K. will lodge the complaints with the U.K. to express

AP PHOTO



our strong opposition and indignation to the U.K.'s wrong words and deeds on Hong Kong in these days," Geng said.

Geng did not address Cheng's allegations directly, but cited a statement by Shenzhen police from August saying his lawful rights had been protected and that he had "admitted his offense completely," an apparent reference to a confession of soliciting prostitution that Cheng says was coerced. Cheng has strongly denied the charge.

Police in Shenzhen did not immediately respond to faxed questions about Cheng's allegations.

Cheng worked for the consu-

late as a trade and investment officer with a focus on attracting Chinese investment in Scotland. That required him to travel frequently to mainland China and he was detained at the border with Hong Kong after returning from a one-day business trip.

Hong Kong's nearly six months of pro-democracy protests began in opposition to proposed legislation that would have allowed criminal suspects in the semi-autonomous city to be extradited to face trial in mainland China, where critics say their legal rights would be threatened. While Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam has since withdrawn the bill, demonstra-

tions have continued unabated as strong anti-government sentiment continues.

China says it doesn't allow suspects to be tortured or make false confessions, although both practices are believed to be common.

In his account on Facebook, Cheng wrote that he had been asked about the supposed British role in the protests, his own involvement in them and mainland Chinese who joined in demonstrations.

China has long accused "anti-China foreign forces" of fomenting the protests, which have grown increasingly violent, without providing direct evidence.

Cheng wrote that while being held he was shuttled between detention and interrogation centers while hooded and handcuffed. In addition to being shackled to the frame, he wrote he was ordered to assume stress positions for "countless hours," and was beaten with what felt like "sharpened batons" and poked in the knee if he faltered. He was also punished for dozing off during the sessions by being forced to sing the Chinese national anthem, he wrote.

"I was blindfolded and hooded during the whole torture and interrogations, I sweated a lot, and felt exhausted, dizzy and suffocated," Cheng wrote.

One interrogator speaking Hong Kong's native Cantonese dialect cursed him, saying, "How dare you work for the British to supervise Chinese," while another speaking in a northern Mandarin accent told him they were from China's secret intelligence service and that he had "no human rights in this place," Cheng wrote.

He said the interrogators expected him to confess that Britain had instigated the protests by donating money and materials, that he personally led that effort and paid the bail of mainland participants. At the detention center, he witnessed police questioning other young inmates who appeared to be Chinese mainland nationals being punished for participation in the protests.

Cheng said he refused but confessed to the minor offense of "soliciting prostitution" in order to avoid harsher treatment and a heavy sentence on national security charges. Some of the officers holding him said they could "abduct" him back to the mainland if he didn't "behave," he said.

Cheng no longer works at the consulate and has fled to a third country. Raab, the foreign minister, said the U.K. is working to support Cheng, including a possible move to Britain. **AP**

Esper accuses China of intimidating smaller Asian nations

ROBERT BURNS, HANOI

U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper yesterday accused China of using coercion and intimidation against smaller Asian nations to impose its will in the South China Sea. He urged Vietnam and others in the region to push back.

"We will not accept attempts to assert unlawful maritime claims at the expense of law-abiding nations," Esper said in a speech to the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, a government university.

Vietnam is one of the re-

gion's most vocal critics of China's sweeping territorial claims in the South China Sea and has accused Beijing of encroaching into its waters.

"The United States firmly opposes intimidation by any claimant to assert its territorial or maritime claims, and we call for an end to the bullying and unlawful activities," Esper said.

Later, in remarks at Vietnam's Communist Party headquarters, Esper said, "We strongly oppose violations of international law by China and excessive claims in the South China Sea."

As part of a long-term

effort to forge closer relations with Vietnam, Esper announced that the U.S. will provide Vietnam's coast guard with a surplus American ship. He said it would be provided next year, but he gave no details on payment or exact timing.

Esper met with several top government officials and paid a visit to the city's Hoa Lo prison, dubbed the "Hanoi Hilton" by American servicemen held there during the Vietnam War. The late Sen. John McCain was held there after he was shot down in his Navy jet over Hanoi in 1967. **AP**

AP PHOTO



U.S. Secretary of Defense Mark Esper (right) and Vietnamese Minister of Defense Ngo Xuan Lich

TRISTAN LAVALETTE, PERTH

AUSTRALIA

MAJOR Australian bank Westpac is facing a potentially massive fine after being accused of 23 million breaches of the anti-money laundering and counterterrorism financing act.

The financial crime regulator AUSTRAC said yesterday it was pursuing Westpac, one of Australia's four biggest banks, in the Federal Court for allegedly failing to report millions of international fund transfers including payments allegedly linked to child exploitation in Southeast Asia.

AUSTRAC chief executive Nicole Rose said Westpac had engaged in "serious and systemic non-compliance."

"[Westpac] failed to appropriately assess and monitor the ongoing money-laundering and terrorism financing risks associated with the movement of money into and out of Australia through correspondent banking relationships," she said.

The bank is suspected of failing to report 19.5 million international fund transfers worth more than \$7 billion from November 2013 and September 2018.

Rose declined to comment on

Westpac bank faces massive fine for breaches



the potential penalty but the financial watchdog in its submission to the Federal Court noted that each of the breaches attracted a civil penalty "between 17 million-21 million Australian dollars."

In theory, Westpac could face a fine up to 483 trillion Australian dollars (\$330 trillion) but precedent suggests it's unlikely to be fined that much.

Westpac chief executive Brian

Hartzer said the issues "should never have occurred and should have been identified and rectified sooner."

"It is disappointing that we have not met our own standards

as well as regulatory expectations and requirements," he said in a statement.

Hartzer said the bank had taken steps to enhance its detection of suspect transactions and to fix any failures to meet requirements and the bank's "own expectations."

The Commonwealth Bank (CBA), another major Australian banking institution, last year faced a theoretical maximum fine of 1 trillion Australian dollars after AUSTRAC found it had failed to report on 53,500 transactions. It negotiated an 700 million Australian dollar settlement.

Rose said Westpac had failed to carry out "appropriate due diligence on customers sending money to the Philippines and Southeast Asia for known child exploitation risks."

Australia's four biggest banks – ANZ, CBA, Westpac and National Australia Bank – earlier this year were the targets of a royal commission of inquiry which exposed rampant malpractice across the financial sector.

"I'm absolutely appalled," said Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison. "They've just got to lift their game on this stuff."

Westpac shares fell 2.9 percent after the revelations. **AP**

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KIM TONG-HYUNG, SEOUL

SQUEEZED between a growing North Korean threat and a shaky alliance with the United States, South Korea must decide this week whether its national pride and deep frustrations with Japan are worth killing a major symbol of their security cooperation with Washington.

After exchanging haymakers with Japan over history and trade, South Korea expanded the feud to military matters in August when it gave three-months' notice on its plans to terminate a 2016 bilateral military intelligence-sharing agreement it signed after years of prodding by the United States.

The announcement drew unusually blunt criticism from Washington, which described Seoul's decision to end the pact as detrimental to the security of its Asian allies and increasing risk to U.S. troops stationed in South Korea.

Seoul has since said it could keep the agreement if Tokyo reverses a decision to downgrade South Korea's status as a trade partner.

But neither country has been budging from their positions, with last-minute meetings between their diplomats and military officials ending without breakthroughs.

A look at the General Security of Military Intelligence Agreement, or GSOMIA, which expires on Saturday unless Seoul renews it:

LATE PUSH

Washington considers the Seoul-Tokyo agreement as critical for their three-way security cooperation to cope with North Korea's nuclear and missile threat and balance China's growing influence.

The arrangement makes it easier for South Korea to access information gathered by Japan's intelligence satellites, radars, patrol planes and other high-tech systems, which are needed for analyzing North Korean missile tests and submarines.

For Japan, South Korea has value because its military sensors are positioned to detect North Korean launches sooner, and also because of information the country gathers from spies, North Korean defectors and other human sources.

Visiting Seoul last week, U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper said the agreement facilitates fast and effective information exchanges between the three countries, which would be crucial in times of war. He said friction between the two U.S. allies would only benefit "Pyongyang and Beijing."

Gen. Robert Abrams, commander of U.S. Forces Korea, said the termination of the pact would "risk sending a wrong message" about the strength of the U.S. alliance network in the region,

SEOUL FACES MAJOR DECISION OVER MILITARY PACT WITH TOKYO



echoing similar comments by Japanese Defense Minister Taro Kono.

South Korean Defense Minister Jeong Kyeong-doo has endorsed keeping the pact for security reasons. But South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Tuesday reiterated that Seoul wants Tokyo to bend first.

"If Japan doesn't want to GSO-MIA to end, it should cooperate with South Korea to find solutions to problems such as the export controls," he said in a televised townhall meeting.

SPILLED WATER

Despite the U.S. push to save the agreement, most South Korean analysts say Seoul will likely let the agreement expire. There's no clear way for South Korea to renew the agreement without losing face.

South Korea continues to tie the fate of the pact to Japan's trade restrictions, which it sees as a retaliation against South Korean court rulings that called for Japanese companies to offer reparations to aging South Korean plaintiffs for their forced labor during World War II.

But it's unlikely that Japan will restore South Korea on its "white list" of favored trade partners unless the countries settle their dispute over the forced laborers, which probably won't be soon.

Tokyo insists that all compensation matters were settled by a 1965 treaty that normalized relations between the countries and accuses Seoul of continuously opening the book on issues that were supposed to be resolved.

It's hard for South Korea to make major concessions on history issues amid heightened public resentment over Japan's

brutal colonial rule of Korea from 1910 to 1945.

Du Hyeogn Cha, an expert at Seoul's Kyung Hee University, said it would have been more productive if Seoul and Tokyo had spent the time since August discussing possibility of a new intelligence arrangement, instead of squabbling over a pact Seoul had already declared dead.

The Trump administration's relentless demands on Seoul demonstrate a profound lack of respect for an ally, Cha said.

For Seoul, extending the pact with Tokyo could create its own set of problems, including angry reactions from Beijing, which suspended Chinese group tours to South Korea among other eco-

Washington. The Trump administration has largely maintained a hands-off approach as its two allies rapidly escalated their feud.

VIEW FROM TOKYO

South Korea's decision to terminate the pact came as a surprise to Japan, which didn't anticipate Seoul to make a move that would anger America.

Some Japanese analysts propose similar ideas to Shin's, saying the countries could negotiate a one-time extension of the pact while committing to diplomatic progress over the history row.

Kenichiro Sasae, a former Japanese ambassador to the United States, said the scrapping of the pact would be a major setback to the U.S. alliance network in the region.

"A provisional extension can be a possibility, and (such) a decision by the South Korean government would improve the environment of negotiations," said Sasae, who now heads the Japan Institute of International Affairs, a Tokyo-based think tank.

Others say the debacle over the pact is just one of many signs showing a widening divergence between Seoul and Tokyo over North Korea, China and other security issues.

"For South Korea, the North is an enemy but also a future partner," said Junya Nishino, a professor at Keio University in Tokyo.

Katsutoshi Kawano, Japan's former chiefs of staff, said the pact wouldn't be effective anyway if "South Korea doesn't consider North Korea a threat."

SEOUL'S CONUNDRUM

Critics say Seoul dug itself into a hole by threatening to terminate the pact while desperately seeking

U.S. help to end its dispute with Tokyo, a brinkmanship that clearly damaged its trust with Washington.

The squabbling over the pact comes at a delicate time for the U.S.-South Korea alliance. There's growing frustration among South Koreans over President Donald Trump's persistent calls for the country to pay significantly more to help cover the costs of keeping 28,000 U.S. troops in South Korea.

There's also concern that Trump, after already suspending major U.S.-South Korean military exercises he described as "ridiculous and expensive," may seek to reduce the U.S. military presence in South Korea to accommodate a deal with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Moon Seong Mook, a former South Korean military official, said a scrapped GSOMIA would further embolden North Korea.

Amid a standstill in nuclear negotiations with Washington, North Korea since May has tested a slew of new solid-fuel missiles that are potentially capable of evading missile defense systems or being launched from submarines, continuing to expand its ability to strike targets in South Korea and Japan.

South Korea could also find it harder to respond to China and Russia's increasing air patrols over waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan, which experts say are designed to test security cooperation between the U.S. allies.

President Moon on Tuesday repeated that Japan's trade curbs, which were based on vague security concerns over South Korea's export controls on sensitive materials, forced Seoul to rethink whether it could keep sharing sensitive military information with a partner that questions its reliability. **AP**

US Defense Secretary Mark Esper said [...] friction between the two US allies would only benefit 'Pyongyang and Beijing'

conomic retaliation measures after South Korea decided to host a new U.S. anti-missile system in 2016.

"Diplomatic declarations aren't a child's play — only state actors like North Korea change them on the fly" said Cha, an ex-intelligence secretary to former South Korean President Lee Myung-bak.

"South Korea shouldn't have threatened to terminate GSOMIA in the first place, considering its security interests, but it's spilled water now."

Shin Beomchul, an analyst at Seoul's Asan Institute for Policy Studies, says GSOMIA is worth saving, but it would require a close and effective intervention from

IMPEACHMENT

Unpredictable Sondland faces questions about Trump, Ukraine

LISA MASCARO,
MARY CLARE JALONICK
& ERIC TUCKER, WASHINGTON

AMBASSADOR Gordon Sondland, the most anticipated witness in the impeachment inquiry, is likely to be unpredictable when he faces questions about his evolving accounts of the Trump administration's dealings with Ukraine and a newly revealed summertime phone call with President Donald Trump.

Sondland, a wealthy hotelier Trump tapped as his ambassador to the European Union, is more directly entangled than any witness yet in the Republican president's efforts to get Ukraine to investigate political rival Joe Biden and Democrats in the 2016 election. Yet Sondland has already amended his testimony once — “I now do recall,” he said, talking to Ukraine about investigations.

Sondland's appearance at the hearing, and his closeness to Trump, is of particular concern to the White House as the historic impeachment inquiry reaches closer to the president, pushing through an intense week with nine witnesses testifying over three days in back-to-back sessions.

Trump has recently tried to suggest that he barely knows his hand-picked ambassador, but Sondland has said he has spoken several times with the president and was acting on his direction.

The envoy is likely to face tough questions from lawmakers of both parties about Trump's July 25 call when he asked Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for the political investigations at the same time as U.S. military aid for the ally was being stalled.

Sondland routinely bragged

AP PHOTO



U.S. Ambassador to the European Union Gordon Sondland

about his proximity to Trump and drew alarm from the foreign service and national security apparatus as part of an irregular channel of diplomacy led by the president's lawyer Rudy Giuliani.

Last week State Department official David Holmes revealed one of those interactions to impeachment investigators, saying he recalled it “vividly.”

The political counselor was having lunch with Sondland in Kyiv when the ambassador dialed up the president on his cellphone and Holmes could hear Trump's voice.

“I then heard President Trump ask, quote, ‘So he's going to do the investigation?’” Holmes testified.

“Ambassador Sondland replied that ‘He's going to do it,’ adding that President Zelenskyy will, quote, ‘do anything you ask him to.’”

Sondland's appearance at the hearing, and his closeness to Trump, is of particular concern to the White House as the historic impeachment inquiry reaches closer to the president

Sondland was known for telling others “he was in charge of Ukraine” despite being the U.S. envoy in Brussels, said another witness in the impeachment probe, for-

mer White House Russia adviser Fiona Hill.

“And I asked, well, on whose authority?” said Hill, who will testify later today [local time]. “And he said, the President.”

Sondland's appearance follows the testimony Tuesday of four national security and diplomatic officials, including a career Army officer who described Trump's call with Zelenskyy as “improper.”

Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman told lawmakers it was his “duty” to report his concerns about the call, as he deflected Republican attacks, including from the White House on his loyalty and career in public service.

It wasn't the first time Vind-

man had registered his concerns over Ukraine policy. He testified about a July 10 meeting at the White House when Sondland told visiting Ukraine officials they would need to “deliver” before the administration would agree to a meeting Zelenskyy wanted with Trump.

“Ambassador Sondland referred to investigations into the Bidens and Burisma in 2016,” Vindman testified, referring to the gas company on whose board Hunter Biden had a seat.

At the White House, Trump said he had watched part of the day's testimony and slammed the ongoing impeachment hearings as a “disgrace.” Over the weekend, Trump assailed Williams as part of the “Never Trumpers” who oppose his presidency, though there is no indication she has shown any partisanship.

Former National Security Council official Timothy Morrison told investigators that he witnessed a key September conversation in Warsaw between Sondland and a top aide to Zelenskyy. Afterward, Sondland said he had relayed to the Ukrainian that U.S. aid might be freed if the country would announce the investigations, Morrison testified.

Another diplomat, former special envoy to Ukraine Kurt Volker, shifted his own account of the July 10 meeting to say Sondland did, in fact, discuss investigations with the visiting Ukrainians.

“I think all of us thought it was inappropriate; the conversation did not continue and the meeting concluded,” Volker said.

A series of text messages Volker provided to lawmakers showed conversations between him, Sondland and other leaders in which they discussed a need for Ukraine to launch investigations, including into Burisma.

Volker said meeting with Giuliani was just part of the dialogue, and he had one in-person meeting with him, in which Giuliani “raised, and I rejected, the conspiracy theory that Vice President Biden would have been influenced in his duties as vice president by money paid to his son.” **AP**

UK

Tories under fire for Twitter name switch during debate

DANICA KIRKA
& JILL LAWLESS, LONDON

BRITAIN'S Conservative Party was accused yesterday of trying to deceive voters by changing the name of its press office Twitter account to “factcheckUK” during a televised election debate between Prime Minister Boris Johnson and opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn.

Rebranded to resemble a neutral fact-checking account, it posted a series of tweets supporting Johnson during Tuesday's debate. It later reverted to the name “CCHQ Press” and restored the party logo to its profile.

Organizations that seek to combat political misinformation cried foul.

“It was an attempt to mislead voters,” Will Moy, chief executive of the Lon-

don-based fact-checking website Full Fact, told the BBC. “And I think it is inappropriate and misleading for a serious political party to behave that way.”

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab defended the party's actions, saying the Twitter account was clearly linked to the Conservatives.

“We make no apology for having an instant rebuttal to all the nonsense and

lies put out,” Raab told the BBC.

Twitter pledged to take “decisive corrective action” against similar strategies in the future. But the manipulation of the account in a high-profile event put the issue of the rise of digital campaigning squarely in the public eye.

All political parties are devoting much of their campaign spending to the

digital realm as they battle to win the U.K.'s Dec. 12 election.

Despite parliamentary reports urging new regulations to combat misinformation or regulate the way digital ads are targeted at voters, officials in Britain have made no significant changes to laws governing online ads, social media and election disinformation.

In a reflection of the confusion, the Electoral Commission, which regulates campaign finances, issued a statement warning that “voters are entitled to transparency and integrity from campaigners in the lead-up to an election.” Critically, however, it pointed out that it doesn't have “a role in regulating election campaign content.” **AP**

what's ON

RED DECEMBER - EXHIBITION OF CARLOS MARREIROS
TIME: 10am-9pm
UNTIL: February 13, 2020
VENUE: Tap Seac Gallery, Avenida Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida, No 95
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

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

AFA AUTUMN SALON 2019
TIME: 10am-7pm (Closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: December 1, 2019
VENUE: Orient Foundation, Praça Luis de Camões, No. 13
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

FASHION INTERACTION - GUANGZHOU-HONG KONG-MACAO-SHENZHEN CREATIVE FASHION EXHIBITION
TIME: 10am-8pm (Closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: December 31, 2019
VENUE: Macao Fashion Gallery
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3341

A CHERISHED MEMORY FROM 1999 - ARCHIVES EXHIBITION IN CELEBRATION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RETURN OF MACAO TO THE MOTHERLAND
TIME: 10am-6pm; (Closed on Mondays and public holidays)
UNTIL: December 27, 2019
VENUE: Archives of Macao, Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida 91-93
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2859 2919

LINGUA FRANCA - 2ND ANNUAL ARTS EXHIBITION BETWEEN CHINA AND PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES
TIME: 10am-7pm (Closed on Monday)
UNTIL: December 8, 2019
VENUE: No. 55-57, Avenida do Coronel Mesquita, known as Green Townhouses; Former Municipal Cattle Stable
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

Offbeat

IN SWEDEN, WANTED MAN FOUND ASLEEP IN STORE'S BED DEPARTMENT

Police in Sweden say a wanted man was found asleep in a bed in a furniture store north of Stockholm.
Police spokesman Tobias Ahlen says the staff at the Ikea store in Uppsala on Monday contacted the police after they found the 25-year-old sleeping in the bed department. They were not aware that he was wanted.
Ahlen said Wednesday the officers found out that the man had stayed in the warehouse after closing. He was arrested for trespassing, and police then discovered that he was being sought for another, unspecified crime.

TV canal macau

07:30	Macau Grand Prix 2019 (until 15:30)
15:35	Os Ursos Boonie e o Fantástico Outono - Fim
16:00	Photo Madeira
16:30	Quem Quer Ser Milionário
17:30	LiteraturAqui
18:00	Império (Repetição)
18:55	Semana Internacional (Repetição)
19:30	Ouro Verde Sr.1
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	TDM Talk Show
21:50	Livros com João Guedes
21:55	Viagens Gastronómicas - Estreia
22:20	Império
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Justiça de Chicago
00:35	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:20	RTPi Directo

cinema

CINETEATRO

21 - 22Nov



CHARLIE'S ANGELS
ROOM 1
2:30, 9:30pm
Director: Elizabeth Banks
Starring: Kristen Stewart, Naomi Scott, Ella Balinska
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 118min



FROZEN II
ROOM 2
5:00, 7:30pm
Director: Chris Buck, Jennifer Lee
Starring: Kristen Bell, Jonathan Groff, Idina Menzel
Language: Cantonese
Duration: 103min

21 BRIDGES
ROOM 2
2:30, 4:30, 9:30pm
Director: Brian Kirk
Starring: Chadwick Boseman, J.K. Simmons, Sienna Miller
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 99min

FORD V. FERRARI
ROOM 3
2:15, 8:45pm
Director: James Mangold
Starring: Roberta Sparta, Caitriona Balfe, Christian Bale
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 152min

GUILTY BY DESIGN
ROOM 3
5:00, 9:30pm
Director: Siu Kwan Lai, Wing Tai Lau
Starring: Nick Cheung, Kent Cheng, Hans Zhang
Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)
Duration: 93min

this day in history



1995 BALKAN LEADERS AGREE TO PEACE

A peace settlement for war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina has been brokered in the United States.
US President Bill Clinton announced the deal after 21 days of seemingly deadlocked negotiation at the Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio.
The plan, known as the Dayton Accord, has been agreed between the Bosnian, Serb and Croat leaders and will be enforced by 60,000 Nato troops, who will begin to arrive in the country during the next few days.
If a success, the settlement could end the most brutal conflict in Europe since the Second World War, which has resulted in the deaths of 200,000 people - mostly civilians - and left two million homeless.
Under the agreement Bosnia will remain a single state, but most power will be devolved to two new territories - a Muslim-Croat federation and a Bosnian-Serb republic.
A central authority controlling foreign, trade and monetary policy will operate from a united capital in Sarajevo.
President Clinton said the deal would allow the Bosnian people to move from the horror of war to the promise of peace.
And US Secretary of State Warren Christopher praised the accord - which is scheduled to be officially signed in December - as a "victory for all of us".
But splits have begun to appear in the fragile treaty almost as soon as it had been initialled by the leaders.
Serb delegation member Momcilo Krajisnik called it a big mistake.
"Our delegation did not accept this plan, nor did sign it, nor will it sign the maps or the plan itself," he said.
But Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic said the deal was a good beginning.
"To my people I say - this may not be a just peace, but it is more just than the continuation of war," he said.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Dayton Accord was signed by the presidents of Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia on 14 December 1995.
The agreement managed to impose a lasting - if uneasy - peace in the region. Real stability was only achieved when the political landscape changed and the war leaders went.
Franjo Tudjman died in 1999. Alija Izetbegovic stepped down in 2001 and Slobodan Milosevic was put on trial at The Hague a year later for war crimes. He died in his cell in March 2006.
The new, more moderate, governments met at a summit in July 2002 - the first time the countries' leaders had sat round the same table since the accord was signed.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Getting back in synch with them could turn out to be much more complicated than you realize. Their life is no less complicated than it was when you knew them.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
Trying to be perfect is the biggest waste of time, ever! Not only does it isolate you from other (imperfect) people, it also puts you in a perpetual state of frustration.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
Totally flirtatious energy is sweeping through your life right about now and it's having some interesting effects. Do you want to find out just what it takes to make everyone around you blush?

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Sure, there is a lot on your to-do list right now, but just because there are a lot of tasks that need completing doesn't mean that you should increase your stress levels accordingly.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
If you think being modest about your accomplishments will get you noticed today, you need to think again. The shyer you are, the less likely it is that you will be noticed.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
Before you start any kind of negotiation, make sure you've got the evidence you need to support your position. Do your research, and no one can disagree with your findings.

LIBRA
Sep.23-Oct. 22
Group dynamics are going to be tricky for you today. Sure, there is strength in numbers. But there is also the chance that you will lose your individual identity.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Someone who lives a very glamorous-sounding lifestyle will be coming onto the scene soon - pay attention when they arrive because they can teach you something that you need to learn.

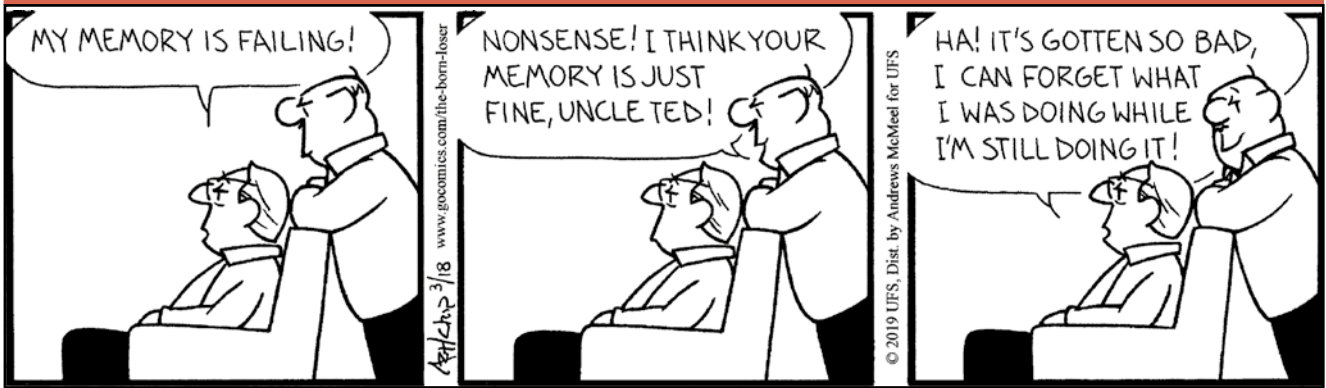
SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
The bad news is that there is a slight possibility that you will have an extremely frustrating day - but the good news is that you can avoid it if you try hard enough!

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
A flighty friend is coming extremely close to driving you up a wall right now. They are once again testing your limits by putting their own whims ahead of commitments they've made to you.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
When it comes to romance, you should err on the side of economy right now. Instead of focusing so hard on having a sizzling affair, why not just be happy with a warm connection?

PISCES
Feb.19-Mar. 20
Sure, they might make your heart race and your blood pump a little bit faster, but if you let them know this, they'll immediately have too much influence over you.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

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

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

WEATHER

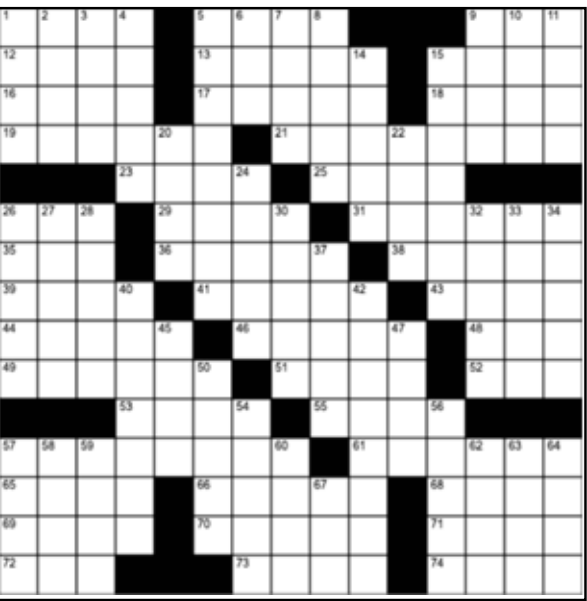
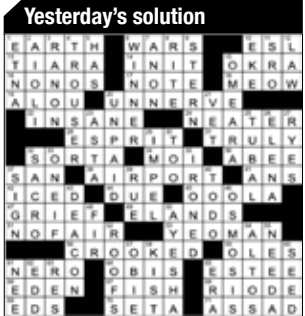
	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	7	17	cloudy
Harbin	-3	6	drizzle
Tianjin	8	15	overcast
Urumqi	0	6	clear
Xi'an	4	18	clear
Lhasa	2	17	cloudy
Chengdu	14	19	cloudy
Chongqing	15	18	overcast
Kunming	12	18	shower
Nanjing	10	22	cloudy
Shanghai	12	21	cloudy
Wuhan	12	24	cloudy
Hangzhou	9	23	cloudy
Taipei	16	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- Told; 5- Hot stuff; 9- Spinner; 12- General Bradley; 13- Corporate concern; 15- Female horse; 16- Words of denial; 17- Sacred song; 18- Nautical heading; 19- Pleasant smells; 21- Place; 23- Cornerstone abbr.; 25- Proceeded; 26- Draft letters; 29- Even; 31- Flammable gas; 35- Brown-capped boletus mushroom; 36- Lots of land; 38- Stitched; 39- Not a dup.; 41- Retains; 43- Sported; 44- N Atlantic archipelago; 46- Hot-dog topping; 48- Heyerdahl's "___-Tiki"; 49- Festival; 51- Mystery writer Buchanan; 52- Curvy letter; 53- "Damn Yankees" vamp; 55- Black, in poetry; 57- Advocate of women's rights; 61- Parenthetical comments; 65- Predictive sign; 66- Bikini blast; 68- Resting place; 69- Male deer; 70- Mother of Isaac; 71- Otherwise; 72- Common ID; 73- Take the bait; 74- Flow slowly;

DOWN: 1- Novelist Jaffe; 2- Love personified; 3- Western pact; 4- Dirt; 5- Makeup item; 6- Early hrs.; 7- South African river; 8- Radiant; 9- Anklebones; 10- Black-and-white cookie; 11- Hammer head; 14- Toastmaster; 15- The first Gospel; 20- Tinseltown terrier; 22- Formicary residents; 24- Shortstop Jeter; 26- Deride; 27- Turkish palace; 28- Steeple; 30- Caterpillar rival; 32- Came to; 33- Peter and a Wolfe; 34- Perfect places; 37- Digging tool; 40- Young goose; 42- Bask; 45- English public school; 47- New Mexico art colony; 50- Assumed name; 54- Take ___ at (try); 56- Dressed to the ___; 57- Moat; 58- CPR experts; 59- Signify; 60- Actress Garr; 62- Strike out; 63- Start of North Carolina's motto; 64- Pace; 67- Warmed the bench;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency calls 999	Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222	Water Supply – Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993	Telephone – Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775	Electricity – Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333	Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
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	



FOR SALE

Manhattan, Central Taipa
HK\$12,980,000 3 2 1,720 ft²

FOR RENT

Ocean Garden Sakura Court, Taipa
\$35,000/mth 4 4 3,700 ft²

FOR SALE

[Taipa] Hoi Wan Garden 2 1 900 ft² \$5,100,000 (ref: 19106001)
[Macau] Unique Loft 2 2 2,200 ft² \$9,990,000 (ref: 15115464)
[Macau] One Central lakeview 2 2 1,269 ft² \$12,980,000 (ref: 19070002)
[Cotai] One Grantai 4 2 2,556 ft² \$25,600,000 (ref: 19096000)

FOR RENT

[Macau] Furnished apartment 2 1 700 ft² \$12,500/mth (ref: 19101007)
[Taipa] Taipa Village 1 1 740 ft² \$11,800/mth (ref: 19101006)
[Taipa] Manhattan 3 2 1,720 ft² \$23,800/mth (ref: 19091006)
[Cotai] One Grantai 3 3 2,122 ft² \$23,000/mth (ref: 19030001RT)

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AD

CHANG SAYS HIS NEW NETFLIX SHOW HONORS BOURDAIN

MICHAEL CIDONI LENNOX, LOS ANGELES

BREAKFAST, Lunch & Dinner host David Chang says he understands why critics are comparing his new show to work done by his late friend and colleague Anthony Bourdain. Chang's show fuses food and travel as did Bourdain's "Parts Unknown."

"I don't know how you couldn't," said Chang. "He was a pretty significant person in my life. But whether we were successful or not, the last thing we would ever want to do is to not be respectful and pay homage. [...] The whole thing was hard to do, for obvious reasons. But we tried very hard and we were very aware of trying to make it a different show."

Bourdain, a chef and author, was known for using culinary traditions as a storytelling tool to explore cultures around the globe in his CNN series, "Parts Unknown." He killed himself in 2018.

Perhaps what's most different about Chang's new Netflix series is the sweet and occasionally salty chef himself. His empire includes restaurants, cookbooks and now two Netflix shows. The first, "Ugly Deli-

AP PHOTO



This image released by Netflix shows David Chang (right), and actress Kate McKinnon trying fresh mangosteen from a street vendor in Phnom Penh, Vietnam, in a scene from the Netflix series, "Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner"

cious," debuted in 2018.

The first four episodes of "Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner" pair Chang with celebrities as they explore a city — Chrissy Teigen in Marrakesh, Kate McKinnon in Phnom Penh, Seth Rogen in Vancouver and Lena Waithe in Los Angeles.

It's with the history-making Waithe — the first black woman to win an Emmy for comedy screenwriting — where things get most interesting.

Their conversation in a no-frills, suburban Los Angeles diner turns to lack of representation of minority groups in mainstream America. Waithe is gay. Chang's parents immigrated from Korea in the '60s.

Representation is an important subject for Chang. In September, he told a Washington Post interviewer that the ethnic food aisles in grocery stores are "the last bastion of racism" in retail America.

In talking to The Associated Press, Chang presented an example. "Why should my hot sauce be in an ethnic food aisle, but Tabasco is in a main aisle?"

In terms of availability and information, however, this is a golden age of food, Chang said. Consumers, manufacturers and the culinary industry are better informed than ever.

But the ripples from climate change could lead to a "different kind of food system," he said.

"We may eat things differently," he said. "My dad used to tell me, man, 'When I got an orange once a year, that was the greatest day of my life.'... And we may have to go back to that. And I don't know what that looks like. But we can't get whatever we want anymore."

There's also been personal change for Chang as he and his wife, Grace, became parents with the birth of their son, Hugo.

"Everyone says, 'it changes your life,' and I'm trying to find how to find a better balance," Chang said. "I'm a work in progress, man. And working a lot is what I know how to do. And I do know that soon I'm going to have to learn how not to work so hard." AP

AD



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STEVE DOUGLAS

JOSE Mourinho sealed a return to coaching after almost a year out when Tottenham hired one of the world's most successful managers in a bid to end the club's decade-long wait for a trophy.

Tottenham moved swiftly to replace Mauricio Pochettino, who was fired on Tuesday after a 5½-year spell in which he transformed the team's fortunes — even reaching a Champions League final — but was unable to win a title.

That is something Mourinho, who has won 25 major trophies as a manager, specializes in. But there remain question marks over whether the Portuguese coach is still the force he once was after a turbulent 2½-year spell at Manchester United that ended in December.

He hasn't coached since.

"In Jose we have one of the most successful managers in football," Tottenham chairman Daniel Levy said of his potentially divisive appointment. "He has a wealth of experience, can inspire teams and is a great tactician."

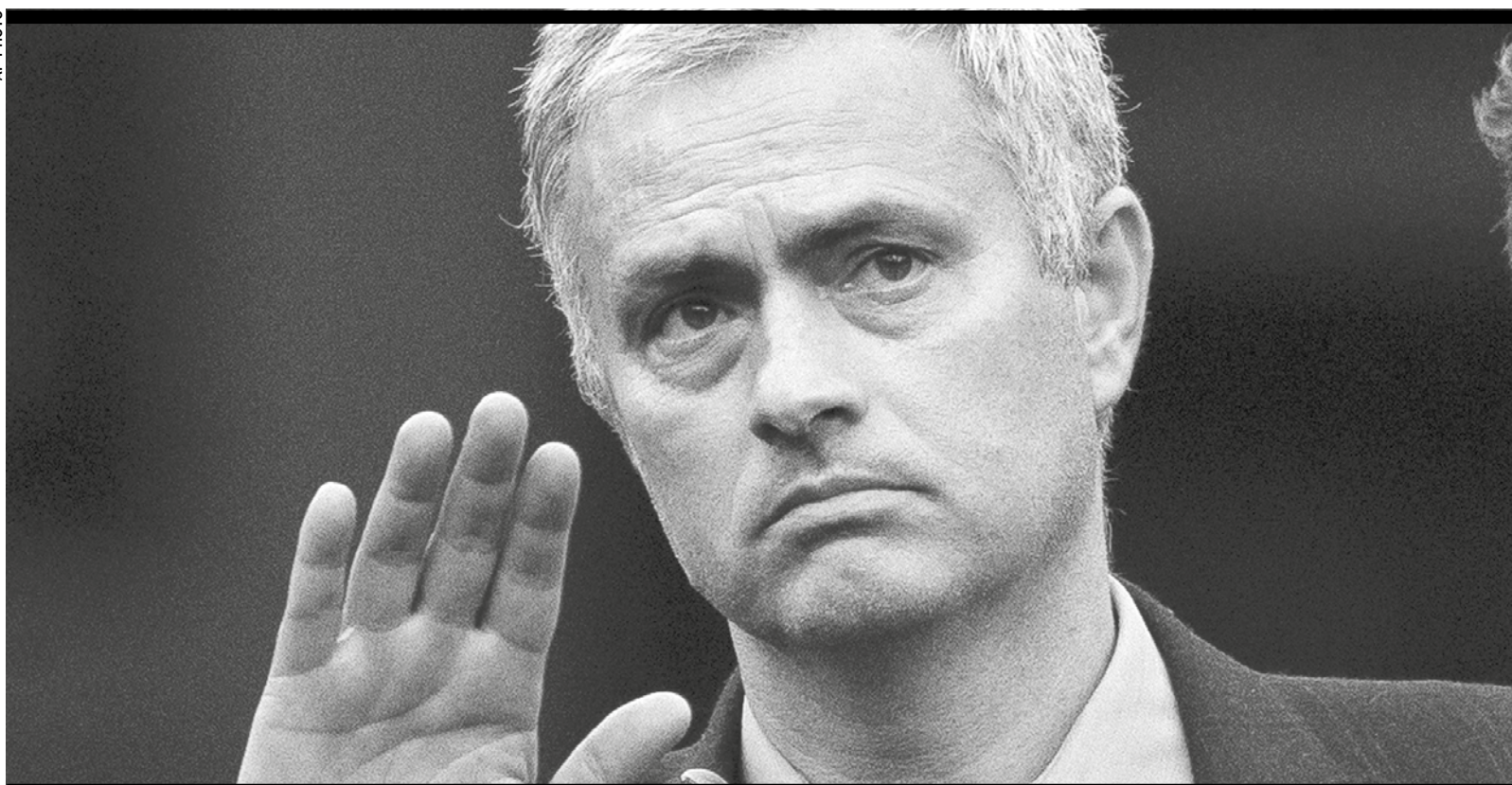
Levy, who acknowledged Tuesday that he fired Pochettino "extremely reluctantly," said he believed Mourinho "will bring energy and belief to the dressing room."

"We were extremely reluctant to make this change," said Tottenham chairman Daniel Levy, whose relationship with Pochettino has appeared strained in recent years as they clashed over transfer spending, "and it is not a decision the board have taken lightly, nor in haste."

Nor would they. It wasn't long ago that Pochettino was one of the most sought-after managers in world soccer, having transformed Tottenham into a title contender in the Premier League and guided the team into last season's Champions League final — a remarkable feat that remains the standout achievement of his 5½ years in the job.

In his sixth season at the north London club, the magic of the Ar-

AP PHOTO



Mourinho back in English football as Tottenham manager

gentine coach finally wore off.

The club has seen an alarming slump in results on the domestic front. Spurs has won just six of their last 24 Premier League games since February, a period that goes back to the end of last season.

With the team currently in 14th place in the 20-team league and showing no sign of an improvement, Levy made his move.

"Regrettably domestic results at the end of last season and beginning of this season have been extremely disappointing," Levy said.

Tottenham's players will certainly respect Mourinho's resume, which includes three Premier League titles across two spells at Chelsea and also league winner's medals with Porto in Portugal, Inter Milan in Italy and Real Madrid in Spain. He has won the Champions League with two clubs, Porto in

2004 and Inter Milan in 2010.

It is Mourinho's man-management that has mostly been questioned in the latter years of his coaching career, given his penchant for publicly criticizing his own players. He has never spent more than 3½ years in a single stint at one club.

"I am excited to be joining a club with such a great heritage and such passionate supporters," said Mourinho, who signed a contract to the end of the 2022-23 season. "The quality in both the squad and the academy excites me. Working with these players is what has attracted me."

Tottenham's improbable run to the Champions League final in June, where it lost to Liverpool, masked a drop-off in form in the Premier League that has seen the team win just six of its 24 games since February, straddling the end

of last season and the start of this season.

Spurs currently are in 14th place in the standings after 12 games, 11 points off the Champions League qualification positions.

Mourinho's first game in charge of Tottenham will be against West Ham on Saturday, and he will return to United at Old Trafford on Dec. 4.

Since leaving Porto for Chelsea in 2004, Mourinho has always worked at clubs with big budgets so Tottenham is not necessarily a natural fit. Pochettino had to battle against the biggest teams in Europe while working with strict financial constraints under Levy, particularly as Tottenham prepared to move into its new stadium last season.

Tottenham's squad needs a revamp, too, after growing stale because of the lack of recent recruit-

ment. He will need to quickly fix Tottenham's leaky defense and get more out of the team's underperforming midfielders, Dele Alli and Christian Eriksen.

The main playmaker, Eriksen appeared to be on his way out of the club as he seeks a new challenge but working under Mourinho might offer that.

Mourinho, who still has a house in London, will be back coaching the Champions League next week, too, with Tottenham needing one win from its final two group-stage games to qualify for the knockout stage. The team is out of the English League Cup, having been eliminated by fourth-tier Colchester in one of a number of humiliating results under Pochettino this season.

Tottenham hasn't won a trophy since capturing the League Cup in 2008. **AP**

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OPINION

The Stranger

Sheyla Zandonai



LOVE ME TENDER

In statements reported by local media this week, Macau's newly appointed Chief Executive (CE), Ho Iat Seng, claimed that the SAR would become "an example of the nation's reunification."

Macau's third CE, whose inauguration will take place on December 20, roughly a month from today, was speaking in an interview with China Media Group (CMG) broadcast by China Central Television (CCTV), and claimed, with confidence that only belongs to someone who has not yet fully gotten their hands on the job, that the 'One Country, Two Systems' principle is, from Macau's standpoint, on an ascending curve for betterment and further development.

No one in Macau is in a better position to praise the 'One Country, Two Systems' formula as Mr. Ho, who is gearing up to follow a line of continuity with his predecessor's rather scant work, pledging to accomplish projects which were supposed to have seen the light years ago, including housing.

As anticipated vis-à-vis those assuming the top government position here or in Hong Kong, there is no rhetoric that is detrimental to the principle which was devised decades ago by Deng Xiaoping. As it is to be expected, there is, though, also a tendency to lean towards the 'One Country' side of the equation.

Mr. Ho is simply making a step that would sooner or later be performed by future governments of Macau, hitting on the practical question of integration with mainland China. One of the ways he chose to do this was by focusing on the importance and actuality of the state-sponsored Greater Bay Area project, by encouraging Macau residents to seek jobs in one of its cities, for instance.

The time is as opportune as ever. The beginning of Mr. Ho's term will coincide with the 20th anniversary of Macau's handover to China and protests in Hong Kong are sparking more controversy and opposition than normal from people who consider themselves to be democracy supporters or, at least, supporters of Hong Kong's right to universal suffrage.

During his interview with the Chinese media, Mr. Ho was, therefore, making a point against the protests that have been assaulting the former British colony for nearly half a year now, arguing that residents in the neighboring SAR are losing sight of the "balance between rights and duties." He then suggested that the way to work out this perceived problematic behavior would be to focus on education. Here, he is following a school of thought reminiscent of nationalist programs or communist governments, by focusing on moral and civic teaching.

He is not alone. Several legislators in Macau have previously stressed "the need" to pay more attention to the ways kids are being educated in the city's schools and to strengthen love for the motherland.

But Mr. Ho is seemingly disregarding the fact that schools are not the only repository of learning and culture. First, there is home, then there is the world, which in Macau means access to a connected, interactive and heterogenous digital space that includes all sorts of international and social media.

The masses may still buy into that patriotic line, but there is a class of people in Macau who is not prone to being so easily persuaded in this regard. For this crowd, supporting Hong Kong's cause or, more specifically, its hard-liners may not be an option, or not even desired. But patriotism is also out of touch with their reality and the ways they plan to educate their offspring. You can encourage residents to embrace the Greater Bay Area professionally, but you can't teach love.

AUSTRIA: 3 ARRESTED OVER VIDEO THAT BROUGHT DOWN GOVERNMENT

Austrian prosecutors say three people have been arrested in connection with a video that triggered the collapse of the government earlier this year.

Prosecutor Thomas Vecsey said Wednesday that authorities made the arrests and searched properties Tuesday, but declined to provide further details.

The video obtained by German media showed then-vice chancellor Heinz-Christian Strache appearing to offer favors to a purported Rus-

sian investor in return for her supporting his far-right Freedom Party.

It was allegedly recorded on the Spanish island of Ibiza shortly before Austria's 2017 election.

Austrian media have reported that a private investigator involved in producing the video attempted to blackmail Strache.

Austria's former chancellor, Sebastian Kurz, who called early elections after the video's release, is in talks with the center-left Greens to form a new government.

AP PHOTO



AMA CALLS FOR TOTAL BAN ON ALL E-CIGARETTE, VAPING PRODUCTS

LINDSEY TANNER

THE American Medical Association on Tuesday called for an immediate ban on all electronic cigarettes and vaping devices.

The group adopted the sweeping stance at a policy-making meeting in San Diego. It aims to lobby for state and federal laws, regulations or legal action to achieve a ban, but the industry is sure to fight back.

The AMA cited a surge in underage teen use of e-cigarettes, which typically heat a solution that contains nicotine.

"It's simple, we must keep nicotine products out of the hands of young people," Dr. Patrice Harris, AMA's president, said in a statement.

The doctors' group said a separate health issue also prompted its action — the recent U.S. outbreak of lung illnesses linked to vaping. Most of those sickened said they vaped THC, the high-inducing ingredient in marijuana, not nicotine. Officials believe a thickening agent used in black market THC vaping products may be a culprit.

The outbreak has "shined a light on the fact that we have very little evidence about the

short- and long-term health consequences of e-cigarettes and vaping products," Harris said. About 2,100 people have gotten sick; 42 have died.

The AMA has previously sought bans on e-cigarette flavors and ads.

Some observers say the AMA's position is flawed and has little chance of achieving a sweeping ban.

"I would be 100% with the AMA if they were seeking a ban on all tobacco products that are smoked, including e-cigarettes," said Jonathan Foulds, a tobacco addiction specialist at Penn State University. "But right now, nicotine electronic cigarettes are competing with and replacing the most harmful legal product in this country."

Gregory Conley, president of the American Vaping Association, a pro-vaping advocacy group, said the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has made clear that its focus "is not store-bought nicotine vaping products, but illicit contaminated THC oil cartridges sold by drug dealers."

"It would be a mistake for adult smokers and their families to listen to these misguided prohi-

bitionists, as the evidence continues to indicate that adult smokers who switch to nicotine vaping products greatly improve their health," Conley said.

The AMA policy calls for a ban of vaping products not approved to help people quit. But so far, none have been reviewed or approved for that use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Stephanie Caccamo, an FDA press officer, said the agency is "committed to doing everything we can to prevent kids from using tobacco products and will continue to develop a policy approach that aligns with that concern."

Juul Labs, the nation's biggest e-cigarette maker, didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

E-cigarettes first appeared in the U.S. more than a decade ago and have grown in popularity despite little research on their long-term effects. The FDA has been widely criticized for repeatedly pushing back its own deadline to begin reviewing thousands of vaping products on the market, at one point until 2022. The deadline is now next May. AP

AP PHOTO



Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe made history yesterday by becoming Japan's longest-serving political leader, though he hasn't achieved his biggest goal of revising the nation's pacifist constitution. Abe marked his 2,887th day in office, surpassing Taro Katsura from the early 20th century.

AP PHOTO



Ethiopia Nobel Peace Prize-winning prime minister urged calm yesterday as millions of citizens held a referendum on whether to create a new regional state along ethnic lines. The Sidama referendum "is an expression of the democratization path Ethiopia has set out on," Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said in a statement.

Belgium NATO foreign ministers are gathering in Brussels to prepare a leaders' summit in two weeks amid tensions over French President Emmanuel Macron's complaints about the "brain death" of the alliance. France says it's concerned about a lack of U.S. leadership at NATO, the unpredictability of Turkey after its invasion of northern Syria and the need for Europe to take on more security responsibilities.

AP PHOTO



Austria Authorities say the house where Adolf Hitler was born in 1889 will become a police precinct, ending years of uncertainty over the building that's become a pilgrimage site for people who glorify the Nazi dictator.

Germany The son of former German president Richard von Weizsaecker was stabbed to death while he was giving a lecture at a hospital in Berlin where he worked as a head physician, police said yesterday.