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LAWMAKER SULU SOU IS ASKING DIFFICULT QUESTIONS ABOUT MACAU'S EXISTING AND FUTURE IMMIGRATION POLICY

ASIA NEEDS \$800 BILLION OVER THE NEXT DECADE TO FEED ITSELF

US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP IS EXPECTED TO SIGN LEGISLATION SUPPORTING HONG KONG PROTESTERS, DESPITE THREATS FROM CHINA

China's ruling Communist Party's newspaper has published surveillance video, which it says proves the guilt of a former British Consulate employee in Hong Kong who was detained for 15 days on a charge of soliciting prostitution.



Thailand Pope Francis called yesterday for women and children to be protected from exploitation, abuse and enslavement as he began a busy two days of meetings in Thailand, where human trafficking and forced prostitution help fuel the sexual tourism industry. Francis pleaded for action against one of the region's greatest scourges at the start of his weeklong visit to Asia.



Myanmar The government said leader Aung San Suu Kyi will head the legal team contesting a genocide case filed against it in the International Court of Justice over the crackdown on Rohingya Muslims two years ago that set off their exodus to Bangladesh.



Iran Six conservationists working to save the critically endangered Asiatic cheetah have been sentenced to prison on internationally criticized espionage charges in Iran, activists said yesterday, even as protests and unrest continue in parts of the country amid a government-imposed internet shutdown.

More on backpage

MEDAL FOR BRAVERY

PREMATURE BUT ANTICIPATED



RENATO MARQUES
LIGHT FESTIVAL RETURNS WITH LARGEST-EVER EDITION

times! Extra
The Baroque Connection

The fifth edition of the Baroque Music Festival is titled 'Connecting Worlds,' to connect different cultures, peoples, and Macau's heritage with beautiful music, over four concerts.

The fifth edition of the Baroque Music Festival is titled 'Connecting Worlds,' to connect different cultures, peoples, and Macau's heritage with beautiful music, over four concerts

times! Extra

RENATO MARQUES

Largest-ever Light Festival to target international visitors

ENTERING its fifth year, the Macao Light Festival will be larger than ever before, covering a total of 15 locations across Macau in four different districts.

As a novelty, the festival will feature a location within the northern district for the first time, making use of former Canidrome facilities as one of the venues that will host a projection mapping performance. Other streets in the area will also be included as part of Route 1, named "Light of Age," featuring memories of the old days in Macau and peoples' childhoods.

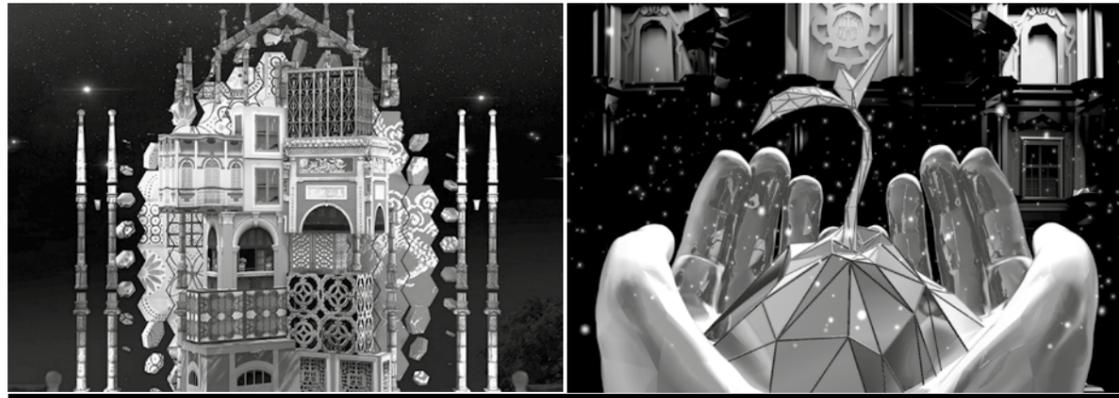
According to the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO), the event, which is considered to be a major annual event, aims to attract international visitors in particular, and have them to stay in Macau for a longer period.

"We are trying to show Macau through [the festival] and attract tourists to stay longer and explore different areas of the city," said MGTO director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes. "This is one of the events that we count [on] in order to make our international branding so we can achieve our goals."

The international presence at the event has also been heightened, as the number of non-local performances has increased from the two last year to four this year. Performances from Portugal, Spain, Japan and the nearby city of Shenzhen will join two local projection-mapping performances.

Senna Fernandes noted the importance of the inclusion of the international and non-local performances as "opportunities for exchange among local, mainland and overseas light artists, making an ongoing effort to take the performance quality and program diversity to the next level."

Another novelty included this year is the use of the Saint Jose-



ph's Seminary Church as one of the venues featuring projection mappings, joining the Ruins of St. Paul's, the Canidrome and the Pinnocchio's Restaurant building in Taipa's Largo dos Bombeiros, next to Rua do Cunha.

The MGTO director also remarked that there will be a series of events held that will link and complement each other, attrac-

ting more people for longer periods.

Among these events, Senna Fernandes noted that the Macao International Marathon, which will also be hosted on the day the festival kicks off, and also special fireworks will be hosted during celebrations of the 20th Anniversary of the Macau Special Administrative Region.

MORE SELFIE OPPORTUNITIES

The Macao Light Festival – Explore the Light will also promise more selfie opportunities, the director of MGTO said, adding that social media was an important vehicle for the promotion of the festival within and beyond Macau's borders.

According to Senna Fernandes, the festival always attracts

a large number of bloggers and social media influencers who promote it through photography and share their experiences of the festival, attracting others to do so.

"In previous years we had a lot of people sharing about the festival on social media platforms, and we also have a number of bloggers that [have] created some plans and routes to help other people to visit," Senna Fernandes said, adding that MGTO followed some of the suggestions and experiences to improve routes and to create "ideal conditions for photo-taking and sharing."

The official hopes that with a larger festival and a total of four different routes to explore, which cover a wider area of the region, people will feel tempted to stay longer and spend more time visiting the different areas.

"We have made it larger and more interesting to keep people [exploring] longer. It can't be seen all in one day," said Senna Fernandes.

The MGTO is also trying to boost sharing on social media via a promotion that grants gifts to those who are the most successful in posting about the festival online.

For each post that gets over 20 likes on social media, that person is entitled to redeem a gift from the Festival.

For this purpose, a mobile application was also created, allowing route navigation, commenting and gift redemption. The app is available on the App Store and Google Play Store.

The festival will be held between December 1 and 31.

EDUCATION

Schools may need to repay subsidies if they collapse

THE Bill of the Non-Tertiary Private Education Statute has no stipulations on how government subsidies should be handled if a school collapses or becomes profitable, the legislature's 2nd Standing Committee pointed out yesterday.

"In the future, will the government have the right to forbid a school from turning from unprofitable to profitable?" asked Chan Chak Mo. "Can the government ask the school to return the subsidies they received before [becoming

profitable]?"

Chan stressed that there are no such stipulations in the Bill, adding that the government is open to the committee's reminders, as this may occur in future.

"We understand the omission, because in the

previous 20 years, our public finances have been strong and there has been no case of a school going bankrupt," Chan said. "The government has been providing sufficient subsidies to schools, so theoretically there was no chance for the

situation to happen."

Citing the government, Chan explained that government subsidies offered to schools for the construction of campuses or teaching buildings require a written pledge from schools, to ensure the structures will be

used for educational purposes for a certain period of time.

The government has also told the committee that further studies will be needed to stipulate how the situation should be handled if a school becomes bankrupt. **AL**

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TOURISM COMMITTEE TARGETS CREATION OF DIVERSE PRODUCTS

THE Tourism Development Committee (CDT) is targeting the creation of more multi-destination tourism products in Macau and other cities in the Greater Bay Area, as discussed on Wednesday during their second plenary meeting.

The committee stated that mainland airports may be leveraged to transform the traditional pattern of joint tours to Hong Kong and Macau.

According to a statement issued by the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO), CDT suggests that the tourism bureau can adjust its marketing strategies and formulate measures to alleviate the business predicaments of industry operators.

During the meeting, MGTO director and acting committee chair-

person Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes reported on MGTO's progress and the latest tourism situation.

Data revealed that the events in Hong Kong in recent months have influenced the city's tourism industry to a certain extent.

Meanwhile, the four taskforces delivered their work reports, containing the concerns and suggestions of committee members.

The suggestions of fielding reports and advice on the employment of drivers and human resources for the non-gaming operations of local businesses, supporting policies and challenges for Macau in developing into a city ideal for travel, and promoting integration in the Greater Bay Area were presented during the meeting.

Destination promo-

tion and marketing strategies, online-to-offline marketing strategies, as well as suggestions on how to promote Macau's tourism, cultural and creative industries in the Greater Bay Area were also discussed.

CDT members also made suggestions on a variety of issues, including the integration of gastronomy and tourism, the development of visitor source markets and tourism products, hotel room prices, visitor consumption and the sharing of tourism data, among other topics.

During the meeting, MGTO presented the progress in the implementation of the Macao Tourism Industry Development Master Plan and pertinent future tasks, including a plan to conduct an evaluation of the Master Plan in 2020. LV



Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes

VISITOR ARRIVALS SURPASS 3.2 MILLION IN OCTOBER

VISITOR arrivals surpassed 3.2 million in October 2019, according to the latest data from the Statistics and Census Service, up by 1.8% year-on-year.

The marginal growth was led by an 8.1% year-on-year rise in same-day visitors (1.73 million), but was dampened by a 4.8% fall in overnight visitors (1.47 million). The average length of stay of visitors held steady year-on-year at 1.2 days, with overnight visitors extending their stay by 0.1 days to 2.4 days, and same-day visitors remaining unchanged at 0.2 days.

Analyzed by place of origin, the number of visitors from mainland China increased by 1.5% year-on-year to 2.3 million, with over half coming from Guangdong province. Visitors from Hong Kong (567,700) and Taiwan (84,800) increased by 11.5% and 3.6% respectively, while those from South Korea (43,300) fell by 28.1% year-on-year.

For the first 10 months of the year, visitor arrivals were over 33.4 million, representing growth of 15.3% compared to the same period last year. Same-day visitors increased 28% to reach 17.66 million, while overnight visitors grew 3.9% to 15.74 million.

Mainland Chinese visitors continued to make up the bulk of tourists to Macau, reaching almost 23.8 million, or 15.9% more than in the first 10 months of 2018. DB

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CONCRETE FALLS FROM PSP ACADEMY BUILDING, DAMAGES CARS

Loose concrete from a building belonging to the public security force has fallen to the ground and damaged three cars. Earlier this week, at the Academy of Public Security Forces in ZAPE located on Tv. da Amizade, some loose concrete fell from the top floor of the academy building. Shards of glass found lying on the ground nearby were likely from the damaged cars. The police authority put up a barricade around the loose concrete and shards of glass to prevent passersby from approaching the scene. The cause of the incident is to be investigated. No injuries have been reported. In July this year, a 52-year-old passerby sustained injuries after he was hit by loose concrete falling from a building at Av. da Praia Grande.

MOTHER WHO ABANDONED NEWBORN SENTENCED TO PRISON

A woman from Myanmar who abandoned her newborn baby has been sentenced to two and a half years in jail, as ruled by the Court of First Instance recently. The woman, aged 27, works as a domestic helper for a local family. One night last December, the woman gave birth to her daughter in her employer's bathroom. Her employer discovered that the domestic helper had fainted inside the bathroom at first, but failed to notice the little baby, who had been abandoned on top of the air conditioner box outside the bathroom. It was only eight hours later that the couple found the baby, who was alive. The Burmese mother claimed she believed her daughter was stillborn. The court ruled that aggravated homicide was not established, but the woman was pronounced guilty of aggravated abandonment.

GROUP FOUND GUILTY OF FAKING HKZMB TEST REPORTS

Twelve staff members of a contractor responsible for writing reports about the construction of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB) have been found guilty of fraud. The 12 accused were employees of the contractor responsible for conducting concrete compression tests and soil density tests under HKZMB Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities and other projects. The sentence has not been announced yet. Seven people have already confessed to the accusations. Regarding the falsification of reports, in 2013, the contractor responsible was unable to complete a test report on time. The suspects then changed the test dates and time of their report in order to meet the Hong Kong government's requirements. Additionally, since the concrete originally used for the test had already been crushed, staff members repeated the test with substitutes and obtained false simulation results.

ARTS

MUSICAL IS A SEARCH FOR IDENTITY, SAY PERFORMERS IN MR SHI AND HIS LOVER

EACH and every performance rendered by the actor portraying Mr Shi in the musical "Mr Shi and His Lover", now playing at the Macau Cultural Center, is a chance to better understand his unique character.

After touring around the world, the blockbuster musical has arrived in Macau for four shows, the first of which was held last night. Two actors and the director met the press yesterday to talk about the musical.

The production tells the real-life story of Shi Pei Pu, a Chinese opera singer, and Bernard Boursicot, a French diplomat, who became romantically involved while the latter held a diplomatic post in China. Early on in their relationship, Shi announced she was pregnant and that Boursicot had fathered the child.

In the 1980s, the diplomat was accused of passing classified information to the Chinese through Shi, and the two were arrested by the French government on charges of espionage. The trial that followed produced international headlines for this singular twist: during the proceedings, it was revealed that Shi was a man and Boursicot believed Shi was a woman throughout their 20-year relationship.

Jordan Cheng, the actor portraying the character of Mr Shi, said yesterday that every performance helps him to better understand his character.

Cheng also said he was very grateful for the chance to perform in this production. "This role somehow helps me to think and to rethink... It actually helped me to become a better artist

ERIK KUONG



in a way that I'd never imagined before," said Cheng, "because it has forced me to ask questions [about it and my art]."

Derek Kwan, the actor portraying Boursicot, felt tightly connected with the production. "Sometimes we do a show, we walk onto the stage, we play, we walk off, and it's done," Kwan said. However, for this musical, the case was different.

"It taught me a lot about presence and commitments, which I think is also discussed in the

show," he said. "Why do we exist? For ourselves? For others?"

"I have always wanted to do a musical drama," said director Tam Chi Chun, adding that his friend, Njo Kong Kie, also the music director of the show, also possessed that desire. "What interested me the most, in the first place, was how music can present the process of the thinking of a person. Or, is there a way to transform the process into music?"

Tam stressed that he has never seen this musical as a gender-

-oriented production. It is more about human factors.

As for the audience, attendees should expect an in-depth conversation, not only with the stage but also inside themselves.

The musical is a contemporary, minimalist show inspired by Chinese opera and both Eastern and Western vintage pop. The sold-out musical has won awards for Best New Musical, Best Actor and Supporting Actor in a Musical at the Toronto Theatre Critic Awards in 2018. **AL**

GASTRONOMY

Sands China kicks off F&B culinary exchange series

SANDS China Ltd. has been holding the Sands China Academy – Fostering Collaboration to Incubate F&B Talent Series since Wednesday, aiming to boost local talent in the gastronomy sector. The collaboration concludes today.

Supported by the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) and the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO), the series hopes to attract and nurture young Macau talent in the food and beverage industry.

Over a third of the se-

ries' participants – more than 60 – are industry representatives from outside of Sands China, including those from the Macau Federation of Trade Unions, young local chefs, local students and representatives from academia.

As part of the series, the company held a launch ceremony for its Creative City of Gastronomy – Master Chef Culinary Exchange Series & Food and Beverage Management Programme yesterday at Sands Cotai Central.

"We are grateful for the support of the Five-Star Chef Alliance, the DSAL and MGTO, and we hope that this platform for knowledge exchange can support the initiatives of the Macau government and help cultivate talent in the restaurant industry," said Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd., during the ceremony.

Sands China has invited celebrity chef Zhou Xiaoyan and his team of 20 master chefs to share their culinary expertise

with local chefs, including those at Sands China, and with local university students and industry representatives.

According to the gaming operator, this is the first time that celebrity chefs from the Five-Star Chef Alliance have visited Macau for this type of culinary exchange.

Today, masterclasses for students at the Institute for Tourism Studies and the Macau University of Science and Technology will be held, along with the 2019

Sands China Master Chef Culinary Competition as part of the series.

The three teams, including the Five-Star Chef Alliance, an award-winning local team from the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Vocational Skills Competition, and a team of Sands China chefs will compete.

Judges include representatives from the DSAL, MGTO, Sands China, and the local food and beverage industry. **LV**



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SULU SOU ASKS ABOUT LIMITS ON IMMIGRATION

LAWMAKER Sulu Sou has written an interpellation to the local government asking about Macau's immigration policy and more specifically, about limits on immigration.

In the third quarter of 2019, Macau had 676,100 residents, up from 431,000 in 2000. Between 2000 and 2018, a total of 84,841 mainland residents immigrated to Macau. Sou believes that mainland immigrants are the main factor behind Macau's population growth.

The local government also estimates that between 2017 and 2036, there will be 74,800 additional mainland immigrants coming to Macau, while 50,000 Macau local residents will leave the territory.

In Sou's opinion, the abovementioned situations will create problems for public resources in land, housing, transport, healthcare, social welfare, and environmental protection, on top of cultural clashes between different groups.

The lawmaker thinks



RENATO MARQUES

that the local government has not considered population growth as a factor when approving immigration applications.

Sou asked the government if it would consider setting up a points-based system to evaluate each immigrant and set limits for the number of immigrants

each year.

Mainland immigrants who hold one-way visas to Macau are not required to provide proof they can support themselves in Macau. Sou wants the government to explain the reasoning behind the policy, because other types of immigrants are required to

provide proof of financial capability. Sou indicated that the policy discriminates against other immigrants.

In addition, Sou wants answers from the government regarding measures taken to crack down on fake marriages and cases of immigration fraud. **JZ**

COURTS

TSI CONFIRMS DECISION ON EXPIRATION OF FOUR LAND PLOTS

THE Court of Second Instance (TSI) has confirmed an administrative decision taken by the Secretary for Transport and Public Works regarding the expiration of the concession of four land plots.

The decisions from the TSI were made on October 17 and 24 and were made public through a statement by the Office of the President of the Court of Final Appeal (TUI).

The decisions involve four land plots and refer to concessions which expired during 2015 and 2016.

By order of the Chief Executive, the secretary has ordered the land plots be returned to the government, since in all the cases the land plots have not been used for the purposes they had been rented for over the 25-year period.

The decisions from the TSI, now public, represent the government regaining possession of a total area of 11,113 square meters of land which needs to be vacated by the former concession holders.

In the TSI's statement, the court does not clarify whether the concession holders have accepted the decision or if they have lodged an appeal with the TUI.

Nevertheless, in all previous cases of the same kind, the courts have always given the government a reason regarding expired concessions ruled under the Land Law, which many have criticized, claiming that not allowing concessions to be extended or reattributed in the cases where the responsibility for failing to use the land cannot be attributed to the concession holders is not reasonable. **RM**

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Government to award brand new organization for bravery

JULIE ZHU

THREE senior public servants and a new organization, which has not yet completed a single mission, will receive awards for their hard work and bravery today.

Yesterday, the local government led a media group to meet with the three individuals and China International Search and Rescue Macau (CISAR Macau).

The new organization is an emergency rescue team for Macau. The local government started forming the organization in 2017, but only in 2018 was the team officially established. It took over a year until the team was accredited by the World Health Organization (WHO) in around April of this year.

Having received accreditation, the team is now ready to be called on by the WHO to provide rescue services in catastrophic conditions.

However, as of today, the team has not yet been dispatched to a single mission.

Nevertheless, the local govern-

JULIE ZHU



ment will still award the team for its "bravery." CISAR Macau will be awarded the Medal for Distinguished Service – Medal for Bravery.

According to the criteria for Macau's Medal for Bravery, a party should be given the award when they have shown "sacrifice and bravery" while carrying out a mission.

CISAR Macau consists members from the Health Bureau (SSM) and the Fire Services Bureau. It has a total of 120 people, which are divided into four teams. Each team has five doctors, five nurses, one pharmacist, one public health physician, one engineer, one consultant, one captain and five logisticians.

Last year, the Civil Protection

Operations Center, the Emergency Department of the Conde S. Januario Hospital and one individual, Chao Ka Cheong, were awarded Medals for Bravery.

Besides the newly-established organization, three individuals who happen to be senior officers from public departments will also be awarded medals today.

The local government will recognize the three civil servants for their hard work, and they will be awarded the Medal of Merit.

Chan Kim Kwong, a senior administrative special technician assistant from the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM), was awarded a medal for his contributions and his work ethic.

Chan joined IAM in 1990 and has been responsible for rainwater room electricity facility maintenance, checking the electricity board, and maintaining electrical devices in the offices. Besides his paid job, Chan also joined an IAM volunteer team and is the leader of the professional skill team. He was also awarded for using his personal time to participate in social services.

Rui Pedro de Carvalho Peres de Amaral, a senior technician and legal advisor at the SSM, was awarded a medal for his service to the bureau, as well as his previous service to the Financial Services Bureau.

Besides working at SSM as a legal advisor, he also teaches at various organizations, such as the University of Macau and Macao Polytechnic Institute.

António Manuel Pereira, chief of the robbery investigation department of the Judiciary Police, was awarded for his professional skills and his outstanding work history.

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A Hong Kong flag painted on the ground of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University is partly covered up by a stockpile of Molotov cocktails

HK HOLDOUT PROTESTER

'NO SURRENDER, NO REGRETS'

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PALE and thin, a teenager wandered the nearly deserted campus of Hong Kong Polytechnic University at about 1 a.m. Wednesday. He wrapped his arms around his body — although it was unclear whether it was to ward off the cold or to reassure himself.

Only a handful of protesters remain at "Poly U," which hundreds occupied for several days, fighting pitched battles with police in the surrounding streets. Authorities have cut off the campus and are arresting anyone who comes out, at least 700 since Sunday.

The teen, who wouldn't give his exact age but said he is under 18, is one of the holdouts. He figured he had slept about 10 hours in total since arriving at the campus about five days earlier. He said he had eaten only two biscuits all day

because his mind was too distracted, obsessed with one thought: How am I going to get out?

The campus takeovers were the latest escalation in an anti-government movement that has divided the city for more than five months. The protesters' demands include fully democratic elections and an investigation into alleged police brutality in cracking down on the demonstrations.

The teen arrived at Polytechnic late last week, heeding a call for support from protesters who were occupying five major universities in Hong Kong. It was Thursday or Friday — the days and nights have become such a blur that he kept asking an interviewer what day it currently was.

Like many of the protesters, he spoke on condition of anonymity, fearing arrest, and would only appear on camera with his face covered.

In his mind, as for many others, the police have become as big a problem as the government.

Riot officers began raining tear gas on their defense line outside the university Saturday night, before battering them repeatedly with water cannons and tear gas on Sunday afternoon.

The teen jumped into the fray. He joined others wielding umbrellas — they call them "shields" — and taking the full brunt of the often pepper-spray-laced bursts of water.

Three times he faced the barages, dashing inside the campus stronghold after each attack to wash off the stinging water, change his clothes and return for the next round.

"I was at the very front," he said. "It hit me straight on and I was soaked. If I hadn't been wearing a jacket, my whole body

would have felt like it was burning. Just my lower body really stung, and the water also got all over my face and into my eyes."

It's one of the roles of the front-line protesters, those who engage the police directly. Wearing gas masks, they throw homemade gasoline bombs and snuff out tear gas canisters to try to keep the police at bay.

He acknowledges that others are likely see their actions as aggressive — the police call them law-breaking rioters — but he says their role is important because the government didn't back down when hundreds of thousands of people peacefully marched in the streets in the summer.

"If it was just the peaceful protests, it wouldn't succeed," he said. "Already back in June, we saw that it was just peaceful protests, and the government wouldn't listen."

By Sunday evening, the police had begun to approach from all directions, setting up a cordon around the area. They warned that everyone inside would be

subject to arrest.

Some protesters tried escaping on Monday and Tuesday; most were caught or ran back to campus. The government offered to let those under 18 leave without facing immediate arrest, though their identification information would be taken down and they could be charged later.

Worried relatives reached out to their children. The teen got WhatsApp messages from his parents, his stepmother and others asking him to give up. Police allowed religious leaders onto the campus to make similar pleas.

Others turned themselves in. The teenager wasn't swayed. He said he prefers to fight with all the strength he has. Surrendering would show that he had given up the fight and agrees with the government and the police, he said.

"Even if you get arrested or die, you know that you've tried your best and you've got no regrets," he said.

And so he waits, as the hours turn into days, with less and less company around him. **AP**

HK'S RICH OPEN MORE OFFSHORE ACCOUNTS AS BACKUP PLAN, BANKERS SAY

TOP bankers say Hong Kong's wealthy are opening more offshore accounts to ensure they have an emergency escape route for their cash if the city's civil unrest worsens.

So far, the money has largely been staying put, the heads of UBS Group AG, Credit Suisse Group AG and Standard Chartered Plc said in interviews at the New Economy Forum in Beijing. While

Goldman Sachs Group Inc. isn't seeing any change of behavior among major financial clients, "the situation needs to be resolved" soon, CEO David Solomon said.

The economy of the former British colony is reeling, with retailers, restaurants and hotels cutting wages or letting staff go to survive the downturn in tourism. Concern is mounting that prolonged

tension will weaken the city's financial industry — which accounts for about 20% of gross domestic product.

"We've seen clients open accounts in Singapore, Malaysia and Taiwan, in that order," Standard Chartered CEO Bill Winters said in an interview. "But while the accounts were set up, not a lot of money has actually moved. We're not seeing a crescendo."

Similarly, Sergio Ermotti, the chief of UBS, said the Swiss bank has seen clients "activating contingency plans."

"Geopolitical diversification by investors is nothing new," Ermotti said.

People are taking a wait-and-see approach and Credit Suisse hasn't seen big outflows or significant movement from clients, said CEO Tidjane Thiam. People started to open ac-

counts a few months ago, according to DBS Group Holdings Ltd. CEO Piyush Gupta.

It has been hard to avoid the unrest with a number of bankers rattled by the escalating violence looking abroad for jobs. A Citigroup Inc. investment banker was detained by police last week, while a JPMorgan Chase & Co. employee was punched outside the company's main Hong Kong offices. And tensions on the street have spilled into office interactions as well.

At Standard Chartered the directive is clear, said Win-

ters, "you leave your politics at home because we're here to work."

So far, no evidence suggests that Hong Kong risks losing its financial preeminence, according to Solomon.

"Hong Kong has always been very important as a financial center across the Asia-Pacific region," he said. "I think China recognizes the importance of that. I think the rest of the world recognizes the importance of that. So I think it's going to be important to find resolutions of that in the near term. **BLOOMBERG**

ASIA NEEDS \$800 BILLION OVER THE NEXT DECADE TO FEED ITSELF

RANJEETHA PAKIAM

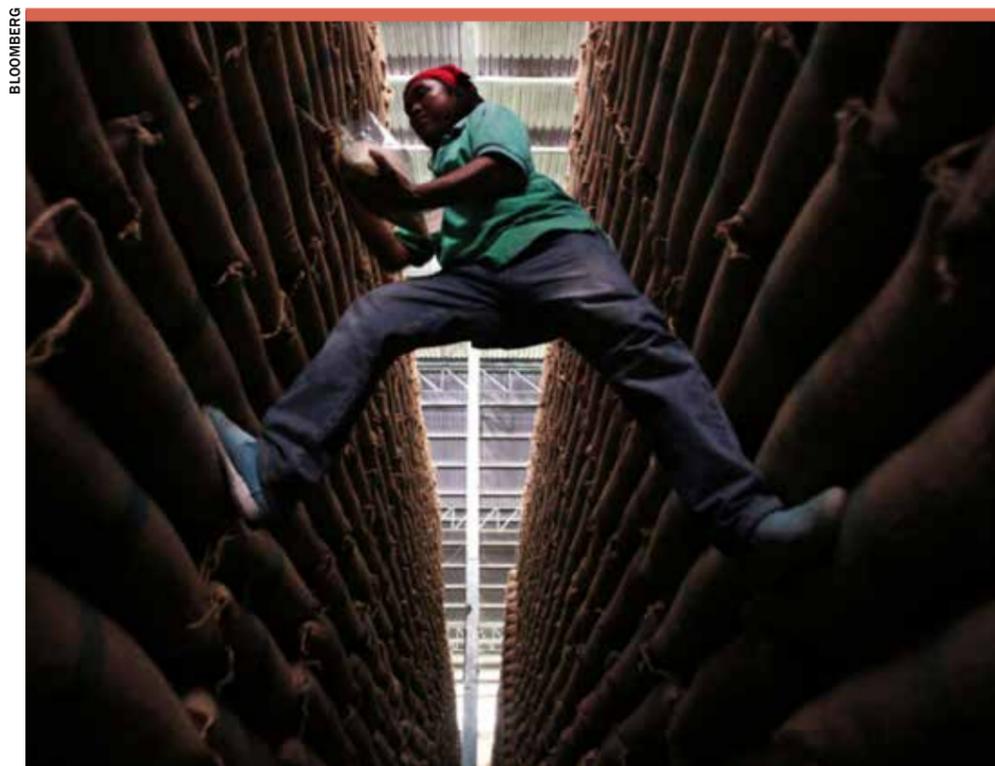
ASIA'S food and agricultural industry will need additional investments of \$800 billion over the next decade to grow to a sustainable size and reach a point where it can feed itself, according to a report Wednesday.

Population growth, changing consumer needs and climate change are among the challenges. The region is urbanizing rapidly, and by 2030 will be home to 250 million more people, equivalent to another Indonesia, with a growing appetite for healthy food sustainably and ethically sourced, according to PwC, Rabobank and Temasek Holdings Pte, Singapore's state investment company.

Most of the investment, or about \$550 billion, will fund core needs revolving around sustainability, safety, health and convenience, while the other \$250 billion is to provide increased amounts of food for the growing population.

Asia is unable to feed itself, relying on imports flowing through long supply chains from the Americas, Europe and Africa, and it's expected to more than double its spend on food over the next decade, according to the report. As the population booms, issues of food security, supply, depleting natural resources, and availability of arable land and water are set to become more important.

"A fundamental change is required across the entire food supply chain in Asia to enable and sustain the region's food security," Anuj Maheshwari, mana-



ging director of agribusiness at Temasek, said in a statement on Wednesday. "We see immense opportunities for start-ups, businesses and governments to work together in creating innovative solutions."

Singapore, Tokyo, Beijing and Mumbai are among some Asian cities with the potential to become "agri-food tech hubs," according to the report. In addition to other initiatives, Singapore will set up a new research institute in the first half of 2020, covering food, nutrition, public health, biotechnology and food safety, among other topics, according to Koh Poh Koon, senior minister of state at the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

As part of Singapore's goal to produce 30% of its nutri-

tional needs locally by 2030, it's ready to roll out a regulatory framework for novel food such as cultured meat and alternative proteins, said Lim Kok Thai, chief executive officer of the Singapore Food Agency. This will give businesses the space to innovate and create new products, Lim said in remarks prepared for a conference in the city-state yesterday.

Some other key points from the report:

- Asia is urbanizing faster than any other region, and will house all of the world's expected three 30 million+ cities and 65% of the world's middle-class by 2030, according to the report, which cited the United Nations and Global Economic Development at Brookings.

- The region's food spend will rise to more than \$8 trillion by 2030 from \$4 trillion this year, according to estimates in the report.
- Net imports of food have tripled since the turn of the century, and now stand at around 220 million tons a year, it said, citing the Food & Agriculture Organization.
- Current trends show growing populations and urbanization have led to high wastage and poor quality as supply chains are stretched and broken, the report said. Climate change and environmental degradation will hit Asia hardest, impacting available arable land, yields and farm output, exacerbating production challenges.

BLOOMBERG

GOOGLE LIMITS POLITICAL AD TARGETING, BANS MISLEADING INFO

MARK BERGEN

GOOGLE is severely limiting how political advertisers can target people online, a decision made after weeks of furious debate over how online platforms handle campaign messages.

The Alphabet Inc. unit said in a blog post on Wednesday it will no longer allow election ads to be targeted based on political affiliation on Google Search, YouTube and across the web. The company is also restricting misinformation and banning doctored media known as deepfakes in ads following criticism that Google and rival Facebook Inc. ran ads from U.S. President Donald Trump that were intentionally misleading.

Google's steps could curtail campaigns just as they are escalating spending for the 2020 U.S. presidential elections. The internet search giant also said it is removing access to a valuable tool called Customer Match for political ads. This technology lets advertisers combine their own data, such as email lists, with Google's massive corpus of digital information, to target audiences even more accurately.

Still, Google isn't limiting political targeting altogether. Election ads will still be able to target users based on age, gender and location by postal code. Nonprofits that register as political advertisers will be affected by the new policies, a Google spokeswoman said.

Additionally, Google said it's updating its overall ads policy to prohibit "misleading claims about the census process, and ads or destinations making demonstrably false claims that could significantly undermine participation or trust in an electoral or democratic process."

Online platforms' handling of political ad spending has become a lightning rod in recent weeks. Twitter Inc.'s decision to ban campaign advertising in October was met with both praise and scorn from politicians and advocacy groups. Facebook has taken a different stance, with top executives repeating several times that the social network won't fact-check ads from politicians, saying it's not the place of technology companies to become arbiters of truth.

Google has reported just over \$127 million in revenue from U.S. political ads since June 2018, representing a small sliver of the company's overall sales. BLOOMBERG

CORPORATE BITS

Macau introduces brand new spa and wellness concept



The Ritz-Carlton, Macau is launching a spa concept that combines the latest technology with traditional therapies, the hotel has announced in a statement.

Embracing the unique Chinese-Western multiculturalism in Macau, The Ritz-Carlton Spa has specially created the Caviar and Pearl Experience, a decadent fa-

cial that uses pearl powder to rejuvenate and brighten the complexion.

Meanwhile, with the Restorative Bamboo Massage, guests can experience a potent blend of essential oils and warmed herbal poultices infused with ginger and white turmeric to lift the senses, improve circulation and warm the muscles.

Other signature spa treatments include the Aromatherapy Massage, in which guests can choose one option from The Ritz-Carlton Spa's special blend of massage oils; an LED facial; and the Carol Joy London Facial, which promotes collagen and oxygen rejuvenation.

Melco donates MOP600,000 to Tung Sin Tong



Melco Resorts & Entertainment is continuing to support Tung Sin Tong's

social welfare and poverty alleviation community services, recently dona-

ting 600,000 patacas to the organization.

Melco representatives including chairman and CEO Mr. Lawrence Ho, along with his delegates, presented the check to members of the Tung Sin Tong delegation at a ceremony held at City of Dreams Macau.

According to the gaming operator, a game booth was also set up at City of Dreams' employee-only "Heart of House" dining area to help promote the organization to Melco employees, and to encourage donations for the worthy cause.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

ADVERTORIAL



Beijing bats away rumors, says trade talks with US continue

ELAINE KURTENBACH, BEIJING

CHINA is working to resolve conflicts with Washington over trade, a Commerce Ministry official said yesterday, dismissing speculation the talks might be in trouble as inaccurate "rumors."

Ministry spokesman Gao Feng said he had no new information to release. But he said China was committed to working toward an agreement.

"China is willing to address core concerns together with the U.S. on a basis of equality and mutual respect, and to work to conclude our discussions on the first phase" of a trade deal, Gao told reporters at a weekly briefing.

"This will benefit China, the U.S. and the world," Gao said.

Financial markets have swung between elation and gloom in recent days as conflicting reports over the talks swirled. Some have cited officials saying they believe a deal is likely by the year's end, while others have expressed skepticism.

Gao described such reports as "outside rumors that are not at all

reliable."

President Donald Trump began imposing punitive tariffs on Chinese exports nearly 18 months ago, citing trade and technology policies that he says violate Beijing's market-opening commitments and are unfair.

Since then, tariffs have been raised by both sides on billions of dollars' worth of each other's exports, squeezing farmers and manufacturers. A fresh set of tariffs is due to take effect Dec. 15 on about \$160 billion of Chinese exports to the U.S., including smartphones, laptops and other consumer goods.

President Donald Trump had said he hoped to sign a preliminary agreement with his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, at a regional economic summit in Chile in mid-November that was canceled due to protests. Prospects for the two leaders to meet and sign a deal soon appear uncertain.

Earlier this week Trump indicated he was prepared to go ahead with more tariff hikes if he does not get a deal with China that he likes. AP

MALAYSIA DETAINS 680 IN CHINA-BASED ONLINE SCAM SYNDICATE

MALAYSIA'S Immigration Department said yesterday it has broken up a China-based online investment scam syndicate with the arrest of 680 suspected Chinese citizens after storming a building where they were operating, but another 100 managed to flee.

Immigration Director-General Khairul Dzaimiee Daud said officers raided the building used as the syndicate's call center in Cyberjaya town in central Selangor state on Wednesday after a month of surveillance and caught the scammers in action.

He said 603 men and 77 women were detained but about 100 others escaped after charging through a security barricade and attacking officers. He said the detainees, aged between 19 and 35, entered the country using social visit passes and couldn't produce

their passports, but are believed to be Chinese nationals.

He said some immigration officials and suspected scammers were injured during scuffles. Local media said online video showed some people jumping from a building ledge onto a tree and sliding down while dozens ran across a road.

Khairul said 8,230 cellphones, 174 laptops and 787 desktop computers were also seized.

He said the syndicate has been operating for six months, targeting victims in China with promises of quick returns and using Chinese banks and Wechat mobile payments for their transactions.

Malaysian authorities have made similar arrests before to shut down telephone scams targeting victims in mainland China, but this was believed to be one of the biggest operations in the country. AP

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Trump expected to sign Hong Kong bill despite China threats

DANIEL FLATLEY
& JUSTIN SINK

U.S. President Donald Trump is expected to sign legislation passed by Congress supporting Hong Kong protesters, setting up a confrontation with China that could imperil a long-awaited trade deal between the world's two largest economies.

The bill, approved unanimously by the U.S. Senate on Tuesday, passed the House 417-1 on Wednesday and could go to Trump as soon as today [local time]. A person familiar with the matter said Trump planned to sign the bill.

"The Congress is sending an unmistakable message to the world that the United States stands in solidarity with freedom-loving people of Hong Kong and that we fully support their fight for freedom," Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a California Democrat, said on the House floor. "This has been a very unifying issue for us."

The remarkable bipartisan support for a hard-line U.S. stance on China creates one of the toughest economic and foreign policy challenges of Trump's presidency. He would like to sign what he calls "phase one" of a China trade deal to ease economic uncertainty

stemming from his trade war with Beijing as he ramps up his campaign for re-election.

China's foreign ministry urged the U.S. to prevent the legislation from becoming law, warning the American side not to underestimate the country's determination to defend its "sovereignty, security and development interests."

"If the U.S. insists on going down this wrong path, China will take strong countermeasures," ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told a regular briefing yesterday in Beijing.

The bill, S. 1838, would require annual reviews of Hong Kong's special trade status under U.S. law and sanction officials deemed responsible for human rights abuses and undermining the city's autonomy. The House also passed another Senate bill, S. 2710, to ban the export of crowd-control items such as tear gas and rubber bullets to the Hong Kong police.

'RAMIFICATIONS' FOR CRACKDOWN

Trump has been largely silent on the Hong Kong protests as they escalated into violence in recent weeks, even as lawmakers of both

parties demanded action.

"After the Senate unanimously passed our Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act, I applaud Speaker Pelosi for taking swift action to send this bill directly to President Trump's desk for signature," said Senator Marco Rubio, a Florida Republican and a sponsor of the Senate legislation. "I urge the president to sign this critical bill

"If the US insists on going down this wrong path, China will take strong countermeasures."

GENG SHUANG
CHINA'S FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN

into law as soon as possible."

"We stand in solidarity with the people of Hong Kong," said Republican Representative Chris Smith, who has been pushing the legislation since Hong Kong protests in 2014. "There will be strong sanctions, other ramifications for this crackdown."

The Democratic-led House used an expedited process to quickly act on the Senate bill rather

than trying to reconcile it with a slightly different version the House unanimously passed last month. That was the quickest way to approve the legislation before Congress recesses for the Thanksgiving holiday next week.

China also came up in the Democratic presidential debate in Atlanta, with former Vice President Joe Biden promising to "be vocally, vocally speaking out about the violation of the commitment they made to Hong Kong." Asked specifically about how he would support the city's demonstrators, Senator Cory Booker of New Jersey vowed to "call China out for its human rights violations" while Andrew Yang said he would build an international coalition to pressure Beijing on such issues.

Republican senators have been among the loudest voices calling for harsh consequences for China's crackdown on protesters in Hong Kong. Senator Josh Hawley, a Republican from Missouri, wrote to United Nations Ambassador Kelly Craft asking for a resolution "to condemn and hold accountable the People's Republic of China" for human rights violations in Hong Kong.

TRADE RISKS

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Kentucky Republican, called on Trump to speak out, saying Monday that "the world should hear from him directly that the United States stands with" the protesters.

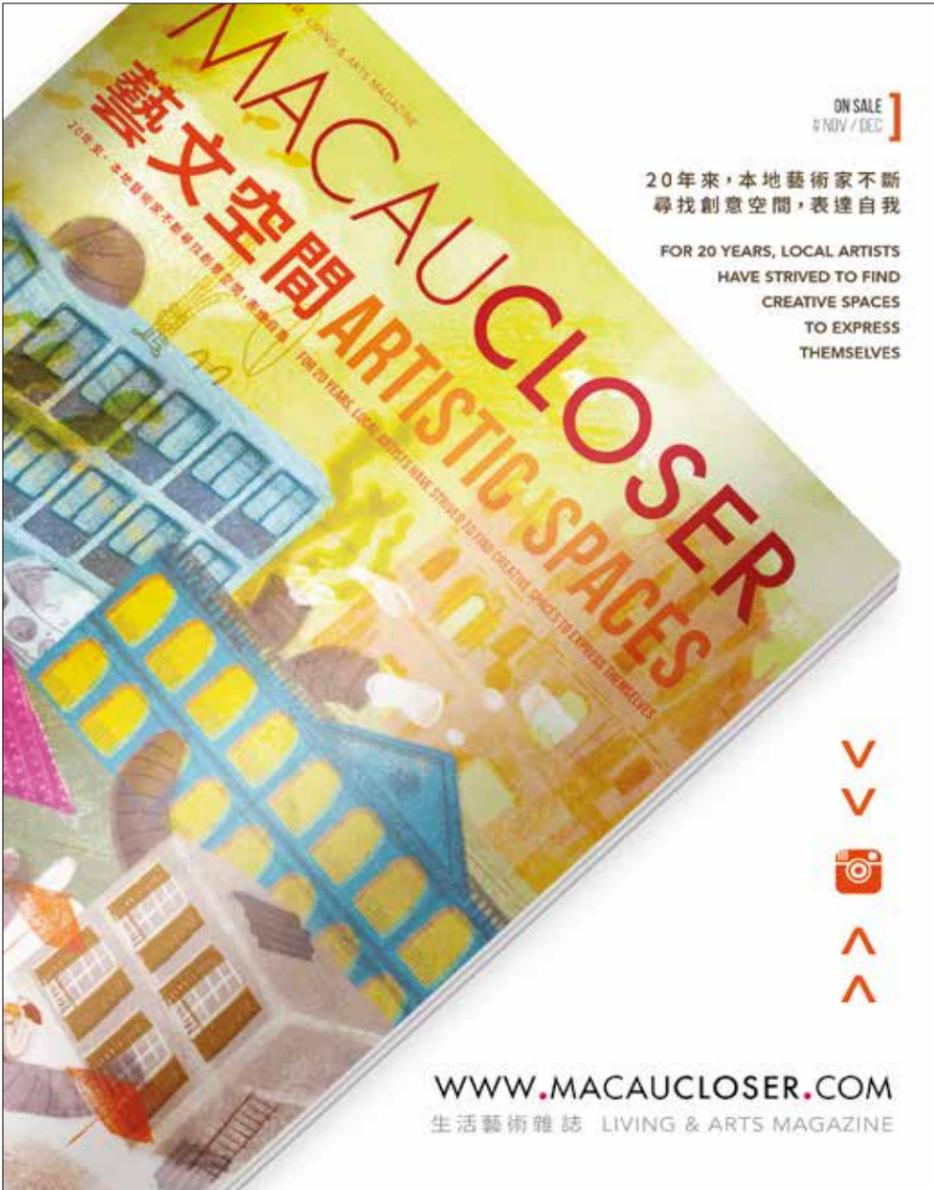
Vice President Mike Pence, however, said it would be difficult for the U.S. to sign a trade agreement with China if demonstrations in Hong Kong are met with violence. "The president's made it clear it'll be very hard for us to do a deal with China if there's any violence or if that matter is not treated properly and humanely," Pence said Tuesday in a radio interview.

Trade negotiators are still making delicate progress on an accord, according to people close to the talks, who describe the negotiation as entering a make-or-break stage.

Trump's central argument to voters is the strength of the U.S. economy under his presidency and his ability to cut deals with other countries. Signing the Hong Kong bill could harden China's negotiating position as the U.S. asks China to buy more agricultural products and Beijing insists that the U.S. reduce tariffs on Chinese goods.

The Hong Kong government said yesterday that allowing the legislation to become law "would send the wrong signal to violent protesters, which doesn't help in cooling the situation." **BLOOMBERG**

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



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N. KOREA SAYS KIM TURNED DOWN MOON INVITATION TO VISIT SOUTH

KIM TONG-HYUNG, SEOUL

BLAMING its rival for a recent chill in relations, North Korea yesterday said its leader turned down an invitation by South Korean President Moon Jae-in to participate in a regional summit next week.

The announcement continued North Korea's current hardball approach with Washington and Seoul following months of unprecedented summits as they near an end-of-year deadline issued by the North's leader, Kim Jong Un, for the U.S. to salvage fragile nuclear talks.

North Korean officials in recent weeks have insisted that Kim has no interest in another summit with U.S. President Donald Trump unless the North gets something substantial in return. They have also called for the United States to end "hostile" policies against the North, apparently referring to its enforcement of sanctions and pressure, and permanently halt joint military exercises with the South for any progress in negotiations.

The statement carried by the North's official Korean Central News Agency said there is no reason for Kim to visit the South under "beclouded air" and accused Moon's government of failing to uphold agreements reached between the leaders in three summits last year.

KCNA said Moon's office sent



In this April 27, 2018, file photo, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in cross the military demarcation line

a letter on Nov. 5 inviting Kim to attend a summit Moon is hosting in the southern city of Busan for Southeast Asian leaders on Monday and Tuesday. The agency said South Korea asked the North to send a special envoy to the meetings if Kim couldn't come.

The statement repeated demands that South Korea break away from the U.S., accusing the Moon government of harming inter-Korean cooperation with its continued dependence on Washington.

"If [South Korean officials] think they can easily turn arou-

nd the present serious situation with just a piece of letter, they would be seriously mistaken," the statement said.

"We will never follow without reason the impure attempt of [the South Korean] side to give impression that dialogue is going on between the top leaders [...] although no settlement of the fundamental issues between [the Koreans] [...] is being made."

Moon's office expressed regret, saying Kim is missing out on a rare opportunity to meet other Asian leaders. It said the Korean leaders should meet often to discuss peace and cooperation, but did not directly address the North's criticism of Moon's policies.

Nuclear negotiations with North Korea have faltered since the collapse of a February summit between Kim and Trump in Vietnam, where the U.S. side rejected the North's demand for broad sanctions relief in exchange for a partial surrendering of its nuclear capabilities.

Working-level talks last month in Sweden broke down over what the North Koreans described as the Americans' "old stance and attitude."

North Korea has suspended virtually all cooperation with South Korea amid the standstill in negotiations with the United States, while demanding that Seoul defy U.S.-led international sanctions and restart joint eco-

nomic projects that would aid the North's broken economy.

In their third summit last September in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang, Kim and Moon vowed to restart visits by South Korean tourist groups to the North's Diamond Mountain resort and normalize operations at a joint factory park in the North's border town of Kaesong when possible, voicing optimism that sanctions could be lifted to allow such projects.

But without a breakthrough in the nuclear talks between Washington and Pyongyang, the economic projects remain shelved.

North Korea has threatened to tear down South Korean-made hotels and other facilities at the Diamond Mountain resort that Kim called "shabby" while vowing that North Korea would redevelop the site on its own.

"As nothing was achieved in implementing the agreements made in Panmunjom, Pyongyang and Mount Paektu, [an inter-Korean] summit for the mere form's sake would be pointless," KCNA said.

Panmunjom is a jointly administered border village that hosted the first two summits between the leaders last year. Kim and Moon during their Pyongyang meeting visited Mount Paektu, a volcano North Koreans consider sacred, in a gesture of engagement.

Kim said during his meeting with Moon in Pyongyang that he would visit Seoul "at an early date," which Moon said meant before the end of 2018, but didn't follow through. AP

AUSTRALIA

Smoke blankets Sydney as wildfires spread

TRISTAN LAVALETTE, PERTH

HAZARDOUS smoke blanketed Sydney yesterday as wildfires burned across eastern and southern Australia.

Thick smog shrouded Australia's most populous city, leaving its iconic skyline barely visible two days after smoke created serious air quality issues.

The New South Wales Rural Fire Service said the smoke from around 50 wildfires burning mainly in northern parts of the state. Air pollution levels were reading nearly 10 times higher than the national standard.

"The smoke is expected to continue for several days," the fire service said.

Wildfires have destroyed more than 600 homes in Australia's most populous state.

The annual Australian fire season normally peaks during the Southern Hemisphere summer, but has started early after an unusually warm and dry winter.

People with respiratory or heart conditions were advised to stay indoors and seek medical advice when necessary.

The fire danger has also spread with authorities issuing declaring high fire risk for parts of Victoria state to the south. It is the first time in a decade Victoria has been declared Code Red, with the highest possible fire risk and a statewide total fire ban.

Temperatures were forecast over 40C in the state's north.

Melbourne, Australia's second most populous city, was forecast yesterday to hit 39C after falling just short of its hottest November minimum at 26C overnight.

Victoria Emergency Management Commissioner Andrew Crisp warned Victorians to be vigilant. "Given fires could start and move quickly, you won't always receive a warning or be told what to do if a fire starts," he said.

The fire danger was also elevated to "severe" in the island state of Tasmania off mainland Australia's southeastern coast, while more than 40 wildfires have broken out in South Australia. AP



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Esper doesn't regret delaying drills, despite N. Korea snub

HYUNG-JIN KIM, SEOUL

U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper said yesterday he does not regret postponing a U.S.-South Korean military exercise, even though the gesture was rejected by North Korea as not enough to restart nuclear diplomacy.

The prospects for a resumption of the nuclear diplomacy are unclear, with Pyongyang stepping up its pressures on Washington to make bigger concessions. On Wednesday, the North's 1st vice foreign minister, Choe Son Hui, repeated it won't return to a negotiating table unless the United States drops its hostile policy against the North.

"We can discuss the nuclear issue with the U.S. only when it withdraws all its hostile policies against [North Korea]," Choe told reporters during a visit to Moscow, according to South Korean media footage. "In that sense, I think a summit or leaders' talks [between North Korea and the U.S.] isn't an interesting issue for us."

AP PHOTO



The U.S. and South Korea announced Sunday they indefinitely postponed the annual Vigilant Ace aerial training as part of efforts to revive the nuclear talks, as North Korea has called the training an invasion rehearsal. In response, senior North Korean of-

ficial Kim Yong Chol said Tuesday the U.S. must scrap that military drill completely and abandon its hostility against his country if it wants to see the resumption of the nuclear negotiations.

North Korea wants the U.S. to lift major international sanctions

on it and provide security assurances before it fully abandons its nuclear arsenal. But the U.S. has maintained sanctions would stay in place until North Korea takes serious steps toward denuclearization.

Before boarding his plane in

Hanoi, Vietnam, for a flight to Washington, Esper described North Korea's response to the drill's postponement as being "not as positive as we would have liked." In Esper's words: "I don't regret taking the high road."

Esper also said he does not believe there is a rift in the U.S.-South Korean alliance, despite a breakdown this week in negotiations over a U.S. demand for a five-fold increase in what Seoul pays to keep 28,500 American troops on its soil.

The Pentagon also denied a report in South Korea's biggest newspaper that the U.S. was considering withdrawing some troops if Seoul didn't agree to that increase. There was "absolutely no truth" to the Chosun Ilbo report, said chief Pentagon spokesman Jonathan Hoffman, who noted Esper "repeatedly reiterated our ironclad commitment" to South Korea during his talks with South Korean officials.

"We're not threatening allies over this," Esper said in Hanoi.

A U.S.-led diplomacy aimed at ridding North Korea of its nuclear weapons has largely been deadlocked since the February collapse of a summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Kim Jong Un has demanded the U.S. come up with new, acceptable measures to salvage the nuclear talks by year's end. AP

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| 16:30 | Quem Quer Ser Milionário |
| 17:30 | Literatura Agora |
| 18:00 | Império (Repetição) |
| 18:50 | TDM Talk Show (Repetição) |
| 19:20 | Livros com João Guedes (Repetição) |
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| 20:30 | Telejornal |
| 21:15 | TDM Reportagem |
| 21:30 | Viagens em Série |
| 21:50 | Solteira e Boa Rapariga |
| 22:25 | Império |
| 23:15 | TDM News |
| 23:50 | A Casa dos Mortos |
| 01:20 | Telejornal (Repetição) |
| 02:05 | RTPi Directo |

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 



2003 ENGLAND WIN RUGBY WORLD CUP

England have won the Rugby World Cup, beating Australia 20-17 in a game which is already entering the history books as one of the country's great moments of sporting triumph.

The final, in Sydney, was won just 26 seconds from the end of the match, with a breathtaking drop goal by Newcastle fly-half and youngest member of the squad, Jonny Wilkinson.

It is the first time a northern hemisphere side has won the world title.

Australia battled hard and were never out of the game, but after 100 minutes of rugby and a dramatic extra-time finale the England team wrestled away the cup by the slimmest of margins.

England showed no signs of the weakness they were criticised for when kicked out by South Africa in the last World Cup.

After Australian winger Lote Tuqiri opened the scoring with just six minutes on the clock, three Wilkinson penalties quickly turned the tables. England were 14-5 ahead.

The game was often nailbitingly close as Australia levelled twice more - once at 80 minutes with a last-gasp penalty from Elton Flatley, and again at 97 minutes when the two sides were 17-17, again down to Flatley's efforts, pushing the game into extra time.

Three minutes later, and with a sudden death shoot-out just seconds away, it was all over as Jonny Wilkinson's drop goal brought England the World Cup.

Even Wilkinson dropped his normal cool poise, leaping into the arms of fellow player Mike Catt.

Soon afterwards, at 2244 local time (1144 GMT), the England captain, Martin Johnson, stepped forward to receive rugby's greatest prize.

The biggest cheer, unsurprisingly, was saved for Wilkinson, who by that stage could not stop smiling.

The 24-year-old is already being hailed as rugby's first superstar. He is England's all-time record points scorer and has just been voted international player of the year for the second year running.

"He is a very special player, a very special person," said Johnson.

He also spoke of his joy at lifting the Webb Ellis trophy, the first captain of his country to do so.

"It hasn't sunk in," he said. "It will take a few days to sink in - it is fantastic for all the players, the management and the whole of England."

Courtesy BBC News

Offbeat

PET SHOP OWNER SAYS SUSPECTS THREW STOLEN GUINEA PIG AT HIM



A Kentucky pet store owner says two women stole a pair of guinea pigs, lobbing one of the animals at him during their escape.

News outlets report 21-year-old Isabelle Mason and 19-year-old and Jaimee Pack on Saturday tried to smuggle out the animals from Pet Paradise without paying. Owner Scott Gonyaw told WKYT-TV he confronted the suspects, screaming "Give me the guinea pigs!" as they got into a car.

One suspect rolled down a window and tossed a four-month-old guinea pig named Lucky onto the concrete. The other ran over Gonyaw's foot with the car. He says he suffered bruising.

Lucky wasn't injured. The other guinea pig remains missing.

Jail records show Danville police charged the women with shoplifting, robbery and animal cruelty. It's unclear whether they have lawyers.

IN CONTEXT

The England rugby team returned home three days later. Despite arriving at Heathrow in the early hours of the morning, thousands of fans turned out to give them a rapturous welcome. On 8 December there was an unprecedented national day of celebration, with the team greeting hundreds of thousands of fans from open top buses in a victory parade through London.

They were given a champagne reception at 10 Downing Street and went on to meet the Queen at Buckingham Palace.

Police estimated that 750,000 supporters made the trip to central London, making the day the largest sporting celebration of its kind in the United Kingdom.

In the New Year's honours list for 2004, coach Clive Woodward was given a knighthood, team captain Martin Johnson was awarded a CBE, and most of the squad - including Jonny Wilkinson - were awarded MBEs.

Wilkinson also won the Sports Personality of the Year Award for 2003 and an OBE in 2004.

In September 2004 Clive Woodward announced he would be stepping down as the England rugby coach after the Lions tour to New Zealand in 2005.

Since the World Cup victory, Jonny Wilkinson's playing career has been blighted by injury.

The next rugby World Cup is scheduled for France in 2007.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Going backwards isn't always a bad thing. If you've been contemplating moving back to your hometown, calling up an ex, or going back to school, the stars say you should investigate the idea further.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Although today is a very good day for starting new journeys, there is no need to rush around making plans and booking tickets. It's important that you plan your next vacation at a slow, deliberate pace.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Making lists is a great way to save yourself time right now—and a great way to help yourself navigate some tricky waters ahead. There is no need to worry about where you're going.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

If you're in the midst of trying to make a big decision, you're in luck today—there will be a lot of obvious signs pointing you in the right direction. You can turn off your intuitive powers completely.



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

While your last family gathering offered much more drama than bonding, you cannot assume that the next one will be as unpleasant. Keep an open mind about the women in your life.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

If personal issues have been distracting you from your career or schoolwork, today offers you a chance to settle some issues and move forward in a much brighter direction.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Your greatest influence will come in a one-on-one situation, so try to get face time with any people who can help you get what you want. It's a great day for you to achieve your goals.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Are you being just the tiniest bit too hard on someone right now? If you can be more flexible, this person might be more flexible, too—try it and see! Collaborations require a certain amount of trust.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

It's a great day to enjoy the comfort of your home—you've worked hard to create a place where you can relax and feel comfortable, so why not enjoy it?



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

The home environment you create often mirrors your inner feelings—are you living in a cluttered mess or in a serene, spare space? It's time for you to look at how where you live affects your feelings.

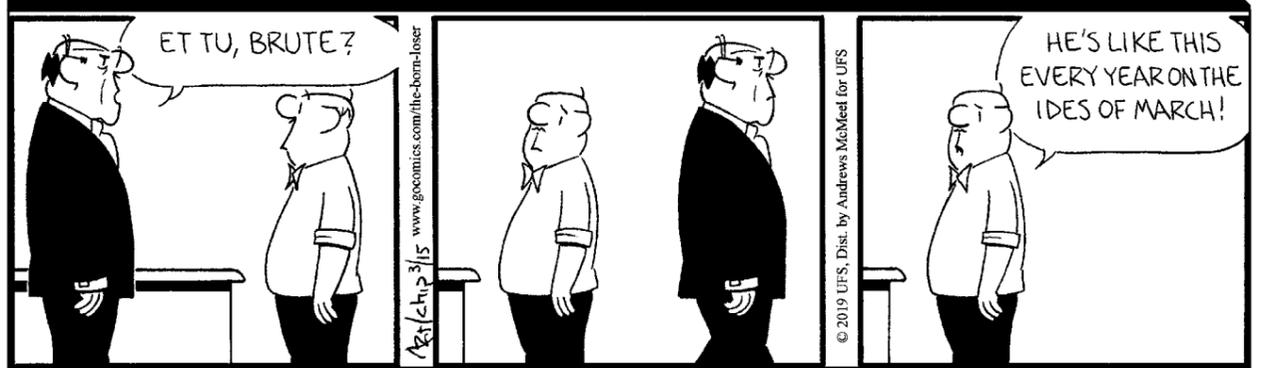


PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

It is high time you realized that being in love isn't the solution to all of your problems! Stop focusing on what you do not have, and start focusing on what you do have—which is an awful lot.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

| MEDIUM | | | | | HARD | | | | |
|--------|---|---|-----|-----|------|---|-------|---|---|
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| | | 3 | | | | | 3 | | |
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| 5 | 4 | | | | | | 4 5 | | |
| | | | | 8 | | | | 8 | |
| | 6 | | | 4 5 | | | 1 3 4 | | |
| 8 | | 2 | | | 2 | 7 | | | |
| 3 | | | 4 | | 8 | | | | |

WEATHER

| | MIN | MAX | CONDITION |
|--------------|-----|-----|---------------|
| CHINA | | | |
| Beijing | -2 | 9 | clear |
| Harbin | -17 | -4 | clear |
| Tianjin | 2 | 11 | clear |
| Urumqi | -3 | 7 | clear |
| Xi'an | 5 | 17 | clear |
| Lhasa | 0 | 19 | cloudy |
| Chengdu | 10 | 16 | clear |
| Chongqing | 12 | 20 | cloudy |
| Kunming | 9 | 21 | clear |
| Nanjing | 7 | 23 | cloudy |
| Shanghai | 12 | 20 | cloudy |
| Wuhan | 8 | 24 | clear |
| Hangzhou | 9 | 22 | clear |
| Taipei | 17 | 21 | cloudy |
| Guangzhou | 14 | 27 | clear |
| Hong Kong | 20 | 25 | cloudy |
| WORLD | | | |
| Moscow | -1 | 4 | clear |
| Frankfurt | 0 | 6 | drizzle |
| Paris | 2 | 9 | moderate rain |
| London | 7 | 9 | drizzle |
| New York | -3 | 1 | cloudy |

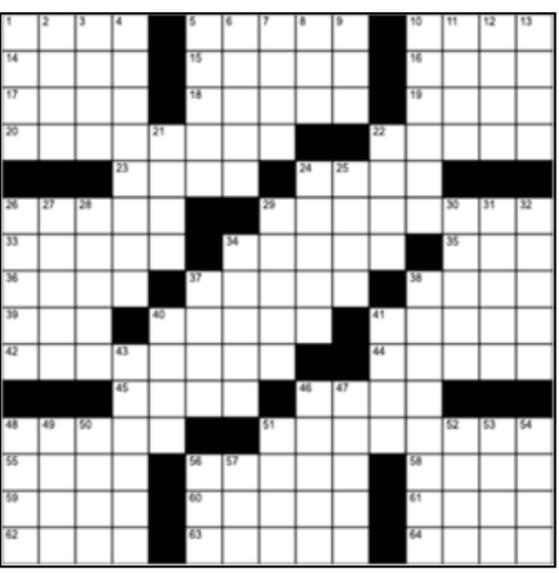
CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1-Gather, harvest; 5- Pueblo material; 10- Teeny; 14- Home of the Bruins; 15- Student; 16- Eight furlongs; 17- Part of the eye; 18- Eyeglasses, for short; 19- Fuel source; 20- Covering for an acorn; 22- Orange Bowl site; 23- Learned; 24- Changes color; 26- Tolerated; 29- Comforting; 33- Chicago hub; 34- Accustom; 35- Comedian Louis; 36- Geek; 37- Sphere; 38- Lazy, inactive; 39- Peer Gynt's mother; 40- Watchful; 41- Potpourris; 42- Change the course of; 44- Flat surface; 45- Fella; 46- Dedicated to the ___ Love; 48- Navigators Islands, today; 51- Awl; 55- Bickering; 56- Winged; 58- ___ about (approximately); 59- Actress Moore; 60- Sleight of hand; 61- ___ la Douce; 62- Expel gas or odor; 63- Quickly; 64- Appear to be;

DOWN: 1- Downfall; 2- Linen hue; 3- Stepped down; 4- Language bit for entry; 5- Church areas; 6- Twofold; 7- Autobahn auto; 8- Pen name; 9- Links luminary Ernie; 10- Mischievous; 11- ___ yellow ribbon...; 12- Shut with force; 13- Abominable snowman; 21- Cover up; 22- Allot, with "out"; 24- Distrust; 25- Time long past; 26- Echolocation; 27- The ones here; 28- Paddled; 29- Nasal grunt; 30- Da Gama destination; 31- Thermoplastic yarn; 32- V-formation fliers; 34- Put into office; 37- Secluded valley; 38- State in the central United States; 40- Grounds; 41- Word that can precede sandwich, verdict and prison; 43- Outfielder's yell; 46- Eye-related; 47- Dorothy, to Em; 48- "No Ordinary Love" singer; 49- Up and ___; 50- Chevalier song; 51- Long story; 52- Memo phrase; 53- Iditarod destination; 54- Metric unit of mass; 56- I ___ Rock; 57- Child seat?;

Yesterday's solution

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | A | N | G | L | A | V | A | T | O | P | | | |
| O | M | A | R | I | M | A | G | E | M | A | R | | |
| N | O | T | I | P | S | A | L | M | A | L | E | | |
| A | R | D | M | A | S | L | O | C | A | T | I | O | N |
| S | S | S | T | I | E | D | E | T | H | A | N | E | |
| C | E | P | A | C | R | E | S | S | E | W | E | D | |
| O | R | I | G | K | E | E | P | S | W | O | R | E | |
| P | A | R | O | E | K | R | A | U | T | K | O | N | |
| P | I | E | S | T | A | E | D | N | A | S | S | | |
| L | O | L | A | T | R | O | N | | | | | | |
| F | E | M | I | N | I | S | T | A | S | I | D | E | S |
| O | M | E | N | A | T | E | S | T | N | E | S | T | |
| S | T | A | G | S | A | R | A | H | E | L | S | E | |
| S | S | N | | | | | | | | | | | |
| B | I | T | E | S | E | E | P | | | | | | |



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 | FOR RENT | FOR SALE | FOR RENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| <p>Manhattan, Central Taipa HK\$12,980,000 3 2 1,720 ft²</p> | <p>Ocean Garden Sakura Court, Taipa \$35,000/mth 4 4 3,700 ft²</p> | <p>[Taipa] Hoi Wan Garden 2 1 1 900 ft² \$5,100,000 (ref: 19106001)</p> <p>[Macau] Unique Loft 2 2 2 2,200 ft² \$9,990,000 (ref: 15115464)</p> <p>[Macau] One Central lakeview 2 2 2 1,269 ft² \$12,980,000 (ref: 19070002)</p> <p>[Cotai] One Grantai 4 2 2 2,556 ft² \$25,600,000 (ref: 19096000)</p> | <p>[Macau] Furnished apartment 2 1 1 700 ft² \$12,500/mth (ref: 19101007)</p> <p>[Taipa] Taipa Village 1 1 1 740 ft² \$11,800/mth (ref: 19101006)</p> <p>[Taipa] Manhattan 3 2 2 1,720 ft² \$23,800/mth (ref: 19091006)</p> <p>[Cotai] One Grantai 3 3 3 2,122 ft² \$23,000/mth (ref: 19030001RT)</p> |

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ADVERTORIAL

GREAT TIMES

Celebration at MGM Rejoice in Sensory Moments

THIS year marks the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Macao Special Administrative Region. To celebrate this excitement, MGM welcomes Macau locals and visitors to rejoice over this remarkable event.

MGM offers a wide variety of dining options, whether you need a place to drink, a place to meet, or a place to recharge a bit after a whole day journey, you can always find the spot here. Explore the Chinese cuisine at Grand Imperial Court, Imperial Court, North & South by Square Eight at MGM Macau, or CHÚN, Five Foot Road, Hao Guo and Miàn Dui Miàn at MGM COTAI.

If you want to try something more globalized and innovative, we recommend Aji, the first Macau restaurant to showcase unique Peruvian Nikkei cuisine, or Grill 58, the go-to restaurant for exceptional grilled delicacies and a destination for food and wine connoisseurs around the world. There are a lot more international cuisine such as Coast, Aux Beaux Arts, Pastry Bar, and Rossio at the two properties, providing perfect spots for you to have a fun and cozy meal with friends and family.



In additional, if you are thirst for a crafted cocktail or sip of a wide selection of wine, go ahead and immerse yourself at ABA Bar or Bar Patuá for an incredible moment with besties.

From November 20 to December 22, you can plan around your dates at all restaurants in both MGM MACAU and MGM COTAI with various culinary offers.

- Offer 1: Macau residents can enjoy a 20% off at all dining options at MGM MACAU and MGM COTAI
- Offer 2: Enjoy a complimentary dessert with a valid phone number/M life/ GLC membership card number containing "20" for both Macau residents and non-residents.
- Offer 3: Enjoy 1 glass of selected house wine at Aux Beaux Arts or ABA Bar or Grill 58 Lounge with MOP 20.

Book your table now!

*Terms and conditions may apply.

ALCATRAZ OCCUPIER CALLS EVENTS A 'DAY OF SMILES'

AP PHOTO



ABOUT 150 people are now gathered at Alcatraz to mark the 50th anniversary of a takeover of the island by Native American activists.

Original occupiers, friends, family and others assembled yesterday [Macau time] for a program that included prayer, songs and speakers. They then headed to the dock to begin restoring messages painted by occupiers on a former barracks building.

One of the original occupiers, 80-year-old Eloy Martinez (pictured), called it a "day full of smiles" that reunited old friends and rein-

forced the message that Native Americans are "still here" and are "still resisting."

Golden Gate National Recreation Area is hosting three days of events to commemorate the anniversary of the 19-month occupation, in collaboration with the Indians of All Tribes and others.

The events include the opening of an exhibit called "Red Power on Alcatraz: Perspectives 50 Years Later," which features photographs and mementos from the occupation.

The items on display come from the personal collection of Kent

Blansett. He's an associate professor of history at the University of Nebraska at Omaha who has written about Alcatraz.

The exhibit includes posters from the occupation, newsletters, photographs, film, skateboards and information on the occupation's organizers.

It also includes political buttons that illustrate how the movement influenced the 1972 presidential race. Blansett says the candidates were trying to appeal to Native Americans who captured the attention of the federal government with the Alcatraz takeover.

BEI BEI ARRIVES AT GIANT PANDA BASE IN CHINA'S SICHUAN PROVINCE

AFTER a transcontinental flight on the "Panda Express," a furry American darling arrived early yesterday in his new Chinese home.

The Washington-born giant panda Bei Bei was a beloved figure at the National Zoo, where he spent the first four years of his life. By agreement with the Chinese government, the zoo had to return Bei Bei to China this year.

He is now settling into the Ya'an Bifengxia Base of the Giant Panda Conservation and Research Center in southwest Sichuan province. Bei Bei will be quarantined for one month while he adjusts to the time difference, learns to eat local foods and picks up Sichuanese dialect, state broadcaster CCTV reported.

Bei Bei was conceived through artificial insemination and born to the National Zoo's Mei Xiang and Tian Tian in 2015. His name, which means "treasure" in Chinese, was jointly selected by then-first lady Michelle Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping's wife, Peng Liyuan. Bei Bei quickly became a favorite on the zoo's Panda Cam, and fans bid a bittersweet farewell to the cub online with the hashtag #byebyebeibi.

AP PHOTO



With his handler, a veterinarian and 23 kilograms of bamboo in tow, Bei Bei flew on a private jet provided by the shipping company FedEx and with a panda painted on its fuselage.

The giant panda offers a bright spot during a dark period in U.S.-China relations, as the two countries have been embroiled in a long trade dispute.

Once Bei Bei reaches sexual ma-

turity at age 6, he will enter China's captive breeding program, which is credited with bringing giant pandas back from the brink of extinction. They live mainly in Sichuan's bamboo-covered mountains and are threatened by habitat loss.

Bei Bei appeared to be adapting well to his new environment. He ate 6 kilograms of bamboo for breakfast, CCTV said.

FOOTBALL

River and Flamengo in Lima for Copa Libertadores final

Sunday, 04:00
River Plate v Flamengo
H 3.5, D 3.25, A2.6

ODDSCHECKER.COM

DEFENDING champion River Plate was "a little nervous" about the Copa Libertadores final Sunday [4:00am] according to midfielder Nacho Fernández.

He added, though, his hope that the Argentine team will play with "a cool head and a warm heart" against Brazilian side Flamengo.

Both teams, River first then Flamengo in the evening, were welcomed by hundreds of fans at Lima's airport.

Flamengo was given a bigger farewell as tens of thousands of supporters followed the team bus to Rio de Janeiro's international airport. In contrast, Argentine



From left: Rodrigo Caio, Rhodolfo, Cesar, and Pablo Mari of Brazil's Flamengo soccer team on arrival to Lima

fans gave a timid farewell to River on the streets of Buenos Aires.

Lima's Monumental Universitario Stadium replaced Santiago's Estadio Nacional as the venue for the final after street protests erupted in Chile this month.

For the first time in the Copa's 58-year history, the final is a single match.

River won last year over two controversial legs against archrival Boca Juniors. The first leg was drawn, but the second leg was delayed after violence against the Boca team. The second leg was moved to Madrid, where River won 3-1 to win its fourth crown.

Flamengo won its only previous Copa in 1981. AP

TENNIS

DAVIS CUP START TIMES CHANGED TO AVOID LATE FINISHES

ORGANIZERS at the Davis Cup Finals in Spain are switching to earlier start times to minimize the chance of late finishes.

The change comes after the series between Italy and the United States ended at 4:04 a.m. local time on Thursday [today, Macau time], the second latest finish in the history of tennis. Only a few hundred people were present when the Americans clinched the victory in the final doubles match.

The morning and afternoon sessions have been brought forward 30 minutes, with the new start times set for 10:30 a.m. (0930 GMT) and 5:30 p.m. (1630 GMT). In addition, the time between the first and second singles matches will be reduced

from 20 minutes to 10 minutes, and the doubles match has to start within 30 minutes of the second singles.

Thursday's quarterfinal between Australia and Canada was still set to start at 6 p.m. local time.

Players and fans had already complained about the late finishes after other matches finished well past midnight. Some three-match series took nearly nine hours to conclude, going well into the later sessions and causing long delays.

In the revamped Davis Cup format, teams are facing each other in three best-of-three-set matches on the same day. Previously, the ties were decided over three days with five matches of best-of-five sets. AP



Serbia's Novak Djokovic

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Book Launch

Macau

Cultural tourism and Macanese gastronomy

Date: 24 / 11 / 2019

Time: 16:00

Author: Maria João dos Santos Ferreira

Presentation: Carlos Marreiros, Maria João dos Santos Ferreira

Venue: Centro de Ciência de Macau

Publisher: Albergue SCM, Circulo dos Amigos da Cultura

Language: English

Free Admission

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OPINION

World Views

Leonid Bershidsky, Bloomberg

GOOGLE'S MICRO-TARGETING BAN WON'T IMPROVE POLITICAL ADS

Google says it will limit the targeting of political ads to make it harder to sneak misinformation to impressionable voters. That puts the company ahead of the pack when it comes to making the political business of big internet platforms look less threatening. But the efficiency of political micro-targeting is questionable, and Google is responding to a moral panic rather than any real danger to democracy.

Since the 2016 U.S. presidential election, the public has become aware of techniques that allow advertisers to aim their messages at narrow groups of people, sliced not just by place of residence, age and sex, but also by consumer and political preferences, browsing histories, voting records and other kinds of personal data. This culminated in the Cambridge Analytica scandal in 2018.

Twitter has banned political ads entirely, but then it didn't sell many, anyway, serving instead as a free platform for political messages.

Chris Wilson, who had been responsible for digital strategy in Senator Ted Cruz's 2016 presidential campaign (which was the first in that election to hire Cambridge Analytica), countered that micro-targeting has helped increase voter turnout and drive down advertising costs for campaigns. His suggestion was to make the targeting more transparent.

Google, however, found it more expedient to go along with Weintraub's proposal than to fight an uphill battle using Wilson's arguments. In a blog post this week, the company said it would no longer let advertisers target messages "based on public voter records and general political affiliations (left-leaning, right-leaning, and independent)." Only basic targeting by age, gender and postal code would be allowed.

This is no more than Russian trolls would have required in 2016 — as Wilson pointed out in his Washington Post op-ed. Their propaganda campaign was largely geographically targeted.

There's still no proof that micro-targeting is more effective than other forms of advertising. Academic work on the subject has tended to be rather theoretical, while experimental evidence is scarce. In a paper published this year, German researcher Lennart Krotzek concluded after an experiment matching ads to personality profiles that "candidate messages are more effective in improving a voter's feeling toward a candidate when the messages are congruent with the voter's personality profile, but they do not result in a higher propensity to vote for the advertised candidate."

Internet platforms have done little to further the study of political targeting.

Google offers a transparency report on political ads placed on its various properties — search pages, YouTube, the sites of media partners. It says that the biggest U.S. advertiser in the last 12 months is the Trump Make America Great Again Committee, which has spent \$8.5 million. The report discloses that the pro-Trump group has targeted its ads at all people older than 18 throughout the U.S., but offers no clues as to whether any more precise targeting was used.

Facebook's transparency report is just as opaque when it comes to the precise targeting of ads by voters' interests and political leanings.

It's easier for Google than for Facebook to abandon precise targeting, because one of its key strengths is being able to link ads to search words. That's a form of rather precise targeting not affected by Google's policy change. Slicing and dicing the audience is at the heart of Facebook's offering to advertisers, so it's understandably hesitant to disable the feature, thought it, too, has been mulling some targeting curbs.

But Facebook doesn't have to make the sacrifice. It would make more sense to reveal exactly how each political ad is targeted — and to cooperate with researchers interested in evaluating the ads' efficiency. Facebook has the means to deliver messages from such researchers to the target audiences, which would help them recruit subjects for experiments. Google should have done the same instead of introducing drastic curbs that probably won't do much to raise the level of political discourse, anyway. Policymakers need data, not hype, to make informed decisions on how to regulate modern advertising. [Abridged]

A direct bus connection between Macau and the Hong Kong International Airport is expected to be operational by mid-December, according to the director of the Transport Bureau (DSAT), with the final phase of the public tender for the route currently being processed.

"They are doing their best to start the operation in December," said Lam Hin San, the DSAT director, as cited by public broadcaster TDM. "That's what we were told by Hong Kong International Airport."

Lam made the comments at the close of a Traffic Advisory Council meeting yesterday.

He confirmed that the route will start from the Macau border, in the same location as the existing bus service serving the bridge between the two special administrative regions.

Currently, bus users traveling from Macau to the Hong Kong International Airport need to take a secondary mode of transport once arriving on the Hong Kong side of the SAR-spanning bridge.

TRUMP

IMPEACHMENT HEARING TAKEAWAYS: A 'FICTIONAL NARRATIVE'

The final testimony of an extraordinary week of impeachment hearings came from a former White House national security adviser who wrote the book on Vladimir Putin — literally — and a political counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine who overheard a pivotal conversation between President Donald Trump and EU ambassador Gordon Sondland.

Takeaways from Day 5 of the impeachment inquiry before the House intelligence committee:

'FICTIONAL NARRATIVE'

The British-born Hill is a Russia expert who's written extensively on the Kremlin, and she made that clear from the outset when she scolded Republicans lawmakers for propagating what she said was a "fictional narrative" — that somehow Ukraine, not Russia, interfered in the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

Those discredited theories have been advanced by Trump himself, who in a July 25 phone call at the center of the impeachment inquiry asked Ukraine's leader to investigate the possibility.

Hill said the unwillingness by some to accept Russia's role has profound consequences at a time when Russia's security services have "geared up to repeat their interference in the 2020 election." Putin, she said, deploys millions of dollars to "weaponize our own political opposition research and false narratives."

"When we are consumed by partisan rancor, we cannot combat these external forces as they seek to divide us against each other, degrade our institutions, and destroy the faith of the American people in our democracy," Hill said.

At another point, she explored impeachment investigators — and the country at large — to stop advancing fictions that she said distract from the attention needed to fight Russian interference.

"In the course of this investigation, I would ask that you please not promote poli-



David Holmes, a U.S. diplomat in Ukraine, testifies before the House Intelligence Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington

tically driven falsehoods that so clearly advance Russian interests," Hill said.

'THE BIG STUFF'

The July 26 lunch on an outdoor terrace in a Kyiv restaurant started out social enough. There was a bottle of wine and affable chatter about marketing strategies for Sondland's hotel business.

Then, according to David Holmes, a counselor at the U.S. embassy in Kyiv, Sondland said he was going to call Trump to give him an update. The conversation Holmes overheard was loud — and memorable.

At one point, Holmes said, he heard Sondland tell Trump that Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskiy "loves your ass."

"I then heard President Trump ask, 'So, he's gonna do the investigation?' Ambassador Sondland replied that 'he's gonna do it.'" He said Sondland told Trump that Zelenskiy will do "anything you ask him to."

When the call ended, Holmes said he asked Sondland if it was true that Trump did not "give a s--t about Ukraine." Sondland said that it was indeed the case.

"I noted that there was 'big stuff' going on in Ukraine, like a war with Russia,

and Ambassador Sondland replied that he meant 'big stuff' that benefits the president, like the 'Biden investigation' that Mr. Giuliani was pushing."

TRUMP ON THE DEFENSIVE

Even before Hill's testimony began Trump excoriated Democrats leading the impeachment inquiry.

In a series of tweets, Trump urged House Republican allies to "Keep fighting tough," and told them they are "dealing with human scum who have taken Due Process and all of the Republican Party's rights away from us during the most unfair hearings in American History."

Still, Trump claimed he and Republicans had "had a GREAT day" of testimony yesterday even though Sondland, his ambassador to the European Union, bolstered Democrats' impeachment narrative as he repeatedly talked of a "quid pro quo" involving Ukraine. Yet Trump complained that, when he "got home to the White House & checked out the news coverage on much of television, you would have no idea they were reporting on the same event."

"FAKE & CORRUPT NEWS!" he tweeted. AP



Israel For the first time in Israeli history, the country's ceremonial president has announced that no candidate has been able to form a government. Reuven Rivlin informed parliament yesterday that neither Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [pictured] nor his chief challenger, retired military chief Benny Gantz, have completed the task of building a coalition in the time allotted to them.

Germany Chancellor Angela Merkel is planning to visit the former Nazi death camp of Auschwitz for the first time in her 14 years in office. The Munich daily Sueddeutsche Zeitung reported yesterday that Merkel has accepted an invitation to attend the 10th anniversary of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation on Dec. 6.

Italy Rescue services say a blast at a fireworks factory in Sicily has killed five people and seriously injured two others. Italian firefighters and Carabinieri police said that the 71-year-old wife of the owner of the family-run factory in the Sicilian town of Barcellona Pozzo di Gotto was among the victims.

UK Lawyers for the victims of sex offender Jeffrey Epstein say Prince Andrew should speak to U.S. investigators immediately, after the senior British royal withdrew from public duties over what he called his "ill-judged association" with the convicted pedophile. U.S. attorney Gloria Allred said Andrew should contact American authorities "without conditions and without delay."



UK Former Scottish leader Alex Salmond [pictured], one of the country's best-known politicians, has appeared in court accused of sex crimes including attempting to rape a woman at the leader's official residence. Salmond faces a total of 14 charges of attempted rape, sexual assault and indecent assault against 10 women.