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**SERIOUS CRIMES INCLUDING RAPE AND KIDNAPPINGS HAVE RECORDED A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OVER THE PAST NINE MONTHS**

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**BALANCED BUDGET FOR 2020 NOW UNDER LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY**

P3

**ANTI-GAY DISCRIMINATION WORSE FOR MEN, SURVEY ORGANIZERS SAY, BECAUSE OF MALE HEIR ‘BLOODLINE RESPONSIBILITY’ CULTURE**

P7



**China** The Chinese government has detained more than a million Uighurs, Kazakhs and other ethnic minorities for what it calls voluntary job training. But a newly revealed classified blueprint shows that the camps Beijing runs in China’s far west are instead secret centers for forced ideological and behavioral re-education.  
More on p11

**Philippines** President Rodrigo Duterte has fired Vice President Leni Robredo from a government body against illegal drugs, less than three weeks after appointing her to help run it. Robredo, who heads the opposition Liberal Party, said yesterday that she will issue a report to the nation on what she learned during her brief stint as co-chair of the Inter-Agency Committee on Anti-Illegal Drugs.

**Thailand** A court yesterday acquitted the son of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra of money laundering in a case involving \$328 million in loans extended by a state-run bank to a real estate developer when his father held power.

**Pakistan** Queen Maxima of the Netherlands has arrived in Pakistan on a three-day visit as a U.N. representative for inclusive finance. She was received yesterday by senior officials from the foreign ministry and representatives of Dutch Embassy at the Nur Khan air base outside the capital, Islamabad.

**Libya** Officials from an armed group fighting for control of Libya’s capital say a U.S. military drone was shot down last week by mistake. The self-styled Libyan National Army has already said it shot down an Italian drone in recent days.

More on backpage

DECEMBER 18-20

# XI JINPING HANDOVER STOPOVER

P5



## THE INCREDIBLE LANDSLIDE WIN FOR HONG KONG’S DEMOCRATS

AP PHOTO



P8-9

**MUST PRESIDENT BECOMES FIRST MACAU REPRESENTATIVE AT CAE**

The President of the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST), Liu Liang, has become the first Macau representative at the Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE). On November 22, CAE announced that Liu had joined the organization. Liu Liang is a Chair Professor at MUST. He is also the Director of the State Key Laboratory of Quality Research in Chinese Medicine. Prof. Liu received his doctorate of Philosophy from the Guangzhou University of Traditional Chinese Medicine in Medicine (Integration of Chinese and Western Medicine) in 1990. In 1991, Liu, studied the German Language at Shanghai Institute of Foreign Language Studies.

**LAWMAKER ASKS ABOUT OCEAN WORLD LAND PLOT**

Lawmaker Sulu Sou has written an interpellation asking the local government about the former Ocean World land plot. The plot of land, which is located at Estrada Almirante Marques Esparteiro, occupies an area of 130,000 square meters. In 2008, the local government argued that the developer of the land plot failed to fulfill its obligation to use the land. In 2018, the local government announced that the land plot had expired. Sou pointed out that the city still does not know when the local government will take back the land plot. He wants the local government to explain whether it will start planning for the land plot's future utilization, while also prioritizing the building of environmental protective facilities.

**BETTER MANAGEMENT WANTED FOR RESERVED PARKING SPACES**

Lawmaker Lam Lon Wai has urged the local government to supervise the use of reserved parking spaces for government vehicles. In his interpellation to the government, Lam noted that, currently the local government has nearly 1,000 reserved parking spaces. In Lam's understanding, many of the cars that park in these spaces do not have a governmental car plate, nor a parking license issued by the Transport Bureau, which means that many unqualified cars are illegally occupying these areas. Lam suspects that these parking spaces have been misused. He also pointed out that some of these reserved parking spaces are frequently left unused, leaving the public unhappy with the situation. Lam has urged the local government to review the issue and reduce the inappropriate occupation.

**CRIME**

**SCAMMERS DEFRAUD MONEY EXCHANGERS WITH TOILET PAPER AND PLAY MONEY**

JULIE ZHU

**T**WO illegal currency exchangers fell victim to a money exchange scam in which the scammers used toilet paper and play money as real banknotes, the Judiciary Police (PJ) reported yesterday.

In the first case, the victim was a mainland resident who works in Macau for an illegal currency exchange service; the suspect was a 25-year-old self-proclaimed businessman from the mainland.

On November 21, the suspect contacted the victim to exchange money into HKD. They made an appointment for later on the same day in a hotel room located in Cotai. Upon meeting, the suspect claimed he had won 180,000 Hong Kong dollars from gambling and wanted to exchange the money for RMB.

As requested by his "customer", the victim transferred 160,000 yuan into a bank account whose details were provided by the suspect. After the victim transferred the money, the suspect dropped a bag in the bathroom and told the victim that all the Hong Kong dollars were inside the bag. Suspicious of this abnormal drop, the victim called the hotel room's security to hold the suspect.

The suspect, the security guard, and the victim then returned to the bathroom. There, the victim found that the money inside the bags consisted of just toilet paper.

When he was later questioned by a PJ officer, the suspect refused to admit to his crimes, claiming that there was real money inside the bag. He also refused to cooperate.

In the second case, the suspect was a 51-year-old mainland woman, while the victim was a mainland man in his twenties who frequently and illegally exchanged currencies inside local casinos.

The victim claims that he was gambling in Macau with his family last week. The victim told the police officers he wanted to exchange 200,000 Hong Kong

JULIE ZHU



dollars for a total of 181,500 yuan.

The victim then contacted the suspect who he had met through a chance conversation on the street.

The victim transferred the stipulated amount of RMB to the suspect. The suspect then gave the victim a transparent bag. However, the victim found out that the money inside the bags was play money.

Upon the PJ's questioning of the suspect, she said that she had been hired by other people for 500 yuan in order to perform the scam.

Both scammers were referred to the prosecution authority under the charge of aggravated fraud involving a large amount.

**FOUR LOCALS REPORT PHONE SCAMS**

Four local residents and one non-local student have reported to the police authority that they have fallen victim to phone scams.

In these five reports, all cri-

minals pretended to be members of either mainland China or Macau's judicial departments.

The scammers were said to have similarly told the victims that they were involved in illegal practices in mainland China, and that they were required to pay a fee in order that the so-called "mainland government" would process their cases.

All four local victims claimed large losses due to the scams. A woman in her twenties claimed a total loss of over 80,000 Hong Kong dollars; another local woman in her twenties reported a total loss of 430,000 Hong Kong dollars; a third woman in her twenties claimed a total loss of 70,000 Hong Kong dollars; a fourth local woman in her fifties, a casino dealer, said she lost 95,000 yuan.

The first self-proclaimed victim said that she had received a scam call on November 21. The scammers posed as mainland police officers and told the victim that she committed crimes

in mainland China.

In the second case, the criminals pretended to be civil servants of Macau's courts, and told the victim that she needed to pay a visit to Fujian in order for her case to be processed.

In the third case, the victim, who is a salesman, said that a fake female police officer purporting to be from the Macau immigration authority defrauded her and that she transferred the money to a mainland bank account.

In the fourth case, the dealer also claimed to have received calls from fake immigration officers.

Compared to these large losses, a mainland student appears to have lost just a "little", according to the PJ. In his first year of a Masters program in Macau, this student lost 6,400 yuan to scammers who claimed to be police officers from the immigration authority of Macau. They told the victim that he was restricted from leaving the territory due to his crime.

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Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak (second from right)

# Violent crime continues to grow, rape surges by 68%

RENATO MARQUES

**C**RIMES involving some form of violence have recorded a significant increase in Macau over the past nine months. This comes after the presentation of the criminality report for the first three quarters of 2019.

The report presented by the

Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, yesterday morning noted that crimes such as rape have surged by 68.4% from January to September, totaling 32 cases.

Following the same trend were crimes such as kidnapping and unlawful detention, which are often related to gambling debts to loan sharks. In the same period, they registered an in-

crease of 19.8% to a total of 278 cases, as reported by the police forces.

In the first nine months of this year, a total of 523 cases of violent crime were registered, an increase of 16.2% when compared with the same period last year.

The Secretary, as on other occasions, downplayed the results, saying that although these types

of crimes continue to increase, the “most serious ones” that make an attempt on the life of citizens, such as homicide or aggravated bodily harm, continue to register a very low occurrence.

Among the crimes against property, which grew in number by 21.6%, were scams that totaled 1,059 cases and topped the list of crimes against personal

property. The figure accounts for the occurrence of an average of about four cases of scams per day during the first nine months.

Crimes of theft and appropriation crimes bucked the trend, decreasing by 4.1% and 9.6% respectively.

## ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION ON THE RISE

Also rising significantly over the past nine months was the number of cases related to illegal immigration, which recorded an increase of over 25%, and registered a total of 751 cases.

Of this figure, a large majority (658) of the cases involved people from mainland China, with the remaining 93 people arriving from a range of different countries and regions.

In the same period, 308 people were found to be in an illegal situation due to over-staying in the region, a high number that nevertheless represents a slight reduction when compared with last year's 345 cases, representing a decrease of 1.7%.

Dropping significantly was the number of infractions committed by taxi drivers. The drop of 35% year-on-year was related to the enforcement in June this year of the new taxi law that, according to Wong, is producing “noticeable effects.”

The Secretary highlighted that between June and September, the Public Security Police Force registered a total of 322 cases of infringements, a figure that represents a significant decrease when compared with the same period of last year, when there were 527 cases recorded.

Nevertheless, the number of cases for the first three quarters totaled almost 3,000, of which 1,894 refer to overcharging, 614 to refusal to provide transportation to passengers, and 99 to the provision of an illegal transportation service.

# Government expects a balanced budget in 2020

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE Macau government expects that 2020 will be a balanced year in terms of the budget, with cuts to expenditure to compensate for the expected slowdown in revenue.

The budget proposal, presented and passed on the first reading last week, is currently under analysis at the second standing committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL) and proposes cutting total expenditure in order to keep up with marginal growth on receipts that are expected to grow by 0.3% to a total of MOP122.7



billion, the government estimates in the bill.

The reduction in government expenditure is expected

to hit 2.6%, taking the total to MOP100.7 billion, a figure that represents a saving of MOP2.65 billion in

2020. The amount will contribute to next year's forecast surplus of MOP22 billion.

## REVENUE FROM GAMING UNCHANGED

At the Legislative Assembly, Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong also noted that the government expects the government revenue drawn from gaming taxes for the upcoming year to remain the same as in 2019 at about 91 billion patacas.

Leong added that the figure comes directly from the projected gross gaming revenue of 260 billion patacas, a figure that if confir-

med would represent a further gaming slowdown than that already recorded in the first 10 months of the year. As of the end of October, gaming revenue was down 1.8% year-on-year compared with the same period of 2018.

## GOVERNMENT RENTS TOP CONCERNS

The rental amounts paid by the government to private owners for spaces and the exponential increase in the budgeted amount to support the 6th Ministerial Conference of the Forum of Economic and Trade Cooperation between China

and Portuguese-speaking Countries were two of the topics that gathered attention and concern from the lawmakers regarding the budget bill for 2020.

Regarding the first issue, the lawmakers expressed concern over a significant increase in the amount the government must give to private owners for space occupied by public services and facilities, which is expected to grow next year by 20% to a total of MOP1.2 billion.

Equally concerning is the budget hike for the Ministerial Conference, which may climb to as much as MOP231 million. In 2018, the Conference cost MOP87 million, a figure that will almost triple in 2020.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

# DSAL open to health proof requirement for domestic helpers

JULIE ZHU

**T**HE Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) is open to the prospect of requiring non-local workers, in particular domestic helpers, to submit their proof of health.

In a reply to lawmaker Lei Chan U's interpellation, DSAL acting director Chan Un Tong said that the bureau must be cautious when considering the imposition of such requirements and should consider the current situation of society.

Chan explained that mandatorily requiring non-local residents to submit proof of health in order to work in Macau as domestic helpers involves personal data, therefore the requirement should be in line with the city's personal protection regulation.



In addition, when the DSAL processes domestic helpers' applications, the bureau would need to consider the employers' offers and the working conditions proposed for them.

Currently, when an applicant receives approval to hire a domestic helper, the applicant can decide whether or not to request that the concerned worker undergo a medical check-up, with fees for the check-up being covered by the employer.

Since 2008, the local government has required Vietnamese domestic helpers to present criminal records when they are applying for a visa to work in Macau.

In terms of extending this regulation to all domestic helpers, the DSAL says it will continue listening to society's opinions.

# CAEAL INVESTIGATING BY-ELECTION FOR LAW BREACH

**L**AWMAKER-ELECT Wang Sai Man is under investigation by the Electoral Affairs Commission for the Legislative Assembly Election (CAEAL) for an alleged violation of the Legislative Assembly Election Law, the president of the CAEAL, Tong Hio Fong, told the media on Sunday evening after announcing the election results.

According to the Tong, the basis of the investigation is a piece of information received by the CAEAL claiming that the

sole candidate had campaigned on voting day, which, if proved, would violate the law.

For the time being, while the CAEAL continues to perform election-related procedures, including verification procedures and the assumption of membership of the Legislative Assembly (AL) by the elected candidate, the case has been referred to the police authorities for further investigation, Tong advised.

If Wang were eventually found

guilty of any criminal offence, the AL would then handle the case according to its internal regulations.

Of the ballots cast, Wang, representing the "União dos Interesses Empresariais de Macau," received 813. There were five blank ballots and four ballots rendered invalid.

A total of 822 ballots have been cast from 920 eligible voters, a figure that represents a voter turnout rate of approximately 89%. **RM**

# CONSUMER PRICES INCREASE 2.86% IN OCTOBER

**T**HE Composite Consumer Price Index for October 2019 increased by 2.86% year-on-year to reach 102.68, according to data released yesterday by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).

The growth in consumer prices, seen as a key indicator of inflation, increased by 0.13 percentage points from the 2.73% year-on-year growth in September 2019. DSEC attributed the increase to higher

charges for eating out, rising rentals for dwellings and dearer pork and gasoline prices, among other goods.

Analyzed by categories of goods and services, the price index of food and non-alcoholic beverages grew 4.76% year-on-year, while that of education and transport increased by 5.24% and 4.85%, respectively.

Meanwhile, the index for clothing and footwear dropped by 1.93% year-on-year and that

of communication slipped 2.57%.

The average Composite CPI for the first 10 months of 2019 showed growth of 2.78% when compared to the same period of last year, with the growth led by those households with a higher overall monthly expenditure.

The Composite CPI reflects the impact of price changes on general households in Macau. **DB**

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# President Xi to arrive on December 18, gov't sources say

PAULO COUTINHO,  
DANIEL BEITLER

**C**HINESE President Xi Jinping will visit Macau between December 18 and 20, sources familiar with the matter have revealed to the Times, notwithstanding the unrest in the neighboring special administration region which cast doubt on whether the pre-planned and widely-anticipated visit would go ahead.

According to the sources, which requested anonymity because they are not authorized to speak to the media, President Xi will join the celebrations for the 20th anniversary of the handover of Macau to Chinese sovereignty.

The Times has also learned from a source close to the government in Lisbon that Prime Minister António Costa – recently elected for a second term in office – may also come to Macau to attend the ceremony. However, the Consulate General of Portugal in Macau and Hong Kong has said that there is yet no record of a formal invitation



In this December 2014 file photo, Xi Jinping is seen visiting the Macau SAR

being issued.

The Consul General of Portugal in Macau and Hong Kong, Paulo Alves, has informed the Times that “as of now, we have no information of who is coming, or even if someone is coming.”

Usually, Portuguese high officials are not invited to the MSAR's anniversary day, however, this is a special one.

“We see this as a Chinese celebration, but that doesn't mean that this time, being a landmark

anniversary – or in the future – this could not change,” the Portuguese diplomat added. However, “as of [yesterday], no invitation had been sent to Portugal” or its missions in China.

The Macau Government

Spokesperson Office did not immediately respond to our enquiry yesterday on the details of President Xi's visit, nor whether the Portuguese Prime Minister would be in attendance.

Xi last visited Macau in December 2014 to mark the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the SAR and oversee the appointment of Chui Sai On for a second term as Chief Executive. Xi used the occasion to urge Macau to reduce its reliance on the gaming sector and in doing so set a principal objective for the local government that remains a priority to this day.

In January, Xi's anticipated 2019 visit to Macau was confirmed by the security chief of Guangdong Province, who said the President would “join the celebrations for the 20th anniversary in Macau [...] and] deliver an important speech.”

Reports of Xi's visit were later called into question after protests and violence erupted in Hong Kong in opposition to a controversial extradition bill and what is regarded as mainland encroachment on the city's freedoms and its semi-autonomous status.

The Chinese President also visited the neighboring city of Zhuhai last year to preside over the opening of the delta-spanning Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge on October 23. He did not cross over to the Macau or Hong Kong sides of the bridge.

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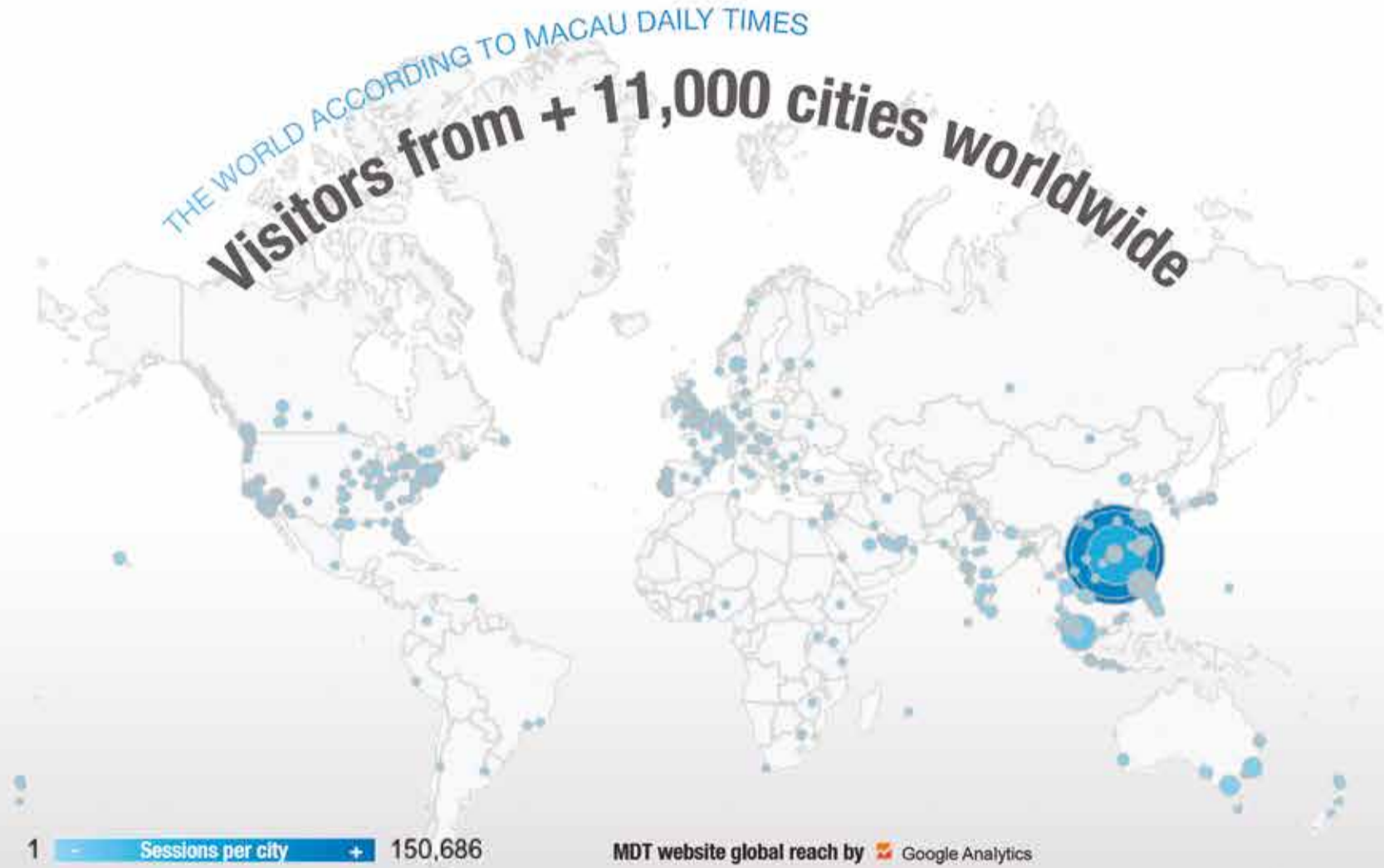
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“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”

# Survey shows gay community face more discrimination, suicidal thoughts

LYNZY VALLES

A recent survey shows that discrimination against the LGBT+ community stands at 7.17 points out of 10, with gay people experience higher levels of discrimination compared to persons of other sexual orientations.

Conducted by gay rights group Rainbow of Macau, the research collected a total of 994 responses, the largest sample size compared to the surveys it conducted in 2013 and 2016, which gathered 186 and 715 valid responses respectively.

Jason Chao, founder of the non-governmental organization, said that suicidal thoughts in members of the LGBT+ community have been a severe problem, according to previous findings from the LGBT+ Survey.

This year's survey shows that 14% of LGBT+ people in Macau have considered committing suicide, with gay men exhibiting a significantly higher percentage of experiencing suicidal thoughts (18.9%) compared to lesbian women (11.2%).

Chao expressed his hope that the recent data would provide information to academics and po-



licy-makers to form the basis of the enhancement of the LGBT+ community's quality of life.

"Gay people deserve higher attention because they are more likely to have suicidal thoughts, perceive more severe discrimination and are less happy," Chao said during a press conference.

Meanwhile, a higher percentage of gay men (38.5%) experienced verbal assault because of their sexual orientation.

The discrimination figure for gays is at least 10% higher than all other sexual orientation

groups. The discrimination figures are 27.1% for bisexual males, 25.4% for lesbians, and 14.2% for bisexual females.

"It is understandable that gay people feel a higher level of discrimination," Chao remarked.

"We can say that gay people reported a higher level of discrimination [because] in the traditional Chinese culture, male heirs have the responsibility to sustain the bloodline of the family, so taking into account a lot of social factors, gay people bear higher pressure," he added.

The study also shows that the occurrence of domestic violence within the LGBT+ communities is alarming, as it revealed that 22% of respondents have experienced domestic violence perpetrated by their intimate partners.

Rainbow of Macau presented the data to the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) yesterday in a bid to inform the bureau on how to better assist the LGBT+ community.

The association has called for an enhancement to the well-being of the LGBT+ community,

recommending that the government commence visible and effective de-stigmatization work and improve the family acceptance of LGBT+ people.

"It is important for the government to carry out the work in a more visible manner," said Chao.

"We communicated to the IAS that although you claim your services are inclusive, you need to be more visible and raise awareness on how inclusive your access is," he added.

Chao further noted that they had encouraged the IAS to be "more visible" and raise awareness on how inclusive their services are.

"We hope that through [these measures], we can improve the happiness of the LGBT+ community," he added.

The survey shows that LGBT+ people in Macau tend to be unhappy, with an average Happiness Index of 4.5 points, on the scale of 1 to 10 in an ascending level of happiness.

The survey determined that gay and bisexual males tend to be less happy. It was also discovered that the level of acceptance in a family toward the spectrum of sexual orientation and the level of happiness experienced correlate positively.

## MUST to host football games sponsored by Wynn



Linda Chen (center left) and Pang Chuan (center right)

ON December 7 and 8, the Wynn Cup Football Challenge will be held at the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST), featuring incumbent Macau Elite League Champions, the MUST CPK Football

Team, and the Guangzhou R&F Football Club from the Chinese Super League.

The event is sponsored by Wynn Macau's corporate social responsibility program, WynnCare.

On the first day, the

WynnCare U14 match will be held alongside some charity football events. On the following day, retired names in football such as goalkeeper Chan Tat Sun, Lam Ka Kui, Chiang Chong Man, Chiu Chong Man and

Iu Hok Man, will step on the pitch for the Wynn Invitation Game, played between the all-star teams from Hong Kong and Macau.

Closing the day will be the Wynn Handover Cup, held at 4:30 p.m. on December 8. MUST CPK and Guangzhou R&F will compete for the celebratory trophy.

Linda Chen, Vice President and Executive Director of Wynn Macau S.A., said that the game series will not only bring together professional teams, but also offer opportunities for youth and disabled teams to enjoy themselves. Harmonious co-existence is the core of the event, Chen said.

To conclude, Pang Chuan, President of the MUST Alumni Association, stressed that the association has been supporting the development of sports and culture in Macau. Pang expects communications between the Macau SAR and Guangdong will be enhanced in future. **AL**

## RETAIL SALES RECORD SLIGHT DROP IN THIRD QUARTER

THE value of retail sales for the third quarter of 2019 decreased by 0.5% year-on-year to 18.06 billion patacas while the sales volume dropped by 0.7%.

The sales value for the categories of adults clothing and motor vehicles recorded the largest decrease, recording a 18.1% and 9.3% year-on-year plunge respectively, according to data issued by the Statistics and Census Service.

In the same period, the value of cosmetics & sanitary articles and communication equipment rose by 15.9% and 12.9%, respectively.

For the first three quarters of 2019, the value of retail sales fell by 0.9% year-on-year to MOP56.42

billion and the volume of sales went down by 0.9%.

In respect of retailers' views on this, 47.9% of the retailers expected the sales volume in the fourth quarter of 2019 to stay stable year-on-year, 42.1% forecast a decrease and only 10% anticipate an increase.

Meanwhile, 75.9% of the retailers expected the retail prices to remain steady year-on-year in the fourth quarter, 12.5% predicted a decrease and 11.6% foresaw an increase.

In the third quarter of 2019, just under half of the retailers forecast unfavorable business prospects in the fourth quarter, about 30% envisaged stable performance and 20% anticipated a favorable outlook. **LV**

# Hong Kong pro-democracy forces bolstered

JULIA FIORETTI,  
IAIN MARLOW & FION LI

**H**ONG Kong residents handed an overwhelming victory to pro-democracy candidates in a vote for local district councils on Sunday, a stunning repudiation of the city's Beijing-backed government after months of increasingly violent protests seeking meaningful elections.

Pro-democracy candidates won 86% seats of the 444 seats counted as of 9 a.m., official results showed, with eight seats still up for grabs. In the last election in 2015, they had won about a quarter of all seats. The pro-government camp won about 12% of seats this time around, versus 65% four years ago. The vote saw record turnout of 71%, with more than 2.94 million people casting ballots - roughly double the number in the previous election.

The vote came at a time of unprecedented political polarization in the city, with divisions hardening as the protests become more disruptive and the government refuses to compromise. While the district councils are considered the lowest rung of Hong Kong's government, the results will add pressure on the government to meet demands including an independent inquiry into police abuses and the ability to nominate and elect the city's leader, including one who would stand up to Beijing.

"The government respects the results of this election," Chief Executive Carrie Lam said in a statement yesterday. "I am aware there's lots of analysis about the results among the community, which said the results are a reflection of the public's dissatisfaction towards the current situation and deep-seated problems in society. The government will listen to the public's feedback with humility and reflect on it."

Speaking to reporters in Japan, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said the result wouldn't change the fact that Hong Kong is part of Chinese territory. Leaders in Beijing have accused the U.S. and U.K. of meddling in Hong Kong affairs, and refuse to allow the city to have a leader who won't be accountable to the central government.

"Any efforts to create chaos in Hong Kong or to damage Hong Kong's stability and prosperity will not succeed," Wang said.

The district councilors have few real powers, mostly advising the chief executive on mat-

AP PHOTO



ters like fixing up parks and organizing community activities. Most importantly, they help appoint 117 of the 1,200 electors who select the chief executive, which would give pro-democracy forces more choice over candidates who must still be approved by Beijing.

The result will make it harder for establishment forces to put in their preferred candidate in the next race for chief executive, said James Tien, a former pro-establishment lawmaker.

"It will be very difficult for government to manage a win, and then I think it's more difficult to govern right now," he told Bloomberg Television yesterday. If the violence dies down after the vote, he said, the government will have "no excuse" not to appoint a commission of inquiry by January.

The vote shows dissatisfac-

tion with Lam's government following months of protests triggered by legislation allowing extraditions to mainland China, which has since been withdrawn. Unhappiness with the administration rose to 80% from just 40% a year ago - well before the unrest began - according to surveys by the Hong Kong Public Opinion Research

**"An overwhelming majority of voters have sent a clear signal: they want their Hong Kong back."**

STEVE TSANG  
SOAS CHINA INSTITUTE

ch Institute. Lam's popularity has fallen to record lows as the protests evolved into a wider pushback against Beijing's grip.

Hong Kong "is at the precipi-

ce" and could fall off if authorities don't heed the message of the vote, said Steve Tsang, the director of the China Institute at London's School of Oriental and African Studies and the author of several books on Hong Kong.

"An overwhelming majority of voters have sent a clear signal: they want their Hong Kong back," Tsang said. "It's now time for the government in Hong Kong to hear what people have said and use this electoral result and the way this election has happened as a basis to work for a political solution."

The vote has been closely watched around the world, particularly as U.S. lawmakers look to support the protesters while President Donald Trump seeks to finalize a phase one trade deal with China. Trump on Fri-

day declined to say whether he would sign a bill that passed Congress with near-unanimous support, saying he supports both the demonstrators and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Elizabeth Warren, a leading Democratic candidate for president, said the vote sent a "powerful message that they want to keep their democracy - and Beijing must respect that."

Among the early winners were Civil Human Rights Front organizer Jimmy Sham, who was previously hospitalized after he was attacked by hammer-wielding thugs. Starry Lee, chairwoman of the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong, the city's largest pro-Beijing party, won her re-election even though many other pro-establishment figures lost.

"The high turnout rate did benefit the pro-democracy camp," said pro-democracy candidate Kelvin Lam, who won after standing in for acti-



# by landslide election win

## HONG KONG

# Stocks rally on election calm

**HONG** Kong stocks climbed after pro-democracy candidates swept the board in district council elections, putting pressure on the city's government to address issues that have fueled months of protests.

The Hang Seng Index was 1.5% higher in early afternoon trading after opening above its 100-day moving average. The gain was led by developers and other stocks seen as most sensitive to the demonstrations. Analysts and investors also said the moves showed relief that the Sunday vote - which saw record turnout - went ahead peacefully.

"Investors expect that the result will prompt the government to respond some key issues with more reasonable measures," said Andy Wong, a fund manager at LW Asset Management. "If some of these issues could be handled peacefully and smoothly, then the market may have confidence that violence may stop in near future."

Wharf Real Estate Investment and Hang Lung Properties Ltd. were among the top performers on Monday, while MTR Corp., which operates the city's underground railway, climbed 2.2%. The MSCI Hong Kong Index gained 1.9%.

"There is this relief that pro-democracy protesters are now being represented, and the government has to deal with this," said Airy Lau, an investment director at Fair Capital Management Ltd. "I don't think the government will respond in a harsh way."

Here's what others are saying about Monday's market reaction in Hong Kong:

"It will be difficult for Beijing to ignore these results. The people have spoken, and now the ball is in Beijing's court," said Stephen Innes, chief Asia market strategist at AxiTrader.

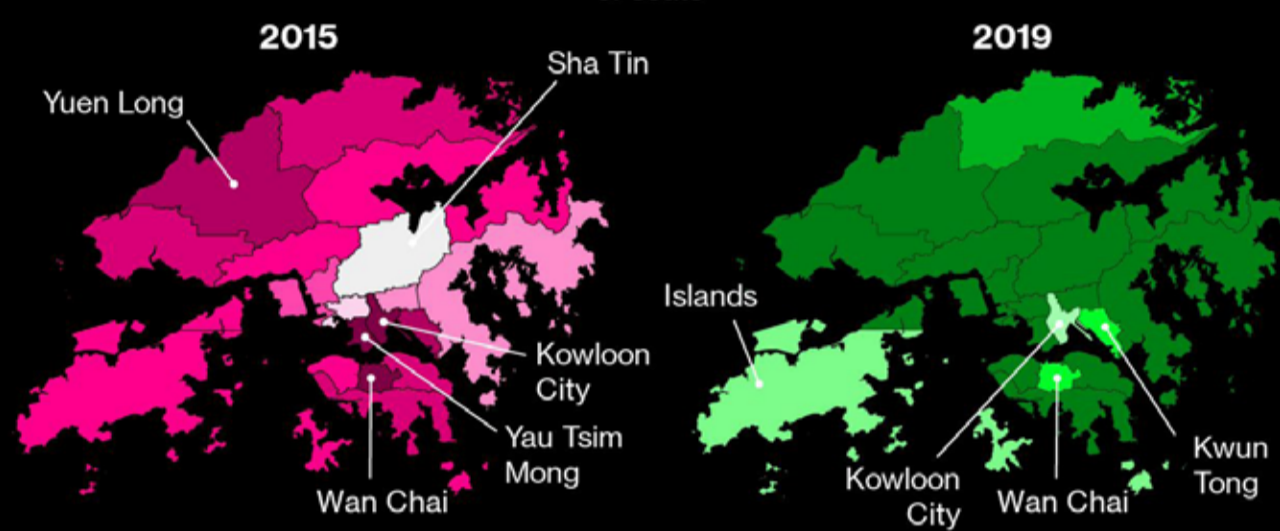
"People are betting the Hong Kong government will do more to improve people's well-being, including more supply of public housing, job creation, and economic stimulus, to help boost confidence in the government and stop violence," said Banny Lam, head of research at CEB International Investment Corp.

"There wasn't much conflict over the weekend. A stabler situation in local protests help boost market sentiment," said Tracy Chan, analyst at KGI Asia.

"Longer term, there is still little clarity as to Hong Kong's special status. Of course, markets want to rebound because this short-term uncertainty is out of the way. But fundamentally, not a lot has changed," said Hao Hong, head of research at Bocom International. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

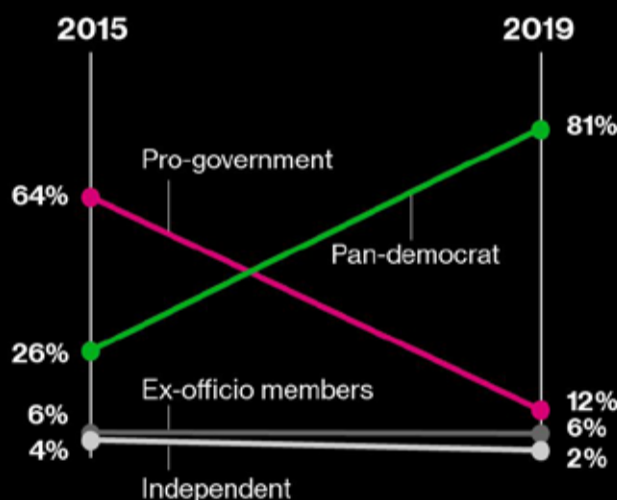
## Pro-Democracy Candidates Sweep All 18 Districts

Difference in the share of seats held by the two main camps



Source: Hong Kong Registration and Electoral Office  
 Note: Results with more than 99.8 percent of seats reported. Ex-officio members are not elected seats.

**Bloomberg**



vist Joshua Wong, who was banned by the government from participating. "The result is like a referendum of the current administration, like a confidence vote."

The election unfolded peacefully despite con-

cerns it could be delayed or disrupted by violence following unrest in the leadup, with voters facing unusually long lines at polling stations across the city. Its elections have typically been plagued by low

voter turnout and aren't hugely competitive, compared with those for the Hong Kong's more powerful Legislative Council, which is due for an election next year.

"I came out to vote be-

cause of the current situation in society now," said Ken Lam, 19, a student and first-time voter. "The government is ignoring voices in the public. Policy-making lacks transparency in every aspect." **BLOOMBERG**



## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

The Greater Bay project is coming and it will bring both opportunities and challenges to our little-big town. Macau Daily Times wants to hear your voice. We invite our readers to write in with Letters to the Editor on the topic of the Greater Bay Area.

Please email your letters to [gba@macaudailytimes.com](mailto:gba@macaudailytimes.com)

AD

# LVMH TO BUY TIFFANY FOR \$16 BILLION IN LARGEST LUXURY-GOODS DEAL EVER

**F**RANCE'S richest man is adding the biggest jewel yet to his collection, as Bernard Arnault clinched a deal to buy Tiffany & Co. for \$16.2 billion.

If history is any guide, the LVMH chairman will move quickly to apply his tried-and-tested formula for growth to the tarnished U.S. brand: simultaneously expanding its presence across the world, especially in promising Asian markets, while boosting exclusivity and prices.

It's a difficult balance, but one that Arnault has been honing over three decades as he assembled a stable of luxury labels ranging from Louis Vuitton bags to Dom Perignon Champagne to Bulgari jewelry. While he's had a few missteps, including purchases of Donna Karan and Marc Jacobs, LVMH has grown into the industry's dominant player, with a market value of 205 billion euros (\$226 billion). Arnault's personal fortune has swelled to nearly half that amount.

"We will get our inspiration from our experience with Bulgari," Arnault said in an interview. "We modernized and expanded their product lines. We reviewed their look. We reviewed communications."

The 182-year-old U.S. jeweler, known for its robin's egg blue boxes and a role in Truman Capote's "Breakfast at Tiffany's," is a cultural icon in the U.S., but its reliance on that market and struggles of



late have undermined its appeal. Tiffany's operating margin of 17% is about half the level of LVMH rival Richemont's jewelry business, which includes Cartier and Van Cleef & Arpels.

Arnault signaled he's already looking at next steps for Tiffany, after sealing a deal over the weekend and announcing it yesterday morning. Since buying Bulgari, LVMH has moved the product line upmarket while emphasizing the brand's Roman

heritage and aesthetics. Marketing was focused on what Arnault described as emblematic pieces. Sales have doubled since the 2011 acquisition, with profits increasing fivefold, he said.

LVMH also made Bulgari a more credible player in watches and upgraded its store network with better flagship sites, said Luca Solca, an analyst at Sanford C. Bernstein. The company has a wealth of experience in brand communications and is better at

social media than Tiffany, he said.

"Applying this marketing and communication machinery should go a long way in making Tiffany more relevant in design jewelry and watches," he said.

LVMH should add more products in the key luxury price segment of \$1,000 to \$10,000, Solca said. Women's watches are a big opportunity, he said, given that Tiffany has only a small presence in timepieces and the French company has plenty of experien-

ce in that business as the owner of TAG Heuer, Chaumet, Hublot and Zenith.

LVMH agreed to pay \$135 a share for the U.S. jeweler, a 37% premium above the price before Bloomberg reported an initial approach in late October. The shares rose as much as 2% in morning trading in Paris, approaching a record. Tiffany climbed almost 6% to \$132.80 in premarket trading in New York.

The purchase will add 500 million euros to 600 million euros to operating profit in the first year, and LVMH will finance it by issuing bonds as yields stand between 0% and 1%, Arnault said.

Tiffany remains highly dependent on the domestic market, with the U.S. accounting for about 41% of sales.

"Tiffany is an iconic, emblematic brand of America, with a great history," Arnault said. "The weakness area is Europe - and that, we know what to do and how to address. And there is a great potential in China."

The Tiffany deal is LVMH's biggest ever and the first major acquisition since Bernard Arnault branched out by striking a deal for the Belmond hotel group last year. The French company's 75 brands now span everything from fashion to suitcases to Cognac.

When asked what's next on his list of acquisition targets, Arnault laughed and said, "One thing at a time." **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

## With HK rebound uncertain, Christie's advises buying London property

**L**ONDON and Hong Kong, two premier financial hubs, have been stifled by ongoing political tension. But for real estate, the cities face different futures, according to the property arm of the world's largest auction house.

Prices in London, suppressed in part as the U.K. grapples with Brexit, will rebound quickly, said Dan Conn, chief executive officer of Christie's International Real Estate. But improvement is far less certain in Hong Kong, after five months of violent protests, he said.

The three-year fight over Brexit may be coming to a head with the Dec. 12 general election. Conservative Prime Minister Boris Johnson is gambling an

election will finally give him the numbers in Parliament to push through Britain's often-delayed divorce from the European Union.

His rival, Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, could put the whole thing to a second referendum, though he is trailing badly in polls. The EU has granted a three-month Brexit delay to Jan. 31.

### LONDON CALLING

Conn likes London because the U.K. market has been "hammered" for years, offering deals in what he calls a "great market." Home prices in London's most expensive districts have declined by 20.4% since their peak in 2014, according to broker Savills Plc. Brexit has also weighed on

pricing, with values down 13.6% since the referendum vote, the broker's data show.

"It's depressed - it has the potential to come back relatively quickly," Conn said in an interview in New York. "If you're a buyer now, you can take advantage of the last four or five years that have been not so great."

But Johnson may impose a potential roadblock. His party said it plans to hit foreign buyers in England with a new tax intended to cool prices and help locals begin buying again.

### HONG KONG ON HOLD

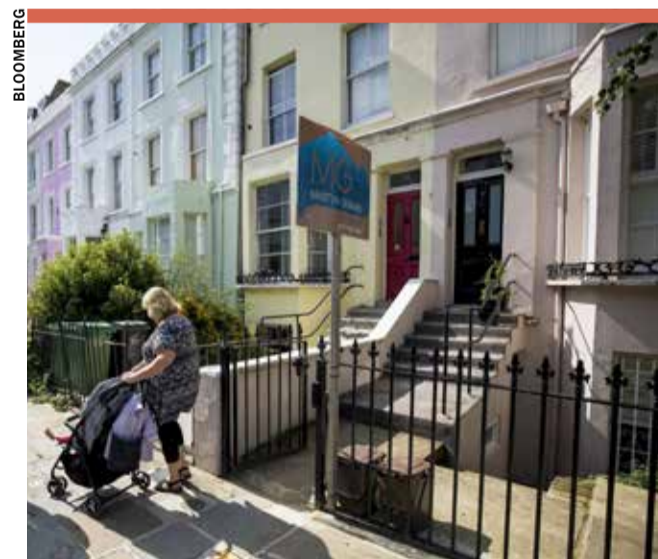
In Hong Kong, the standoff with pro-democracy protesters has continued to dampen investor confidence - with no immediate sign of resolution.

Earlier this month, the city revised down its estimate for economic growth this year, with the government now forecasting the first annual contraction since the global financial crisis a decade ago. That makes any prediction for a rebound less certain.

"If you bought in Hong Kong two years ago, and you had to be a seller today, yeah, you probably have a little bit of indigestion," he said.

In Asia, Conn likes Taiwan. It's "now becoming a perceived relatively safe place to deploy capital because it has great infrastructure, and there's a good concentration of wealth," he said.

Looking ahead, a broader economic downturn



is another challenge for real estate globally. Conn doesn't anticipate a recession until the next U.S. president is sworn in following the elections in November 2020. "If you looked at it in the ordinary course, my guess would be 2021 at the earliest, but probably not much later either," he said.

While interest rates are low, even lower ones wou-

ld help, Conn says. He can't remember a time when so many geopolitical factors - from trade wars, Hong Kong protests, Brexit, to state and local tax deductability in U.S. - are lining up against property investors.

"I've been surprised by the policies of the current administration because they don't favor real estate in a lot of cases," Conn said. **BLOOMBERG**



In this Sep. 17, 2018, file satellite image provided by Planet Labs, buildings are seen around the Kunshan Industrial Park in Artux in western China's Xinjiang region

# Secret documents reveal how China mass detention camps work

**T**HE Chinese government has detained more than a million Uighurs, Kazakhs and other ethnic minorities for what it calls voluntary job training. But a newly revealed classified blueprint shows that the camps Beijing runs in China's far west are instead secret centers for forced ideological and behavioral re-education.

The confidential documents, leaked to a consortium of international journalists, lay out the Chinese government's deliberate strategy to lock up minorities, most of whom are Muslims, to rewire their thoughts and even the language they speak.

The documents stipulate watch towers, double-locked doors and blanket video surveillance "to prevent escapes." They describe an elaborate scoring system that grades detainees on how well they speak the dominant Mandarin language, memorize ideology and adhere to strict rules on everything down to bathing and using the toilet.

They also show how Beijing is pioneering a new form of social control using data and artificial intelligence. With the help of mass surveillance technology, computers issued the names of tens of

thousands of people for interrogation or detention in just one week, including university students and party officials who wouldn't need vocational training.

Taken as a whole, the documents give the most significant description yet of how the mass detention camps work in the words of the Chinese government itself.

Experts say they spell out a vast system that targets, surveils and grades entire ethnicities to forcibly assimilate them — especially Uighurs, a Turkic minority of about 10 million with their own language and culture.

"They confirm that this is a form of cultural genocide," said Adrian Zenz, a leading security expert in the far western region of Xinjiang, where many Uighurs live. "It really shows that from the onset, the Chinese government had a plan."

Zenz said the documents echo the aim of the camps as outlined in a 2017 report from a local branch of the Xinjiang Ministry of Justice: To "wash brains, cleanse hearts, support the right, remove the wrong."

China has struggled for deca-

des to control Xinjiang, where hundreds, both Uighurs and Han Chinese, have died in terror attacks, reprisals and race riots. In 2014, Chinese President Xi Jinping launched what he called a "People's War on Terror" in response to terror attacks carried out by radical Uighur militants.

## The documents show direct links between the internment camps and the extreme digital surveillance in Xinjiang

In late 2016, the crackdown intensified dramatically when Xi named Chen Quanguo, a hardline official transferred from Tibet, as Xinjiang's new head. Most of the documents were issued in 2017.

"Since the measures have been taken, there's no single terrorist incident in the past three years," said a written response from the Chinese Embassy in the United Kingdom. "Xinjiang is much safer...The so-called leaked docu-

ments are fabrication and fake news."

The statement said that religious freedom and the personal freedom of detainees was "fully respected" in Xinjiang.

The documents came from an anonymous source, and the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists verified them by consulting experts, cross-checking content and comparing signatures. They consist of a notice with guidelines for the camps, four bulletins on how to use technology to target people, and a court case sentencing a local Uighur party official to 10 years in prison for telling colleagues not to say dirty words, watch porn or eat without praying.

Issued to rank-and-file officials by the powerful Xinjiang Communist Party Political and Legal Affairs Commission, the documents confirm what is known about the camps from the testimony of Uighurs and Kazakhs, satellite imagery and highly restricted visits by journalists to the region.

Erzhan Qurban, a Chinese-born ethnic Kazakh, was held for nine months because he had spent time abroad in Kazakhstan.

Qurban said he was locked in a cell with 10 others last year, forced to sit rigidly for hours and forbidden to pray or even talk.

"It wasn't education, it was just punishment," said Qurban. "I was treated like an animal."

Other detainees have said there was torture or rape at the camps.

The documents show direct links between the internment camps and the extreme digital surveillance in Xinjiang. One document states that the purpose of the surveillance is "to prevent problems before they happen."

This is done through a system called the Integrated Joint Operations Platform or IJOP, built by a state-owned military contractor. The IJOP spat out the names of people considered suspicious for behavior that includes going abroad, asking others to pray or using cell phone apps that cannot be monitored by the government. These people were then called in for questioning and funneled into different parts of the system, from house arrest to detention centers with three levels of monitoring to prison.

Once inside, the documents show, detainees are subject to forced indoctrination.

The first item listed as part of the curriculum is ideological education. It is partly rooted in the ancient Chinese belief in transformation through education — taken before to terrifying extremes during the mass thought reform campaigns of Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution.

The indoctrination goes along with "manner education," where behavior is dictated, including ensuring "timely haircuts and shaves," "regular change of clothes" and "bathing once or twice a week." The tone, experts say, echoes a general perception by the Han Chinese government that Uighurs are prone to violence and need to be civilized.

Mandarin is mandated. Detainees are frequently tested on Mandarin, ideology and discipline, and their scores feed into a point system tracked by computer. Detainees who do well are to be rewarded with perks like family visits and early graduation, and those who do poorly are to be sent to a stricter "management area" with longer detention times.

Students go for "vocational skills improvement" only after at least one year of learning ideology, law and Mandarin. After they leave, the documents say, every effort should be made to get them jobs. Some detainees describe being forced to sign work contracts for low pay.

Independent experts on Chinese law say the detentions are a clear violation of China's own laws.

"They're not even trying to justify this legally," said Maggie Lewis, a professor of Chinese law at Seton Hall University. "This is arbitrary." AP

TRADE

# GOV'T SETS TOUGHER GUIDELINES TO PROTECT PATENTS, COPYRIGHTS

ELAINE KURTENBACH, BEIJING

CHINA issued new, tougher guidelines for protection of patents, copyrights and other intellectual property in a move that may be timed to help along halting progress in trade talks with the United States.

The guidelines issued late Sunday by the State Council, or Cabinet, and by the powerful Central Committee of the ruling Communist Party order beefed up laws for protecting such intellectual property rights, increased compensation for infringements and stricter enforcement of existing laws. They also lower the threshold for criminal prosecution of IPR offenses.

The new blueprint makes protection of intellectual property one of the criteria for evaluating local government officials' performance, creating a greater incentive for compliance.

In past decades, officials were judged mainly by political loyalties and economic growth in their localities. More recently, China's leaders added environmental



protection to such evaluations. Putting future promotions and income on the line could create much stronger motivation to more effectively enforce such laws.

Theft and forced transfers of technology and inadequate protection of copyrights, patents and trademarks are perennial complaints of foreign companies operating in China and are among the key issues in the latest flareup in

trade tensions. Despite much progress, "China continues to be a haven for counterfeiting, digital piracy and IP theft," the U.S. government's International Trade Administration said in a recent report.

It said piracy of U.S. intellectual property by China costs American companies up to \$600 billion a year.

Piracy is also a domestic concern. The government has long

said that companies are less likely to innovate if they cannot profit off the results of their investments due to piracy of their products and technology.

The IPR guidelines issued by the official Xinhua News Agency did not refer specifically to the trade talks. Improving those protections is the "The driver of our country's economic competitiveness," it said.

The new rules call for "greatly increasing the maximum amount of compensation for damages linked to IPR infringements" and include confiscation of illegal income, destruction of counterfeit goods.

The guidelines did not include specific penalties, which would come with later revisions of laws and regulations. They call for significantly improving the enforcement of IPR protections by 2022.

Hopes for progress in resolving the costly trade dispute between the U.S. and China have revived in recent days with upbeat comments from both sides.

President Donald Trump said Friday at an NCAA National Colle-

giate Champions Day event that the "China deal is coming along very well."

He also suggested that he might not sign a congressional resolution in support of human rights in Hong Kong following months of protests, out of concern that might derail the trade talks. A desire to keep those negotiations on track was a factor deterring China from intervening in the turmoil, he asserted.

Asked yesterday about the status of the trade talks, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesman reiterated Beijing's stance that it hopes to reach an agreement based on "mutual respect."

"We hope the U.S. side will meet us halfway," said Geng Shuang.

Asked about a decision Friday by the U.S. Federal Communications Commission to cut off government funding for equipment from two Chinese companies on grounds of national security, Geng said it would not improve U.S. national security.

The FCC has proposed requiring companies that get government subsidies to rip out any equipment from Huawei and ZTE that they already have in place.

"I would like to admonish certain people in the U.S. that if they lock all the doors on the pretext of security, in the end, they will find themselves locked out of the world," Geng said. AP

AD



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# Kim orders N. Korea artillery firing, drawing Seoul rebuke

FOSTER KLUG, PYONGYANG

**N**ORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un ordered his troops to practice firing artillery near a disputed sea boundary with rival South Korea, Pyongyang's state media reported yesterday, drawing a quick rebuke from Seoul.

It was the latest sign of impatience from Kim amid worries that nearly two years of U.S.-North Korean diplomacy will fall apart if Washington doesn't meet Pyongyang's year-end deadline to offer a new initiative to settle their long-running standoff over the North's nuclear weapons program.

The coastal artillery company's actions during Kim's visit to the west coast's Changrin Islet "fully showed their gun firing skills" and "delighted the supreme leader," according to the North's Korean Central News Agency. It didn't say when the visit took place, and it wasn't clear what specific weapons were fired.

Seoul's Unification Ministry said it was Kim's first known trip to a front-line military unit since



at least April last year, around the start of his diplomatic engagement with the U.S. Those once-promising negotiations are largely at a standstill now as North Korea steps up pressure on Washington to lift international sanctions and abandon what it calls hostile policies against the North.

When North Korea has pre-

viously spoken of removing U.S. hostility, it has meant the presence of tens of thousands of U.S. troops stationed in South Korea and Japan. Kim is believed to want a deal that provides relief from crippling sanctions against his country in return for disarmament moves that critics say would come too slowly and wouldn't significantly roll back

his nuclear program.

The islet where the recent drills took place is just north of the de facto inter-Korean maritime boundary, the scene of several bloody naval skirmishes between the rivals. In 2010, North Korea launched an artillery strike on a South Korean island just south of the boundary, killing four people. Earlier that year, North Korea is accused of torpedoing a South Korean warship operating near the boundary, killing 46 sailors.

South Korea's Defense Ministry expressed regret over the latest drills, saying they violated deals settled between the Koreas last year that looked to lower military animosities along the border.

Spokeswoman Choi Hyun-soo told reporters that North Korea must stop any acts that will increase military tensions and abide by the past agreements.

Relations between the two Koreas improved greatly last year as Kim engaged in talks with the U.S. over the fate of his advancing nuclear arsenal. Kim met President Donald Trump in Singapore in June last year

in what was the first such North Korea-U.S. summit since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War. Kim also met South Korean President Moon Jae-in three times last year.

The nuclear talks fell apart in February, when Trump rebuffed Kim's calls for broad sanctions relief in return for dismantling his main nuclear complex, a partial denuclearization step. Inter-Korean relations have subsequently suffered a series of setbacks, with North Korea criticizing South Korea for failing to break away from Washington and for not restoring joint economic projects held up by U.N. sanctions.

In recent months, North Korea has test-fired a slew of short-range missiles and other weapons, which experts say mainly target South Korea. North Korea has also threatened to dismantle South Korean-built buildings at a now-shuttered joint tourism project in the North.

North Korea hasn't lifted a self-imposed moratorium on long-range missile and nuclear tests, which Trump has boasted as his major achievement in his North Korea policy. But Kim has demanded Trump come up with new, acceptable proposals to salvage the nuclear negotiations by year's end.

Observers worry that a failure to do so could see a return to the weapons tests of 2017 that had many fearing war. AP

# Australia investigates China plot to plant spy in Parliament

TRISTAN LAVALETTE,  
PERTH

**A**USTRALIAN Prime Minister Scott Morrison said yesterday that allegations of a Chinese plot to plant an agent into Australia's Parliament are "deeply disturbing and troubling."

The Nine Network on Sunday aired explosive accusations that suspected Chinese operatives had offered Melbourne luxury car dealer Bo "Nick" Zhao 1 million Australian dollars (\$679,000) to run as a candidate for a parliamentary seat in Melbourne.

The 32-year-old was found dead in a Melbourne hotel room in March after reportedly approaching ASIO, Australia's counterespionage agency. Police have been unable to determine how he died.

"The government has never been more determined to keep Australians free and safe from foreign interference," Morrison told reporters. "I would caution anyone



leaping to any conclusions about these matters."

ASIO director-general of security Mike Burgess said late Sunday that the allegations are serious.

"Hostile foreign intelligence activity continues to pose a real threat to our nation and its security," he said. "ASIO will continue to confront and counter foreign interference and espionage in Australia."

Parliamentary intelligence committee chief Rep. Andrew Hastie called for an investigation into Zhao's death.

"This isn't just cash in a bag, given for favors. This is a state-sponsored attempt to infiltrate our Parliament using an Australian citizen and basically run them as an agent of foreign influence in our democratic system," he told the Nine Network.

Earlier this month, Hastie said he and fellow Liberal Party member Sen. James Paterson had been barred entry to China for a study trip because of their criticism of the Chinese government.

In Beijing, Chinese fo-

reign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said yesterday that some Australian politicians, institutions and media outlets have "reached a state of hysteria and extreme nervousness."

"No matter how bizarre the plot is and how their tricks are refurbished, lies are always lies," Geng said at a regular briefing. "We have never been and are not interested in interfering in others' affairs."

He urged Australian officials and journalists to adopt a healthy attitude toward China in the interest of bilateral relations as well their own "physical and mental health."

The latest revelations come days after a self-confessed spy seeking asylum in Australia reportedly gave ASIO inside intelligence on how Beijing conducts its interference operations abroad and revealed the identities of China's senior military intelligence officers in Hong Kong.

Wang "William" Liqiang provided detailed accusations of China infiltrating and disrupting democratic systems in Australia, Hong Kong and Taiwan. He would be the first Chinese intelligence operative to blow his cover.

Wang claims he acted under cover as an employee of a Hong Kong-listed company, China Innovation Investment Ltd., which said in a notice to the stock exchange on Sunday that reports of its involvement in espionage were "purely false."

The company also denied Wang had ever been employed by it or any of its associates and was considering taking legal action.

However, in a notice posted yesterday, it said company officials Xiang Xin and Kung Ching had been stopped at Taiwan's Taoyuan Airport for questioning and were cooperating with investigators.

"In fact, Mr. Xiang and Mrs. Kung knew nothing

about the issues exposed in the News Reports. Wang Liqiang was never an employee of the Group. The News Reports were all fictitious and forged," the statement said.

China attempted to discredit Wang, saying Sunday that he is a convicted fraudster wanted by Shanghai police.

"He's in Australia. And we have the rule of law in Australia," Morrison said of Wang, who is living in Sydney with his wife and infant son on a tourist visa. "And as a result then you can expect the same protections to apply to anyone who is living in our country, whether on a visa or any other arrangement."

The Australian government has been trying to neutralize China's influence by banning foreign political donations and all covert foreign interference in domestic politics.

Resource-rich Australia relies on China for one-third of its export earnings. AP

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

SANDRINE RASTELLO

CANADA

# LAYOFFS LOOM AS RAIL STRIKE HITS CHEMICALS, FARMERS

**WORKERS** are receiving lay-off notices and chemical companies face shutdowns as the effects of Canada's largest rail strike in a decade ripples through the economy.

The strike by about 3,200 conductors and railyard operators at Canadian National Railway Co. is entered its seventh day yesterday, disrupting cargoes of everything from wheat to propane.

In Halifax, Nova Scotia, on Canada's east coast, the Unifor union said it received notice that 70 workers at a CN Rail autoport facility, which handles car distribution across North America, will be laid off as of Thursday due to the strike, while the chemical industry joined the oil sector in feeling the full brunt of the walkout.

"Many of Canada's chemistry facilities will be entering shutdown mode — either because they have nowhere left to store products, or because they can no longer receive the materials necessary for their operations," Bob Masterson, chief executive officer of the Chemistry Industry Association of Canada, said in an opinion column in *The Globe and Mail* newspaper.

"While some companies and facilities may be able to transition staff to maintenance activities, others will have little choice but to furlough workers until the strike ends and service is restored," Masterson said.

The dispute, over working conditions and benefits, is threatening to hobble Canada's export

BLOOMBERG



industries and stunt its already weakening growth. The strike could shave off almost a quarter-point from growth this quarter if it lasts through Dec. 5, according

to Toronto-Dominion Bank economists. That's when lawmakers, who have the power to break the impasse, return to parliament.

CN Rail is one of two main rail

networks that ship goods across the country for export to the U.S. and overseas.

"This strike has affected all of our operations, including at our

autoport facilities," CN said in an emailed statement about layoffs in Halifax. CN shares have lost about 2% since the strike began on Nov. 19.

After driving their tractors to CN Rail's headquarters in Montreal on Friday, farmers plan to march to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's constituency office in the city to urge the government to find a way to end the strike.

An increasing number of grain producers have run out of propane and have little choice but to let crops rot in the fields, with financial losses in sight, said Patrice Juneau, a spokesman for the Quebec farmers union, L'Union des producteurs agricoles. Small animals such as piglets or chicks also can't survive without heating, he said.

"The Canadian government so far has shown itself to be rather insensitive to the issue," Juneau said by phone. "We wish for the prime minister and the government to put as much pressure as can be on CN to end the conflict as quickly as possible, or at least for CN to find a solution to supply farmers with propane."

Some companies are starting to pitch in. Calgary-based Pembina Pipeline Corp. said in a statement Sunday that it plans to ship propane to parts of Canada, including Quebec. It's preparing unit trains, made up of 105 cars, with propane sourced from western Canada. "Pembina's facility is the only one in Canada capable of amassing these quantities of propane and building such unit trains," the company said in its release. **BLOOMBERG**

TRANSPORT

# Uber loses license in London over safety, vows to appeal

KELVIN CHAN, LONDON

**LONDON'S** transit authority yesterday refused to renew Uber's license to operate, putting the ride-hailing company's future in the British capital in doubt.

It's the latest chapter in Uber's rocky history with London transport officials, who have been subjecting the San Francisco-based company to ever tighter scrutiny over concerns about passenger safety and security.

Uber vowed to appeal the decision, which it called "extraordinary and wrong." The company, which has 21 days to file an appeal, can continue operating while the appeals process is under way.

Transport for London cited "several breaches that placed passengers and their

AP PHOTO



safety at risk" in its decision not to extend Uber's license, which expires at midnight.

The transit authority, known as TFL, said that despite addressing some issues, it "does not have confidence

that similar issues will not reoccur in the future."

As a result, it deemed Uber "not fit and proper at this time."

The company fired back, pointing out that TFL had

found it to be fit and proper in September, when it was given a two-month license renewal.

"We have fundamentally changed our business over the last two years and are

setting the standard on safety," Jamie Heywood, Uber's regional general manager for Northern and Eastern Europe, said in a statement.

TFL had already been keeping Uber on a tight leash following concerns about aggressive corporate tactics and passenger safety. It had revoked Uber's license once before, in 2017, but a court later granted it a license lasting only 15 months, which TFL then extended for two more months in September, while also imposing a set of 20 stricter conditions.

In the latest decision, the transit authority said it was concerned that Uber's systems "seem to have been comparatively easily manipulated" by drivers.

One key issue was a change to Uber's systems allowing unauthorized dri-

vers to upload their photos to other driver accounts.

This let them pick up passengers as though they were the booked Uber driver on at least 14,000 trips, which means all those journeys were uninsured, TFL said.

The change also resulted in some passengers traveling with unlicensed drivers, including one whose license was previously revoked by TFL.

TFL also faulted Uber for another "failure" that allowed dismissed or suspended drivers to create a new account and carry passengers. And it cited other "serious breaches" involving unspecified insurance-related issues.

Shares in Uber were down almost 6% in pre-market trading in New York **AP**

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**what's ON**



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

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

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

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

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

**Offbeat**

**BORDER AGENTS SEIZE 154 POUNDS OF BOLOGNA AT TEXAS CROSSING**



No baloney: U.S. border agents seized more than 150 pounds of bologna from a driver entering the country from Mexico.  
 The U.S. Customs and Border Protection says in a news release that the driver told agents last week at the El Paso crossing that he had rolls of frozen turkey ham in his pickup truck. Upon further inspection, though, the agents determined that it was 154 pounds of Mexican bologna, which is made of pork.  
 The agency says the driver was released but the bologna was seized and destroyed. It says bologna can't be carried across the border because it could introduce foreign animal diseases to the domestic pork industry.

**TV canal macau**



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Água de Mar
15:30	BING
15:45	Os Ursos Boonie na Neve
16:00	Photo Madeira - Fim
16:30	Quem Quer Ser Milionário
17:35	Império (Repetição)
18:25	TDM Desporto (Repetição)
19:30	Ouro Verde Sr.1
20:30	Telejornal
21:10	Macau 20 Anos
21:25	TDM Entrevista
21:55	Navegando pela Culinária
22:25	Império
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Motel Bates Sr.4
00:35	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:20	RTPi Directo

**cinema**



**CINETEATRO**

24Nov



**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**



**1983 £25M GOLD HEIST AT HEATHROW**

An armed gang has carried out Britain's largest ever robbery at London's Heathrow Airport.  
 Over £25m worth of gold bullion bound for the Far East was stolen from the Brinks Mat warehouse, about one mile (1.6km) outside the airport perimeter, between 0630 and 0815 GMT.  
 Police have said a group of at least six men overcame the guards and successfully disabled a huge array of electronic security devices.  
 Insurers have offered a reward of £2m for information leading to the recovery of the 6,800 gold bars - which are all identifiable by refiners' stamps.  
 The members of the gang - who were all armed and wearing balaclavas - also stole £100,000 worth of cut and uncut diamonds.  
 They dressed in security uniforms to get into the warehouse and then terrorised the guards into giving them the alarm codes.  
 All the guards were handcuffed, one was hit on the head with a pistol and two had petrol poured over them.  
 Once inside the safes, the robbers used the warehouse's own forklift trucks to transport the 76 boxes of gold into a waiting van.  
 The alarm was raised by one of the guards at 0830 GMT after the gang had left.  
 Scotland Yard Flying Squad chief Commander Frank Cater is leading the hunt for the thieves.  
 He said he believed they had inside information and were a "highly professional team".

Courtesy BBC News

**IN CONTEXT**

Police estimated 15 people were involved in the planning of the Brinks Mat robbery, but only three of the gang members were convicted.  
 Micky McAvo and Brian Robinson were both jailed for 25 years in December 1984, and Kenneth Noye served 14 years for handling some of the stolen gold. Noye was released in 1990, but 10 years later was convicted of murdering Stephen Cameron in a road-rage fight on the M25 and is now serving a life sentence.  
 Despite a huge police investigation most of the gold has never been recovered.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**



**ARIES**

**Mar. 21-Apr. 19**

A challenging—but somewhat amusing—situation will give you an opportunity to demonstrate your flexibility, and you'll make an especially good impression on someone.



**TAURUS**

**Apr. 20-May. 20**

You've worked hard to create a comfortable world for yourself, but sometimes discomfort can be a very enriching experience. Pare down your lifestyle just for one day.



**GEMINI**

**May. 21-Jun. 21**

Try as hard as you can to keep conversations light today—some touchy subjects will be brought up, but you should have no problem sidestepping them with grace.



**CANCER**

**Jun. 22-Jul. 22**

Today you should apply an extra measure of caution to everything you do—especially financial transactions. When you prepare to buy something, make sure you can afford it!



**LEO**

**Jul. 23-Aug. 22**

There are all types of celebrities—the beautiful people who populate the pages of glossy magazines, the workplace luminaries who shine at your office, and the kings and queens of your social realm.



**VIRGO**

**Aug. 23-Sep. 22**

You might feel like getting off on your own for awhile today, but that won't be terribly easy right now. Too many overbearing people are demanding that you get involved with things you're just not interested in.



**LIBRA**

**Sep. 23-Oct. 22**

Sweet romantic memories from long ago will be unexpectedly triggered early today, and they will really get your creative juices flowing. You'll also get an energy boost when things get boring later.



**SCORPIO**

**Oct. 23-Nov. 21**

In your professional life, this is a time to lie low and wait for things to come to you. Don't ask for a raise or make any big power plays—doing so may backfire on you.



**SAGITTARIUS**

**Nov. 22-Dec. 21**

Figuring out how to balance your selflessness with your selfishness will be pretty easy today—it looks as though you'll be able to have it both ways!



**CAPRICORN**

**Dec. 22-Jan. 19**

It's perfectly acceptable for you to pick and choose whom you listen to—not everyone deserves to be taken seriously, as you well know. Some people are too easy on you.



**AQUARIUS**

**Jan. 20-Feb. 18**

To learn more about a new person who has recently arrived on the scene, you should move beyond simple questions and answers. But this situation calls for a series of experiments!



**PISCES**

**Feb. 19-Mar. 20**

A big personality who works with you can be entertaining—but sometimes this colleague can be exhausting. Today it may seem he's preventing you from getting your work done.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sanson**



**SUDOKU**

**EASY**

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

**EASY+**

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

**MEDIUM**

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

**HARD**

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

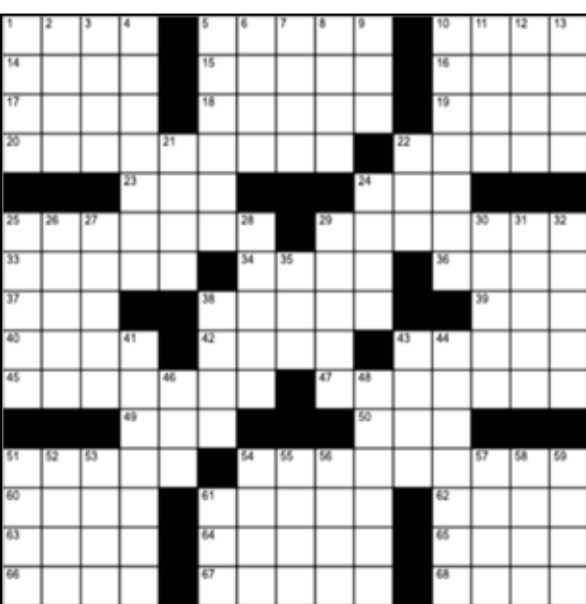
**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	-5	5	clear
Harbin	-13	-1	clear
Tianjin	-2	6	cloudy
Urumqi	-13	-7	cloudy
Xi'an	2	6	overcast
Lhasa	-1	16	cloudy
Chengdu	6	10	cloudy
Chongqing	9	12	overcast
Kunming	8	21	clear
Nanjing	2	13	overcast
Shanghai	7	12	overcast
Wuhan	3	7	drizzle
Hangzhou	6	15	overcast
Taipei	17	19	drizzle
Guangzhou	16	25	cloudy
Hong Kong	19	22	cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	-5	-2	clear
Frankfurt	5	7	drizzle
Paris	9	11	drizzle
London	10	12	drizzle
New York	2	9	clear

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS:** 1- Three-player card game; 5- Flower-part; 10- Sounds of pleasure; 14- Dr. Zhivago's love; 15- Port-au-Prince is its capital; 16- Miffed state; 17- Right on!; 18- \_\_\_ Park, CO; 19- Neat; 20- He runs, then he shoots; 22- 1957 hit for the Bobettes; 23- Gun, as an engine; 24- Mamma \_\_\_!; 25- Confident; 29- Eternally; 33- Gong; 34- City west of Tulsa; 36- West Wing worker; 37- Label; 38- Have \_\_\_ to pick; 39- \_\_\_ Tin Tin; 40- K through 12; 42- Uncouth; 43- Ticked off; 45- Take away; 47- Repel; 49- Ernie of the PGA; 50- Hoodwink; 51- Toothbrush brand; 54- Epsom crystals, e.g.; 60- Uris's \_\_\_ 18"; 61- I agree!; 62- Trials; 63- Utopia; 64- Make up; 65- Ah, me!; 66- Call for; 67- \_\_\_ lazuli; 68- Tibetan oxen;

**DOWN:** 1- Thick slice; 2- Animistic god or spirit; 3- Neighborhood; 4- Sudden burst of temper; 5- Defer; 6- Relaxation; 7- Actor Brad; 8- Fit to \_\_\_; 9- Fleur-de-\_\_\_; 10- Greek goddess of justice; 11- Indigo plant; 12- Sweep under the rug; 13- Eye problem; 21- Present; 22- Fallen space station; 24- Fashion; 25- Behaved; 26- Oil-yielding rock; 27- Vision; 28- Coming-out; 29- More delicate; 30- Like some infections; 31- Reviews and corrects; 32- Actress Taylor; 35- Tacit assent; 38- Parentheses, essentially; 41- Erin; 43- Wall St. debuts; 44- Deserter; 46- Vestment; 48- Resounds; 51- Predictive sign; 52- Travel on; 53- Nautical direction; 54- Second letter of the Greek alphabet; 55- Surmounting; 56- Singer Tennille; 57- "Damn Yankees" vamp; 58- Furniture wood; 59- Flat sound; 61- \_\_\_ de mer;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

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



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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



## AIRBNB LOOKING FOR 100 OF THE BEST HOME CHEFS FOR A TRIP

**AIRBNB** is launching a global search for 100 top home cooks and treating them to a trip to Italy to learn how to refine their recipes with teachers including David Chang (pictured) and his mom.

The lucky chosen will travel to the University of Gastronomic Sciences in Pollenzo, Italy, for a week's worth of workshops and tastings to take their food "to the next level."

Their recipe will also feature in Airbnb's first cookbook.

Applications open today. Airbnb users who are 18 and a resident of one of 30 or so eligible countries can nominate their favorite home cooks and complete an essay. Applications close Dec. 23.

Winners will be selected by judges from representatives from Airbnb, the Slow Food organization and the University of Gastronomic Sciences.

## COLLEGES STRUGGLE WITH SOARING STUDENT DEMAND FOR COUNSELING



**MORE** college students are turning to their schools for help with anxiety, depression and other mental health problems, and many must wait weeks for treatment or find help elsewhere as campus clinics struggle to meet demand, an Associated Press review of more than three dozen public universities found.

On some campuses, the number of students seeking treatment has nearly doubled over the last five years while overall enrollment has remained relatively flat. The increase has been tied to reduced stigma around mental health, along with rising rates of depression and other disorders. Universities have expanded their mental

health clinics, but the growth is often slow, and demand keeps surging.

Long waits have provoked protests at schools from Maryland to California, in some cases following student suicides. Meanwhile, campus counseling centers grapple with low morale and high burnout as staff face increasingly heavy workloads.

"It's an incredible struggle, to be honest," said Jamie Davidson, associate vice president for student wellness at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, which has 11 licensed counselors for 30,000 students. "It's stressful on our staff and our resources. We've increased it, but [no one] in the mental health field who tells you we have sufficient resources."

## GROCERY-CARRYING ROBOTS ARE COMING. DO WE NEED THEM?

**T**he first cargo-carrying robot marketed directly to consumers is on sale this holiday season. But how many people are ready to ditch their second car to buy a two-wheeled rover that can follow them around like a dog?

Corporate giants like Amazon, FedEx and Ford have already been experimenting with sending delivery robots to doorsteps. Now Piaggio, the Italian company that makes the Vespa scooter, is offering a stylish alternative to those blandly utilitarian machines — albeit one that weighs 50 pounds and costs \$3,250.

It's named the Gita (pictured) after the Italian word for a short, pleasurable excursion — the kind you might take to pick up some lacinato kale and gourmet cheese at the farmers market. Its creators have such trips in mind for the "hands-free carrier" that can hold produce and other objects as it follows its owner down a sidewalk.

Tech industry analysts are already declaring the Gita as doomed to fail unless it finds a more practical application, such as lugging tools around warehouses, hospitals or factory floors.



**AD**

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TENNIS

# New Davis Cup proves exciting but calendar still a challenge

TALES AZZONI, MADRID

**D**ESPITE its flaws, the new Davis Cup got a passing grade on its first edition, with its modern look being accompanied by plenty of excitement on the court.

But despite the mostly positive reviews, the future success of the revamped tournament still depends on making it fit on a crowded tennis calendar that already has two other team competitions trying to establish themselves — the Laver Cup and the ATP Cup.

The top-ranked players on tour — Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic — don't think the Davis Cup and the ATP Cup can co-exist. Both suggest a merger would be the best solution.

"I don't see two World Cups in one month on our calendar. That's something that I personally don't see," said Nadal, who this week led Spain to its sixth Davis Cup title with a win over first-time finalist Canada.

The inaugural ATP Cup, to be played with 24 teams, will take place in January in Australia. The Davis Cup debuted in Madrid with 18 teams.

"We have an opportunity to finally have a great competition," Nadal said. "There is no other way than have only one big, big competition. I think Davis Cup is the right name because it's part of the



Spain's Rafael Nadal

history of our sport. And it will be great if we are able to put everything together."

Djokovic talked about the possibility of a "Super Cup" of tennis.

"Scheduling was always an issue, for both ATP Cup and Davis Cup," he said. "An idea was the merge between the two. Looking long-term, I personally don't think that the two events can co-exist six weeks apart. It's just a little bit too congested."

The International Tennis Federation signed a 25-year partnership with the Kosmos group co-founded by Barcelona star Gerard Piqué to make the Davis Cup more attractive and lucrative. It transformed the year-long tournament into a one-week event played in a

World Cup-style format in a single venue.

"We have to remember, there's 119-year history that the Davis Cup has and a very important place within tennis and the calendar. The calendar is the challenge. It always has been," ITF president David Haggerty said. "But again, we can only control what we can control, and that is Davis Cup. And we're doing the best that we can. And again, we'll sit down with other tennis bodies, but can't make any promises on what might happen with other events."

Piqué said the opinion of players like Nadal and Djokovic needs to be heard.

"It makes no sense to have right now two different competitions

that are very similar," he said. "In the next few months I think we will start talking again with the ATP. And I hope in the next few months we can announce something."

Piqué said talks with Roger Federer, who co-owns the Laver Cup event that is played between European and world teams, have not advanced recently.

"It's his baby, his competition, and he wants to protect (it). And I totally understand," Piqué said. "What we will try to do is to try to put the Davis Cup obviously in another level because we are talking about 119 years of history. You cannot compare both events. But we will try to do the best we can for our competition to make it as big as possible."

Kosmos and the ITF hope to play the new Davis Cup in September instead of making it the season-ending tournament in November. Djokovic said that would make the competition more attractive to players.

"It is the last week of the year. It's definitely a tough schedule for a lot of players," Djokovic said. "It's really difficult because you have a whole season and then you have to push yourself for another week and then eventually play singles, doubles every day."

## EXCITING FORMAT

The Davis Cup new format, with ties being decided in three matches on the same day, created exciting action in Madrid, giving teams small margins for errors.

Previously, the Davis Cup ties were decided over three days in four singles matches and one doubles.

"The format makes things very close," Nadal said. "You make a mistake in one singles match and in the doubles anything can happen. So things are beautiful that way. But at the same time, for the best teams, it makes things dangerous."

The change gave extra importance to the doubles matches, which in the old format were played in-between two singles matches.

Five of the seven ties in the knockout rounds of the Davis Cup Finals were decided in the doubles matches.

"For us, it's cool to get the opportunity to potentially play those deciding matches and, you know, doubles be the discipline that's deciding whether who goes home with the Davis Cup trophy or not," British player Jamie Murray said. AP

FOOTBALL

# Injured Aguero to miss Manchester derby, says Guardiola



**M**ANCHESTER City striker Sergio Aguero will miss the derby match against Manchester United on Dec. 7 after being ruled out for a few weeks by Pep Guardiola yesterday because of a thigh injury.

Aguero came off in the second half of Saturday's 2-1 win over Chelsea in the Premier League.

"He will be out for a few games," Guardiola said. "I don't know exactly, (but) for a few weeks he will be out."

Asked if the 31-year-old Aguero will miss the derby, Guardiola said "yes," adding: "Maybe we will have a miracle but I don't think so."

Before that, City has lea-

gue matches against Newcastle and Burnley, and also plays Shakhtar Donetsk in the Champions League today when a draw or victory will see Guardiola's team advance to the knockout stage.

Aguero's absence will mean more opportunities for Brazil striker Gabriel Jesus, who has scored five goals this season but started only eight times because of the presence of Aguero.

"I am not happy because Sergio is injured," said Jesus, speaking while sitting next to Guardiola in a news conference ahead of the game against Shakhtar. "I don't like it when my friends are injured but I

work here every day and I am ready to play."

Jesus said it has been frustrating to be on the bench regularly at City, especially having been a starter for Brazil at times over the past 18 months — including at last year's World Cup in Russia.

"It is not easy," he said. "Sometimes I am not happy because I want to play but I keep on working."

"When I decided to come to City, I knew it is going to be hard because we have Sergio, who is the top scorer of the club and he scores every game. I know this but I think I have a chance to play with Pep, with top players here and at great big club, so that is

why I came, to enjoy and learn."

Guardiola praised Jesus for being "so humble" and accepting the competition with Aguero.

The striker signed a five-year contract extension last year.

"He knew the situation with Sergio before he extended the contract," the City manager said. "My advice to him was, 'If you are not sure, you can go to other places. And he said, 'No, I want to stay here.'"

"We will do everything to keep him here as long as possible."

Guardiola said playing Raheem Sterling up front was another option during Aguero's absence. AP

OPINION

Our Desk

Anthony Lam



I WANNA DO IT, BUT DON'T KNOW HOW

About a week ago, Macau joined an international coalition, comprising many jurisdictions across all continents. However, among the four Chinese-speaking jurisdictions in Greater China, Macau is the last to impose a charge on the use of plastic bags.

According to the Environmental Protection Bureau, the plastic bag charge applies not only to retail activities, but also to non-retail sales, including, but not limited to, catering and service industries. In other words, the bag used to carry takeaway from restaurants will be subject to the MOP1 charge.

The Bureau especially made a note of the fact that the scale of the business, or transaction, as I understood, will not affect the eligibility of the charge.

Certain exemptions were allowed, such as the purchase of unpackaged goods, including bread.

My perception is that the law has been working to a certain extent. Social media posts from or by my friends (yes, everybody has their own social media circles in which they pass on news and gossip) indicated that the policy has been working.

These posts have shown that a lot of people – according to my friends, middle-aged “female household administrators” (a reference made to avoid the word “housewife”) – have started to bring their own reusable shopping bags for shopping.

Such household administrators are usually most sensitive to price fluctuations. In economics terminology, it's called elasticity of demand. Given the possession of reusable bags, the need for ‘paid’ plastic bags drastically dropped for these household administrators.

I have seen the Bureau's officers working so diligently to make people understand the circumstances under which the bag will or will not be charged. Work should have been allowed to start much earlier.

No matter how hard the Bureau's officers educated the public, the law seems to have a defect.

Recently, I heard a story related by a friend, who witnessed the entire incident. The other day, he was at a bakery when he saw a man who bought 10 piggy buns arguing against the charge for a larger bag to take the individually bagged piggy buns – which were originally unpackaged.

My friend told me the charge was required due to the size of the bag. Meanwhile, the smaller ones, bagging the individual piggy buns, were free of charge.

In my understanding, if the buyer opts to bag all 10 piggy buns in one single bag, the charge will be waived. However, my friend told me otherwise. He said it is the size that matters.

If my friend's comment is true, it will totally contradict the (perceived) intention of the charge. Originally, one bag was needed to solve the problem, but 10 bags were used. Resorting to the website of the Environmental Protection Bureau yielded no clarity.

Some are concerned about where this MOP1 charge will go. The government should explain further how it will avoid the charge from becoming the revenue of businesses.

Although there is concern, I think the focus is not only on the charge, but on how resources can be saved. There are actually many ways this can be achieved. For instance, choosing dine-in when buying a burger at the fast food shop, even if it's for takeaway. When it's ready, given the small size, it can be easily taken away by a grab of the hand.

Most interestingly of all, bottled water is still served at press conferences, whether hosted by public or private entities.

Four African countries have reported new cases of polio linked to the oral vaccine, as global health numbers show there are now more children being paralyzed by viruses originating in vaccines than in the wild.

In a report late last week, the World Health Organization and partners noted nine new polio cases caused by the vaccine in Nigeria, Congo, Central African Republic and Angola. Seven countries elsewhere in Africa have similar outbreaks and cases have been reported in Asia.

Of the two countries where polio remains endemic, Afghanistan and Pakistan, vaccine-linked cases have been identified in Pakistan.

In rare cases, the live virus in oral polio vaccine can mutate into a form capable of sparking new outbreaks. All the current vaccine-derived polio cases have been sparked by a Type 2 virus contained in the vaccine. Type 2 wild virus was eliminated years ago.

Polio is a highly infectious disease that spreads in contaminated water or food and usually strikes children under 5.



AP PHOTO

PRICELESS ITEMS STOLEN FROM DRESDEN'S GREEN VAULT MUSEUM

THIEVES carried out a heist yesterday at Dresden's Green Vault, one of the world's oldest museums, making off with three “priceless” sets of jewelry from the 18th century that German officials said would be impossible to sell on the open market.

Police said they were alerted shortly before 5 a.m. (0300 GMT) to a break-in at the museum and officers arrived at the scene within minutes. No suspects have yet been detained but authorities are reviewing footage captured by security cameras.

The treasury of Augustus the Strong of Saxony was established in 1723 and today contains around 4,000 objects of gold, precious stones and other materials on display in the historic palace.

Authorities said it appeared the thieves had broken open only one glass case containing three sets of Baroque jewelry made up of dozens of gems each.

German media reported the losses from the early-morning burglary could run into the high hundreds of millions of euros, but the director of Dresden's State Art Collec-

tions, Marion Ackermann, said it was impossible to estimate the value of the items.

“We cannot give a value because it is impossible to sell,” she said, appealing to the thieves not to break the ensembles into pieces.

“The material value doesn't reflect the historic meaning,” she said.

The governor of Saxony, where Dresden is located, said the treasures in the vault contained items collected over many hundreds of years.

“The material value doesn't reflect the historic meaning.”

MARION ACKERMANN

“It's not just the State Art Collections that was robbed, but us Saxons,” Michael Kretschmer tweeted. “One can't understand the history of Saxony without the Green Vault.”

Saxony's interior minister, Roland Woeller, told reporters that multiple burglars forced their way into the building in the early morning hours.

“This is a bitter day for the cultural heritage of Saxony,” he said.

The thieves “stole cul-

tural treasures of immeasurable worth — that is not only the material worth but also the intangible worth to the state of Saxony, which is impossible to estimate.”

Woeller said police had already set up a special team of investigators to pursue the case.

“We will do everything in our power not only to bring the cultural treasures back, but to capture the perpetrators,” he said.

Exhibition rooms at the museum include focus on treasures featuring jewels, ivory, silver and amber among other objects.

One of its most famous and precious treasures, the Dresden Green Diamond, is currently on loan with other valuable pieces to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York for an exhibit.

The 41-carat green diamond was acquired by Augustus III, the son of Augustus the Strong, in 1742, according to the museum.

The museum said that at the time of its purchase it cost 400,000 thalers, compared to the 288,000 thalers it cost to build Dresden's lavish Frauenkirche church at around the same time. AP



AP PHOTO

**Japan** A former Japanese professional boxer who spent 48 years in prison for murders he says he did not commit was among some 50,000 people greeting Pope Francis as he entered Tokyo Dome stadium to celebrate Mass yesterday.



AP PHOTO

**France** Officials say at least seven people died as heavy rain slammed the Riviera coasts of France and Italy, trapping travelers in their cars, as well as parts of western Greece. Some roads remained closed Monday on the French Riviera, and rivers were still rising in Italy after the weekend flooding.



AP PHOTO

**Poland** Danish Crown Prince Frederik and Crown Princess Mary marked 100 years of Denmark's diplomatic ties with Poland with a one-day visit to Warsaw yesterday that involved meeting Poland's president and World War II veterans.



AP PHOTO

**UK** A truck driver charged with manslaughter over the deaths of 39 Vietnamese migrants found in the back of a truck pleaded guilty yesterday to lesser charges. Maurice Robinson, who is accused of being part of an international people-smuggling ring, admitted plotting with others to assist illegal immigration and acquiring criminal property.

**US** Defense Secretary Mark Esper has fired the Navy's top official, ending a stunning clash between President Donald Trump and top military leadership over the fate of a SEAL accused of war crimes in Iraq.