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CARRIE LAM MADE NO CONCESSIONS TO PROTESTERS AFTER THE DEMOCRAT VICTORY IN LOCAL ELECTIONS RISKING FURTHER VIOLENCE P9

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON SOVEREIGN WEALTH FUND PLANNED FOR 2020 P4

POPE FRANCIS VISITS JESUIT JAPAN COMMUNITY THAT COULD HAVE BEEN HIS, IN THE FINAL EVENT OF HIS ASIA PILGRIMAGE P15

China-US Top Chinese and U.S. trade negotiators have agreed to talks on a preliminary deal for resolving the tariff war between the world's two largest economies, the Chinese Commerce Ministry said.



China Zhu Hailun played a key role in planning and executing a campaign that has swept up a million or more Uighurs into detention camps.



Philippines A communist guerrilla leader and spokesman has been arrested while being secretly treated for high blood pressure in a hospital in an upscale residential district in suburban Manila.

Australian police said that they have found the body of British backpacker who ran away from his campsite last weekend.

More on backpage

ONE APP FOR THAT

GOV'T WANTS TO MERGE ITS 'SMART' PRESENCE

P2



GASTRONOMY HIGHLIGHTS MACANESE DIASPORA MEETING P3

IMAX BETS ON CHINESE BLOCKBUSTERS AS HOLLYWOOD'S APPEAL FADES P10



Ma Chi Ngai, coordinator of the Science and Technology Commission

ALL GOVERNMENT APPS TO BECOME ONE

ALL apps written for public and semi-public entities are expected to be consolidated into one, named "Macau in Pocket", said Ma Chi Ngai, coordinator of the Science and Technology Commission, after yesterday's annual meeting.

There are various apps in the market, including the weather information app offered by the Meteorological and Geophysi-

cal Bureau, the transport-related app by the Transportation Affairs Bureau and the app for the Identification Bureau.

Ma said that there are other apps offered by the government, although not necessarily ones which provide services to the general public.

Considering the large quantity of separate pieces of software, Ma noted that there are

plans to consolidate all of these apps into one, suggesting that the distributed number of apps is not advantageous for the development of a "smart city".

In addition, the commission coordinator said all laws stipulated in personal data protection legislation will be followed to ensure security of personal data.

Technically, the "Macau in

Pocket" app would be capable of collecting personal data, as well as the information about the browsing habit of its users.

Ma also spoke about the study tour that the SAR government had organized with mainland academic institutions. Ma revealed that the tour will bring 10 students studying at secondary schools in Macau to Antarctica for an inspection tour, in which they will conduct research under the supervision of the mainland scholars. Ma said the budget for the tour was set at approximately MOP80,000 per student.

He stressed that the selection process was tough as it tested the physical and mental capabilities of students.

"The first stage of the tour will take place mainly on a ship," said Ma. "If they don't have a strong physique, they may not do anything there except vomit."

In terms of mental capabilities, the process also tested the feasibility of the experiment plans they provided.

Ma emphasized that it would be an extraordinary chance to learn from world-class scholars and see Antarctica.

The annual meeting covered a wide range of agenda items, from "smart city" and aeronautics to international and national cooperation. **AL**

FIRE AND EVACUATION DRILL HELD AT MACAU TOWER

THE Fire Services (CB) yesterday held a fire and evacuation drill with the Macau Tower in order to test the response, coordination and communication capabilities of both parties in the event of an incident. According to a statement issued by the CB, the drill was conducted in a satisfactory manner and its stated objectives were met.

The exercise simulated a fire in a coffee shop on the fourth floor of the Macau Tower Convention and Entertainment Center, during which several workers had become injured.

After Macau Tower employees discovered the fire, they called the CB, evacuated employees to the evacuation meeting place and implemented a series of emergency and contingency measures in accordance with the pre-established contingency plan.

Upon receipt of the call, the CB dispatched six emergency vehicles and 24 firefighters to the site to carry out the evacuation and extinguishing works according to the defined plan.

According to the CB statement, the simulation involved the participation of nearly 180 people. After the exercise, both parties held a review meeting and concluded that the simulation had been satisfactory given that all objectives and expected results were achieved. **DB**

MEMORY LANE

José Santos

MDT/Renato Marques



Forty-five years have passed between these two photographs from the Macau Grand Prix. Back in 1973, Macau was hosting the second edition of the soon-to-become famous "Guia Race" for touring cars. During a race won by Hong Kong's famous racer Peter Chow in a Toyota Celica GT (TA 22), Portuguese hobbyist photographer José



Santos captured on film this moment of Australia's Allan Moffat in a Bob Harper sponsored Ford Capri RS 2600 at the Moorish hill bend. In the second photograph, from the 2018 event, Frenchman Aurélien Panis, behind the wheel of an Audi RS3 LMS, negotiates the very same bend during the Guia Race, now held with WTCR category cars. From the

photos, is also possible to see the changes related to the inclusion of several safety barriers in the Guia Circuit when compared with 1973. In 2019, the Grand Prix Organizing Committee enforced several restrictions on this location, allowing images to be captured only by photographers who are on a special access list. **RM**

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RENATO MARQUES



Gastronomy becomes highlight of Macanese Communities Meeting

RENATO MARQUES

IN Macau until this Friday, the 2019 Macanese Communities Meeting has brought over 1,300 people to the city from all corners of the world.

About 1,000 people have come from the U.S., Canada, Australia, Portugal, Brazil, the United Kingdom, and Hong Kong. The U.S. and Canada delegations are the most numerous, counting a total of over 700 people.

As announced by the organizers, this year's event taking place between November 23 and 29 will have gastronomy as the centerpiece with several events including tasting, touring and even Macanese culinary competitions held.

Explaining the focus on this year's event, the president of the Permanent Council of the Council of Macanese Communities

(CCM), José Luis de Sales Marques, said, "In general terms the Meeting will not be very different, but obviously we celebrate the 20 years of the Macau SAR, which will be a strong, thematic point of the Meeting."

He added, "another [of the main topics] is the tribute to Macanese gastronomy. Since now Macau is a creative city of UNESCO cuisine we will pay special attention to it."

In addition to the traditional events and tours, the program of this year's edition includes a two-day trip, to be held today and tomorrow, comprising a tour through several cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area (GBA). This visit, which has the support of the Central People's Government Liaison Office in Macau, however some of the participants have chosen not to

participate.

José and Auzenda Enes are two participants who opted for a different event. To the Times, the participants from the Lusitano Club of California said that they preferred to dedicate more time to exploring Macau.

"We are not going on the two-day China tour. We chose another [option] that only spends a half-day in China so we can have more time to explore Macau," the couple said.

Participating in the triennial Meeting for the first time this year, the couple came to Macau in the company of other friends and relatives. "It has been wonderful so far. We are really happy to be here," they told the Times.

Questioned previously on the inclusion of the GBA visit in the program of the 6th edition of the Meeting, Sales Marques explained that CCM sought to give the par-

ticipants in the Meeting this year a better understanding of the current reality of Macau and a more informative event, "so participants can better understand the dynamics of the region in which the MSAR is inserted."

To the newspaper Tribuna de Macau, Sales Marques, who is also presiding over the organizing committee of this year's event, noted that one of the issues the committee currently has to deal with is the number of participants which, at some occasions this year has reached 1,500.

"The biggest difficulty is to get room for everyone in certain activities; the problem is that there are practically no more places for the closing dinner, so it is somehow complex," he said. "The room [at the Macau Tower] has only space for about 1,200 people, so there are at least around 100 people or more that won't be able to join."

The triennial event will close on Friday with a dinner hosted at the Grand Hall of the Macau Tower, in a form that allows the participants to meet with families and friends.

BRINGING BACK MEMORIES FROM THE PAST

The Meeting has the purpose of keeping alive memories from the past so that they may be passed on to future generations as a cultural and identity legacy, said the chairman of Council of the CCM, Leonel Alves, in an interview with Tribuna de Macau.

For Alves, the Meeting has the goal of allowing the participants to revisit some of their own memories and learn from the memories of others. In addition to historic facts and the experience of previous generations, these memories can be passed on to be kept alive by newer generations.

"The stories of Macau, all the past of the city, and all the existing culture buildup by our ancestors must be perpetuated and transmitted. I think this is one of the main tasks for the new generations that live in Australia, Canada, Brazil, and other countries, to keep this cultural 'umbilical cord'."

Alves added that the future of cultural assets such as the Macanese patois language (Patuá) might be preserved or kept in some form through other assets such as gastronomy.

"I think gastronomy can play an important role. The Patuá [revitalization] as a communication language is a goal almost impossible to achieve [...] But we hope that at least some expressions can be perpetuated so we have a link to the past," Alves said.

Acknowledging that the event has been evolving with the times and adjusting to the new realities and roles of the region, Alves highlighted that the most important task is to keep it as a way to reconnect with roots so that individuals who do not often return to the region are reminded that it is time to visit Macau again.

The same purpose applies for the meetings and gatherings held by the young Macanese Communities that, besides the heritage and identity value, can attract the new generation to invest in new projects that can bring new challenges and opportunities, such as the ones allowed by the creation of the Greater Bay Area.



AL PLENARY

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON 60-BILLION-PATACA 'SOVEREIGN WEALTH FUND' PLANNED FOR 2020

JULIE ZHU

THE local government has planned to conduct a public consultation on the establishment of a 60-billion-pataca Macau investment development fund.

In July, the local government proposed to invest 60 billion patacas to establish a Macau investment development fund management company. The government later withdrew the bill before the close of the last legislative session.

Regarding the company's capital, MOP59.88 billion would be provided by Macau SAR government, the Macau Trade and Promotion Institute and by Macau's Industrial and Commercial Development Fund.

The fund was proposed for investment in projects in the Greater Bay Area.

The Chairman of the Monetary Authority of Macao (AMCM), Chan Sau San, said during yesterday's Legislative Assembly (AL) that the bureau has already initiated preparatory works for the public consultation concerning the setting up of the company.

It is estimated that in the middle of 2020, a consultation text can be published and that the AMCM will organize briefings to explain the issue to the public and more specifically, to lawmakers.

According to Chan, the consultation text will include an explanation of the ideas behind the



company's establishment and policy guidance.

The local government claims to be open to the establishment of the company. However, the government representative indicated that the final decision regarding the company's establishment depends on the results of the public consultation. Yesterday, this question was specifically raised by lawmaker Ho Ion Sang.

During the discussion, several

lawmakers, including Leong Sun Lok and Sulu Sou, accused the local government of lacking transparency regarding the company, instead proposing that the local government establish a public fund monitoring regime before raising any investment plan.

Leong said that due to the lack of transparency, it is difficult for the public to learn about the details of the company, which would in turn lead to strong opposition to it in broader society.

"The key point is that the government is acting under a double standard. It is quick at spending money but [acts] slow at monitoring those public capital investment companies," Sulu Sou complained.

Even though the local government has already withdrawn the bill, Sou thinks that the government should not use the withdrawal as an excuse not to provide information to the public.

Lawmaker Mak Soi Kun, citing

Chinese President Xi Jinping, wants the local government to upgrade its administration ability in order to keep up with society's development.

Previously, the local government allocated an investment of 20 billion yuan (25.6 billion patacas) for the establishment of the Guangdong-Macau Cooperation and Development Fund.

Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong and other government representatives were at the AL yesterday to answer the lawmakers' questions regarding the fund. The local government also held public consultations to answer the public's questions.

However, the 60-billion-pataca fund was suddenly announced by the Executive Council without informing the society first.

"How does the government explain, at the AL a 20-billion-pataca fund but ignores a 60-billion-pataca project?" Mak asked.

Deputy Director of Financial Services Bureau Ho In Mui claimed that monitoring public capital invested companies is the goal of the local government, indicating that the local government is not monitoring or, at least not sufficiently monitoring, public money invested companies.

"We have some plans. We will establish some framework for the companies to follow first. Then we will have more detailed instructions. But we need to do it step by step," said Ho.

Higher-star hotels record higher occupancy

JULIE ZHU

THE higher the star of a Macau hotel is, the higher its occupancy rate, according to the Director of the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO), Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes.

During yesterday's Legislative Assembly (AL), the MGTO head told lawmaker Lam Lon Wai that in Macau, the highest occupancy rates of hotel guestrooms has been recorded in five-star hotels.

Lam proposed to the local government that the vicinity of the Taipa Ferry Terminal should be explored as a space to develop tourism projects.

Lam advanced that the ferry terminal is a large space that many tourists visit first and last. Moreover, its location is convenient for visitors, being near the airport and the Cotai casino area.

Lam wants the local government to provide tax benefits to parties that develop low star hotels, such as 2-star and 3-star hotels, because, in Lam's view, tourists either go to high-star hotels or they go to Hac Sa beach for the affordable camping area.

The MGTO Director explained that budget hotels do not promote themselves very well. However, Lam revealed that in the near future a total of 17 budget hotels

will open, providing a total of 1,000 guestrooms.

Discussing the use of the Taipa Ferry Terminal for tourism purposes, a representative of the Marine and Water Bureau said that the local government is considering organizing performances or exhibitions at the Taipa Ferry Terminal. Currently, a water supply exhibition is being held at the terminal.

However, the proposal of more exhibitions was criticized by Mak Soi Kun, who wants the government to first solve traffic congestion issues near the terminal.

"If the government keeps promoting tourism activities at the ferry terminal, then we don't need to take

ferries or flights anymore," said Mak.

Besides the abovementioned proposals, lawmaker Angela Leong suggested that aspects of the cultural and creative industry should be introduced at the ferry terminal to present Macau's cultural and creative products. Other proposals include building a theater at the ferry terminal.

Government representatives said during yesterday's AL plenary, that the Taipa Ferry Terminal has recorded a 14% increase in ferries sailing between Shenzhen and Taipa since the beginning of this year. At this terminal, 90% of the commercial spaces are currently occupied.

SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY SIGNED WITH GUANGDONG

THE local government has signed a cooperation plan with the Guangdong provincial government regarding services for elderly Macau citizens living across the border.

According to Vong Yim Mui, Director of the Social Welfare Bureau, Guangdong's Greater Bay Area cities are the back-up for Macau's services for the elderly, meaning that local seniors who wish to retire in Guangdong will be offered benefits for retiring in Guangdong's Greater Bay Area cities.

Within two years, the number of Macau's nursing home spaces for senior citizens will increase to 2,600 from the current 2,400, Vong revealed.

According to data advanced by the bureau, some 15% of Macau's local seniors currently choose to remain employed. JZ

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6-YEAR-OLD USURY GROUP SHUT DOWN BY POLICE

The Judiciary Police (PJ) shut down a six-year-old cross-border usury group, in conjunction with the mainland police authority. In total, the police authority arrested 55 people, including the mastermind, and four working as accountants. The PJ believes that the group has taken at least 70 million patacas. The mastermind is a 47-year-old Macau local resident who controlled the group remotely from mainland China. According to the PJ, the group loaned tens of thousands or millions of patacas in each instance of their criminal activity. In total, the group's operation involved at least 17 casino VIP room accounts. The group hid usury records in mini storages, tea houses, restaurants, travel agencies and other places in Macau.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY BY-ELECTION VOTE VERIFIED

The votes of a by-election for the Legislative Assembly have been verified and the final result will remain unchanged, the chairman of the by-election's general audit committee said. Sole candidate Wang Sai Man, who represents the industrial, commercial and financial sector, will take up the seat left vacant by Chief Executive-elect Ho Iat Seng. The Chairman of the General Audit Committee for the Legislative Assembly By-election, Kuok Kin Hong, said the committee had unanimously agreed that the final result remained unchanged. In Sunday's by-election, Wang secured 813 votes from a total of 920 eligible voters in the functional constituency, with a further five blank votes and four considered invalid. The voter turnout rate stood at about 89%.

TOURISM

Master Plan objectives mostly

DANIEL BEITLER

MACAU'S tourism authority has claimed an implementation rate of 81% concerning the actions and objectives outlined in the Macao Tourism Industry Development Master Plan, since the document's release in 2017.

The Master Plan lays out a blueprint for the future development of Macau's tourism industry in the next 15 years in tandem with the city's commitment to become a world center of tourism and leisure.

The Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) delivered the Master Plan in 2017, mapping out the overall development for the sector over the short-term with eight key objectives, 33 strategies, 29 planning proposals and 91 short, medium and long-term action plans proposed.

Among the 69 short-term action plans for within the next five years, 56 of them

have been accomplished to reach the targeted goals. The level of implementation has thereby reached 81%, according to the MGTO.

The MGTO will commence a review of the Master Plan next year, seeking to examine the outstanding objectives and suggest suitable amendments or updates to the document. The Master Plan and its summary report can be accessed on the website of the tourism authority.

These are some of the highlights from the latest MGTO update on the development of local tourism:

DIVERSIFICATION OF TOURISM PRODUCTS

The city's first international cultural and artistic event Art Macao made its debut this year alongside other notable and longer-running events such as the Macau Grand Prix, the Macau International Fireworks Display Contest and the International Film Festival & Awards Macau (IFFAM). The previous two years have also

seen progress in regards to the remodeling project of the Macau Grand Prix Museum, an analytical study launched on the potential for nighttime tourism activities, and the gradual development of maritime sightseeing tours. Additionally, last year, a tourism mascot was launched for the city. The black-faced spoonbill bird wearing shades of red, yellow, and blue and affectionately known as "Mak Mak" has become a frequent icon at promotional activities organized by the MGTO.

REBRANDED A MULTI-DAY DESTINATION

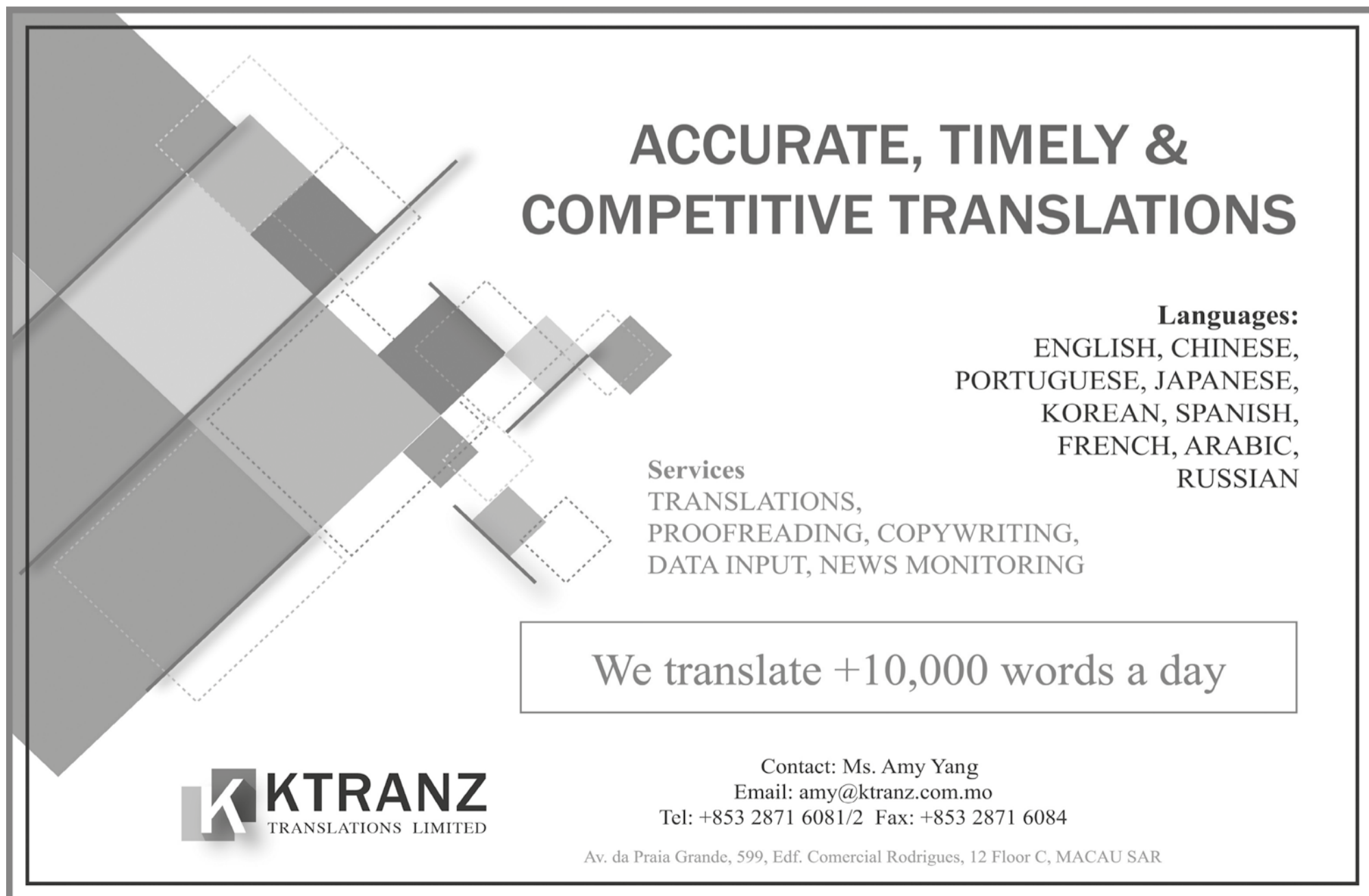
In its report, the tourism authority said it had doubled down on efforts to rebrand Macau as a multi-day destination and a family-friendly place. However, although visitor arrivals have increased by more than 15% so far in 2019, the growth in overnight visitors has lagged at just under 4%. At the same time, same-day visitors have surged by 28% in year-on-

-year terms, partly attributed to the opening of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge in October 2018. Per capita spending of tourists is also markedly down this year, leading some lawmakers and members of the public to call into question the "quality" of tourists visiting Macau.

MANAGE TOURISM CARRYING CAPACITY

After reports of overtourism earlier this year, MGTO chief Helena de Senna Fernandes played down suggestions of introducing a visitor tax. Instead, the tourism authority has referenced other tactics to better manage the city's carrying capacity, as outlined in the Master Plan. The Master Plan recommends better forecasting of the density of visitor flows at major attractions in the city through the use of new technologies. The MGTO is also carrying out policies to optimize traffic conditions for more effective diversion of visitor flows from different attractions.

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implemented, claims local authority

BLOOMBERG



A CORE TOURISM CITY IN THE GREATER BAY

Enhancing Macau's position as a "core tourism city the regional and international tou-

rism community" also remains a principal objective. The MGTO actively participates in the Tourism Federation of Cities in Guangdong, Hong Kong and

Macau Bay Area and promotes multi-destination tourism development, while exploring new possibilities for development of multi-island tours with industry

operators. It is also seeking new ways to collaborate closer with Hengqin and Zhuhai, as well as other cities in mainland China.

ENHANCE URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE

The MGTO highlights the importance of urban infrastructure to strengthen inter-district and regional connectivity – particularly within the Greater Bay Area. Such infrastructure projects include the expansion of the Macau International Airport, the relocation of the port of entry at the Lotus Bridge to Hengqin, the construction of Qingmao Frontier Post (new border access between Guangdong and Macau), as well as the opening of the Tai-pa route of Light Rapid Transit expected by the end of this year.

IMPROVEMENT OF SERVICE QUALITY

In a bid to bolster the professional skills and career development of tourism industry professionals, the MGTO has continued to organize training skill accreditation programs related to the sector. In recent surveys regarding the quality of

Macau's tourism offerings, visitor satisfaction with local services was shown to require improvement. For example, in 2017, official data showed that more than 25% of visitors were not satisfied with gaming facilities in the SAR, while almost 30% were not satisfied with the services of travel agencies. Meanwhile, the MGTO has also presented a crossover of the "Quality Tourism Services Accreditation Scheme" (QTSAS) and the "Certified Shop Scheme", and extended QTSAS to cover the retail industry as well.

THE LEGAL FRONTIER

The Master Plan also sets out a vision of refining tourism-related laws in accordance with the changing demands of the tourism industry. Such laws include the Law on the Operation of Hotel Establishments, as well as the Law on the Operation of Travel Agencies and Tour Guide Profession. The MGTO has previously indicated that it wants to pursue the development of budget accommodation options in the city to better appeal to the mass market visitor.

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HELLOQUENCE



MACAU SIGNS PACT WITH HK ON AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION

CHINA'S special administrative regions of Hong Kong and Macau have signed a comprehensive avoidance of double taxation arrangement, it was announced this week.

Under the arrangement, any Macau tax paid by Hong Kong residents in respect of income derived from sources in Macau will be allowed as a credit against the Hong Kong tax payable on the same income, subject to the provisions of the tax laws of Hong Kong, a spokesman for the HKSAR government said in a statement.

For Macau residents, double taxation will be avoided by way of exemption of the income taxed in Hong Kong from the Macau tax, or by crediting the Hong Kong tax

paid against the Macau tax payable in respect of the same income.

The spokesman said the arrangement will help deepen the economic and trade ties between Hong Kong and Macau, offer additional incentives for the business sector of both sides to do business and invest, promote nurturing and exchanges of talents, and further drive the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area.

The arrangement also provides other tax relief arrangements.

Profits earned by Hong Kong residents in Macau from cross-boundary shipping, air and land transport will not be taxed in Macau.

An eligible teacher or research

er who is employed in Hong Kong and engages in teaching and research activities at a recognized educational or scientific research institution in Macau shall be exempt from tax in Macau for a period of three years, provided that the relevant income has been subject to tax in Hong Kong.

The arrangement will come into force after the completion of ratification procedures by both sides, the spokesman added.

In 2018, Macau was Hong Kong's 19th largest trading partner. Following the conclusion of the arrangement between Hong Kong and Macau, Hong Kong has signed relevant agreements with 14 of its top 20 trading partners.

MDT/XINHUA

ZHUHAI-SHENZHEN LINK PLAN REVEALED

THE Zhuhai government has announced plans for a Shenzhen-Zhuhai bridge, suggesting that a bridge crossing the Lingding Channel will be built to connect the two cities, which border Hong Kong and Macau respectively and together form an important core of the Greater Bay Area.

The Lingding Channel is situated in the middle of the Pearl River estuary. By crossing the channel, the bridge will be placed 12 kilometers south of the upstream Shenzhen-Zhongshan link, and 20 kilometers north of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB). The bridge will start in Qianhai, Shenzhen and go towards Qi'ao Island, Zhuhai, and will be 47 kilometers long.

The cross-sea section of the bridge is planned to be both an expressway and a railway. A two-way eight-lane expressway and a four-lane railway

with a designed speed of 100 kilometers per hour have been planned.

The bridge's west side and east side will consist of bridge and tunnels respectively.

The bridge has officially been named the Lingdingyang Bridge and will cross the Channel of the same name.

On the Zhuhai side, once the bridge ends on Qi'ao Island, the Zhuhai government plans to set up 13 interchanges on the west bank of the Pearl River Estuary and will connect the Qi'ao Bridge, Jinqin Expressway, West Coast Expressway and other expressways in Zhuhai.

Previously, both mainland China and Hong Kong argued that if Shenzhen were to be linked to the HKZMB, then forming connections between Zhuhai and Shenzhen, and, Shenzhen and Macau by extension would also be necessary. JZ

OVER 700 TONNES OF SMUGGLED FROZEN MEAT SEIZED IN GUANGDONG

MORE than 700 tonnes of smuggled frozen meat was seized in several cases by customs in Guangdong Province, local authorities said late last week.

The frozen meat was smuggled from the United States, Brazil, Argentina and other countries and regions, according to the Huangpu Customs.

The customs said it intercepted a total of eight ships suspected of smuggling in the cities of Guangzhou and Dongguan recently, seizing 11 suspects and over 700 tonnes of smuggled frozen meat.

Further investigation into these cases is underway.

The jurisdictional area of Huangpu Customs includes the Huangpu and Zengcheng districts of Guangzhou and the city of Dongguan, serving as an important maritime channel for foreign trade in southern China.

This year, customs authorities have launched a number of operations to crack down on smuggled frozen food.

By the end of October, a total of 29 cases involving frozen food smuggled through water channels had been busted and more than 2,400 tonnes of goods worth over 100 million yuan (about \$14.2 million) were seized. XINHUA

AD

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.

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Hong Kong leader offers no new concessions, risking more violence

IAIN MARLOW & KAREN LEIGH

HONG Kong leader Carrie Lam didn't make any new concessions to protesters after pro-democracy forces won a landslide in local elections, a move that risks leading to further violence after months of unrest.

The comments yesterday came during her first weekly briefing since an overwhelming majority of voters delivered a strong rebuke of her administration and its backers in Beijing. About 85% of 452 District Council seats went to pro-democracy candidates, a swing of more than 50 percentage points amid a record turnout.

While Lam acknowledged the vote reflected "unhappiness" and vowed to "seriously reflect on these views," she continued to advocate a plan she outlined more than two months ago calling for peaceful dialogue with "people from all walks of life." Protesters have already rejected those suggestions, which also included several reviews of the police and greater societal issues that demonstrators don't consider fully independent.

"The priority for us now is to properly follow up on actions proposed, including community dialogue," Lam said at the briefing before a meeting of the city's Executive Council. "After these five or six months, Hong Kong people have realized very clearly that Hong Kong can no longer tolerate



BLOOMBERG

this chaotic situation," she added. "Everybody wants to go back to their normal life and this requires the concerted efforts of every one of us."

Stocks slipped following her remarks after rising 1.5% a day earlier, when she said her government "will listen to the opinions of members of the public humbly." Lam's comments raised some hopes that she might find a way to resolve the dispute with protesters, who have called for

an independent commission of inquiry into the unrest and meaningful elections for the city's top job.

"The ball is in the government's court to take a step forward. I hope that the opportunity is seized," Derek Mitchell, president of the National Democratic Institute, a non-partisan group based in D.C., said of the election results in a speech yesterday at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Hong Kong. "If that opportunity is not

seized, it leads to a dead end," he said. "I hope all sides take a breath and maybe we can get to a point where the Hong Kong government takes a step forward and builds trust again."

Lam's failure to budge from a September proposal led many to predict more violence is once again right around the corner. It would be "very easy" for Lam to set up an independent inquiry as a starting point for peace, said Joseph Cheng, a retired political

science professor and pro-democracy activist in Hong Kong.

"I'm afraid that the radical protesters will start clashes with the police again," he said. "It's a hard line. No concessions. No bowing to violence. No bowing to mass movements."

Chinese officials and state media has barely acknowledged the results, with foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang saying Monday that stopping violence and restoring order "is the paramount task in Hong Kong at the moment." In an article yesterday, China Daily said many voters failed to make a "rational decision" and "may end up paying a price for that choice."

China is taking solace in the fact that pro-establishment candidates still took 40% of the popular vote, meaning that Beijing could still rebound in elections next year for the more powerful Legislative Council, said Claudia Mo, a pro-democracy lawmaker.

"The district council is essentially of a consultative nature and what's really important is the legislature," she said. "And so they're focusing on that, and that's why they're not backing down."

Lam's failure to respond to peaceful expressions of will by Hong Kong's masses has helped fuel the violence over the past six months.

The relative calm since the election may have given Lam hope that the city as a whole is tiring of the protests. But ignoring the vote is effectively telling Hong Kong that peaceful methods don't work and "will only add further fuel to the movement," said Alvin Yeung, a pro-democracy lawmaker.

"That is totally foolish and irresponsible," he said. "Self-denial will not restore peace to Hong Kong." **BLOOMBERG**

Besieged HK university finds only one person in search

AHong Kong university team looking for protesters still hiding after a 10-day siege by police only found one person after six hours.

Alexander Wai, vice president of Hong Kong Polytechnic University, said yesterday the 50-person team comprised of counselors, medical staff, social workers and security personnel found a woman older than 18 who wasn't a student at the school. A counselor was persuading her to leave the premises, Wai said.

A few people might still be hiding in the warren of buildings on the urban campus, trying to avoid arrest. The search apparently didn't find a man who told reporters before dawn that he is happy living at the uni-



AP PHOTO

versity and "everyone can stop worrying about us."

Police have cordoned off the area to try to prevent anyone from escaping.

Wai said there was no deadline for the teams to clear the campus before police enter in order to defuse

explosives and clear other dangerous items. They will continue the search today and may add more people.

At a morning briefing, Chief Executive Carrie Lam said that a "relatively small number of people" remained on campus and called

for them to leave as soon as possible, without giving a concrete figure.

Police are setting up a work panel whose aim will be to persuade the last protesters to go and they will only enter PolyU's campus "at appropriate times," she

added. "Police have adopted a humanity-oriented approach with flexibility to deal with PolyU issue so far. Our goal is to solve the problem in a peaceful way," she said.

Hong Kong police said yesterday that they are in close communication with the university and would stick to the principles of "peaceful method" and "flexible approach" to solve the situation. Police won't arrest those with medical needs immediately but will take down their personal details, photograph them and follow up later.

"For those who leave the campus and do not have medical needs, the Police will enforce the law following existing mechanism and re-emphasise that

they are guaranteed fair treatment," the police force said in a tweet.

University President Teng Jin-guang told reporters last Wednesday that some 100 protesters remained on the campus, 20 of whom were PolyU students.

The siege at the Kowloon university initially raised fears of a crackdown on the scores of protesters trapped inside. Jarring images from the school showed fires, clouds of tear gas and flaming vehicles amid running battles between police and protesters.

It came amid chaos that paralyzed parts of the city as protesters disrupted morning commutes and police fired tear gas in the central financial district. **MDT/AGENCIES**

CINEMA

IMAX BETS ON CHINESE BLOCKBUSTERS AS HOLLYWOOD'S APPEAL FADES

SHIRLEY ZHAO

THE Chinese unit of Imax Corp., the world's largest jumbo-screen cinema platform, is planning to back more local films, shifting away from its dependence on Hollywood blockbusters.

Chinese-language films made up two of the five biggest hits for Imax China Holding Inc. this year, compared with one in each of the past two years and zero in 2016. Imax has said it wants half of the films it screens to be Chinese, without giving a time frame.

"We remain very focused on delivering more box-office to our bottom line from local-language films," said Jiande Chen, Imax China executive director and outgoing chief executive officer. "We view this opportunity as a low-hanging fruit."

Imax is looking for growth in China, which is projected to overtake the U.S. as the world's largest cinema market next year. That threshold is approaching just as the rising quality of local films, waning demand for older Hollywood franchises like "Fast and Furious" and "Transformers," and import blackouts on peak movie-going dates are making it harder for U.S. studios to rely on China for big box office.

Hollywood's share of China movie ticket revenue has fallen to 30% this year, the lowest since at least 2011, according to Maoyan Entertainment data on the 20 biggest-selling films each year. Of the top five 2019 movies, only one was made by a U.S. studio.



At the same time, Imax's mainland China ticket sales grew 30% this year, compared with 2.9% for the industry, the company said, citing data as of the end of the country's October National Day holidays. Box-office for Chinese local-language films rose to \$108 million this year, a record, Imax said.

And more screens are on the way. The platform plans to add 286 theaters to its networks in mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan by 2022. The company had 681 theaters in Greater China as of the end of September, almost double the number in the U.S.

While Imax is moving to take advantage of changes in tastes of Chinese moviegoers, jumbo-screen rivals that could challenge Imax's lead are also growing, said Wilson Chow, industry leader for PwC China's technology, media and telecommunications. That's why the company is trying to strengthen its local offerings, he said.

State-backed China Film Digital Giant Screen (Beijing) Co., for example, has said it aims to become the largest premium exhibitor brand in the country and has said it intends to add hundreds of its big screens across

China. U.S.-based Dolby Laboratories Inc. is also expanding its partnerships with major Chinese cinema lines to build Dolby theaters, another premium format.

"The spending power of cinema-goers has also become increasingly strong," Chow said. "Imax wants to get a head start in China's high-end cinema market, because there will be many other local or overseas brands coming into the market next."

Imax has also benefited from a World Trade Organization memorandum in 2012 that expanded the annual target for foreign films imported to China to 34

from 20. The 14 added slots are for premium format films in a country where the government tightly controls which movies can be screened.

While Imax has embraced the shift to local fare, it's also broadening its aims for the kinds of Chinese films that might become hits. Record-setting box-office performance for science-fiction hit "Wandering Earth," and animated feature "Ne Zha" bucked conventional wisdom that the genres don't do well in China or in premium formats like Imax.

Animated features have done well in China, but haven't been traditionally associated with Imax's premium format. That may be changing. Disney's "Frozen 2" last week set a weekend box-office sales record for animated imports at Imax China and has grossed about 370 million yuan in the country since opening on Nov. 22.

Imax China Chairman Richard Gelfond, also CEO of the parent, said last month that he expects Chinese investors to pour more money into a wider variety of film genres, especially science fiction.

Imax generates most of its income by selling or leasing theater systems, including deals to provide them in exchange for a share of box office revenue. It also makes and distributes movies, remasters films in its format and provides production equipment and services.

"It was the success of 'Wandering Earth' that prompted the company to double down on the local strategy," said Geetha Ranganathan, media analyst at Bloomberg Intelligence. "Sci-fi films like 'Wandering Earth' and animation like 'Ne Zha' lend themselves perfectly to the Imax format." **BLOOMBERG**

CORPORATE BITS

Melco Star Macau youth talent competition promotes Chinese culture



To celebrate the special occasion of this year's dual anniversaries, Melco Resorts & Entertainment partnered with the National Conditions Education Association (Macau) on Monday night to host the finals and award ceremony of the Melco Star Macau youth talent competition at Studio City before an audience of around 2,000 guests.

The event's objectives are to cultivate and strengthen the

sense of national identity in Macau's youth through performances in Chinese cultural arts, to exhibit the vitality and talent of Macau's younger generation, as well as to showcase the success of the 'One Country, Two Systems' constitutional principle.

According to the gaming operator, since its commencement in June, Melco Star Macau has been warmly received by the local community—inclu-

ding schools and organizations for young persons. It has attracted participation from more than 650 youths who took part in over 170 original acts.

"Fostering creative talent in Macau through our signature youth development programs such as 'Dare to Dream' is a key focus of Melco's Corporate Social Responsibility," said Lawrence Ho, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Melco.

"It has been a wonderful journey to witness the performance talents of all our participants through the competition's theme of 'China in Childhood' in celebration of the China-Macau Double anniversary. We are also confident that the competition helps to enhance national pride and the sense of belonging for young people in Macau, strengthening appreciation for the People's Republic of China."

Christmas feasts and celebrations at Grand Coloane Resort this December



With just one month to go before Christmas, Grand Coloane Resort has prepared a series of fantastic feasts and happenings for the season to be truly very merry.

In collaboration with the International Ladies Club (ILCM), Grand Coloane Resort is proud to present a Charity Christmas Fair at Grand Co-

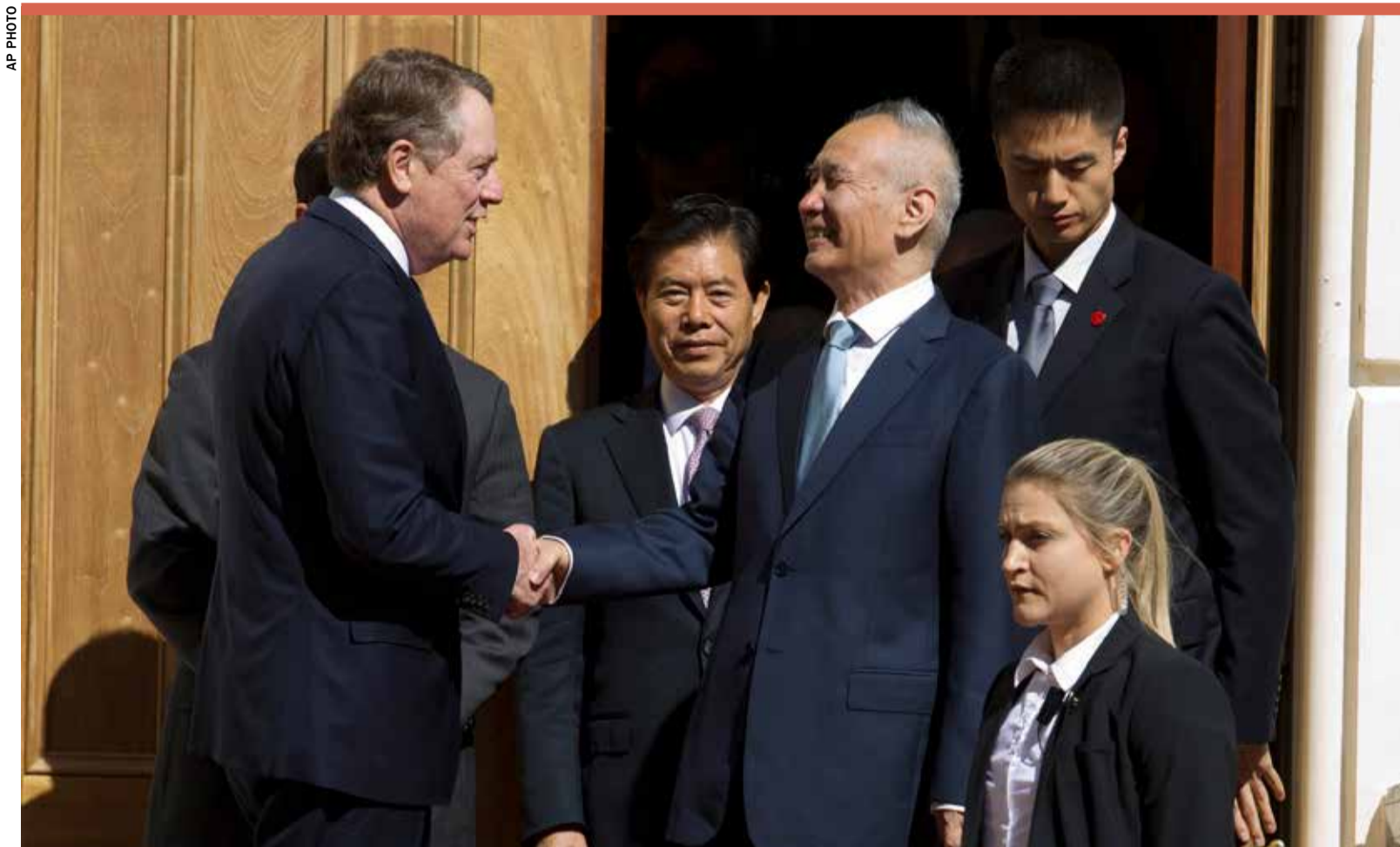
loane Resort on December 8.

Up to 30 local vendors will participate in the Christmas Fair. There will also be delicious food, live music, workshops and games for people from all walks of life to feel the spirit of Christmas and create lasting memories with the people closest to your heart.

On both Christmas Eve and Christmas, Café Panorama serves dinner buffet and Italian set lunch and set dinner with Chef's Christmas recommendations with the finest ingredients.

Meanwhile, starting from December 1, Lounge Panorama will launch a Festive Afternoon Tea set perfectly to be shared by two with a selection of much-anticipated delicacies for the Christmas season.

For those who enjoy Cantonese cuisine, Kwun Hoi Heen will be the go-to restaurant. For the whole month of December, guests will be able to enjoy the Winter Solstice Set Menu and Winter Clay Pot. In addition, a very traditional Cantonese dish Poon Choi will also be available from December 16 for guests to indulge during the holiday season.



Chinese Vice Premier Liu He and U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer (left) shake hands after a minister-level trade meeting in Washington in October

China says trade envoys agree on phone to continue talks

ELAINE KURTENBACH,
BEIJING

TOP Chinese and U.S. trade negotiators have agreed to talks on a preliminary deal for resolving the tariff war between the world's two largest economies, the Chinese Commerce Ministry said yesterday.

In a brief notice, the ministry said that Vice Premier Liu He and other senior officials spoke by

phone with U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin.

The official Xinhua News Agency said the two sides discussed "solving issues regarding each other's core concerns, reached consensus on properly resolving related issues and agreed to maintain communication on remaining issues in consultations on the Phase 1 deal."

The announcement was not immediately confirmed by the

U.S. side. It came after shares struck new record highs Monday on Wall Street following Beijing's announcement of new guidelines for the protection of patents and copyrights.

Theft of such intellectual property has been a sore point in the trade war between the world's largest economies, and investors saw China's move as an encouraging sign.

However, the news of the phone call drew only a tepid reaction

in Asia. Financial markets have been buffeted by conflicting signals for months, with upbeat comments followed by escalations in tensions.

The Shanghai Composite index was flat while the Hang Seng in Hong Kong also was almost unchanged by yesterday's news, which did not say a deal was imminent.

The inclusion of China's Commerce Minister Zhong Shan, the Governor of the People's Bank of

China Yi Gang, and Vice Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission Ning Jizhe does indicate high level involvement at this point of the discussions.

The Communist Party newspaper Global Times ran a front page article citing experts dismissing "negative media reports" about the talks.

It cited a scholar at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Gao Lingyun, who it said was "close to the trade talks" and said the two sides may reach a "Phase 1" agreement soon.

Gao said Beijing and Washington had agreed that tariffs would be rolled back as part of such a deal, but had not agreed yet on which tariffs might be removed or lowered.

President Donald Trump imposed tariffs on billions of dollars' worth of Chinese exports beginning in mid-2018. He said such moves were needed to win true concessions on longstanding issues such as complaints by foreign companies that Chinese companies steal or force the sharing of advanced technologies. His administration also wants China to scale back a national industrial strategy aimed at making Chinese industries leaders in new technologies such as robotics.

The two sides since have imposed punitive tariffs on thousands of each other's products comprising a large share of trade. Trump has also ordered curbs on sharing of some technology with some Chinese companies.

Pressure is building to reach an agreement, with new U.S. tariffs set to hit Dec. 15 on many Chinese-made items on holiday shopping lists, such as smartphones and laptops.

But Trump could push back that deadline, as he did in October, to allow more time for talks. **AP**

California man tells court he served as agent for Beijing

A former San Francisco Bay Area tour operator agreed yesterday [Macau time] to plead guilty to serving as an unregistered agent for China in exchange for a possible reduced prison sentence.

Xuehua Edward Peng agreed in court to a four-year prison term and a fine of \$30,000 in a plea deal negotiated with prosecutors after they charged him with being an illegal foreign agent who delivered U.S. national security information to officials in China.

U.S. District Judge Haywood S. Gilliam Jr., however, declined to accept the plea deal until senten-

cing, which is scheduled in March.

Peng, 57, is a naturalized U.S. citizen in federal custody since late September, when he was arrested at his Hayward residence to the surprise of neighbors, who knew him as a nice person with a taste for luxury cars.

Yesterday, he appeared in red inmate garb and spoke through a Mandarin interpreter. He told the judge that he understood the terms of the agreement and that he was guilty. It did not appear that he had family or other supporters in the room.

Prosecutors said Peng, under orders from a han-

dler in China, left cash in hotel rooms in exchange for classified national security information on small electronic storage devices.

The U.S. was never at risk since the information left for Peng was provided by an FBI double agent who had also been approached for spy-work by the Chinese government but decided to inform the U.S. government instead, prosecutors have said.

In the plea agreement, Peng said he was approached by a state security official with China during a business trip in 2015 and agreed to collect and deliver information. He made

six trips between 2015 and 2018, leaving as much as \$20,000 in envelopes at a time.

"I was never informed of the contents of these devices and at no time learned what information was stored on them," Peng said in the plea agreement.

Peng was paid "at least \$30,000 for the acts" he performed as a courier, according to the agreement. Communications were done by telephone at first and then by the encrypted chat platform WeChat.

A seventh drop scheduled for August 2019 was delayed. Peng was arrested the next month.

Daniel Olmos, one of Peng's attorneys, declined to comment after the hearing. "The plea speaks for itself," he said.

If convicted at trial, Peng could face a maximum of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Investigators described him as a sight-seeing operator in the San Francisco area for Chinese visitors and students. Public records list Peng as president of U.S. Tour and Travel in San Francisco, but no website for the company was found.

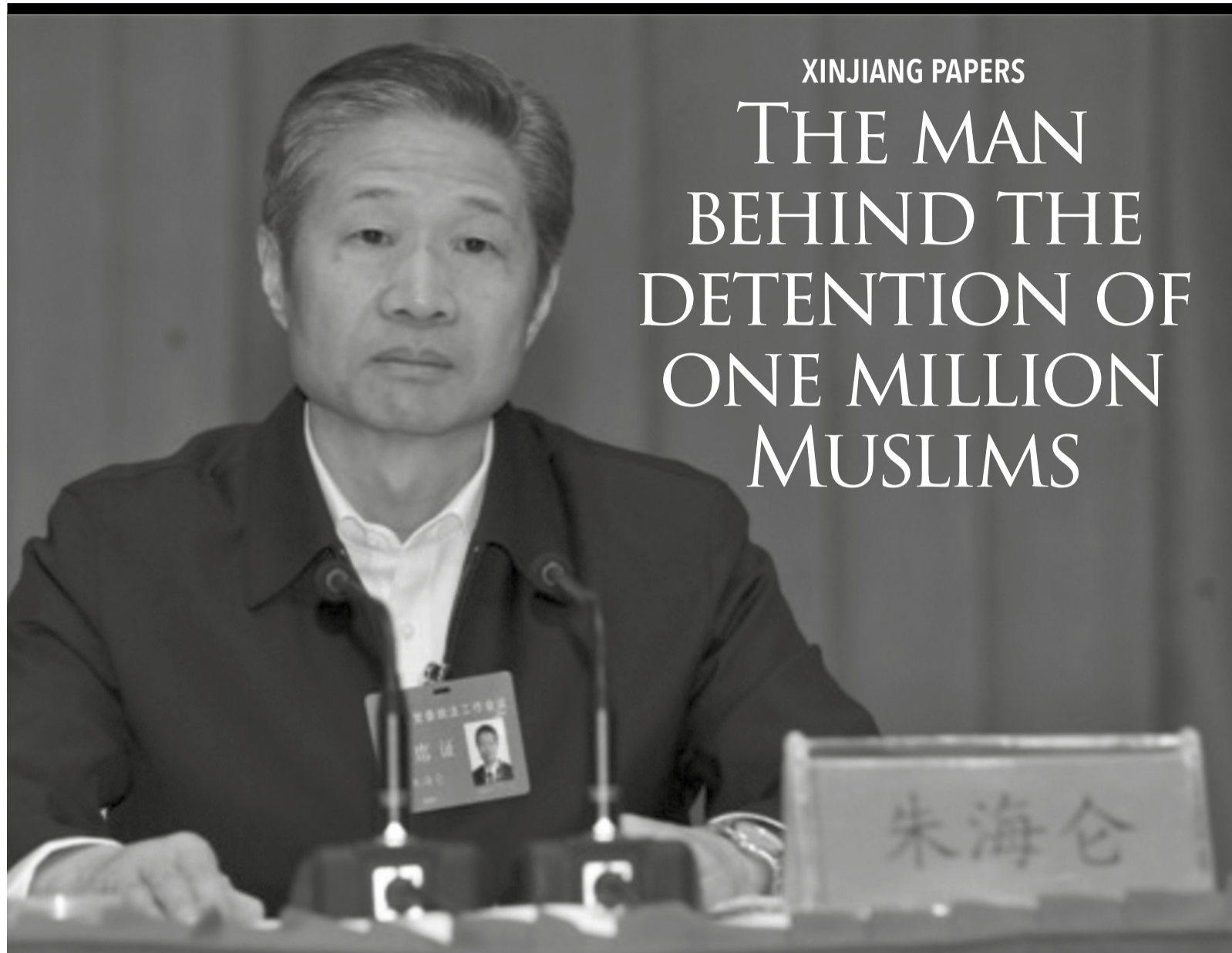
Peng entered the country in 2001 on a temporary business visa. He became a

lawful permanent resident in 2006 following his marriage and was naturalized in September 2012.

He has a background in mechanical engineering and is licensed in California as an acupuncturist.

A magistrate judge denied his earlier request for a free federal lawyer, saying he had too many assets, and refused to let him out on bail given that he had an apartment and a mistress in China.

FBI Director Christopher Wray has said China poses a more serious counterintelligence threat to the U.S. than any other country, including Russia. **AP**



XINJIANG PAPERS
**THE MAN
BEHIND THE
DETENTION OF
ONE MILLION
MUSLIMS**

This screenshot taken from the Xinjiang Legal News Network website shows the former head of the Xinjiang Communist Party Political and Legal Affairs Commission, Zhu Hailun

AFTER bloody race riots rocked China's far west a decade ago, the ruling Communist Party turned to a rare figure in their ranks to restore order: a Han Chinese official fluent in Uighur, the language of the local Turkic Muslim minority.

Now, newly revealed, confidential documents show that the official, Zhu Hailun, played a key role in planning and executing a campaign that has swept up a million or more Uighurs into detention camps.

Published in 2017, the documents were signed by Zhu, as then-head of the powerful Political and Legal Affairs Commission of the Communist Party in the Xinjiang region. A Uighur linguist recognized Zhu's signature scrawled atop some of the documents from his time working as a translator in Kashgar, when Zhu was the city's top official.

"When I saw them, I knew they were important," said the linguist, Abduweli Ayup, who now lives in exile. "He's a guy who wants to control power in his hands. Everything."

Zhu, 61, did not respond to repeated requests for comment.

Long before the crackdown and despite his intimate familiarity with local culture, Zhu was more hated than loved among the Uighurs he ruled.

He was born in 1958 in rural Jiangsu on China's coast. In his teens, during China's tumultuous Cultural Revolution, Zhu

was sent to Kargilik county, deep in the Uighur heartland in Xinjiang. He never left.

Zhu joined the party in 1980 and moved up Xinjiang's bureaucracy, helming hotspot cities. By the '90s, he was so fluent in Uighur that he corrected his own translators during meetings.

"If you didn't see him, you'd never imagine he's Han Chinese. When he spoke Uighur, he really spoke just like a Uighur, since he grew up with them," said a Uighur businessman living in exile in Turkey, who declined to be named out of fear of retribution.

The businessman first heard of Zhu from a Uighur friend who dealt with the official while doing business. His friend was impressed, describing Zhu as "very capable" — a Han Chinese bureaucrat the Uighurs could work with. But after years of observing Zhu oversee crackdowns and arrests, the businessman soon came to a different conclusion.

"He's a crafty fox. The really cunning sort, the kind that plays with your brain," he said. "He was a key character for the Communist Party's policies to control Southern Xinjiang."

Ayup, the linguist, met Zhu in 1998, when he came to inspect his township. He was notorious for ordering 3 a.m. raids of Uighur homes, and farmers would

sing a popular folk song called 'Zhu Hailun is coming' to poke fun at his hard and unyielding nature.

"He gave orders like farmers were soldiers. All of us were his soldiers," Ayup said. "Han Chinese controlled our homeland. We

Despite his familiarity with local culture, Zhu was more hated than loved among the Uighurs he ruled

knew we needed to stay in our place."

Once, at a meeting, Ayup said, Zhu complained to town officials that farmers upset over orders to grow certain crops were secretly supporting extremism. He suddenly interrupted to call the Quran, Islam's holy book, "complete and utter nonsense."

"Your 'God' is total rubbish," Zhu said, to shocked silence.

Ayup said Zhu compared traditional Uighur culture to Afghanistan, saying it needed to modernize.

"He saw himself as a savior," Ayup said. "He thought he came here to bring modernity, modern life, modern ideology to Uighurs."

Months after a July 5, 2009 riot left hundreds dead in the

region's capital of Urumqi, Zhu was tapped to replace the city's chief. Beijing almost always flew in officials from other provinces for the job, in part as training for higher posts. But central officials on a fact-finding mission in Urumqi concluded that Zhu, seen as tougher than his predecessor, needed to take charge.

"They were super unhappy," said a Uighur former cadre who declined to be named out of fear of retribution. "It had never happened before, but because locals said he was outstanding at maintaining stability, he was snatched up and installed as Urumqi Party Secretary."

Upon appointment, Zhu spent three days holed up in the

city's police command, vowing to tighten the government's grip. Police swept through Uighur neighborhoods, brandishing rifles and rounding up hundreds for trial. Tens of thousands of surveillance cameras were installed.

But instead of healing ethnic divisions, the crackdown hardened them. Matters came to a head in April 2014, when Chinese President Xi Jinping came to Xinjiang on a state visit. Just hours after his departure, bombs tore through an Urumqi train station, killing three and injuring 79.

Xi vowed to clamp down even harder.

In 2016, Beijing appointed a new leader for Xinjiang — Chen Quanguo. Chen, whose first name means "whole country", had built a reputation as a hard-hitting official who pioneered digital surveillance tactics in Tibet.

Zhu was his right-hand man. Appointed head of the region's security and legal apparatus, Zhu laid the groundwork for an all-seeing state surveillance system that could automatically identify targets for arrest. He crisscrossed the region to inspect internment centers, police stations, checkpoints and other components of an emerging surveillance and detention apparatus.

After Chen's arrival, Uighurs began disappearing by the thousands. The leaked documents show that Zhu directed mass arrests, signing off on notices ordering police to use digital surveillance to investigate people for having visited foreign countries, using certain mobile applications, or being related to "suspicious persons". State television shows that Zhu continued on his relentless tour of Xinjiang's camps, checkpoints, and police stations, personally guiding the mass detention campaign.

Zhu stepped down last year after turning 60, in line with traditional practice for Communist Party cadres of Zhu's rank. Chen remains in his post.

"Chen Quanguo came in the name of the Party," said the Uighur businessman. "Zhu knows how to implement, who to capture, what to do." AP

GERMANY CALLS FOR UN ACCESS TO CHINESE DETENTION CAMPS

GERMANY says China should give U.N. human rights officials unhindered access to camps in its western region of Xinjiang, after leaked documents indicated they are used to forcibly re-educate minorities. Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Adebahr said Germany was "following with great concern" recent news reports about the camps, where about 1 million people are being held. Government spokesman Steffen

Seibert said Germany has previously joined other countries in calling for U.N. experts to be allowed to visit the camps and produce an independent assessment of the situation there. Seibert told reporters in Berlin that "we must now concentrate on verifying these reports." China's embassy in the United Kingdom has said the documents, which were leaked to a consortium of international journalists, "are fabrication and fake news."

INDONESIA

Police arrests 85 Chinese nationals in phone scam

INDONESIAN police said yesterday they have arrested 85 Chinese citizens for involvement in a cross-border telephone and Internet fraud ring after receiving a tip from Chinese police.

The suspects, including 11 women, were paraded at a police news conference in the capital, Jakarta, a day after being arrested.

Jakarta Police Chief Gatot Eddy Pramono said the suspects were arrested in several raids in Jakarta and East Java's Malang city. Police believe they are members of a telephone fraud and online investment scam syndicate.

Pramono said most of their targets appeared to be fellow Chinese who were called over the internet and tricked into transferring money to them. A preliminary investigation showed the gang collected at



least 36 billion rupiah (\$2.5 million) over the past year.

He said members of the syndicate had come from China to Indonesia for three months at a time since last year, using tourist visas.

"They were committing the crimes from Indonesia after China cracked down their networks," Pramono said.

He said Indonesian police are

working closely with immigration officials and Chinese police in dealing with the suspects.

Six Indonesian helpers who worked with them were also detained, but Pramono said they were not directly involved in the scam.

In 2017, Indonesia arrested at least 419 Chinese and Taiwanese citizens who were involved in a similar case. AP

PHILIPPINES

TWO CHINESE, SEVEN FILIPINOS ARRESTED IN DUMPING OF TOXIC WASTE

TWO Chinese and seven Filipinos have been arrested for dumping possibly radioactive waste from South Korea in a northwestern Philippine town, officials said yesterday.

The National Bureau of Investigation said the coast guard seized a Liberian-registered vessel, the M/V Dayang Century, and two smaller craft used to dump tons of phosphogypsum on a riverbank in Cabangan town in Zambales province.

The suspects were involved in transporting about 53,000 tons of phosphogypsum, a toxic byproduct of fertilizer production that can contain natural radioactive elements, from South Korea to Cabangan, the bureau said in a statement.

Government agent

Habeas Corpuz said the suspects have been charged with illegally importing and dumping the waste, which is banned in the Philippines and could jeopardize the health of villagers and contaminate water supplies.

"The waste was just left exposed, there was no warning," Corpuz said by telephone. "This has naturally occurring radioactive materials so if people inhale it or it seeps into ground water, it can be carcinogenic and cause lung diseases."

During surveillance, the suspects were seen hauling the waste with the use of cranes from the Dayang Century, which was anchored about 1.5 kilometers (nearly a mile) from the coast, to a private jetty port in Cabangan. Trucks then transported and dumped the waste

on a nearby riverbank, the National Bureau of Investigation said.

Nearly half of the phosphogypsum cargo had been dumped in an open pile when government agents barged in and made the arrests, Corpuz said, adding that authorities may order the waste to be shipped back to South Korea.

The Philippines is among Southeast Asian countries that have protested being treated like dumpsites by wealthier nations. In May, Philippine authorities shipped back 69 containers of what officials called illegally transported garbage back to Canada.

Philippine officials said 103 containers of garbage were transported to the Philippines in 2013 to 2014 and falsely declared as recyclable plastic scraps. AP

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ALBANIA

EARTHQUAKE KILLS AT LEAST 16; RESCUERS HUNT FOR SURVIVORS

LLAZAR SEMINI
& VISAR KRYEZIU, THUMANE

RESCUE crews used excavators to search for survivors trapped in toppled apartment buildings yesterday after a powerful pre-dawn earthquake in Albania killed at least 16 people and injured more than 600.

The 6.4 magnitude quake was felt across the southern Balkans and was followed by multiple aftershocks. In nearby Bosnia, another temblor with a preliminary magnitude of 5.4 struck southeast of the capital and rattled Sarajevo. There were no immediate reports of casualties and only minor damage in that earthquake.

The quake in Albania collapsed at least three apartment buildings while people slept, and rescue crews were working to free people believed trapped. There was no indication as to how many people might still be buried in the rubble.

"It is a dramatic moment where we should preserve calm, stay alongside each other to cope with this shock," Prime Minister Edi Rama said.

The Health Ministry reported about 600 people had been injured, with some in serious condition.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the magnitude-6.4 quake, which struck just before 4 a.m. local time, had an epicenter 30 ki-

AP PHOTO



Rescuers search at a damaged building after a magnitude 6.4 earthquake in Thumane, western Albania

lometers northwest of the capital, Tirana, at a depth of 20 kilometers. Scores of aftershocks included three with preliminary magnitudes of between 5.1 and 5.4.

The Defense Ministry said seven bodies were pulled from rubble in the coastal city of Durres, 33 kilometers west of the capital Tirana and five people were found

dead in a collapsed apartment building in the northern town of Thumane. One person died after jumping from his home to escape in Kurbin, 50 kilometers north of the capital, while another person was killed on a road that collapsed in the northern town of Lezha.

"Durres and Thumane are the two worst hit localities, with great

material damage and ... tragically lives lost," Defense Minister Olta Xhaska said in a televised statement. "Search and rescue work continues at all sites where buildings have collapsed.

"But these are extremely difficult operations, where you have to work slowly because there is a high risk of further collapse, en-

dangering not only residents, but also those trapped, and the rescuers themselves."

Local television stations showed footage of a young boy being pulled from a collapsed building in Durres after an excavator moved a broken slab of concrete and local men pulled mangled reinforcement bars out of the way. Hours later in a separate incident, live TV footage showed people cheering when another child was found alive in a collapsed building in Durres where a body had been found earlier.

Seismologist Rapo Ormeni of Albania's Institute of Geosciences, Energy, Water and Environment, said a 6.4 quake was considered a strong one.

"Damage at the epicenter will be considerable because of its high energy, the magnitude it has," Ormeni said. "Such kind of quakes are felt in a wider area due to its major depth and magnitude. It has been felt all around the territory of our country but also abroad, up to Bulgaria, Bosnia, Italy and other (countries)."

The quake was felt along the Albanian coast as well as neighboring Kosovo, Montenegro, Greece, and parts of southern Serbia.

Authorities reported scores of aftershocks — as strong as magnitude 5.5 — and called on people in the most affected areas to stay out of their homes and avoid driving in the affected areas to allow emergency vehicles free access. Many reported seeing cracks in their apartment walls.

Ormeni said there had been more than 150 aftershocks, and that this was expected to continue. **AP**

CONGO

Ebola responders on 'lockdown' after city's unrest

AP PHOTO



EBOLA responders are on lockdown in the eastern Congo city of Beni after angry residents attacked a United Nations base to protest repeated rebel assaults, the World Health Organization said. At least four protesters were killed, a local official said.

Every day that health workers don't have full access to Ebola-affected areas is a "tragedy" that prolongs the second-worst Ebola outbreak in history, WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on Twitter.

Almost 50 "non-critical" staffers with the U.N. health agency were evacuated to the city of Goma while 71 remain, spokesman Christian Lindmeier said. He said the violence is not directed at WHO or the Ebola response at large.

Instead, Beni residents are outraged that rebels continue to carry out deadly attacks despite the presence of U.N. peacekeepers and Congolese forces. Some demand that the U.N. mission act or leave.

The bodies of four young protesters were found near the U.N. base after Monday's attack, Kumbu Ngoma with Beni's military court told The Associated Press yesterday. Investigations continued into the cause of their deaths. Six Congolese soldiers were wounded by gunfire near the base, Ngoma added.

Congo's President Felix Tshisekedi after an emergency meeting Monday decided to allow joint operations between Congolese and U.N. forces in Beni following the protests that also burned the town hall.

Congo's military early this month declared a new offensive against Allied Democratic Forces rebels who have killed hundreds of civilians and security forces over the past few years in the mineral-rich northeast.

After the U.N. mission in recent days was accused of inaction, it said it could not carry out operations unilaterally in a region where Congo's military is already active, and that it cannot participate in Congolese military operations without being invited.

Any unrest in the region where numerous rebel groups are active hurts crucial efforts to contain the Ebola outbreak. The number of reported cases has been dropping, with zero cases recorded on several days this month.

More than 3,100 Ebola cases have been confirmed since this outbreak was declared in August 2018, including more than 2,100 deaths. **AP**

RELIGION

Pope visits Jesuit Japan community that could have been his

NICOLE WINFIELD
& MARI YAMAGUCHI, TOKYO

POPE Francis wrapped up his visit to Japan in a very personal way yesterday, spending the morning with his Jesuit confreres in the community that would have been his own had his dream to be a missionary come true.

Francis celebrated morning Mass in the chapel of the Jesuit-run Sophia University and visited retired and sick priests before delivering a speech on Jesuit education in the final event of his weeklong Asia pilgrimage.

"In a society as competitive and technologically oriented as present-day Japan, this university should be a center not only of intellectual formation, but also a place where a better society and a more hope-filled future can take shape," he told faculty and students.

As a young Jesuit in Argentina, the former Jorge Mario Bergoglio had dreamed of following in the footsteps of St. Francis Xavier, who introduced Christianity to Japan in the 16th century.

He was prevented because of health reasons, but he joked with Japanese bishops upon arriving in Tokyo that he got his "revenge" when he was in charge of the order in Buenos Aires and sent five Argentine priests



to Japan as missionaries.

One of those Argentine priests is now the head of the Jesuits in Japan, the Rev. Renzo De Luca, who served as Francis' interpreter for the trip.

De Luca has said his former seminary rector was someone who was particularly "close" to his students, always available even though at a certain point there were more than 100 living in the seminary.

"Even in that time, it was easy to find him: He'd sit with us, cooked with us. Every so often he cooked for us," De Luca told Vati-

can Media. "He was someone very close to us. He never wanted to be anyone important or hard to get ahold of."

If Francis had come to Japan as a missionary, he likely would have eventually ended up at Sophia, a prestigious private university that caters to the wealthy, like many of the Catholic schools in Japan.

There, Francis met his long-time friend Adolfo Nicolas, an 83-year-old former superior general of the Jesuits who had taught theology for three decades. Nicolas was recovering from a recent health problem.

Overall, even publicly funded higher education in Japan is expensive and generally reserved for the elites. Tuition for bachelor or equivalent level degrees in public schools in Japan are the fourth highest across OECD countries, after England, the U.S. and Chile, at \$5,218 a year, according to OECD data.

In his speech to students and faculty, Francis urged the school to not just be a center for elites, but to consider more marginal groups.

"Quality university education should not be the privilege of a

few, but constantly informed by the effort to serve justice and the common good," he said. "The marginalized would be creatively incorporated into the life and curriculum of the university, in an effort to bring about an educational approach aimed at reducing distances and disconnects."

He also urged the university to boost its curriculum with more environmental concerns, following his own priorities and those recently articulated by the Jesuits globally as topics for their schools, churches and programs to incorporate.

Students massed outside the school to welcome Francis, including some from the theology department who toted an environment-themed banner saying "Welcome" in Spanish.

They said they felt particularly close to the pope because they considered him open-minded and a friend.

"We call him papa because he is so close to us," said Leo Ito, a theology student at Sofia.

Tsukasa Yano, a 19-year-old journalism student and Catholic, queued up hours before the Pope's arrival and was able to go close enough to get his cross blessed by the Pope.

"I'm totally overwhelmed. I have no other word," Yano said as he showed the cross in his hand. "He was so friendly to us." AP

SURVEY

Americans, Germans far apart in views of bilateral relations

ALMOST three years into the U.S. presidency of Donald Trump, Germans and Americans continue to have notably different perspectives on the relationship between their two countries, with Americans much more optimistic than their European counterparts, a study said yesterday.

The Pew Research Center and the Koerber-Stiftung foundation said in the joint report that three-quarters of Americans surveyed characterized the relationship with Germany as good, while nearly two-thirds of Germans polled saw relations as bad. Only 2% of Germans said the relationship with the U.S. is very good, compared with 13% of Americans.



Despite this disconnect, views have become more positive in Germany over the past year: The share of Germans who said the relationship between the Uni-

ted States and Germany is good rose from 24% in 2018 to 34% this year.

The United States had been the Germans' most important trans-Atlantic

partner from the end of World War II through the Cold War. But after the fall of the Berlin Wall three decades ago and German reunification in 1990, Germany began focusing more on its partners in the European Union.

The relationship between Germany and the U.S. also took a hit after Trump became president in 2017 and is mirrored in the strained relations of Trump and German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Tempers flared this week after Economy Minister Peter Altmaier on a talk show defended the government's decision not to ban Huawei from competing for contracts to build the country's 5G mobile networks, instead agreeing that com-

panies must meet strict standards — which still could end up excluding the Chinese firm.

Altmaier noted Germany hadn't boycotted the U.S. after it was revealed the National Security Agency had listened in on Merkel's phone, and said that Washington also demands that American companies "pass on certain information needed to fight terrorism."

U.S. Ambassador Richard Grenell, a Trump appointee, responded that "the recent claims by senior German officials that the United States is equivalent to the Chinese Communist Party are an insult to the thousands of American troops who help ensure Germany's security."

Despite the tensions un-

der Trump, however, Americans' view of the bilateral relationship is at its highest point in three years of surveys, rising from 68% in 2017 to 75% this year.

Germans were more likely to see the U.S. as an important partner than Americans were to consider Germany as one.

Among the Germans polled, 42% said the United States is the most important foreign partner, second only to France, which was deemed most important by 60%.

In comparison, only 13% of Americans said Germany is the United States' most important partner abroad, ranking it fifth after the United Kingdom (36%), China (23%), Canada (20%) and Israel (15%). AP

what's ON



EXHIBITION OF TUBEROSE

TIME: 10:30am-6:30pm (closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: November 30, 2019

VENUE: 10 Fantasia, Kei Luen Bld, R. de São Miguel 17

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

2ND MACAU OCEAN CULTURE FESTIVAL - CREATIVE DESIGN COMPETITION EXHIBITION

TIME: Open 24 hours

UNTIL: December 19, 2019

VENUE: Sai Van Lake

ADMISSION: Free

FACEBOOK: porthistorymacau

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

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

UNTIL: February 23, 2020

VENUE: Macau Contemporary Art Centre - Navy Yard No.1, located at Rua de S. Tiago Da Barra

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

LINGUA FRANCA - 2ND ANNUAL ARTS EXHIBITION BETWEEN CHINA AND PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES

TIME: 10am-7pm (Closed on Monday)

UNTIL: December 8, 2019

VENUE: No. 55-57, Avenida do Coronel Mesquita, known as Green Townhouses; Former Municipal Cattle Stable

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

FASHION INTERACTION - GUANGZHOU-HONG KONG-MACAU-SHENZHEN CREATIVE FASHION EXHIBITION

TIME: 10am-8pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: December 31, 2019

VENUE: Macau Fashion Gallery

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3341

AFA AUTUMN SALON 2019

TIME: 10am-7pm (Closed on Monday)

UNTIL: December 1, 2019

VENUE: Orient Foundation, Praça Luis de Camões, No. 13, Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6064

Offbeat

RUFF RIDE: FLORIDA DOG BUMPS CAR INTO MOTION, GETS SOLO TRIP

Florida authorities say they responded to a rogue vehicle spinning in reverse around a suburban cul-de-sac with a lone occupant inside: a Black Labrador.

News outlets report residents called police Thursday after seeing the dog trapped and clambering around in the car as it spun in circles in a Port St. Lucie neighborhood.

Police say they think the dog's owner stepped away from the running car and that's when the pet knocked it into reverse. Neighbor Anne Sabol says she watched the furry speed racer take out a mailbox and a trash can.

Sabol says the dog was in high spirits after being rescued, adding it "jumped out of the car, wagging his tail."

Police stopped the joyride by punching a passcode into the driver's door. No one was hurt.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Agua de Mar
15:30	BING
16:00	História a História com Fernando Rosas
16:30	Quem Quer Ser Milionário
17:25	A Essência
17:45	Império (Repetição)
18:35	TDM Entrevista (Repetição)
19:10	Resumo Liga dos Campeões 2019/2020
19:30	Ouro Verde Sr.1
20:30	Telejornal
21:10	Macau 20 Anos
21:25	Semana Internacional
22:00	Tesouro Pirata nas Caraíbas Sr.1
22:25	Império
23:15	TDM News
23:50	O Último Reino Sr.2
00:50	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:35	RTPi Directo
04:00	Liga dos Campeões: RB Leipzig - Benfica (Directo)
06:00	RTPi Directo

cinema



CINETEATRO

21 - 22Nov



CHARLIE'S ANGELS

ROOM 1

2:30, 9:30pm

Director: Elizabeth Banks

Starring: Kristen Stewart, Naomi Scott, Ella Balinska

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 118min



FROZEN II

ROOM 2

5:00, 7:30pm

Director: Chris Buck, Jennifer Lee

Starring: Kristen Bell, Jonathan Groff, Idina Menzel

Language: Cantonese

Duration: 103min

21 BRIDGES

ROOM 2

2:30, 4:30, 9:30pm

Director: Brian Kirk

Starring: Chadwick Boseman, J.K. Simmons, Sienna Miller

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 99min

FORD V. FERRARI

ROOM 3

2:15, 8:45pm

Director: James Mangold

Starring: Roberta Sparta, Caitriona Balfe, Christian Bale

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 152min

GUILTY BY DESIGN

ROOM 3

5:00, 9:30pm

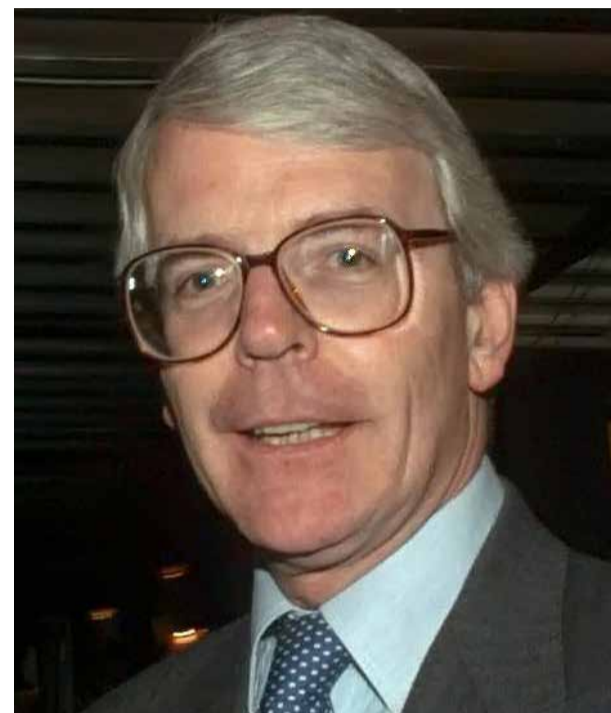
Director: Siu Kwan Lai, Wing Tai Lau

Starring: Nick Cheung, Kent Cheng, Hans Zhang

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 93min

this day in history



1990: TORIES CHOOSE MAJOR FOR NUMBER 10

John Major is to be Britain's new prime minister after winning the Conservatives' leadership election.

Mr Major, 47, will visit the Queen at 1030 BST tomorrow to be formally appointed and will return to Downing Street as the youngest British leader this century.

Currently serving as Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Major did not achieve the majority required for an absolute victory, but the margin was clear enough for his rivals to withdraw and a third ballot was avoided.

Mr Major - who has been in parliament for only 11 years - said he was enormously encouraged so many had voted for him and would discharge his responsibilities to the best of his ability.

Current Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher resigned after Michael Heseltine challenged her for the leadership and close friends said she would lose.

The outcome of the ballot was announced by the chairman of the influential Tory backbench 1922 Committee, Cranley Onslow.

Mr Major received 185 votes, Mr Heseltine 131, and Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd trailed in with just 56.

The Huntingdon MP was just three votes short of an absolute majority.

But within minutes of the results being read out both Mr Major's challengers withdrew from the contest.

Mr Heseltine said it had been a campaign fought between colleagues without rancour and one which laid the foundations of unity in the party.

Mr Hurd told reporters he was convinced Mr Major was the right man to lead the party.

Mrs Thatcher also endorsed the new leader, saying she was thrilled with the choice.

"I want everyone in the party to rally behind him," she said.

Mr Major said he looked forward to leading the party to further victories.

"We're going to unite totally and absolutely and we're going to win the next general election," he said.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

John Major led the Conservatives to victory in the party's fourth successive general election success in 1992.

He remained prime minister until May 1997 when the Tories were ousted from power by a Labour landslide win.

He stepped down as leader of the party soon after the defeat.

Mr Major continued to be MP for Huntingdon until 2001.

Since his departure from politics he has concentrated his efforts on writing his memoirs, public speaking, consultancy and his favourite leisure activity, cricket.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
The two of you are about to start a new type of relationship. This person is as strong as you are, and will be able to challenge you the way you need to be challenged. Don't be afraid to let him or her bring out the best in you.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
Even better, clean out your closets and donate a few boxes of your belongings to a charity. You'll quickly discover that you don't need as much stuff as you thought.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
Instead of trying to schedule every minute of your busy day, let things unfold naturally. Calendars and alarm clocks are useful, but they can inhibit your creativity and interfere with a day's natural rhythm.

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 today...

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
Your thoughts are moving away from short-term goals anyway, and you are in a good place to sacrifice immediate gratification in exchange for long-term growth.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
And then others are far too critical, holding you to such a high standard that you can never feel empowered to attain it. From here on out, you should listen only to people who offer you both honesty and acceptance.

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 doesn't call for a series of interviews.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Well, you can't play a role in this episode of your coworker's soap opera of a life. You have too much going on right now. Put on headphones, move to a different desk or try to work at home if you can.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-3	4	clear
Harbin	-15	-9	clear
Tianjin	0	4	cloudy
Urumqi	-14	-7	foggy
Xi'an	2	6	drizzle
Lhasa	-3	14	cloudy
Chengdu	7	11	cloudy
Chongqing	10	13	overcast
Kunming	7	22	clear
Nanjing	6	8	drizzle
Shanghai	9	11	drizzle
Wuhan	4	7	drizzle
Hangzhou	8	11	drizzle
Taipei	17	20	drizzle
Guangzhou	18	25	cloudy
Hong Kong	20	24	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	-1	1	sleet
Frankfurt	7	9	moderate rain
Paris	10	12	drizzle
London	9	13	drizzle
New York	5	12	overcast

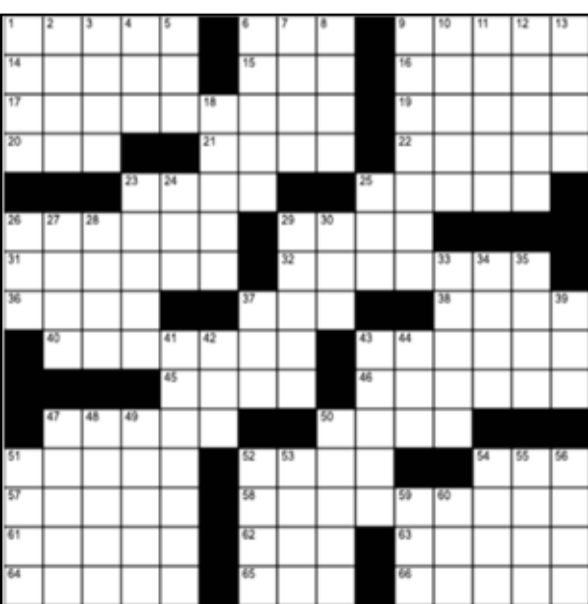
CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Suspension of breathing; 6- From ___ Z; 9- Country singer Travis; 14- Carries; 15- Obtain; 16- Cowboy display; 17- Morning meal; 19- Out of this world; 20- Early hrs.; 21- Lhasa ___; 22- Doppelganger; 23- West Wing worker; 25- Agenda details; 26- Sweet dessert; 29- Dynamic leader?; 31- In a foreign country; 32- Surprise; 36- Shark's offering; 37- Solver's shout; 38- Seldom seen; 40- Hoist; 43- Belonging to them; 45- Opposite of odd, especially when applied to numbers; 46- Throaty; 47- Old hat; 50- Jeff's pal; 51- Satisfies; 52- Run-down quarter; 54- ___ deferens; 57- Oklahoma tribe; 58- Robin; 61- Existing in an untamed state; 62- Find the sum of; 63- Get the lead out?; 64- Works hard; 65- Express; 66- Thaws;

DOWN: 1- "Mamma Mia!" group; 2- Salon offering; 3- Scottish refusals; 4- Big Band ___; 5- Invite; 6- Open-mouthed; 7- Hardy girl; 8- Conductor Klemperer; 9- Farm vehicle; 10- Esther of "Good Times"; 11- Expression peculiar to a language; 12- Ages between 13 and 19; 13- Muscle quality; 18- Washed out; 23- Unified; 24- This ___ stickup!; 25- George's lyricist; 26- ___ de mer; 27- Wind instrument; 28- Russian range; 29- Gray; 30- Hellenic H; 33- Unexpected pleasure; 34- Lion's den; 35- Makes a blunder; 37- Had something; 39- WNW's reverse; 41- Ships; 42- Forum greeting; 43- Pollex; 44- Like Phoenix in summer; 47- Stroll; 48- Pong maker; 49- George of "Just Shoot Me"; 50- Swampy; 51- Like a pillow; 52- Ladies of Sp.; 53- Helen of Troy's mother; 54- South African river; 55- Gal Fri.; 56- Fr. holy women; 59- Sleep initials; 60- Before, before;

Yesterday's solution

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



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>One Central Lakeview/ high floor, Taipa HK\$12,980,000 1,269 ft² 2 2 2</p>	<p>FOR RENT</p> <p>Nam Long Neat 2 bedroom, Taipa \$11,800/mth 645 ft² 2 1 1</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>[Macau] Nova City 3 2 2 1,515 ft² \$11,750,000 (ref: 19106001)</p> <p>[Taipa] Taipa Village with balcony 2 1 1 787 ft² \$4,950,000 (ref: 19096008)</p> <p>[Taipa] Taipa Village (2 connected) 4 2 2 1,404 ft² \$8,680,000 (ref: 19096006)</p> <p>[Macau] One Central 2 2 2 1,349 ft² \$14,839,000 (ref: 19096004)</p>	<p>FOR RENT</p> <p>[Taipa] Nova Grand 2 1 1 935 ft² \$17,800/mth (ref: 19091004)</p> <p>[Taipa] Manhattan high floor 4 2 2 2,305 ft² \$26,800/mth (ref: 19091003t)</p> <p>[Taipa] Large de Ponte: Unit C 1 1 550 ft² \$10,000/mth (ref: 19101003)</p> <p>[Macau] Keng Ou office 3 3 3 2,352 ft² \$38,000/mth (ref: 19091000)</p>
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GAZA MAN MASTERS RARE SKILL OF BALANCING ART

WHENEVER Mohammed al-Shenbari sees a new object, he quickly tries to find its "balancing point" and make it stand in a way that appears to defy the law of gravity.

The 24-year-old self-taught Palestinian artist says he can balance almost any object, using what he calls a mix of mind and body.

This has made him a popular entertainer and frequent participant in psychological support sessions that are common in conflict-ridden, poverty-stricken Gaza.

In the yard of his home in northern Gaza, al-Shenbari stood a chair on one leg, propped two gas canisters on a slanted pipe wrench and balanced an upside-down TV screen on the rim of a Coke bottle.

"You just need to know the fulcrum of the object and you get it," he said.

A fitness and bodybuilding coach, al-Shenbari says his healthy lifestyle helped him slowly de-



velop "the great focus" required to balance the objects.

"When I do this, I feel something indescribable; like a magnet drawing out energy from me toward the objects," he said after he stacked four oddly angled cans of beans on a wood frame hanging off a tree.

A year ago, al-Shenbari came across a YouTube video by a Korean balance artist, Nam Seok Byun, and was fascinated by the way the artist arranged

layers of rocks delicately supported by round pebbles.

Trying to emulate his hero, al-Shenbari said he would spend days working on what now seem like basic sculptures. Now, it takes him just a few minutes and several attempts to figure things out.

Gaza is sandwiched between Israel and Egypt, which have kept it under a blockade for 12 years since the Hamas militant group took power.

After years of living under the blockade and three devastating wars between Israel and Hamas, al-Shenbari, like many young Gazans, wants to leave the territory in search of better opportunities. His dream is to compete on reality TV shows and travel to Asia, where he says the art of balancing is practiced, to improve his skills.

"I want to balance larger objects like a washing machine or a fridge," he said.

NAACP IMAGE AWARDS TO BE TELEVISED ON BET FOR FIRST TIME

THE NAACP Image Awards will be televised for the first time on BET.

NAACP and the cable network announced yesterday that the 51st awards ceremony will be held in Pasadena, California, on Feb. 22. The event will spotlight the contributions of the NAACP and its impact on the community.

NAACP President and CEO Derrick Johnson says the collaboration between the organiza-

tion and BET will be "critical to reaching our shared communities" before heading into the 2020 election and census.

Nominees for the awards will be announced Jan. 9.

Beyoncé was named entertainer of the year at the previous awards in March. Her husband, Jay-Z, received the President's Award, and the Marvel film "Black Panther" won several nods, including best motion picture.



AD

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BERNIE WILSON

SAILING

Ben Ainslie adds SailGP to his America's Cup chase

SAILING star Sir Ben Ainslie and his main America's Cup sponsor are taking over the British team for the second season of the SailGP global league.

It's an interesting crossover for Ainslie, the most successful sailor in Olympic history and a former America's Cup winner. Ainslie said he remains focused on trying to become the first Englishman to win the oldest trophy in international sports while wanting to participate in SailGP for commercial and competitive reasons.

The next America's Cup is still more than a year away, although a series of preliminary regattas will start in April in Italy.

SailGP has announced four regattas for its second season, including a return to Cowes, England, not far from the base in Portsmouth that houses Ainslie's America's Cup challenger, INEOS Team UK.

SailGP is contested in fast, foiling 50-foot catamarans similar to the ones used in the 2017 America's Cup, when Ainslie's British team was eliminated in the challenger trials. The 36th America's Cup will be sailed in the AC75 class of radical, foiling 75-foot monohulls.

Competing in SailGP will help with the development of his America's Cup team, "although the two challenges are unique and the F50 catamarans are vastly different from the AC75 monohulls," Ainslie said in an email to The Associated Press. "SailGP is the only league of its type with the best sailors in the world on the fastest boats on a global platform, meaning we can regularly compete at the highest level of sail racing — which will be a huge benefit for the team and our America's Cup aspirations."

Ainslie's deal with SailGP was to be announced today [Macau time] in London.



The 42-year-old Ainslie said it is a commercial partnership and the squad will be known as the Great Britain SailGP Team presented by INEOS.

He has agreed to a contract for the 2020 season with the option to extend for three years.

"We are looking forward to getting out racing and making this a long-term partnership," he said.

Ainslie will helm the SailGP team, which he said will be a combination of the crew from last season's Great Britain SailGP squad and members of his America's Cup team. Ainslie said Matt Gotrel has become a full-time member of the America's Cup challenge alongside his SailGP commitments.

Ainslie expects to announce the full team before the second season begins in Sydney in February.

It's unclear what role, if any, last year's helmsman, Dylan Fletcher, will have. Fletcher is campaigning for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Less than a year after winning his fourth straight Olympic gold medal and record fifth games medal overall, Ainslie was a key member of the Oracle Team USA crew that rallied to win the America's Cup in 2013. Oracle Team USA's CEO was Russell Coutts, who now leads SailGP.

Coutts said Ainslie called him last month and said he was interested in joining SailGP.

"I wasn't expecting the call, I'll

say that," Coutts said in a phone interview with the AP. "But I'm not surprised such teams would be looking at this."

"He's so talented," Coutts added. "He's the best-performing Olympic athlete in the sport, maybe the best-performing athlete in the sport, period. You've got to expect him to be competitive."

Along with Australia's Tom Slingsby and Japan's Nathan Outteridge, Coutts thinks SailGP has three of the world's top four helmsmen in high-performance boats. Slingsby, also part of Oracle Team USA's America's Cup win in 2013 and an Olympic gold medalist, beat Outteridge in the \$1 million, winner-take-all finale of

the inaugural SailGP season. SailGP expects to add a seventh team for 2020.

"The whole thing is designed and premised on getting close racing," Coutts said. "You certainly saw some of that develop this year. We've seen some fantastic races, including the final this year. But as the other teams get more familiar and add sailors like Ben to the list, it's only going to make the racing better."

"I think it's a great fit," added Coutts, who won the America's Cup three times as a skipper and twice as Oracle Team USA's CEO. "You've got to remember that we were only a startup less than 12 months ago. We hadn't run a single event or established ourselves. This time last year we didn't even have the boats finished. We've come a long way in the last 12 months. I think we've gone from being a startup to a fully fledged international sports league. And I think there are a lot of sailors out there now that want to become part of this."

Coutts said the deal with Ainslie is a step toward SailGP's goal of having the teams be financially sustainable.

SailGP was co-founded by Coutts and tech billionaire Larry Ellison after Oracle Team USA lost the America's Cup to Emirates Team New Zealand in 2017.

"I really have to applaud Larry Ellison and Russell Coutts for their commitment to this vision for the sport," Ainslie said. "Clearly it's a vision that I support and it's been great that they have taken this forward in professional sports to give a generation of sailors this opportunity in a global sporting league."

In April 2018, Ainslie rebranded his America's Cup team after receiving a commitment of \$153 million (110 million pounds) from INEOS, a petrochemical company based in London. Ainslie launched his first America's Cup boat, Britannia, in early October. AP

Japan looking for big 'medal bounce' as Olympic host nation

COUNTRIES playing host to the Olympics usually get a medal "bounce," pushed by cheering fans and the advantage of being at home.

Mitsugi Ogata also brought up the opposite possibility — the "home-field disadvantage."

Ogata was named yesterday as the deputy head of the Japanese delegation for the Tokyo Games next year, introduced alongside Tsuyoshi Fukui, who will lead the delegation.

"We need to play to the home advantage, but also have to remove any



Tsuyoshi Fukui (left) poses with Mitsugi Ogata during a press conference in Tokyo yesterday

home disadvantages that we have," Ogata said, speaking through an interpreter. "Because we are

at home, there is a lot of pressure and more expectations. We have to overcome this and turn the chee-

ring into our own energy."

Japan is aiming very high, shooting for 30 gold medals. Three years ago in Rio de Janeiro, it won only 12. Its best was 16 — in 2004 in Athens and in 1964, when Tokyo was also the venue.

"If we can prepare the environment, I believe the results will come," said Fukui, the general secretary of the Japanese Olympic Committee and a former professional tennis player. "The power of Japan is about teamwork."

Spain was boosted back in 1992 in Barcelona. Bri-

tain got a bounce in the 2012 London Olympics. And China did the same in 2008 in Beijing.

Even Brazil got a slight bump three years ago in Rio de Janeiro despite the country being dragged down by a deep recession, a massive corruption scandal, and an organizing committee teetering on the edge of bankruptcy.

Japan will probably rely on seven core sports: swimming, judo, badminton, track and field, gymnastics, table tennis and wrestling. And it would do well in all five sports being added for

Tokyo: baseball, softball, sports climbing, karate, and skateboarding.

The United States and China are picked to top the medal table, countries with much larger populations than Japan. After the big two, Japan is likely to be in a tight pack with countries like Britain, Australia, France, Germany, and several others.

It's unclear of Russia will be banned from the Tokyo Olympics or field a partial team, fallout from a massive doping scandal dating from at least the 2014 Winter Olympics. AP

OPINION

World Views

Nisha Gopalan, Bloomberg

A TOO-BIG-TO-FAIL TOXIC MONSTER. CHINA'S PLAN C

China's small bank problem may be about to get a lot bigger. The slowing economy is exposing vulnerabilities built up by years of aggressive lending — and Beijing's plans to preserve stability by merging weak lenders with each other could end up creating an even worse headache.

The country's hundreds of rural commercial and city lenders account for 27% of banking assets, but their influence is far larger than this because of their web of connections to the wider system. Small banks are significant players in the interbank market, relying on larger lenders for funding. They are active in selling wealth management products, through which companies raise financing and individual savers seek returns. And their bonds are widely held by insurance companies.

Cracks in the sector emerged in May when the government seized Baoshang Bank Co., its first takeover of a lender in more than two decades. An orchestrated rescue of Bank of Jinzhou Co. followed in July, involving state-owned financial institutions that included Industrial & Commercial Bank of China Ltd. And the following month, local media reported that Shandong province's government would become the largest shareholder in Hengfeng Bank Co.

Authorities are considering a sweeping package of measures to shore up smaller lenders, including merging those with less than 100 billion yuan (\$14 billion) of assets and making them accountable to local governments. Consolidation makes sense: China has more than 3,000 small banks, many of which are struggling to cope with rising bad loans and a government crackdown on shadow banking. Bigger banks attract more deposits, aren't so dependent on interest income, and have the luxury of prime clients that don't fail, such as state companies.

Disruption stemming from the tremors at smaller banks has shown the need for action. Spreads on negotiable certificates of deposits spiked after the Baoshang rescue — another key funding source for many lenders. Authorities have injected liquidity into other institutions, and tamped down speculation that some were on the brink of insolvency in an effort to prevent runs. Small banks have always been weaker than their larger counterparts, but the divide has widened since 2015 as liquidity tightened, according to analysts at Natixis SA. City commercial banks are particularly vulnerable, given a thinner deposit base than rural lenders.

The devil will be in the details. The danger for Beijing is that mergers will be poorly executed and fail to impose root-and-branch changes on lenders' culture and risk-management practices. The result could be a plethora of small, weak banks stapled together into one too-big-to-fail toxic institution. The banking regulator's ability to monitor large mergers, particularly on the country's peripheries, is uncertain. Jinzhou is headquartered in the northeast rust-belt province of Liaoning while Baoshang is based in Inner Mongolia.

Addressing ownership and lines of accountability will also be crucial. Baoshang was part of Xiao Jianhua's Tomorrow Group, an investment conglomerate that was under investigation in China — feeding speculation that the bank's downfall stemmed from loans made to connected companies.

Part of Beijing's solution should be to take the stronger players public. There were 15 city or rural commercial banks awaiting approval to list as of Nov. 1, according to Michael Chang of CGS-CIMB Research. Only 35 currently trade in either Hong Kong or on the mainland exchanges of Shanghai and Shenzhen.

Selling shares is no panacea — after all, Jinzhou trades in Hong Kong. Still, listing does expose companies to the scrutiny and discipline of public markets. Listed banks tend to be better run and more profitable.

Forced mergers may well be necessary, but the evolution of China's approach is more suggestive of policy being made on the fly than of a carefully thought-out strategy. After the Baoshang takeover spooked markets, authorities kept themselves at one remove and leaned on state-owned companies to act as rescuers. This is now Plan C. The price of failure could be huge. [Abridged]

President Donald Trump says he stands with pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong.

Trump told reporters yesterday at the White House that his message is "We are with them."

Trump cited his "very good relationship" with Chinese President Xi Jinping and that the U.S. was in the final stages of an important trade deal.

Congress recently passed a bill authorizing sanctions on Chinese and Hong Kong officials involved in human rights abuses and mandate the State Department to annually review special trade status the U.S. grants Hong Kong.

Trump says he's asked Xi not to use the military to stamp out the protests. China warns it will retaliate against the U.S. if Trump signs the bill. So far Trump hasn't signed the bill.

AP PHOTO



Chairman and CEO of Alibaba Group Daniel Zhang Yong (left) and Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Tung Chee-hwa

IPO

E-COMMERCE GIANT ALIBABA'S SHARES JUMP 7% IN HONG KONG DEBUT

CHINESE e-commerce giant Alibaba's shares jumped 6.6% in their debut on the Hong Kong stock exchange yesterday, an auspicious start at a time when the former British colony is reeling from political unrest.

Alibaba closed at 187.60 Hong Kong dollars (\$23.96) per share after trading as high as 189.50 Hong Kong dollars. Its offering price was 176 Hong Kong dollars.

The company's shares already are listed in New York, where its 2014 IPO set a record at \$25 billion.

This offering of 500 million new shares raised more than \$11 billion in Hong Kong's biggest listing since 2010 — a rare boost for the city after months of political unrest.

Charles Li, executive director and chief executive of Hong Kong Stock Exchanges praised the company for carrying out the listing.

"I am very thankful that Alibaba, after five years of traveling afar, finally came home. I'm also grateful that they choose to come despite the difficulties, despite the challenges that we are going through here in

Hong Kong," Li said.

The closing price Monday for Alibaba's New York-traded shares was \$190.45 per share. Each of the U.S. shares is the equivalent of eight Hong Kong shares, which would put the price in Hong Kong terms at 186.30 Hong Kong dollars per share.

"The largest listing of the year comes at a worrying time for Hong Kong but everything appears to have gone very smoothly," Craig Erlam of OANDA said in a commentary.

This offering of 500 million new shares raised more than \$11 billion in HK's biggest listing since 2010

"This was an opportunity to show that, despite the protests that have brought Hong Kong to a standstill and wreaked havoc on the economy, it's business as usual for the stock exchange," he said.

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

The company's share code, 9988, is a homonym in Chinese for "eternal prosperity."

It already has a significant cash pile of more than \$30 billion, but is tapping the momentum from recent strong earnings, including the \$38.4 billion it reported in "Singles Day" sales on Nov. 11, up 26% from a year earlier.

If a "greenshoe" overallotment option is exercised, the proceeds from the offering could be nearly \$13 billion.

Alibaba says the proceeds from the share sale will be used to promote strategies to expand its users, help businesses with "digital transformation, and continue to innovate and invest for the long term."

The company's 2014 initial public offering was held in the U.S. due to regulatory limitations that prevented an IPO in Hong Kong.

Ma stepped down as chairman in September but is a member of the Alibaba Partnership, a 36-member group with the right to nominate a majority of the company's board of directors. AP

AP PHOTO



Malaysia An Australian grandmother, Maria Exposto (pictured), escaped the death penalty and was released yesterday after Malaysia's top court acquitted her of drug trafficking, a rare ruling that could bolster calls for an end to capital punishment in the country.

AP PHOTO



US A federal judge sentenced a Chinese businesswoman to eight months in prison for trespassing at President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago club and lying to Secret Service agents. U.S. District Judge Roy Altman also ordered that 33-year-old Yujing Zhang be turned over to immigration officials for deportation upon her release.

AP PHOTO



West Bank Thousands of Palestinian protesters took part in a "day of rage" across the occupied West Bank, with some groups clashing with Israeli forces to protest the U.S. announcement that it no longer believes Israeli settlements violate international law. Around 2,000 people gathered in Ramallah by midday, where they set ablaze posters President Trump as well as Israeli and American flags. Schools, universities and government offices were closed and rallies were being held in other West Bank cities.