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“THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’”

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NATIONWIDE PORK SCARCITY HAS VIETNAM RISKING A SHORTAGE AHEAD OF THE IMPORTANT LUNAR NEW YEAR IN JANUARY P10

Philippines Police said yesterday they have arrested a suspected Chinese drug trafficker and seized one of the largest amounts of illegal drugs this year. More than 370 kilograms of methamphetamine with an estimated street value of more than \$49 million was discovered in the suburban Makati city apartment of Liu Chao after he was arrested, police said.



Tibet More than 150 Tibetan religious leaders said yesterday that their spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, should have the sole authority to choose his successor. A resolution adopted by the leaders at a conference said the Tibetan people will not recognize any candidate chosen by the Chinese government for political ends.



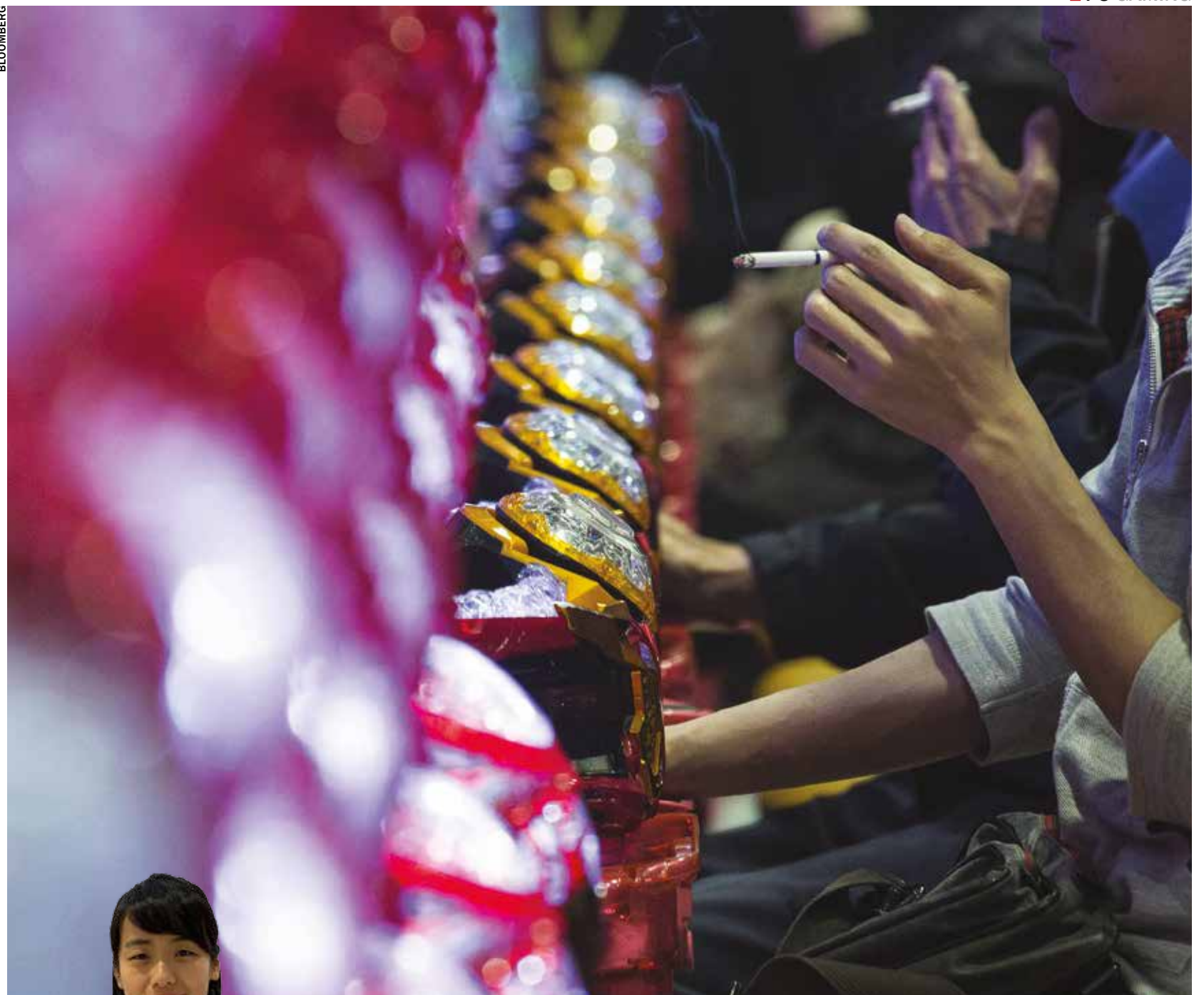
Lebanon Overnight confrontations between supporters and opponents of Lebanon's president — mostly fistfights and stone throwing — erupted in cities and towns across the country, injuring dozens of people, and 16 people were detained for their involvement, the Lebanese Red Cross and the army said yesterday.

Spain Authorities say a homemade submarine abandoned off the country's northwest coast had 3 metric tons of cocaine on board. National police and the finance ministry said in a statement yesterday that it is the first-time drug smugglers have attempted to use a submarine in Europe.

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SONGQIAO YAO

‘IF YOU MUST FLY FLY WITH PURPOSE’

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LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SITUATION HOLDS STABLE

The unemployment rate for local residents has remained steady with a slight decrease over the past three months, a survey from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) found. According to the results, the unemployment rate has been registered at 2.4% from August to October 2019, down 0.1% when compared with the period from July to September this year. Meanwhile, the general unemployment rate for the same period has also held steady at 1.8% and the underemployment rate (related to work done not in fulltime employment) grew to 0.5%, a marginal increase of 0.1%. The survey from DSEC also updated the total labor force, now at 394,300 people with a participation rate of 70.1%. Total employment registered 387,300 people, an increase of 200 from the previous period. Analyzed by industry, employment in hotels, restaurants and similar activities decreased in an opposing trend to that seen in gaming-related activities.

DSEJ PROMOTES MACAU-MAINLAND SCHOOL ALLIANCE

The city's Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) is promoting alliances between Macau schools and schools on the mainland. As of November, 53 local schools have made alliances with 258 schools in China, of which 114 are schools in Guangdong province. In addition, local schools have paired with 10 schools in Hong Kong. Currently, the alliances are mostly related to the secondary education level. In the future, DSEJ hopes to extend the alliances to kindergarten, primary schools, special education schools, and vocational schools. The alliances are hoped to enhance communications between Macau and mainland schools, and to encourage Macau local students to take internships in Guangdong province.

UM SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH CHINA SPACE AGENCY

The University of Macau (UM) State Key Lab of Internet of Things for Smart City recently signed a collaboration agreement with the Center for Space Remote Sensing Demonstration, part of China's National Space Administration (CNSA). The agreement includes combined efforts from both parties for the commercialization of scientific research results in the field of ground application systems in satellite remote sensing big data. The agreement was inked by Xu Chengzhong, dean of UM's Faculty of Science and Technology, and Gu Xingfa, a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and director of the Center for Space Remote Sensing Demonstration, representing the parties involved.

'IF YOU MUST FLY, FLY WITH PURPOSE', SAYS ENVIRONMENTALIST

ANTHONY LAM

If flying is inevitable, do it with purpose and intention, says Songqiao Yao, founder and Chief Exploration Officer of WildBound, an international environmental group.

Her group is an innovative earth-inspired organization that educates the next generation of citizens through education, advocacy, and public communication, in order to build a future where humans live in harmony with nature. The group also organizes educational trips for students.

"Our students go on expeditions to different ecosystems around the world, and primarily it's a learning journey for these students," Yao told the Times. "They learn about [why] these ecosystems are crucial, so that they have some first-hand experience to see penguins and whales. Furthermore, they contribute to science projects [conducted] in the region."

These students will assist with essential but safe jobs on the continent, and these experiences have been proved beneficial. After their trips, the students may come back to host their own photography exhibitions, to write column articles for regional or national newspapers or even become a delegate to the United Nations Climate Conference, said Yao.

"It's like an experience that prepares them for the next level of engagement in terms of environmental protection," she explained.

Yao was invited by the International School of Macao to offer an educational presentation yesterday, as part of the school's second consecutive year of its Activist in Residence Initiative.

"We thought it'd be a wonderful connection to look more around the environmental aspect, such as climate change and biodiversity," explained the school's head, Mark Lockwood, when asked about the decision to invite Yao. "Songqiao's name came forward. We really were excited about her [... because] she really has lessons to share with students. She's not doom and gloom about the topic."



Songqiao Yao, founder of WildBound

Some environmentalists have recently been criticized for traveling extensively, leaving a significant carbon footprint, but grilling others for causing pollution. When asked about this, Yao told the Times that she believes flying with a purpose should be excused.

"I think there're two aspects to [comment on] this. One thing is that I'm really in support of meeting in person and visiting different places to actually experience nature. I take students to Antarctica, a faraway place, which many of us have to fly to," she said. "If we think about impact on a place such as Antarctica and the rainforests, our daily actions are actually causing a bigger impact than just one single act of flying to the place, with a purpose to feel it."

She holds the belief that everything we do causes environmental impact in certain ways, but we need to be clear about the reason behind our actions. She also noted that it is prominent to avoid mindless shopping.

In addition, she pointed out that even if all environmental-

lists refused to fly, the flights would still set off, "because there're enough people flying business class to support the industry," Yao added.

"That brings me to my second point: individual actions also need to lead to the effort changing the entire industry. For example, we need to press the airline industry to use cleaner fuels. We also need to promote innovation and technology [advancement]."

"I think we've fallen into a trap of trying to think about the fanciest technology and forgotten that nature has the power to solve its own problems."

SONGQIAO YAO

"We haven't been able to do that very well. Some airlines have pledged to go plastic free to offset the flight's carbon footprint, but it hasn't been a sufficiently popular practice," she pointed out.

"Only a couple of industry leaders are doing that. We need far more than that. Maybe there will be one day we can fly on so-

lar energy planes. We only need to make that happen faster."

Innovative technologies of late boast that they can save energy and shrink their carbon footprint, among other advantages. But since even the outermost layer of an LED light bulb is actually made of non-biodegradable materials, some accuse these same innovators of solving one problem by causing another.

"I think we've fallen into a trap of trying to think about the fanciest technology and forgotten that nature has the power to solve its own problems," Yao pointed out. "Just having our forests produce more carbon dioxide will do more than any other mechanism that people devise on our planet."

"We focus so much on what the best electric car is or what the latest solar panels are. We're making fancy technology, trying to save our planet but we're actually losing our forests every minute," she stressed.

"Our forests are more effective [in offsetting carbon dioxide] than any electric car. We have forgotten all these natural solutions," added Yao.

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LYNZY VALLES

GAMING

WITH Japan opening its doors to integrated resort operators to bid for one of three licenses across the country, an industry expert has said that the land of the rising sun is serious about putting in place stricter gambling laws to reduce the occurrence of casino-related crimes in the country.

Niall Sean Murray, chairman of consulting firm Murray International said that Japan is striving to ensure that the integrated resorts do not bring the criminal behaviors often associated with gambling.

"They are concerned about ensuring that organized crime, money laundering and other criminal activities don't happen," said Murray during an event organized by the French Macau Chamber of Commerce yesterday.

"[The authorities] are going to safeguard and ensure that they will do everything possible [to make sure] that this is a positive thing for the economy and that it has minimal negative effects," the expert added.

Currently, Japan is looking at gambling laws around the world in different jurisdictions to see how to implement the strictest laws, and put together their laws with the strictest clauses.

The government is looking to Singapore as it considers the creation of even tighter regulations to ensure that there would be a minimal negative effect on the public once these integrated resorts are in place.

Commenting on Macau's gambling rules, Murray remarked, "Macau has good rules in place. They could get tighter and stricter in some areas. That should be reviewed before the license renewals. Perhaps newer laws [could] be considered."

According to Murray, Beijing's control on the number of mainland tourists coming to Macau is set to protect the SAR from any competition once the integrated resorts open in Japan.

"We still have a huge dependence on our visitation from

Japan striving to ensure IRs produce minimal negative effects



mainland China. Luckily inbound tourism is controlled by Beijing, it decides who gets out and who doesn't and where they can go," said Murray.

"The penetration rate in Japan is so low and it's still a long way to go. [...] I think we've got many more years to enjoy our friendship with the mainland," he added.

It is not yet known which Japanese municipalities will be given the chance to host one of the three integrated resorts, however Tokyo, Yokohama and Osaka are possible frontrunners, with some experts predicting Osaka may be the first to be given the green light.

In Macau, all six gaming operators have expressed an interest in bidding for a Japanese license, but only two remain interested in Osaka – MGM Resorts and Galaxy Entertainment Group. Macau's other operators said they preferred alternative locations for their possible foray into Japan.

Questioned by the Times on which gaming operator will most likely win a license, Murray said it would depend on their Japanese partners, who are likely to play a crucial role in the process. "It's hard to tell. Depends on the city and depends on what they're willing to offer and put together.

Each city would need a little something different," Murray said.

"If they don't have the right partners, I don't believe they're going to win the bid because it's a very political process and working [as an] operator in Japan has a very defined set of processes they have to follow and they need to understand that," the consultant added.

Currently, Japan has met some of its targets in the timelines, but not others as they are finding difficulties that they did not envision throughout the process.

"It's going to be a learning curve and during that development

process, it may cause some delays but they want to do it right not just fast," he said.

"Although Osaka is really pushing to be open before the World Expo in 2025, other jurisdictions are not under the same pressure so they may take more time to do it," he added. "They're really focused on getting it right and getting the process correct."

Murray advised that local bidders should make sure their proposal fits what the prefecture is looking for and are keen to show that they are willing to work with the government for the success of the city.

GAMING

November on track for steep contraction

DANIEL BEITLER

NOVEMBER is reportedly on track to become the worst month for gross gaming revenue growth since March 2016. That's according to analysts at two firms, which predict that the year-on-year growth in gaming revenue could drop to as low as a 13% contraction.

This week, brokerage Nomura said November was on track to record between MOP22.5 billion and MOP23 billion in gross gaming revenue. If correct, the month would prove the second-poorest in terms of revenue after September's MOP22.08 billion take.

However, when it comes to year-on-year growth,

even a best-case scenario looks likely to leave November in last place.

Nomura's prediction suggests an approximate 9% year-on-year contraction, surpassing the record currently held by August's 8.6% decline, even as the gross gaming revenue for August stood close to 2019's monthly average.

Brokerage Sanford C. Bernstein predicted November would fare even worse, estimating that gross gaming revenue would fall by between 10% and 13%, potentially making the month the slowest in terms of growth since early 2016.

Macau gross gaming revenue has faced a difficult year, in part due to the on-

going China-U.S. trade war. Analysts had earlier expected Macau's casino business to strengthen in the second half of the year, owing to an easier comparison base.

But with Macau's economy reliant on mainland tourism, and its currency indirectly pegged to the U.S. dollar, the SAR is particularly vulnerable to any fallout between the world's two largest economies.

The outlook further darkened over the summer as China moved to clamp down on cross-border

gaming activities, which squeezed liquidity for the junkets and hurt the VIP segment.

Nomura said that its pessimistic view for November was being driven by a steep decline in VIP gambling volume. Analysts at Bernstein agree, writing that some high-rollers from the mainland are choosing to "delay" visits to Macau amid concerns of "funds movement," according to GGRAsia.

Both firms predict VIP volumes have declined by more than 30% year-on-year.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

GOV'T INTENDS TO STUDY SALARY INCREASE FOR HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS

JULIE ZHU

THE local government intends to conduct a study on a salary increase for high-ranking officials, according to Kou Peng Kuan, director of the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau (SAFP).

During yesterday's Legislative Assembly (AL) plenary session, lawmaker Si Ka Lon asked about a system to hold high ranking officials accountable for their responsibilities, while lawmaker Mak Soi Kun proposed to the local government to increase the salary of high-ranking officials, more specifically, department heads.

In recent years, the local government has regularly proposed the establishment of a public administration evaluation system based on work efficiency. In Si's opinion, the system still cannot fully reflect society's expectations from the government.

Mak then showed his sympathy for the city's principal officials, who, in Mak's opinion, work more and get paid relatively little.

"A senior consultant is paid for overtime working, [...] but department heads not only have to work overtime, they also don't get paid for it," said Mak.

The lawmaker stated that before the Macau handover, in 1999, department leaders were "really prestigious". Mak endorsed Macau's high-ranking officials by saying that these leaders now have to deal with more than 8,000

associations, compared to 3,000 before the handover, and they have to attend activities organized on weekends.

"They have to work on weekends. They still need family days. They still need to buy gifts for their wives, and they need money to buy gifts," said Mak.

Mak puts high-ranking officials in the same position as ordinary civil servants, stressing that the local government is unfair for not increasing salaries of high-ranking officials at the same pace the local government increases the salary of lower-ranking civil servants.

Mak argued that high-ranking officials only have a single type of salary, whereas ordinary civil servants get various forms of compensation.

In reply to the lawmakers, Kou said that "department leaders only have a singular salary source; we see the problem. Both principal officials' salaries and ordinary civil servants' salaries should be adjusted. We are now studying a salary adjustment. The government has the intention to study an increase of principal officials' salaries."

Kou also remarked that the salary increase itself involves accountability, work efficiency assessment and other topics.

According to Kou, the local government has already finished a conclusive report on the public consultation of the civil servants regime.

BETTER ENVIRONMENT, BETTER ENTERTAINMENT

Meanwhile, the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) is planning to continue improving natural and commercial environments, as well as entertainment facilities in the Seac Pai Van community.

Yesterday, lawmaker Au Kam San asked about the Seac Pai Van community, particularly about the community's leisure space, and the suspended proposal for a hazardous items storage facility to be located there.

Government-appointed lawmaker Ip Sio Kai expressed his doubts about the fact that commercial shops at the Seac Pai Van affordable housing community are actually managed by the local government.

Ip, who is a businessman from the local SMEs sector, thinks that the commercial environment in this area is poor. "The shops are managed by the government. Rents are too expensive," Ip said.

Ip proposed to the government to support local shops in the area by allowing other parties to manage the businesses in place of the government. This way, "people can do business, residents there have things to do, and the spaces will not be wasted."

Lawmaker Sulu Sou wants the government's updates on the sports field building at the Seac Pai Van affordable housing community.

Previously, the local government said that it would build a

temporary sports field at Seac Pai Van. Sulu Sou remarked that a storage for hazardous items should not be located in a community where there are increasingly more residents.

Zheng Anting then complained about pedestrian facilities at Seac Pai Van, specifically decriing a lack of escalators to access footbridges, where only an elevator and stairs currently exist.

IAM representatives said that the IAM is currently responsible for one shop space in the community. All others are managed by the Housing Bureau.

The IAM plans to build more facilities to turn Seac Pai Van into an integrated community with better resources and more entertainment spaces to attract all Macau residents to use the community's natural and leisure facilities.

At Praça de Amizade, a sports field is currently being designed. Regarding the elevator and stairs, the government representative only said that the government will consider making improvements to remove inconvenience. Moreover, no decision has been made concerning the hazardous items storage, which is still under public consultation.

In addition, the IAM expects to attract all members of the Macau public to visit Seac Pai Van in the future, when facilities connecting Alto de Coloane are completed. Regarding a new medical garden at the community, which is

currently partially open to only some of the residents, the IAM plans to open the garden to all members of the public in 2020.

200 STRAY DOGS CAUGHT ANNUALLY

From 2015 until now, the IAM has caught between 200 and 300 stray dogs in Macau on average each year, an IAM representative said during yesterday's AL.

Yesterday, lawmaker Sulu Sou asked about the possibility of re-launching the "Trap-Neuter-Return" program in Macau, arguing that the program will contribute substantially to the solution for stray animal management.

The IAM said that, in the nine-year operation of Macau's TNR program before 2015, only 10 to 20 cat adoption cases were recorded. But, between 2015 and now, cat adoption cases increased to a total of 196.

Currently, the IAM has seven vets and 30 animal protection inspectors conducting inspections in local communities to catch stray animals.

Additionally, according to the IAM, from January to October this year, the bureau issued a total of 113 food licenses. The IAM received six applications for temporary food licenses, and the first one was issued in April this year. Two applications did not pass fire services facility acceptance inspection, two are still amending operation plans, and one gave up the application.



MELCO SUPPORTS LOCAL SMES THROUGH WAVE OF CREATIVE AND PROMOTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

MELCO Resorts and Entertainment (Melco) continues to organize events to provide creative and promotional opportunities for local small and medium enterprises (SMEs), with a staff uniform design competition presented in association with the Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Centre (CPTTM) launched recently to kick off the most recent wave of activities.

The design competition is a creative initiative to simultaneously update Melco's range of uniforms and support the local fashion design, clothing supply and manufacturing industries. It is organized as part of Melco's endeavors to continue developing positive partnerships with the city's designers, suppliers and manufacturers through dedicated Made in Macau projects, to support the local creative industry, as well as to provide a platform for local designers to showcase their talent.

Melco invited 70 representatives from 40 local SMEs to an announcement event at City of Dreams to publicize the official opening of the competition. After the conference, the representatives were shown around the resort's employee-only Heart of House area to familiarize local SMEs with Melco's standards and requirements.

City of Dreams' Heart of House hosts the resort's wardrobe facilities that bring together employee uniform operations for approximately 8,000 employees. Attendees were also shown samples of Melco's current uniforms to better understand the Company's standards in the area.

Melco's Mr Jarlath Lynch, Executive Vice-President, Hotels and Food & Beverage, said, "The development of local SMEs and Macau procurement has been a key long-term focus area for Melco. Further to our Studio City T-shirt Design Competition hosted in collaboration with CPTTM back in 2016, we are glad to continue supporting and promoting local design talent, suppliers and manufacturers through our latest Made in Macau project initiative to create new uniforms for Melco's almost 400-strong Environmental Services Team."

Ms. Monica Ng, Executive Director, Supply Chain of Melco, introduced details of the competition to the event's guests, SME representatives, and media attendees.

"The competition will create new uniforms for the

Company's Environmental Services team colleagues working in various roles at Melco's Macau integrated resort properties," Ms. Ng noted. "Judging criteria will include alignment with the Melco brand, aesthetics, design concept, practicality, comfort and material selection."

The competition is now open for application until early January 2020 to all Macau residents aged 18 and above. It encourages participation from those interested in fashion, professionals working in the industry and/or those with their own design brand, uniform retailers, and garment manufacturers.

For a participant to win the award, three stages will be passed through: the initial selection of the top ten entries; followed by the selection of the top three entries to be manufactured into actual sample garments; and the selection of the winner, 1st Runner up and 2nd Runner up as voted by Melco's employees. The final award ceremony and event wrap-up is scheduled for the end of March. Further details of the competition can be found at: <https://events.cpttm.org.mo>. Illustrating of the efficacy of Melco's SME initiatives, announcement event attendee Ms. Candy Chan, Director of Macau Shen Da Garment Factory Limited, a local manufacturing company established 37 years ago and which survived a period of significant difficulties, recalled that it was support from Melco that had given her team the confidence to explore new opportunities and expand to newer markets.

"All in all, we can feel Melco is very supportive towards local SMEs, especially for those in the garment industry," Ms. Chan said. "As many companies in our industry are struggling to survive, we would say that Melco's support contributed significantly to preventing us from going out of business. We really look forward to continuing our relationship with Melco."

The second major event from Melco to support SME development is a month-long Christmas Bazaar open to the general public at Studio City from December 1 to 31. It will feature emerging SME brands from Macau, and is a warm-up for an even bigger initiative; pop-up stores exclusively for local SME participation within the integrated resort in 2020 to continue supporting local vendors.

Demonstrating Melco's commitment toward the development and advancement of local SMEs for the

sustainable future of Macau, the Christmas Bazaar will provide rent-free booths to over 40 local SMEs to showcase products and services at the festively decorated outdoor marketplace.

Targeting representation of a wide range of business categories from food & beverage, handicrafts, toys, decorations and furnishings, and other gift categories, the marketplace aims to attract visitors, tourists, and gift shoppers during the festive season.

Also on offer will be a range of family-friendly activities such as face painting, handicraft workshops, performances and giveaways. The Studio City Christmas Bazaar will take place at the integrated resort's French Garden daily between 5pm and 10pm, covering the entire Christmas month.

"We are pleased to announce the forthcoming Studio City Christmas Bazaar to support Macau's local merchants," Mr Geoff Andres, Property President of Studio City, said. "In addition to acting as a marketing and sales platform for SMEs, we believe the event will serve as a communications channel between SMEs and Melco by enabling Melco to learn about local SMEs and their offerings, whilst at the same time helping SMEs identify products and services they can offer Melco and the broader market."

Soon after the Christmas Bazaar project, Melco has announced it will host a Macau-first pop-up store initiative exclusively for local SMEs at Studio City, serving as a continuation of the Melco philosophy to create and support the growth of local SMEs. Demonstrating Melco's ongoing and steadfast commitment to SMEs, the scheme provides rent-free retail space and essential operational resources to participating SMEs subsidized by Melco to underpin revenues through the marketing and sales of their products and services directly to Studio City's visitors, tourists and shoppers.

Melco's "Knowing You, Knowing Us" initiative is designed as a communications platform between SMEs and Melco and highlights Melco's unyielding support for local emerging entrepreneurs.

Recently, as part of the initiative, Melco hosted an exclusive Open House tour of Studio City for 18 local SME representatives from 13 companies, including members of the Industrial Association of Macao, covering a diverse range of business sectors such as Garments, Food & Beverage, Construction Materials, Trading, and Logistics.

AD

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TWO MACAU FILMS SCREENED AT XIAMEN'S FILM FESTIVAL

THE 28th China Golden Rooster and Hundred Flowers Film Festival held from November 19 to 23 in Xiamen, Fujian province, featured this year two Macau films. Diago and Nobody Nose, directed by Macau writer Lio Chi Heng, were screened at the session dedicated to Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan Films.

Attending the event was also a delegation of representatives from the Cultural Affairs Bureau and the local film industry which participated in an exchange session on the second day of the Festival.

The film Diago, adapted from the writer's novel As Alucinações de Ao Ge, depicts the cultural identities and life choices of the Macanese community before the handover from the people's perspective. The production was, at the time, also a tribute to the 10th anniversary of Macau's handover.

Nobody Nose is a collaborative project between Macau and mainland teams based on the novels of three local writers: Cowardly by Tai Pi, Have a Change of Luck by Joe Tang and Broken Line by Eric Chau. The screenwriter integrated the three stories

into one where the main topic is an intricate case of financial fraud.

The China Golden Rooster and Hundred Flowers Film Festival is a national cultural event featuring film award presentations, screenings of new Chinese and Western films, academic seminars, a film market, international cultural exchange, and cultural and artistic performances.

The event is held annually and is the Chinese film industry's oldest film award event and considered one of the four major film festivals in the country. **RM**

Drone activity banned during handover celebration

THE Macau government will ban all unmanned aircraft activities during the 20th anniversary of the special administrative region next month to ensure that the celebrations will take place in a safe environment.

The notice was published in yesterday's Official Gazette and will cover a period of nine days in December.

In accordance with the powers granted to the Civil Aviation Authority (AACM) on the prohibition and restriction of flying areas as stipulated in Article 66 of the Air Navigation Regulation of Macau, the AACM will ban all unmanned aircraft activities from December 14 to 22 over the skies of the whole territory to ensure that the celebrations for the 20th



anniversary of the Macau SAR will be held under safe circumstances.

One exception to the above notice is unmanned aircraft operations performed by the SAR government, which

may be used to record the landmark celebrations.

The AACM states that anyone who violates the above prohibition will be fined between 2,000 and 20,000 patacas by the authority. **DB**

iFood Macau to integrate payment methods

A new system will combine all popular payment methods so that restaurateurs will not need as many payment consoles in the future, the executive of a Macau food order platform said yesterday.

The comment was made on the sidelines of the iFood Award Ceremony, held for the fourth time by the namesake company that provides restaurant listings and food order services, among other functions.

Currently, the private sector of Macau is dominated by mainland-based e-payment platforms, namely Alipay and WeChat Pay. However, this has posed challenges to tourists from other places where the two platforms are not commonplace.

"Previously, restaurants had to use different consoles for different payment platforms," said Lei Lam Leong,



Lei lam Leong, president of iFood Macau

president of iFood Macau, when asked about the problem.

Lei emphasized the inconvenience caused to the restaurants and advanced his company's solution. "Our smart catering platform is capable of integrating all platforms, so that restaurants can operate all platforms with one single console," he said.

Specific plans to integrate platforms or promote international platforms, such as Apple Pay and Android Pay, were not mentioned. Nonetheless, the executive stated that iFood would promote mobile payment and smart food-and-beverage services, as well as enhance financial services for the industry by collaborating with third-party service providers in-

cluding Keruyun Inc. and Ant Financial.

The Fourth iFood Award Ceremony was held yesterday at the Macao Science Center's Convention Hall. A total of 121 awards were given out to food and beverages outlets of all standards in Macau.

My Favorite Hotel Restaurant was awarded to Foodful Dating at IFU Hotel, Senkizen Japanese Restaurant, and Beverly Plaza Seafood Restaurant.

Dubbed by the organizer as the most anticipated awards, My Favorite Chinese Restaurant and My Favorite Portuguese Restaurant went respectively to Dim Sum Factory, Shanghai 4.5.6. Restaurant and Zhen Dim Sum for the Chinese Restaurant Category and O Manuel Portuguese Kitchen, Porto Portuguese Restaurant and Dumbo Portuguese Restaurant. **AL**

LONGINES, SANDS SHOPPES LAUNCH CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

SWISS watchmaking brand Longines and Sands Shoppes Macao have launched their Christmas decorations at St. Mark's Square, inviting Hong Kong actress Linda Chung to officiate the lighting ceremony.

This is the second time that the watch brand and Sands Shoppes Macao have collaborated for Christmas decorations.

The decorations feature a carousel music box that forms the base of the unique tree, with LED lights and horse miniatures that symbolize Longines' equestrian heritage. Festive melodies will be played every 15 minutes.

The collaboration also includes a festive spot at Place Vendome in Shoppes at The Parisian, where a Parisian Christmas market theme is installed with music and décor.

According to the lighting ceremony yesterday, Christmas music will be played every hour by a Longines timepiece display.

"I am delighted to be here today to officiate the Longines lighting ceremony," said Chung.

"The fairy carousel music box, together with the charming carols really put us in a festive mood, recalling many wonderful Christmas memories," she added.

It has been four years since the actress has last visited Macau as she has been based in Canada.

The Longines Christmas decorations are showcased at Shoppes at The Venetian and The Parisian until January 20. **LV**

AD

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MARKETS

HK STOCK'S 78% COLLAPSE ADDS TO WAVE OF SUDDEN CRASHES

A third Hong Kong stock in less than a week lost most of its value in a sudden one-day plunge, underscoring concern that the \$5.2 trillion market has become a breeding ground for wild volatility.

China First Capital Group, an investment company that focuses on financial and education services, plunged as much as 78% on Wednesday before trading was suspended. Virscend Education Co., which is partly owned by First Capital, also lost as much as 78% before paring its decline to 30%. The moves wiped out a combined \$1.1 billion in shareholder value.

Virscend's shares may have been sold by First Capital because of a margin call, but that hasn't been verified, said Chen Keyu, Virscend's director of investor relations. A representative for First Capital said the company couldn't immediately comment.

While Hong Kong is no stranger to sudden stock slumps, the fresh wave of declines is once again putting the spotlight on corpora-



te governance at the city's listed companies. One oft-cited catalyst for the outsized swings is forced selling by major shareholders who have borrowed against their positions. That can lead to a domino effect when companies are connected by investors or business lines, and it's not always clear under Hong Kong's disclosure rules

when a stake has been pledged. Last week, ArtGo Holdings Ltd. slumped 98% after MSCI Inc. scrapped plans to add the stock to its benchmark indexes, citing concerns about investability. That same day, a Chinese furniture maker fell as much as 91% after a short-seller questioned the company's accounting. First Capital

owned a 1.6% stake in ArtGo as of July, according to an exchange filing. Hong Kong's Securities and Futures Commission and stock-exchange operator have made cleaning up the city's equity market a priority in recent years, saying extreme share-price swings and allegations of manipulation - par-

ticularly among small-cap stocks - have damaged Hong Kong's reputation. The collapse in 2017 of a shadowy group of companies, dubbed the "Enigma Network" by local activist investor David Webb, is now part of the biggest investigation of market malfeasance in the city's history.

Hong Kong exchange rules say a controlling shareholder can borrow against stock and not disclose the transaction as long as it's for personal finance reasons rather than loans, guarantees or other forms of support for the company. Critics have said complex holding structures stretching across multiple stocks puts unsuspecting investors at risk.

First Capital reported a net annual loss in three of the past four years, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. The company has pledged assets worth about 758 million yuan (\$108 million) for unspecified funding purposes, according to its mid-year earnings report. It held a stake of about 12.4% in Virscend, according to an exchange filing in July.

First Capital is a constituent of China-focused indexes compiled by MSCI and FTSE Russell. As a member of the Hang Seng Composite index, it's also available to mainland investors through stock links with Hong Kong. BLOOMBERG

Goldman says time to buy shares in beleaguered MTR

MTR Corp. is poised to recover quickly when Hong Kong's situation eventually settles, after months of protests in the city saw its passenger numbers and stock price plummet.

That's the view of Goldman Sachs Group Inc. analysts, who've upgraded the stock to buy from neutral. In a research note looking at Hong Kong conglomerates, Goldman said MTR had the ability to recover more rapidly than other

companies from the impact of the unrest. It warned, however, that normalization would depend on how long the current situation continues.

Shares of the rail operator - once one of Hong Kong's safest stock bets - have fallen 20% from a record high in July as violent clashes escalated. Much of the violence has taken place in and around MTR stations, leaving them badly damaged and covered in

graffiti. Traffic on the metro system slid by the most on record last month as MTR closed lines early and suspended train services.

MTR has 6 buy, 3 hold and 2 sell ratings, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

"As the monopolistic railway company capturing half of public transportation traffic," MTR should see traffic recover quickly as the situation in Hong Kong improves, analysts led by

Simon Cheung wrote in a note yesterday. They cited the 2003 SARS epidemic as an example where MTR patronage rose by 2% in July that year after dropping 20% in April.

MTR caters toward domestic spending, unlike travel-related businesses that depend on tourist arrivals, which might take longer to recover, the analysts said, adding that the company has also locked in profits on property sales and

may see some upside from rail expansion plans.

Hong Kong's situation remains unclear, however. 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.

In the same report, Goldman analysts said they remain cautious on Hong Kong's retail and office sectors and revised lower

earnings estimates for conglomerates under coverage, warning of an additional earnings impact of as much as 8% if protests persist for another 6 months.

In the note, Goldman said it sees more downside risks for Wharf Holdings Ltd., Swire Pacific Ltd. and Jardine Matheson Holdings Ltd. It downgraded Cheung Kong Infrastructure Holdings Ltd. to neutral from buy, citing risks to growth. BLOOMBERG

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EILEEN NG & KEN MORITSUGU

HONG KONG

Cross-Harbour Tunnel reopens as campus siege nears end

A major tunnel in Hong Kong reopened yesterday as a weeklong police siege of a nearby university appeared to be winding down, closing one of the more violent chapters in the long-running anti-government protests in the Chinese territory.

The Cross-Harbour Tunnel, which links Hong Kong Island to the rest of the city, had been closed for two weeks after protesters blocked the approach with debris and set the toll booths on fire as they clashed with police.

Search teams sweeping the Hong Kong Polytechnic campus for a second straight day found no evidence of any protesters still holding out, said university vice president Miranda Lou. On Tuesday, one person was found — a young woman in weak condition.

Lou told reporters that university officials would let the police decide if they want to enter the campus to investigate but hopes for an end to the siege so a cleanup operation can begin. Police had no immediate comment.

The campus is littered with piles of garbage, and police said there are also stockpiles of dangerous materials, including explosives.

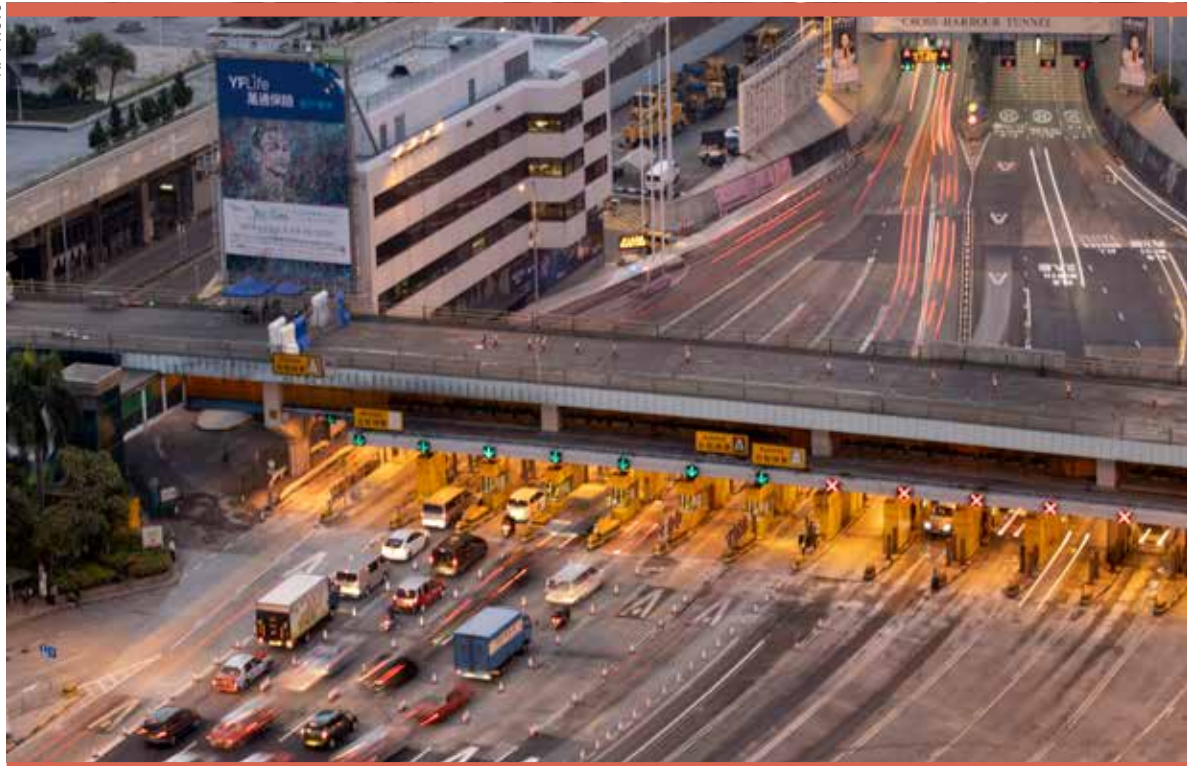
Calls for police to retreat from the campus have escalated after the pro-democracy camp won a stunning victory in local elections Sunday, delivering a stinging rebuke to city leader Carrie Lam's tough line on the protests, which are in their sixth month.

Lam offered no concessions, saying only that she would accelerate dialogue and identify ways to address societal grievances.

"Carrie Lam is the goddess of democracy. She has single-handedly motivated and galvanized us to fight for democracy," an activist, who only gave her name as Tham, said mockingly during a Tuesday night rally at the Tsim Sha Tsui district.

Tham, who works in South Korea, said in an online livestream of the rally by the Apple Daily newspaper that she had returned to Hong Kong to cast her ballot.

AP PHOTO



Echoing what many protesters feel, she said the election outcome cannot be viewed as a victory, as the demonstrators' demands, including free elections for the city's leader and legislature and a probe into alleged police misconduct, have not been met.

"This election doesn't mean anything because we have not achieved our goals," she said.

A lull in violence that began days before the elections has continued as protesters in the largely leaderless movement weigh their next step amid Lam's refusal to compromise. Small, peaceful rallies have popped up this week during lunchtime and at night in some areas.

Lam has said the central government in Beijing did not blame her for the election setback, which saw the pro-democracy bloc win control of 17 out of 18 district councils. While it may have reflected

unhappiness with the government's handling of the unrest, she said Tuesday that it also showed that many people want an end to the violence.

Lam said she hopes to resume her community dialogue and will set up an independent review committee to find solutions to deep-seated societal issues.

"Please help us to maintain the relative calm and peace that we have seen in the last week or

so and provide a good basis for Hong Kong to move forward," she said.

Some pro-establishment figures have pointed fingers at Lam for their loss, while the pro-democracy camp has asked her to step down. Some analysts said Lam has lost all credibility with the election loss and Beijing could replace her before partial elections for legislature members next year.

The protests started in June

over an extradition bill seen by protesters as an erosion of their freedoms promised when the former British colony returned to Chinese control in 1997. The movement has since expanded into a protest over what they see as Beijing's growing interference in the city.

Some analysts said that China's ruling Communist Party isn't likely to soften its stand on Hong Kong, but that it is treading cautiously amid trade talks with the United States. It also faces pressure from planned U.S. legislation that could derail Hong Kong's special trade status and sanction Hong Kong and China officials found to violate human rights.

President Donald Trump has been ambiguous over whether he will sign or veto the Hong Kong bill amid warnings of countermeasures from Beijing.

Trump told reporters Tuesday at the White House that his message to Hong Kong protesters is "We are with them." At the same time, he also cited his "very good relationship" with Chinese President Xi Jinping and said the U.S. was in the final stages of a trade deal.

Regardless, the bill will become law 10 days from the time of its passage last week without Trump's endorsement. If he vetoes it, Congress can also override it. AP

AP PHOTO



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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

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

Please email your letters to gba@macaudailytimes.com



VIETNAM TO BOOST PORK IMPORTS AS NEW YEAR DELICACIES AT RISK

MAI NGOC CHAU

VIETNAMESE people may be at risk of missing out on their favorite local dishes this Lunar New Year, such as pork jelly and pork braised in coconut water with eggs, after a deadly hog virus slashed herds and caused nationwide shortages.

In an effort to keep the market supplied and to cool a surge in pork prices that's pushing up inflation, the cabinet has ordered ministries to boost imports to satisfy demand over the peak new year period.

The market will probably have a shortage of 200,000 tons from this month through late January when New Year is celebrated, according to government estimates. Ministries have pledged to cooperate to enable companies to import whatever the nation needs from suppliers before the year-end holidays.

The shortfall means imports are poised to surge through the end of the year. Overseas purchases were only about 15,000 tons in the first nine months of 2019, according to the Thanh Nien newspaper, citing data from the agriculture ministry's department of livestock production.

Vietnam will be competing for global supplies with China, helping to sustain prices.

Still, there's one potential snag. Imported meat is normally frozen, and that's not to the liking of most of the country's people.

"The taste of the Vietnamese is for freshly slaughtered pork," said Nguyen Hong Minh, chief executive officer of Hong Linh Import Export Co. in Ho Chi Minh City. "Frozen, imported pork accounts for only 2% of consumption."

The frozen pork imports may be destined for industrial kitchens,

according to analysts at Hanoi-based VNDirect Securities Corp. If so, that would free up what's available in terms of freshly slaughtered pork for direct consumption.

Further ahead, the impact of African swine fever probably won't last long, said the analysts. Pork imports are forecast to return to a stable level of almost 1% of meat demand by late 2020 and to grow about 3-4% a year after that.

The current supply of pigs for slaughter mostly comes from major farms and companies as households in affected areas hardly have any pigs, according to

the agriculture ministry. Live pig prices this month have risen to 80,000 dong per kilo, up almost 30% from a year earlier because of the shortage, said Nguyen Tat Thang, general secretary of the Vietnam Animal Husbandry Association.

African swine fever, which first hit the country in February, has caused the death and culling of 5.9 million pigs with a weight of 337,000 tons through the middle of this month. Total meat supplies are estimated to shrink by 4% to 5.14 million tons this year, according to the agriculture ministry. Pork output, which represents more than two thirds of protein consumption, is set to drop 10% from a year ago, or by 380,000 tons. Farmers are still wary of the risks of rebuilding herds at this time. **BLOOMBERG**

Portuguese hotel CEO blames weak pound for drop in UK visitors

HENRIQUE ALMEIDA

IN 2017, then-U.K. Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said his country would never turn its back on Portugal, one of its oldest allies. Some of his countrymen are doing otherwise.

While the pound has strengthened against the euro in the last three months, it's still weaker than before the 2016 Brexit referendum. That's prompting some British travelers to search for cheaper destinations outside

the euro region, according to Jose Theotonio, chief executive officer of the Pestana Hotel Group. In 2018, the number of overnight stays by British tourists fell 5.4% from a year earlier, according to Portugal's National Statistics Institute.

"It has to do with a range of factors, including Brexit and a weaker pound versus the euro," Theotonio said in a telephone interview. The collapse of tour operators like Thomas Cook earlier this year also had an impact

on the flow of British holidaymakers to resorts in the Algarve in southern Portugal and on the island of Madeira, Theotonio said. For Pestana, Portugal's biggest hotel operator, the British market fell 7% in the 2017-2018 season and about 3% in 2018-2019, he said.

Sun, sand and golf have made Portugal a favorite destination for British nationals, who account for about a fifth of all overnight stays by foreigners. As Britain prepares to vote in an election that will

decide its relationship with the rest of Europe, Theotonio is hoping that after the ballot there may be more British tourists coming to the southern European country again.

"While we've gotten used to living with the delays and uncertainties surrounding Brexit, the outcome of the vote should help overcome some of the recent hiccups in our relationship with the U.K.," the CEO said.

The number of guests staying at hotels and other

accommodation in Portugal increased 6.9% in the first nine months of the year to a record 21.1 million, with overnight stays by British holidaymakers increasing just 0.8%, according to the statistics institute. The country has managed to attract a growing number of visitors from North America, France, Spain and Brazil, said Theotonio.

That doesn't mean Portugal can afford to live with a lower number of British tourists, Theotonio said. Pes-

tana has more than 90 hotels around the world, including one in London. The company expects revenue will reach around 450 million euros (\$496 million) this year, about the same as in 2018, with British guests accounting for about a fifth of sales.

"It's easier to maintain our existing markets than to look for new markets for tourists," said Theotonio. "Our greatest challenge right now is to continue to have a privileged relationship with the British market." **BLOOMBERG**

CORPORATE BITS

Studio City lights up the holiday season with Christmas Bazaar

Studio City is bringing an extra sprinkle of magic to this holiday season.

In addition to a glittering Christmas Bazaar with festive displays and heart-warming gifts by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), a selection of special offerings is available throughout December at the resort, including an enticing array of festive feasts, seasonal spa indulgences

and holiday hotel package offers that is sure to get every guest in the holiday spirit.

Open daily from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the month of December, the Studio City Christmas Bazaar is Melco Resorts & Entertainment's commitment towards the development and advancement of local SMEs for the sustainable future of Macau.

The Bazaar will provide rent-free booths to over 40 local SMEs to showcase products and services at the festively decorated outdoor marketplace. Beyond food and beverages, handicrafts, toys, decorations, and furnishings, a range of family-friendly activities such as face painting, handicraft workshops, performances and giveaways will also be featured.

Hong Kong Tatler names Sichuan Moon among top 20 restaurants

Sichuan Moon at Wynn Palace Cotai is now ranked among Hong Kong Tatler's Top 20 Restaurants for the first time, becoming the only restaurant in Macau to receive this honor.

Sichuan Moon at Wynn Palace embodies the essence of Sichuan cuisine in a refined and artful way.

Internationally renowned Chef André Chiang is the Culinary Director of Sichuan

Moon. He has received prestigious awards for his masterful culinary work, including being named among the "15 Most Influential Chefs of the Next Decade" by Elite Traveler and winning The Diners Club Lifetime Achievement Award among the list of Asia's 50 Best Restaurants 2018.

At Sichuan Moon, Chef André combines his inter-

national perspective with his personal style and creativity to reinterpret Sichuan cuisine in a way that expresses the true character and flavors of the cuisine. The Sichuan Moon interior, which features a breathtakingly beautiful Murano butterfly chandelier as a centerpiece, offers a visually stimulating and immersive dining experience that is a blend of East and West.

ELAINE KURTENBACH,
BEIJING

THE Department of Commerce has proposed requiring case-by-case approvals of all purchases of telecommunications equipment in a move likely to hit major Chinese suppliers like Huawei.

The proposal issued Tuesday follows President Donald Trump's order in May declaring a national emergency and restricting purchases by U.S. companies of telecoms equipment that might be considered a security threat.

That order did not name specific countries or companies but was thought to target Chinese suppliers such as Huawei Technologies and ZTE Corp.

The May 15 order by Trump said foreign "adversaries" were exploiting information and communications technology and services, or ICTS, for espionage and other cybercrimes. It gave the commerce secretary the authority to prohibit or "mitigate" any purchases of telecommunications equipment and services made after that date, "if such transactions pose: an undue risk of sabotage or subversion of ICTS in the United States; an undue risk of catastrophic effects on the security and resiliency of critical infrastructure or the digital economy... or an unacceptable risk to national security or to the security or safety of U.S. persons."

The order gave the Commerce Department 150 days to come up with the regulations issued this week.

Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said in a statement that the proposed rules "demonstrate our commitment to securing the digital economy, while also delivering on President Trump's commitment to



US proposes rules to vet all telecoms-related purchases

our digital infrastructure."

The Chinese Commerce Ministry did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

The U.S. government has also subjected Huawei to controls on exports of U.S. products, although Trump has extended the deadline for imposing those limits, which would disrupt Huawei's access to processor chips and other technology. Its smartphones would lose Google maps and other services, making it hard to compete.

The law invoked in the May executive order, the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act, had never before been applied to an entire commercial sector. It routinely has been used to freeze assets of de-

signed terrorists and drug traffickers and impose embargoes on hostile foreign governments.

Huawei, the world's biggest supplier of network gear, has been deemed a danger in U.S. national security circles for the better part of a decade. The company denies such allegations and insists that it would abide by promises to protect its customers' data and services.

U.S. justice and intelligence officials have presented no evidence of any Huawei equipment in the U.S. or elsewhere being compromised by backdoors installed by the manufacturer to facilitate espionage by Beijing. Huawei vehemently denies involvement in Chinese spying.

But all major U.S. wireless

carriers and internet providers swore off Chinese-made equipment after a 2012 report by the House Intelligence Committee said Huawei and ZTE, China's No. 2 telecoms equipment company, should be excluded as enablers of Beijing-directed espionage.

Trump signed a bill in 2018 barring the U.S. government and its contractors from using equipment from the Chinese suppliers.

Last week, the Federal Communications Commission cut off government funding for equipment from Huawei and ZTE, citing security threats. It also proposed requiring companies that get government subsidies to rip out any equi-

pment from Huawei and ZTE that they already have in place.

The FCC's order mostly affects small, rural companies. The regulator has sought comment on how to help rural telecoms financially, and bills in Congress have proposed setting \$700 million to \$1 billion aside.

Huawei has emphasized its desire to work with the FCC to lay to rest concerns over national security and ensure "best practices" are used in U.S. telecommunications systems. The company says it supplies 45 of the world's top 50 phone companies. But only about 2 percent of telecom equipment purchased by North American carriers was Huawei-made in 2017. AP

ENVIRONMENT

Gov't says it has met its carbon reduction goal early

CHINA has realized its 2020 target for reducing carbon emissions ahead of schedule, the ecology and environment ministry reported yesterday.

The ministry said China's CO2 emissions per unit of GDP had fallen last year by 4% from a year earlier to stand at 45.8% less than in 2005.

Vice Minister Zhao Yingmin told reporters that completed the target of CO2 reduction for 2020 ahead of schedule, while 14.3% of the energy China consumes now comes from non-fossil fuel sources.



In this Dec. 19, 2016, file photo, women wearing masks to protect themselves from air pollution walk through Ritan Park shrouded by dense smog in Beijing.

"These are hard-won results from the efforts of promoting a green and low car-

bon economy," Zhao said.

While becoming more efficient, China saw its

annual carbon emissions nearly triple between 2000 and 2018 as the economy

grew at a rapid pace. It has been the world's biggest emitter since 2005, when it passed the U.S.

Yet China is also the leading market for solar panels, wind turbines and electric vehicles, and the biggest manufacturer of solar cells.

"We are still faced with challenges of developing our economy, improving people's livelihood, reducing poverty and cleaning up our environment," Zhao said.

He said China would also remain committed to its carbon reduction com-

mitments under the Paris climate change accord, even after the U.S. issued formal notification this year of its intention to withdraw from the pact.

China declared under the agreement that its carbon emissions would level off by 2030 and carbon intensity would ultimately be reduced by 60-65% from the 2005 level.

"We will full commit ourselves to our promises on climate change and continue to push forward the transition of our economy toward low-carbon and high-quality," Zhao said. AP

AP PHOTO



Secretary of State Mike Pompeo

US CRITICIZES CHINA FOR ABUSES REVEALED BY LEAKED CABLES

MATTHEW LEE, WASHINGTON

SECRETARY of State Mike Pompeo said Tuesday that a cache of leaked documents proves that Chinese authorities are engaged in massive and systemic repression of Muslims and other minorities in western China, as a number of foreign governments expressed serious concern about the scale of the campaign.

Pompeo said the documents underscored “an overwhelming and growing body of evidence” that China’s leaders are responsible for gross human rights violations in the Xinjiang region.

“They detail the Chinese party’s brutal detention and systematic repression of Uighurs and members of other Muslim minority groups in Xinjiang,” Pompeo told reporters at a State Department news conference. “We call on the Chinese government to immediately release all those who are arbitrarily detained and to end its draconian policies that have terrorized its own citizens in Xinjiang.”

Pompeo’s comments come at a delicate time in U.S.-Chinese relations amid ongoing negotiations to end a trade war and U.S. concerns about the situation in Hong Kong, where pro-democracy protests have turned violent with clashes between police and demonstrators. Notably, his criticism was not accompanied by

a warning about possible sanctions for the mass detentions, although U.S. lawmakers are pressing for penalties to be imposed.

“There are very significant human rights abuses,” Pompeo said. “It shows that it’s not random. It is intentional and it is ongoing.”

The leaked classified documents were provided to the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, which worked with The Associated Press and news organizations around the world to publish the material.

The documents, which include guidelines for operating detention centers and instructions for how to use technology to target people, reveal that the camps in Xinjiang are not for voluntary job training, as Beijing has claimed.

They show the camps are used for forced ideological and behavioral re-education. They also illustrate how Beijing uses a high-tech surveillance system to target people for detention and to predict who will commit a crime.

Voluntary job training is the reason the Chinese government

has given for detaining more than a million ethnic minorities, most of them Muslim. But a classified blueprint leaked to the news organizations shows the camps are instead precisely what former detainees have described: forced ideological and behavioral re-education centers run in secret.

The documents lay out the Chinese government’s delibera-

tioned the names of tens of thousands of people for interrogation or detention in just one week.

Pompeo said the documents should encourage other countries to come forward with their concerns.

U.S. allies were among the first to step up.

“We have serious concerns about the human rights situation in Xinjiang and the Chinese government’s escalating crackdown,

in particular the extra-judicial detention of over a million Uyghur Muslims and other ethnic minorities,” a British Foreign Office spokesperson said. “We want to see an end to the indiscriminate and disproportionate restrictions on the cultural and religious freedoms of Uyghur Muslims

and other ethnic minorities in Xinjiang.”

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas told the German China-Cables team that “if indeed hundreds of thousands of Uighurs are being detained in camps, then the international community cannot close their eyes.”

In Brussels, the European

Commission said it was calling on China “to uphold its international and international obligations and to respect human rights including when it comes to the rights of persons belonging to minorities especially in Xinjiang but also in Tibet and we will continue to affirm those positions in this context in particular.”

Japan’s foreign ministry said it believed “freedom, respect for fundamental human rights and the rule of law, which are the universal value in the international community, are guaranteed in China as well.”

Meanwhile, there were indications that China was moving to destroy documentary evidence of abuses.

A man now living in exile said a Uighur cadre he knew had reached out to him in October. The cadre, who manages paperwork at a community-level office in southern Xinjiang, said that recently the government had ordered all papers to be burned and destroyed.

“All the shelves are totally empty,” his friend said. The man declined to be identified out of fear of retribution to him or his family.

The man said papers stored in such offices are forms filled in by government workers monitoring everyone in the community, containing sensitive personal information such as marriage status, residence registration and whether they are detained. Information from the forms are inputted into a database in a separate room in the office, while the forms themselves are stored on shelves. AP

“ We call on the Chinese government to immediately release all those who are arbitrarily detained and to end its draconian policies that have terrorized its own citizens in Xinjiang.

MIKE POMPEO
US SECRETARY OF STATE

te strategy to lock up ethnic minorities even before they commit a crime, and to rewire their thoughts and the language they speak.

The papers also show how Beijing is pioneering a new form of social control using data and artificial intelligence. Drawing on data collected by mass surveillance technology, computers



YVES DAM VAN, DIEN CHAU

THE bodies of 16 of the 39 Vietnamese who died when human traffickers carried them by truck to England last month were repatriated to their homeland yesterday and have been taken to their families.

The bodies arrived on a flight that landed in Hanoi, Vietnam's capital, the news website VNExpress reported. The website published photos of ambulances that transported the bodies to their home provinces south of Hanoi.

The bodies were found Oct. 23 in the English town of Grays, east of London. Police say the victims were aged between 15 and 44.

The 31 men and eight women are believed to have paid human traffickers for their clandestine transit into England. Several suspects have been arrested in the U.K. and Vietnam.

Bodies of victims found in UK truck repatriated to Vietnam

Hoang Lanh, father of 18-year-old victim Hoàng Van Tiep, said by phone Tuesday that he had been informed by a local government official that his son's remains would be brought home yesterday, along with those of six other victims from Dien Chau district in Nghe An province, including Tiep's cousin Nguyen Van Hung.

"It's bittersweet, I can't believe I would have to welcome my son back like this," Lanh said. "I'm devastated but I am happy to have him back with us soon."

Hoàng Thi Nhiem, Tiep's sister, said her family had received her brother's body

shortly before noon.

"We are very sad, but we are happy now that he has been brought back to the place where he was born to be with his family and surrounded with love from the fa-

Legal proceedings in the case are continuing in England

amily," she said. "He wouldn't be able to rest in peace if he had still been in England."

Another victim's family expressed their sadness ahead of receiving the bodies of their loved one.

"I have been sad for a mon-

th and I can't eat anything," said Nguyen Thanh Le, father of 33-year-old Nguyen Van Hung. "My son died far away from his home and I had to wait for a long time, but today his body is coming back and tomorrow is the funeral."

Legal proceedings in the case are continuing in England.

On Monday in London, a trucker who allegedly was the driver of the vehicle in which the 39 bodies were found pleaded guilty to plotting with others to assist illegal immigration and acquiring criminal property.

Northern Irish truck driver Maurice Robinson accused of

being part of an international people-smuggling ring, wasn't asked to enter pleas to 39 counts of manslaughter and conspiracy to traffic people. Police say he drove the cab of the truck to the English port of Purfleet, where it picked up the container, which had arrived by ferry from the port of Zeebrugge in Belgium.

Also Monday, British police said they had arrested a 36-year-old man on suspicion of manslaughter, conspiracy to traffic people and conspiracy to assist unlawful immigration. Two other men have been arrested in Britain and Ireland in connection with the case. **AP**

Japanese man in 50s has been detained in China since July

TAKASHI HIROKAWA

A Japanese man in his 50s was taken into custody in China in July on suspicion of violating its laws, with the case potentially being a source of friction as Prime Minister Shinzo Abe seeks to host

President Xi Jinping for a state visit next spring.

Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said yesterday the man was taken into custody in Hunan province and didn't provide further details on the case when he spoke at a news briefing in

Tokyo. Kyodo News cited a Japanese government source as saying the man has likely been detained on an espionage charge.

The news of the detention comes about two weeks after China released a different Japanese man that Beijing said illegally

collected secret files. The Asahi Shimbun newspaper and other Japanese media have said the man, not identified by the government, is a professor at Hokkaido University who specializes in Chinese politics.

Japan's Ministry of Fo-

reign Affairs has publicly stated before the news of the latest detention that 14 Japanese citizens have been held by China since 2015, with five since released and the other nine in custody after Beijing said they violated national security laws.

The cases in Japan come as spying, meddling and even torture allegations are riling China's relations with some of the world's top democracies just as Beijing seeks to convince nations that its 5G technology can be trusted. **BLOOMBERG**

IRAN SUPREME LEADER CLAIMS PROTESTS A US-BACKED 'CONSPIRACY'

JON GAMBRELL, DUBAI

IRAN'S supreme leader yesterday claimed without evidence that recent protests across the Islamic Republic over government-set gasoline prices rising were part of a "conspiracy" involving the U.S., as authorities began to acknowledge the scale of the demonstrations.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei made the comment while addressing members of the Revolutionary Guard's all-volunteer Basij force, which help put down the demonstrations.

Meanwhile, one lawmaker was quoted as saying authorities arrested more than 7,000 people over the protests while a security official claimed demonstrators attempted to take over Iranian state television.

Iran's government still hasn't offered any statistics on injuries, arrests or deaths in the protests and security crackdown that followed government-set gasoline prices rising Nov. 15. Amnesty International



says it believes the violence killed at least 143 people, something Iran disputes without offering any evidence to support its claims.

In his comments reported by state media, Khamenei said the Iranian people extinguished "a very dangerous deep conspiracy that cost so much money

and effort." He praised the police, the Guard and the Basij for "entering the field and carrying out their task in a very difficult confrontation."

Khamenei, who has final say on all matters of state, described the protests as being orchestrated by "global arrogance," which he uses to refer to

the U.S. He described America as seeing the price hikes as an "opportunity" to bring their "troops" to the field but the "move was destroyed by people."

Yesterday marks the 40th anniversary of the creation of the Basij. Videos from the protest purport to show plainclothes Basij officials and others on motorcycles beating and detaining protesters.

Meanwhile, the moderate news website Entekhab quoted Hossein Naghavi Hosseini, a member of parliament's national security and foreign policy committee, as saying more than 7,000 people had been arrested in the demonstrations. He did not elaborate.

Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli also claimed in an interview late Tuesday on state television that "some 500 people" tried to storm Iran's state television offices. He did not elaborate and no protests had been previously reported in the northern Tehran neighborhood home to the state broadcaster.

Fazli also estimated as many as 200,000 people took part the demonstrations, higher than previous claims. He said demonstrators damaged over 50 police stations, as well as 34 ambulances, 731 banks and 70 gas stations in the country.

"We have individuals who were killed by knives, shotguns and fires," he said, without offering a casualty figure.

Starting Nov. 16, Iran shut down the internet across the country, limiting communications with the outside world. That made determining the scale and longevity of the protests incredibly difficult. While home and office internet has been restored, access on mobile phones remains rare.

The gasoline price hike came as Iran's 80 million people have already seen their savings dwindle and jobs scarce under crushing U.S. sanctions. President Donald Trump imposed them in the aftermath of unilaterally withdrawing America from Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers. AP

AD

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EGYPT'S government is using a secretive judicial agency designed to fight terrorism to detain peaceful protesters, journalists and critics on trumped-up charges without trial, Amnesty International said in a report released yesterday.

The 60-page report by the London-based rights group details how Egypt's Supreme State Security Prosecution, or SSSP, has become increasingly central to President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi's sweeping crackdown on dissent.

"In Egypt today, the Supreme State Security Prosecution has stretched the definition of 'terrorism' to encompass peaceful protests, social media posts and legitimate political activities," said Philip Luther, the group's Middle East and North Africa director.

Concertgoers were accused of terrorism for waving rainbow-colored flags. A journalist charged with "broadcasting false news" was detained repeatedly for three years. A human rights lawyer was arrested for joining a protest he says he didn't attend. Several Christians were imprisoned for "aiding a terrorist group," a reference to the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood organization.

"Ridiculous" prosecutions have proliferated, said report

Amnesty: Egypt uses prosecution branch to crush dissent

author Hussein Baoumi.

Citing these cases and over a hundred others, Amnesty International said the SSSP, a secretive agency comprised of just a few hand-picked judges, is abusing its legal powers as a counterterrorism branch to stifle political dissent.

"There's no judicial oversight. We're talking about a completely closed circuit," Baoumi said. "If these cases were referred to trial, people would be acquitted at once," as the state's accusations are based on confidential police reports, he added.

Egyptian security forces carried out a harsh crackdown in September to stamp out small but rare anti-government protests. The SSSP played a critical role in sweeping up thousands of people on charges of terrorism, the report said.

The prosecution agency renews people's detentions for months and years without evidence, denying them access to lawyers and a fair chance to appeal, it added.

Amnesty said SSSP investigations into allegations of torture

AP PHOTO



and enforced disappearance by the police intelligence division amount to a whitewash. The SSSP routinely buries evidence of police abuse and gives credence to confessions extracted with torture, it said, drawing on court documents and interviews with dozens of witnesses.

Under el-Sissi, Egypt has seen a "meteoric rise" in cases prosecuted by SSSP, according to Amnesty. The report drew attention to the expansion of the branch's covert role since a court declared indefinite administrative detention unconstitutional in 2013.

There was no immediate comment from the government

on Amnesty's report, but authorities have repeatedly denied charges of violations or police brutality. Authorities say they are fighting terrorism and have accused rights groups of working with foreign entities to undermine the state.

El-Sissi led the military's removal of the country's first democratically elected president in 2013 after his one-year rule proved divisive, sparking nationwide protests.

The general-turned-president has overseen an unprecedented political crackdown, silencing critics and jailing thousands.

"Our goal with this report is to make it very clear that when

someone is accused of terrorism in Egypt, the international community cannot take it at face value," Baoumi told The Associated Press. "More likely, that person was arrested for peacefully expressing an opinion."

Late Tuesday, police made six new arrests — including three journalists — in central Cairo. Mohamed Saad Abdel Hafiz, a board member of Egypt's journalists' association, wrote a post on social media about the arrests, listing the journalists as Solafa Magdy, Hossam el-Sayyad and Mohamed Salah.

In Washington, a senior State Department official called on Egypt "to ensure journalists can work without threats of imprisonment and intimidation." Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs David Schenker told reporters Tuesday that "as part of our long-standing strategic partnership, we continue to raise the fundamental importance of respect for human rights."

For decades, the U.S. has been Egypt's largest weapons supplier, with over a billion dollars in military aid each year. AP

AD

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what's ON



RED DECEMBER - EXHIBITION OF CARLOS MARREIROS

TIME: 10am-9pm

UNTIL: February 13, 2020

VENUE: Tap Seac Gallery, Avenida Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida, No 95

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

AFA AUTUMN SALON 2019

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

UNTIL: December 1, 2019

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

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

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

UNTIL: December 31, 2019

VENUE: Macao Fashion Gallery

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3341

A CHERISHED MEMORY FROM 1999 - ARCHIVES EXHIBITION IN CELEBRATION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RETURN OF MACAO TO THE MOTHERLAND

TIME: 10am-6pm; (Closed on Mondays and public holidays)

UNTIL: December 27, 2019

VENUE: Archives of Macao, Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida 91-93

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2859 2919

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

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

UNTIL: December 8, 2019

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

Offbeat

MAN USING MAGNET FISHES WWI-ERA GRENADE FROM MICHIGAN RIVER

A magnet-wielding angler has fished a World War I-era grenade from a western Michigan river.

WOOD-TV reports the angler found the explosive Tuesday after dangling the magnet from a bridge in the Grand River in Grand Rapids.

Joseph Alexander told the television station he "thought it looked like a grenade, but not one" he'd seen before. Alexander said he posted photos of it online and people commented that it was a grenade and he should call police.

Grand Rapids police say the device is a "German Granatenwerfer" and that it will be stored until detonated safely. Sgt. John Wittkowski said since the device was so old and had been submerged for a long time it likely was no longer very dangerous.

Alexander said magnet fishing is a hobby.

TV canal macau



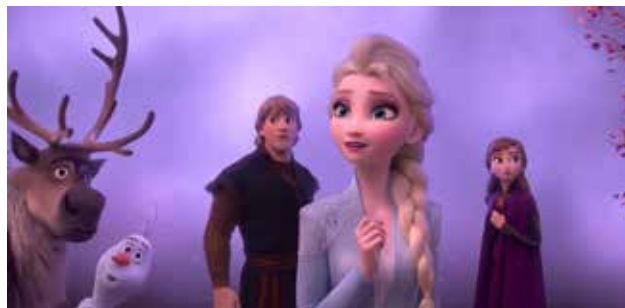
13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Água de Mar
15:30	BING
15:45	Os Ursos Boonie na Neve
16:00	História a História com Fernando Rosas
16:30	Quem Quer Ser Milionário
17:45	Império (Repetição)
18:35	Semana Internacional (Repetição)
19:10	Resumo Liga dos Campeões 2019/2020
19:30	Ouro Verde Sr.1
20:30	Telejornal
21:10	Macau 20 Anos
21:25	TDM Talk Show
21:55	Livros com João Guedes
22:05	Viagens Gastronómicas
22:30	Império
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Justiça de Chicago - Fim
00:35	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:20	No Ar

cinema



CINETEATRO

28 Nov - 05 Dec



FROZEN II

ROOM 1

2:15, 4:10, 6:00, 7:50pm

Director: Chris Buck, Jennifer Lee

Starring: Kristen Bell, Jonathan Groff, Idina Menzel

Language: Cantonese

Duration: 103min



21 BRIDGES

ROOM 1

9:45pm

Director: Brian Kirk

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

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 103min

THE GOOD LIAR

ROOM 2

Director: Bill Condom

Starring: Hellen Mirrren, Ian Mckellen, Russel Tovey

Language: English

Duration: 99min

KNIVES OUT

ROOM 3

2:30, 5:00, 9:30pm

Director: Rian Johnson

Starring: Daniel Craig, Chris Evans, Toni Collette, Jamie Lee Curtis

Language: English

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 TEARFUL FAREWELL FROM IRON LADY

Britain has a new prime minister for the first time in more than 11 years.

Margaret Thatcher formally tendered her resignation to the Queen early this morning after leaving Downing Street for the last time.

John Major was elected her successor yesterday by Conservative Party members.

The woman dubbed as the Iron Lady during her premiership made her last tearful speech as the leader of the country from the doorstep of Number 10.

Mrs Thatcher told reporters the country had become a much improved place in which to live since she took office in 1979.

"We're leaving Downing Street for the last time after eleven-and-a-half wonderful years and we're happy to leave the UK in a very much better state than when we came here," she said.

She also gave her support to her successor. "Now it's time for a new chapter to open and I wish John Major all the luck in the world," she said.

After the speech she and her husband, Denis, were driven to Buckingham Palace, watched by a small crowd keen to witness this significant moment.

"It's part of history and we'd just like to say good bye and wish her well," said one onlooker outside the gates of the palace.

Mrs Thatcher had a half-hour meeting with the Queen before returning to her private home in Dulwich, south London.

Fifteen minutes later Mr Major arrived at the palace and was formally invited by the Queen to form a new administration.

The premiership of Britain's first female leader - and the longest since 1827 - was at an end.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Margaret Thatcher remained MP for Finchley until 1992.

But even after leaving Westminster she continued to be a formidable force in British politics.

Her appearances at Conservative Party conferences overshadowed successive Tory leaders years after her resignation, and she frequently spoke out to lend her support to the Euro sceptics.

Ill health forced the Iron Lady to abandon many of her public engagements in 2002.

John Major was prime minister until May 1997 when the Tories were ousted from power after a Labour landslide victory.

He stepped down as leader of the Conservatives shortly after losing the general election.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
 Someone will have an awful lot of questions for you today, and you probably won't have time to give them as much attention as you'd like. Be frank (and polite) about it.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
 Any romance you're having right now is going to be especially easygoing—you two are totally on the same wavelength, and you'll have absolutely no problem agreeing on something amusing to do together.

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
 There will be a vibrant energy of positive communication surrounding you wherever you go today—enabling long, fascinating conversations to evolve from modest small talk quite easily.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
 Don't be too surprised if you find yourself pinching a penny so tightly today that your fingers go numb! You are definitely feeling more conservative about money than usual.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
 Some amazing, life-changing opportunities are in your near future, which is both a good thing and a bad thing. You're getting closer than ever to what (or whom) you want, so that's great.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
 All of your perceptions about a recent conflict are accurate, so don't believe people who accuse you of being too dramatic or blowing things out of proportion.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
 One of your most boisterous friends has a great social idea brewing, and he or she might want your help with some of the planning. This person isn't quite on the ball with all the details.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
 Today, other people could be quite irritating for you, so try to get some distance from large groups. You may find yourself feeling unusually annoyed by the interruptions.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
 Get out your magnifying glass, because it's time for you to tackle the small stuff! This is an exceptional day for anything that has intricate details or small parts.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
 Your instincts about someone who is new on the scene are right on target, but that doesn't mean you should advertise your opinions to the world at large.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
 It's totally normal for people take on different personas, depending on whom they're talking to. For example, you probably wouldn't talk to a prospective employer the same way you talk to your best friend.

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

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

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

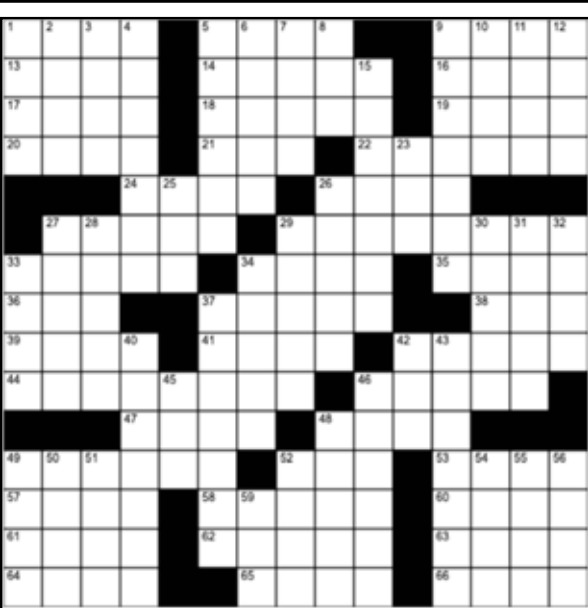
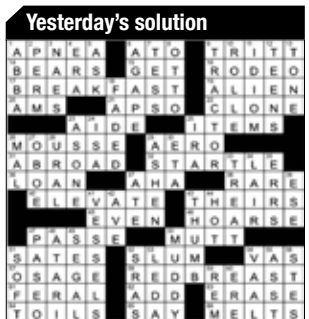
WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Cheerless; 5- Hoity-toity sort; 9- Impetuous; 13- Ethereal; Prefix; 14- Things to avoid; 16- Pennsylvania city; 17- Told; 18- Threep's pal; 19- Knitting stitch; 20- Musical staff sign; 21- General on Chinese menus; 22- Thawed; 24- Tale starter; 26- Hand over; 27- Laziness; 29- Gunfight; 33- "Til ___ do us part"; 34- Astound; 35- Highland tongue; 36- Former Bush spokesman; 37- "Bird on ___" (Gibson film); 38- Hung, neighbor; 39- Large marine food fish; 41- Waterfall; 42- Insinuate; 44- Removing faults; 46- Game show group; 47- Joint with a cap; 48- Join lips; 49- Loose overcoat; 52- Chemical ending; 53- Meddlesome; 57- Memo phrase; 58- Former Houston footballer; 60- Chip in; 61- Airborne pest; 62- Pave over; 63- Jockey's strap; 64- Impudence; 65- Went by horse; 66- Makes a mistake;

DOWN: 1- Jeanne ___ (French saint); 2- Authentic; 3- "Rule Britannia" composer; 4- Sasquatch; 5- Grab; 6- Like Odin and Thor; 7- Suspicious of; 8- Halloween sound; 9- Abundantly supplied; 10- Stuck in ___; 11- My king; 12- Grippled; 15- Anybody; 23- Tokyo, once; 25- Highest degree; 26- Butter maker; 27- Word with truth or blood; 28- Singer Cleo; 29- Undercover operation; 30- Speechify; 31- Commonplace; 32- Try out; 33- Statistics, collection of facts; 34- Hog; 37- Person who transfers property; 40- Short socks; 42- Beetle juice?; 43- Capture in a trap; 45- Kind of fingerprint; 46- Capital of South Dakota; 48- Mix dough; 49- Fixes, as a fight; 50- Editor Wintour; 51- Mardi ___; 52- Quartet member; 54- Standout; 55- Agitate; 56- Cravings; 59- Comparative suffix;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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One Central Lakeview/ high floor, Taipa
HK\$12,980,000 1,269 ft² 2 1/2 2 1/2

FOR RENT

Nam Long Neat 2 bedroom, Taipa
\$11,800/mth 645 ft² 2 1/2 1 1/2

FOR SALE

[Macau] Nova City 3 1/2 2 1/2
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[Taipa] Taipa Village with balcony 2 1/2 1 1/2
 787 ft² **\$4,950,000** (ref: 19096008)

[Taipa] Taipa Village (2 connected) 4 1/2 2 1/2
 1,404 ft² **\$8,680,000** (ref: 19096006)

[Macau] One Central 2 1/2 2 1/2
 1,349 ft² **\$14,839,000** (ref: 19096004)

FOR RENT

[Taipa] Nova Grand 2 1/2 1 1/2
 935 ft² **\$17,800/mth** (ref: 19091004)

[Taipa] Manhattan high floor 4 1/2 2 1/2
 2,305 ft² **\$26,800/mth** (ref: 19091003t)

[Taipa] Large de Ponte- Unit C 1 1/2
 550 ft² **\$10,000/mth** (ref: 19101003)

[Macau] Keng Ou office 3 1/2
 2,352 ft² **\$38,000/mth** (ref: 19091000)

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The Art of Giving

Lurdes de Sousa *



CONNECTING WEALTH FOR PHILANTHROPY

WHEN we think about philanthropy as “the love of humankind” and explore what great philanthropists have done for public good, we can certainly identify landmark institutions and individuals that have positively impacted their societies.

Yet, global inequality remains as it has always existed over the centuries, to the extent that one may even ask: Does global inequality matter?

The Credit Suisse Research Institute in its “Global Wealth Report 2019”, offers some disturbing findings:

First, the top 1% of wealth holders alone own 45% of global wealth.

Second, for the past decade, global wealth creation has centered around China and the United States.

Third, for the first time, this year China has overtaken the United States to become the country with the largest number of people in the top 10% of global wealth distribution.

If philanthropy is about giving back wealth, then we might be entitled to conclude that philanthropic practices (in that particular perception) will slowly shift from a western mindset to be more and more shaped by an oriental one.

But what does philanthropy exactly mean for an Asian mind? Is philanthropy, in an Asian mindset, an action of giving money, goods, time for public good? Or all of this combined with some other elements?

In Chinese, the verb shi (giving) can be associated with innumerable nouns, like giving goods (shi shan), or giving medicine (shi-yi) for instance. But what is interesting is that most often shi is associated with “giving teaching” (shi jiao). In Confucian philosophy, giving by the way of teaching is certainly not just a matter of helping the other, teaching is an act by which one helps others to stand on their own feet. It is the story of not giving the man a fish, but teaching him to fish...

If we see philanthropy as the redistribution of wealth for public good in a structured, institutionalized and long term commitment to make a contribution to social change, is it still reasonable to point out cultural values and traditions to draw a line between western and oriental practice of philanthropy? I believe not. While cultural differences and different values do (undoubtedly) exist, what is really relevant is to analyze not only how much people donate, but to what causes, through which channels and in which way.

We come back to our previous question: Does global inequality matter? It should not be a question. The real question is how modern philanthropy can be a major player in reducing inequalities.

In this context, strategic intelligence is needed more than ever. In an increasingly connected and complex world, intelligence will be required to respond to major challenges deepening global inequalities, from plastics and the environment to artificial intelligence, the blockchain, circular economies, digital identity, ageing populations, gender parity, sea-levels rising, leadership in the fourth industrial revolution, migration, global health, inclusive design, future of energy, future of food, forests, blended finance, family businesses and so on...

Connectivity between the two major philanthropist blocks is therefore the answer.

***President, Associação Internacional de Filantropia (Macau)**
 國際博愛協會 (澳門)

Macau Daily Times is the official media partner of the Associação Internacional de Filantropia (Macau).

GIFT-WRAPPING THIS SEASON TRENDS JAZZY BUT SUSTAINABLE

AP PHOTO



KATHERINE ROTH

THE trend in gift wrapping this holiday season is toward jazzy yet sustainable options. Consider beautifully folded fabrics or understated, brown or green masking paper topped with colorful washi tape or sprigs of green instead of easily crushed store-bought bows.

“There’s a lot of fun stuff going on in gift wrap these days,” says Amy Panos, home editor at Better Homes and Gardens.

“People still like paper, of course, but there’s a lot of interest in wrapping gifts in fabric,” she says. There’s the Japanese technique of furoshiki, in which the wrapping cloth becomes part of the gift. “Or you can use a scarf or pretty tea towel, then fold it like origami,” Panos says.

Tenugui cloth, similar to furoshiki but rectangular instead of square, can also be used as an alternative to traditional gift wrapping.

As with origami, there are books showing how to wrap gifts in cloth, a gift-wrapping solution in Japan for centuries. Furoshiki come in various sizes, fabrics and patterns.

For unusually large gifts —

and an easier wrapping job — decorative pillowcases are a good option, says Panos.

“Overall, the trend is definitely away from throwaway options and toward a more eco-minded approach,” says Tanya Graff, style editor at Martha Stewart Living.

Pretty boxes are another great and reusable way to present a gift, says Graff.

“You could try decorating a box with decoupage, so that the box is a part of the gift itself. Or cover a stack of hatboxes in marbled paper. You can put gifts inside,” she says. “Boxes can also be embellished with stick-on rhinestones.”

As much thought should go into the gift wrapping as into the gift itself, she explains. “That way, the wrapping can be a part of the gift or can be reused,” she says.

Many people still prefer paper of course, but Panos and Graff say the aesthetic is changing.

“One thing we’re seeing is a very Scandinavian look, with lots of browns and reds and naturals,” says Graff.

Panos agrees. “Brown Kraft paper, like the kind of paper grocery bags are made of, is fantastic. It’s multipurpose, inexpensive, and looks great

with any kind of ribbon or bow. It’s also easy to dress up with colorful ribbon or sprigs of greenery,” she says.

Holiday ornaments are also a great gift topper, she says. Or if you’re traveling and want a gift that packs flat, as opposed to something with a bow, try making a sort of “belly band” of some interesting leftover wallpaper or wrapping paper for a pretty and less-bulky gift-wrapping solution.

Decorative washi tape, which comes in a wide range of patterns and colors, is another trendy alternative to ribbon.

Masking paper, which is typically green, is another good alternative to wrapping paper. “It’s what painters typically spread across the floor before they start painting,” explains Panos. You can buy rolls of it at a hardware store, and “it looks amazing with a bright red ribbon around it.”

To save on gift tags, Panos suggests using pretty scraps of leftover paper, or writing directly on the package. She recommends that gift recipients save whatever ribbons or wrapping paper can be salvaged so they can be repurposed instead of ending up in a landfill. **AP**

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

FOOTBALL

Ibrahimovic buys stake in Swedish soccer team Hammarby

STEVE DOUGLAS

ZLATAN Ibrahimovic is back in Swedish soccer, not as a player but as the part-owner of a club.

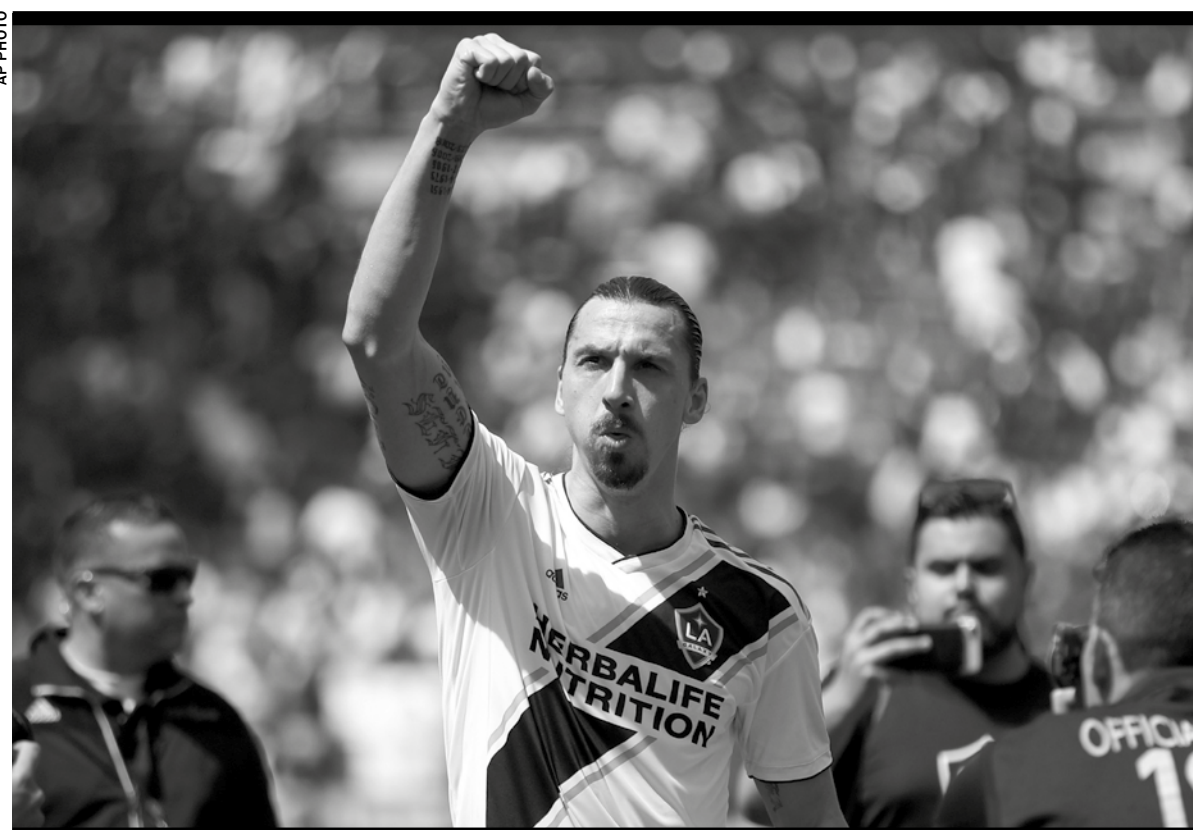
The country's biggest sports star outlined his desire to make Hammarby the "best in Scandinavia" after buying nearly 25% of the Stockholm-based club in his first move into soccer ownership.

"There are no limits to how big Hammarby can be," Ibrahimovic told Swedish tabloid Aftonbladet in its Wednesday edition.

Ibrahimovic has acquired half of the 47% stake in Hammarby owned by Anschutz Entertainment Group, the U.S.-based company whose portfolio of sports teams it owns or has investments in includes the Los Angeles Galaxy — the Major League Soccer team where Ibrahimovic played for the past 18 months.

By buying 50% of AEG Sweden, the 38-year-old Ibrahimovic owns nearly a quarter of Hammarby.

Hammarby finished third in Sweden's top league this season — behind champion Djurgarden



AP PHOTO

and Ibrahimovic's former club, Malmo — and will play in the Europa League next year.

"Spontaneously, the timing feels good," Hammarby chairman

Richard von Yxkull said. "We have had a strong development in recent years and next year we play in Europe.

"To then get a person like Zla-

tan Ibrahimovic into the club, with the passion and winning mentality he stands for, feels right."

Ibrahimovic, who retired from international duty in 2016 and is

regarded as one of Sweden's greatest ever players, had in recent days posted a photo of Hammarby's green-and-white jersey on his social media accounts, sparking speculation in his native country that he may join the club as a player having recently left LA Galaxy.

However, he says he will not play in Sweden again — he started his career at Malmo, where he was born, in 1999 — and is still weighing up where to play next. Ibrahimovic, the pony-tailed striker who is one of the most recognizable players in the world, has also played for Ajax, Barcelona, AC Milan, Inter Milan, Paris Saint-Germain and Manchester United in an illustrious, globetrotting career.

At the Galaxy, he scored 56 goals in 52 games in MLS.

The decision to invest in Hammarby is unlikely to go down well at Malmo, where a statue of Ibrahimovic was unveiled last month.

Kaveh Hosseinpour, vice-chairman of a Malmo supporters' group, told Swedish broadcaster SVT Sport that the club great had "burnt all bridges with Malmo."

"What I have done for Malmo will be there forever," Ibrahimovic said, when asked if he is concerned Malmo fans will be disappointed. "This is a completely different situation. It has nothing to do with where my career began." AP

AD

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cód. 1904030103-0

monitora/monitor:
Cristina Vinhas

horário/schedule:
Sextas/Fridays 18h30 - 21h30
Sábados/Saturdays 15h00 - 18h00

total: 12 horas/hours
04 sessões/sessions

data/dates: 6, 7, 13 + 14/12/2019

início/starts: 06/12/2019
fim/finishes: 14/12/2019

propina/fee:
MOP 480 *

língua/language: Português e Inglês/Portuguese and English ** patrocínio/sponsor: **Fundação Macau**

local/venue:
Avenida do Dr. Francisco Vieira Machado nº 431- 487 Edf. Industrial Nam Fung 8º andar B, sala 1, Macau

número máximo de participantes/maximum number of participants:
10 (Será respeitada a ordem de inscrição sendo esta efetiva mediante o pagamento de propina).
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OPINION

Made in Macao

Jenny Lao-Phillips



THE MAGIC CANTONESE WORD TO WARD OFF EVIL

In the Cantonese speaking world, there are many slang words which only exist in our language and cannot be translated even into other Chinese dialects. One such word that we often hear from the older generation, especially from women, is “Choi” 㗎. Even those who do not speak the language may be able to pick up when some repeatedly say the word “Choi! Choi! Choi!” usually with strength while gesturing with one’s hand for someone to go away. So what does it mean? Technically, the word itself has no meaning. It is for warding off curses.

I believe many people know of the blue eye charm popular in the Western world, especially in Eastern Europe used for preventing the evil eye. When being given an evil eye, it is believed that one is cursed for sickness or bad luck. A browse of the internet shows that different cultures have different way of preventing or reversing the curse of an evil eye. Well, there is no evil eye belief in the Chinese culture, but there is a strong superstition about someone saying cursing words or something unlucky. However, we do not need charms, or complicated processes to ward off curses, we need only say the word “Choi”.

Yes, “Choi” is a magic word to ward off curses or prevent bad things from happening, and it can have different meanings in different circumstances. For example, if you do something wrong at work and a colleague makes fun and says “the boss is going to fire you”, you can ward it off by saying “Choi”. In this sense, “Choi” could mean “go away curse”. In a different situation, you may seem to be cursing yourself, like during festivals, when we are not allowed to say anything bad. Then, if someone says something like, “I’m going to die” – not in the real sense but as a figure of speech when the person is very tired, or over stressed, or is asked to climb 18 floors of stairs, for instance, someone may reply with the word “Choi”. In this sense, the “Choi” can be understood as “don’t say that”.

In the latter situation, people may say “Choi” followed by “spit and say again”. Of course, the request to say again does not mean one should repeat what was just said. It means to say something else. What I have never understood is why not say “spit and say something else”, but it is an old language and I cannot find any origin for the phrase. But it is a very useful word. Whenever someone says something you don’t like to hear, you can always say “Choi” with a go away gesture.

Aside from warding off evil words, the word can also be used in circumstances when we see something we did not want to, like accidentally bumping into two people making out in the bathroom, or someone unattractive walking around naked on the street, we can cover our eyes and say “Choi”. Emphasis on unattractive, because if the person were attractive, we would say “wow”. In such situations, “Choi” could mean “reverse what I’ve seen, I didn’t want to see that.”

Then, what do we say if we want to reverse the curse? Say someone tells you, “you are going to lose in a competition!”, or “you must be pregnant!” (when you don’t want to be). Then we can say “Choi Gwo Nei 㗎過你” which means “Choi to you”. In this case, we reverse the curse to the person who says it. So, don’t forget this very powerful Cantonese word and, when using this word, always gesture with your hand for something to go away.

South Korea’s military fired warning shots Wednesday to repel a North Korean merchant ship after it violated their disputed western sea boundary, Seoul officials said, the second such incident in two months.

Seoul’s Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement that it believes the North Korean ship crossed the sea boundary due to bad weather and an engine problem. No further violence was reported.

It’s the second time that South Korea has fired warning shots to drive back a North Korean ship in the area since South Korea’s current liberal government took office in 2017. The first incident happened in September, according to South Korea’s military.

Ties between the two Koreas are strained amid a stalemate in U.S.-led diplomacy on ending the North Korean nuclear crisis.

North Korea said Monday its troops conducted artillery firing drills near the sea boundary. South Korea on Tuesday sent a formal protest message to North Korea, saying the drills violated last year’s inter-Korean agreements aimed at reducing front-line military animosities.

The sea boundary is a source of tension between the two Koreas. They have fought several deadly naval skirmishes in the area in past years. In 2010, two attacks blamed on North Korea near the sea boundary killed 50 South Koreans.

SINGER GOO HARA’S DEATH SHINES LIGHT ON DARK SIDE OF K-POP

THE death of South Korean singer and actress Goo Hara, whose body was found at her home in Seoul this week, has again shone a spotlight on pressures that stars, especially females, face in the cutthroat K-pop industry and in deeply conservative South Korean society.

Goo’s death at age 28 came less than two months after the death of Choi Jin-ri, or Sulli, another K-pop star and Goo’s close friend. Experts say both Goo and Choi faced extensive cyberbullying and sexual harassment from the public and media throughout their careers, which took a toll on their mental health.

Police say they are still investigating Goo’s death and found a “pessimistic note” at her home.

Once popular mostly in Asia, K-pop has spread far beyond South Korea, thanks to wildly popular groups such as “BTS” and “Blackpink.”

Goo debuted in 2008 as part of the five-member girl group Kara, which shot almost immediately to fame and helped pioneer the K-pop global phenomenon.

She later launched a successful solo career in South Korea and Japan.

Sulli began her career around the same time as Goo, debuting as a member of the girl band f(x) in 2009. She also had multiple acting roles after stepping away from her singing career.

Goo made headlines when she took her former boyfriend, Choi Jong-bum, to court last year. Choi claimed to have been assaulted by her, while Goo accused him of threatening to release a sex video of her.

During the dispute, Goo’s Korean agency didn’t renew her contract. A court sentenced Choi to 1 ½ years in prison on charges of coercion and assaulting and blackmailing Goo. The jail term was suspended, keeping him out of prison. Choi appealed and the trial is still ongoing.

K-pop is highly competi-



with dozens of groups debuting each year. Industry experts have long warned about the dark side of the scandal-ridden industry. Aspiring artists, as young as their early teens, train for years. Only a few debut and even fewer are commercially successful. The likelihood of their success increases if they sign with a handful of top entertainment agencies.

The industry is known to have strict rules for their stars — including dating bans, spartan training and diets, and sometimes slave-like and unfair contracts. Experts say the industry has additional requirements for its female artists, unspoken rules reflective of South Korea’s patriarchal society.

Park Hee-A, a K-pop journalist and writer of “Interviews with K-pop Stars,” said female stars are bound by rigid societal rules of femininity.

“Some female idol members have gotten ostracized for not smiling in a television show and reading a book about feminism that contradicts male-dominated patriarchal South Korean society,” Park told The Associated Press.

Expectations of purity and chastity govern women in South Korea. Goo faced a barrage of hate comments following media reports about the sex video despite her being the victim of revenge porn.

“The topic of sex is taboo in South Korea compared to western countries,” said Tae-Sung Yeum, attending psychiatrist at Gwanghwamun Forest Psychiatric Clinic. “There’s a high moral standard required, especially for female celebrities, because South Korea is a patriarchal society.”

Sulli, Goo’s long-time friend, also made headlines, often malicious and misogynistic, for speaking out about subjects such as ageism and feminism. She was criticized for wearing shirts without a bra, calling older male colleagues by their first names and openly supporting feminism.

Yeum said it’s difficult for K-pop stars to seek professional help for depression, especially in a country where many people believe that psychiatric disorders can be “treated with one’s will.” He said multiple suicides in the industry stem from stars being plunged into a hyper-competitive system with a plethora of abuses from a young age.

When Sulli was found dead in her Seongnam home, Goo bid farewell to her friend in a live-streamed video. “I will live more diligently for you,” Goo cried while apologizing for not being able to make it to her funeral.

Two days before Goo’s death, she uploaded a final selfie on her Instagram with the caption, “Good night.” AP

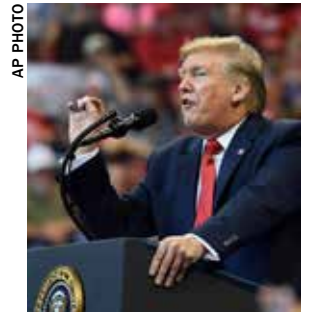


Poland’s ruling party is suing a law professor of international renown for defamation over comments he made on Twitter. The case against Wojciech Sadurski, a constitutional law professor who is a vocal critic of Poland’s right-wing government, opened yesterday in Warsaw’s Provincial Court.

Vatican City Pope Francis has tapped a Bank of Italy executive to take over the Vatican’s financial intelligence unit following a scandal that resulted in the Vatican being suspended from an international anti-money laundering network.

Norway Low-cost carrier Norwegian Air Shuttle said yesterday it is ending some of its long-haul routes to the United States and Thailand from Scandinavia, citing technical issues with the Rolls Royce engines on Boeing 787s and low demand.

UK The leader of Britain’s main opposition party, Jeremy Corbyn, accused Prime Minister Boris Johnson of secretly negotiating the basis of a trade deal with the United States ahead of the country’s departure with the European Union — including a contentious plan to extend patents for American drug companies.



US The House Judiciary Committee is set to take over the impeachment probe of President Donald Trump, scheduling a hearing for next week as they push closer to a possible vote on actual charges of “high crimes and misdemeanors.”