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STEVE WYNN WILL PAY \$20 MILLION TO SETTLE SHAREHOLDER LAWSUITS ACCUSING WYNN RESORTS OF COVERING UP SEXUAL MISCONDUCT ALLEGATIONS

LOCAL ESPORTS PLAYERS STILL STRIVING TO HAVE THEIR CRAFT RECOGNIZED

HONG KONG IS CONFIDENT ITS THREE-DECADE CURRENCY PEG TO THE US DOLLAR WILL SURVIVE THE UNREST ROCKING THE FINANCIAL HUB



Trump-Kim North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump have signaled their affection for each other so regularly it might be easy to miss rising fears that the head-spinning diplomatic engagement of the past two years is falling apart, with N.Korea's firing new missiles. More on p14

China-Serbia Serbian and Chinese security forces are holding joint anti-terror drills in the Balkan country in a sign of Beijing's growing influence in the volatile region. The drill including special police troops from both countries is part of a security agreement signed earlier this year.



Taiwan Japanese electronics manufacturer Panasonic Corp. is abandoning the semiconductor business with the sale of its last business in that sector to a Taiwanese company. Panasonic said it was transferring the semiconductor business operated by Panasonic Semiconductor Solutions Co. to Nuvoton Technology Corp.



Vietnam The village of Dien Thinh is bidding farewell to two of its sons, victims of the human trafficking tragedy unveiled last month when the bodies of 39 Vietnamese were discovered in a truck in England. This village's church did double duty yesterday as coffins with the bodies of cousins Nguyen Van Hung and Hoang Van Tiep were carried in for a funeral attended by about 300 people.

More on backpage

HEART-BREAKER SCAM SYNDICATE CLOSED FOR GOOD

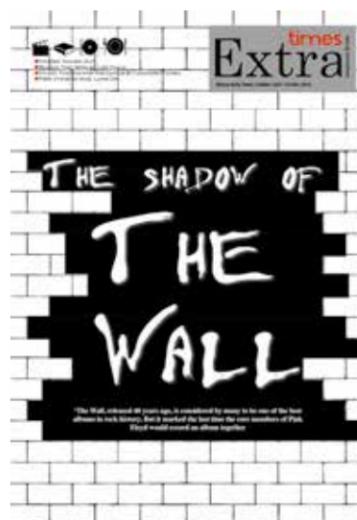
P2-3



LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN FOUR JURISDICTIONS CLAIMED VICTORY AFTER SHUTTING DOWN AN INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION SPECIALIZING IN THE ROMANCE VARIETY OF THE FAMOUS 'MACAU SCAM'

WAR OF WORDS CHINA AND US LOCK HORNS OVER THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG

P2 EDITORIAL, 8, 13



'The Wall', released 40 years ago, is considered by many to be one of the best albums in rock history. But it marked the last time the core members of Pink Floyd would record an album together

times Extra

editorial

Paulo Coutinho



DEAFENING SILENCE

OVER 2.9 million people of Hong Kong cast their vote in Sunday's district council elections, the highest turnout ever in the sister SAR's history – in any poll. And over 85% voted for the pan-democratic camp in what was seen as a massive show of support for the pro-democracy months-long movement, shattering the theory of a "silent majority" opposing the protests.

The district council members have little power in the city – they basically deal with traffic issues and other day-to-day annoyances, but this time it was not only about that.

This time, these elections, with origins dating back to 1982, were a real expression of the reigning discontent in Hong Kong with its governance, which has its most recent roots in the Occupy Central and Umbrella movements of 2014.

For a period of six months this year the demonstrations and the protests drove the city almost to a standstill, affecting the daily life of residents and tourists – the metropolitan network, the airport, roads, public or private buildings, and schools, were occupied and deranged or even shutdown at times while crowds clashed with police forces to a point of chaos in this master call for full democracy.

What started as a protest for the withdrawal of an extradition bill, which was seen by the majority in HK as a tool to control dissent or inconvenient voices, turned out to be a massive demand for the city's authorities to introduce universal suffrage in the elections for the Chief Executive (CE) and for the Legislative Council (LegCo) – a promise made in the Basic Law of Hong Kong, specifically in the annexes I and II dealing with the processes to choose the holders of executive and legislative powers.

As law professor António Katchi explained in a debate held by TDM earlier this week, the HK government has the constitutional right to draft laws in order to democratically elect the members of LegCo and the Chief Executive, even as the latter would require ratification by the NPC's Standing Committee. This would be "the sensible path to follow" to meet the expectations of the people of Hong Kong and end the protests, he said.

In any case, the initiative of change by formal political means, within the framework of the Basic Law, is at the will of the Chief Executive (and the establishment that supports it). If they do nothing, nothing would eventually change – at least peacefully.

The people of Hong Kong deserve better. They have stated over these six months, and moreover with the outcome of the Sunday's vote, that they want universal suffrage for both elections – and full democracy.

So far, neither Carrie Lam, nor the Central Government have shown willingness to listen to this deafening call.

CRIME

Online dating syndicate busted,

RENATO MARQUES

A criminal organization that sought to scam people through online communication websites and mobile applications has finally been exposed in a joint operation between Macau, Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysian police forces.

A Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesperson made the announcement yesterday afternoon during a special press conference from the force to reveal the details of the case.

According to the information provided by the spokesperson, the criminal group was operating in several jurisdictions, including Macau, and was headed by Nigerian nationals.

In the special three-day operation held from November 18 to 21 and led by Malaysian authorities, 22 people in total were arrested. Four in Macau were arrested, including three

women and a man whom the PJ suspected was the leader of the Macau operations. The people arrested in Macau were, the police informed, two local women aged 28 and 29 years old as well as a Filipino national. The man now in the custody of local authorities is a 35-year-old Nigerian national, whom the PJ said was one of the main members of the group.

At the same time, authorities in Malaysia arrested a total of 18 other people, 10 women and eight men, including the man who is believed to be the mastermind behind the syndicate.

The group operated via social media and online dating apps, creating fake user accounts with which they would search for victims.

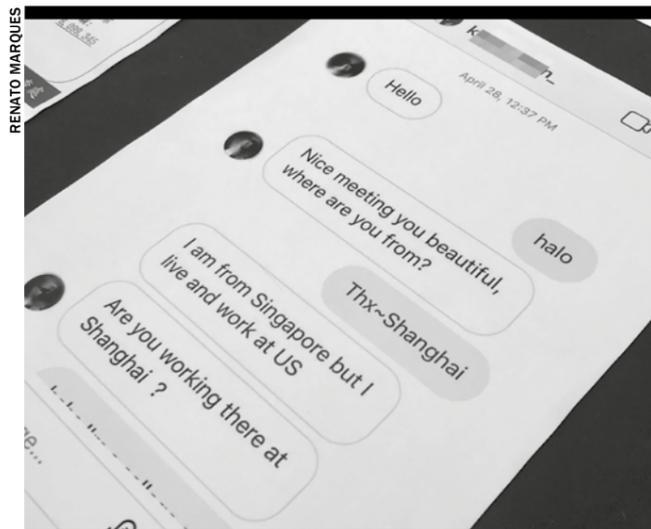
After establishing contact and a virtual relationship with the victims, the scammers would give a range of excuses and request money for loans,

investment opportunities and similar reasons.

After the victims acquiesced, the group's operatives would transfer the earnings into bank accounts in several jurisdictions, which they also had to open and maintain, sending all the usernames and passwords for online banking access to the heads of the group in Malaysia.

There are reports and evidence of the group's operation going back to 2015 at least, and upon preliminary evaluation, taking into account the complaints made by victims, they are suspected of having swindled a total sum of over 20 million patacas in 156 known cases.

The majority of victims were aged between 25 and 44 years old and were se-



What is the 'Macau Scam'?

ANTHONY LAM

WE are calling from the police station. We have intelligence showing that you are a suspect in a case. Failure to respond to it may obstruct your freedom of travel. For more information, press 1."

This is just one of many scenarios that commonly play out in phone scams across South and Southeast Asia, and which are increasingly being dubbed by international media as the "Macau Scam".

The number of scam victims seems to be rising particularly fast in Malaysia, where new reports surface every week.

How these fraudulent

calls came to be known as Macau Scams remains uncertain. According to some sources, it is because this type of scam originated in Macau.

"The term 'Macau Scam' was coined because it is believed that it originated from Macau or that the first victims came from there," notes a report by Malaysian news outlet, The Star, about the scam's namesake, though it quickly adds that, "this has never been confirmed."

Police reports from the Macau authorities show that not only are such scams common in the SAR, but that they are becoming more frequent too.

Accordingly, another

theory suggests that Macau lends its name to the fraudulent behavior precisely because the scams are so common in Macau.

Other scenarios in the so-called Macau Scam fraud calls include a lucky draw win notification or a ransom request.

Victims might receive calls saying that they have won a lucky draw and they need to send money to a certain account in order to collect their prize.

Or they might face a ransom request that seems to be authentic to the victim. In such cases, the phone scammers hand the call over to another person who claims to have been kidnapped and yells for help. The alleged

kidnapping victim is then said to be a relative of the victim.

In an article published by the BBC, Scripps College psychology professor, Stacey Wood, found that "even though about 60% identified the solicitations [of lucky draw scams] as likely a scam, they also still viewed the opportunity as potentially beneficial."

Local law enforcement entities regularly issue warnings against these scams with the stated purpose of educating the public not to fall for them. The Macau police advise the public to remain vigilant and not to panic or blindly follow the instructions given by unverified callers without first contacting the police or the financial institutions allegedly involved.

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22 arrested

PHOTO ARCHIVE/RENATO MARQUES



duced by the scammers' high-status profiles and the expensive gifts some even-

tually received.

In addition to this scam, the police also found that

the group had pretended to be staff members from parcel delivery companies on

several occasions, asking for compensation to release parcels with expensive items that were shipped to the victims.

Numbers quoted by the PJ spokesperson show that there were 40 cases of this type of scam reported between the end of 2018 and September this year. All were attributed to this group.

The PJ also said that, of the 156 cases that are under investigation or have been concluded, 69 occurred in Singapore, 54 in Hong Kong and 33 in Macau.

Of the cases investigated locally, the PJ said they had already concluded 12, noting that the victims were all local and that there were connections with Hong Kong in one case, and connections with Malaysia in three of the cases.

The total sum lost by the local victims across these 12 cases amounts to 6.1 million patacas.

While the other 21 cases are still under investigation, the PJ also warned the population of the risks of being involved in this type of relationship and called on other potential victims of this group to present their complaints to the force.

ORIENT FOUNDATION AWARDS LOCAL JOURNALISTS

THE Orient Foundation has given three Portuguese journalists awards for their work, published by the SAR's media outlets.

TDM reporter Sandra Azevedo won the foundation's 2019 Report Award for her work on "As Moradas do Cinema," which was published by TDM.

The report, which was produced last year, was about the historic halls of Capitol Theater as it celebrated 66 years of operation in the city.

It was in September last year that the Capitol Theatre, located at Rua Pedro Nolasco da Silva in Central Macau, reopened its doors after closing them more than 20 years ago in 1997.

After the Capitol's first closure on August 1, 1987, the interior of the theatre was rebuilt as a shopping center.

Meanwhile, journalists Diana do Mar and Hugo Pinto also received honorable mentions for their reports on "Vidas Suspensas - O estatuto de refugiado em Macau" and "Dias de Tempestade," respectively.

The Macau Portuguese and English Press Association (AIPIM) issued a statement congratulating its members and partners on their work.

"These distinctions underline the quality of our colleagues' work, valuing Portuguese-language journalism in Macau," the statement read.

AD

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TAXI HAILING APP REPORTEDLY LAUNCHED

A mainland taxi-hailing app has reportedly launched in Macau. The company behind the app is Shouqi Limousine & Chauffeur. On November 26, the company made an announcement on its official Weibo account regarding the service. It claims to be the first app-based taxi hailing platform in Macau. The starting meter is 220 patacas for a single trip. Renting a car for half a day costs 1,000 patacas, while 2,000 patacas secures a car for a whole day. The company provides Toyota Alphard 7-seaters and claims to offer local professional drivers who also serve Macau's high-end hotels during the year. According to a report by TDM, the Transport Bureau said that it is paying close attention to this and is collecting information to follow up on the situation.

MACAU FILM FESTIVAL TO HOST LILY JAMES MASTERCLASS

The International Film Festival & Awards - Macao (IFFAM) is teaming up with the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) to host a masterclass in Macau with U.K. actress Lily James. The event is scheduled for December 8 at the Macao Museum of Art during the fourth IFFAM, which will run from December 5 to 10. James will speak about her career as an actress, providing insight into this field. In a statement from the IFFAM, the artistic director of the festival, Mike Goodridge, said, "we are thrilled to be partnering with BAFTA to welcome Lily James to Macau," adding, "she is a wonderful actress and a luminous screen presence. It will be fascinating for Macau audiences to hear her insights on her craft, her choices and her stratospheric career to date."

FIRST BATCH OF ROUGH DIAMONDS IMPORTED TO MACAU

The first batch of rough diamonds was imported to Macau yesterday, the local government has advised in an announcement. On October 1 of this year, the implementation of Kimberley Process Certificate System Regarding International Trade in Rough Diamonds came into effect. As of today, the Macao Economic Service (DSE) has issued licenses to handle rough diamond to eight enterprises. The first batch of rough diamonds was imported by one of the companies with a valid operating license. In total, the diamonds weigh 600 carats. According to the new system, DSE and the Macao Customs Authority will jointly supervise the rough diamond trade.

GAMING | LAS VEGAS

WYNN RESORTS SETTLES WITH PENSION FUNDS OVER SEX ALLEGATIONS

SCOTT SONNER
& MARINA VILLENEUVE

WYNN Resorts agreed Wednesday to accept \$41 million from former CEO and chairman Steve Wynn and insurance carriers as part of a settlement stemming from shareholder lawsuits accusing company directors of failing to disclose the casino mogul's alleged pattern of sexual misconduct.

Neither the company nor its current or former directors or officers were found to have committed any wrongdoing in connection with the pending settlement involving multiple public pension funds, the company said in a statement late Wednesday.

The deal is subject to approval of a judge in Las Vegas.

Wynn would pay \$20 million in damages while another \$21 million will come from insurance carriers on behalf of current and former employees of Wynn Resorts, the company said.

Wynn has denied all allegations of misconduct. He resigned from the casino company in February 2018.

Wynn Resorts said the settlement reached Wednesday afternoon credits the company with \$49 million for changes made since then, including new policies to protect workers and realignment of the board of directors with eight independent members, including four women.

Multiple shareholder lawsuits — consolidated into a single case

AP PHOTO



in Clark County District Court in Las Vegas — were filed in 2018 on behalf of the New York public pension fund and municipal workers and others elsewhere over their investments in Wynn Resorts.

They alleged some officers and directors knew the company's founder and chairman made unwanted sexual advances on employees and pressured them to perform sex acts, but did not disclose the alleged pattern of sexual misconduct.

In addition to The New York State Common Retirement Fund, other plaintiffs included an operating engineers' construction pension fund in Pennsylvania and municipal firefighters in California.

"We filed our lawsuit in response to serious and repeated allegations of sexual misconduct by Steve Wynn and the prior board's alleged failure to stop it," said New York Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, who is in charge of that state's \$209 billion retire-

ment fund. He said it holds shares in Wynn Resorts with an estimated value of \$23 million.

"We are gratified that the reforms in this agreement and those undertaken following the initiation of our lawsuit will protect Wynn resorts employees and shareholders against future harm," he said Wednesday.

Wynn Resorts owns and operates Wynn Las Vegas, Encore Boston Harbor in Massachusetts, Wynn Macau and Wynn Palace, Cotai in Macau. AP

GAMING SERVICE INDEX

Washroom environment rating continues to drop

JULIE ZHU

THE overall state of washroom environments in local casinos recorded another year of decline in 2019, following a similar drop last year. Nevertheless, in broad terms the service performance of casino operators, according to the 2019 Gaming Service Index (GSI), showed improvement year-on-year.

According to the GSI results released yesterday by the Macau Gaming Research Association (MGRA), this year, 84% of toilet en-

vironments were rated "good," whereas 5% of the surveyed casinos' toilets were considered to have a "bad" environment.

In 2019, the air quality inside casinos was generally "satisfactory," the survey said. The waiting time for casino shuttle buses was similar to that of last year, which was five to nine minutes, and on average 7.11 minutes.

Overall, all casinos recorded an increase in their GSI scores in 2019, and there was a 9.81% increase in the overall the GSI score.

There were no significant differences in the overall results between casino operators.

The results showed no direct correlation between the number of customers and GSI performance.

Since 2013, the GSI has periodically compiled data in order to monitor the service levels within the gaming industry.

The GSI is conducted by the Macau Gaming Research Association, which collaborates with SGS Hong Kong Limited in recruiting and training

mystery shoppers, and in conducting data collection and data entry.

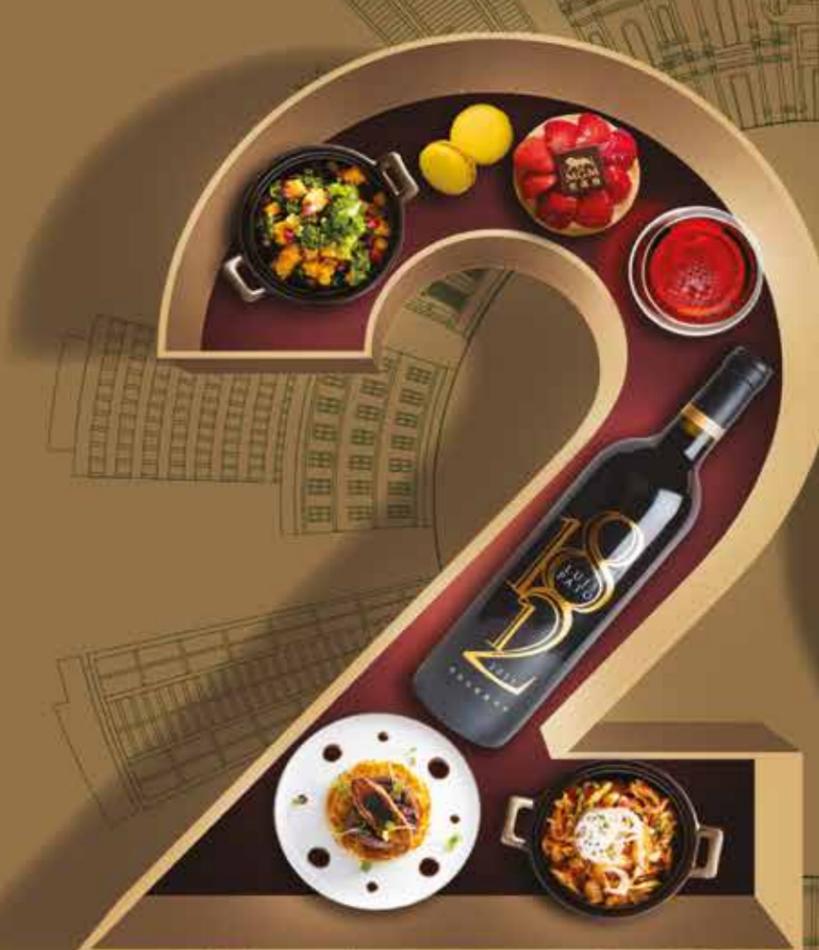
The targets of the assessment were the mass market areas of 15 Macau casinos: Altira, City of Dreams, Galaxy, Grand Lisboa, Jai Alai-Oceanus, Lisboa, MGM, MGM Cotai, The Parisian, Sands Macao, Star World, Studio City, The Venetian, Wynn and Wynn Palace.

This year, the sample size was 12,044, including staff in slot machine areas, security staff, cashiers, dealers and staff at free food & beverage areas respectively.

On the sidelines of yesterday's press conference, MGRA assistant director Hannah Koo highlighted several trends noted in the GSI in recent years.

Several departments made improvements in 2019 compared with that in 2018, especially in the areas of cloakrooms, cashiers, slot machines, membership, shuttle buses, and croupiers.

Cloakroom, shuttle bus, and slot machine were ranked as the top three departments in terms of the overall GSI score in 2019.



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Frederico dos Santos Rosário (right), chairman of Grow uP

LOCAL ESPORTS PLAYERS STILL WORKING TO PROMOTE THE GAME

MACAU-BASED Grow uP MeSports Association is assisting the International Esport Federation in running local qualifier events used to select players for the highest levels of esports competition worldwide.

Currently, the international body has been striving to have esports accepted and embraced by the International Olympic Committee, a move which many believe will be the quickest way to legitimize esports as a sport in its own right. They are now striving to have the activity enter the 2020 Olympics, to be held in Tokyo, Japan.

Speaking to the Times, three professional or semi-professional esports players agreed that local efforts to promote esports are insufficient.

The Grow uP association members admitted that it is still challenging to promote esports, as well as video gaming in a broader, non-competitive sense.

"It is controversial, after all, to promote video gaming," said one locally-renowned player and Grow uP member known to go by the three letters "LEI". LEI also said companies are reluctant to promote esports because of the complication in communicating what exactly esports is to general audiences.

"When there are easier [options], why choose the difficult one?" asked LEI.

Awareness of the sport is important, especially because many people are unaware of the diffe-

rence between esports and video gaming.

Esports is a competitive activity developed from video games and so the line between it and videogaming can be vague. The main distinguishing feature is the "degree of professionalism" according to the esports players interviewed by the Times.

There are other pressing challenges too, including sexual harassment and discrimination. Sexual harassment and gender-based discrimination are rife in the online world and esports is no exception.

"Male gamers often say [sexual] things to female gamers," explained Frederico dos Santos Rosário, chairman of Grow uP. He also hinted there was a stereotype about the ability of female gamers. This is why his association started the Girl Gamer competition series, now in its third year, which involves only female gamers.

Rosário also stressed that these issues are sometimes made worse by cultural differences. The image of the activity needs polishing, said the association chairman.

AN INDUSTRY BUILT AROUND A SPORT

Esports has already blossomed into an industry in many countries, including China. This industry does not only include gamers, but also a wide range of other people, such as coaches, technicians, marketers, translators and videographers.

When esports and competi-

tions are held as MICE events, gamers from other places will need accommodation, catering and transportation, among many other services and facilities, let alone the elements needed for the event itself.

"Aside from gamers, esports covers a wide scope: broadcasting, entrepreneurship, psychology, coaching. Professional gamers even have their own nutritionists. They even need to do workouts at the gym," said Rosário.

In Macau, the industry remains somewhat overlooked, even as the local government is working to find ways to diversify the city's economy and reduce its reliance on gambling.

That wasn't always the case, however.

One of the first esports events that took place in Macau was in the 1990s at the Yaohan Department Store (the predecessor to the New Yaohan Department Store) located near the Fisherman's Wharf.

"I still remember my first open video game competition long ago, when Yaohan was still located in the Outer Harbor. There was a screen wall made with cathode ray tube (CRT) monitors in its lobby, and it took place there. The competition played [was] Street Fighter. I lost the game because my opponent used Ken and boosted three bars at once," Rosário fondly recalled, as he delved into the technical as-

pects of his loss.

A decade later esports made an appearance at the Asian Indoor Games, held in Macau in 2007. The Games focused on three very popular esports games: FIFA 07, NBA Live 07 and Need for Speed: Most Wanted. All three trophies were won by mainland Chinese athletes.

TRAINING LIKE ATHLETES

To reach the height of their potential and win awards at in-

ternational competitions, esports players need to possess or acquire a set of qualities. According to the esports players interviewed by the Times, these include strong observation skills, emotional control, second-nature risk management and an understanding of psychology, among others.

"It involves strategic planning, risk and crisis management, emotional control," said Nikusan, a Macau gamer ranked in the world's top 30 for the popular and classic game Street Fighter. "How can you calm yourself down at critical moments? You need to do so because if you panic or face emotional movements, you [will] lose the game easily."

"It also involves observation. I mean, how should I observe the movements of my opponent and forecast their next move? In many cases, I don't need to play with a gamer to know this gamer's personality and characters. In my opinion, that makes the game not simply a game, but esports," added Nikusan.

Echoing the same sentiments, Rosário remarked, "From behind the screen, we can tell the condition of the other gamers. During each game session, for a very brief period we can predict our opponents' next moves, sometimes even the tactics in the next session."

LEI, who plays online games for leisure, agreed that the drive to acquire these competitive qualities puts an enormous stress on professional and semi-professional esports players and those who aspire to become them.

"Pro gamers need to go through daily training to maintain and improve their standards. As a semi-pro gamer, if I lose, I take it as a lesson. There's not much stress," said LEI, but added that he knows not everyone has an equally healthy attitude.



LEI and Nikusan

HONG Kong's de facto central bank said that confidence in the city's three-decade-old currency peg to the U.S. dollar - the bedrock of its status as a financial hub - remains strong, despite almost six months of pro-democracy protests.

The Hong Kong dollar is pegged to the U.S. dollar in a band that ranges between 7.75 and 7.85 to the U.S. dollar. In turn, Macau's pataca is fixed to the Hong Kong dollar at an exchange rate of 1.03.

As the Hong Kong dollar is pegged to the greenback, both special administrative regions essentially import U.S. monetary policy. The Monetary Authority of Macao says that the policies in the two territories "should be basically consistent in order to maintain the effective operation of the linked exchange rate system."

The Hong Kong dollar holds special status in Macau, as the currency is not only circulated alongside the pataca, but supplants it for large transactions such as property and motor vehicle purchases.

The indirect link with the U.S. dollar is of additional interest to Macau authorities, as it influences the city's small but vulnerable economy, which is reliant on external demand.

Wedged between the world's two largest economies, a weaker Chinese yuan this year means mainland gamblers have less to spend on Macau's hotels, restaurants and retail sector, and less to bet at its baccarat tables.

Hong Kong monetary officials

Confidence high that HK dollar will stay in currency peg



say they are confident the peg will hold.

"The peg has proven that it will survive different times and different challenging periods for Hong Kong," said Howard Lee, deputy chief executive at the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), in an interview with Bloomberg Television yesterday. "The benefit is clear-

The HK dollar holds special status in Macau, as the currency is not only circulated alongside the pataca, but supplants it for large transactions

ly visible and the confidence in the linked exchange rate is very strong among Hong Kong residents and also international in-

vestors. We see no need to change it."

Eddie Yue, the latest chief executive of the HKMA, has also said on previous occasions that defending the currency peg was his first priority.

On previous occasions, the HKMA has proven adept at defending the peg, using a reserve pile of some \$440 billion. Yesterday, the Hong Kong dollar was trading

at between 7.827 and 7.828 per dollar, safely within its 10-cent range.

In 1998, the Authority earned much praise for defending the peg against billionaire investor George Soros, whose aggressive currency trades sought to undermine or break it.

Authorities have intervened to defend it again since, and this year have been forced to push back against renewed attacks by investors such as Hayman Capital Management founder Kyle Bass. **DB/AGENCIES**

No price tag yet for Zone A public housing units

THE Housing Bureau (IH) has built a total of 3,011 housing units in Zone A - nearly 1,000 fewer than what Chief Executive Chui Sai On had promised in his 2019 policy address.

Originally, 4,000 home-ownership scheme (HOS) units were planned to be built on the four plots of Zone A, however, one of the bidders had previously filed an appeal against the outcome of the public tender for the HOS construction project.

The subsidized HOS units comprise of 760 one-bedroom units, 998 two-bedroom units and 1,253 three-bedroom units.

This round of applications - the first since 2013 - requires that applicants' minimum income for a one-person

household be over 11,640 patacas per month, and 17,680 patacas for a two-person household. A household with seven members or more should have a monthly income of at least 34,390 patacas.

The maximum limit of net assets for one-person household HOS applicants is 1.27 million patacas, while the limit for two-person household HOS applicants is 2.54 million patacas.

Arnaldo Ernesto dos Santos, director of IH, said during a press conference that the government had already reserved more than 30,000 public housing units and he hoped that they would collect more information on applicant data for further revision.

"In the future, there will be

many public housing units, don't worry," said dos Santos during a press conference.

Those who wish to apply this year but who participated in the 2013 cycle must submit a form to renounce their previous application.

The director said that over 5,000 applicants are still queuing up for different types of affordable housing units.

Currently, the HOS projects that will be built on plot B4, B9 and B10 of the reclaimed area - Zone A - still have no price tag.

The official said that the projects are still being designed and that there is no timetable yet on when the plans will be completed, nor when they would be handed over to successful applicants. **LV**

GOV'T EXEMPTED FROM INCOME TAX ON MAINLAND INVESTMENTS

THE local government will be exempted from income tax when investing in the mainland, once a new protocol to avoid double taxation comes into effect.

The Fourth Protocol to the Arrangement between the Mainland and the Macau SAR on the Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Evasion of Income Tax will exempt from income tax those investments made by the local government in the mainland, namely via the Guangdong-Macau Cooperation and Development Fund.

Once the Fourth Protocol comes into

effect, investments made by the Guangdong-Macau Cooperation and Development Fund will be exempted from tax estimated at approximately 800 million yuan. Currently, a 10-percent income tax is levied on investments made in the mainland by the Guangdong-Macau Cooperation and Development Fund.

Currently, the Guangdong-Macau Cooperation and Development Fund has completed its scheduled injection of capital. In addition to the guaranteed return of 3.5 percent on the actual investment - the Ma-

cau SAR government would be entitled to extra returns if the fund's returns exceed a certain threshold.

The protocol was signed yesterday by Chief Executive Chui Sai On and the Commissioner of the State Taxation Administration, Wang Jun, during a ceremony held at the Macau Government Headquarters.

The Arrangement between the Mainland and the Macau SAR on the Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Evasion of Income Tax, was first signed in 2003, with subsequent updates in 2009, 2011 and 2016 respectively.

CHINA reacted furiously yesterday to President Donald Trump's signing of bills on Hong Kong human rights, summoning the U.S. ambassador to strongly protest and warning the move would undermine cooperation with Washington.

Trump's approval of the bill was not unexpected. Neither was the reaction from Beijing, given China's adamant rejections of any commentary on what it considers an internal issue. But the clash comes at a sensitive time and could upset already thorny trade negotiations.

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Le Yucheng told Ambassador Terry Branstad that the move constituted "serious interference in China's internal affairs and a serious violation of international law," a foreign ministry statement said.

Le called it a "nakedly hegemonic act." He urged the U.S. not to implement the bills to prevent greater damage to U.S.-China relations, the ministry said.

FURIOUS, CHINA SUMMONS US AMBASSADOR OVER HK BILLS



Protesters hold American flags and a placard during a demonstration in Central, the financial district of Hong Kong

denations of the laws and said China would take unspecified "countermeasures." It said all people of Hong Kong and China oppose Washington's move.

It's unclear how China will respond exactly, and whether Trump's decision might disrupt negotiations with Beijing aimed at easing trade tensions.

Asked yesterday if the U.S. legislation would affect trade talks with Washington, a Chinese Commerce Ministry spokesman said he had no new information to share.

Trump earlier expressed concern about whether the legislation might complicate efforts to work out a trade deal with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Recently both sides expressed confidence they were making headway on a preliminary agreement to avert a further escalation in a tariff war that has hammered manufacturers in both nations.

"I signed these bills out of respect for President Xi, China, and the people of Hong Kong," Trump said in a statement. "They are being enacted in the hope that Leaders and Representatives of China and Hong Kong will be able to amicably settle their differences leading to long term peace and prosperity for all." **MDT/AP**

CALLING THE WESTERN WORLD

CHANTING "Stand with Hong Kong," pro-democracy activists yesterday urged the world to follow U.S. footsteps by passing laws backing human rights in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory. Prominent activist Joshua Wong, who was among democracy supporters who lobbied for the new U.S. laws, called them a "remarkable achievement,"

with human rights triumphing over crucial U.S.-China trade talks. Wong said he hopes the laws will spur Britain and other Western nations to follow suit. He said he would participate in a parliamentary hearing in Italy via Skype to press for further global support. "Now is the time for the Western world to stand with Hong Kong," he said.

At a daily news briefing, ministry spokesman Geng Shuang responded to a question about how Trump's endorsement of the legislation might affect relations by saying it would undermine "cooperation in important areas."

The U.S. laws, which passed both houses of Congress almost unanimously, mandate sanctions on Chinese and Hong Kong offi-

cial who carry out human rights abuses in Hong Kong; require an annual review of Hong Kong's favorable trade status and prohibit the export to Hong Kong police of certain nonlethal munitions.

China has repeatedly accused the U.S. and other Western countries of orchestrating the mass demonstrations.

A ministry statement earlier yesterday repeated heated con-

Former Hong Kong leader says protests won't force China's hand

IAIN MARLOW
& KAREN LEIGH

HONG Kong's controversial former leader said it was "senseless" to think mass protests could force Beijing's hand, amid months of increasingly violent rallies against China's grip on the city.

"It's extremely senseless and irresponsible for political figures in Hong Kong and outside Hong Kong to think that somehow by bringing hundreds of thousands of people into the streets of Hong Kong, somehow China's hand could be forced," Leung Chun-ying said in an address at the city's Foreign Correspondents' Club yesterday.

He added it was also pointless to think "that we could have full autonomy in Hong Kong without China's involvement, that we could have a local democracy that has all the hallmarks of a sovereign democracy."

Leung, who governed



Former Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying speaks at FCC in Hong Kong

the former British colony between 2012 and 2017 and was in power during its mass Occupy protests five years ago, spoke days after pro-democracy politicians won a landslide in local elections over the weekend. "We're not seeing the end of this," he said. "We know the results, we know how the

votes are split, but we don't know the consequences."

He addressed the U.S.'s Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act signed Wednesday by President Donald Trump. The legislation requires annual reviews of the financial hub's special trade status under American law, as well as

sanctions against any officials deemed responsible for human rights abuses or undermining its autonomy. It prompted Beijing to threaten retaliation as the two sides work to sign a phase one trade deal.

"I don't think the congressmen who voted for this act were fully informed, or

correctly informed," Leung said. "I don't think whoever initiated this, be they American or Hong Kong people, ever had the interest of Hong Kong in mind. It's a proxy thing. I don't think they have Hong Kong's freedoms, Hong Kong's democracy and Hong Kong's human rights in mind. It's all about China."

Leung has been a frequent critic of pro-democracy campaigners and railed against the threats from activists who pursued Hong Kong independence while he was in office. He told the lunchtime audience at the FCC that pro-democracy politicians were "now joined in the hips" with "radicals."

In August, Leung posted a link on his personal Facebook page that promised a crowd-funded bounty and anonymity to potential tipsters helping identify demonstrators who committed acts of vandalism or violence during protests

that have thrown the city into chaos in recent months. The demonstrations, which began over legislation allowing extraditions to China, have since morphed into a wider movement against Beijing's grip.

Leung - alongside China's foreign ministry - previously criticized the FCC for hosting a talk by independence activist Andy Chan, whose Hong Kong National Party has been banned by the city's government. Following that event, the club's acting president, Financial Times journalist Victor Mallet, was refused a visa renewal.

"They want civic nominations, open nominations of candidates, and that's not in the Basic Law, and they did not want to negotiate - somehow they thought that bringing out the masses, 100,000 people in the streets, why don't you agree that that's not politics?" Leung said. "That's not diplomacy." **BLOOMBERG**



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ECB REVIEW MAY RESET INFLATION AIM TO 2% BUT STRUGGLE TO DO MORE

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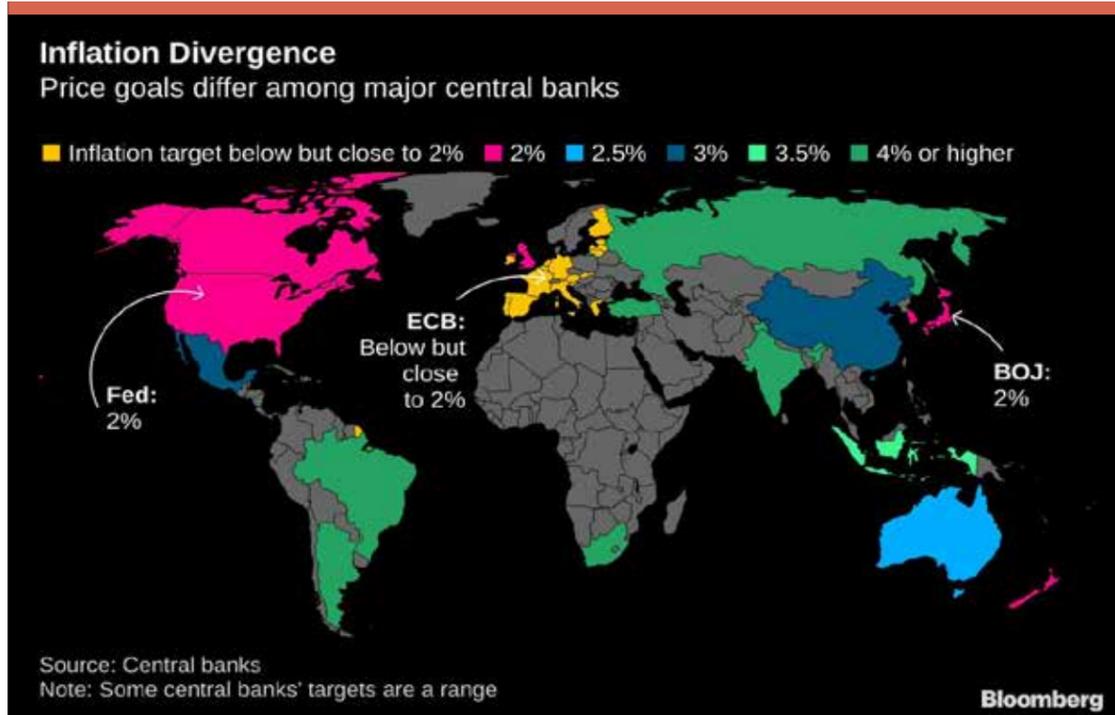
EUROPEAN Central Bank policy makers expect to tweak their inflation target in an upcoming review of their strategy but will struggle to go much further than that, according to officials with knowledge of the matter.

The institution's first fundamental assessment in 16 years might conclude with a goal of 2% - instead of the current "below, but close to, 2%" which some governors worry risks leaving inflation too weak. A more radical change to measuring and achieving price stability is probably too ambitious, said the people, asking not to be identified because the discussions are private.

Tweaking the inflation goal to 2% over the medium term would have the advantage of removing any pressure to start tightening policy as soon as price growth moves north of 1.5%. Ideally, it would also boost expectations - a critical factor for generating actual inflation - by creating room to overshoot for a while, one person said. An ECB spokesman declined to comment.

The review is also set to evaluate how the ECB can address climate change, a topic of increasing importance for central banks but also a controversial one. New President Christine Lagarde said in a letter to a European Parliament member last week that the study is an opportunity to reflect on sustainability.

Lagarde plans to announce her intentions soon, and ECB Chief Economist Philip Lane said on Wednesday that it's a "bad idea" to anticipate the outcome. Still, the early speculation by insiders reflects the reality that there's no consensus in unders-



tanding the forces shaping the euro-zone economy, nor what to do about them.

Despite eight years of monetary stimulus with measures including bond purchases and negative interest rates, the previous president, Mario Draghi, was unable to reignite inflation. Price growth has slipped below 1% and forecasts for coming years have repeatedly been cut.

The chief problem, the officials said, is that no one is really sure how inflation - and associated models such as the Phillips Curve, which describes the link with unemployment and wages - works any more. For that reason, the review will build on earlier research into why inflation has stayed so low for so long.

While a common view is that globalization and technology have put downward pressure on

prices, an ECB working group found in 2017 that cyclical factors such as global shocks and commodity prices have played a bigger role. That report concluded that ECB stimulus such as quantitative easing helped support inflation expectations.

The topic has long puzzled central banks. The U.S. Federal Reserve, which has a dual mandate to keep prices stable and the economy at maximum employment, and which has set itself an inflation goal of 2%, plans to complete its own strategic review in mid-2020.

One solution advocated publicly by Austrian Governor Robert Holzmann would be to lower the goal, making it easier to hit and so reducing the need for stimulus. That view isn't accepted at the top of the ECB though, amid concerns that interest rates wou-

ld stabilize at too low a level to provide a buffer against future downturns.

Likewise, there are divergent views internally over how much flexibility around the target there should be. Typically hawkish governors such as Bundesbank President Jens Weidmann see no obvious need to make a change at all. His Dutch colleague Klaas Knot has proposed a band around the goal.

Lane advocates "symmetry" - suggesting the ECB would give equal weight to boosting weak inflation and countering too-strong price growth and that a range would therefore be inappropriate.

"We care about failing downward as much as failing upward," he said in Luxembourg on Wednesday.

The topic of what inflation

gauge to target looks even thornier. The ECB acknowledges the flaws of the harmonized index produced by the European Union's statistics office - which is based on input from the 19 members states and which dramatically underweights housing costs - but there is no clear alternative, the officials said.

While one of the people said they couldn't rule out the central bank constructing its own measure, another warned that it would be crazy to change the yardstick now, when the ECB hasn't met its objective.

The evaluation of climate change is a potentially divisive issue, with officials worried that it could muddy the price-stability mandate and compromise the ECB's independence. Weidmann said last month that "there could be conflicting goals as soon as monetary policy dictates that you need to step on the brake and reduce the purchase of bonds."

Still, there is pressure to include it. Academics and civil society groups wrote an open letter to Lagarde this week urging her to change tack and purge the bonds of climate polluters from its balance sheet.

Bank of France Governor Francois Villeroy de Galhau said yesterday in Tokyo that he wants the review to focus on three issues: clarification of the symmetrical approach to the inflation target; a "soft coordination" between monetary policy and financial stability tools; and climate change.

The next policy meeting is on Dec. 12, which may be the moment for Lagarde to announce the review. Staff from the ECB and the national central banks aren't waiting though - they've already started work informally on possible options. **BLOOMBERG**

CORPORATE BITS

Galaxy unveils menu inspired by Chinese medicine



Galaxy Macau's "FUNtastic Winter Wishes Come True" campaign has unveiled a menu themed "Fuel Up for Success," inspired by the long history of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM).

According to the gaming

operator, the new menu follows the principles of yin and yang to help the body achieve harmony. Each dish is prepared with medicinal ingredients, contributing to the menu's potent wellness benefits. Diners will savor

delicious dishes and reap the benefits of 5,000 years of medical wisdom by ordering the 6- or 8-course set menu at Fook Lam Moon, or a la carte at Pak Loh Chiu Chow Restaurant, The Noodle Kitchen and Lugang Café from now till February 8, 2020.

The nutritious menu was jointly created by renowned TCM practitioner Dr. Cheong Weng Heng and Galaxy Macau's acclaimed Chinese Master Chef Simon Tho.

"An energy-boosting diet can do wonders to revitalize the body and mind," said Dr. Cheong. "Many traditional Chinese medicinal ingredients can be used as ingredients to prepare nourishing dishes."

MGM-sponsored center for disabled opens to the public



The Macau Assistive Technology Resources Center, a facility that features the display of barrier-free homes and promotional materials for

auxiliary tools, sponsored by MGM, has been launched.

Run by the General Union of Neighborhood Associations of Macao (UGAMM), people

with disabilities can come and try out the tools, receive an assessment service, or ask to borrow assistive devices.

The objective of UGAMM is to offer caregivers and those in need easy access to auxiliary tools in order to improve their quality of life, the gaming operator noted in a statement.

It is believed that through the provision of professional advice and the assessment service, together with the improved deployment of auxiliary tools, the community will become more acquainted with the relevant resources.

Meanwhile, MGM pledged to organize more volunteer activities to foster the development of the center.

China's crackdown on cryptocurrencies claims first victims

ZHEPING HUANG
& OLGA KHARIF

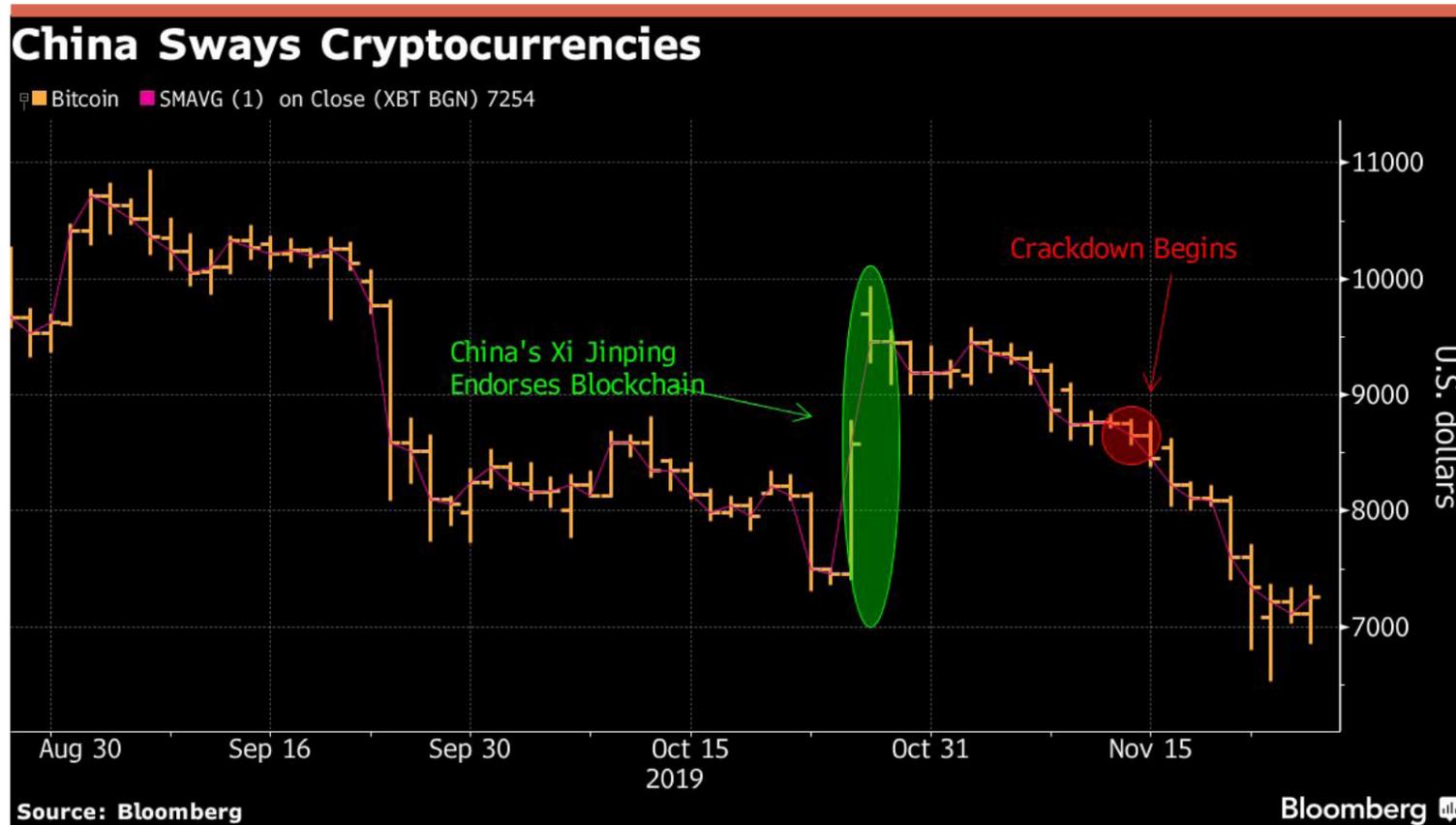
CHINA'S latest crypto-crackdown is already claiming its first casualties.

At least five local exchanges have halted operations or announced they will no longer serve domestic users this month, after regulators issued a series of warnings and notices as part of a cleanup of digital currency trading.

China's stepping up scrutiny of its massive cryptocurrency industry just weeks after President Xi Jinping ignited a market frenzy by declaring Beijing's support for blockchain technology. Financial watchdogs including the Chinese central bank have in past weeks ordered crypto firms to shutter and warned investors to be wary of digital currencies, seeking to rein in a market prone to excesses. Weibo, a Chinese Twitter-like service, suspended accounts operated by major exchange Binance Holdings Ltd. and blockchain platform Tron.

Taken together, the latest wave of shutdowns and restrictions represent the biggest cleanup of the sector since an initial Chinese clampdown in September 2017. Although exchanges that allow users to buy Bitcoin and Ether with fiat money were banned, trading had remained rampant in China through over-the-counter platforms or services that deal with crypto assets only. Now, even those alternatives have succumbed to regulators, spooking investors. Bitcoin this week sank to its lowest level in six months at the end of its longest losing streak since at least 2010. The largest crypto-currency recovered with a 6% rebound on Wednesday but is still poised to post its worst month since November last year.

Twenty of the top 50 crypto exchanges are based in the Asia-Pacific region and accounted for about 40% of Bitcoin transactions in the first half of the year, according to



data from Chainalysis. Within the region, the most exchanges are in China, the research firm found.

Aaron Hu, a 26-year-old computer engineer in the central Chinese city of Changsha, said he moved all the crypto he holds - several million yuan's worth - from exchanges like Binance and OKE to his own wallet address. "The first thing I thought of is how to secure my assets," he said.

Last week, Chinese exchange operators Bitsoda and Akdex announced termination of service. Rival Biss said this month it's halted operations while executives cooperate with a government probe. Btuex said on Monday it will shut in response to Chinese government orders, reopening in future to serve only overseas users. And Idax said on Sunday it will also no longer serve users in China but focus on users abroad, citing policy reasons.

"It appears that, like everything else within their borders, China feels it needs to have tighter controls on the crypto market including exchanges, miners and asset issuers," said Katie Talati, head of research at Arca, a Los Angeles-based asset manager that invests in cryptocurrencies. "I do believe, however, they are moving in a similar direction as Japan and other jurisdictions that have tight and clear regulations for crypto businesses."

For now, uncertainty over how deep the apparent crackdown will run has spurred traders to transfer their money to safer places. One of crypto's largest wallet apps, ImToken, said Tether transactions among its nearly 10 million users surged to \$66 million on Nov. 22, the day China's central bank issued its latest warning against crypto trading. That's more than double the app's average daily Tether

transaction in October, the IDG-backed startup told Bloomberg News. Tether, a so-called stable coin pegged to U.S. dollars, is a popular vehicle for investors to move their money into and out of crypto coins.

"The current situation and environment for blockchain in China is still very positive," Tron founder and crypto entrepreneur Justin Sun said. "In the short term, it may not get as much progress as we'd expect." **BLOOMBERG**

TIMELINE

- On Nov. 13**, Binance's Weibo account was suspended.
- On Nov. 14**, the Chinese central bank's Shanghai office and the city's financial regulator issued a notice asking local government agencies to work with crypto-related companies under their supervision to exit such businesses immediately. On the same day, Beijing's financial regulator published a statement warning against illegal exchange operations.
- On Nov. 15**, Tron's Weibo account was frozen.
- On Nov. 21**, Shenzhen financial regulator said in a statement it's

- looking into allegedly illegal crypto operations, organizing check-ups and gathering evidence.
- On Nov. 21**, crypto publication the Block reported Binance's Shanghai office was shut in a police raid. Binance disputed the report, or that it has fixed offices in China.
- On Nov. 22**, the Chinese central bank's Shanghai branch said in a statement that companies that have conducted publicity campaigns, or have offered other services to offshore crypto exchanges, have been ordered to take immediate corrective actions or exit the business.

TAIWAN

Panasonic leaves semiconductor business with Taiwan sale

JAPANESE electronics manufacturer Panasonic Corp. is abandoning the semiconductor business with the sale of its last business in that sector to a Taiwanese company.

Panasonic said yesterday it was transferring the semiconductor business operated by Panasonic

Semiconductor Solutions Co. to Nuvoton Technology Corp.

In recent years, Panasonic has sold its semiconductor plants in Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia.

Terms were not disclosed for yesterday's move, set to be completed next year.

Panasonic's chipmaking has been struggling in recent years amid competition from cheaper rivals in South Korea and the rest of Asia.

Japanese media reports said the recent U.S.-China trade war, which has slowed sales in China, added to those pressures.

The move highlights Panasonic and other Japanese electronics makers' efforts to focus on more lucrative businesses.

"The competitive environment surrounding the semiconductor business has become extremely severe due to aggressive ex-

pansion of competitors, huge investments in the focused area and industry reorganization," Panasonic said in a statement.

The company said it believed Nuvoton appreciates the strengths of Panasonic's technology and will steer the business to stable growth.

Panasonic has also transferred another part of its semiconductor business to Japanese rival Rohm Co., scheduled to be completed this year.

Some Japanese companies remain in the business, including Toshiba Corp., Fujitsu and Sony Corp. **AP**

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Hong Konger complains to UK about China TV forced confession

A former British Consulate employee in Hong Kong who says he was detained and tortured by Chinese police for information on protesters complained to U.K. regulators that China's state TV channel aired his forced confession.

Simon Cheng filed a complaint with Ofcom, Britain's broadcast regulator, against China Global Television Network, or CGTN, which he says violated broadcasting rules on fairness, privacy and accuracy.

He said he was tortured by secret police in mainland China to glean information about massive anti-government protests roiling Hong Kong. Chinese police acknowledge he was held for 15 days in August but gave no reasons. The ruling Communist Party's People's Daily newspaper has denied he was tortured and released surveillance footage it said proves his guilt and voluntary confession to soliciting prostitution.

Cheng recounted his ordeal for the first time this month in a lengthy online statement and media

AP PHOTO



interviews.

CGTN, the international arm of China Central Television, broadcast its report shortly after he broke his silence. The channel is available on free and pay television channels in Britain.

China Media Group, which controls CGTN and other state media, did not respond to a request for comment.

Ofcom, which has the power to issue big fines or revoke broadcast licenses, also did not respond to a request for comment.

Cheng, who worked as a trade and investment officer to attract Chinese investment to Scotland, was returning from a business trip to mainland China when he says he was detained.

In his 14-page complaint made

public yesterday, he says he was shuttled between detention and interrogation centers while hooded and handcuffed, and interrogated while bound in a "tiger chair," a metal seat with arm and leg locks. He says he was also shackled in a spread-eagle position for hours and forced to assume stress positions for lengthy periods.

Eventually, Cheng says he agreed to confess to the minor offense of soliciting prostitution to avoid harsher treatment and a heavy sentence on national security charges. He says his captors filmed him multiple times making his confession, based on a script they gave him.

"CGTN was well aware that the recording they used in their broadcast was extracted under extreme duress and distress," Cheng said, adding that the broadcaster falsely said he went on trial, when in fact he was in extrajudicial "administrative detention."

Cheng is the latest to turn to regulators with allegations of forced confessions on Chinese state TV. Peter Humphrey, a British corporate investigator imprisoned for two years in China, has filed an Ofcom complaint. So has Angela Gui, whose bookseller father went missing in Thailand and later turned up in detention in China. The cases are pending.

Cheng no longer works for the consulate and is in hiding. He is being assisted by Peter Dahlin, a Swedish activist who was also detained and forced to confess on Chinese TV after a crackdown on his human rights group.

In 2012, Ofcom revoked Iranian state-owned Press TV's license following a complaint by a journalist that the station aired an interview with him while he was detained. AP

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A news program reporting North Korea's firing unidentified projectiles with a file image of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, in Seoul

KOREA

SOUTH SAYS NORTH HAS FIRED TWO SHORT-RANGE PROJECTILES

HYUNG-JIN KIM, SEOUL

NORTH Korea yesterday fired two short-range projectiles, likely from a “super-large” multiple rocket launcher, South Korea’s military said, adding to tensions three days after the North said its troops conducted artillery drills near its disputed sea boundary with South Korea.

The recent North Korea activities could indicate it wants to show what would happen if Washington fails to meet a year-end deadline set by its leader, Kim Jong Un, for the U.S. to offer a new proposal in their stalemated nuclear talks.

Seoul’s Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement that the projectiles were launched toward the North’s eastern waters from northeastern South Hamgyong province.

Maj. Gen. Jeon Dong Jin, a senior operations officer at the JCS, said the projectiles flew about 380 kilometers (235 miles) at a maximum altitude of 97 kilometers (60 miles). He said South Korean and U.S. intelligence authorities were continuing to analyze the details.

“Our military expresses its strong regret over (the launches) and urges (North Korea) to immediately stop acts that escalate military tensions,” Jeon said in a televised briefing. He said the military is monitoring possible additional launches by North Korea.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe condemned the launches as a “serious challenge” to both Japan and the international community, even though the projectiles did not land inside Japanese territorial waters.

He said his government will “do

its utmost” to protect the lives and assets of Japanese people.

The reported launches were the 13th major public weapons test by North Korea this year and the first since it conducted what it called a test-firing of a new “super-large” multiple rocket launcher late last month. That launcher is apparently the same system that South Korea’s military said was likely used in yesterday’s launches.

On Monday, North Korea said leader Kim visited a front-line islet and ordered artillery troops there to practice firing near the sea boundary, the scene of several bloody naval clashes between the Koreas in past years. South Korea protested the drills, saying they violated an agreement last year aimed at lowering military animosity.

With nuclear diplomacy with the United States largely deadlo-

cked, North Korea has test-fired a series of newly developed weapons to pressure the U.S. while using the standstill in negotiations to upgrade its military capabilities. In early October, it conducted its first underwater launch of a ballistic missile in three years.

Attention is now focused on whether North Korea will resume long-range missile and nuclear tests which have been suspended since it conducted the third of three intercontinental ballistic missile tests in November 2017. President Donald Trump has called the suspension of those tests a major achievement of his North Korea policy.

Some experts say North Korea may restart those major weapons tests if the United States fails to meet the deadline. But others say North Korea is likely to begin with

less serious provocations while attempting to improve cooperation with China and Russia, because ICBM and nuclear tests would completely derail diplomacy with the United States.

In recent weeks, high-level North Korean officials have issued statements via state media saying their country is not interested in diplomacy with the U.S. unless Washington abandons hostile policies toward the North.

North Korea says it wants the U.S. to lift international sanctions imposed on it and provide security guarantees before abandoning its advancing nuclear arsenal. But U.S. officials have said the sanctions on the North will remain in place until North Korea takes substantial steps toward denuclearization.

The nuclear negotiations broke down in February when Trump rejected Kim’s demands for major sanctions relief in return for partial disarmament steps during their second summit in Vietnam. They held a third, impromptu meeting in late June at the Korean border village of Panmunjom. **AP**

AFGHANISTAN

Blasts kill at least 16; mostly women, girls

AFGHAN officials said yesterday that two separate explosions in the country’s north killed at least 16 people, almost all of them women and young girls.

A roadside bomb struck a

civilian vehicle going to a wedding Wednesday evening, killing at least 15 people; six women, six girls and two infants, as well as the male driver, according to Nasrat Rahimi, an interior minist-

try spokesman. He said two other civilians were wounded in the blast in the northeastern Kunduz province.

Hours later, a gunfight and explosion at a security checkpoint killed at

least one policeman, said Mohammad Nooragha Faizi, a police spokesman in the northern Sari Pul province.

He said militants in a vehicle carrying explosives were stopped at the che-

ckpoint yesterday morning, then opened fire to cover their escape. Faizi said they apparently detonated the explosives remotely after getting away, although an investigation was ongoing.

The interior ministry blames the Taliban for the two attacks. The insurgent group has not commented.

The Taliban today control or hold sway over half of Afghanistan, staging near-daily attacks that target Afghan forces and government officials but also kill scores of civilians.

U.S.-Taliban peace talks collapsed in September. **AP**

US Navy cancels review for SEALs after firing of Navy secretary

JULIE WATSON, SAN DIEGO

THE Navy canceled a peer-review process that would have determined if three Navy SEAL officers who supervised an enlisted SEAL convicted of posing with a dead teenage captive in Iraq should remain on the elite force.

Acting Navy Secretary Thomas Modly said the case was becoming a distraction for the commando force, known for its quiet professionalism.

The decision was the latest twist in the war crimes case of Chief Petty Officer Edward Gallagher, which led to a conflict between President Donald Trump and armed services leaders over military discipline. The dispute peaked over the weekend with the firing of Navy Secretary Richard V. Spencer.

Gallagher and the three SEALs



Navy Special Operations Chief Edward Gallagher with his wife, Andrea Gallagher

were notified last week that a board of peers would determine if they should remain SEALs.

Trump then ordered the Navy to allow Gallagher to retire as a

SEAL with his full rank intact. That led to Spencer's firing over his handling of the matter.

Gallagher was acquitted of murder in the fatal stabbing of an

Islamic State militant captive in his care in Iraq in 2017 but convicted of posing with the corpse.

Trump made no mention of the three SEAL officers also ordered to be reviewed. All three had overseen Gallagher during his 2017 deployment to Iraq.

But Modly said there were better ways to address any "failures in conduct, performance, judgment, or professionalism exhibited by these officers."

He directed the chief of naval operations to end the review process for Lt. Cmdr. Robert Breisch, Lt. Jacob Portier and Lt. Thomas MacNeil.

"The United States Navy, and the Naval Special Warfare Community specifically, have dangerous and important work to do," Modly said in a statement. "In my judgment, neither deserves the continued distraction and negative attention that recent events have evoked."

Modly said his decision should not be interpreted as loosening the standards he expects of SEALs. He said ongoing efforts will continue to address problems within the SEAL community, which has had numerous allegations of misconduct in recent months.

"Navy uniformed leaders have my full confidence that they will continue to address challenging cultural issues within the Naval Special Warfare community, instill good order and discipline, and enforce the very highest professional standards we expect from every member of that community," he said.

Portier was Gallagher's platoon commander and was charged with failing to report the killing of the captive. He denied the charges and they were dropped after the jury acquitted Gallagher of murder.

Portier's attorney, Jeremiah Sullivan, said Portier was happy to learn he would be allowed to keep his trident, a pin designating SEAL status.

"Lt. Portier is extremely grateful for the unwavering support of President Trump," Sullivan said.

Attorneys for Breisch and MacNeil did not immediately respond to requests for comment. AP

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TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Água de Mar
15:30	Zig Zag
15:30	Os Ursos Boonie e o Fantástico Outono
16:30	Quem Quer Ser Milionário
17:30	Literatura Agora
18:00	Império (Repetição)
18:50	TDM Talk Show (Repetição)
19:20	Livros com João Guedes (Repetição)
19:30	Ouro Verde Sr.1
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	TDM Reportagem
21:30	Viagens em Série
21:50	Solteira e Boa Rapariga
22:25	Império
23:15	TDM News
23:50	A Casa dos Mortos
01:20	Telejornal (Repetição)
02:05	RTPi Directo

Offbeat

HIKERS ANSWER PLEA TO FIND WEDDING RING LOST ON MOUNTAINTOP



A man's quest to find his wedding ring on a 4,000-foot snow-covered mountain in New Hampshire has been completed by a couple of hikers — and a metal detector.

WMUR-TV reports Bill Giguere, of Massachusetts, recently lost the gold band on Mount Hancock. Giguere, who had been wearing it for three years, put out a plea to a hiking group for help.

Tom Gately saw the post but had doubts about finding the ring along the 10-mile loop trail Giguere hiked.

Giguere said the most likely spot was at a lookout where he changed gloves.

Gately and fellow hiker Brendan Cheever set out with a metal detector.

Cheever says that "it beeped and he's, like, 'I think I found it,' and everybody's, like, 'What?'" and he just started scratching in the snow. There it was!"

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



1993 SECRET MEETINGS WITH IRA REVEALED

The Conservative government has come under attack in the Commons over the revelations it has had secret contacts with the IRA.

Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew insisted there had been no change in the government's official position - there could be no negotiations with the republican movement until a ceasefire had been agreed.

But his claims were brushed aside by the Democratic Unionists, led by the Reverend Ian Paisley, who called on the Northern Ireland Secretary to quit.

Downing Street has said channels to the IRA are still open and talks could begin once a ceasefire was in place, possibly about 10 weeks after it started.

Sir Patrick insisted nothing said in private had undermined the public promises.

"Nobody has been authorised and nobody will be authorised to enter into discussions with people who are responsible for violence or who justify the use of violence," he said.

His opposite number on the Labour benches Kevin McNamara said the pursuit of peace was more important than anything else.

In dramatic scenes at the House of Commons today, Mr Paisley first accused Sir Patrick of telling falsehoods.

When he was asked to apologise, he went even further and accused the Northern Ireland secretary of lying.

He has been expelled from the Commons for five days.

The government has produced what it says is a complete set of documents recording the contacts with the IRA which began in February.

Sinn Fein has said at least one of the documents was false - and it has denied initiating the dialogue.

The documents appear to show the two sides discussing how talks could begin - but they were interrupted first by the Warrington bomb in March and in April by the Docklands bomb.

Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams said: "What I am concerned about is that Patrick Mayhew and John Major have been abusing these contacts and we have to place our position on the record."

Chris McGimpsey from the Ulster Unionist party executive has been studying the documents.

He said: "Some of these meetings were three-hour discussions over a table between the provisional IRA and the government. We will be trying to find out exactly what happened and then we'll decide."

"But unless the Northern Ireland Office can indicate to us we have nothing to fear, then they can expect a pretty rough ride from the Ulster Unionist party."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

On 15 December 1993, Prime Minister John Major and his Irish counterpart, Albert Reynolds, signed the Downing Street Declaration.

It stated that Britain had no "selfish strategic or economic interest in Northern Ireland".

It went on to say the British Government would encourage agreement on a political settlement in Ireland, based on the wishes of the people.

An IRA ceasefire was declared in August 1994, but it did not last.

A new ceasefire was finally announced in July 1997.

The Good Friday agreement was signed in April 1998.

It included plans for a new Northern Ireland assembly with some devolved powers from London.

The Assembly has so far had a turbulent history.

It has been suspended several times, the last in October 2002 over allegations of IRA spying within the Northern Ireland Office.

Direct rule was only restored in May 2007 when DUP leader Ian Paisley became first minister and Sinn Fein's Martin McGuinness took over as deputy.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

There is a great satisfaction to be had in fulfilling mundane responsibilities with enthusiasm. So the next time you're facing an array of boring errands or tedious commitments, take a deep breath.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Live music is a great way to fire up a romantic relationship, so if you're working on building a connection with someone you're attracted to, take a look at upcoming concerts in your area.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

And if you've been wanting to have a heart-to-heart with someone in your life, sit that person down today and start talking. Action in any direction will boost your confidence and give you a nice sense of accomplishment.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Be outgoing with the people you enjoy spending time with, and share your thoughts openly. If you show them that you're willing to be yourself around them, they'll be themselves around you.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Many aspects of your life can safely be put on autopilot right now; they're cruising along nicely and don't require micromanaging. Devote a bit more of your time to the one or two things that do need care.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Chances are, there are a few you don't want to attend anyway, and a busy life can be a great excuse for backing out of something. Keep the cancellations to a minimum, though.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

You're always seeking justice and equality in life, although you're wise enough to realize that sometimes life just isn't fair - hang on to this realistic viewpoint!



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Loose lips can do more than sink ships - they can destroy trust between two people. And once lost, trust is a very difficult thing to regain. Secrets give power, but with that power comes responsibility.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You are definitely happy when the people you love are happy, but that generous joy will be tested a bit today when someone who recently had a windfall is a little bit insensitive to your situation.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Don't let a certain powerful authority figure intimidate you today! Sure, she or he might know more about certain things than you do, but you have a brilliant mind and the desire to learn.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Nothing in life is a sure thing - especially right now, when someone you were counting on is much more interested in moving toward a personal goal than in fulfilling an obligation to you.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

You'll be dealing with some powerful people who have rather fragile egos, so if you're too negative, you run the risk of alienating someone you don't want to alienate.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

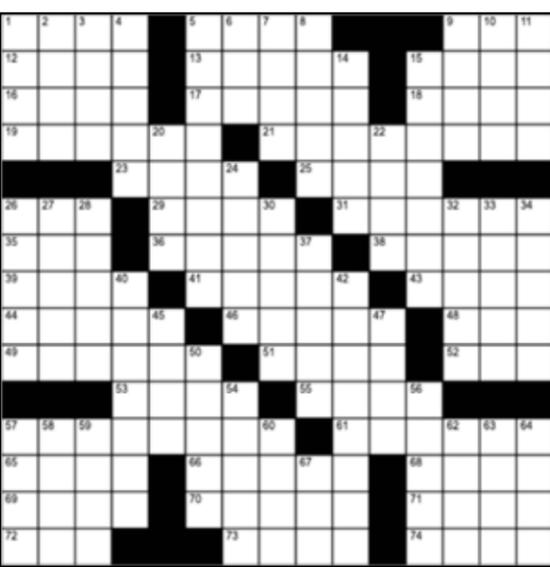
WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1-Brouhahas; 5- Queue after Q; 9- Child seat?; 12- Trading center; 13- Emulate Romeo and Juliet; 15- Long fish; 16- Ancient Andean; 17- Popular disinfectant; 18- Disrespect verbally; 19- Honeybunch; 21- Photograph; 23- Inclusive abbr.; 25- End in ___ (draw); 26- Owns; 29- Biblical birthright seller; 31- Group of nine; 35- Athenian vowel; 36- Paris subway; 38- View; 39- Director Wertmuller; 41- Sums owing; 43- Joie de vivre; 44- Backup procedure; 46- Proportion; 48- British record label; 49- Carved image; 51- You can't catch fish without them!; 52- Sleep acronym; 53- ___ Spumante; 55- Dominion; 57- Retailer; 61- Main arteries; 65- Con; 66- Divination deck; 68- Sitarist Shankar; 69- Nailed obliquely; 70- Celsius, for one; 71- Exclude; 72- Tee preceder; 73- Managed, with "out"; 74- Johnny Bench's team;

DOWN: 1- Among; 2- "Great" dog; 3- Killer whale; 4- Blank look; 5- Freed; 6- Furtive; 7- Flip; 8- Once ___ time...; 9- Jacob's first wife; 10- As well as; 11- Attention-getter; 14- Overjoy; 15- Spirit; 20- Part of a list; 22- Fasteners; 24- "See ya!"; 26- Aids; 27- Inclined; 28- Capital city of Yemen; 30- Living in a city; 32- Conger catcher; 33- What's in ___?; 34- Strong blue cotton fabric; 37- Furry swimmer; 40- Tums, e.g.; 42- Located; 45- Low plant with many branches; 47- Capital on a fjord; 50- Les ___-Unis; 54- Dumbstruck; 56- Diamond flaw?; 57- Spouse; 58- Baseball's Slaughter; 59- Numbered rds.; 60- Hard journey; 62- Domesticated; 63- Eager; 64- Poses; 67- Praiseful poem;



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



FOR SALE

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

FOR RENT

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

FOR SALE

[Macau] Nova City 3 2 2
1,515 ft² \$11,750,000 (ref: 19106001)

[Taipa] Taipa Village with balcony 2 1 1
787 ft² \$4,950,000 (ref: 19096008)

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

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

FOR RENT

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

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

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

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

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JANE SEYMOUR ON FINDING NEW LOVE IN HER MID-60S: NO TINDER



JANE Seymour was in her mid-60s when her husband of 20 years decided it was over. The actress was floored.

"I had a long marriage and never thought it was going to end," the 68-year-old said recently while promoting the second season of Netflix's "The Kominsky Method," co-starring Michael Douglas and Alan Arkin.

"I'm going, 'I what? I date? What? Are you crazy? How does this work?'" Seymour said. "And then my kids would say, 'Mom, there's this thing called Tinder.' And I'm like, 'No,

that's not going to happen."

But similar to her character in "The Kominsky Method" who runs into an old flame, fate intervened, and Seymour stumbled upon new romance. She has been with boyfriend and British film director David Green since 2014, about a year after her divorce from filmmaker James Keach, who directed "Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman," Seymour's iconic role.

"Accidentally I ran into somebody I knew 38 years earlier who had been in a long marriage and his marriage ended," she said.



TAIWANESE-CANADIAN MODEL-ACTOR GODFREY GAO DIES ON SET

TAIWANESE-Canadian model-actor Godfrey Gao has died after suffering an apparent heart attack while on set in China.

Gao was filming a sports reality show in the eastern Chinese city of Ningbo on Wednesday when he died. His agency, JetStar Entertainment, confirmed his death on its official Facebook page.

The 35-year-old was filming "Chase Me," a Chinese variety series, when he reportedly fell while

running. He was rushed to a hospital where he was pronounced dead, according to his agency.

The Taiwan-born Gao initially rose to fame by becoming the first Asian male model for the luxury brand Louis Vuitton. He acted in numerous television dramas and movies, including a role in the Hollywood film "The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones."

His body will be transported Wednesday to Taipei, Taiwan's capital.

ACTOR LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA ENCOURAGES SHOPPING SMALL

WITH the holiday shopping season upon us, actor and "Hamilton" creator Lin-Manuel Miranda is encouraging people to take part in Small Business Saturday, an effort to shop at local, independent stores on the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

Growing up in the neighborhood of Washington Heights, the award-winning actor and "Hamilton" creator said small businesses were a staple in the neighborhood.

"I think New York City is better when it's full of small businesses. I think the world is better. I grew up in a neighborhood that was dotted with small businesses," Mi-

randa said at a recent pop-up shop put on by American Express, creator of Small Business Saturday.

"That's a part of what makes New York special and makes the world special, is those places you can't find anywhere else in the world," he said.

This year, he also became a small business owner by teaming up with a group that includes theater owner James Nederlander to purchase the Drama Book Shop, a century-old store in the theater district that was in danger of closing due to high rent prices. The new location nearby will open in March.



AD

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BOXING

Gervonta Davis taking step up in pursuit of superstardom

PAUL NEWBERRY, ATLANTA

GERVONTA Davis wrapped both arms around his 1-year-old daughter, whispering in her ear and revealing a tender side as he promoted his next bout.

In the ring, the boxer known as "Tank" shows no mercy.

The 25-year-old Davis has a perfect record in 22 professional fights, only one of which has gone the distance.

Now the two-time super featherweight champion is eager to make a bigger mark, moving up in weight to take on Cuba's Yuriorkis Gamboa for the WBA's secondary lightweight title next month in Atlanta's first world championship card in more than 20 years.

"I want to keep getting better and better," Davis said. "I hope Gamboa brings the best out of me so that people can see that I'm not just a power puncher. I have a lot of boxing skills."

Davis has displayed fearsome power since turning pro in 2013, most recently scoring a second-round TKO of Ricardo Núñez during a July homecoming bout in Baltimore. No fighter has gone the distance with Davis in more than five years.

Yet, despite his impressive record, Davis has been scrutinized for a lack of quality opponents. That isn't likely to change with a victory over Gamboa, who at 37 would appear to be on the downside of his career.



Boxer Gervonta Davis sits with his daughter as he speaks with the media at boxing news conference this week

For Davis, though, this is a possible steppingstone to a big-money match with Leo Santa Cruz (37-1-1, 19 knockouts), who has captured world titles in four weight classes. The Mexican most recently claimed the WBA super featherweight title with a unanimous decision over Miguel Flores on the undercard of Deontay Wilder's knockout win.

"What better opponent than Gervonta Davis?" Santa Cruz told

DAZN in the lead-up to his victory over Flores. "I think he's the most dangerous of all the people that they want me to fight and once I do that, I think people are going to know that I'm not scared of nobody and that I could fight whoever."

Davis is certainly willing to make that match.

Like Santa Cruz, Davis is seeking a signature victory to raise his profile on boxing's crowded

championship landscape. He is capable of becoming one of the sport's biggest stars, according to his trainer, Calvin Ford.

"Tank can really box and put on a show," Ford said. "That's what it's all about: entertaining the crowd, giving the crowd something to go home to talk about — other than the knockout."

The fight with Gamboa came together after they fought together on the Baltimore card. The

Cuban scored an impressive second-round knockout of Rocky Martinez.

"I proved to the naysayers that I have a lot left in the tank," said Gamboa, an Olympic gold medalist at the 2004 Athens Games who is 18-2 in his pro career.

The promotion for the December fight began at lunchtime in a west Atlanta nightclub, where Gamboa spoke through an interpreter and Davis answered most questions while holding his daughter, Gervanni.

When they went through the mandatory stare-down for the cameras, Gamboa held his grim look but Davis quickly broke into a smile and yucked it up with his fans.

After the title bout in Baltimore, Davis wanted a fight in what he considers his second home. He moved to Atlanta a couple of years ago and pushed for the chance to show his skills for a growing fan base that includes local pro athletes and hip-hop stars.

It will be a rare opportunity for the A-T-L, which has hosted numerous major events but has little history in the fight game. Most notably, it was the city that held Muhammad Ali's comeback fight after he barred for more than three years over his refusal to be drafted during the Vietnam War.

Atlanta hasn't staged a world title fight since hometown favorite Evander Holyfield outpointed Vaughn Bean to retain his heavyweight belts in 1998 at the Georgia Dome. Next month's card also includes WBA light heavyweight champion Jean Pascal taking on Badou Jack.

"I've always wanted to fight here," Davis said. "Atlanta has accepted me with open arms. Baltimore is always my first home but being able to come here is special." AP

GOLF

European Tour lets players wear shorts for first time

GOLFERS were allowed to wear shorts during a European Tour event for the first time yesterday because of sweltering temperatures.

The decision to relax rules at the 2020 season-opening Alfred Dunhill Championship in South Africa was made after discussions between players, European Tour CEO Keith Pelley, and tournament host Johann Rupert. It applies for this event only.

Temperatures are predicted to reach 40 degrees Celsius over the next few days at the

Leopard Creek Country Club, which borders the Kruger Park wildlife reserve in northern South Africa.

"We felt that in this situation it was a good move," said the European Tour's David Williams, the tournament director. "The temperatures will increase as the week goes on, which is uncomfortable and could be a health issue for the players."

"A lot of players were concerned about it. In these temperatures it can be pretty uncomfortable out there in trousers."

In 2016, the European

Tour allowed players to wear shorts for practice rounds and pro-ams but not tournament play. The U.S. PGA Tour brought in the same policy this year.

Four-time major winner Ernie Els said allowing shorts this week was "common sense" and hoped it wouldn't be the last time in a tournament.

"It's going to get up to 40 degrees here and it's the right thing to do," Els said. "It's been talked about for so long on all of the tours around the world ... I think this could be a game-changer for golf which could end up

enhancing the product."

When the U.S. PGA Tour announced in February it was allowing shorts for practice and pro-ams, it said it noted the opinions of leading players.

Asked for his view on allowing shorts, Tiger Woods said: "I would love it. We play in some of the hottest climates on the planet."

Rory McIlroy said: "It makes the guys a lot more comfortable. I don't think there's anything wrong with professional golfers showing the lower half of their leg." AP



South Africa's Brandon Grace lines up a shot during play in the European Tour in Malelane, South Africa

OPINION

Bizcuits

Leanda Lee



HOW REAL IS MACAU'S CSR?

Once hauled up for using an unrecognisable acronym by some seriously educated chaps, I realized my fatal writer's error: assuming reader knowledge. It hadn't dawned upon me that CSR - Corporate Social Responsibility - may not be a familiar term. Seeing the global regulatory push for Environmental, Social and Governance metrics to be reported by public companies; community demand for businesses to become integrated into the fabric of a sustainable world, and locally, the uptake of CSR initiatives now being publicised almost every second day by the gaming concessionaires, the concept is firmly on the public agenda.

We expect our most influential companies to engage in community outreach activities. The bigger a company, the greater its impact, and thus the greater its responsibility to act in the best interests of all stakeholders.

Macau is a unique case-study in the degree of influence wielded by one industry. Such companies do both harm (if poorly managed) and good (if various forms of capital are used to help communities thrive). Macau has seen improved infrastructure, rising average salaries, public revenue, more entertainment options, improved community amenity, introduction of international standards, and visitor growth as the gaming industry has developed. On the downside are pollution (air, water, sea, land), gaming-related vices, a tight labour market squeezing out other businesses, work stress, increased population and congestion.

A well-worn response to an awareness of these effects on communities and eco-systems is that the company begins to justify focusing on other stakeholders, while retaining its primary responsibility to its shareholders. However, this approach to stakeholders as being separate, means that CSR activities that are not core to the business are, by definition, unsustainable.

One business model, that brings the stakeholders together in mutually beneficial ways, views all providers of capital as a team. An example of the Team Production Model in action is the ongoing training and development of staff which has really hit its stride since around 2009 in Macau. Once viewed as an expense to minimise, staff are now valued for all their current and future potential: they are trained, and their broader welfare looked after. Now Macau is also experiencing a concerted effort by companies to develop suppliers: the relationship is no longer just a transaction from business-to-business because there is an awareness that knowledge and skills transfers and other forms of support can be mutually beneficial. These are sustainable forms of CSR.

The company that can develop these mutually enhancing, sustainable relationships with all the forms of capital that they use will create for themselves a competitive advantage while regenerating the capital it uses and creating thriving local and global eco-systems.

Beyond good-citizenship charity work, sponsorship of sports and cultural events, and gifts to the elderly and orphanages, almost all our gaming companies are now running programs for SMEs and supplier development, and looking after their people, as recently confirmed in the inaugural publication of the "CSR Annual Digest" by GGRAsia Publications.

All the different stages in CSR maturity are here. Some inspired leaders have their sights on the next forms of capital to invest in way beyond the boundaries of Macau and the Greater Bay Area, to make a positive impact at all points of contact in procurement, operations and disposal. Yet others ignore the broader environment (the environment being another form of capital), some greenwash by substituting less environmentally damaging materials without resolving the throwaway mentality, or take baby steps in energy efficiencies and water management (one rain-water system at a Cotai property annually harvests the equivalent of 5 of the tanks up the back of my Australian garden - it is a whopping big tank up there among the veggies, but it's still just a suburban tank).

There is good corporate citizenship, charity, philanthropy, public relations and advertising. Then there is CSR, and sustainable CSR. Macau has it all: it is worth knowing the difference.

MAN CITY OWNERS EXPAND WORLDWIDE PORTFOLIO WITH MUMBAI DEAL

THE BUZZ

Manchester City's Abu Dhabi ownership has expanded its portfolio of worldwide soccer clubs to eight by buying a majority stake in Indian Super League team Mumbai City FC.

City Football Group, of which English champion Man City is the flagship team, says it has acquired 65% of the Indian club.

CFG already has the following partnership clubs: New York City in Major League Soccer, Melbourne City in Australia's A-League, Girona in Spain's top division, Yokohama F. Ma-

rinos in Japan, Sichuan Jiuniu FC in China, and Club Atletico Torque in Uruguay. The group also has a "collaboration agreement" with Venezuelan team Atletico Venezuela.

Mumbai FC is in its sixth season in the ISL and has an 8,000-capacity stadium, the Mumbai Football Arena.

CFG says Mumbai will "benefit from the group's commercial and football know-how, whilst at the same time delivering a new and exciting element to the CFG global commercial platform."

NEW FILM EXPLORES LEGACY OF BOSTON'S COCOANUT GROVE FIRE

MARK PRATT, BOSTON

EVEN though Boston's Coconut Grove fire happened long before she was born, Michele Shapiro learned all about the disaster when she was a girl.

Her grandfather, Frank Shapiro, was at a nearby theater with his wife the night of Nov. 28, 1942, when a blaze tore through the swanky Coconut Grove nightclub, killing 492 people. The young lawyer helped with the rescue efforts and later represented the survivors and the estates of the victims.

"I grew up hearing about this case because it was such a big part of his life," Michele Shapiro said. When she heard a filmmaker was making a documentary about the disaster, she had to get involved.

The result is "Six Locked Doors: The Legacy of Coconut Grove," a nearly 70-minute film that features interviews with survivors in their 90s, many of whom never before talked publicly. The movie also includes archival footage, still photographs and an examination of the incompetence and corruption that allowed the conditions that led to the fire.

The film has been screened several times, but producer Shapiro and director-writer Zachary Graves-Miller are now trying to raise money to distribute the movie to a wider audience to restore the disaster to public consciousness.

"We think it's a really, really important story to tell," said Shapiro, a Wayland, Massachusetts, native who now lives in New York. "This disaster was the basis for modern day fire codes, and not many people know that.



In this Nov. 28, 1942 file photo, workers help remove victims from the Coconut Grove nightclub in Boston

Four hundred ninety-two people died, but their lives weren't lost in vain because it led to so many safety measures."

On the night of the fire, the Coconut Grove was packed with about 1,000 people, double its capacity. Exit doors were locked to stop patrons from skipping out on their bills.

One of the major safety legacies of the blaze is that revolving doors are now flanked by two outward-swinging doors

The fire reportedly started when a teenage busboy lit a match to see a light socket and replace a burned-out bulb in an artificial palm tree. The tree caught fire, and the panicked crowd surged to the revolving exit doors, which quickly became jammed with stacked-up bodies.

Hundreds of people were trapped inside, killed by flames and toxic gases.

The documentary looks at the tragedy from a fresh perspective, said Stephanie Schorow, a journalist and author of the book "The Coconut Gro-

ve Fire."

"This movie is the first attempt to really cover the victims of the fire, and it really focuses on the people hurt," said Schorow, who is interviewed in the film.

The fire led to an overhaul and stricter enforcement of building safety codes across the nation.

It also led to advances in the treatment of burns and lung injuries, as well as legal precedents in punishing those responsible, said Casey Grant, executive director emeritus of the Fire Protection Research Foundation, a nonprofit based in Massachusetts. It also changed the way responses to large-scale disasters are managed, he said.

"The impact of Coconut Grove was enormous," he said.

"The impact of Coconut Grove was enormous," he said.

Nearly half of the 1,000 people who were in the building that night died, and about half the survivors were injured, Grant said.

One of the major safety legacies of the blaze is that revolving doors in public buildings are now always flanked by two outward-swinging doors. AP



Cambodia Prime Minister Hun Sen responded positively to a letter from President Donald Trump that assured him the U.S. does not seek regime change and encouraged him to promote democracy and improve strained relations between the countries.



Sri Lanka's new government has announced sweeping tax cuts and reforms in a bid to provide relief to the masses ahead of parliamentary elections scheduled for early next year. The Cabinet decided to cut the value added tax to 8% from 15%, effective Dec. 1, and to abolish seven other taxes, including a 2% nation building tax paid by businesses.



Albania Hopes were fading of finding anyone else alive beneath the rubble of collapsed buildings in Albania, two days after a deadly quake struck the country's Adriatic coast. The death toll stands at 40 after more bodies were pulled from the ruins. Authorities said search and rescue operations were continuing in three collapsed buildings in the port city of Durres.



Germany Berlin's main zoo has released new photos of twin panda cubs born this summer. The zoo said yesterday that the two cubs each now weigh about 5 kilograms — quite an increase from their 186 gram and 136 gram weights when they were born August 31. Zookeepers initially hand fed the cubs with bottles of milk pumped from mother Meng Meng but they now feed on their own. She and father Jiao Qing came to Germany from China two years ago.