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**MACAU'S EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IS ADVANCING ON A SAFETY LAW FOR THE SOON-TO-LAUNCH LIGHT RAPID TRANSIT** P2

**NEW SYSTEM PROPOSED TO SHORTEN ISLANDS HOSPITAL DELAYS** P7

**AFTER PLUNGING 8.5% LAST MONTH, GROSS GAMING REVENUE IS IN FOR A TOUGH DECEMBER THAT WILL WELCOME PRESIDENT XI JINPING** P4

**China** Guidelines that require Chinese telecom carriers to use facial recognition technology on buyers of SIM cards kicked in yesterday as the country cracks down on fraud. Companies should use artificial intelligence or other measures on buyers to ensure they match the identification provided to purchase the SIM cards.

**South Korea-Japan** Top South Korean and Japanese diplomats will likely meet on the sidelines of a gathering of Asian and European foreign ministers later this month to discuss a resolution to a year-long dispute, Yonhap News reported.

AP PHOTO



**Australia** A teacher held captive with an American colleague by the Taliban for more than three years believes U.S. special forces tried and failed six times to free them. Timothy Weeks [pictured] was released last month in a prisoner swap along with Kevin King, ending an ordeal that began with their abduction in 2016 outside the American University in Kabul, where they worked.

AP PHOTO



**Iraq** The parliament approved the resignation of Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi yesterday, amid ongoing violence and anti-government demonstrations in the capital that saw one protester shot dead. Protesters also continued to close roads, including those leading to a major commodities port, in mass demonstrations in southern Iraq.

More on backpage

# HO'S NEW GOVERNMENT CONFIRMED

P2

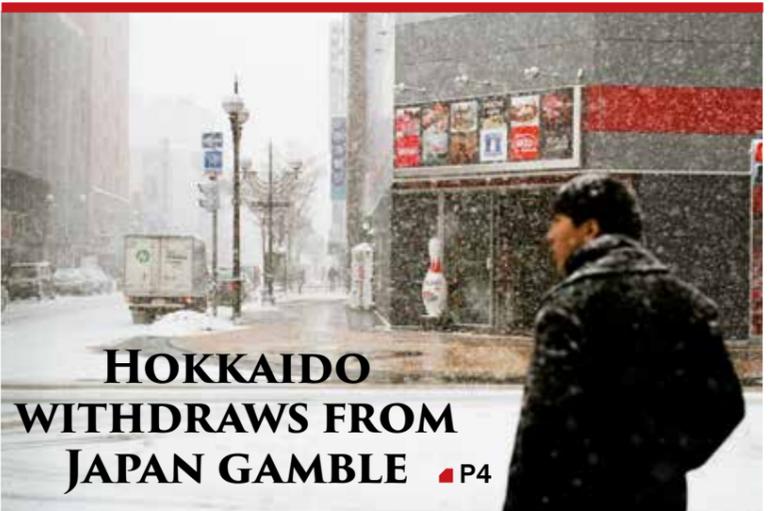


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**THE FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY RETURNS** P8 HK



FREDERICA DIAMANTA



**HOKKAIDO WITHDRAWS FROM JAPAN GAMBLE** P4



Clockwise from top left: Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo do Rosário, Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak, Secretary for Economy and Finance-designate Lei Wai Nong, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture-designate Ao Ieong U, Secretary for Administration and Justice-designate André Cheong Weng Chun

## CERTAIN EXEMPTIONS SUGGESTED FOR ARCHIVE LAW

**T**HE government has proposed certain exemptions when publicizing classified archives, such as documents related to national defense and foreign relations, reported local media Cheng Pou.

The archive bill is now under public consultation. In its original version, the bill stipulated that such documents would only be sealed for 50 years. Now the government has proposed otherwise, on the basis that national defense and foreign relations are within the sole authority of the mainland.

The archive legislation in effect was made into law in 1989 as Decree-Law No. 13/89/M. The government justified the need for new archive legislation by citing changes in political structure, economic environment and social condition.

Documents related to national defense and foreign relations, under the current Decree-Law, are uncovered for public access after 50 years. The Cultural Affairs Bureau, which

administers the bill, proposes otherwise.

On the other hand, documents covering medical information, personal data, judicial files and civil registration will also be exempted from being uncovered. Information collected through surveys or censuses will be handled in a similar way.

The Cultural Affairs Bureau explained that the judiciary has its own regulations governing the archive.

The general public can access classified documents after they have been archived for 30 years. The government suggests documents with personal data should only be unclassified after 80 years of the most recent document, unless the date of death of the concerned people is known.

Private documents, on the other hand, can be classified with an application by their owners. The bureau stressed that the Archive Bill only covers mobile properties owned by the public sector. **AL**

## THREE NEW SECRETARIES CONFIRMED FOR GOV'T

ANTHONY LAM

**I**N a surprise announcement last night, the Macau SAR government disclosed the officials who will take up the most senior posts in the next government.

Of the three new appointments, the most surprising are Lei Wai Nong, the current Vice President of the Executive Council of the Municipal Affairs Bureau and Ao Ieong U, Director of the Identification Bureau. Lei will be the new Secretary for Economy and Finance, replacing Lionel Leong, while Ao will become the new Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, replacing Alexis Tam.

Meanwhile, incumbent Commissioner Against Corruption, André Cheong, will become the next Secretary for Administration and Justice.

The current Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, and the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, will remain in their posts for another five-year term.

André Cheong, incumbent

Commissioner Against Corruption, will be the Secretary for Administration and Justice. Meanwhile, Chan Tsz King, Assistant Chief Prosecutor, will succeed Cheong as Commissioner of the Commission Against Corruption.

It was previously thought that Hoi Lai Fong, deputy commissioner of the anti-graft body would take its helm after Cheong. However, late last night the government announced that she would become the next Chief-of-Office of the Chief Executive's Office.

Ho Veng On will remain as the head of the Commission of Audit. Earlier reports had penned Ho Veng On as the next Secretary of Economy and Finance.

Leong Man Cheong, who is currently the Chief of the Public Security Police Force, will be promoted to the Chief of of the Unitary Police Service.

As for the Macao Customs, Vong Man Chong, who is currently the Deputy Chief of the department, will be promoted to Chief of his department.

Chief Justice Sam Hou Fai of the

Court of Final Appeal was previously expected to retire, with Chief Prosecutor Ip Son Sang taking his place. However, the confirmed list shows that Ip will stay in his current position.

Information on Chief Justice Sam's prospects was not released last night because, according to the Basic Law, the appointment of that position is within the authority of the Chief Executive. The appointment from Beijing is not legally mandatory. However, the appointment needs to be filed by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress.

In a previous report by All About Macau, sources commented that Chief Justice Sam is far from retirement, considering both his service duration and his actual age. Other comments are that other qualities are required for Chief Prosecutor Ip to take the top place of the judiciary. The sources expected both would stay unless special circumstances arise.

The new government will be sworn in on December 20, on the 20th anniversary of the handover.

## EXCO COMPLETES DISCUSSION ON LRT SAFETY LAW

**T**HE Executive Council (ExCo) has completed its discussions on safety issues relating to the near-ready Light Rapid Transit (LRT) transportation network.

The Transport Bureau (DSAT) is responsible for monitoring systemic safety of the LRT, while the railway operator is responsible for safety on the network.

The light rail operator must set up a safety management system and is obliged to submit safety reports.

The operator should also set up a plan to resolve malfunctions and emergencies, and make reviews of and adjustments to the plan every year. In case of an emergency which requires suspending LRT operations, the operator must inform the DSAT immediately.

The bill suggests that the operator must submit a report to the DSAT within 24 hours after the

occurrence of an accident and 12 hours after an incident.

According to the DSAT director, Lam Hin San, since incidents are generally not serious, the operator should be able to submit a report within 12 hours. In case of accidents, the situation may be more serious, meaning that more time may be needed to submit the report, hence 24 hours is given to the operator.

The operator has already submitted safety instructions to the DSAT for approval. According to Lam, the instructions will not be disclosed to the public as they may contain confidential information related to the operations.

In the future, whenever necessary, the DSAT can invite experts outside of Macau to provide support to the LRT operation, with the authorization right being reserved for the bureau. **JZ**

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**Times**

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GAMING

# NOVEMBER CASINO REVENUE PLUNGE TO EXTEND INTO DECEMBER

DANIEL BEITLER

**M**ACAU gross gaming revenue plummeted 8.5% in November, as high-roller demand crumpled amid persistent economic headwinds in the SAR.

Casino revenue topped 22.87 billion patacas (\$2.84 billion), according to official data released yesterday by the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau, down 8.5% from 25 billion patacas in November 2018. Year-to-date revenue was down 2.4% in year-on-year terms, sitting just under 270 billion patacas.

Analysts warned last week that gross gaming revenue would face a sharp contraction this month. They said that VIP volumes had fallen by more than 30% in year-on-year terms because high-rollers had postponed their visits to Macau.

Though the growth was better than analyst expectations, November's posting still proved to be the second-weakest of the year.

Macau's gross gaming revenue has faced a difficult year, in part due to the ongoing China-U.S. trade war. Analysts had earlier expected Macau's casino business to strengthen in the second half of the year, owing to an easier comparison base.

But with Macau's economy



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

The city's gaming sector has also buckled under the weight of a crackdown on cross-border gaming that squeezed junkets, as well as escalating protests in nearby Hong Kong, and the emergence of rival gaming hubs in East and Southeast Asia.

Pressure on the VIP sector is unlikely to subside this month. Chinese President Xi

Jinping is due to visit the city in late-December and preside over celebrations marking the 20th anniversary of the handover of Macau. Credit Suisse said in a note last week that controls on exit visas for mainland Chinese residents wishing to travel to Macau was already in effect.

Moreover, the atmosphere of heightened scrutiny that will inevitably accompany Xi's visit may encourage Chinese high-rollers to stay away from the SAR, pushing their visits back to January at the earliest.

December will also suffer

from a high comparison base a year earlier, when monthly revenue swelled 16.6% to 26.46 billion patacas. A similar posting to last month would see gross gaming revenue fall by more than 13% in year-on-year terms, rounding out the year firmly in the red.

The only silver lining promised by analysts is the outlook for 2020, which will be helped by easier comparisons and some pent-up demand. Estimates are for a 3% increase - still a long way from the double-digit jumps in 2017 and 2018.

# Package tour visitors slump 35%

**T**HE number of package tour visitors coming to Macau slumped 35.3% in October, according to the latest data from the Statistics and Census Service, flying in the face of a general 1.8% annual rise in total visitation during the month.

Apart from an increase of 19.2% in package tour visitors from Malaysia (5,500), the number of visitors from other countries and territories registered year-on-year declines.

Package tour visitors from mainland China (380,000) fell by 38.5% year-on-year, while those from Hong Kong (6,100) dropped 42.5% and Taiwanese package tour visitors (60,000) dipped 3.6%. Those hailing from South Korea (33,000) registered a similar decline of 37.6% in year-on-year terms.

For the first 10 months of 2019, the number of package tour visitors to Macau totaled 7.29 million, according to the Statistics and Census Service, which was similar to the corresponding figure in 2018.

There were 121 hotels and guesthouses operating at the end of October, an increase of 5 year-on-year. The number of available guest rooms edged down by 0.6% year-on-year to 38,000, of which 4-star hotel rooms decreased by 8.2% to 7,100 whereas 5-star hotel rooms inched up by 0.6% to 25,000.

The average occupancy rate of guest rooms went down by 1.7 percentage points year-on-year in October to 88.2%, while the average length of stay of guests held steady year-on-year at 1.5 nights. **DB**

GAMING | JAPAN

# HOKKAIDO WITHDRAWS FROM INTEGRATED RESORT OPPORTUNITY

DANIEL BEITLER

**H**OKKAIDO has become the first Japanese prefecture to pull out of the upcoming integrated resort opportunity after its governor said Friday that differences of opinion on the project were proving an obstacle.

Governor Naomichi Suzuki announced the withdrawal during a plenary session of the Hokkaido prefectural assembly on Friday morning. Suzuki said that the issue had proved divisive among politicians, even within the prefecture's ruling Liberal Democratic Party. A recent questionnaire answered by Hokkaido residents also showed the project was



A man walks on a street in Sapporo, the largest city on the northern island of Hokkaido

unpopular with the public. However, he did not rule out pursuing an integrated resort opportunity in future rounds of

market liberalization. The decision is certain to disappoint casino operators eager to acquire a license in Japan's largest

and northernmost prefecture, where skiing and other winter sports already attract visitors during the winter months.

Among them is Hard Rock International, which in April announced the opening of an office in the city of Tomakomai, considered to be a frontrunner location. U.S. operators Rush Street Japan and Mohegan Gaming & Entertainment had also announced plans to bid for a Hokkaido license if given the chance.

It is not known whether the three operators plan to carry forward their Japan plans to another prefecture.

Japan is expected to become one of the largest gambling hubs in the world once its budding integrated resorts are decided and operational. Analysts say its gross gaming revenue could reach

up to \$20 billion annually.

The Japanese government has given preliminary approval for what is expected to be three integrated resorts in the first phase of liberalization. Analysts speculate those locations could be Osaka, Yokohama, Nagasaki, Wakayama or even the country's capital of Tokyo.

Hokkaido's withdrawal comes after Osaka, widely touted as the most probable location for Japan's first integrated resort, began calling for request for concept proposal submissions earlier this year. MGM Resorts, Galaxy Entertainment Group and Genting Singapore are all vying for a license in the prefecture of the same name.



# Sands China encourages young F&B aspirants with new development initiative

**S**ANDS China Ltd. recently held the Sands China Academy – Fostering Collaboration to Incubate F&B Talent Series, aimed at nurturing quality local talent in support of Macau's position as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy.

The company invited celebrity chef Zhou Xiaoyan and his team of 20 master chefs to share their culinary expertise with local chefs, local university students and industry representatives Nov. 20-22, making it the first time for celebrity chefs from mainland China's Five-Star Chef Alliance to visit Macao for this type of top-level culinary exchange.

Supported by the Macao Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) and the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO), the series hopes to attract and nurture Macao young talent to the food and beverage industry and to inspire them to explore careers as chefs, as talent in the sector is currently in high demand in the local market.

Over a third of the series' approximately 300 participants are industry representatives from outside of Sands China, including those from the Macao Federation of Trade Unions, industry representatives, young local chefs, local students and representatives from academia.

"Sands China is committed to nurturing food and beverage talent for the whole of Macau through va-

rious programmes, including this latest culinary exchange series with master chefs from the mainland," said Dr. Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd.

"We are grateful for the support of the Five-Star Chef Alliance, DSAL and MGTO, and we hope that this platform for knowledge exchange can support the initiatives of the Macau government and help cultivate talent in the restaurant industry," Dr. Wong added.

For the chefs at Sands China, they considered the culinary exchange program as a significant platform for them to conduct the sharing of ideas and knowledge.

Since the integrated resort operator invited master chefs to work one-on-one with Sands China chefs to exchange ideas and to design creative dishes on the theme of "Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of Macau's Return to the Motherland," the chefs applauded the company for the opportunity to showcase and enhance their skills.

"This is a great opportunity for me to learn more about Chinese ingredients and wine," said Chef Justin Paul, executive chef of The Golden Peacock.

"This platform served to gather knowledge as everybody gets creative and we were taught to use Chinese ingredients and to integrate them in our Indian cuisine," he added.

Echoing the same sentiments, executive chef of Dynasty 8, Yap

Poh Weng is also grateful to Sands China for widening their ideas on China's cuisines and culture.

"Not every chef could have the chance to go to all the cities in China. With this program, I got to know chefs from Shandong province as well as their skills and culture," said the chef.

"I could better equip myself in the future if I encounter some guests from northeast of China; we can better accommodate their needs and tastes. We get to know more cuisines, thus enhancing our skill levels; it has inspired me to explore new cuisines in the future," he added.

With Macau's position as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy, the chefs believe that the academy is a platform for them to connect with international chefs, expanding their creativity to meet and suit local customer needs.

Sands China also recently launched its new Food and Beverage Talent Development Programme in cooperation with DSAL. Throughout a 12-24 month training period, candidates complete an on-the-job practicum at Michelin-starred, Black Pearl or other restaurants, obtaining certification by world-famous food and beverage associations, and eventually becoming restaurant assistant managers at Sands China.

"The government and Sands China provide a lot of opportunities for young chefs and we're

really thankful for that. These opportunities include exchange activities, certification and trainings, which are helpful for us to broaden our views in our professions and enhance our skill levels," said Kenneth Choi, sou chef at Sands China.

"As a young chef, I treasure these kinds of opportunities. The company has invited executive chefs from various regions and it is helpful for us to enhance our skills and professionalism as emerging chefs by interacting with renowned chefs from mainland China," he added.

Around 10 F&B trainees also participated in the culinary exchange series to learn from the celebrity chefs.

## EXTENDING TO LOCAL COMMUNITY

The visiting chefs also participated in a friendly cooking competition, and gave masterclasses for students at the Institute for Tourism Studies and the Macau University of Science and Technology as part of the event series, to interact with local chefs and community. The masterclasses are part of Sands China's ongoing effort to inspire and encourage local tertiary students with hands-on and up-close experiences with experts in their respective fields.

Sands China also appointed Chef Zhou as the company's consultant for culinary talent development, who led a seminar with

approximately 300 participants after the kick-off ceremony.

Zhou said, "Food plays an essential role in Chinese culture, and it is one of our nation's biggest cultural exports. It is an honour to have been invited by Sands China to participate in this culinary exchange with chefs and to share my experience with young talent in Macau, as we develop closer ties and collaborations in the development of the Greater Bay Area."

"In the future, Macau will be able to take advantage of its position as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy to promote Chinese food culture to the whole world," he added.

A master chef known as the "Godfather of Huaiyang Cuisine," Zhou is the dean of culinary faculty of Yangzhou University, and has been invited to dozens of countries and regions around the world, including the United States, Germany, and Switzerland to conduct academic exchanges on Chinese cooking techniques and food culture.

Sands China has nearly 5,000 team members working in food and beverage. The company's new Sands China Academy – Fostering Collaboration to Incubate F&B Talent Series is part of its effort to help the city's food and beverage industry talent to continually improve, in support of the development of Macau as a Creative City of Gastronomy.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

## STUDIO CITY KICKS OFF MONTH LONG CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

A bazaar featuring local small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) kicked off yesterday afternoon at Melco Resort's Cotai property, Studio City, and will run for the whole month of December.

Officially known as the Christmas Bazaar, the SME event is held at the resort's French Garden, located on its podium level.

Melco has invited over 40 local SMEs to showcase products and services at the festively decorated outdoor marketplace. The resort operator stated that the event is to nurture local entrepreneurship and help build a sustainable Macau.

Akiko Takahashi, executive vice president and chief of staff to chairman and CEO, said, "today, we are excited to combine our efforts towards this objective with Melco's celebrated beyond-



-gaming offerings through the Studio City Christmas Bazaar to bring festive entertainment to our guests, visitors and the local community."

Officiating guest Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, director of Macao Government Tourism Office said, "With the expected increase

in Macau's visitor numbers for the month of December, we are pleased to witness Melco continue to present such meaningful and exciting non-gaming offerings as the Christmas Bazaar at Studio City to attract both local residents and overseas visitors."

Three charity organiza-

tions, Caritas Macau, The Fuhong Society and The Salvation Army, were also invited to share a booth at the market. The former two will sell handmade merchandises, some made by their service users. The Salvation Army will promote eco-friendly lifestyle. All proceeds will go towards charity at the respective organizations.

Open to the public daily from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., the bazaar represents a wide range of local businesses offering food and beverages, handicrafts, toys, decorations and furnishings, and other gift categories, and targets visitors, tourists, and gift shoppers during the festive month. There will also be a range of family-friendly activities such as face painting, handicraft workshops, performances and giveaways. **AL**

## Ethiopian beats 12,000 to win Macao Int'l Marathon



**ETHIOPIA'S** Tafese Delelegn Abebe won this year's Male Group of the Galaxy Entertainment Macao International Marathon, finishing the race in 2 hours, 12 minutes and 53 seconds, only four seconds before Kenya's Hosea Kipkemboi, who came in second.

The 38th edition of the event has attracted some 12,000 athletes from across the globe to join the 42.195 kilometer marathon that kicked off yesterday at 6 a.m.

The Macau SAR's representatives Kai Un Chan and Chi Wai Kuok finished 17th and 18th with two hours, 43 minutes and 41 seconds and two hours and 44 minutes and 57 seconds respectively.

With 1,600 participants, the full marathon's route kicked off at the Olympic Sports Center Stadium, making its way to the Governador Nobre de Carvalho Bridge, the A Ma Temple and Sai Van Bridge among many other routes.

Meanwhile, for the Female Group of the 2019 Marathon, Kenya's Lucy Cheruiyot and Rodah Jepkorir Tanui came in first and second respectively, finishing the race in two hours, 31 minutes and 17 seconds and two hours, 31 minutes and 23 seconds respectively.

North Korea's Un Ok Jo came in third, only 21 seconds behind Tanui.

Similar to the previous years, the race is categorized into Full Marathon, Half Marathon and Mini Marathon, with the latter being five kilometers in length. **LV**

## MACAU INC. DECEMBER ISSUE CELEBRATES THE CITY

**THE** Macau Inc. December 2019 edition, which celebrates the city since its 1999 handover to Chinese sovereignty, is now available.

This edition opens with review of Macau's past 20 years, when the economy soared and society prospered. The magazine considers this "The Macau Miracle".

The Macau Miracle is a series of articles reviewing the success the city has achieved in the past two decades. The series commences with

a piece revisiting the recent history of the gambling hub.

Moving on, the series explores the views of the top executives of four casino concessionaires, namely Sands China, MGM China, Melco Resorts and Galaxy Entertainment Group.

Seven distinguished personnel from all walks of life were invited to express their views, either reviewing or forecasting Macau's path. These people include Yang Yunzhong, Professor at the Macau Polytechnic Institute's

One Country Two Systems Research Center and Cheng Kuok Keung, veteran social critic in Macau.

With the concept of corporate social responsibility rising, the magazine has also recapped the work conducted in this area by five gambling concessionaires, Sands China, Wynn Macau, MGM China, Melco Resorts and Galaxy Entertainment Group.

This edition also encapsulates the upcoming events for this month.



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# Gov't to try new system to shorten Islands Hospital delays

**T**HE government is looking at implementing a new project development system wherein the responsibilities are divided among different public departments for the construction of the delayed Islands District Medical Complex.

According to the Legislative Assembly Follow-up Committee on Public Works, the delays were attributed to the project development system that was used.

Formerly, the government used a system indicating that the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) and the Infrastructure Development Office (GDI) held responsibility for the planning, approval, and development of the projects. However, the Health Bureau (SSM) has more authority over hospital planning.

The committee head and legislator Ella Lei said that the



government considered the current system not to be the ideal solution.

The SSM has reportedly spent some 300 million patacas for planning and consultancy services during the planning stage.

Both the DSSOPT and the

GDI then made revisions that had to go through 10 public departments leading to more delays.

With the new system, the responsibility of the projects has been divided.

For example, the SSM is involved in planning and has the

power to approve the projects, while the DSSOPT only takes responsibility for the construction.

However, according to Lei, there may still be loopholes in the system, adding that the DSSOPT should be responsible for the majority of the project.

This system was reportedly used for the development of the central library at the Old Court building.

"The interested department might know about their area and needs but this will involve many alterations in the project, with problems maybe only discovered during construction and will impact the deadline. Before it was the DSSOPT and the GDI in charge of all works and it should return to this," said Lei.

Chief Executive Chui Sai On said in his 2017 Policy Address that he hoped the hospital will be concluded before his term ends on December 20, 2019. **LV**

## LAWMAKER WANTS CLAW MACHINES MONITORED

Lawmaker Chan Hong wants the local government to monitor claw machines. In her interpellation to the local government, Chan, a lawmaker from the education sector, said that claw machines pose a "very bad" influence on young children and teenagers. She argued that claw machines, while being common in Macau, are addictive. Without oversight, they "will cause social problems." In Chan's opinion, claw machines are similar to slot machines. Players may unknowingly spend a lot of money and develop anxiety and depression. She wants the local government to monitor these machines in order to avoid the promotion of gambling to children and teenagers. She also wants the local government to implement measures to prevent claw machine addiction.

## CE TO ATTEND BASIC LAW SEMINAR IN BEIJING

Chief Executive Chui Sai On will attend the "20th Anniversary Seminar on the Implementation of the Basic Law" of the Macau SAR today in Beijing. Chui flew to Beijing yesterday with his delegation including the president of the Legislative Assembly, Kou Hoi In, the president of the Court of Final Appeal, Sam Hou Fai, and Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, among others. The delegation will return to Macau tomorrow, according to a statement provided by the Government Information Bureau. During the Chief Executive's absence, the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, will act as Chief Executive in the interim.

AD

### Better Management in the Safety of Electricity Usage, Less Trouble in the Safety of Daily Life



1. In order to ensure safety, Should Regularly Commission Specialist to Carry Out Inspection and Maintenance of Common or Private Electrical Installations in Building.
2. Switch off all electrical appliances not in use.
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5. Stop to use the worn and damaged extension socket, should immediately stop using and replace any worn or damaged extension socket.
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Sam, I left a copy of my ID documents and itinerary with the family. I've also prepared a list of emergency contacts.

Ann, and I've prepared enough cash, credit cards and took care of the travel insurance too!

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## Silver-haired elders join youth in fight

**H**UNDREDS of silver-haired activists joined young Hong Kong protesters for a unity rally Saturday, vowing that their months-long movement will not fade away until there is greater democracy in the Chinese territory.

"The government wants us to desert the front-liners and young protesters, but we will stick with them," rally organizer Tam Kwok-sun, 64, said to loud cheers from the crowd. "Sometimes their actions are violent and aggressive, but we are more unhappy with the government's behavior."

"The government is still stubborn. Every one of us, young and old, must contribute in our own way. The movement will not stop," a woman, 63, who identified herself as Mrs. Tam, said as she distributed Japanese honey candies to slogan-chanting young activists at the park.

The rally at a park downtown was among several peaceful gatherings by protesters this week to keep up pressure on the government amid a lull in violence following a local election victory by the pro-democracy bloc and the gaining of U.S. support for their cause.

A local boys' band belted out songs to tell protesters that "the whole Hong Kong is supporting you." Speakers reminded the crowd that it wasn't time to celebrate and that the fight for real autonomy must persist.

Some protesters returned to the streets Saturday night, using metal fences, cartons and bricks to block traffic in the Mong Kok area in Kowloon. Dozens had gathered there to mark three months since police stormed a subway car in the area and hit passengers with batons and pepper spray. Most left after police reportedly fired pepper balls and issued warnings.

"It's still a very early stage of the revolution," a masked activist, who gave her name as Mai, 26, said Saturday. "People are tired physically and mentally, so we are waiting for the right moment for a fightback."

Hong Kong police have arrested 5,890 people as a result of the protests. **DB/BLOOMBERG**

### HONG KONG

## NEW WAVE OF PRO-DEMOCRACY RALLIES CUT SHORT BY POLICE



EILEEN NG

**T**HOUSANDS of people took to Hong Kong's streets yesterday in a new wave of pro-democracy protests, but police fired tear gas after some demonstrators hurled bricks and smoke bombs, breaking a rare pause in violence that has persisted during the six-month-long movement.

In the largest of three rallies, a key thoroughfare along the waterfront on the Kowloon side of Victoria Harbour was packed with demonstrators, from hardened masked protesters in all-black outfits to families and the elderly. They chanted "Five demands, not one less" and "Disband the police force" as they marched.

That rally followed two other marches earlier yesterday as protesters sought to keep the pressure on city leader Carrie Lam after the recent win by the pro-democracy camp in district council elections and the gaining of U.S. support for their cause.

"If we don't walk out, the government will say it's just a youth issue, but this is a Hong Kong problem that affects all of us," Lily Chau, 30, said as she pushed her toddler in a stroller at the march in Kowloon. "If we are scared, the government will continue to trample on our rights."

Police estimated that 16,000 people attended the Kowloon rally.

Slogans spray-painted along walls and on sidewalks reminded the crowd that "Freedom is

not free" and pledged "Victory at all costs."

The Kowloon march was cut short after riot police fired tear gas and arrested a few people. A police statement said minimum force was deployed after "hundreds of rioters hurled smoke bombs" and bricks.

Marchers berated police as they scrambled to flee the tear gas, shouting "Dirty cops" and "Are you trying to kill us?" Some protesters dug up paving stones and threw them on the street to try to slow the police down.

More tear gas was fired at night after dozens of hardcore protesters set up roadblocks and vandalized some shops and restaurants linked to China.

Hong Kong's protests have been relatively peaceful during the two weeks around the Nov. 24 elections, but yesterday's disruption indicated there may be more violence if Lam fails to yield to protesters' demands.

Tensions started Saturday

night after police used pepper balls against protesters and a man was hit in the head by an unidentified assailant while clearing the street.

Lam has said she'll accelerate dialogue but has refused to offer any new concessions since the elections. Her government has accepted only one demand — withdrawing extradition legislation that would have sent suspects to mainland China for trial.

Elaine Wong, an office worker who was at the Kowloon march, called the recent election win "an empty victory."

"We have in actual fact not won any concessions for our demands," she said. "We must continue to stand out to remind the government of our unhappiness."

The two earlier marches yesterday appealed to President Donald Trump for help and demanded that police stop using tear gas.

Waving American flags, black-clad protesters marched to the U.S. Consulate to thank Trump for signing into law last week legislation supporting their cause and urged him to swiftly sanction Lam and other officials for suppressing human rights.

Some held banners reading "Let's make Hong Kong great again" — a riff on Trump's 2016 campaign pledge to make America great again. One showed him standing atop a tank with "Trump" emblazoned on the front and side.

At the other small rally, a peaceful crowd of about 200 adults and young children marched to government headquarters in the morning and chanted "No more tear gas."

"A lot of parents are worried that their children are affected, because their children are coughing, breaking out in rashes and so forth," said social worker and march organizer Leo Kong.

In Geneva, China accused the U.N. high commissioner for human rights, Michelle Bachelet, of emboldening "radical violence" in Hong Kong.

In an opinion piece published Saturday in Hong Kong's South China Morning Post newspaper, Bachelet called for an "independent and impartial judge-led investigation into reports of excessive use of force by the police."

She also said that Lam's government must prioritize "meaningful, inclusive" dialogue to resolve the crisis.

China's U.N. mission in Geneva said the article interferes in China's internal affairs and exerts pressure on Hong Kong's government and police, which "will only embolden the rioters to conduct more severe radical violence."

It said Bachelet made "inappropriate comments" on Hong Kong's crisis and that the Chinese side had lodged a strong protest in response. **AP**





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\*Price is subject to 10% service charge  
\*\*Price is subject to 10% service charge & 5% government tax

AVIATION

# SALARIES DELAYED AT HONG KONG AIRLINES AS TROUBLES MOUNT

**H**ONG Kong Airlines Ltd. is delaying salaries as protests have "severely affected" the city's third-biggest carrier, whose finances were already under strain before anti-government demonstrations flared in June.

Only cabin crew and overseas employees will receive their November wages on time, while all other Hong Kong-based workers will be paid on Dec. 6, the closely-held airline said in an email Friday. It said revenue dipped significantly in November — a low travel season — and impacted the monthly payroll.

Authorities have been concerned about Hong Kong Airlines for months, regularly requesting updates on its financial situation. Representatives from the Transport and Housing Bureau and Civil Aviation Department met with the airline's management on Nov. 1 and demanded the company worked to improve its financial position. The Air Transport Licensing Authority, which has the power to revoke flying rights, has also expressed concern about the airline.

"ATLA is of the view that HKA's financial situation has shown no sign of improvement," the licensing body said last month, warning that it would "consider taking appropriate action" if no progress was made.

Months of anti-government protests have compounded the airline's woes, weighing heavily on passenger traffic, while



A demonstrator holds a sign during a protest at the Hong Kong International Airport in August 2019

Hong Kong's economy, already under pressure from the U.S.-China trade war, is in recession as tourist numbers plummet. The unrest has disrupted transport networks and temporarily paralyzed the airport in August, prompting Hong Kong Airlines at the time to say it would adjust services.

"Hong Kong Airlines was probably hit the hardest by the social unrest among the four carriers in Hong Kong," said Ivan Su, an analyst at Morningstar Inc., noting that the airline has high exposure to mainland routes and is less able to offset a decline in travelers with revenue from international flights. "Still, it is a surprise to see that the company even struggles to pay staff," he said.

The situation in Hong Kong

remains delicately poised. Street battles between demonstrators and armed police have eased, but there are still tension spots, such as Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the scene of a two-week standoff. U.S. President Donald Trump this week signed legislation expressing American support for the protesters, prompting China to threaten retaliation.

Hong Kong Airlines cut some operations earlier this month and plans to cancel Los Angeles-bound flights from February. Other airlines have been affected by the unrest too. Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd. is one of the most high-profile business casualties, issuing profit warnings and coming under fire from the Chinese government as well as protesters.

Cathay will cut seat capacity 1.4% next year, according to an internal memo seen by

Bloomberg News. In September, the company still planned to expand capacity by 3.1% next year, according to the document.

The reduction is "absolutely necessary because we don't believe that in the current environment we can continue to operate a full schedule profitably," Chief Executive Officer Augustus Tang said in the memo.

Meanwhile, Singapore Airlines Ltd., China Eastern Airlines Co. and Virgin Australia Holdings Ltd. all cut flights to Hong Kong, which is in danger of losing its status as Asia's busiest airport for international traffic.

"Hong Kong Airlines has been in a relatively weaker position compared to bigger rivals such as Cathay even before the unrest," Morningstar's Su said.

"This one-off salary arrangement does not impact our daily operation," Hong Kong Airlines said. "Our staff remains professional and are committed to delivering a safe and smooth service to all our customers." **BLOOMBERG**

## BERLIN AIRPORT'S FIRST FLIGHT

**BERLIN'S** long-delayed airport finally has an opening date. The German capital's BER airport will have its inaugural flight on Oct. 31 next year, the operator Flughafen Berlin Brandenburg GmbH said Friday on Twitter. That's at least eight years behind schedule. The story of BER is an embarrassing tale for Germany's exalted engineering prowess. While construction started in 2006, its planned launch in June 2012 was scrapped a month before its unveiling because of fire safety issues, and has since been pushed back multiple times. Defects had included automat-

ic doors that lacked electricity, escalators that were too short, and a smoke-extraction system so complex, yet ineffective, it was dubbed "the Monster," according to daily tabloid Bild. Berlin desperately needs the new airport as Tegel and Schoenefeld, the city's two existing airfields, are overflowing as an increasing number of tourists and business travelers flock to the city. The government in 2008 closed Tempelhof — the historic facility where Allied planes landed in the Berlin Airlift — and it plans to do the same with Tegel once BER begins operating.

TOURISM

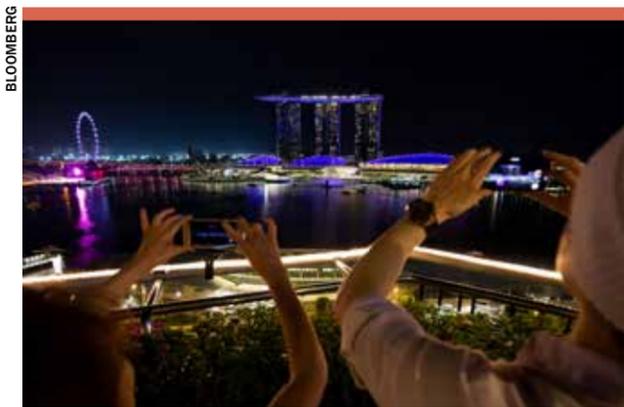
# There have never been so many visitors coming to Singapore

ABHISHEK VISHNOI

**I**T'S almost like a sequel to "Crazy Rich Asians."

A year after the movie - set in Singapore - helped drive a record number of visitors to the city-state, the tourists are back again in full force, pushing arrivals to a new high in the third quarter.

About 5 million travelers came to the island between July and September, led by visitors from Greater China, with a 22% increase, according to data from Singapore Tourism Board's website. The



previous quarterly record was 4.83 million set in the same period a year earlier.

The surge in tourists also coincided with the

reopening of the city's grand dame, Raffles Hotel. The 132-year-old iconic hotel - the birthplace of the "Singapore Sling" -

opened after an extensive renovation.

Singapore, which competes with Hong Kong for conferences, is also benefiting from the North Asian city's weekly pro-democracy protests that started in June. As the demonstrations turned increasingly violent, some conferences, such as the Global Wellness Summit, moved their events to Singapore.

The unrest in Hong Kong has prompted businesses to relocate events and major meetings to locations in Singapore as

well as neighboring countries such as Thailand, according to hotel-industry billionaire William Heinecke.

The outlook for 2020 looks bright too with a robust line up of events such as Singapore Airshow, Food & Hotel Asia conference and Gamescom Asia, according to a report published by DBS Bank Ltd. in October.

Among the island's biggest events in the third quarter was the Formula One night race in the city center, known for its lineup of musical perfor-

mances that included the Red Hot Chili Peppers and Gwen Stefani this year.

U2 also rocked Singapore for the first time this weekend. The band played the first of two shows on Saturday night to a packed crowd at the National Stadium, ripping through hits including "Where The Streets Have No Name" and "Vertigo." The gigs were part of the group's Joshua Tree 2019 tour through Asia.

It's a "sci-fi city," frontman Bono told the crowd, pointing to the country's diversity. **BLOOMBERG**

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

BLOOMBERG



## Manufacturing is back in expansion

A gauge of China's manufacturing sector jumped unexpectedly in November, signaling a recovery in activity amid government support and a stabilizing global economy.

The official manufacturing purchasing managers' index rose to 50.2, according to data released by the National Bureau of Statistics on Saturday. That's the first reading above 50 since April, indicating an expansion in output. The non-manufacturing gauge was 54.4, the highest since March.

The surprise improvement offers a glimmer of hope that China's economy may be able to hold in check its slide toward sub-6% growth. Still, the industrial sector faces a host of headwinds including deflationary risks and rising borrowing costs, with household consumption also being squeezed by increasing food prices.

"Whether a single-month data can signal stabilization is questionable, and economic indicators are contradictory," said Nie Wen, an economist at Huabao Trust Co. in Shanghai. "It may foreshadow an improving trend, but it'll be moderate and any solid improvement would have to wait till at least the first quarter of 2020."

While China and the United States are still thrashing out details of an interim trade deal, Beijing faces the possibility that on Dec. 15 U.S. President Donald Trump will impose tariffs on additional Chinese imports.

A sub-index of new export orders climbed to seven-month high at 48.8 on easing trade tension, but was still in contraction. Businesses showed across-the-board improvement regardless of size, although small and medium-sized enterprises are still shrinking.

Employment at factories remained unchanged at 47.3.

While more policy easing measures will be necessary to maintain stable growth in 2020, Chinese authorities may want to adjust the pace until the outlook becomes clearer.

"We don't think Beijing will overreact to this reading, as it has already learned the lessons from spring this year when some headline data pointed to a recovery," Lu Ting, chief China economist at Nomura International HK Ltd, wrote in a note. "Amid a deteriorating growth outlook, Beijing will likely to roll out more easing measures despite a limited policy room."

The People's Bank of China trimmed the interest rate it charges on funding to commercial lenders in November, in a step largely to prevent the monetary stance from becoming too tight rather than outright easing. The next key date is Dec. 6, when 187.5 billion yuan (\$26.7 billion) of medium-term loans are due.

China has asked local governments to speed up the issuance of 1 trillion yuan of debt earmarked for infrastructure such as roads, water conservancy and healthcare facilities, so that the proceeds can be invested early in 2020 to help shore up the slowing economy. The construction index in November's PMI data fell to 59.6 from 60.4 in the previous month, but is still at a high level.

Credit growth in November could be a good reference to check the resilience of domestic demand recovery, China International Capital Corp. economists wrote in a note. A separate PMI focused more on smaller, export-orientated firms due Monday is forecast to show slowing expansion.

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With a commitment to environmental sustainability, MGM exerts itself to keep its carbon footprint to a minimum by implementing diverse measures to save energy and reduce emissions. On the back of an environmental management system built on the best practice framework, MGM recently received an array of honors in recognition of its efforts to optimize its building design, facility management practice and technologies for continuously enhancing the environmental performance of its properties.



#### Tops at Regional Property Sustainability Accolades

In November, MGM won two accolades at the Green Building Award 2019, a close-fought contest jointly organized by the Professional Green Building Council and the Hong Kong Green Building Council to recognize building-related projects with outstanding performance and contributions in sustainability and built environment. MGM MACAU garnered Merit Award in Existing Buildings Category: Facilities Management; MGM COTAI was on the list of Finalists in New Buildings Category: Completed Projects - Commercial Building. Back in September,

MGM COTAI scored the Asia Pacific Innovation Award from International Facility Management Association (IFMA) for implementing an innovative advanced building modelling application to drive energy efficiency. The property was also named ASHRAE Technology Award - Honorable Mention winner in both Region (APAC) and Society (Global) Levels, an acknowledgement to its outstanding achievement in design and operation to enhance energy efficiency.

#### Shares Expertise on Environmental Protection and Occupational Safety

MGM is also committed to joining hands with external parties to build an eco-friendly and safe workplace for Macau's workforce. In collaboration with the Companhia de Electricidade de Macau (CEM), MGM hosted the "Macau Environmental Protection and Occupational Safety Seminar 2019" for over a hundred of sustainability and OHS professionals in Macau. Mr. Winston Yeung, Executive Director of Risk and Security of MGM, and, Bernard Cheng, Assistant Director of Sustainability, were the keynote speakers and shared their experience with the group. The seminar was concluded with a sustainability and workplace safety tour at MGM COTAI.



The seminar gathered over 100 like-minded industry peers from CEM, University of Macau and hospitality-related corporations to share knowledge and ideas for a sustainable future. The objectives of environmental protection are aligned with those of occupational health in many aspects. Both focus on preventive solutions, contributing to the well-being in the workplace and seeking to foster a culture of care for employees and the environment.



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In this May, 2010 photo released by He Meili, He Meili (right) and her partner Li Qin

# LGBT activists seek to change marriage civil code

YANAN WANG, BEIJING

**I**T was only after her partner's death that He Meili realized the full meaning of marriage.

As a lesbian couple in China, He and Li Qin kept their ties largely unspoken, sometimes introducing themselves as cousins. This rarely bothered He until Li succumbed to complications from lupus in 2016, and Li's parents demanded that He hand over the deed for their apartment and other property documents under Li's name.

He, a 51-year-old nonprofit worker in southern China's Guangzhou city, has joined LGBT activists and supporters in an appeal to lawmakers to allow same-sex marriage, using a state-sanctioned channel to skirt recent government moves to suppress collective action.

"I realized if LGBT people don't have the right to marry, we have no legal protections," she said. "Others will also experience what I did — and be left with nothing."

Under Chinese President Xi Jinping, space for civil society and advocacy has shrunk. Human rights activists and their lawyers have been detained, while internet censorship has increased.

LGBT activists have turned to a novel tactic: submitting statements to the National People's Congress, China's legislature, which is soliciting opinions from

the public on a draft of the "Marriage and Family" portion of the Civil Code through Friday.

"A lot of people told me that this is the first time they've participated in the legal process," said Peng Yanzi, director of LGBT Rights Advocacy China, one of several groups running the campaign.

The Marriage and Family section is among six draft regulations for which the legislature began seeking comments at the end of October. As of Thursday afternoon, the website showed that more than 200,000 suggestions had been submitted either online or by mail, the greatest number of any of the outstanding drafts. It was not clear what proportion of the suggestions pertained to same-sex marriage.

In social media posts, campaign participants held up their Express Mail Service envelopes along with rainbow Pride flags. In their suggestions, they shared stories of coming out, the challenge of gaining family members' acceptance and running into legal roadblocks when trying to share their lives with someone of the same sex.

A teacher wrote about experiencing discrimination at his workplace; others wrote about not being allowed to make medical decisions for their ailing partners.

"This is not just a symbolic gesture," Peng said. "It really has an impact on our everyday lives."

Peng's organization has outlined a desired revision to the language in the Civil Code, changing the terms throughout from "husband and wife" to "spouses" and from "men and women" to "the two parties." Rather than adding specific language about same-sex marriage, the revisions seek to eliminate gendered terms

## Under Chinese President Xi Jinping, space for civil society and advocacy has shrunk

from the legislation.

While activists and experts acknowledge that legalizing same-sex marriage is still a far-off reality in China, they said appeals through the official channel will push the government to take the demand more seriously.

"There's a near-zero chance the suggested changes will be accepted and implemented, but this campaign makes China's LGBT community's demands for equality harder to ignore," said Darius Longarino, a senior fellow at Yale Law School's Paul Tsai China Center who has worked on legal reform programs promo-

ting LGBT rights in China.

"Calls for gay marriage often get dismissed as being too marginal and unimportant to get onto the political agenda, or as being inconsistent with Chinese traditional culture," Longarino said.

Few legal protections are available for same-sex couples in China. One party can apply to be the other's legal guardian, but those accompanying rights are just a fraction of those enjoyed by married couples, Longarino said. He gave the example of a lesbian woman who bears a child in China, with no way for her partner to become a second legally recognized parent of that baby.

At a briefing in August, a spokesman for the National People's Congress Standing Committee's Legislative Affairs Commission suggested that same-sex marriage does not suit Chinese society.

"China's current marriage system is built on the basis of a man and a woman becoming husband and wife," said Zang Tiewei, director of the commission's research department, when asked whether same-sex marriage will be legalized.

"This regulation is in line with China's national conditions and historical and cultural traditions," Zang said. "As far as I know, at the moment most countries in the

world don't recognize the legality of same-sex marriage."

LGBT advocates have garnered growing support from the Chinese public, using social media to raise awareness even as they face frequent censorship. They won a victory over the censors in April 2018, when one of the country's top social networking sites backtracked on a plan to restrict content related to LGBT issues. Users flooded Weibo with hashtags such as "#I'mGayNotaPervert" after the Twitter-like platform said "pornographic, violent or gay" subject matter would be reviewed.

But misconceptions and discrimination persist. A 2015 survey by the Beijing LGBT Center found that 35% of mental health professionals in a sample group of nearly 1,000 believed that being gay is a mental illness. Around the same percentage supported the use of conversion therapy. When Bohemian Rhapsody, the hit biopic about Queen lead singer Freddie Mercury, came to China, viewers were treated to a version without any references to Mercury's sexuality or his struggle with AIDS.

Hua Zile, the chief editor of an LGBT-focused Weibo account with 1.69 million followers, said he hasn't publicized the same-sex marriage campaign on his microblog because he worries about the dispiriting effect it will have on the LGBT community when it inevitably fails.

"We can't reach the sky in a single leap," Hua said. "We should try to make progress step-by-step, or else we'll constantly be disappointed."

After He's partner passed away, it pained her to think about how they kept their status in the shadows.

Through their 12-year relationship, it was He who accompanied Li on doctor's visits. She stayed with her at the hospital when lupus made her nauseous and delirious with fever, and she helped her reach their fourth-floor walk-up after her legs grew weak.

In He's mind, they were married. But in reality, many people didn't even know they were dating.

Friends told He that she could file a lawsuit to recover some of her and Li's shared property. She hired a lawyer to start the process, which required painstaking documentation of their relationship and signed statements from their neighbors and friends attesting to their long-term bond.

"It was like tearing open a wound over and over again," He said. "I had to keep coming out about my sexuality. If we were married, all of this would be understood."

In the end, He gave up on the lawsuit. It was too exhausting, she said, to have to prove their love to everyone. **AP**



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**Property Hotlist**



**Manhattan, High Floor, Taipa**

**\$17,980,000**  
 2,305 ft<sup>2</sup>  
 4 🚗 4 🚗



**Nova City Car Park, Taipa**

**\$1,600,000**  
 1 🚗



**Manhattan, Taipa - Luxury Residence**

**\$23,800/mth**  
 1,720 ft<sup>2</sup>  
 3 🚗 2 🚗



**Nam Long, Taipa**

**\$11,800/mth**  
 645 ft<sup>2</sup>  
 2 🚗 1 🚗



**More Listings**

**For Sale**

- [Taipa] Nova City 3 🚗 2 🚗 1,515 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$11,750,000** (ref: 19106001)
- [Macau] One Central 2 🚗 2 🚗 1,349 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$14,839,000** (ref: 19096004)
- [Macau] Retail space 170 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$3,200,000** (ref: 19096003)
- [Macau] Keng Ou office 3 🚗 2,352 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$17,500,000** (ref: 19096002)
- [Taipa] Manhattan 1 🚗 **\$1,530,000** (ref: 19045003)

**For Rent**

- [Taipa] Studio 1 🚗 400 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$8,500/mth** (ref: 19101001)
- [Taipa] Apartment 1 🚗 1 🚗 740 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$10,900/mth** (ref: 19101006)
- [Cotai] One Grantai 3 🚗 3 🚗 2,122 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$23,000/mth** (ref: 19030001RT)
- [Macau] Keng Ou 3 🚗 2,352 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$38,000/mth** (ref: 19096002)
- [Macau] One Grantai car park 1 🚗 **\$2,500/mth** (ref: 19091005)

**Recent Movements**

**Sold** Hellene Garden, Coloane, 1,663 ft<sup>2</sup>, 3 beds

**Rented** Manhattan, Taipa, 1,360ft<sup>2</sup>, 3 beds

**Rented** Pacifica Gardens, Taipa, 1,317 ft<sup>2</sup>, 3 beds



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# US SAYS CRYPTOCURRENCY EXPERT VIOLATED NORTH KOREA SANCTIONS

JIM MUSTIAN  
& JENNIFER PELTZ, NEW YORK

**FEDERAL** prosecutors have charged a cryptocurrency expert with violating economic sanctions against North Korea by presenting at a conference there this year after the U.S. government denied his request to travel to Pyongyang.

Virgil Griffith, 36, was awaiting a federal court appearance Friday in Los Angeles, a day after he was arrested at Los Angeles International Airport.

Griffith is an American citizen but lives in Singapore. Messages were sent to Griffith's defense attorney seeking comment.

Federal prosecutors said Griffith secured a visa through "a [North Korean] diplomatic mission facility" in Manhattan for 100 euros and then traveled to the country through China in April.

A request for comment was sent to North Korea's United Nations mission in New York.

At the conference, Griffith talked about how North Korea could use cryptocurrency to "achieve independence from the global banking system," according to a criminal complaint.

The conference was attended by 100 people, prosecutors said, including several who appeared to work for the North Korean government.

The criminal complaint says Griffith showed the FBI photographs of himself in North Korea and provided agents with propaganda from the country. It said Griffith planned to facilitate the exchange of cryptocurrency

AP PHOTO



between North and South Korea and encouraged other U.S. citizens to attend the same conference next year.

"Griffith announced his intention to renounce his U.S. citizenship and began researching how to purchase citizenship from other countries," the U.S. Attorney's Office in Manhattan said in a news release.

Prosecutors say another person involved in the alleged conspiracy was to be brought to New York and arrested. That person is not named in the criminal complaint against Griffith.

The U.S. attorney in Manhattan, Geoffrey Berman, said Griffith "provided highly technical information to North Korea,

knowing that this information could be used to help North Korea launder money and evade sanctions."

Griffith has contributed to the hacker magazine 2600, which tweeted Friday that Griffith's arrest amounted to "an attack on all of us."

"I kept warning him it was a trap," the magazine's editor, Emmanuel Goldstein said in a separate Twitter post, adding Griffith "insisted on" speaking to the FBI without a lawyer. "What's ironic is that afterwards, he was convinced they totally got where he was coming from."

The U.S. and the U.N. Security Council have imposed increasingly tight sanctions on North Korea

in recent years to try to rein in its nuclear and ballistic missile programs. Pyongyang says it wants the U.S. to get the sanctions lifted and provide security guarantees before North Korea will abandon its advancing nuclear arsenal; the U.S. has said the North has to take substantial steps toward denuclearization before the sanctions will come off.

The U.S. government amended sanctions against North Korea in 2018 to prohibit "a U.S. person, wherever located" from exporting technology to North Korea. Prosecutors said Griffith acknowledged that his presentation amounted to a transfer of technical knowledge to conference attendees.

A self-described former hacker who went on to get a doctorate in computer science, Griffith became something of a tech-world enfant terrible in the early 2000s. He told The New York Times in 2008 that he considered himself a "disruptive technologist."

In 2007, he created WikiScanner, a tool that aimed to unmask people who anonymously edited entries in Wikipedia, the crowd-sourced online encyclopedia. WikiScanner essentially could determine the business, institutions or government agencies that owned the computers from which some edits were made.

It quickly identified businesses that had sabotaged competitors' entries and government agencies that had rewritten history, among other findings.

"I am quite pleased to see the mainstream media enjoying the public-relations disaster fireworks as I am," Griffith told The Associated Press in 2007. (Wikipedia creator Jimmy Wales, for his part, said he welcomed WikiScanner as a tool of transparency.)

Four years earlier, as a college student at the University of Alabama, Griffith and a student at another university were about to tell a hacker conference about purported security flaws in a widely used campus debit card system when the manufacturer sued the two. They had posted online about ways to exploit the alleged flaws to get free vending-machine sodas, laundry machine use and more.

A judge barred the students from discussing the card-swiping system. In a settlement a few months later, they apologized to the company, promised to never actually build a transaction-processing device and agreed to complete 40 hours of community service. **AP**

**ABOUT** 700 people rallied yesterday to show support for Myanmar's leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, as she prepares to defend the country against charges of genocide at the U.N.'s highest court.

Members of Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party swelled the ranks in front of the colonial-era City Hall in Yangon, Myanmar's largest city, as the crowd waved national flags and listened to music and poetry. A popular local singer told them that "Mother Suu is the bravest human being in the world—her weapon is love."

Many carried banners saying, "We stand with you, Mother Suu."

The case before the In-

## MYANMAR

# Hundreds rally to show support for Suu Kyi

ternational Court of Justice in The Hague relates to a harsh counter-insurgency campaign waged by Myanmar's military against members of the country's Muslim Rohingya community in August 2017 in response to an insurgent attack.

More than 700,000 Rohingya fled to neighboring Bangladesh to escape what has been called an ethnic cleansing campaign involving mass rapes, killings and the torching of homes.

The head of a U.N. fact-finding mission on

Myanmar warned recently that "there is a serious risk of genocide recurring."

Gambia filed the case at the ICJ, also known as the world court, on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

The case alleges that Myanmar's actions against the Rohingya are "genocidal in character because they are intended to destroy the Rohingya group in whole or in part."

Myanmar has strongly denied the charges but says it stands ready to take action against wrong-doers if there is suffi-

cient evidence.

A statement on the website of the Ministry of the Interior said recently that the renewed international pressure on the country was due to a lack of understanding of "the complexities of the issue and the narratives of the people of Myanmar."

Suu Kyi, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, will lead the delegation to The Hague in her capacity as foreign minister.

Hearings are due to start on Dec. 10. The case is expected to last several years. **AP**

AP PHOTO



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

# UK attack now political football as Johnson, Corbyn spar

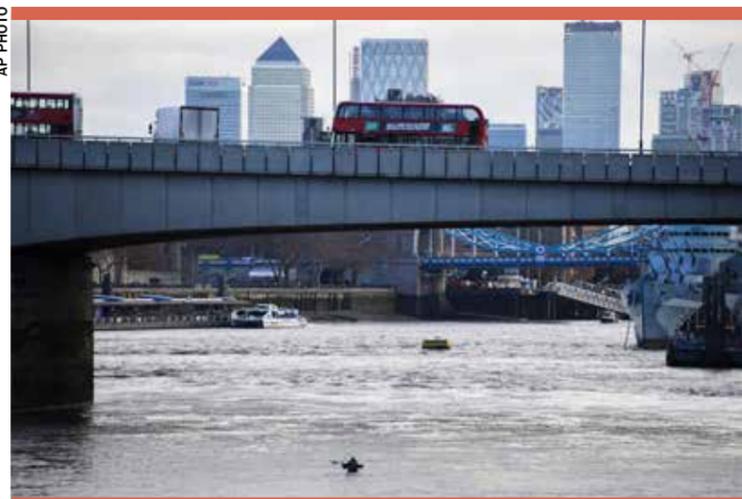
GREGORY KATZ, LONDON

**B**RTAIN'S political leaders sparred yesterday over who is responsible for the early release of a convicted extremist who launched a stabbing attack in central London that left two dead and injured three.

After a one-day pause out of respect for victims, Friday's attack is dominating the political scene as the Dec. 12 election nears, shifting the focus, at least for the moment, from Brexit and the National Health Service to issues of security and criminal justice.

The argument centers over the early release from prison of Usman Khan, who served roughly half his sentence before being set free. He was able to stab five people before being shot dead by police despite conditions imposed on his release that were supposed to protect public safety.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson, portraying himself as tough on crime, on Sunday blamed Khan's freedom on changes in sentencing



rules made by the last Labour Party government before Johnson's Conservatives took power in 2010. He promised to toughen sentencing laws.

"I think it is repulsive that individuals as dangerous as this man should be allowed out after serving only eight years and that's why we are going to change the law," he told BBC's Andrew Marr Show.

Marr repeatedly challenged the prime minister by pointing out

that the Conservatives had been in power for nearly a decade and not taken any steps to change the situation Johnson was complaining about.

The accuracy of Johnson's claim was challenged by Ed Davey, deputy leader of the Liberal Democrats, who told Sky News that the prime minister was misleading the public about the current law regarding the early release of prisoners.

"Either he's incompetent and

doesn't know the law, or he's deliberately misleading people when we've got a tragedy on our hands, and I'm afraid, either way, it does not look good for the prime minister," Davey said.

He said Johnson has a track record of misleading the public on this and other matters, including Brexit: "I'm really alarmed that we are on the brink of having a prime minister who is the most untruthful prime minister of all time."

Regardless of who is to blame, it is clear that setting Khan free before his sentence was concluded put the public at risk at a time when the official terrorism threat level had recently been lowered because of a perceived reduction in the risk of jihadis returning from Syria to Britain to launch attacks.

The Ministry of Justice has begun an urgent review of cases like Khan's that might pose a threat, including a review of the conditions governing the movements of every convicted terrorist who has been released from prison.

Officials say about 74 people fit this category. Conditions typically

including the wearing of an electronic device that allows police to track a person's movements, a curfew, limitations on internet use and smartphone use, and reporting on a regular basis to police.

Police have said that Khan appears to have been in compliance with the conditions governing his release, which weren't made public, but nonetheless was able to carry out a deadly assault that didn't rely on sophisticated weaponry or detonation of an explosive device.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn accused the Conservatives of trying to provide security "on the cheap" and said he doesn't necessarily agree that all terrorist prisoners should be required to serve their full terms.

He said it depends on the circumstances and called for the Parole Board and the probation service to be more actively involved.

Johnson's Conservatives quickly tried to capitalize on Corbyn's statement in a clear indication that the extremist attack is now fair game for political brinkmanship.

The party tweeted a promise — "We will change the law so terrorists serve every single day of their sentence" — along with a warning about Corbyn's opposition to this plan.

"Who do you trust to keep you safe?" it asks. **AP**

## CHRISTMAS REWARDS

From now till 26<sup>th</sup> December, redeem an **unlimited value\*** of gift certificates with points acquired upon any purchase. Enjoy a rewarding Christmas at LANDMARK Hong Kong!

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\$200,000 - \$999,999	\$3,400 - \$16,990	
\$50,000 - \$199,999	\$650 - \$2,590	\$2,500 Home & Kids gift certificates
\$10,000 - \$49,999	\$130 - \$640	\$500 Home & Kids gift certificates
\$5,000 - \$9,999	\$50 - \$100	\$100 Home & Kids gift certificates

\* Based on accumulated spending  
\*\* Same day spending from now till 26<sup>th</sup> December only

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#LANDMARKCHRISTMAS #LANDMARKHK

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## what's ON



### RED DECEMBER - EXHIBITION OF CARLOS MARREIROS

TIME: 10am-9pm

UNTIL: February 13, 2020

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

### MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (Except on Thursdays; open on public holidays)

VENUE: Macau Science Center

ADMISSION: MOP25 (Exhibition Centre)

MOP60 (Planetarium 2D dome

or 2D sky shows)

MOP80 (Planetarium 3D dome

or 3D sky shows)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

## Offbeat

### DOG SPOOKED BY SEALION IS RESCUED FROM REMOTE PACIFIC ISLAND

Things first started to go wrong for Flint the rat-sniffing dog when a sealion charged at him. It emerged from the scrub, lunging and bellowing, full of aggression.

Spooked, he ran from his handler and no amount of calling or whistling could lure him back. Flint was lost and alone on uninhabited Campbell Island, located between mainland New Zealand and Antarctica.

Making things worse? Flint was wearing a muzzle, so he couldn't eat and would find it difficult, perhaps impossible, to drink.

The clock was ticking on his survival.

Flint was there as part of Operation Endurance, a work program involving about 100 conservation rangers, weather officials and members of New Zealand's military. Campbell Island is one of dozens of small islands that New Zealand has cleared of rodents and other predators, allowing endangered native birds to flourish. Flint was there to check that no rats had returned, the muzzle a standard piece of field equipment to stop the dogs from attacking the rare, flightless birds.

John McCarroll, the Department of Conservation's acting operations manager for the area, described what happened after Flint ran away Wednesday.

Crews searched on foot and the military sent up a helicopter equipped with a thermal imaging camera to scour the island. But after seven hours, Flint couldn't be found.

A Jack Russell-fox terrier cross, Flint, aged about five, is small and was lost in dense bush. The vest he was wearing to keep him warm may have thwarted the camera's sensors.

At 11 p.m. Wednesday, with bad weather threatening and the navy ship they'd arrived on a week earlier experiencing some mechanical problems, the team made the heartbreaking decision to leave Flint behind. Crew safety had to be the top priority.

Back on mainland New Zealand, plans swung into action for a rescue mission. A team from Heli Otago packed a helicopter with extra fuel to make the trip back. On Friday, a crew of three flew more than 650 kilometers (400 miles) across the southern Pacific Ocean to the island, stopping at a fuel depot along the way.

They found Flint at the base. After two days, he'd made his way back, about a three-hour hike from where he'd gone missing.

"At first he was scared of the noise of the helicopter," McCarroll said. "They called him once, they called him twice, and then he was happy to come and greet them."

The crew removed Flint's muzzle and gave him plenty of food and water. And hugs.

Flint arrived back on the mainland on Friday evening, where McCarroll met him. The dog had gotten home quicker than his handler Richard Johnston, who isn't expected to arrive back on the navy ship until early next week.

"He was in very good spirits," McCarroll said. "We gave him some more food and he wolfed that down. He looks healthy, he looks happy and pleased to be home."

McCarroll said they'd be taking good care of Flint until his handler returns. Their top priority? Making sure he doesn't run away.

## TV canal macau



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

## cinema



### CINETEATRO

28 Nov - 05 Dec



#### FROZEN II

ROOM 1

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

Director: Chris Buck, Jennifer Lee

Starring: Kristen Bell, Jonathan Groff, Idina Menzel

Language: Cantonese

Duration: 103min



#### 21 BRIDGES

ROOM 1

9:45pm

Director: Brian Kirk

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

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 103min

#### THE GOOD LIAR

ROOM 2

Director: Bill Condom

Starring: Hellen Mirrren, Ian Mckellen, Russel Tovey

Language: English

Duration: 99min

#### KNIVES OUT

ROOM 3

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

Director: Rian Johnson

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

Language: English

Duration: 152min

#### GUILTY BY DESIGN

ROOM 3

5:00, 9:30pm

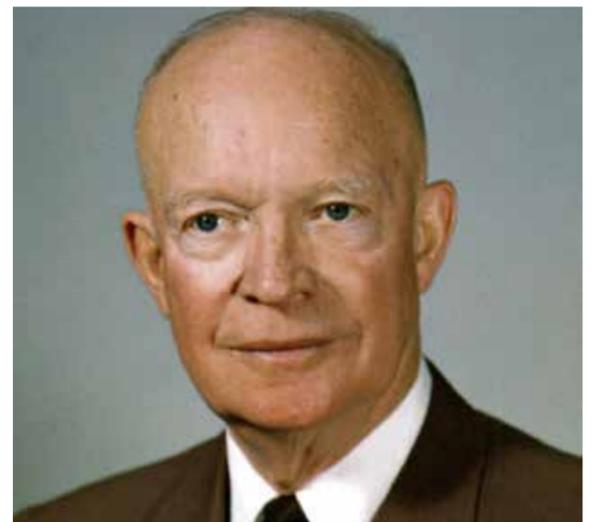
Director: Siu Kwan Lai, Wing Tai Lau

Starring: Nick Cheung, Kent Cheng, Hans Zhang

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 93min

## this day in history



### 1954 US PLEDGES TO DEFEND NATIONALIST CHINA

US President Dwight D Eisenhower has announced the signing of a pact of mutual security with the Nationalist Chinese Government.

Secretary of State John Foster Dulles concluded the agreement with Chinese foreign minister George Yeh for the defence of the islands of Formosa (Taiwan) and Pescadores.

At a news conference, Mr Dulles made it clear that any attack on the two islands from the mainland would result in a "state of war" with the Chinese Communists.

He was asked whether the US would retaliate if Formosa was attacked.

Mr Dulles replied: "That would be a probable result. There must be a certain liberty for mobile forces to retaliate at places of their own choosing, though, this would not necessarily mean general war and the use of atomic bombs."

Negotiations for the defence pact between the US and head of the Nationalist Chinese Government, Chiang Kai-Shek, have been in progress for many months but there was no indication that the agreement would be completed so quickly.

The secretary of state's formal announcement declared that the pact would follow the pattern of other security treaties concluded by the US in the Pacific area.

This pact, the statement added, would forge another link in the system of collective security, and provide the essential framework for the defence of the Western Pacific against communist aggression.

The agreement comes as 11 American soldiers and two civilians remain imprisoned in China.

The Americans were captured and detained for alleged espionage last month after their planes were shot down over a recognised combat zone of Korea.

President Eisenhower condemned their imprisonment as "completely indefensible" and warned that Chinese ports would be blockaded if they were not released.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The Nationalist Government, under the leadership of Chiang Kai-Shek, fled from mainland China in 1949 to Taiwan (formerly Formosa), after the Chinese Communists defeated the Chinese Nationalists in a long civil war and established the People's Republic of China.

With the help of American aid in the form of the mutual security pact in 1954, he succeeded in setting Taiwan on the road to economic development over the next 20 years.

The 11 US soldiers and two civilians that were imprisoned for alleged espionage were released on 1 August 1955 and China agreed to negotiate over Taiwan. Chiang died in 1975 and the US broke diplomatic relations with Taiwan in 1979 to establish full relations with the People's Republic.

Taiwan has made great economic progress over the years and is now one of the wealthiest and most industrialised nations in Asia.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

**ARIES**  
 Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
 You might be feeling a little bit slow today, although your emotions will be quick to act up. Look around, and it might seem as though everyone is miles ahead of you in terms of progress or career recognition.

**TAURUS**  
 Apr. 20-May. 20  
 Some smart folks have been telling you that you must put a piece of yourself into everything you do, but today you need to remove your emotions from the equation.

**GEMINI**  
 May. 21-Jun. 21  
 It's time to be a little bit more calculating about where you're going in your life. Just going with the flow is fine and all, but right now you need to form a strategy and plan things out a bit more.

**CANCER**  
 Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
 Things are going quite well for you now, but it wouldn't be wise to get too comfortable where you are. There are still a few potential pitfalls out there.

**LEO**  
 Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
 Listen to the most controversial speakers with special care today, because there is more to what they are saying than you may at first think. It's in everyone's best interest to find out what is really going on.

**VIRGO**  
 Aug. 23-Sep. 22  
 There's a restless confidence deep inside you, waiting for a bright spark to bring it out into the world. You are just itching to show everybody what you are made of!

**LIBRA**  
 Sep. 23-Oct. 22  
 You will know when you need to step back today—so listen to your gut when it tells you to run and hide. It's important for you to always be able to find a place where you can be by yourself.

**SCORPIO**  
 Oct. 23-Nov. 21  
 This will be a very rewarding day; you will be able to take something you don't like and turn it into something you'll cherish forever. Important transformations and innovations are easier than they have ever been before.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
 Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
 Have you been experiencing some bizarre dreams lately? Don't worry—they aren't predictions of your future. They are simply signs that you have an extremely active subconscious right now.

**CAPRICORN**  
 Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
 It's time for you to organize the different elements of your life and get things on a coherent schedule. Your work, your friendships, and your romantic relationships are all pulling you in different directions.

**AQUARIUS**  
 Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
 When you think about where one of your relationships is going today, you need to look away from logic and tune in to your deep feelings about who this person is and what they bring to your life.

**PISCES**  
 Feb. 19-Mar. 20  
 You'll be full of an endless supply of warm and fuzzy feelings today, and it would be wise for you to share them with the world. Let them lead you through the day.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sansom**



**SUDOKU**

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

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

**WEATHER**

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

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS:** 1- Oceans; 5- Photo-\_\_\_; 8- Just \_\_\_; 12- Diplomacy; 13- Winter woe; 15- Fill to surf; 16- Sonic boomerang; 17- Stroll; 18- Keen on; 19- From that time onward; 22- Small batteries; 23- Wing that can't flap; 24- Deserve; 26- Military decorations; 29- Clown Kelly; 31- Bumbler; 32- Rot; 34- Nasal grunt; 36- \_\_\_ Romeo; 38- Thing of the past; 40- \_\_\_ about; 41- Corpulent; 43- Dressed to the \_\_\_; 45- Letters of credit?; 46- Get there; 48- Ride at full speed; 50- Grab hold of; 51- Jack of "Barney Miller"; 52- Campaign pro; 54- Agnostic; 61- Throat-clearing sound; 63- Evil spirit; 64- Actress Garr; 65- One of the Simpsons; 66- Frosting; 67- Sooner city; 68- In need of directions; 69- TNT part; 70- Ascended, flower;

**DOWN:** 1- Undo a dele; 2- Per; 3- Feel sore; 4- High; 5- Norwegian saint; 6- Cancun coin; 7- Clairvoyant; 8- \_\_\_ see it...; 9- Site of the Alamo; 10- Singer James; 11- Corp. bigwigs; 13- Bee entrant; 14- Carved pole; 20- Dressed; 21- Poor actors; 25- "All The Way To \_\_\_", song by REM; 26- Island near Sicily; 27- Easy; 28- View; 29- Giving the once-over; 30- Scout unit; 31- Western Hemisphere org.; 33- "Rope-a-dope" boxer; 35- Play about Capote; 37- Ambience; 39- Stopping; 42- Polynesian carved image; 44- Plod (through); 47- Italian composer; 49- Linger aimlessly; 52- Dark cloud; 53- Buckeye State; 55- Four-sided fig.; 56- Chieftain, usually in Africa; 57- Actress Anderson; 58- Vintner's prefix; 59- "Exodus" author Leon; 60- Pro or con; 62- Floor covering where the cat sat!

**Friday's solution**

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

**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



<p><b>FOR SALE</b></p>  <p><b>Manhattan, High Floor, Taipa</b>  <b>\$17,980,000</b> 2,305 ft<sup>2</sup> 4 1/2 4 1/2</p>	<p><b>FOR RENT</b></p>  <p><b>Beautiful Studio Duplex in Barra, Macau</b>  <b>HK\$7,800/mth</b> 480 ft<sup>2</sup> 1 1/2</p>	<p><b>FOR SALE</b></p> <p>[Taipa] Nova City 3 1/2 2 1/2              1,515 ft<sup>2</sup> <b>\$11,750,000</b> (ref: 19106001)</p> <p>[Macau] Retail space              170 ft<sup>2</sup> <b>\$3,200,000</b> (ref: 19096003)</p> <p>[Macau] Keng Ou office 3 1/2              2,352 ft<sup>2</sup> <b>\$17,500,000</b> (ref: 19096002)</p> <p>[Taipa] Manhattan 1 1/2  <b>\$1,530,000</b> (ref: 19045003)</p>	<p><b>FOR RENT</b></p> <p>[Taipa] Studio 1              400 ft<sup>2</sup> <b>\$8,500/mth</b> (ref: 19101001)</p> <p>[Taipa] Apartment 1 1/2 1 1/2              740 ft<sup>2</sup> <b>\$10,900/mth</b> (ref: 19101006)</p> <p>[Macau] Keng Ou 3 1/2              2,352 ft<sup>2</sup> <b>\$38,000/mth</b> (ref: 19096002)</p> <p>[Macau] One Grantal car park 1 1/2  <b>\$2,500/mth</b> (ref: 19091005)</p>
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MERRY CLICKMAS

BLACK FRIDAY ONLINE SALES  
HIT RECORD \$7.4 BILLION

**T**HIS year's Black Friday was the biggest ever for online sales, as fewer people hit the stores and shoppers rang up \$7.4 billion in transactions from their phones, computers and tablets.

That's just behind the \$7.9 billion haul of last year's Cyber Monday, which holds the one-day record for online sales, according to Adobe Analytics. Adobe measures sales at 80 of the top 100 U.S. online retailers.

Adobe expects online sales to jump to another record this Cyber Monday with an estimated total of \$9.4 billion. Much of the shopping is happening on people's phones, which accounted for 39% of all online sales Friday and 61% of online traffic.

Shoppers have been looking for "Frozen 2" toys in particular. Other top purchases included sports video games and Apple laptops.



All the online shopping may have helped thin the crowd at malls on Black Friday.

Traffic at stores fell 2.1% on Black Friday from a year ago, according to preliminary figures from

RetailNext. It tracks in-store activity at tens of thousands of locations, including specialty apparel retailers, big-box stores and mall-based stores. The drop in traffic helped lead to a 1.6% dip in sales.

CELEBRITIES LIKE KATE HUDSON AND DRAKE GET IN THE SPIRIT

**A**T one time it was scents. Now it seems to be booze.

The number of celebrities who have branched out into endorsing — or even helping make — wine, whiskey, vodka and other spirits has exploded of late, from Nick Jonas' tequila to Kate Hudson's vodka to Dylan Sprouse's mead.

Kate Hudson has a vodka, Darius Rucker has a whiskey, Ryan Reynolds has a gin and "Breaking

Bad" co-stars Bryan Cranston and Aaron Paul have an artisanal mezcal. Even Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie have kept their vineyard despite their divorce.

Musicians aren't immune: Jay-Z is a partner with Bacardi on a cognac, Drake and Metallica have whiskeys, Snoop Dogg has a cachaca, and the duo behind Florida Geogie Line offer a smooth peach pecan whiskey.

Online and in-store shopping aren't always completely separate, though. Many people buy things online, only to head to the store to pick them up. Such sales surged 43.2% on Black Friday from a year ago, according to Adobe.

This holiday shopping season may be the most harried in years because it's the shortest since 2013. Thanksgiving this year fell on the last Thursday in November — the latest possible date it could be.

Much is riding on the success of the holiday season's sales. The U.S. economy is still growing steadily, but gains have slowed since its sizzling start to the year. Economists say strong spending by households is helping to bolster growth and make up for weak confidence among businesses given all the uncertainties about the U.S.-China trade war and other factors.



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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

# Hamilton cruises to victory at season-ending Abu Dhabi GP

JEROME PUGMIRE, ABU DHABI

AP PHOTO

**W**ORLD champion Lewis Hamilton cruised to victory from pole position at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix on Sunday, capping another stellar season with an 11th win and 84th overall.

The six-time Formula One champion is now only seven wins behind seven-time F1 champion Michael Schumacher's all-time record of 91, which he could realistically overtake next season.

After he made a clean start from a record-extending 88th career pole, Hamilton was untroubled as he won on the Yas Marina circuit for the fifth time — four with Mercedes and once when driving for McLaren in 2011.

He finished about 17 seconds ahead of Red Bull's Max Verstappen in a race bereft of overtaking, except for Verstappen's clean move on Charles Leclerc's Ferrari on Lap 33.

Leclerc was third for a 10th podium in a strong first season with Ferrari, which included an



F1-leading seven poles — two more than Hamilton and Bottas — and two wins. However, Leclerc was summoned for a post-race investigation because there was a difference between the amount of fuel in the car as declared by the team and the

amount actually inside the car. Leclerc only just held off Hamilton's teammate Valtteri Bottas, who climbed 16 places to fourth after starting last. Sebastian Vettel started fourth and finished fifth in a disappointing end to a season where the four-time F1 champion

has won only one race. Hamilton made a clean start, but Verstappen was overtaken by Leclerc and just held off Vettel behind him on the first lap, which saw Pierre Gasly's Toro Rosso sandwiched between both Racing Point cars and forced to pit for a

new front wing. After just 10 of 55 laps on the desert circuit, Hamilton had pulled five seconds clear of Leclerc.

Ferrari pitted both drivers for new tires on the 13th lap, but while Leclerc's tire switch was relatively good, Vettel's took several seconds too long because the mechanics struggled to fit his front left tire on.

It was the latest basic mistake from Ferrari in yet another season marred by errors following similar blunders in the past two seasons.

Ferrari replaced Maurizio Arrivabene with Mattia Binotto as team principal, but Binotto has not managed to stem the flow of mistakes.

Hamilton pitted about halfway through the race and such was his on-track advantage that he still came out six seconds clear of Leclerc, while Verstappen was in third place and complaining about engine, braking and throttle issues.

Still, the audacious Dutchman then found some extra speed to overtake Leclerc and held the Monegasque driver off as he tried to overtake him back down the right.

Ferrari pitted both drivers simultaneously again on Lap 39, and this time the tire changes were both fairly smooth.

Leclerc finished a massive 43 seconds behind Hamilton but had built up just enough of a lead to hold off Bottas by .9 seconds. AP

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OPINION

Tax Matters

Paulo Cordeiro de Sousa



CONTRACTS FOR THE USE OF SHOPS IN SHOPPING CENTRES - ARE THEY SUBJECT TO STAMP DUTY?

The Supreme Court ("TUI" - Tribunal de Última Instância) issued a decision on 16 October 2019 that resulted in a number of contracts for the use of shops in a certain shopping centre in Macau being subject to the payment of Stamp Duty ("SD"). The tax administration had assessed SD on several contracts and required the company that manages the shopping centre to pay the SD. Rental contracts are subject to the payment of SD, but on a number of occasions the TUI and the Court of Second Instance ("TSI" - Tribunal de Segunda Instância) had ruled that Contracts for the Use of Shops in Shopping Centres ("CUSSC") are different from normal rental contracts, and therefore should not be deemed taxable under the SD Regulations - which expressly covers only tax rental contracts. So, why has the TUI issued a decision on 16 October 2019 that seems to contradict previous settled case law of the high courts (TUI and TSI)? But there is no contradiction.

The TUI's decision of 16 October 2019 does not rule that the CUSSC are subject to SD. It is a ruling taken for unification of jurisprudence - in fact, its aim is to create a precedent that, from now on, is mandatory for all courts in Macau. The law allows the TUI to issue these kinds of decisions in cases where there are two contradictory decisions taken by the TUI or one taken by the TUI and another by the TSI.

The situation was as following: The tax administration has considered that several CUSSC, relating to a certain shopping centre, should be subject to the payment of SD. Knowing that the settled case law of the Macanese high courts is that such contracts are not subject to SD, the management company has challenged the tax administration's position in the Administrative Court. The latter considered that, prior to filing the lawsuit in court, the management company should have filed an administrative appeal, under the terms of article 2 of Law 12/2003, and thus ruled the lawsuit as inadmissible.

The management company appealed to the TSI, arguing that Law 12/2003 was not applicable to the SD - as has been previously ruled by the TSI in other occasions. The TSI ruled in favour of the management company. The tax administration appealed to the TUI. The TUI had previously ruled, through a decision taken in 23 July 2014, that although Law 12/2003 is labelled "Amending the Professional Tax Regulations and the Complementary Income Regulations" (i.e. the Personal Income Tax - "PIT" - and the Corporate Income Tax - "CIT"), its article 2 applies to all taxes in general, meaning that it also applies to the SD. As mentioned, article 2 of Law 12/2003 sets forth that, save for some exceptions, taxpayers may only challenge a tax assessment in court after having previously filed an administrative appeal. The TSI had previously ruled on the contrary, arguing that Law 12/2003 applied only to PIT and CIT. Now, it has been ultimately decided by the TUI that article 2 of Law 12/2003 applies to all taxes, SD included.

In my opinion, it is strange to determine that a law labelled as amending two specific taxes should also apply to all taxes. If the lawmakers had this intention, they would have stated so. The decision of the TUI may open many doubts regarding the application of certain provisions of other laws to situations to which they have not been approved by the lawmakers.

So, the fact is that the court's unanimous position is that the CUSSC are not subject to SD, but the tax administration's position is that they are. If the taxpayers wish to challenge the tax administration's position, they must first file an administrative appeal, and only afterwards a lawsuit in court, otherwise they may lose the opportunity to do so. It does not seem to make much sense.

Spanish police say they have made their biggest seizure of methamphetamine, taking 631 kilograms (1,400 pounds) in a raid near Barcelona.

Police said in a statement Saturday that the drug, in a form known as crystal meth, was being stored for distribution to other parts of Europe.

The statement said authorities arrested two people in Spain and

four elsewhere in Europe after an international police operation. The statement did not estimate how much the drug is worth on the street.

Police also found about 1,000 marijuana plants allegedly being grown by the same gang at another location.

The statement gave no further details, saying the investigation is continuing.

UN CHIEF WARNS OF 'POINT OF NO RETURN' ON CLIMATE CHANGE

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said yesterday that the world's efforts to stop climate change have been "utterly inadequate" so far and there is a danger global warming could pass the "point of no return."

Speaking before the start of a two-week international climate conference in Madrid, the U.N. chief said the impact of rising temperatures - including more extreme weather - is already being felt around the world, with dramatic consequences for humans and other species.

He noted that the world has the scientific knowledge and the technical means to limit global warming, but "what is lacking is political will."

"The point of no return is no longer over the horizon," Guterres told reporters in the Spanish capital. "It is in sight and hurtling toward us."

Delegates from almost 200 countries will try to put the finishing touches on the rules governing the 2015 Paris climate accord at the Dec. 2-13 meeting, including how to create functioning international emissions trading systems and compensate poor countries for losses they suffer from rising sea levels and other consequences of climate change.

Guterres cited mounting scientific evidence for the impact that man-made emissions of greenhouse gases are already having on the planet, including record temperatures and melting polar ice.

But he insisted that his message was "one of hope, not of despair. Our war against nature must stop and we know that that is possible."

Countries agreed in Paris four years ago to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit), ideally 1.5C (2.7F) by the end of the century compared with pre-industrial times. Already, average temperatures have increased by about 1C, leaving little room for the more ambitious target to be met.



Guterres said growing demands from citizens, particularly young people, have shown there is widespread desire for climate action.

"What is still lacking is political will," he said. "Political will to put a price on carbon. Political will to stop subsidies on fossil fuels. Political will to stop building coal power plants from 2020 onwards. Political will to shift taxation from income to carbon. Taxing pollution instead of people."

Guterres noted that some 70 countries - many of them among the most vulnerable to climate change - have pledged to stop emitting more greenhouse gases by 2050.

"But we also see clearly that the world's largest emitters are not pulling their weight. And without them, our goal is unreachable," he said.

The U.N. chief said he hoped the meeting in Madrid would see governments make more ambitious pledges ahead of a deadline to do so next year.

He also said that creating a worldwide market for emissions, which is a key element of the sixth article of the Paris accord, remained one of the most contentious issues for negotiators.

"We are here to find answers for article 6, not to find excuses," Guterres said.

Guterres announced that outgoing Bank of England governor Mark Carney will become his new special envoy on "climate action and climate finance" from next year.

Organizers expect around 29,000 visitors, including some 50 heads of state and government for Monday's opening, as well as scientists, seasoned negotiators and activists during the two-week meeting.

Some of the world's largest carbon emitters - the United States, China and India - will be represented by ministers or lower-level officials.

The U.S. administration of President Donald Trump, which has announced the intention to withdraw from the Paris agreement, is represented by Marcia Bernicat, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is leading a delegation of Democratic lawmakers to the talks.

More than 5,000 police officers are charged with keeping the summit safe, Spain's Interior Ministry said Sunday. Although authorities have stepped-up border controls and cybersecurity measures, authorities have kept the country's terror alert one level under the highest, where it has been ever since extremist attacks in Tunisia and France in mid-2015. AP



Iran has begun registration of candidates for running in the country's parliamentary elections set for February 2020. The elections will be a gauge for the popularity of the moderate and reformist camps that President Hassan Rouhani represents.

Maldives Two opposition parties say the trial in which former President Yameen Abdul Gayoom was convicted of money laundering was politically motivated.

Vatican City Pope Francis has hailed Nativity scenes as "simple and admirable" signs of Christian faith, commenting on a traditional Christmas practice that has triggered court battles in the United States.



Brussels New leaders took over yesterday at the top of the European Union's executive and council, taking their positions at a turbulent time for the bloc with the looming British departure and other pressing issues.



UK The House Intelligence Committee is wrapping up the investigative phase of its impeachment inquiry after recent public hearings and plans a meeting to vote on its report tomorrow. Committee members can view a draft report beginning tonight.

UK Usman Khan was convicted on terrorism charges but let out of prison early. He attended a "Learning Together" conference for ex-offenders, and used the event to launch a bloody attack, stabbing two people to death and wounding three others. Police shot him dead after he flashed what seemed to be a suicide vest. More on p15