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UNIVERSITY OF MACAU
PROFESSOR WANTS FUNDING
AUTONOMY TO BOOST ACADEMIC
FREEDOM AND CREATIVITY

P4

WHAT PISA SHOWS
IS LESS THAN
WHAT IT HIDES

P3

A SENIOR OFFICIAL AT PAGCOR
HINTED THAT A DELAYED CASINO
RESORT MIGHT EVENTUALLY GO
AHEAD ON SCENIC BORACAY

P6

China Tech-giant
Huawei's reputation has
been repeatedly attacked
by the United States and
others over allegations of
Communist Party control.
Now its vaunted status
at home has taken a blow
over an ex-employee's
report that he was thrown
in jail for eight months on
extortion charges after
attempting to negotiate a
severance package.



China Page after page,
the names stack up: 629
girls and women from
across Pakistan who were
sold as brides to Chinese
men and taken to China.
The list, obtained by The
Associated Press, was
compiled by Pakistani
investigators determined
to break up trafficking
networks exploiting
the country's poor and
vulnerable. More on p14



South Korea Chinese
Foreign Minister Wang
Yi arrived in South Korea
yesterday for his first visit
in four years amid efforts
to patch up relations
damaged by Seoul's
decision to host a U.S.
anti-missile system that
Beijing perceives as a
security threat. More on p11

Philippines Defense
chief said he has
recommended that the
president not extend
martial law in the
country's south, which
was declared in 2017 to
help troops quell a bloody
siege by Islamic State
group-aligned jihadists
in Marawi city. Delfin
Lorenzana said he told
the president that Muslim
militants have been
weakened considerably
and are no longer able to
carry out an attack like
the Marawi siege.

More on backpage

CHINA-US CLASH OVER HK, XINJIANG BILLS

P11



RUNAWAY COW SETS RARE
SIGHT IN THE CITY



P7

Juliette Binoche, the
international talent
ambassador of IF-
FAM, is a world fa-
mous French actress,
published author,
artist, and dancer
who has appeared in
more than 60 feature
films, won numerous
awards and appeared
on stage and screen
all over the world.

INSIDE

TOURISM TRAINING FOCUSES ON SUSTAINABLE PLANNING

LYNZY VALLES

THE Global Centre for Tourism Education and Training of the Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT) recently held a training program on sustainable tourism in collaboration with the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

Held across eight days, a total of 17 participants from several different countries and regions gathered for training on the topic of "Capacity Building for Sustainable Tourism Planning and Regional Development."

The theme addressed topics such as tourism policy, development and management of cultural heritage resources, and how to successfully manage the development of a destination.

The program, which ended yesterday, also included a panel on "The Greater Bay Area and opportunities for collaborative tourism development."

The Director of the Global Centre for Tourism Education and Training, Professor John Ap, told the Times that the theme was based on the needs of the participants.

"This is a collaboration with UNWTO ... it had [been] discussed with its member states and identified their needs. Once they nominated certain countries, we then sent out a

LYNZY VALLES



profile asking potential participants and candidates to identify and let us know what their training needs and expectations are," the professor explained.

"Based upon this, we prepare a program to address their training needs - and that is important. [...] They tell me what they need and I respond accordingly," he added.

The program featured a mix of lectures, presentations and site visits of a technical nature, under the supervision of scholars from IFT and local and

international experts. Course participants also attended a tour and presentation at the MGM Cotai integrated resort. The visit focused on the environmental sustainability program and corporate social responsibility practices in place at the property.

For Ap, Macau is to be established as a hub for tourism education and training, thus maximizing its tourism resources.

"This creates greater awareness of Macau not only as a tourism destination, but also of the fact that we have [the] ca-

pabilities to offer good training based upon the resources and reputation of us as a tourism education institution," said Ap.

"Fortunately, Macau is blessed with very good tourism resources and attractions," he added.

Meanwhile, one of the participants, Manuela Liliana Muresan from the Ministry of Tourism of Romania, said that she would share the knowledge she gained at the seminar with her bureau.

"The information we accumulate is really good for our country. So we're going back home with good knowledge that we will implement in our policies," said Muresan.

"The professor was good at describing the process of planning, including tourism, heritage and transportation. For that, I will go back to Romania and will [try to] implement a better tourism masterplan for the country," she said.

Since the center's inception, approximately 170 participants from 28 countries and regions have taken part in similar courses.

The center was set up in 2016 following a memorandum of understanding signed between the local government and UNWTO. The agreement covered topics including the enhancement of human capital for the tourism industry and the promotion of sustainable tourism in the Asia-Pacific region.

GOV'T UNVEILS QUALITY ACCREDITATION FOR RETAILERS

MORE than 1,000 retailers across the city were accredited last night at a ceremony co-hosted by the Consumer Council and the Macao Government Tourism Office.

Following the previous night's accreditation for restaurants and travel agencies providing quality services, the tourism regulator followed the lead of the consumer agency to commend reliable retailers in the city.

A total of 1,030 businesses have passed this year's "Certified Shops" evaluation, a campaign initiated by the Consumer Council to encourage businesses to constantly improve their service standards.

These accredited businesses will be eligible to display the "Certified Shop" logo in their establishments. The government body believes the logo will convey a sense of reliability to shoppers, especially tourists.

Of the abovementioned 1,030 accredited businesses, 28 were awarded "Class A Certified Shop." Meanwhile, 166 of all businesses receiving the accreditation were recognized by the Tourism Office with the "Star Merchant Award" for their quality service.

In order to be eligible for the Tourism Office's accreditation, a business must obtain recognition as a Consumer Council "Certified Shop" beforehand. This makes the double accreditation more prestigious.

The Council's accreditation system has been in place for almost 20 years. Some 80% of businesses registered for the campaign obtained the accreditation, which was similar to the last few years.

To ensure the quality of "Certified Shops," all businesses participating in the campaign must promise to resolve any consumer disputes that arise between them and consumers, and should possess a passing grade in the annual on-site 85-criterion evaluation.

The Council completed 3,500 on-site evaluations in 2019 and invited local residents to grade their experiences in almost 400 shops for the first time. Experts were also invited to shop as mystery shoppers to offer 205 shopping experience reports. A total of over 4,000 instances of different kinds of evaluations have been carried out throughout the year.

Those accredited include some of the biggest business chains in town, such as Koi Kei Bakery, Choi Heung Yuen Bakery and Sunco Supermarket. AL

ONE SHOT NEWS



Fingers crossed for a good show. In order to pray for the success of the 2019 Macao International Parade, special guests yesterday attended a worship ceremony at the Ruins of St. Paul's, which included a traditional "eye-dotting" blessing ceremony thought to imbue the subject – in this case a southern or "Canton-style" lion – with life.

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Macau's rapid education improvement has a dark side

DANIEL BEITLER

MACAU'S rapid rise into the top three in the latest round of the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), announced earlier this week, has been described by the education authority as a remarkable success and confirmation that recent efforts from the government are yielding results. But there is another side to the latest results, which suggest that Macau students are among the least satisfied and least confident in the world.

Held every three years, the most recent PISA assessment in 2018 tested 15-year-olds in 79 education systems around the world and ranked them by their reading, mathematics and scientific literacies. Macau earned the third-highest spot in each literacy ranking, rising from sixth, twelfth and third, respectively, for scientific lite-



racy, reading literacy and mathematical literacy in the 2015 assessment.

In two additionally impressive feats, Macau was shown to have one of the largest percentage of top performers in each of the three tested subjects, as well as one of the lowest percentage of low performers.

In reading literacy, the focus

of PISA 2018, Macau possesses a strong separation between the performance of students and their socio-economic status. The proportion of disadvantaged students who are "academically resilient" to their socio-economic status is almost double that of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) average.

Teresa Vong, an associate professor of education at the University of Macau, told the Times that the assessment has become a "leading force in transforming our educational landscape." Commenting on this week's result, the academic also said that it "demonstrates a very big effort committed both by the DSEJ and local schools" to improve the quality of education.

However, a set of secondary and tertiary indicators released alongside the main results this week tell a more complex story.

The results reveal Macau to be a city of educational extremes, sitting either among the top few of the 79 sampled countries and territories or the bottom few, depending on the metric or sub-metric considered.

According to the OECD website, while the latest assessment shows that a very high proportion of Macau students were reported to have not skipped classes nor arrived late for school in the two weeks prior to the test,

the average level of a local student's life satisfaction proved one of the lowest among the countries and economies participating in PISA.

The 2018 assessment also found that, in Macau, "a large proportion of students reported always feeling sad" and that "15-year-old students have a strong fear of failure", with both scores also ranking third-highest worldwide. They were also the second least likely to "believe in their own ability to perform, especially facing adversity."

In the previous report, Macau was found to have one of the highest incidences of school bullying among the sampled countries and territories. Little improvement was made this year as the territory remains a place where only "a small percentage of students strongly agreed that it is a good thing to help students who can't defend themselves."

Speaking to the Times, Professor Vong drew attention to an apparent contradiction in the Macau student: that she performs among the best in the world and yet seems to enjoy her studies the least.

The academic called on the education authority to examine "what makes students go further in the long run."

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REGULATION NEEDED FOR NEW MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY, SAYS LEI

The Director of the Health Bureau (SSM) Lei Chin Ion has suggested that Macau must amend or establish laws to regulate the emergence of medical technologies. Earlier this week, during a life science moral committee meeting, Lei remarked that Macau currently does not have a specific law regulating emerging medical technologies. Existing laws are lacking in their scope and so amendments or new bills are needed. In the past, medical accidents in mainland China, Hong Kong and Macau related to the illegal supply of medical services were reported, Lei stated. Lei claims that the SSM will enhance the current vaccination supervision system by enhancing inspections in order to eliminate situations where private clinics store vaccines illegally, for example.



UNIVERSITY OF PORTO TO ACCEPT JOINT EXAM RESULTS

The University of Porto has signed a cooperation agreement with the Macau Higher Education Bureau to recognize the results of Macau's four-school joint exam. According to the agreement, the Portuguese university will accommodate Macau residents who have the intention of studying bachelor's and master's degrees at the school. In order to be enrolled at the University of Porto, the university will also work with the Portuguese Institute of the Orient (IPOR) to provide a Portuguese preparation course. Macau students must study a semester of the applied Portuguese language course provided by IPOR. In their second semester, students are required to study Portuguese at the University of Porto. All students must attend Macau's four-school joint exams and must pass this exam.

LUSA OPENS PHOTO EXHIBITION DOCUMENTING HANDOVER

Lusa News Agency opened a photography exhibition yesterday dedicated to commemorating the transfer of sovereignty over Macau from Portugal to the People's Republic of China. The exhibition, titled "Macau 20 years," was inaugurated during a special opening event held last night at the Consulate General of Portugal in Macau and Hong Kong. It consists of 20 photographic records depicting the transfer almost 20 years ago. "This exhibition portrays, through the work of our photojournalists, some of the most striking aspects of official ceremonies, but also some of the other public festivities that marked the event, as well as portraits from everyday life," said Nicolau Santos, President of Lusa's Board of Directors. The exhibition will be held at Lusa News Agency headquarters in Lisbon until December 12.

FREEDOM OF FINANCE

UM PROFESSOR WANTS FUNDING AUTONOMY TO PROMOTE CREATIVITY

JULIE ZHU

A professor from the University of Macau (UM) is calling on the Macau SAR government to give the public university more financial autonomy to boost the institution's creativity and originality.

Shui Bing, a professor from the Faculty of Law of UM, made the remarks at a symposium held yesterday, reflecting on the second decade of the Macau Special Administrative Region. During the symposium, Shui spoke about Macau's public finance policies by specifically

using UM as an example.

The school's budget management is, in Shui's opinion, unique because the school has stipulated that the budget for each year must be spent within that year and cannot be carried over into the next fiscal year.

"When UM works with schools from other places, they find UM very weird in that we must use all the money within that year," said Shui.

Since UM's money comes from the Macau government, the school's deans are not active in acquiring resources, particularly student resources, compared to

deans from other schools, according to Shui.

"Others need to compete to attract talented students, but all we need to do is sign the signature for the expenses," Shui said.

Macau's administration system is being blamed for UM's problem. The administration system, which has created complex administrative procedures in regards to the school's management, lacks flexibility, causes waste, and has "severely damaged" public interests as result, according to Shui.

Shui acknowledged that there are difficulties in promoting an amendment of Macau's budget

law. However, he asked whether UM's financial autonomy could be increased. Furthermore, he believes that increasing UM's financial autonomy is an urgent task, as it may boost the university's creativity.

The UM professor is concerned about the donations sent to the faculties, claiming that some of them end up going to the university instead of staying with the faculties.

Shui also associates UM's freedom and creativity with the school's finances. UM will be able to "create thoughts which are original enough" as long as financial autonomy is given to UM. "Universities are where ideas are created," added Shui.

In addition, Shui proposes that UM set up a project management mechanism to follow up on projects in order to ensure they are of high quality. In Shui's opinion, Macau's public engineering projects suffer from severe delays, go over budget, and have poor quality control.

Coloane Prison testing smart surveillance system

THE city's security forces are testing a smart surveillance system inside the Coloane Prison, said Cheng Fong Meng, director of the Macau Correctional Services Bureau (DSC), yesterday.

On the sidelines of yesterday's celebration of the DSC anniversary, Cheng told the media that the DSC is dedicated to building a smart correctional service and that it has already planned to install a smart surveillance system at the Coloane Prison

in stages.

The system will include a self-service kiosk for prisoners, as well as the application of a big data platform.

Currently, the prison has already finished setting up a new surveillance control center and installing a video surveillance system, which analyzes capabilities in specific prison cells.

According to Cheng, all these smart systems are expected to improve the prison's safety alarm

and supervision functions, as well as reduce the dependency on human resources.

The systems are currently being tested at the prison and are expected to be put into full operation next month.

Besides revealing the use of the new technology in the Coloane Prison, Cheng also reported on the progress of the prison's conversion.

The first phase of the conversion project will be completed in the near

future, providing 20 extra beds. In the first quarter of 2020, the DSC will call for tenders for the second phase, which is expected to provide an additional 100 beds. The DSC is still working out the details of the third phase.

Due to safety concerns, the prison is not able to undergo a large-scale conversion project at once, meaning the third phase can only be started in 2021 at the earliest.

As of the end of November, the Coloane Pri-

son has a total of 1,623 inmates, over 95% of whom are male. The prison is nearly over capacity, according to Cheng.

The DSC director mentioned that the prison is in need of prison officers, social workers and consultants. Earlier this year, the DSC held an exam procedure for 73 prison officers in February. In the future, the DSC will have another two social workers and one psychological consultant. **JZ**

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UK-BASED SECURITY FIRM EXPANDS WITH PARTNERSHIP

U.K.-based software firm, ITRS Group, has recently announced its partnership with Intelligencia, a Hong Kong-based data analysis firm. The partnership was expressed as a strategic move to better ensure "Intelligencia clients like The Venetian Macao and Galaxy Macau [...] operate more efficiently and securely round-the-clock," stated a press release. They also pointed out that the gambling industry has a growing range of needs that have arisen in order to cope with tighter regulations. The group said that its software was capable of managing casino environments, citing their 20 years of experience in the finance industry.

PHILIPPINES SHUTS ITS DOOR TO NEW ONLINE CASINOS

The Philippines is keeping its door shut for new online casinos to avoid a proliferation of the industry similar to what happened in Cambodia, its gaming chief said yesterday. The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. is regulating the issuance of new licenses for both land-based and online casinos. "We want to rationalize so that everybody with a license has a good chance of being successful," Chairman Andrea Domingo said in a forum in Manila. The Southeast Asian nation doesn't want to benefit from Cambodia's ban on online casinos, and is monitoring if gaming service providers here are hiring workers from Cambodia, Domingo said. Online casinos banned in Cambodia may relocate to the Philippines and boost office demand, property consultant Santos Knight Frank senior director Morgan McGilvray said in October.

GAMING | PHILIPPINES

GALAXY'S BORACAY RESORT NOT COMPLETELY OFF THE TABLE

A senior official at the Philippines gaming regulator has hinted at the possibility of a delayed casino resort eventually going ahead on the country's scenic island of Boracay.

The \$500-million project by Galaxy Entertainment Group and a local partner in the Philippines had received preliminary approval from the country's regulator, before President Rodrigo Duterte intervened to express his dissatisfaction with the plan. It was reported that the president was worried about the impact on the environment of the island.

The archipelago country levied a six-month suspension of tourism on Boracay in 2018 in order to clean up the island. Additionally, the nation's top government aimed for sustainable and family-oriented tourism on the island.

Now, a senior official from the gaming regulator has suggested that a casino might go ahead if the partners' propo-

AP PHOTO



sal undergoes changes.

Alfredo Lim, President and COO of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp (Pagcor), regulator of casinos in the Southeast Asian country, told online media outlet GGRAsia that he thought it was the belief of his country's

President that a casino is not good for Boracay.

elaborated, "if [Galaxy Entertainment] can come up with certain measures that will convince the President, maybe there will be reconsiderations of the regional suspension of the [casino] license [in Boracay]."

Lim also hinted that "conservation of the island's environment" is part and parcel to working out the project.

Galaxy's casino in Boracay would be unlike its Macau one. According to previous announcements, the Philippine casino would host fewer than 100 gambling tables. Up to \$500 million was proposed as the investment amount. Galaxy would partner with Philippine firm Leisure and Resorts World Corp.

At a press conference last year, Galaxy Vice Chairman Francis Lui described the hurdles in the Boracay project as "misunderstanding" or "miscommunication", while emphasizing his company's alignment with President Duterte's view of environmental protection for the island.

The casino executive said that further discussion was planned with the Philippine authorities.

Lim also suggested during his interview with GGRAsia that Galaxy communicate with his country's Department of Natural Resources and Department of Tourism. After all, a lot of details are still unclear, Lim stressed. **AL**

AD

THE GREAT ESCAPE

Cow breaks loose from slaughterhouse

A cow that was set to be butchered escaped from the slaughterhouse yesterday morning and was seen wandering around Ilha Verde, the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) said.

One of the first videos that went viral on social media was footage taken from a dash camera. In the footage, the car was moving slowly and a voice from either the driver or a passenger uttered his wonder in Cantonese. The video was taken outside the entrance of the soft drink factory in Ilha Verde.

José Tavares, President of the Executive Council of the IAM, assured the public that the cow would not be sold for consumption.

As part of the effort to retrieve the cow, workers with the IAM administered a total of five shots of anesthetic to the cow, rendering its products inedible. The agent who owned the cow expressed their willingness to gift the cow to the IAM.

As such, Tavares told the press that his bureau is now in search of an appropriate location to keep the cow. In the future, members of the public will have the chance to visit the animal.

Netizens started to exhibit their creativity right away by giving the cow names. Names proposed online include "MaCow" and "Ou Ao," meaning "Macau cow," also imitating the colloquial name for a cafeteria in Jordan, Hong Kong.

Some cars were allegedly



damaged by the escaped cow. Tavares suggested that owners send photos depicting the damage to the IAM for further action.

Hours after the cow broke loose, the IAM explained in a statement that, on its way to the slaughterhouse, the cow struggled, and managed to escape and cross the fence.

In order to retrieve the cow, workers at the slaughterhouse acted very carefully in order not to scare it. According to the IAM, the cow was attracted to a vacant plot of land.

Apart from workers from the slaughterhouse and the Fire Service, workers from the Public Security Police Force and the veterinary department of the IAM were also deployed. AL

SANDS CHINA AWARDS SUPPLIERS FOR 'EXCEPTIONAL SERVICES'

SANDS China Ltd. recently recognized nine of its suppliers at the annual Sands Supplier Excellence Awards held last week, eight of which are local.

Among them, two are run by young Macau entrepreneurs, two are SMEs, and one is a micro-enterprise.

Sands China business units and their employees nominated a total of 22 companies in this year's awards, with 15 of them being local enterprises. Nominees are chosen from the service providers and suppliers that do business with Sands China.

"The company is very pleased to take this opportunity each year to express our gratitude to our suppliers for doing their part to keep this massive

operation running smoothly," said Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd.

Awards were given to suppliers in several categories: gaming, furniture, fixtures and equipment, ferries, marketing, outside services, food and beverage, operating supplies and equipment, development and project management, and facilities.

Award winners are selected each year by a judging committee composed of Sands China executive management. Judges consider several criteria, including suppliers' corporate culture and sustainability, cost management, service excellence, project management, quality management, and innovation. LV

ADVERTORIAL

MELCO Christmas Bazaar partners with Local SMEs

Melco Resorts and Entertainment (Melco) is hosting the Studio City Christmas Bazaar – Partnership with Local Small and Medium Enterprises with more than 40 local vendors to set a stage for these familiar and emerging businesses to shine.

The festive marketplace is taking place between now and December 31 at Studio City's French Garden, overseen by the iconic Golden Reel, the world's first figure-of-eight shaped ferris wheel, amidst glittering festive decorations that certainly will mesmerize both adults and children.

Ms. Akiko Takahashi, Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff to Chairman and CEO, said, "We continue to be committed to developing successful partnerships with local suppliers and SMEs for the sustainable development of Macau. It is hoped the Bazaar will not only enhance market exposure and sales for participating local merchants, but also enable Melco to build and strengthen relationships with Macau's SMEs, to help each other identify products and services that can be offered to our guests, the broader industry, and the community."

The 40 plus SME's participating in this festive Christmas Bazaar include many of the city's most famed brand names, such as the local ice cream manufacturer Macau Dairy and Huanying Trading Company Limited, a century-old seller of quality preserved mandarin peels.

Mr. David Fong, General Manager of Huanying

Trading Company Limited, expressed his appreciation for Melco's goodwill of promoting local SMEs: "We are of course exceptionally grateful for this opportunity offered by Melco, who provides us a platform to introduce our quality products and traditional Chinese culinary wisdom to people from around the world, for the fact that Studio City is distinguishedly attractive to both tourists and local residents of all ages."

Alongside these familiar brands, Melco has also invited emerging brands, such as Vega Vega, a local dining establishment promoting vegan dining concepts. The creative Christmas Bazaar sees a lot of good causes, for there is a booth dedicated to supporting charities, namely the Salvation Army, Fuhong Society and Caritas Macau.

"At this Christmas Bazaar, we are selling educational materials for children made under supervision of experts in the educational discipline. All revenue will be used to support our charity work," Ms. Susanna Leong, Tutor at Caritas Macau's social enterprise Play with Kids, said.

Open to the public daily between 5pm to 10pm, the bazaar represents of a wide range of local businesses offering food and beverage, handcrafts, toys, decorations and furnishings, and other gift categories, and targets visitors, tourists, and gift shoppers during the festive month. Also offered is a range of family-friendly activities such as face painting, handcraft workshops, performances and giveaways.



This article is sponsored by Melco Resorts & Entertainment.

HONG KONG

EMBATTLED AIRLINE PLANS INJECTION, WILL PAY STAFF TODAY

WILL DAVIES
 & SHAWNA KWAN

EMBATTLED Hong Kong Airlines said it has drawn up an initial plan for a cash injection and will pay staff who had their salaries deferred, after regulators threatened to revoke its license unless the company improves its finances.

Services will gradually return to normal as soon as the funds arrive, according to an emailed statement from the company, which is backed by Chinese conglomerate HNA Group Co. Payments to staff will be made on Dec. 5, it said.

The Air Transport Licensing Authority on Monday told Hong Kong Airlines to raise more cash or risk losing its license, saying it would make a decision by Saturday. The carrier said last week it was delaying salaries for some staff and cutting more flights next year. It said months of unrest in Hong Kong had severely damaged its business as tourist num-

BLOOMBERG



bers slumped.

Hong Kong Airlines was struggling even before anti-government protests began flaring in June. Authorities including ATLA

made repeated requests for the airline to provide details on its financial situation following changes to its board of directors last year and reports of business

difficulties.

The protests compounded the company's troubles and put it on verge of becoming a high-profile corporate casualty in a downturn

that's hit peers across Asia, from Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd. to Qantas Airways Ltd. and Cebu Air Inc. Cathay, which has warned of a drop in profit in the second half and is reducing capacity, said yesterday it would lower pay rises next year to 2%, local media reported.

Retail, tourism and many other industries have also been badly hit by the social turmoil and the economy is in recession. With no sign that protesters and the Beijing-backed leadership will come to a resolution any time soon, the International Monetary Fund has called for significantly more government spending to support the city.

Closely held Hong Kong Airlines didn't provide any more details on the cash injection plan. The carrier, Cathay's only local competitor, ranked 24th in the SkyTrax 2019 World Airline awards and flies as far as North America and Australia with a fleet of 39 Airbus SE planes.

The airline's troubles highlight the travel industry's vulnerable position amid the protests. In October, arrivals from mainland China tumbled a record 46%, while visitors to Hong Kong fell 44% overall. Cathay's shares are trading near the lowest in a decade. BLOOMBERG

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Inheritance Tax and Succession Planning

There are countless reasons why it can be tempting not to think about inheritance tax and to consider it a problem for another day. Living far from the UK and hopefully being in good health, can mean that we are more focused on growing our wealth, rather than planning to protect it on death. Find out how you can plan ahead at this seminar. This session will cover a number of key considerations including:

- Implications of your Domicile if you decide to retire overseas.
- Implications of your Domicile if you decide to return to the UK.
- An overview of the UK Inheritance Tax regime.
- Inheritance Tax reliefs and possible planning solutions.
- Use of Trusts for succession planning.

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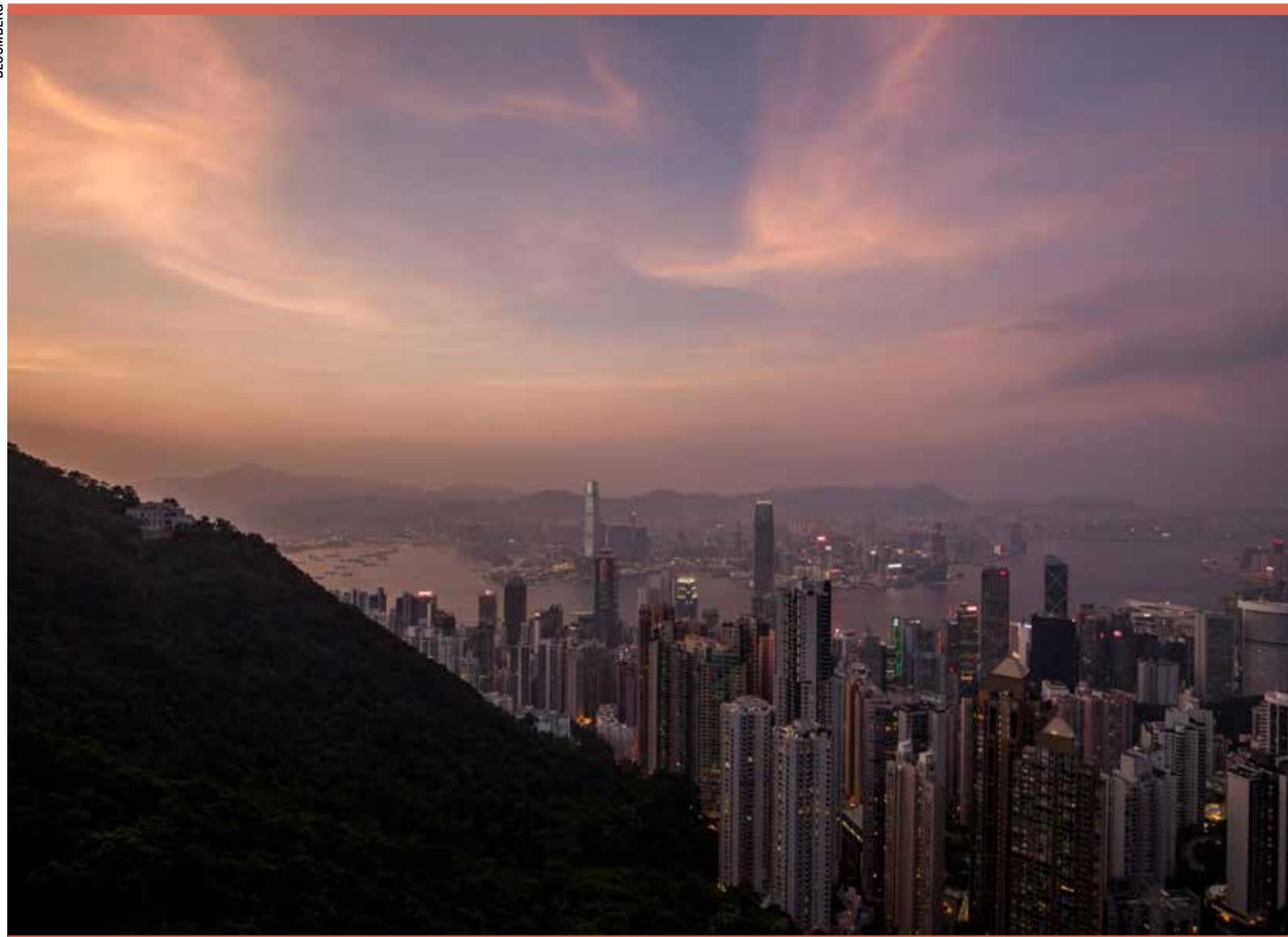
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IMF advises Hong Kong should boost spending to save economy

THE International Monetary Fund urged Hong Kong's government to boost spending to support the territory's convulsing economy, citing a range of risks from trade tensions to political unrest.

Greater fiscal support would help bolster growth while maintaining longer-term sustainability, the fund said yesterday in its latest regular review of the economy, known as an Article IV Consultation.

"Government spending should be increased significantly to

cope with the cyclical downturn and address structural challenges of insufficient housing supply and high income inequality," the IMF said. "If growth falters more than expected, the authorities should provide more near-term fiscal support."

The IMF projects Hong Kong's economy will contract by 1.2% this year before gradually recovering to 1% growth in 2020. Gross domestic product shrank sharply in the third quarter as the economy sustained hard hits from both external and domestic shocks.

Officials said deterioration of the socio-political situation and delays in tackling housing and inequality issues could further weaken the economy and reduce the city's competitiveness in the long term.

Another stimulus in the current fiscal year aimed at households and smaller enterprises is needed, the IMF said.

"Additional fiscal spending of about 2.5 percentage points of GDP over two years, that is significantly front-loaded to the current fiscal year, would help those severely affected by the cyclical

downturn," the IMF said. With low tax rates, such support could be better delivered by "targeted spending" for vulnerable households through rent relief and subsidies for low-income students, it said.

The Hong Kong government announced further stimulus measures worth around HKD4 billion (\$511 million) yesterday, aiming to shore up businesses suffering from almost six months of political unrest.

A list of nine new measures included subsidies for water and sewer bills as well as waivers on

property tax rates for businesses. Individuals and companies also may apply to pay profits and salaries tax in installments, Financial Secretary Paul Chan said at a news conference yesterday alongside other members of the administration.

Stimulus measures announced since June amount to about HKD25 billion, Chan said, reiterating that the government expects to post a budget shortfall this fiscal year.

Hong Kong's business outlook fell to a near record low in November, according to IHS Markit, as businesses remain under pressure after almost half a year of unrest on the city's streets and export weakness amid the U.S.-China trade war.

The Securities and Futures Commission said earlier it will waive annual licensing fees for the 2020-2021 financial year to relieve regulatory cost burdens on the industry amid a challenging market environment. The initiative will cost about HKD117.5 million in foregone revenue, in addition to the 50% waiver announced earlier this year.

Previous stimulus measures include a HKD19 billion (\$2.4 billion) package in August. In October, Lam added another HKD2 billion in economic support and announced a raft of new policies, including loosened mortgage rules, compulsory land purchases for housing, cash for students and increased subsidies for low-income families.

October retail sales contracted 24.3% by value from a year earlier, the fourth month of double-digit declines. On Monday, the financial secretary told lawmakers that he expected the first fiscal-year budget deficit since the early 2000s, and said that the turmoil has dragged down economic growth by some 2 percentage points this year.

Protesters and police again clashed in the former British colony - a special administrative region of China since 1997 - last weekend, following a lull in violence surrounding local elections in which pro-democracy candidates secured a landslide win.

MDT/BLOOMBERG

Survey shows HK economy on course for weakest quarter in 21 years

A private survey showed a Hong Kong economy is on course for the weakest quarter in 21 years in the fourth quarter of 2019.

The average reading of Hong Kong's Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI) for October and November combined stood at 38.9, IHS Markit said yesterday

in a report, stressing that the level pointed to the weakest quarterly economic performance since the London-based consulting firm started the survey on the financial hub in 1998. PMI fell to 38.5 in November from 39.3 in October, signaling the worst deterioration in the health

of the private sector since April 2003.

Bernard Aw, the principal economist at IHS Markit, said business activity shrank at the steepest rate on record amid the escalating social unrest and predicted a GDP fall of 5 percent in the fourth quarter unless there is a

dramatic recovery in December.

"November PMI data indicated that Hong Kong's private sector suffered its worst downturn since the 2003 SARS crisis, with the latest survey indicators painting a picture of gloom for the Special Administrative Region," Aw said.

In a breakdown of the survey, new sales registered the steepest decline for 11 years as new orders from the Chinese mainland shrank for a

19th straight month, and employment fell amid a further sharp decline in backlogs of work while firms continued to make deep cuts to input purchases and inventories.

Business confidence remained close to the record low. Survey respondents were pes-

simistic about the business outlook in the year ahead as the unrest was still likely to disrupt the functioning of businesses.

PMI is a composite single-figure indicator of economic performance derived from indicators for new orders, output, employment, suppliers' delivery times and stocks of purchases. Figures greater than 50 indicate overall improvement of the economy. XINHUA



Jack Ma, former chairman of Alibaba, on screens during the company's listing ceremony in Hong Kong last month

ALIBABA'S HK RALLY IS AT RISK FROM THREE MISCONCEPTIONS

LULU YILUN CHEN

ALIBABA Group Holding Ltd.'s landmark \$11 billion share sale and listing in Hong Kong on Nov. 26 was galvanized by expectations the Chinese e-commerce giant will attract a vast pool of capital from its home country. But some investors caution against unrealistic expectations, especially by mainland investors, and highlight certain restrictions that still govern - and potentially curtail - trading activity in Alibaba's Hong Kong shares.

The company's sheer size and the unprecedented nature of its secondary listing (the primary listing is still in New York) and unique management structure present challenges for investors hoping to gauge everything from Alibaba's inclusion in indexes - crucial because they direct the flow of capital

from tracker funds - to its listing status.

Here's what we know.

WILL ALIBABA GET ADDED TO THE HANG SENG INDEX?

Not right now. Alibaba will be added to Hang Seng Composite Index on Dec. 9, but it isn't qualified to join the benchmark Hang Seng Index or the Hang Seng China Enterprise Index because they comprise only primary listings and corporations without so-called weighted voting rights (WVR).

Membership of the 50-member Hang Seng is coveted by corporations because it could trigger billions of dollars of inflows from funds tracking the 50-year-old gauge. Hang Seng Indexes Co. plans a consultation in the first quarter to discuss issues including whether firms with weighted voting rights, like Alibaba, should be eligible for the HSI.

Any conclusions should be pu-

blished by May, Daniel Wong, its head of research and analytics, said in a statement. Even if the index compiler decides to overhaul its rules, the required process means it may not be until late 2020 before Alibaba could join the major Hang Seng benchmarks.

Representatives for HKEx and Alibaba declined to comment.

WILL ALIBABA BE INCLUDED IN THE STOCK CONNECT PROGRAM?

Maybe, but a lot hinges on policy makers. China doesn't spell out criteria or qualifications for joining the program, which allows mainland investors to buy stocks listed in Hong Kong. Unlike the HSI, the program isn't limited to primary listings. It does require review by the China Securities Regulatory Commission, the stock market watchdog.

The first companies in stock connect with weighted voting ri-

ghts were Meituan Dianping and Xiaomi Corp., which mainland investors got access to in late October through the program. That's after similarly structured Chinese firms started listing in July on Shanghai's new tech-focused Star board. Many investors expect Beijing to ultimately allow Alibaba's Hong Kong shares to trade through the stock link with the city as well.

But it may not necessarily be in China's best interest to do so. That's because other U.S.-listed Chinese firms - among the country's largest corporations, from JD.com Inc. to Baidu Inc. - may be encouraged to follow in Alibaba's footsteps and conduct their own secondary listings in Hong Kong, bypassing the Shanghai or Shenzhen bourses. That may run counter to Beijing's longstanding ambitions of developing healthy, vibrant mainland exchanges, particularly as unrest grips Hong Kong.

CAN ALIBABA CHANGE ITS PRIMARY LISTING TO HONG KONG?

It's possible - thereby attracting investors with a preference for main listings, and at the same time scoring brownie points with some in Beijing who could view that as supporting China's policy ambitions. Alibaba was given the green light to list in Hong Kong based on a new "Secondary Listing" rule, or Chapter 19C. It allows companies to conduct follow-on share offerings without complying with more stringent rules laid down by Hong Kong Exchanges & Clearing Ltd. governing first-time listees.

Alibaba may enjoy special status in having more freedom to comply with Hong Kong listing requirements. Under rules laid out in a consultation paper in April last year, Chinese firms that went public before Dec. 15, 2017 don't need to comply with "WVR" safeguards if they later switch their primary listing to Hong Kong. Alibaba, which debuted in New York in 2014, said in its Hong Kong listing prospectus it's a "WVR" company similar to Meituan and Xiaomi.

Meanwhile, Alibaba employs a fairly unique structure in which a group of partners have the right to nominate a majority of the firm's board - exerting outsized influence on Alibaba's direction.

In addition, Hong Kong listing rules say if trading volume there exceeds 55% of global turnover over an entire fiscal year, the stock has to adopt primary listing status in Hong Kong. HKEx gives such Chinese companies a year to comply. But with Hong Kong's stock registration office listing just 23% of outstanding Alibaba shares as of Nov. 28, a majority of trading volume occurring there may be a tall order. BLOOMBERG

CORPORATE BITS

Wynn Care co-launches online job seeker platform



Wynn Care has cooperated with the Women's General Association of Macau and the local online job search and recruitment portal, Hello-jobs.com, to launch the first online, flexible work-matching platform, called 'WeCare-Happy-Jobs'.

A launch ceremony was also held today at Wynn Palace, with the online platform marking the first step in introducing a flexib-

le work market in Macau, providing enhanced flexibility for companies and job seekers in order to realize the potential of labor in the market and promote social enhancement.

Tapping into the human resource matching technology of Hello-jobs.com, 'WeCare-Happy-Jobs' provides flexible work opportunities such as contract, part-time and freelancing jobs. It also provides

information on the latest job trends, relevant news, various trainings, and sharing by flexible workers on their own job experiences.

For employers, 'WeCare-Happy-Jobs' provides companies with a platform to find job seekers, enabling them to fill existing labor vacancies with flexible workers.

"The concept of this project is people, family and love-oriented," said Linda Chen, Vice Chairman and Executive Director of Wynn Macau. "Deeply rooted in Macau, Wynn Care has actively promoted localization in line with its eight directions. We hope to have a positive influence on the community by working with all sectors in society to chart new waters, thereby building mutually beneficial partnerships to ensure sustainable development."

MGM kickstarts festive season with dining offers



MGM is kickstarting this upcoming holiday season with a set of dining offers. From now to December 22, all restaurants in both MGM Macau and MGM Cotai will offer a 20% discount for all Macau residents in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the establish-

ment of the Macau SAR.

On top of that, all guests with a phone number, M life or GLC membership card number that contains "20" may enjoy a complimentary dessert at selected MGM restaurants, and all are welcome to savor a glass of selected house wine at Aux

Beaux Arts, ABA Bar or Grill 58 for just MOP20 during the promotion period.

Meanwhile, on both days of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, restaurants of MGM will offer decadent, tailor-made feasts.

Grill 58 is serving a dinner menu that is well curated with classics like "turkey, brussels sprouts and caramelized parsnips," and a refreshing variety of seafood dishes. Aux Beaux Arts serves a Christmas set dinner, where festive favorites such as "foie gras terrine" and "capon ballotine" are served under the cozy French brasserie atmosphere.

Finally, for those who crave for a twist on classic festive indulgence, Aj's Christmas lunch and dinner experience offers the exotic and bold flavors of Nikkei cuisine.

Beijing and Washington clash over Xinjiang, Hong Kong bills

YANAN WANG
& DAKE KANG, BEIJING

ALREADY strained relations between China and the United States were further muddied after U.S. Congress overwhelmingly approved a bill targeting Beijing's mass crackdown on ethnic Muslim minorities yesterday, less than one week after President Donald Trump signed separate human rights legislation on Hong Kong.

China's ruling Communist Party has long regarded Hong Kong and the far west Xinjiang region as crucial areas for asserting territorial sovereignty, and it has responded with fury to what it considers foreign meddling.

"Xinjiang is China's Xinjiang," said a statement from China's National Ethnic Affairs Commission, echoing another government mantra: "Hong Kong is China's Hong Kong."

Tensions over the recently passed U.S. bills have cast doubt over the potential for a trade deal between the two countries, which have been embroiled in a 16-month tariff war. Trump said this week that he has "no deadline" for striking an agreement and that he may wait until after next year's presidential election.

The Uighur Human Rights Policy Act denounces the detention of an estimated 1 million Uighurs, Kazakhs and others in Xinjiang, home to the predominantly Muslim minority groups. It would

AP PHOTO



require the State Department to evaluate whether Chinese officials would meet the criteria for sanctions for their roles in enacting oppressive policies.

The bill "disregards the facts and mixes up black and white," said the Foreign Affairs Commission of China's legislature in one among a slew of strongly worded rebukes from government departments.

"It is regrettable that U.S. Congress has not only turned a blind eye to Xinjiang's efforts to combat terrorism and protect human rights in accordance with laws and regulations, but also to Xinjiang's current economic development, social stability, national unity and religious harmony," the commission said.

Former detainees and their family members have told The

Associated Press that they were arbitrarily held in heavily secured, prison-like camps where they were pressured to renounce their faith and express gratitude to the ruling Communist Party. A recent leak of

Tensions over the recently passed US bills have cast doubt over the potential for a trade deal between the two countries

classified Chinese government documents revealed a blueprint for rewiring the thoughts of ethnic minorities who had not committed any crimes.

Beijing says the measures are necessary to combat terrorism and eradicate religious extremism,

calling the facilities "vocational training centers" for those who lack employable skills.

"The U.S. bill smears our efforts in counterterrorism and de-radicalization, which only reveals America's double standards on counterterrorism and further exposes to the Chinese people its hypocrisy and malicious intentions," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying.

China has repeatedly criticized the U.S. for interfering in its affairs, most recently accusing Washington of being a "black hand" that has orchestrated riots in Hong Kong.

After Trump signed bills mandating sanctions on Chinese and Hong Kong officials, an annual review of Hong Kong's favorable

trade status and a ban on exporting nonlethal munitions to Hong Kong police, China retaliated Monday by suspending U.S. military ship and aircraft visits to Hong Kong.

It also said it would sanction a number of groups, including Human Rights Watch and the National Endowment for Democracy, that have "performed badly" in regard to the unrest in Hong Kong.

A former British colony, Hong Kong was returned to China in 1997 under the framework of "one country, two systems," which promises the city certain democratic rights not afforded to the mainland. The arrests of Hong Kong booksellers and democracy activists in recent years, however, have stoked fears among some residents that the central government is chipping away at their freedoms.

Uighur and Kazakh activists have expressed solidarity with the pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong, praising it for resisting the Chinese government. Meanwhile, some Hong Kong protesters have pointed to suppression in Xinjiang as an example of what they fear will ultimately befall their city.

"China will harvest your home like Xinjiang — BE AWARE OR BE NEXT," read one piece of graffiti at Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the site of a dayslong occupation by protesters. Elsewhere in the city, words scrawled by a public street said: "Free HK, Free the Uighur too!"

"The same enemy of both people, the (Chinese Communist Party), and its threat to humanity, brought us together," Tahir Imin, a Washington-based Uighur activist, said of the Hong Kong protests. "With the support of the free world, the two peoples need to continue their fight and solidarity until the end." AP

Chinese foreign minister arrives in South Korea for talks

CHINESE Foreign Minister Wang Yi arrived in South Korea yesterday for his first visit in four years amid efforts to patch up relations damaged by Seoul's decision to host a U.S. anti-missile system that Beijing perceives as a security threat.

Meeting South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha in Seoul, Wang described the countries as "close neighbors" that should strengthen cooperation in the face of fast-moving regional politics.

In what appeared to be a jab at the Trump administration, which has been locked in a tense trade dispute with China, Wang asserted that "unilateralism" is currently the biggest threat

AP PHOTO



Protesters stage a rally to oppose a visit by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in front of the Foreign Ministry in Seoul yesterday

to world peace and stability and called for Seoul and Beijing to jointly uphold "multilateralism" and free trade.

Kang said Wang's visit provides an opportunity to hold discussions on impro-

ving "weak" areas in bilateral relations and exchange views on denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula and stabilizing peace.

Upon his arrival at Incheon International Airport, Wang told reporters

it was unclear whether Washington and Beijing could strike a trade deal by the end of the year and said negotiations should be based on "mutual respect and equality."

Wang is scheduled to

meet South Korean President Moon Jae-in today.

His visit comes after years of tensions over the U.S. Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, system placed in southern South Korea and amid concerns that a U.S.-led diplomatic push to resolve a nuclear standoff with North Korea is beginning to fall apart.

There's also uneasiness over the U.S.-China trade war, which has hurt South Korea's export-dependent economy and included U.S. demands that South Korean companies stop using equipment from Chinese technology giant Huawei based on security concerns.

Wang and South Korean officials are likely to discuss

details of a planned trilateral summit between Seoul, Beijing and Tokyo in China later this month. There could also be discussions about diplomacy with North Korea and a possible visit to South Korea by Chinese President Xi Jinping next year.

Wang last visited South Korea in 2015, a year before relations soured over Seoul's decision to deploy THAAD, which China claimed could be reconfigured to peer deep into its territory. South Korea has said China retaliated by limiting Chinese tour group visits to South Korea, whose economy is increasingly dependent on Chinese tourism, and demand for its industrial products. AP

China's mutant pigs could help save nation

INSIDE a fortress-like megafarm on the outskirts of Beijing, dozens of pink-and-black pigs forage and snooze, unfazed by the chilly spring air. These experimentally bred hogs are fortified with a gene for regulating heat, buffering them against northern China's hypothermia-inducing winters.

The gene that researcher Jian-guo Zhao inserted into the pigs' DNA is among dozens of examples of genetic engineering underway in China—and in rival laboratories across the world—to create super pigs. For years, the quest was for better-tasting, stronger, and faster-growing swine. Now, in the wake of a devastating global outbreak of African swine fever, the more crucial need is to safeguard food security, and keep hogs alive.

"The most burning question for scientists is how to make the pig more healthy," says Zhao, 45, who heads a 20-strong group of researchers and technicians at the state-run Chinese Academy of Sciences' Institute of Zoology in Beijing, where he's become a superstar in the world of swine genomics.

China's ambitions, though, extend well beyond farm animals. In dozens of labs across the country, scientists are racing researchers in the U.S. and Europe to develop superior lines of food and fiber crops, while others are pushing the boundaries of medical science—sometimes facing criticism—by editing the human genome to correct disease-causing mutations or susceptibility to infections like HIV.

It's a biotechnology arms race happening against the backdrop of a disruptive trade war with the U.S., a rapidly aging population, and diminishing resources to feed China's 1.4 billion people. Soaring pork prices prompted the State Council, China's cabinet, in September to call for the greater use of science and technology, among other measures, to boost production of the country's staple meat.

China's investment in research and development has already catapulted the world's most populous nation from relative obscurity in biomedical science to behemoth in less than two decades.

China outspends every other country barring the U.S. on research and development—\$445 billion in 2017. Chinese firms have also stepped up acquisitions of foreign biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies, with \$25.4 billion in deals since the start of 2014, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

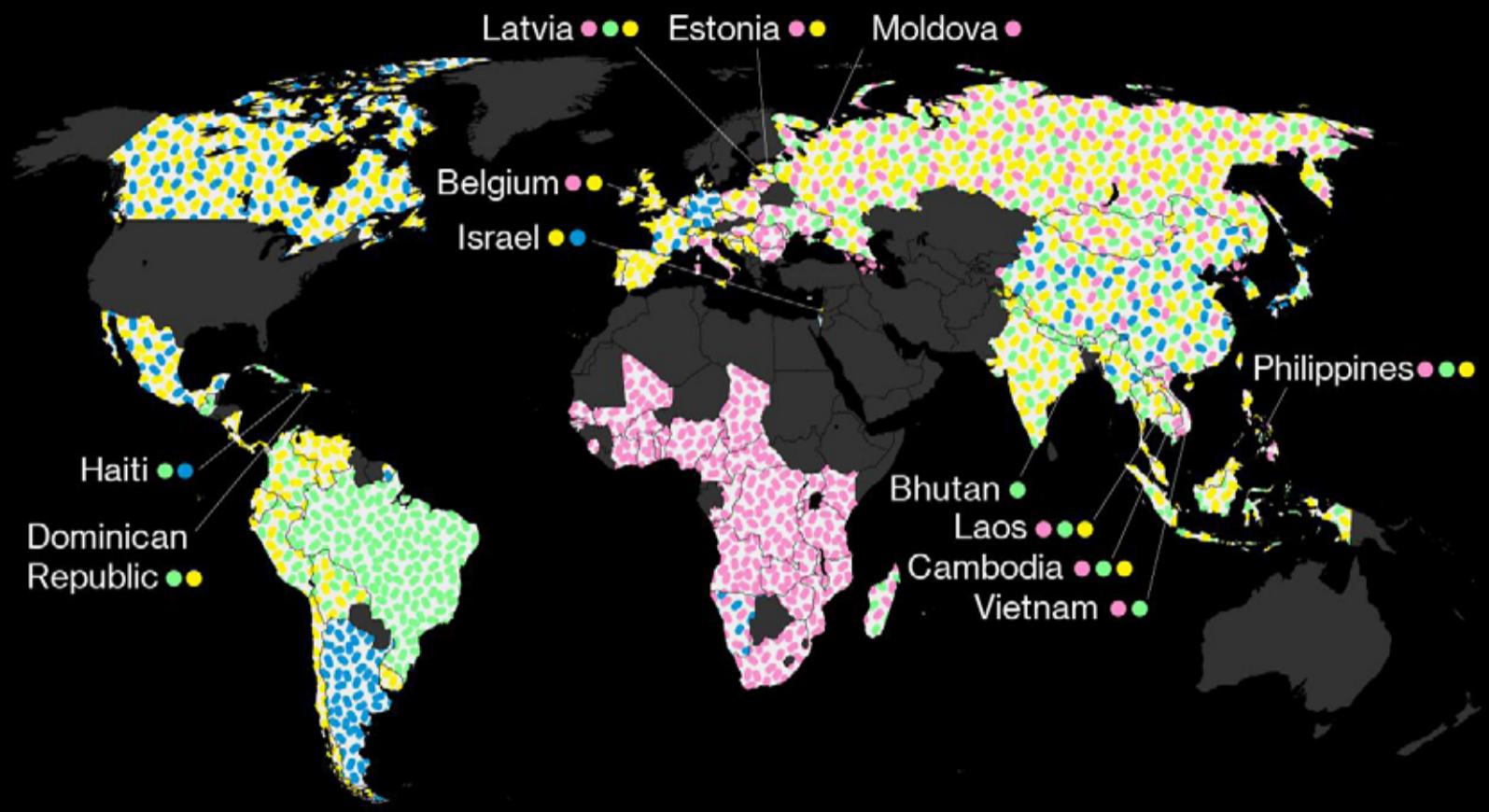
But teams in the U.S. and Europe currently have a critical edge, including something Chi-

BLOOMBERG

Killing Pigs

Where disease outbreaks have occurred since 2014

- African Swine Fever
- Classical Swine Fever
- Transmissible Gastroenteritis
- Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome



na desperately needs: protection from major pig-killing diseases.

China has sought to redress that by sending abroad promising scientists, like Zhao, to learn from the world's best, then bringing them home and furnishing them with industrial-scale resources. The campus that houses Zhao's gene-edited pigs is ring-fenced by three layers of security checkpoints and can accommodate 4,000 hogs.

"The powerhouse these days is China," said Simon Lillico, 47, a scientist at the University of Edinburgh's historic Roslin Institute, where Dolly the sheep became the first mammal cloned from an adult cell in 1996. "They are spending so much money and throwing so much resource at science that we can't even come close to competing with the amount of money that they are investing in this sort of science, so we need to be smart about what we do."

China's market for biologic drugs and agricultural biotechnology remains a fraction of the U.S.'s estimated \$228 billion industry, but the upsurge in Chinese investment is already causing anxiety in Washington. In July, the U.S.-China Economic and Se-

curity Review Commission pledged to investigate the potential risks of America's growing reliance on Chinese biotechnology and medicines.

Of concern "is the potential for the U.S. to become dependent

his doctorate in animal genetics and breeding from an agricultural university in Harbin in 2003, he worked for a few years as an assistant researcher at a medical genetics institute in Shanghai.

Techniques for modifying genomes were slow at the time, he recalls. To expedite his research, he headed to the University of New Orleans a few months after Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005 to train under reproductive physiologist Barry Bavister. Decades earlier, work by Bavister had led to the first successful in vitro fertilization of a rhesus monkey, paving the way for the world's first test-tube baby in 1978.

After that, Zhao spent three years at the University of Missouri in a lab run by Randall Prather, another swine geneticist. Prather, 60, helped Zhao refine his gene-editing skills, which the Chinese scientist then used after he returned home in 2010 as a principal investigator with the Institute of Zoology's State Key Laboratory of Stem Cell and Reproductive Biology in Beijing.

"He's been a friend, and colleague—and competition," said Prather, a 30-year animal-science veteran and head of the National

Swine Resource and Research Center in Columbia, Missouri. "He's competing to be the first to make genetic modifications in pigs and beat us. And I'm trying to beat him." Prather and Zhao say the rivalry is friendly.

Zhao says he started using Crispr after needed materials were donated to labs in China and other nations by a team led by Feng Zhang, a Chinese-American biochemist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who pioneered development of the genome-editing tool.

The technique put Zhao's research into hyperdrive. In 2016, he led the Chinese team that demonstrated for the first time it was possible to use Crispr to knock out three pig genes in one step, speeding the development of animals that can serve as models for studying human diseases.

The following year, Zhao and colleagues showed they could make pigs less susceptible to cold weather by using Crispr to endow the animals with the so-called UCP1 gene, which is found in most mammals and helps them form heat-producing brown fat. The gene-altered porkers also have almost 5 percent less white fat, making their meat leaner, the scientists found.

Chinese researchers have used the gene-editing tool to develop mildew-resistant wheat, mus-

China's market for biologic drugs and agricultural biotechnology remains a fraction of the US's but the upsurge in Chinese investment is causing anxiety in Washington

on China for important pharmaceuticals or other health-care technologies," said Mark Kazmierczak, a molecular biologist with consulting firm Gryphon Scientific who wrote a report on the industry for the U.S. security review panel. "China's access to personal information of U.S. citizens, including DNA sequence data, also poses privacy concerns."

Zhao, who grew up in rural Shandong province, embodies the zeal with which China is pursuing genomics, the science of analyzing an organism's complete DNA sequence. After receiving

from pork apocalypse

BLOOMBERG



clier police dogs and woollier goats. More controversially, a Chinese scientist used the tool to genetically alter twin babies in an effort to make them resistant to HIV, igniting a global outcry. China has embraced the technique like no other nation, publishing twice as many Crispr-related agricultural papers as the second-place country, the U.S., according to the journal Science.

It's also spawned the world's largest commercial genetic sequencer, Shenzhen-based BGI Group, and China's scientists are

behind a string of world-first gene-tinkering experiments.

In pigs alone, Chinese researchers have successfully made 40 different genetic modifications with Crispr, Science reported in July. Zhao has been among those leading the way.

"He's doing great stuff," Prather told the journal. "I've trained all my competition over there, and I've trained them well."

Livestock modified by Crispr may take longer to develop and face significant regulatory hurdles. Still, "whoever can capitali-

ze on this technology will have a distinct economic advantage as the technology will likely enable large gains in productivity," said Kazmierczak, the Gryphon molecular biologist.

Five thousand miles away from Beijing, at Scotland's Roslin Institute, scientists have been working on genetically edited animals for more than two decades. Lillico and colleagues, based at Midlothian, on the outskirts

of Edinburgh, reported in 2016 pigs that could potentially resist African swine fever. The

"The most burning question for scientists is how to make the pig more healthy."

JIANGUO ZHAO

work was done by manipulating a gene called RELA in farm-bred pigs to resemble one in warthogs that's associated with their ability to survive infection.

There's no treatment or vaccine for the virus, which has spread from Africa to Europe and now Asia, where it's led to the deaths and destruction of about a quarter of the planet's hogs. Creating pigs that can naturally thwart the disease would represent the holy grail of porcine genetic engineering.

Results from a test that would show whether the gene-edited pigs resist infection from the hemorrhagic virus could be published next year, Lillico said. He referred further questions to Genus Plc, one of the world's largest livestock genetics companies, which co-funded the study with a British government agency. Genus did not re-

pond to requests for comment.

Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome, also known as PRRS or blue ear disease, killed 400,000 pigs in China in 2006, and infected millions. The virus, which leads to stillborn piglets and lung infections, infects swine by targeting a protein on the surface of white blood cells called CD163. Prather and colleague showed in 2015 that by editing the gene that makes the CD163 protein, they were able to produce pigs resistant to the virus. Further research demonstrated that the resistance can be inherited by offspring of gene-altered sows.

It was a game changer for the pork industry, which China dominates with a market worth about \$118 billion a year that represents about half of global demand. While genetically modified food-animals are yet to be approved for sale there, Genus is betting that barrier will eventually be lifted.

The gene-edited hogs developed by Prather were licensed to Genus's pig improvement unit. It announced a pact in May with a breeder that's part-owned by the Beijing municipal government to research, develop and secure regulatory approval for virus-resistant pigs in China. Genus said it expects to earn as much as \$160 million and additional royalties if that happens.

Chinese researchers are racing to close the gap. At Jilin University, located in the northeastern province bordering North Korea, scientists last year developed gene-edited pigs that are protected from classical swine fever virus. The Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences in Beijing is starting trials of an African swine fever vaccine.

Zhao said he and other Chinese scientists are lobbying the government to reconsider its policies on gene-edited animals, starting by distinguishing between animals with and without genes from non-pig organisms. Still, he doubts that his leaner pigs will be consumed as bacon anytime soon.

"Right now in China, it's so rigid," Zhao said. "It will maybe take several years."

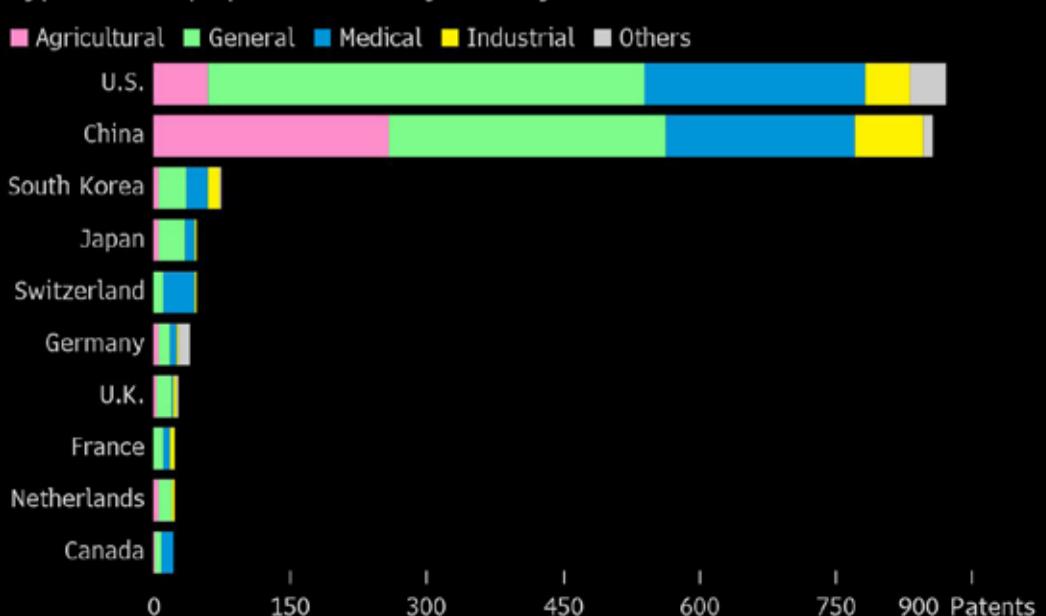
But China doesn't have years to make up a disease-induced, 10 million-ton shortfall in pork supply that's sent prices to a record.

It's possible there are hogs in the wild, or even on commercial farms, that are naturally resistant to certain viruses, said Christine Tait-Burkard, a cellular biologist at Roslin.

But finding that "one-in-a-million pig" is difficult because nobody tests for them, she said. "You either find a mutant, or make one yourself." BLOOMBERG

U.S., China Lead Race to Patent Gene Innovations

Types of Crispr patents held by country as of 2017



AP EXCLUSIVE

629 PAKISTANI GIRLS SOLD AS BRIDES TO CHINA

KATHY GANNON, LAHORE

PAGE after page, the names stack up: 629 girls and women from across Pakistan who were sold as brides to Chinese men and taken to China. The list, obtained by The Associated Press, was compiled by Pakistani investigators determined to break up trafficking networks exploiting the country's poor and vulnerable.

The list gives the most concrete figure yet for the number of women caught up in the trafficking schemes since 2018.

But since the time it was put together in June, investigators' aggressive drive against the networks has largely ground to a halt. Officials with knowledge of the investigations say that is because of pressure from government officials fearful of hurting Pakistan's lucrative ties to Beijing.

The biggest case against traffickers has fallen apart. In October, a court in Faisalabad acquitted 31 Chinese nationals charged in connection with trafficking. Several of the women who had initially been interviewed by police

AP PHOTO



In this May file photo, detained Chinese nationals, accused of involvement in the trafficking gang

refused to testify because they were either threatened or bribed into silence, according to a court official and a police investigator familiar with the case. The two spoke on condition of anonymity because they feared retribution for speaking out.

At the same time, the government has sought to curtail investigations, putting "immense pressure" on officials from the Federal Investigation Agency pursuing trafficking networks, said Saleem

Iqbal, a Christian activist who has helped parents rescue several young girls from China and prevented others from being sent there.

"Some [FIA officials] were even transferred," Iqbal said in an interview. "When we talk to Pakistani rulers, they don't pay any attention."

Asked about the complaints, Pakistan's interior and foreign ministries refused to comment.

Several senior officials familiar

with the events said investigations into trafficking have slowed, the investigators are frustrated, and Pakistani media have been pushed to curb their reporting on trafficking. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they feared reprisals.

"No one is doing anything to help these girls," one of the officials said. "The whole racket is continuing, and it is growing. Why? Because they know they can get away with it. The authorities

won't follow through, everyone is being pressured to not investigate. Trafficking is increasing now."

He said he was speaking out "because I have to live with myself. Where is our humanity?"

China's Foreign Ministry said it was unaware of the list.

"The two governments of China and Pakistan support the formation of happy families between their people on a voluntary basis in keeping with laws and regulations, while at the same time having zero tolerance for and resolutely fighting against any person engaging in illegal cross-border marriage behavior," the ministry said in a statement faxed Monday to AP's Beijing bureau.

An AP investigation earlier this year revealed how Pakistan's Christian minority has become a new target of brokers who pay impoverished parents to marry off their daughters, some of them teenagers, to Chinese husbands who return with them to their homeland. Many of the brides are then isolated and abused or forced into prostitution in China, often contacting home and pleading to be brought back. AP

AD

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UK

Trump joins NATO leaders as impeachment inquiry resumes

ZEKE MILLER
& AAMER MADHANI

PRÉSIDENT Donald Trump is huddling with NATO leaders as House Democrats prepare to resume their impeachment inquiry probing whether he abused his presidential authority by urging a foreign leader to open an investigation of his political rival.

Trump is set to meet early today [Macau time] with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte and Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen on the sidelines of the NATO leaders' meeting.

More significantly, Trump will face a striking split-screen moment toward the end of the NATO conference, when he addresses the news media soon after Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., gavels to order the House Judiciary Committee's first hearing in the impeachment inquiry.

The hearing will be on the constitutional grounds for presidential impeachment.

"The impeachment is going nowhere," Trump insisted yesterday as he sat down with NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg. "It is a waste of time. They're wasting their time. And it's a disgrace. It's a disgrace to our country."

Trump said he remains unconcerned about the unfolding inquiry in Washington with Democrats facing a mountainous climb to remove him from office. While Democrats hold the majority in the House, Republicans control the Senate and not one Republican lawmaker in the upper chamber has signaled support for kicking Trump out of office. An impeachment conviction in the Senate requires 67 votes out of 100.

Democrats argue that Trump acted improperly when he pressed Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskiy to open an investigation of former Vice President Joe Biden and his son's dealings in the eastern European nation. The vice president's son, Hunter Biden, sat on the board of a Ukrainian energy company.

The U.S. president bantered with reporters for more than two hours, sitting casually in a salon of Winfield House, the manicured estate of the U.S. ambassador to the United Kingdom, where he also met with fellow NATO leaders.

AP PHOTO



President Donald Trump meets French President Emmanuel Macron at Winfield House, near London

The lengthy exchanges appeared to be the topic of an unguarded conversation recorded during a reception at Buckingham Palace. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was heard telling leaders, French President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, that "he was late because he takes a 40-minute press conference off the top." Trudeau also said: "You just watched his team's jaws drop to the floor." Trudeau and Trump met earlier.

Trump used those unscheduled press exchanges to slam the ongoing Democratic-led impeachment inquiry as a "hoax" and professed to be unconcerned about declines in the stock market spurred by his remark that a trade deal with China might not materialize until after the 2020 election.

Trump later paid a call on Prince Charles and his wife, Camilla, and attended a NATO welcome reception at Buckingham Palace, before proceeding to an event at the prime minister's residence, No. 10 Downing St. Trump punctuated the day of diplomacy with a fundraiser for his reelection effort that his campaign said brought in \$3 million.

The gathering of NATO leaders follows Trump's frequent criticism of alliance members as falling well short in doing their financial part through the first

three years of his presidency.

After a NATO summit last year, he called for members to devote at least 4% of gross domestic product to military spending and took aim at Merkel, whom he accused of paying Russia "billions of dollars for gas and energy" while failing to meet her nation's commitment to spend at least 2% of GDP on defense.

But at this NATO meeting, Trump — heading toward an election year looking to showcase foreign policy wins — is offering a more optimistic outlook for the alliance's future. To that end, he suggested he deserved much of the credit for progress.

"I don't think frankly before us that NATO was changing at all, and NATO is really changing right now," Trump said as he sat down for a one-on-one talk with Stoltenberg.

White House officials say that before Trump took office just four NATO members had reached the 2% benchmark set in 2014. Now there are nine, and 18 of the 29 are projected to meet the benchmark by 2024. Trump is set to have a working lunch Wednesday with what the White House called the "NATO 2%ers."

Stoltenberg said that Trump does deserve credit for nudging members.

"The reality is that, not least because it has been so clearly conveyed from President Trump that we need fair burden sha-

ring, allies are stepping up," Stoltenberg said.

In his meeting with Trudeau, Trump gently ribbed the premier — his country is spending about 1.3% of GDP on defense — as "slightly delinquent."

"Some are major delinquent," said Trump. He added that he's looking at the possibility of imposing unspecified trade penalties against NATO allies that perpetually fall below benchmarks.

"Some are way below 1 percent and that's unacceptable, and then if something happens we're supposed to protect them and it's not really fair and it never has been fair," he said.

Trump's talks with Macron were tense at times. Before they met on the sidelines of the summit, Trump laced into the French president for what he called "very, very nasty" comments in *The Economist* about NATO's health with Trump leading its most important member.

Macron didn't back down when they appeared later in the day, and he renewed his own criticism of Trump for withdrawing U.S. forces from Syria.

That decision by Trump, made without consulting France or other NATO allies, gave Turkey, another NATO member, a green light to launch operations against Syrian Kurdish forces who had played a key role in the fight to clear a huge swath of Syria of Islamic State militants.

Trump and Macron have had an up-and-down relationship in the nearly three years Trump's been in office.

Macron, who early in Trump's presidency had looked to cultivate a close relationship, hosted Trump in 2017 for Bastille Day celebrations in Paris. Trump reciprocated by honoring Macron last year with the first state visit of a foreign leader during his time in the White House.

As they answered questions from reporters, the new stress was most apparent as they discussed their concerns over Turkey's plan to purchase an anti-aircraft missile system from Russia.

Macron said there is a disconnect in allowing Turkey to buy the system from Russia and also be a NATO member. Trump said he is weighing issuing sanctions against Ankara if it moves forward with plans to buy the weapons.

Ahead of the meeting, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he would oppose a NATO plan to defend the Baltic region if the alliance does not back Turkey in its fight against Kurdish groups it considers terrorists.

"I'm sorry to say we don't have the same definition of terrorism around the table," Macron said in a swipe at Turkey.

Trump showed more deference to Erdogan, saying that Turkey was "very helpful" during the October U.S. commando raid that led to the death of IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi near the Syria-Turkey border.

"We flew over areas that were totally controlled by Turkey and Turkish military," Trump said. "We didn't tell them what we were doing or where we were going. Turkey could not have been nicer, could not have been more supportive."

At another point in their extended comments before the news media, Trump and Macron had a curt exchange about the repatriation of Islamic State fighters who are European citizens and were captured in Syria and Iraq in recent years. Trump has pressed unsuccessfully for European nations to accept fighters captured by U.S. forces.

"Would you like some nice ISIS fighters? I can give them to you," Trump said. "You can take every one you want."

"Let's be serious," Macron responded. "Your No. 1 problem are not the foreign fighters."

Trump retorted, "That's one of the greatest non-answers I've ever heard. And, that's OK."

After such exchanges, however, Trump gave Macron, along with Italy's prime minister, a ride in his armored limo from the reception at Buckingham Palace to the gathering hosted by British Prime Minister Boris Johnson. AP

what's ON

RED DECEMBER - EXHIBITION OF CARLOS MARREIROS

TIME: 10am-9pm

UNTIL: February 13, 2020

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

AFA AUTUMN SALON 2019

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

UNTIL: December 1, 2019

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

Offbeat

'UNICORN PUPPY' WILL STAY WITH MISSOURI RESCUE MISSION

A dog who was dubbed the unicorn puppy because of a tail-like growth between his eyes will remain with the founder of a Missouri rescue group, despite more than 300 offers to adopt him.

The beagle-mix puppy, named Narwhal the Little Magical Furry Unicorn, was rescued in November by Mac's Mission in southeast Missouri. He drew international attention when his picture hit social media, prompting all the adoption offers but also some negative attention, including death threats, said Rochelle Steffen, founder of the Mac's Mission in Jackson.

Those two factors — plus the dog's winning personality — convinced Steffen to reverse an earlier decision to find a new home for Narwhal, she told The Southeast Missourian.

She said her tiny rescue could not properly vet the 300 adoption applicants and she was concerned by "stupid, ugly comments (online) about this sweet little puppy."

People have shown up at the rescue in Jackson because of the dog, prompting security measures and meetings "by appointment only," Steffen said. Narwhal is watched at all times by Steffen and trusted volunteers.

Steffen said she wanted to keep the dog safe and was concerned he could be exploited by someone without his best interests at heart.

"If somebody is going to make money off of him, I would love to see it go toward the rescue, and save thousands more dogs," Steffen said.

People have made "giant" offers to buy him, Steffen said. "But he's not for sale."

And the dog's cute personality made it difficult to consider giving him to someone else, she said.

"It's not just a decision from me," she said. "The whole rescue cannot fathom him leaving. We all fell in love with him."

Mac's Mission is currently involved in a court case involving the sale of a previously adopted dog, which taught Steffen that the organization loses control over an animal's fate once it is adopted. And the mission's former treasurer, Elizabeth Hann, is awaiting trial on charges that she stole \$120,000 from the organization, which specializes in caring for animals with special needs.

"We have had a rough couple of years here," Steffen said of Mac's Mission. "Lots of loss, lots of hurt."

And Mac, the mission's current "spokesdog", turns 9 in January. Steffen said she wasn't sure what was going to happen until Narwhal came along, saying he is "absolutely, exactly what we needed."

She said the dog will be a spokesdog for a "Different is awesome" campaign and the long-term plan is to train him as a therapy dog. For now, Steffen is concentrating on letting him grow, and getting him fully vaccinated and socialized.



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 Condon
 Starring: Helen Mirren, 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



1991 MAXWELL BUSINESS EMPIRE FACES BANKRUPTCY

Administrators have been called in to try to salvage the Maxwell business empire, which is at least £1bn in debt.

At 1100 GMT two sons of the late business tycoon Robert Maxwell, Kevin and Ian, called in administrators from accountants Arthur Andersen as the enormity of their father's financial difficulties emerged.

Mirror Group Newspapers (MGN) today revealed Mr Maxwell, who died a month ago, removed £350m from its pension fund in the weeks before his death apparently without proper authority.

Administrators will take over Headington Investments and Robert Maxwell Group, the senior UK companies at the heart of his business empire.

They head a network of 400 private firms including ACB International, The European Newspaper and The New York Daily News.

Through the two key companies the Maxwells own 51% of MGN. The family also owns 68% of Maxwell Communication Corporation (MCC).

Administrators have three months to prepare a disposal plan for approval by banks and other creditors.

Joint administrator John Talbot said: "We are looking at a strategy where by we maintain the businesses which are good and viable and at the moment we are looking to sell those."

Some analysts predict the Maxwell business empire could be sold off by the spring, saying there is almost no question of a rescue.

Maxwell's private companies could be worth £1bn but the debts total £1.4bn.

MGN is valued at £500m at its suspended share price but in an auction it could fetch much more.

But it has debts of £350m and faces questions about the millions of pounds missing from its pension fund.

The other publicly quoted company, MCC, is worth £227m at its last share price, but like the private companies its debts total £1.4bn.

It was the Swiss Bank which triggered the crisis when it called in the Serious Fraud Office and put a receiver into a subsidiary of Headington Investments.

The bank had discovered the security the bank was owed had been sold - contravening the loan agreement.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Two inspectors from the Department of Trade and Industry were commissioned in 1992 to look into the collapse of the Maxwell business empire.

Its report was delayed as Maxwell's two sons and family adviser Larry Trachtenberg were charged with being involved in a conspiracy to defraud company pensioners, after £440m was taken by their father from his companies' pensions.

All three were later acquitted in 1996 on all counts after an eight month trial.

The DTI inquiry resumed and its report, published in March 2001, blamed Kevin Maxwell for having a "heavy responsibility" for the collapse of his father's business empire.

It also blamed leading City institutions and Robert Maxwell himself.

YOUR STARS**ARIES**

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

If you've been seeking success and finding frustration, today is the day to consider a few new tactics. Look at all the possible ways you could handle this situation.

**TAURUS**

Apr. 20-May. 20

Sometimes the road you're traveling gets shrouded in fog. If that happens today, don't pull over and wait for the weather to clear. Time is not to be wasted, so keep going.

**GEMINI**

May. 21-Jun. 21

Usually the deeper you delve into preliminary research, the more confident you feel in your eventual decisions. But sometimes, if you look too deeply, you will find out things that just confuse you further.

**CANCER**

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

The good news is that your career is about to take a very exciting turn—the bad news is that it might also take up a lot more of your personal time, at least for a while.

**LEO**

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Whatever problems there are around your home can wait a few more days to be resolved—focusing on them too hard right now will only put more pressure on the situation.

**VIRGO**

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Keep a friendly, approachable smile on your face today—you need to encourage some withdrawn folks to bring you the idea or solution you've been waiting for! This person could be your ticket out of that dead-end.

**LIBRA**

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Your engine is all revved up, but there's really no place for you to go today—all projects are moving forward nicely, and the people in your life are doing well.

**SCORPIO**

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

It's all about the finishing touches today. Pay careful attention to grooming in the morning, and make sure you're stepping out the door dressed in the perfect look.

**SAGITTARIUS**

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

The very first step to getting what (or who) you've been wanting is to express it. Saying it out loud makes it real and lets the universe know that you've got some expectations it can help fill.

**CAPRICORN**

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Exercise a little bit of your power today, and you might start to enjoy the autonomy you have! If you say what you mean and ask for what you want, your willful behavior won't ruffle any feathers.

**AQUARIUS**

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Right now, moving through your life without thinking too hard about what you are doing might not be such a bad idea. You are used to thinking things through—and that is certainly wise.

**PISCES**

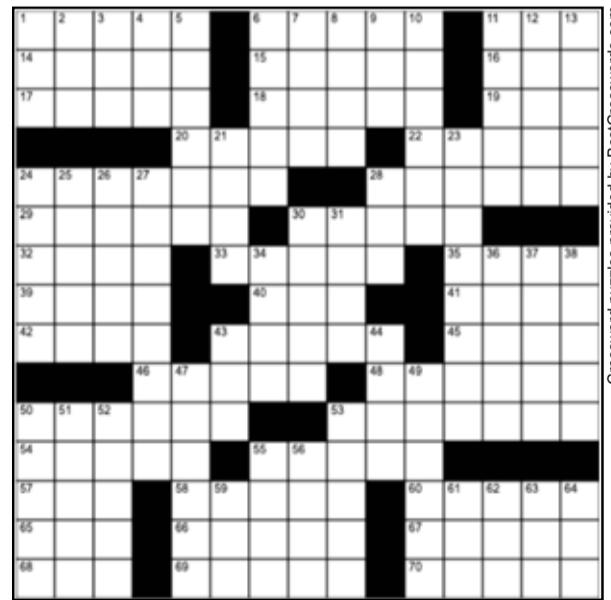
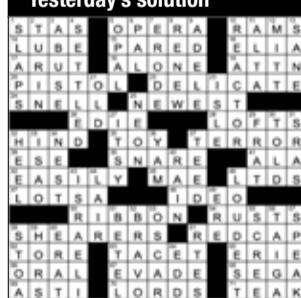
Feb. 19-Mar. 20

It is all well and good for someone to say that they are all about big ideas and helping mankind, but at a certain point they have to stop talking and start acting.

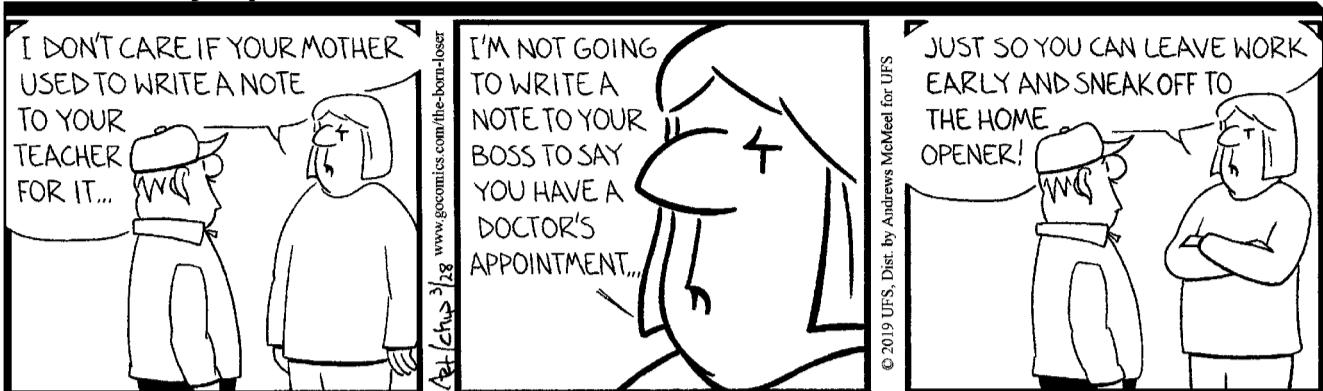
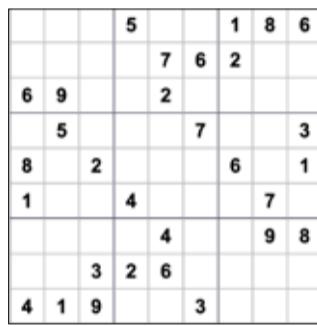
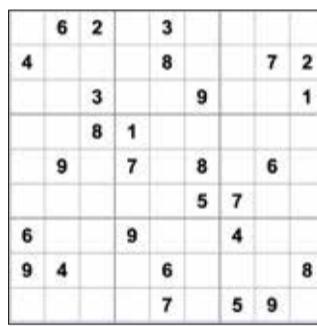
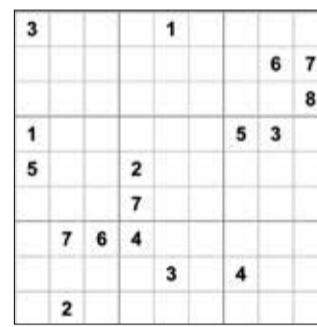
CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Stressed; 6- Brush a horse; 11- Wharton grad; 14- Narrow mountain ridge; 15- Soup implement; 16- Supermodel Carol; 17- Woman's one-piece undergarment; 18- Bellowing; 19- Excessively; 20- Law partner?; 22- Big name in printers; 24- Unemployed person?; 28- Suppose; 29- Like some gas; 30- Clarence's accuser; 32- Great Lake; 33- Exodus commemoration; 35- majeste; 39- Indication; 40- Word in many band names; 41- Gym equipment; 42- Usher's offering; 43- Tale; 45- Currier's partner; 46- Sir _____ Newton was an English mathematician; 48- Ancient Palestinian; 50- Evasive; 53- Felt hat; 54- Nairobi's nation; 55- Track; 57- Leather punch; 58- Fool; 60- Take the honey and run; 65- Some like it hot; 66- Dishwasher cycle; 67- Unit of weight in gemstones; 68- Dreyer's partner in ice cream; 69- Swiftness; 70- Steakhouse order;

DOWN: 1- Make lace; 2- Prior to, to Prior; 3- Actor Beatty; 4- Avg.; 5- Pooh pal; 6- Forest clearing; 7- Uncommon; 8- Skunk's defense; 9- Pay stub?; 10- Least significant; 11- Island in the East China Sea; 12- Plant flower; 13- Observe Yom Kippur; 21- Cincinnati club; 23- King David, as a writer; 24- Like non-oyster months; 25- Causing goose bumps; 26- Coniferous evergreen forest; 27- Pinpoint; 28- Make public; 30- For a specific purpose; 31- _____do-well; 34- Kett of the comics; 36- Gutter site; 37- Dictator's aide; 38- Ruhr city; 43- Express; 44- Abominable snowman; 47- Flight of steps; 49- Choose; 50- Take to the ice; 51- Cut down; 52- Embed; 53- Satisfied; 55- Pitchfork part; 56- Got up; 59- Immerse; 61- Test site; 62- Conquistador's quest; 63- Metal container used for frying; 64- When the French fry;

Yesterday's solution

Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom**SUDOKU****EASY****EASY+****MEDIUM****HARD****WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
Beijing	-4	2	clear
Harbin	-24	-13	clear
Tianjin	-2	4	cloudy
Urumqi	-13	0	clear
Xi'an	-1	12	clear
Lhasa	-5	10	clear
Chengdu	6	13	cloudy
Chongqing	9	13	cloudy
Kunming	2	8	drizzle
Nanjing	1	13	cloudy
Shanghai	6	13	cloudy
Wuhan	2	14	cloudy
Hangzhou	5	14	overcast
Taipei	16	17	moderate rain
Guangzhou	12	17	overcast
Hong Kong	12	17	cloudy

WORLD

Moscow	0	4	drizzle
Frankfurt	-3	3	clear
Paris	-2	4	clear
London	2	8	overcast
New York	-1	4	cloudy

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Fire department 28 572 222

Water Supply – Report 2822 0088

PJ (Open line) 993

Telephone – Report 1000

PJ (Picket) 28 557 775

Electricity – Report 28 339 922

PSP 28 573 333

Macau Daily Times 28 716 081

Customs 28 559 944

S. J. Hospital 28 313 731

Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333

Commission Against

Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300

IAM 28 387 333

Tourism 28 333 000

Airport 59 888 88

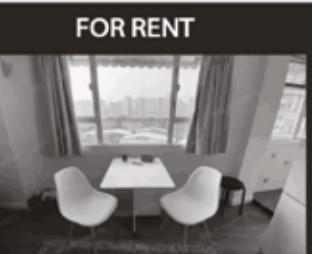


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FOR RENT



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FOR SALE

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

[Macau] Retail space 170 ft² \$3,200,000 (ref: 19096003)

[Macau] Keng Ou office 3 bedrooms 2 bathrooms 2,352 ft² \$17,500,000 (ref: 19096002)

[Taipa] Manhattan 1 car 1,530,000 (ref: 19045003)

FOR RENT

[Taipa] Studio 1 car 400 ft² \$8,500/mth (ref: 19101001)

[Taipa] Apartment 1 car 1,740 ft² \$10,900/mth (ref: 19101006)

[Macau] Keng Ou 3 bedrooms 2 bathrooms 2,352 ft² \$38,000/mth (ref: 19096002)

[Macau] One Grantai car park 1 car \$2,500/mth (ref: 19091005)

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CHARGES AGAINST REMY MA ARE DROPPED

MANHATTAN prosecutors have dropped their case against Remy Ma.

The Grammy-nominated rapper was arrested in May on charges of punching her "Love & Hip Hop New York" castmate Brittney Taylor in the face at a New York City concert venue on April 16.

The rapper's lawyer denied the allegations and said her client was home with her daughter at the time of the alleged attack.

The case was dismissed Monday after prosecutors said conflicting evidence and witness accounts made the case too difficult to prove.

Assistant District Attorney Juan Maldonado says the sole witness who corroborated Taylor's account is no longer cooperating with investigators.

The rapper's real name is Reminisce Smith. She left the courthouse wearing a pink and yellow faux fur coat with a smile on her face.

OBAMAS' PUBLISHER MAKES NEW PLEDGE TO EDUCATION ORGANIZATION



THE publisher of Barack and Michelle Obama has pledged to donate 300,000 children's books to a leading educational organization, adding to the 1 million copies already given.

Penguin Random House announced Tuesday that it had joined with the former president and former first lady in contributing to First Book in the Obama family's name. For every \$3 donated to First Book between now and the end of the year, Random House will give two new books to First Book, up to 300,000 books. First Book distributes books and other resources to schools and programs serving children from low-income communities.

The initial First Book contribution was announced by Penguin Random House upon acquiring memoirs by the Obamas in 2017. Michelle Obama's million-selling "Becoming" came out last year. Barack Obama is currently working on his book about his years in the White House.

"When children have greater access to our books and stories, we, together with President and Mrs. Obama, are helping to shape a literate, educated, and democratic society that will become the next generation of readers and leaders," Penguin Random House CEO Markus Dohle said in a statement.

DRAKE IS SPOTIFY'S MOST-STREAMED ARTIST OF THE DECADE

DRAKE is the king of streaming: the rapper has been named Spotify's most-streamed artist of the decade.

Spotify announced Tuesday that Drake has been streamed 28 billion times in the last 10 years. Ed Sheeran came in second, while Post Malone, Ariana Grande and Eminem round out the Top 5. Sheeran's "Shape of You" was the most-streamed song of the decade.

For 2019, Post Malone is

the top-streamed artist globally. Billie Eilish, Grande, Sheeran and Bad Bunny round out the Top 5. Eilish's debut album — "When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?" — is the year's most-streamed album, while Shawn Mendes and Camila Cabello's "Senorita" tops the list of the most-streamed songs.

"The Joe Budden Podcast with Rory & Mal" is the year's most-streamed podcast on Spotify.



AD



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AP PHOTO



Britain's Anthony Joshua

BOXING

Joshua out to regain aura, belts in rematch

STEVE DOUGLAS

ANTHONY Joshua didn't just lose three world heavyweight titles and an undefeated record when he was beaten by Andy Ruiz Jr. in one of boxing's biggest upsets in a generation.

He lost his aura, his growing sense of invincibility.

So Joshua has had to reinvent himself, strip everything back and, in a sense, start all over.

That began by going back to his roots in Nigeria.

"Because of boxing, I've never had time to go there," Joshua told The Associated Press of his first return in 17 years to the homeland of his parents and where he

briefly went to boarding school at the age of 11. "In Nigeria, the people love you for you, not for what you have."

At the lowest point of his professional career and with people starting to question him for the first time, Joshua needed time to reflect and to have a dose of reality. He visited Makoko, a slum just off mainland Lagos that is largely a floating community of wooden homes on swampland.

Joshua is adored there, and they mobbed their icon.

"It was good to see hope," Joshua recalled. "Anyone that can bring hope to you, they appreciate it and they appreciate my journey so far. That's what I liked. We're on a journey."

Joshua's journey took an unexpected detour with that loss to Ruiz Jr. in June. But it may well be the making of him.

The Briton heads into the rematch in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on Saturday as something of a changed man. More humble, more accepting of vicissitudes of his sport, and eager to learn from his mistakes.

Joshua accepts there were plenty of them before the first fight in Madison Square Garden. He still won't say exactly what went wrong that night in New York, but he acknowledges he "wasn't prepared" for the challenge of Ruiz Jr. — a portly Mexican with a big heart, fast hands and unexpected power. Ruiz Jr., who

stood in as a late replacement after Jarrell Miller failed multiple doping tests, knocked down Joshua four times before the fight was stopped in the seventh round, the defeated champion somewhat dazed and disheveled.

Joshua has ignored some calls to dispense with his long-time trainer, Rob McCracken — the pair go way back, to before Joshua won an Olympic gold medal at the 2012 London Games — but has changed his sparring partners, his routines, and his mentality.

"Last time when I lost, I understood why," Joshua told the AP in a phone interview after arriving in Riyadh. "I took it like a man, I'd say. I took it like a champion should. Because I understood my mistakes. And I've changed them, I've rectified them."

"If anything wasn't to go my way this time, I just have to say the man is better than me. He is a tricky customer but I think I'm a better fighter than him, even though I didn't get the decision last time. I went straight back in.

I didn't say, 'Ah, I need a warm-up fight.' I knew where I went wrong. I know how to improve it, and I've done that."

Time will tell, but there's a sense Joshua is more comfortable in Saudi Arabia than he was in the bright lights of New York five months ago, when he was making his U.S. debut and, maybe, took his eye off the ball.

While retaining that chiseled physique that could not contrast more with Ruiz Jr.'s, Joshua looked slimmer and lighter during his public workouts in Riyadh this week.

And because he is having to prove himself all over again, Joshua said he compares this fight with the first of the 23 in his pro career.

"I have erased the old fight from my memory and I'm approaching it like I'm fighting for the heavyweight championship of the world, which I am. I'm not looking at it as a rematch," Joshua said.

"Even though I've had a belt around my waist, I've always had that challenger mindset because even in my 15th fight, I challenged for the British title. The 16th (was for the) world title, defend, defend, challenge again, so it's part and parcel of the game now. I'm used to the tough challenges."

Another loss to Ruiz Jr. — in a fight with a reported \$70 million purse and being televised by the DAZN streaming service — and there would be serious questions about Joshua, one of Britain's most celebrated sportsmen and someone whose career trajectory was only heading one way until last summer. Fights with the likes of Deontay Wilder and Tyson Fury would be further away then ever.

But he's not thinking that way. He's embracing taking boxing to a new audience, shrugging off the fact that the fight will take place in a kingdom where there are human-rights concerns, and is desperate to regain his IBF, WBA and WBO belts.

"Of course people doubt me," Joshua said. "But the main thing is I'm still here. I'm not discouraged. That's all I can say." AP

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OPINION

The Stranger

Sheyla Zandonai

IN A MAN'S WORLD

The Secretaries who will compose Ho Iat Seng's incoming administration have been revealed this week. Among the familiar and less-known heads, one in particular came as a surprise. Ao Ieong U, director of the Identification Department, has been appointed the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture.

Ms. Ao Ieong is a long-term civil servant, with some 25 years, so far, devoted to public life; making her a loyal bureaucrat whose political experience is limited. With that in mind, it seems unrealistic to expect that Ms. Ao Ieong would surprise us all by unveiling herself to be a dynamic and far-sighted government member in the eyes of the general public. To speak the truth, hers is more of an unassuming character, so that not much about her abilities to author policy and make decisions on cultural, social and health matters can be inferred. In any case, surrounding herself with experienced advisors would be just as vital.

Yet, Ms. Ao Ieong is one of the two women entering the new administration – the other is Hoi Lai Fong, appointed as Mr. Ho's Chief-of-Office – and this should not be taken for granted. I don't normally believe that gender distinctions amount to much but bias. Competence, intelligence and ingenuity do not belong to either men or women. But if there is an area in which Ms. Ao Ieong could make a difference, it is in the much-delayed matter of parental leave and legal protection for breastfeeding, exactly because she is a woman.

In 2016, the government pledged to advance with a law that would ensure women's right to breastfeed and protect those who breastfeed in public against unpleasant experiences and harassment coming from people who don't seem to know better. No proposal has been presented so far, and that is in spite of lobbying from women-based associations and repeated interpellations by legislators, who all also happen to be women: Ella Lei, Agnes Lam, Wong Kit Cheng.

Thus, in political terms, it still seems this is mostly a women's fight. Why, one comes to think? Regardless of their sex, babies benefit immensely from having their parents close to them during the first months and early years of life, as well as breastfeeding for at least six months, according to recommendations from the World Health Organization (WHO).

Men who have a hard time acknowledging that or advocating for a progressive agenda that could provide support for a woman and her baby when they need it the most, fail to recognize their primary caregivers: they were all born from a woman's womb, and were often nursed and reared by them.

In part, a big problem comes from the fact that many men – including husbands, business owners and the gentlemen who run this city – are not well informed at all about the physical and emotional difficulties encountered by and the perseverance required from women who decide to breastfeed for at least six months; to do so in a society that is not educated in this regard and where infant formula is still perceived as paramount.

Politicians who are still dismissing this basic human need are clearly missing the point. And, again, although I would normally refrain from saying so, given that the faces of those advocating for better motherhood conditions in Macau – from legislators and activists to associations – are all female, it still seems to be a matter for women to undertake. Surely, Ms. Ao Ieong has a role to play. She has the Office and likely the support of half of the city's working population. Imagine if all of them decided to stop working just for one day.

FRANCE CREATES ANTI-HATE CRIME OFFICE AMID ANTI-SEMITIC WAVE

The French government is creating a national anti-hate crime office following the discovery of anti-Semitic graffiti at a Jewish cemetery in eastern France.

Interior Minister Christophe Castaner made the announcement yesterday in the town of Westhoffen, where vandals scrawled swastikas and other anti-Semitic inscriptions on 107 tombs the day before.

Speaking alongside Jewish leaders, Castaner condemned the

graffiti as a sign that "hate is on our national territory."

"We must respect the right to believe," he said.

A special police unit has begun investigating the incident, Castaner said, and the new national office will seek to fight hate crimes.

The graffiti marked the latest in a string of anti-Semitic acts in the Bas-Rhin region. Anti-Semitic graffiti was also discovered Tuesday in the eastern French village of Schaffhouse-sur-Zorn, authorities said.

AP PHOTO



AP PHOTO



Afghanistan A shooting ambush yesterday killed a Japanese physician and aid worker widely respected and beloved in the war-scarred nation, triggering an outpouring of grief among the people whose lives he helped change for the better. The leaders of Japan and Afghanistan expressed their condemnations of the attack that took the life of Tetsu Nakamura, 73, and also killed five Afghans.

AP PHOTO



UK NATO leaders yesterday played down their differences and insisted that they remain united over security issues and determined to defend each other despite a series of spats between the presidents of some of the alliance's biggest member countries. More on p15

AP PHOTO



Mexico President Andrés Manuel López Obrador prayed for the safety of the country with the relatives of nine U.S. dual citizens slaughtered in northern Mexico last month and assured them "at least four" suspects have been detained, a family member said.

AP PHOTO



Google The co-founders of Google are stepping down as executives of its parent company, Alphabet, ending a remarkable two decades during which Larry Page and Sergey Brin (pictured) shaped a startup born in a Silicon Valley garage into one of the largest, most powerful — and, increasingly, most feared — companies in the world.

EU CLIMATE LEADERSHIP IN DOUBT AS BLOC SET TO MISS 2030 GOAL

ARITZ PARRA, MADRID

THE European Union said yesterday that it will likely miss its target for reducing greenhouse gases by 2030, dealing a blow to the bloc's efforts to be a leader in the fight against climate change.

The European Environment Agency said existing measures put the EU on course to cut its emissions of carbon dioxide and other planet-warming pollutants by 30% in the next decade compared with 1990 levels. Currently, the 28-nation bloc aims for a reduction of 40% by 2030, and some leaders have called for this target to be raised to 55%, with a long-term goal of ending virtually all new emissions by 2050.

"Recent trends highlight a slowing down of progress in areas such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions,

energy targets."

The report was released as officials from almost 200 countries meet in Madrid for U.N. climate talks. The EU's new executive Commission is expected to present its long-term plan for tackling global warming — dubbed the European Green Deal — next week.

Recent trends highlight a slowing down of progress in areas such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions

Environmental campaigners said the EU should step up its efforts to ensure that the aim of the 2015 Paris climate accord of keeping global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) by the end of the century remains possible.

"Current EU leaders are the last generation that can prevent the climate breakdown," said Wendel Trio, director of the campaign group Climate Action Network Europe. Trio noted that the Eu-

ropean Parliament recently declared a symbolic "climate emergency."

"Citizens want them to act now, and not in 30 years," he said.

The European Environment Agency report said that "there is still a chance to meet the longer-term goals and objectives for 2030 and 2050" if countries ratchet up their efforts, adding that this will require tackling politically sensitive issues such as fossil fuel subsidies.

A separate study published yesterday by a group of international scientists found that both the European Union and the United States saw emissions drop 1.7% from 2018 to 2019, but China saw a 2.6% increase and India had a 1.8% rise.

Swedish activist Greta Thunberg said the study showed that "instead of the drastic reductions desperately needed, our CO2 emissions keep increasing."

"We're still moving fast in the wrong direction," tweeted Thunberg, who is expected to travel to Madrid for a mass protest on Friday outside the climate talks. AP