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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"



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TWO AMERICAN BUSINESS LEADERS WERE BARRED ENTRY TO MACAU AND AUTHORITIES INSIST IT IS MERELY A MATTER OF SECURITY

ALEXIS TAM, FIRST OF OUTGOING SECRETARIES TO HINT AT RETURN TO GOV'T

AN AL COMMITTEE SHORTENED A TWO-HOUR MEETING WITH THE CITY'S DOMESTIC HELPERS ALLEGEDLY DUE TO A TRANSLATOR'S PRIVATE MATTER

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P3

China A Chinese official says Beijing wants a prompt settlement of its trade war with Washington. A deputy commerce minister said late yesterday that Beijing wants "satisfactory results as soon as possible." The official gave no details of talks on a "Phase 1" deal announced by President Donald Trump in October.



New Zealand A volcanic island erupted yesterday in a tower of ash and steam while dozens of tourists were exploring the moon-like surface, killing at least five people and leaving many more missing. Police said the site was still too dangerous hours later for rescuers to search for the missing. [More on p12-13](#)



New Zealand Nearly 1,000 tourists are stranded in the small New Zealand town of Franz Josef after stormy weekend weather triggered landslides and flooding along the town's main highway. Authorities said road access to the town likely won't be restored until Friday.

Thailand Rescue teams in southern Thailand were searching yesterday for a Polish man and a Thai woman who went missing when the kayak they were paddling carried them away from shore into the open sea. 26-year-old Mateusz Juszkiewicz and 23-year-old Werakan Sirirakon went missing around 6 p.m. Saturday while kayaking to an islet off Yanui beach on the popular resort island of Phuket.

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ALEXIS TAM, FIRST OF OUTGOING SECRETARIES TO RETURN TO GOV'T

ANTHONY LAM & JULIE ZHU

ALEXIS Tam will serve Macau in another government role once he steps down as Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture later this month.

According to a statement issued by his Office on the weekend, Tam "will continue to serve Macau [...] in a different position in the SAR government."

Macau's three outgoing secretaries have all promised to continue serving Macau after they officially step down from their positions later this month, but only Tam has indicated that will be in a public role.

Secretary for Administration and Justice Sonia Chan and Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong promised to continue their contributions to the development of the special administrative region, but stopped short of specifying the nature of those contributions.

Asked over the weekend to reflect on their mandates, this is what the outgoing policy secretaries said:

ALEXIS TAM: PISA RESULTS PROVE EDUCATION SUCCESS

Approaching the end of his term, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam has said he was satisfied to see the fruits from his work in the education sector. Tam was referring to the recent announcement of the Pro-

gramme for International Student Assessment (PISA) ranking, which showed Macau students placed ahead of most of the world in the worldwide educational evaluation test.

On the sidelines of a public event, the secretary recounted the work he and his team have completed in the past five years, which includes Macau's participation and rapid improvement in the PISA evaluations. He said that he looked back on his term in office "without regret."

He also said that he was prepared to continue serving Macau in another government role, though did not specify what that would entail.

In 2015 and 2018, 15-year-old Macau students underwent the tests to evaluate their academic abilities. In the latest evaluation, Macau was ranked among the top three of 79 participating economies in reading, mathematics and science.

In another key area under his watch, medical care, Tam pointed to the extension in life expectancy as a measure of his success. He said that the current average life expectancy for Macau residents is now 83.7 years.

Before he took office, Tam had pledged in front of the media that he would "make the brightest five years in Macau's history for medical development."

The Secretary recalled how he had directed the extension

of service hours at the S. Januário Hospital and Health Centers, which significantly shortened the waiting time and improved medical services. He also highlighted the 630 high-standard smoking rooms installed at 37 casinos during his mandate.

Moreover, this year, Macau inaugurated its WHO-accredited Emergency Medical Taskforce, which marked the fifth in China and 25th worldwide.

In cultural and tourism respects, Macau was recognized by the UNESCO as a Creative City of Gastronomy in 2017, which Tam proudly recalled over the weekend. The application was led by the Macau Government Tourism Office, which falls under Tam's authority.

"Each project, each work, each meeting, each deed and each policy enacted during my term," Tam said. "I have taken them very seriously and I still remember them like yesterday."

His gratitude for the "trust and support offered by the Central Government and Chief Executive Chui Sai On" was also expressed.

Tam disclosed that after he leaves his current office, he will continue to serve Macau in a government position, though he did not reveal any details.

LIONEL LEONG, SUCCESSOR CONFIDENT ON ECONOMY

Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong said that he

"has absolutely no regrets" regarding his term in office, but wants to wrap up his final tasks before handing over his responsibilities to his successor and the next government.

According to Leong, the transition between the two governments began last week and has been conducted in a smooth manner. Leong and his successor, Lei Wai Nong, are "fully confident" on the future development of the city's economy.

Lei, who has been questioned by the public regarding his lack of a business background, was endorsed by Leong, who claimed that Lei understands the city's economy and cares about Macau's small and medium-sized enterprises.

Last week, the incumbent Secretary for Economy and Finance said he was confident the next government "will secure the best for the sake of Macau and the interests of the country."

Asked what advice he would offer to his successor, Leong said, "as long as they know their job; as long as they understand the needs of Macau; as long as they understand the needs of the people, everything will be on the right track. But it needs to be people-based."

Besides being the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Leong was also a former member of the Executive Council and former member of the second and

third Chief Executive election committees. Leong claimed that before he joined the Macau government, he had unfinished tasks, including his studies. Now he wants to complete these unfinished works after he leaves the government.

SONIA CHAN PLEDGES DEDICATION TO HER WORK

Secretary for Administration and Justice Sonia Chan also indicated that she will continue to serve Macau in another way after she steps down from her role later this month.

Officially the most senior among the policy secretaries, Secretary Chan will be succeeded by the current Commissioner Against Corruption, André Cheong Weng Chun.

In Chan's opinion, administrative and legal reforms are the greatest challenge in the administration and justice field. She did not comment on the reforms under her leadership, stating only that reforms are a long-term process and that her team already tried its best.

The outgoing Secretary thanked Chief Executive Chui Sai On, the Central Government and the Macau SAR government for their trust in the past five years, which, according to Chan, constituted "very good" training in her life.

Like her colleague Leong, who did not disclose whether he will continue performing duties in the public service, Sonia Chan only declared that, regardless of which position she takes in the future, she will be dedicated to her work.

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Times

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THIRD STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE AL

Migrant workers claim meeting cut short for lack of translators

JULIE ZHU

THE Third Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL) unexpectedly cut short a planned two-hour meeting with representatives of the city's domestic helpers due to a translator's private matter.

On Friday, the committee met with three representatives of Macau's domestic helpers to hear and respond to the domestic helpers' appeals. However, the meeting, which was first planned two weeks ago, finished approximately one hour earlier than planned.

Erik Lestari of the Indonesia Migrant's Rights Advocate told the media that the sudden suspension was due to the translator, who was translating between Cantonese and English, needing to leave the meeting early to resolve a personal matter.

Vong Hin Fai, chairman of the committee, insisted that accusations about the translator having a sudden other engagement were "not true."

Vong explained that the domestic helpers' representatives changed the meeting schedule and the translator already had a meeting arranged for the same time.

The lawmaker said that the committee "is still very willing to continue listening to the relevant people's appeal." He failed to provide an answer as to whether there will be another meeting, but said it depends on those submitting the request.

JULIE ZHU



Erik Lestari (center)

Previously, Vong had said his committee was willing to listen to the opinions of domestic helpers, but only if he could ascertain that they were genuine associations.

The one-hour discussion, according to the domestic helpers' representatives, was "frustrating."

"They don't seem to know anything," said Lestari.

The two parties discussed the Law of Employment Agency Acti-

vity, which was drafted by the government in December 2017 and is still under consultation at the Legislative Assembly committee.

The most controversial part of the bill concerns agency fees. The bill proposes an agency fee corresponding to 50% of the first month's basic remuneration, to be collected from workers after 60 days from the start of employment. The bill will still result in

workers facing a debt bondage, the group said.

The group suggested that agencies seeking greater profits may collaborate with employers in hiring and firing workers to exploit the fee system.

"The government should clarify if the basic remuneration herein defined has the same meaning as listed in the Employment Relations Law," said Lestari.

The representatives also complained about language difficulties. They hope that the Macau government can provide more information in languages other than Chinese and Portuguese, for instance in English.

On the same day, representatives of employment agencies also met with the committee.

The agencies' representatives deem it unfair that the bill proposes that agencies cannot help tourists gain employment as a domestic helper. They believe that it is unfair that employers can directly hire a tourist as a domestic helper.

Whereas domestic helpers complained that fines seeking to discourage improper agency behavior were too lenient, agencies think they are too heavy. Fines are set at approximately 2,000 patacas.

The domestic helpers have also claimed that some passports belonging to domestic helpers in Macau are illegally kept by employment agencies.

According to Vong Hin Fai, agencies have reminded their members not to violate the law, and the committee also recommended that domestic helpers report these cases to the police authority.

Vong revealed that representatives of employment agencies want to ban employers from directly hiring non-local workers and proposed that all Macau's non-local workers should be hired through such agencies.

Employment agencies also want non-local workers to be trained whenever their blue card is renewed, so the agencies can provide the training and then charge a fee for it.

To ensure employers can hire high quality workers, employment agencies have been providing training to workers, according to Vong.

Lawmaker urges crackdown on parallel trading

JULIE ZHU

LAWMAKER Sulu Sou has urged the local government to regulate parallel trading activities.

In his latest interpellation, Sou highlighted the problem posed by parallel trading activities in the vicinity of the Border Gate, mainly along Istmo Ferreira do Amaral, Rua Tres do Bairro Va Tai, Estr dos Cavaleiros, among other streets.

Parallel traders buy products from Macau and transport them to mainland China for resale. These goods are typically either restricted or otherwise

difficult to acquire on the mainland.

Sou pointed out that such activities nearby the Border Gate area are presently still rampant, causing nuisances, blocking roads and creating other problems.

In this area, shops under the name of "trade agencies" sell daily goods, such as showering products, cigarettes, alcohol and baby care products. Sou specifically stressed that these shops mark the profit margins on their products to tell customers the amount of money they can make if the products are sold across the border.

Sou asked whether the local government will instigate an investigation to crack down on "goods gathering points". He proposed that the government investigate whether there are bigger organizations or operations involved behind the individual parallel traders.

From January until October of this year, the Municipal Affairs Bureau issued more than 1,400 fines for littering in the aforementioned areas.

Sou asked the government to issue an update on hygiene and environmental problems, as well as on the effectiveness of the government's operations.

HELICOPTER HANGAR TO MAKE WAY FOR ISLANDS HOSPITAL

THE helicopter hangar at Coloane will be relocated to a site adjacent to the Taipa Ferry Terminal at an expense to the government of MOP535 million.

It was unveiled earlier by the Legislative Assembly that the hangar must be relocated to make way for the hospital. The government has designated another piece of land on the reclamation strip beside the Taipa Ferry Terminal for the hangar.

On top of the land

concession, the government will pay a relocation fee to the helicopter company, Sky Shuttle, which is the user of the hangar.

A government dispatch issued in January last year announced the arrangement.

The dispatch stated that the helicopter company had agreed to pay the difference in value of about MOP17 million between the two land plots.

The director of the Health Bureau, Lei

Chin Ion, disclosed on the sidelines of a public event on Sunday that he had only learned about the land exchange from the news. He told local Chinese media All About Macau that he did not have the expertise to comment on that.

Furthermore, as the budget for the hospital was determined by the public works departments, he had no knowledge of the reason behind the project running over budget. AL

INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL & AWARDS - MACAO

Hong Kong film wins new Shorts Competition



Jenny Wan (left), whose "Lonely Encounter" won Best Short Film and South Korean filmmaker Kim Yong-Hwa

LYNZY VALLES

THE newly launched Shorts Competition at the 4th International Film Festival & Awards - Macao (IFFAM) has announced that the Hong Kong film "Lonely Encounter" by Jenny Wan has won the Best Short Film.

This competition is a curated selection of short narrative films from young directors from around the region, giving them an opportunity to present their works.

There were four entries for the Shorts Competition, including "Little Red Riding Hood" from Macau, "Lonely Encounter", "Nocturne" and "Room 13" from Hong Kong.

IFFAM have also awarded Dodo Dayao's Filipino project "Dear Wormwood" for its Best Project Award, which comes with a cash prize of \$15,000.

The film explores how the lives of five women in the remote Philippine mountains are endangered when a cataclysmic event causes time to behave malvolently. The jury lauded the project for "its surreal depiction of nature and fear."

The Creative Excellence Award went to South African project, "The Day And Night Of Brahma", from director and producer Sheetal Magan, while the Best Co-production Award went to Australian-Japanese project "Drum Wave", from director Natalie Erika James and producers Anna McLeish and Sarah Shaw – and both won \$10,000.

Meanwhile the Macao Spirit Award (\$5,000) was awarded to Portuguese project "Uk Kei" by director Leonor Teles and producer Filipa Reis.

Ireland-UK-Philippines project "Nocebo" was recognized by the jury as an outstanding film project, and was complimented with an honorable mention during the Awards Ceremony.

INDUSTRY HUB PRESENTS SERIES OF ACTIVITIES

The three-day IFFAM Industry Hub unfolded with activities including the Macao Forum, Forum Presentation, the IFFAM Project Market Public Pitching, the IFFAM Project Market Project Meetings and Work-in-Progress (WIP) Presentation.

MGTO director and president of the IFFAM Organizing Committee, Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, expressed that the IFFAM Industry Hub has "fostered deeper and wider cooperation among film industry professionals this year, facilitated industry exchange and created a wealth of business opportunities." Launched last year, the WIP Presentation has gained participation and helped potential projects to keep moving forward, the organizing committee said in a statement.

This year, the IFFAM Project Market brought together 14 film projects presented to industry delegates in the Public Pitching session held days ago. The production crews of the film projects also met with interested

parties to explore partnership opportunities at the Project Meetings, organizers said.

FILMMAKER: VFX CANNOT REPLACE ACTORS

South Korean filmmaker Kim Yong-Hwa delivered a Master-class at the IFFAM, highlighting that visual effects can never replace human actors, and that human reactions and emotions remain the most important element in his films. "As an artist, the story that I choose must be very appealing, which can resonate with something that is already existing within people's mind," said Kim.

Kim gained popularity with audiences with his series of films "Along with the Gods". He has achieved the number two all-time box office record in South Korea as the top-grossing South Korean film across Asia.

His films tell stories of overcoming adversity in a playful and entertaining manner with sumptuous and cutting-edge VFX to enhance the storytelling.

Kim is currently working on his next feature film, "Along with the Gods: Part 3" and the fourth installment scheduled for 2021 and Executive Producing "Mount Paektu", a \$20 million budget disaster film about the two Koreas struggling to prevent a volcanic eruption of Mount Paektu.

The 4th edition of the IFFAM will conclude today with an awards ceremony at the Macau Cultural Centre at 8 p.m.

Q&A LI SHAOHONG

A reflection of

DANIEL BEITLER

FOR at least one brief moment in this city's recent history, Macau offered something entirely unique and perhaps irreplaceable: it was a mirror reflecting the lives of people across the border.

This poetic description of Macau was offered yesterday by Chinese director Li Shaohong, who is in the special administrative region to attend the screening of her film, *A City Called Macau*, at the International Film Festival & Awards – Macau.

Li Shaohong is part of China's Fifth Movement of filmmakers, credited with having overthrown the traditional storytelling methods of Chinese cinema in the post-Cultural Revolution period. She is considered by some to be the country's top female director.

Her 2019 Chinese-language drama examines the excesses of Macau's gambling industry, from its liberalization at the start of the century to the anti-corruption campaign of 2014, which wiped vast sums from the market. Based on a 2012 novel by Yan Geling, the story follows a female casino broker who brings wealthy high-rollers to the betting tables, only for them to be later stricken by gambling addiction.

In Li's Macau, all types of people find themselves drawn to the casino - government officials, businessmen, entertainers and so on - and here they find certain activities, prohibited at home, now possible. The confluence of a great variety in people gathering in such a small place makes for an interesting film setting, explained Li through a translator. "Here in Macau, you can see a reflection of the lives of mainlanders," she said.

Was there a certain risk involved in making a film in China about gambling, an activity that the mainland authorities generally frown upon? A kind of bet on a bet?

Li Shaohong - Yes, it was indeed a bet to make a movie about gambling. I think this is the first movie about gambling in Chinese cinema [...] and] I did have the intention of making audiences aware of the dangers of gambling. Also, this movie is set in a period in which China has been ope-



ning up and reforming and so it reflects that period of time quite realistically. That was a challenge too. Then the censorship process took about a year and so we missed all of the major film festivals last year. When the film was shown in Chinese cinemas, the slot [it was given] was not the best, to say the least. However, I am quite satisfied because what I wanted was to show this film to audiences and that has been accomplished. We also had a good reaction from the market, especially with the younger generation of moviegoers, who seemed to like the film and gave it a high rating.

The period between the handover and the 2014 anti-corruption crackdown is something of a historical landmark in Macau, both a dawn and twilight moment. What interests you about this historical context?

Li Shaohong - The film is set in a very interesting period after the handover when the gambling industry became the main industry of Macau [fueled by] the gamblers coming from mainland China. Unlike Hong Kong, which is [primarily] an international port, Macau and China have historically enjoyed very close ties. And there are all sorts of people coming from mainland

life across the border



China to Macau to entertain themselves [in this period] - there are government officials, business people, entertainers and artists - from all strata of society. [With this confluence of people in a space outside of the mainland] certain things that could not have happened on the mainland took place in Macau. Here in Macau, you can see a reflection of the lives of mainlanders.

How much of Yan Geling, author of the 2012 novel on which A City Called Macau is based, was present in the making of the film adaptation?

Li Shaohong - The author, Yan Geling, is very popular when it comes to film adaptations. Many of her books have been adapted into films and a number of television series. But she doesn't write much about modern day life in China. This is one of the few stories she has written about the present. When she was writing the novel, Yan had already told me about the stories [contained] within the book. She then wrote a draft of the script as well. I became very interested in this story after learning it is about a female character set in modern-day China. I like the

very unique angle of this book; from the perspective of a female observer [documenting] this important historical period of time. I asked her to retain this perspective of the female observer in the first draft of the script.

What was it about the censorship process that stalled A City Called Macau for over one year?

Li Shaohong - It was about the subject matter of gambling. This is really something unheard of in Chinese cinema. As we know, problematic gambling is bad and so countering the problem is a good thing. The government censor is more concerned with having too many casino scenes in the film, which might be seen as a way to promote gambling. As filmmakers, we have quite the dilemma in terms of how to tell the story without promoting gambling at the same time. The censors were quite strict not to show anything which appeared to encourage people to gamble. For example, we had certain scenes where the protagonist would enter a casino trying to show a friend how these games work. These scenes were deleted in the final cut.

AD



Macao Government Tourism Office

Notice

The Macao Government Tourism Office hereby announces an invitation to tender for the **Production of Macao Promotional Videos and TV Commercials in 2020**, in accordance with the approval of the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture dated 18th November, 2019.

From the date of publication of the present notice, interested parties may visit the Macao Government Tourism Office Reception Counter, located in Alameda Dr. Carlos d'Assumpção, no. 335-341, "Hotline" Building, 12th floor, Macao, to view the Tender Process within normal working hours, and pay MOP 200.00 (two hundred patacas) to obtain the copies, including Terms of Tender, General Conditions of the Bid and other relevant enclosures; or visit the Macao Tourism Industry Net website – <http://industry.macaotourism.gov.mo> to download.

The explanation meeting will be held at **15:00, on 11th December, 2019**, at Meeting room, 14th floor, Alameda Dr. Carlos d'Assumpção, no. 335-341, "Hotline" Building, Macao.

The maximum price limit for the service is **MOP 6,000,000.00 (Six million patacas)**.

Criteria for evaluation and percentage:

Price	: 15%
Creative concepts and storyboards	: 45%
Tenderer experience and CV Portfolio	: 5%
Team experience and CV Portfolio	: 25%
Production Value	: 10%

For any further enquiries, please visit the Macao Tourism Industry Net website (<http://industry.macaotourism.gov.mo>) to submit enquiries before **6th January, 2020**, all replies will be posted on the same website.

Tenderer must submit the tender within normal working hours by **13:00 on 17th January, 2020**, to Macao Government Tourism Office, located in Alameda Dr. Carlos d'Assumpção, no. 335-341, "Hotline" Building, 12th floor, Macao, the

tenders should be written in one of the official languages of Macao SAR or in English.

The provisional guarantee fee of MOP120,000.00 (one-hundred and twenty thousand patacas), to be paid by 1) Cash, cashier order or certified cheque directly to Macao Government Tourism Office, cashier order or certified cheque should be made payable to "Fundo de Turismo" as the payee; or 2) Cash deposit to the account of "Fundo de Turismo", account no. 8003911119 of Banco Nacional Ultramarino of Macau and with designation of the reason for the deposit; or 3) Bank guarantee; or 4) Wired Transfer to the account of "Fundo de Turismo" in Banco Nacional Ultramarino of Macau.

The tender opening session will be held in the Auditorium of the Macao Government Tourism Office, located at Alameda Dr. Carlos d'Assumpção, no. 335-341, "Hotline" Building, 14th floor in Macao, at **10:00, on 20th January, 2020**.

According to the article no. 27 of Decree-Law no. 63/85/M, of 6th July, the tenderer or the legal representatives of the tenderer should be present during the tender opening session for any complaints and/or to explain any doubts regarding their respective tender.

The legal representative of the tenderer may appoint, by a notary certified power of attorney, an authorized representative to attend the public action of the Opening of the Tenders on their behalf.

In case of closure of the services of Macao Government Tourism Office due to typhoon or force majeure, the deadline for submission, the opening of tender will be postponed until the first working day that follows immediately.

Macao Government Tourism Office, 28th November, 2019.

Acting Director
Cheng Wai Tong

CONSUMER COUNCIL ENCOURAGES USE OF LESS PLASTIC BAGS

With the new plastic bag bill now effective, each plastic shopping bag offered by retailers to consumers will be charged except under specific situations exempted from the law. The Consumer Council calls on retailers to ask consumers if any plastic shopping bag is needed and calls on consumers to reconsider whether one is needed and clearly express their wish to retailers. The Council indicates that retailers should explain clearly to consumers about the cost and reason for charging plastic shopping bags until they become accustomed to the new law. Retailers should also provide plastic shopping bags in reasonable sizes to consumers when necessary.

PROPERTY PRICE INDEX DECLINES ON ISLANDS DIP

The overall residential property price index for the three-month period August to October 2019 decreased 0.1% over the previous period, July to September 2019, to 267.4. According to the information released by the Statistics and Census Service, the index for the Macau Peninsula held stable at 268.6, while the index for Taipa and Coloane dropped 0.3% to 262.3. The overall index for existing residential units (288) went up by 0.1%, while the index for pre-sale residential units (279.6) decreased by 0.9% from the previous period. In comparison with the August to October 2018 period, the overall residential property price index fell by 0.5%, with the index for existing residential units falling 0.8% and the index for pre-sale residential units increasing by 2.3%.

MACAU INT'L PARADE HELD TO CELEBRATE 20TH ANNIVERSARY

The 2019 Macau International Parade, organized in celebration of the 20th anniversary of Macau's handover to China, was held last Sunday in the city center of Macau. This year's Parade kicked off with an opening ceremony at the Ruins of St. Paul's, before the groups meandered through the Historic Center of Macau. In the closing performance, local and foreign performing groups jointly presented different kinds of dance and percussion performances. The participating groups gathered at the Sai Van Lake Square in the evening for a celebration event accompanied by a fireworks show and a ceremony officiated by the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam. According to a statement from the Cultural Affairs Bureau, the Parade showcases the cultural and artistic characteristics of countries and regions along the Belt and Road Initiative, highlighting cultural integration and promoting the Parade as an exchange platform for culture and the arts.

Secretary calls for more foreign affairs activities in Macau

JULIE ZHU

SONIA Chan, the soon-to-depart Secretary for Administration and Justice, has proposed to the Central Government to organize certain types of foreign affairs activities in Macau.

Last Friday, the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China held the Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Office of the Commissioner for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China.

During her presentation at the event, Secretary Chan stated that China is organizing more foreign affairs activities on its territory, and that the Macau SAR government should study this carefully and propose to the Central Government to allow more foreign affairs activities to be held in Macau.

Organizing foreign affairs activities in Macau will benefit China's foreign affairs arrangements and will also bring advantages in promoting Macau's implementation of the 'One Country, Two Systems' policy.

Moreover, Macau should also proactively enhance collaboration with international organizations in respect to tourism, culture, economy and law. Chan wants these organizations to open branches in Macau.

As of today, Macau already has such think tanks as the Grand Thought Think Tank, and the Wisdom Policy Think Tank. Sonia Chan hopes that the Macau local government can develop



more international level think tanks, associations and talented human resources.

"The kind of contributions Macau needs to make are worth thinking about," said Chan.

During her speech, the secretary also highlighted that Macau has played an important role in China's foreign affairs history. She remarked on Macau's functions in history as the melting pot for western and eastern religions and on Macau's role in the Sino-Japanese war.

Shen Beili, Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Macau, proposed four ideas for the future work of the office.

Her proposals include promoting a comprehensive understanding and implementation of the 'One Country, Two Systems' policy; strict acts in accordance with the constitution and Basic Law; the continual creation of a good external environment of the Macau SAR to maintain prosperity and stability; continued implementation of diplomatic benefits for Macau; the provision of support for Macau to further participate in China's foreign affairs activities; and assistance for Macau to develop a patriotic spirit.

Huang Liuquan, Deputy Head of the Hong Kong and

Macau Affairs Office of the State Council, said that in the past two decades, thanks to the strong support of the Central Government and mainland China, and thanks to the joint efforts of the Macau SAR government and all sectors of society, the practice of the 'One Country, Two Systems' policy has been fully achieved in Macau.

Entering the mid-term of the promised 50-years of the 'One Country, Two Systems' policy, Huang wants all sectors to continue contributing to the knowledge and wisdom that underpin it.

cau, Wong defended the SAR's rights to implement immigration policy.

"Police have the responsibility to ensure Macau's safety, and the same principle applies to port control. [...] When [police immigration officers] carry out duties according to laws, the identities and occupations of the persons entering Macau are not their consideration. Safety risks and threats are the only considerations," he said, as cited in reports.

Wong will remain in his post as Secretary for Security during the next government term, under Chief Executive-elect Ho Iat Seng. **LV**

Wong dismisses 'speculation' on entry ban for AmCham leaders

SECRETARY for Security Wong Sio Chak has dismissed allegations that the decision to refuse entry to two business officials from the American Chamber of Commerce was linked to the United States' legislation backing anti-government protesters.

Chairman Robert Grieves and President Tara Joseph were separately on their way to the region to attend the AmCham Macau Ball on Saturday and said that

local authorities did not provide a reason for refusing to allow them entry to Macau.

According to a statement they issued, they were told to sign a statement saying that they "voluntarily agreed not to pursue entry to Macau."

"We hope that this is just an over reaction to current events and that international business can constructively forge ahead," they noted.

Speaking to Reuters,

Joseph said that she was puzzled as to why she was prevented from crossing into the gambling hub for the annual event which is also attended by the U.S. Consul General of Hong Kong and Macau, Hanscom Smith.

"I have no idea. I was quite surprised. They were not rude. There was never any manhandling or rudeness," she said.

In November, U.S. President Donald Trump signed into law con-

gressional legislation backing pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong, despite heavy objections from Beijing.

Meanwhile, local official Wong said that the barred entry to the SAR was not linked with the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act and that such accusations are just speculation.

Although he did not further clarify why the two officials were barred from entering Ma-

GAMING

Philippine company withdraws from Galaxy partnership

GALAXY Entertainment Group and Philippines-based resort developer and operator Leisure & Resorts World Corp. (LRWC) have terminated their partnership to develop a casino resort on the island of Boracay, reported Philippine media Business World.

The withdrawal was announced by the LRWC's acting chairman, Eusebio Tanco, who said the company is no longer interested in building a casino. Furthermore, the Philippine media reported that LRWC was "no longer in talks" with Galaxy.

Galaxy is among the six casino operators in Macau. It currently operates one hotel, two integrated resorts and several VIP casinos in Macau. Its concession, along with Macau's other five, will expire in 2022.

The Macau enterprise was in a partnership with LRWC to develop a casino



RAMON KAGIE

resort on the island of Boracay. LRWC is the owner of land plots on the island.

LRWC's withdrawal may affect Galaxy's expansion plan, say analysts, including the planned \$500-million casino resort on Boracay.

The resort was planned to house a casino of about 100 gambling tables and 200 villas.

Tanco told a press conference in the Philippines that he is "keeping that piece of

he is "keeping that piece of land," reported Business World. The executive was also quoted as saying, "I'm not going to do a casino there. I'll just land-bank it."

The President of the Philippines, Rodrigo Duterte, previously interrupted the development plan submit-

ted by the partnership, with concerns regarding the impact on the environment reported as the reason.

Tanco disclosed that his company would wait for other opportunities to develop the land.

Reports from last week hinted that the proposed resort might go ahead.

softening go ahead.

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

PHILIPPINES

BUSINESS DISTRICT HALTS NEW ONLINE CASINO PERMITS

Makati City has declared a moratorium on new online casinos in the Philippines' main business district, citing an "overheating" leasing market and rising criminality. The city will no longer accept new applications for online casinos known as Philippine offshore gaming operators, or POGOs, and will crack down against illegal activities related to the industry, Makati City Mayor Abby Binay said in a statement. Thousands of foreign workers employed by POGOs have increased the demand for homes and work stations for rent. "This puts the local property sector at risk of overheating, where its growth becomes unsustainable," Binay said. Makati, home to as many as 300 POGOs that mainly employ Chinese nationals, has been earning more than 200 million pesos a year in local business taxes from the industry, she said.

LAS VEGAS

REUBEN BROTHERS HELP FINANCE RIO CASINO ACQUISITION

Billionaire British property investors David Reuben and Simon Reuben have helped finance Dreamscape Cos.' acquisition of Las Vegas property Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino from Caesars Entertainment Corp. "We're believers in Las Vegas and its future," the brothers said last week in an emailed statement. Dreamscape, owned by New York-based real estate investor Eric Birnbaum, completed the \$516.3 million transaction this week and plans to renovate the 2,522-room hotel and casino, home to the World Series of Poker. "The property has untapped potential and our unique perspective on the Las Vegas market will ideally differentiate us from the masses and cater to a new generation," Birnbaum said in an interview. He added that consumer preferences have changed in the past two decades but that many casino resort operators haven't been responsive.

AD

The poster features a dark blue background with a film strip border. At the top left is the text "10th Sound & Image Challenge International Short Film Festival". Below it is a QR code. The center features a pair of stylized sunglasses with a glowing yellow light effect on either side. The year "2019" is written vertically on the left side. At the bottom left, it says "Venue Dom Pedro V Theatre". On the right side, there is text "Free Admission" and the festival's logo "SOUND & IMAGE CHALLENGE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL 2019". The bottom part of the poster contains various logos of sponsors.

HONG KONG

INJURED JOURNALIST SEEKS ANSWERS FROM POLICE

ALICE FUNG

MORE than two months after being blinded in one eye by what she believes was a projectile fired by riot police, Indonesian video journalist Veby Mega Indah is still seeking answers.

On Sept. 29, Indah was among a group of reporters covering one of the hundreds of clashes between armed police and anti-government protesters that have broken out almost daily over the past six months.

"I am doing live-streaming that time. At one point, there are some protesters who showed up [...] the police are aiming at them shooting. I heard somebody, a fellow journalist behind me, yelling, 'Don't shoot! Don't shoot! We all journalists,'" Indah said.

"A second later, I heard the bang and I saw some smoke from the stairs, then the projectile is coming into my right eye," she said.

Her case illustrates the risks media workers have been exposed to while covering the increasingly violent protests. An unknown number have been subjected to tear gas, pepper spray, projectiles thrown by both sides and general mockery and verbal abuse.

Indah, 39, works full-time for Suara Hong Kong News, an Indonesian media outlet that serves the thousands of Indonesians working in Hong Kong, as well as their friends and families back home and around the world.

She said she intends to keep working in Hong Kong, her home since 2012.

"I still want to be a journalist, I still want to continue my job. I still don't know how far I can do it. It's a question that keeps me up night," she said.

AP PHOTO



While she waits, Indah, a member of Indonesia's Christian minority, relies in part from assistance from her church.

According to Associated Press reporters on the scene when Indah was injured, police were retreating from a pedestrian bridge in the Wan Chai district. Journalists, including Indah, were standing away from the protesters in bright yellow vests to identify themselves, as well as helmets with stickers and press cards on lanyards around their necks.

Police say that they took action in response to protesters throwing objects from the bridge.

Indah has a lawyer who is pursuing her case against the Hong

Kong police, but so far without result. She has filed a complaint and asked for the name of the officer who fired what was believed to have been a type of rubber bullet called a baton round, something that could allow her to sue him individually.

"And so far I don't see any proper investigation done although I already filed a complaint," she said.

"Justice is so important in my case because this case is not only about me, it's also bringing justice for all the injured people in Hong Kong," she said.

At a Nov. 29 police briefing, spokesman Kong Wing-cheung denied police were slow-walking

Indah's case.

The office responsible for handling complaints against police has been talking to her lawyer, but that "involves a lot of legal procedures," Kong said.

"And in distributing different information, we all have to consider all the legal grounds whether to give or refuse to give the information," he said.

Police use of force against protesters, the media and members of the public has been one of the main drivers keeping the protest movement alive. Critics say the once widely respected force has employed increasingly brutal tactics with virtual impunity and have demanded an independent com-

mission to investigate the allegations.

Local legislator Claudia Mo brought up Indah's case Wednesday in a question to Hong Kong's Secretary for Security John Lee, who switched the focus to police self-protection and rare cases of protesters impersonating journalists to facilitate their activities.

"Persons at the scene [including media practitioners] should pay attention to and follow the instructions given by police officers and maintain appropriate distance," Lee said in his written reply.

"This will prevent obstruction of police enforcement operations, as well as avoid personal injury," he said. AP

HONG KONG

Police sound alarm over homemade explosives

HONG Kong's much-maligned police force provided a rare behind-the-scenes look last week at its bomb disposal squad to show the potentially deadly destructive force of homemade explosives seized during months of protests that have shaken the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

In a demonstration for media cameras, the bomb squad set off a series of controlled explosions in a disused quarry overlooking the city's high-rise skyline, blowing up a watermelon and shredding the front of a minivan.

AP PHOTO



In July, police announced the seizure of about 2 kilograms of TATP, which has been used in militant attacks worldwide. Other recent seizures in Hong Kong involved far smaller amounts, just 1 gram, of TATP, or tri-

cetone tri-peroxide.

"Obviously, I'm concerned that they are making TATP or are in possession of TATP," said Alick McWhirter, the squad's senior bomb disposal officer.

Just 1 gram of the unstable explosive, equivalent to the weight of a candy, could cause serious injuries, he said.

A demonstration blast of 1 gram of high explosive at the quarry above the bomb squad's fenced-off headquarters caused a loud bang. A blast involving 50 grams, which would fit into a cigarette packet, sent shrapnel flying from the

shattered front of the minivan.

The squad used explosives with a destructive force equivalent to TATP but not TATP itself, because the substance is dangerous to handle and is susceptible to bumps, heat and friction.

"Because I like having 10 fingers, I am not going to use TATP," McWhirter said.

In October, police said a homemade remote-controlled bomb intended to "kill or to harm" riot control officers was detonated as they deployed against protesters. Causing a loud thud but no injuries, the small blast was the first known

use of an explosive device during the protests that started in June over a contested extradition bill and snowballed into an anti-government, anti-police and anti-China movement.

The bomb squad has also disposed of thousands of gasoline bombs prepared by protesters on university campuses.

McWhirter said that "99% of the protesters in Hong Kong, from what I've seen, are peaceful."

But he added: "There's clearly, though, a small hard core who are dedicated towards violence."

"The ones creating these explosives are a tiny percentage of a tiny percentage," he said. "Petrol bombs, TATP, are not the normal in Hong Kong." MDT/AP

BLOOMBERG



Biggest HK protest in months signals more unrest in 2020

CATHY CHAN, IAIN MARLOW & AARON MC NICHOLAS

HONG Kong saw its biggest pro-democracy protest in months Sunday, signaling more unrest to come in 2020 as the movement that began in June to fight China's increasing grip on the city shows its staying power.

Hundreds of thousands of demonstrators flooded the city's major downtown boulevards, many waving U.S. flags, singing protest anthem "Glory to Hong Kong" and chanting "Five demands, not one less." The march drew a cross-section of Hong Kong society - from parents with young kids to senior citizens - and was largely peaceful throughout the afternoon, although tensions emerged between riot police and some radical demonstrators at night.

Protesters' calls to disrupt yesterday's commute and workday, however, hadn't materialized as of late morning.

The Sunday rally was the first organized by the Civil Human Rights Front to get police approval since August, prompting many Hong Kong residents who normally wouldn't risk joining an

illegal assembly to hit the streets. The organizer said about 800,000 were at the rally, while police estimated 183,000 joined at the peak of the protest. The show of strength followed a landslide victory for pro-democracy forces in local elections last month.

"Yet another breathtaking display of Hongkongers' political might," said Claudia Mo, a pro-democracy lawmaker who joined the march on Sunday. "By now it's obvious the Hong Kong fight will go on, we will soldier on," she said. "This may last for the generations to come."

Carrie Lam - Hong Kong's leader backed by Chinese President Xi Jinping - has refused to give in to demands including an independent inquiry into police violence and meaningful elections for the city's top political positions. The demonstrations have maintained popular support even as the economy has slid into a recession.

"Should Carrie Lam or the Beijing regime continue to ignore the outcry, Hongkongers will continue to resist the government by peaceful and not-so-peaceful

means," said Fernando Cheung, another opposition lawmaker.

The protesters have sought to keep the pressure on the government with a combination of peaceful mass marches, like the one on Sunday afternoon, and more violent actions like shutting down transport networks, vandalizing mainland-linked businesses and seizing universities. Police have made more than 6,000 arrests, while coming under fire for abuses in seeking to contain the demonstrations.

People are still very eager to fight for what they have been fighting for. It's not the end yet - it's far from the end.

ALVIN YEUNG
PRO-DEMOCRAT LAWMAKER

Earlier on Sunday, police said they arrested 11 people while seizing a semi-automatic hand gun, bullet-proof jackets, retractab-

le batons and pepper spray in a raid. They suspected an "extreme" group of people would try to attack police or "create chaos" during the rally.

While the protest was largely peaceful, the police said yesterday that some had blocked streets in the evening, spray-painted walls of the High Court and vandalized shops in the Causeway Bay shopping district, "seriously challenging the spirit of the rule of law."

Yesterday, the Hong Kong Bar Association said it "deplores in the strongest possible terms the acts of arson and vandalism" at the court. "As shown by the many thousands of people who participated in the march yesterday, views can be most powerfully conveyed through peaceful means," the group said.

The MTR Corp., the city's railway operator, said it was adding more train captains for some services to ensure there aren't any foreign objects on the rail tracks.

It also said rides on the East Rail Line would be longer than usual. Some track-side equipment was destroyed at the University Sta-

tion and trains are expected to travel at a slower speed.

Services in some sections need more train captains to operate for observing any foreign objects that would hinder train movements

Lam's government withdrew a bill allowing extraditions to the mainland that originally sparked the protests, and called for dialogue on the other demands. China has sought to portray the issues as largely economic in nature, while refusing to offer a political solution.

On Saturday, Lam got some support from hundreds of pro-government demonstrators who gathered in the centrally located area of Wan Chai. They waved China and Hong Kong flags while condemning the violent protests and vandalism of the past months.

But Michael Tien, a businessman and pro-government lawmaker, said yesterday that the onus was on Lam to convince the city's police force and her backers in Beijing that it was time to set up an independent commission of inquiry - a key protester demand.

"Yesterday there was not a lot of violence, so they honored their side of it," Tien told Bloomberg TV. "Now it's up to Carrie Lam to give a response."

Protesters on Sunday vowed to keep on fighting into 2020, when Hong Kong was scheduled to hold elections for the city's Legislative Council. Kelvin, a 30-year-old salesperson who declined to give his last name, also said the protesters were "building our own economy."

"I know a lot of businesses take sides, so we are going for the side that supports democracy," he said. "Our government is not responding to any of them so that's why we are still here."

Companies have got caught in the middle of the protests. Chinese retailers and branches of lenders like Bank of China Ltd. have been ransacked by vandals, while Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd. and the National Basketball Association have come under pressure from Beijing after employees supported the demonstrations.

Over the weekend, the heads of the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong were denied entry to Macau and sent back, with no explanation given. "We hope that this is just an overreaction to current events and that international business can constructively forge ahead," the chamber said in a statement.

Sunday's large turnout showed that the government was be "living in a fantasy" if they believed the protests would die down, particularly with the holidays of Christmas and the Lunar New Year coming up, said Alvin Yeung, a lawmaker in the pro-democracy camp.

"People are still very eager to fight for what they have been fighting for," he said. "It's not the end yet - it's far from the end." BLOOMBERG

BLOOMBERG



JAPANIFICATION THE SCOURGE THREATENING TO GO GLOBAL IN 2020

JOHN AINGER, VIVIEN LOU
CHEN & RUTH CARSON

FIRST it was Japan. Then Europe. Now investors are scanning the world for the next outbreak of stagnant inflation and tumbling yields.

The malaise of "Japanification" burst into the mainstream this year, leaving in its wake a record amount of negative-yielding debt. Quantitative easing and a low-rate regime in Europe delivered banner returns on the region's bonds - at the expense of bank profits and retirement savings. Many say it recalls Japan's lost decade.

It's a scourge that threatens to spread further - perhaps even to the U.S. The world's largest economy might only need a slide into a "plain-vanilla recession" to succumb to zero yields, says Jan Loeys, a senior adviser of long-term investment strategy at JP Morgan Chase & Co.

While strong labor market data last week eased concerns about an imminent U.S. downturn, the country's yield curve has already signaled a recession is brewing. If that comes to pass, the Federal Reserve could emulate peers in Japan and the euro area by cutting rates to zero and re-introducing QE, according to Loeys.

Add the risk of U.S. political gridlock and excess global savings, and "we stay near zero bond yields for years," he said.

It's a scenario preying on the minds of central bankers. Fed Governor Lael Brainard is even floating the idea of asset purchases to suppress short-to-medium term borrowing costs in a scenario of zero-rate benchmarks. That would be akin to Japan-style yield-curve control.

Fed and European Central Bank policy makers aren't expected to take any action following meetings this week. For the Fed, it will be an opportunity to defend

the status quo after three rate cuts this year.

The gangbusters November U.S. payroll report sent Treasury yields higher but hasn't dislodged bets the Fed will keep interest rates on hold through at least the first quarter of 2020. With inflation still tepid, Chairman Jerome Powell has as good as ruled out a rate increase.

"Central banks have no choice but to be supportive of risk assets and asset prices until such time as fiscal expansion is possible," said Nomura Asset Management's Richard Hodges. Japanification-related bets on Europe's peripheral bonds this year helped him outperform 98% of peers.

In Italy, political risk has done little to deter investors predicting that yields may reach 0% next year amid speculation the ECB could take rates down another notch. Meanwhile, bond-market pariah Greece, which faced borrowing costs of 44% seven years

ago, now commands rates of just 1.5%.

Negative yields and a deluge of ECB cash have helped relieve stress in the euro-zone's shakiest members, but also made it harder for the region's banks to squeeze out a profit. Pension savings are also at risk, creating an increasingly vociferous backlash.

And yet, another two holdouts among developed markets - the U.K. and Australia - could also soon capitulate to zero or sub-zero yields.

"Japanification is this one big thing that will take a really long time to untangle," said Chris Rands, a money manager at Nikko Asset Management Ltd. in Sydney, which manages \$224 billion globally. "The real problem is sitting in Europe - they're sneezing and we're catching the cold."

Break-even rates have dropped to, or close to, record lows in Europe and the U.S.

Australia's central bank may be set to join the ECB and Bank of Japan down the once unthinkable route of QE after cutting its benchmark to a record low of 0.75%.

In Britain, the tipping point could be a no-deal exit from the European Union, according to Citigroup Inc. While a Conservative majority at the upcoming election on Dec. 12 would likely see a divorce deal passed next year, there is still the chance of a cliff-edge exit at the end of 2020.

Volatility gauges suggest options traders are hunkering down for a long period of low rates. After a brief spike in August and September amid a multitude of trade headlines, a Merrill Lynch gauge of price swings in the European sovereign debt market is heading back to the all-time lows seen this year. In the U.S. too, the MOVE index is falling toward the nadir seen in March.

At least the U.S. yield curve has started steepening again on prospects of a late-cycle boost from a potential trade truce between China and the U.S.

"If we do not get a big external event, like a fully-fledged trade war, then obviously we are much more in our baseline muddle-through scenario," said Sonja Laud, deputy chief investment officer at Legal & General Investment Management in London.

It might not be enough to save more economies from being sucked into the negative-yield trap. Even with better jobs data, 10-year U.S. yields have been stuck below 2% since August.

Jack McIntyre, who helps oversee \$75 billion at Brandywine Global Investment Management in Philadelphia, expects U.S. yields to cling to the same low levels next year, but isn't ruling out the possibility the 10-year benchmark could break through the all-time low of 1.318% set in 2016.

"I'm not in the camp that believes U.S. exceptionalism is going to keep us away from secular disinflationary influences that are driving yields lower," he said. "If I'm wrong about a recession and the Fed has limited firepower, then yields are going to get pretty close to negative." **BLOOMBERG**

CORPORATE BITS

GEG hosts sharing session for Olympic gold medalists

Amid the visit of Olympic gold medalists to Macau, Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) invited athletes to share their experiences with nearly 300 students of the University of Macau's Lui Che Woo College.

The gold medalists included gymnasts Tong Fei, Li Xiao Shuang and Yang Wei; divers Qin Kai and He Zi; sport shooter Guo Wen Jun; and bad-

minton player Zhao Yun Lei. The event was part of the "Olympic Gold Medalists Visit Macau Series Activities - Energetic Visit 2019," the gaming operator stated in a press release.

During the sharing session, the medalists talked about how they had prepared for the Olympic Games in terms of mental preparation and physical training.

Buddy Lam, senior vice president of Public Relations at GEG, remarked, "Through this event, GEG allows the youth to listen to the national Olympic gold medalists sharing in person, who have achieved remarkable results in the sports field after years of hard work. The encouragement from the athletes could enlighten and inspire the youth."

MGM team members receive industry accolades

MGM Golden Lion Team members have been recognized with a total of seven Gold Pin Awards, making MGM the biggest winner of this year's "Macao Occupational Skills Recognition System" (MORS) Gold Pin Competition.

In this year's competition, there were a total of 354 contestants representing 37 organizations in Macau, of which 72 contestants were

shortlisted for the finals, the gaming operator noted in a statement.

MGM team members participated in 10 categories, including Cook in Chinese Cuisine (Intermediate), Bartender, Concierge and Bell Attendant, Front Desk Agent/Customer Relations Officer and Security Officer for Tourism and Gaming Industry.

Grant Bowie, CEO and executive director of MGM China Holdings Limited, took pride in team members' achievement, saying, "this year the number of Gold Pin Awards garnered by MGM sets a new record for the Company. [...] What we have done is aimed at enhancing the talent in Macau. Going forward, MGM will remain true to our original aspiration."

China claims everyone in Xinjiang camps has 'graduated'

YANAN WANG, BEIJING

PEOPLE who were at vocational training centers in China's far west Xinjiang have all "graduated" and are living happy lives, an official said yesterday. But Uighurs and other predominantly Muslim ethnic minorities from the region say their family members continue to be arbitrarily detained in camps and prisons.

Shohrat Zakir, Xinjiang's Uighur governor, made the remarks during a press briefing as part of a strident propaganda campaign launched following U.S. Congress' approval last week of the Uighur Human Rights Policy Act.

"When the lives of people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang were seriously threatened by terrorism, the U.S. turned a deaf ear," Zakir said at a press briefing. "On the contrary, now that Xinjiang society is steadily developing and people of all ethnicities are living and working in peace, the U.S. feels uneasy, and attacks and smears Xinjiang."

The U.S. legislation condemns the mass detentions of an estimated more than 1 million Uighurs, Kazakhs and others. It also raises possible sanctions against Chinese government officials deemed responsible for human rights abuses in Xinjiang.

Former detainees and their

AP PHOTO



Shohrat Zakir, chairman of the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, at a press conference yesterday

relatives have told The Associated Press that the centers for "re-education" were essentially prisons where they were forced to renounce Islam and express gratitude to the ruling Communist Party. They were subject to indoctrination and torture, the detainees said.

While Chinese authorities have described the detentions as a form of vocational training,

classified documents recently leaked to a consortium of news organizations revealed a deliberate strategy to lock up ethnic minorities even though they had not committed any crimes.

Xu Hairong, the Communist Party chief of Urumqi city, Xinjiang's capital, did not dispute the documents' authenticity. He said, however, that there was no such thing as "detention camps."

"The reports by The New York Times, the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists and other foreign media organizations are purely malicious attempts to smear and discredit Xinjiang's vocational education centers and its counter-terrorism and de-radicalization efforts," Xu said.

Officials have repeatedly declined to say how many people are

in the centers but insist the figure is far less than 1 million. Zakir said the number is "dynamic."

All those in the centers who were studying Mandarin Chinese, law, vocational skills and de-radicalization have "graduated" and found stable employment, Zakir said, adding that others such as village officials, farmers and unemployed high school graduates continue to enroll on a rolling basis in programs that allow them to "come and go freely."

Some ex-detainees have told AP they were forced to sign job contracts and barred from leaving factory grounds during weekdays, working long hours for low pay. Many Uighurs abroad also say their relatives are in prison, not camps, after being sentenced on vague charges of extremism.

Yesterday's briefing was the latest in a slew of public rebuttals from the Chinese government in response to the U.S. Uighur human rights bill, which Beijing has called a violation of international law and interference in China's internal affairs. The legislation further muddied U.S.-China ties, which were already strained over trade and pro-democracy demonstrations in Hong Kong.

During the briefing, officials played a clip from a documentary released last Friday by CGTN, the international branch of state broadcaster CCTV. The documentary, called "Fighting Terrorism in Xinjiang," showed old footage of terrorist attacks over the last decade, including bombings and stabbings such as the knife attack that killed 31 people outside a railway station in southern Kunming city in 2014. AP

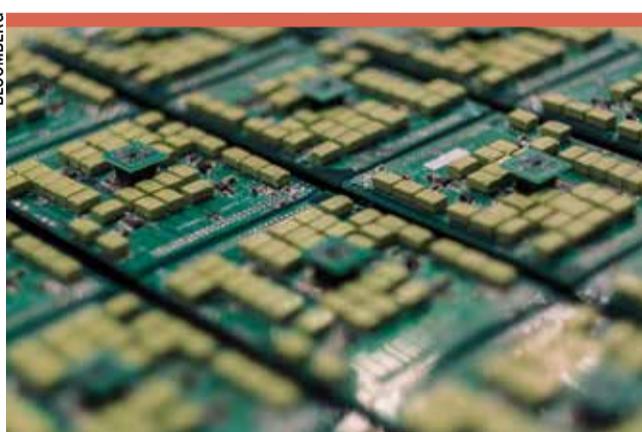
Beijing pushes for removal of foreign tech in more state offices

THE Chinese government is taking further steps to remove foreign technology from state agencies and other organizations, a clear sign of determination for more independence amid escalating tensions with the U.S.

Beijing will likely replace as many as 20 million computers at government agencies with domestic products over the next three years, according to research from China Securities. More than 100 trial projects for domestic products were completed in July, the brokerage firm said.

The Financial Times newspaper said the Communist Party's Central Office earlier this year ordered state offices and public institutions to shift away from foreign hardware and software.

BLOOMBERG



The government under President Xi Jinping has been trying for years to replace technologies from abroad, and particularly from the U.S. Bloomberg News reported in 2014 that Beijing was aiming to purge most foreign technology from its banks, the military, government agencies and state-owned enterprises by 2020. The country's Made in

China 2025 plan also set out specific goals for technology independence, although the policy has been de-emphasized after contributing to trade war tensions.

U.S. President Donald Trump's administration banned U.S. companies from doing business with Huawei Technologies Co. this year and blacklisted other Chinese firms.

"The trade war has exposed various areas of Chinese economic weakness, which Beijing seems determined to rectify," said Brock Silvers, managing director of Adamas Asset Management. "If the decision pushes Trump to finally come down hard with a more forceful ban of Chinese tech, however, China may one day regret having gone so public with its policy so soon."

While the current push is narrow in scope, it is designed as part of the broad, long-standing effort to decrease China's reliance on foreign technologies and boost its domestic industry. The goal is to substitute 30% of hardware in state agencies next year, 50% in 2021 and 20% in 2022, China Securities estimated, based on government requests

and clients' budgets.

The research, from September, detailed Beijing's goals. The FT reported the number of computers to be replaced could reach 30 million, attributing the figures to China Securities. The newspaper said the goal is to use "secure and controllable" technology as part of the country's Cyber Security Law passed in 2017.

Starting next year, key industries such as finance, energy and telecom will test more domestic products in trials that may last years, the firm said. Chinese banks are supposed to shift from International Business Machines Corp. and Oracle Corp. to more diversified X86 architecture suppliers and then eventually to fully made-in-China hardware. China has decided to adopt ARM architecture

for its domestic hardware, China Securities said.

"The China-U.S. trade war could also help to breed a new market for home-made products," China Securities analyst Shi Zerui wrote.

Still, Beijing's push has proven difficult because its domestic industry hasn't yet shown itself capable of matching foreign technologies in certain sectors. Particularly hard to replace, for example, are semiconductors from suppliers like Intel Corp. and Nvidia Corp., as well as software from Microsoft Corp. and Apple Inc.

"While large suppliers such as Microsoft and IBM are undoubtedly worried, many high-end components, like chipsets, can't be easily replaced," Silvers said. BLOOMBERG

NEW ZEALAND

At least five dead, many more missing in eruption of volcano

MARK BAKER, WHAKATANE

A volcanic island in New Zealand erupted yesterday in a tower of ash and steam while dozens of tourists were exploring the moon-like surface, killing five people and leaving many more missing.

Police said the site was still too dangerous hours later for rescuers to search for the missing.

Police Deputy Commissioner John Tims said the number of missing was in the double digits but he couldn't confirm an exact number. He said there were fewer than 50 people on the island when it erupted and 23 had been taken off, including the five dead.

Tims said experts had told them the island remained unstable but search and rescue teams wanted to get back as quickly as they could. He said there had been no contact with any of those who were missing.

He said both New Zealanders

and overseas tourists were among those who were dead, missing or injured. He said most of the 18 who survived were injured and some had suffered severe burns.

Some of those involved were tourists from the Royal Caribbean International cruise ship Ovation of the Seas.

"A number of our guests were touring the island today," the company said. "We will offer all possible assistance to our guests and local authorities. Please keep all those affected in your prayers."

The cruise ship, which had left from Sydney last week, was scheduled to sail to the capital Wellington yesterday night but the company said it would instead remain in the Tauranga port overnight until it learned more on the situation.

"My god," wrote Michael Schade on Twitter as he posted video of the eruption. "My family and I had gotten off it 20 minutes before, were waiting at our boat about

to leave when we saw it. Boat ride home tending to people our boat rescued was indescribable."

His video showed a wall of ash and steam around the island and a helicopter badly damaged and covered in ash. He said one woman was badly injured but seemed "strong" by the end.

White Island sits about 50 kilometers offshore from mainland New Zealand. Already people are questioning why tourists were still able to visit the island after scientists recently noted an uptick in volcanic activity.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern traveled to the region late yesterday. She said the incident was "very significant."

"All our thoughts are with those affected," she said.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said he'd offered Ardern his support.

"Australians have been caught up in this terrible event and we are working to determine their

wellbeing," Morrison wrote on Twitter.

Brad Scott, a volcanologist with research group GNS Science, said the eruption sent a plume of steam and ash about 3,660 meters into the air. He said it had also affected the whole of the White Island crater floor.

The GeoNet agency, which monitors volcanoes and earthquakes in New Zealand, raised the alert level on White Island from one to two on Nov. 18, noting an increase in the amount of sulfur dioxide gas, which originates from magma deep in the volcano. It also said at the time that over the previous weeks, the volcanic tremor had increased from weak to moderate strength.

Scott said the alert level was often raised and then later dropped again without any eruption. He said there hadn't been any major incidents with tourists visiting the island in the past, although there had been some close calls. ▶

AP PHOTO



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Scott said it was not for him to say whether the island was safe enough to host tourists immediately before the eruption.

Ardern said the focus remained on the search and rescue mission for now and questions about whether tourists should be visiting would be addressed later.

GeoNet at first raised its alert level to four, on a scale where five represents a major eruption. It later dropped the alert level back down to three. Scott said that was because the eruption wasn't sustained beyond the initial blast.

"In the scheme of things, for volcanic eruptions, it is not large," said Ken Gledhill from GeoNet. "But if you were close to that, it is not good."

White Island is northeast of the town of Tauranga on North Island, one of New Zealand's two main islands. Experts say it's New Zealand's most active cone volcano and about 70% of the volcano lies under the sea.

Twelve people were killed on the island in 1914 when it was being mined for sulfur. Part of a crater wall collapsed and a landslide destroyed the miners' village and the mine itself.

The remains of buildings from another mining enterprise in the 1920s are now a tourist attraction, according to GeoNet. The island became a private scenic reserve in 1953, and daily tours allow more than 10,000 people to visit the volcano every year.

The island is also known by the indigenous Maori name Whakaari. AP

MALAYSIA

VACCINATING FOR POLIO AFTER FIRST CASE IN 27 YEARS

MALAYSIA began a vaccination campaign in a rural town on Borneo island after a 3-month-old boy was confirmed to have polio in the country's first case of the highly infectious virus in 27 years.

The infant from Tuaran town in Sabah state tested positive for vaccine-derived polio virus type 1 on Friday after he was hospitalized with fever and muscle weakness. He is on respiratory support but his condition is stable, Health Minister Dzulkefly Ahmad said in a statement yesterday.

Malaysia is the second Asian country to have reported a polio case after an outbreak in the Philippines in September. The World Health Organization says polio, which has been largely eradicated, remains endemic in only Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Dzulkefly said tests showed the baby's strain had genetic links to the polio virus detected in Philippines and investigations are ongoing to determine the cause of the infection. Malaysia's last polio

case occurred in 1992 and the country was declared polio-free in 2000.

The health ministry said the strain was believed to have originated from a weakened virus contained in oral polio vaccine that was excreted from the body through feces and possibly spread in an unsanitary environment to those who haven't been immunized.

Dzulkefly said Malaysia switched from oral vaccine to inactivated polio vaccine since 2008, that is given to children via injection in a combination with several vaccines for other infectious diseases including diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus.

The government fully halted the use of oral vaccine three years ago, but he stressed the country has not had any reports of vaccine-derived polio cases from the use of over 80 million doses of the oral vaccine.

"The first polio case since Malaysia was polio-free upset us," Dzulkefly said.

Vaccination has been ste-

pped up in the infant's home village after investigations showed 25 out of 204 children, aged between 2 months and 15 years, were not vaccinated against polio, he said.

"All of these children are non-citizens and have been given polio vaccines. This activity is being expanded to other risky areas to prevent transmission," he said. Officers are also educating villagers about polio and preventive measures, he said.

Tests have been carried out to those close to the infant and from the environment, he said, adding that so far wastewater samplings from six sewage treatment plants in Sabah showed no presence of wild polio virus or vaccine-derived strains.

Health officers are also bolstering surveillance to detect those who has muscle paralysis, a symptom of polio, though none have been detected so far, he said. There is no known cure for polio, which can only be prevented with vaccines. AP

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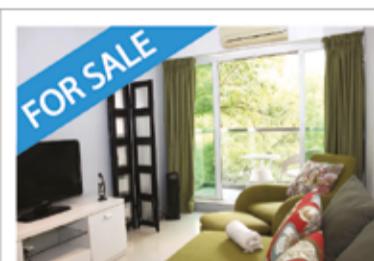
\$11,770,000

1,439 ft²

2 bed 2 bath



SCAN ME



Va Fat, Taipa

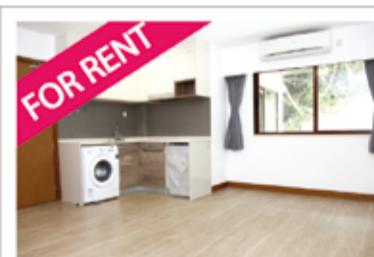
\$4,530,000

725 ft²

2 bed 1 bath



SCAN ME



Taipa studio, Largo de Ponte

\$8,500/mth

426 ft²

1 bed



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WEST BANK

Palestinians in Bethlehem look beyond religious tourism

FOR decades, the people of Bethlehem have watched tour buses drive up to the Church of the Nativity, disgorging their passengers for a few hours at the traditional birthplace of Jesus, and then return to Israel.

But in recent years a new form of tourism has taken root, focused on the West Bank town's Palestinian residents, their culture and history and their struggles under Israeli occupation.

As pilgrims descend on Bethlehem this Christmas, they have the option of staying in restored centuries-old guesthouses, taking food tours of local markets, and perusing the dystopian art in and around a hotel designed by the British graffiti artist Banksy.

The centerpiece of tourism, and the focus of Christmas celebrations in the coming weeks, is the 6th-century Church of the Nativity, built on the site where Jesus is believed to have been born in a manger. Extensive renovations in recent years have saved the roof from collapse and revealed color-

AP PHOTO



Christian visitors shop near the Church of the Nativity, traditionally believed to be the birthplace of Jesus Christ, Bethlehem

ful wall mosaics depicting angels and saints.

Earlier this month, the Vatican returned a small part of what Christians believe to be the original manger, which was sent to Rome as a gift to the pope in the 7th century. The thumb-sized relic, displayed in an ornate silver case, can be seen in a chapel ad-

joining the church.

In Manger Square, just outside the church, a massive Christmas tree has been set up and festivities are planned in the coming weeks as various denominations hold staggered Christmas celebrations. On Jan. 7, Bethlehem will host an international Santa convention.

Tourism has suffered in the

past during outbreaks of violence between Israel and the Palestinians. But the Palestinian Tourism Ministry expects 3.5 million visitors to Bethlehem in 2019, up from 3 million the previous year, and many think there is still room for growth.

"The general situation in Palestine and the Holy Land is that

there is very good security, better than most countries in the world, and so the people are visiting," said Elias al-Arja, chairman of the local hotel association.

He noted that while the Holy Land includes the most important sites in Christianity, including the places where tradition says Christ was born, where he grew up, was crucified and resurrected, it attracts far fewer visitors than the Vatican. "We have the opportunity to draw more people," he said.

Religious tourism is a boon for the local economy, but many Palestinians feel the city's modern residents are largely ignored.

Israel captured the West Bank, along with east Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip, in the 1967 Middle East war. The Palestinians view the territories as part of their national homeland and hope to one day establish an independent state.

Visitors travelling to Bethlehem pass through a sprawling Israeli checkpoint and then drive along the separation wall, which Israel began building during the second Palestinian intifada, or uprising, in the early 2000s. Israel says the barrier is needed to prevent attacks, but the Palestinians view it as a land grab because its route places almost 10% of the West Bank on the Israeli side. Bethlehem itself is almost completely surrounded by the barrier and a string of Jewish settlements. AP

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what's ON**RED DECEMBER – EXHIBITION OF CARLOS MARREIROS****TIME:** 10am-9pm**UNTIL:** 13 February 2020**VENUE:** Tap Seac Gallery, located at No. 95, Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida**ADMISSION:** Free**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 8988 4000**RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION ON THE PAST NATIONAL LOTUS FLOWER EXHIBITIONS****TIME:** 9am-1pm & 2:30pm-5:30pm (Closed on Mondays)**UNTIL:** December 31, 2019**VENUE:** Guia Hill Nature Information Station (next to cable car station)**ADMISSION:** Free**ENQUIRIES:** 2888 0087**THE 2ND MACAU OCEAN CULTURE FESTIVAL - CREATIVE DESIGN COMPETITION EXHIBITION****TIME:** Open 24 hours**UNTIL:** December 19, 2019**VENUE:** Sai Van Lake**ADMISSION:** Free

Facebook: porthistorymacau

Offbeat**GALA EVENING AT LA SCALA CELEBRATES CULTURE OVER EXTREMISM**

The gala season premiere of Puccini's "Tosca" starring Russian soprano Anna Netrebko and conducted by Riccardo Chailly received 15 minutes of applause from an audience of Milanese elite, in an evening that celebrated culture as a bulwark against political extremism.

For the second year, the performance opened with long applause for Italy's president, Sergio Mattarella, sitting in the royal box with four government ministers. As last year, the Italian government is struggling, and the long applause was seen as a show of support for Italian institutions, which Mattarella represents in a non-partisan role.

After five minutes of clapping, Mattarella signaled for the audience to turn to the stage for the Italian anthem and the start of "Tosca."

"When there is so much applause for Mattarella, like last year, it is to say that we believe in our constitution, that we believe in a single, indivisible Italy, and that we are a community that needs to grow and be open," said stage director Davide Livermore, who also directed last year's "Attila."

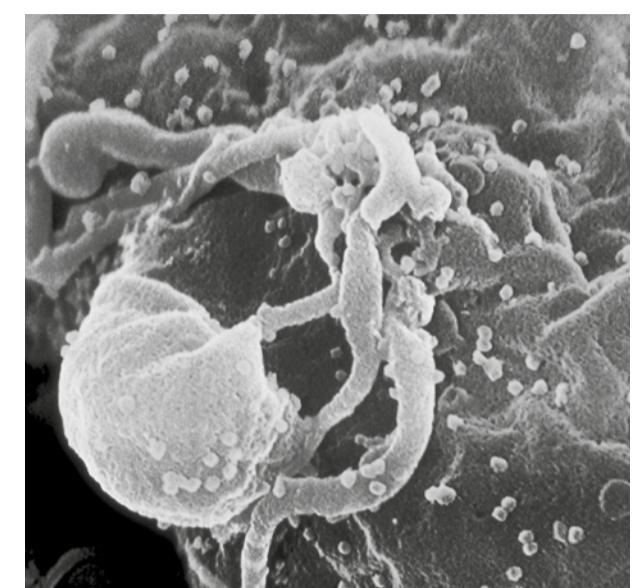
"There are too many strange things. There are too few politicians who have the courage to say fascism is against the law," Livermore said.

The audience of Italian business, fashion, cultural and political VIPs included senator-for-life Liliana Segre, an Auschwitz survivor who was recently placed under armed escort due to anti-Semitic threats. The Milan native recalled coming to La Scala as a 16-year-old and said she has been a season-ticket holder for 30 years.

She said she loves "Tosca" for its passion, adding, "I wasn't always 90 years old."

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****05 - 11 Dec****KNIVES OUT****ROOM 1****2:30, 9:15pm****Director:** Rian Johnson**Starring:** Daniel Craig, Chris Evans, Toni Collette, Jamie Lee Curtis**Language:** English**Duration:** 152min**FROZEN II****ROOM 1****5:00, 7:15pm****Director:** Chris Buck, Jennifer Lee**Starring:** Kristen Bell, Jonathan Groff, Idina Menzel**Language:** Cantonese**Duration:** 103min**LAST CHRISTMAS****ROOM 2****2:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30pm****Director:** Paul Feig**Starring:** Madison Ingoldsby, Emma Thompson, Boris Isakovic**Language:** English (Chinese)**Duration:** 103min**MARRIAGE HUNTING BEAUTY****ROOM 3****2:30, 4:30, 7:30pm****Director:** Akiko Ohku**Starring:** Atsuko Hirata, Shinpei Ichikawa, Mei Kurokawa**Language:** Japanese (Chinese/English)**Duration:** 89min**21 BRIDGES****ROOM 3****9:45pm****Director:** Brian Kirk**Starring:** Chadwick Boseman, J.K. Simmons, Sienna Miller**Language:** English (Chinese)**Duration:** 103min**this day in history****1981 MYSTERY DISEASE KILLS HOMOSEXUALS**

A mysterious epidemic, which has been discovered in homosexual men, is causing increasing concern in the United States.

The unknown condition, which consists of two separate diseases - a form of pneumonia and skin cancer, has been found in 180 patients in 15 states since last July.

It has claimed around 75 lives so far in the US and up to 92% of the victims are homosexual men.

One death has been reported from the virus in London.

Although doctors have identified what appears to be a new disease, they have yet to devise a cure.

The epidemic is being investigated by the Centre for Disease Control in Atlanta.

The specialist unit has already discovered the causes of two other diseases, the toxic shock syndrome and Legionnaires' disease.

Dr James Curran, who is investigating the condition, said: "It is a very serious problem and it does not seem to be on the wane."

Three studies in the New England Journal of Medicine show that the immune systems of victims are severely weakened, leaving them vulnerable to serious infections from germs which most people normally shrug off.

Homosexuals who have developed either of the two conditions have shown a low resistance to standard tests on their immune system.

Four victims also had rare skin ulcers normally caused by the herpes simplex virus.

Researchers claim that their findings are "part of a nationwide epidemic of immunodeficiency among male homosexuals".

Doctors are unsure of the cause of the epidemic which is carried in semen and other body secretions.

A study at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) suggests that homosexuals may be repeatedly infected with the virus.

One case also involved an intravenous drug user which implies that the disease could be spread by sharing needles.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The unknown condition was eventually named as AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) virus.

The disease caused widespread panic in the United States where 4,000 people were infected in the space of two years.

During that time it also became apparent that the epidemic was not restricted to homosexuals.

Cases of AIDS were also discovered among heterosexuals, drug users and blood transfusion patients.

The virus which was isolated as the cause of the disease was called Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and it was first discovered in 1983.

Around 24 million people have died from AIDS since it first emerged and it is the leading cause of death in sub-Saharan Africa.

There is still no cure for the disease despite numerous trials in North America, Europe and Thailand.

YOUR STARS**ARIES**

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Today your imagination, dreams, and fantasies will provide other people with entertainment—and after you perform for these folks, you should reach out to them for insight.

**TAURUS**

Apr. 20-May. 20

Your life has been a series of compromises and negotiations, each of which has strengthened your bonds with friends, family, and partners. But not everyone feels that compromises enrich their life.

**GEMINI**

May. 21-Jun. 21

All your forward momentum is starting to slow down a bit, which is both a positive and a negative thing. On the one hand, this time out will finally give you a chance to take in the interesting view.

**CANCER**

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

This day may require a lot of organization, so do yourself a favor and start the day with a thorough evaluation of what needs to be done and how you are going to go about doing it.

**LEO**

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Your generosity is at odds with your wallet, and it might be time to get creative with a gift idea. Think about what you can do for someone rather than what you can give them.

**VIRGO**

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

You will be graced with a huge dose of beautiful, magnetic energy today. In a crowd, you will be able to draw people around you with your supportive ways.

**SCORPIO**

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Being interested in the lives of rock stars and celebrities is nice for some people, but today you should follow your urge to turn off the TV and find something of substance to explore.

**SAGITTARIUS**

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

If you think playing hard to get is going to land you the apple of your eye, think again. There is far too much going on in their lives to notice someone who doesn't seem to notice them.

**AQUARIUS**

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

When you are building something, sometimes you get so focused on the nuts and bolts that you forget to step back and look at your progress. Don't make that mistake today.

**CAPRICORN**

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

As a peacefulness comes over your emotional life, look for other areas of your life to grow more peaceful as well. For any social outings today, try to choose a quiet spot where you can really talk.

**PISCES**

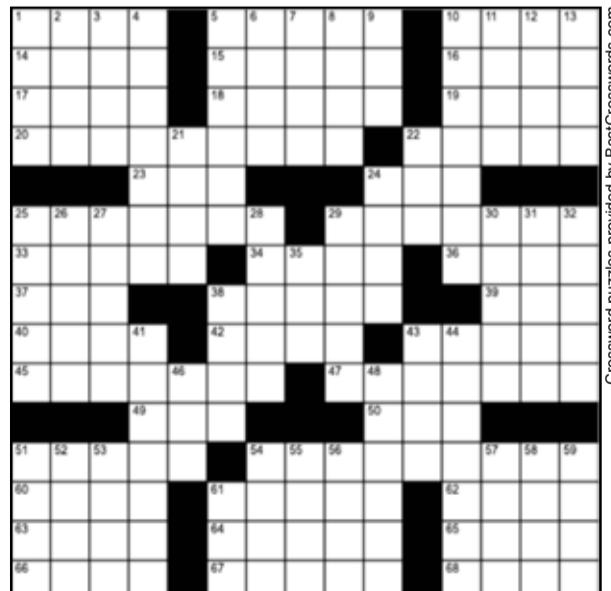
Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Your already-complicated relationship with money is getting more and more complex—but only because you are letting it. The bottom line is still the same: You should not spend more than you have.

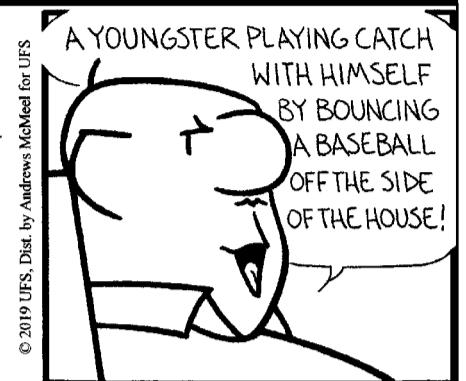
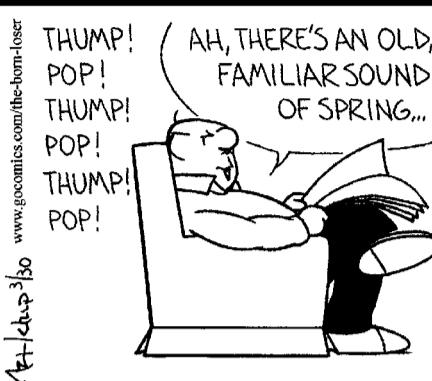
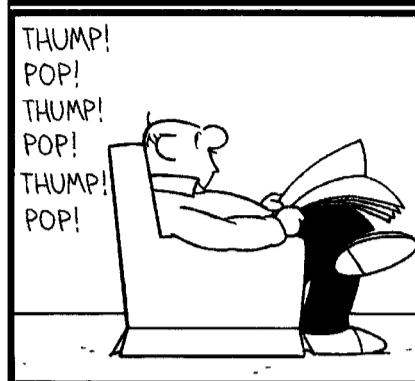
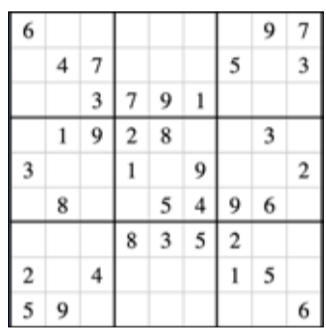
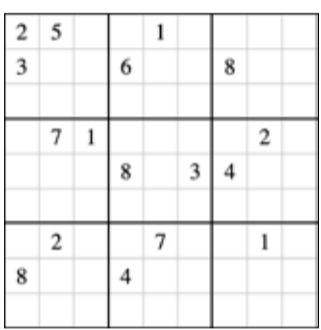
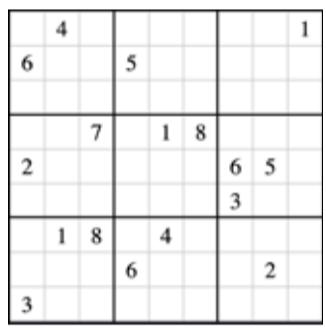
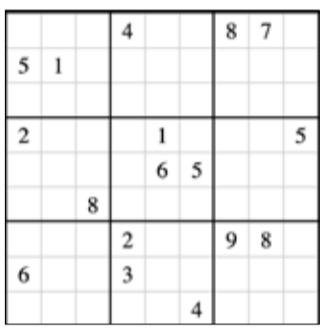
CROSSWORD

ACROSS: 1- Waist band; 5- Australian marsupial; 10- X-ray units; 14- Margarine; 15- Early Peruvians; 16- Waiting for the Robert ____; 17- Scorch; 18- ____ of a Salesman; 19- Probiotics; 20- Bombardment; 22- Songs for two; 23- ____ we having fun yet?; 24- Infamous Amin; 25- Farewell; 29- Erin; 33- Big dos; 34- Hindu discipline; 36- Antlered animal; 37- Convert into leather; 38- Iranian money; 39- Actress ____ Dawn Chong; 40- They may clash; 42- Division word; 43- County exhibitions; 45- Solidifying; 47- Unity; 49- European name for a moose; 50- Ike's WWII command; 51- See eye to eye; 54- Splash; 60- Word in an octagon; 61- Hawaiian greeting; 62- Panama and bowler; 63- Work hard; 64- Related to the kidneys; 65- Mtn. stat; 66- "Cast Away" setting; 67- Japanese dish; 68- Coarse file;

DOWN: 1- Pear variety; 2- Zeno's home; 3- Incline; 4- Violent whirlwind; 5- One of a pair of organs; 6- Draft classification; 7- Mil. school; 8- Behind schedule; 9- Baseball bat wood; 10- Reconquest; 11- Winglike parts; 12- Depression in a surface; 13- Cong. meeting; 21- Celestial spheres; 22- JFK's predecessor; 24- Some nest eggs; 25- Entrances; 26- Old enough; 27- ... but I could be wrong; 28- Giving the once-over; 29- Inuit dwelling; 30- Loft dwelling; 31- Closes in on; 32- Apparel; 35- Muesli morsel; 38- Skating area; 41- Spire; 43- Greek cheese; 44- One more; 46- ____ du Diable; 48- Kathmandu native; 51- Italian wine city; 52- Old Pontiacs; 53- Stir up; 54- Cordon ____; 55- Ages; 56- Former Iranian ruler; 57- Currency unit in Western Samoa; 58- French summers; 59- Invitation letters; 61- Horace's ____ Poetica";



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
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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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

RUGBY ACADEMY

IMPRESSIVE BATS U12 PERFORMANCE AT HK FESTIVAL

DONALD SHAW, HONG KONG
SPECIAL TO MDT

LAST week Sunday saw the Macau Bats compete in the Flying Kukri's rugby festival at King's Park, Hong Kong. The Bats had entered teams in the U9/10/11 and 12 age groups. The U9s got off to an inauspicious start with two heavy defeats by Valley Fort and Tin Shiu Wai Eagles. However, better things lay ahead and the U9s bounced back with wins over Football Club (HKFC) and USRC Tigers.

The U10s were low on player numbers and needed to include some U9 players for their games. First up was a resounding 8-1 win over East Kowloon followed by an equally impressive 6-2 win against Tin Shiu Wai Eagles. The U10s then scored two further victories over HKFC (4-1) and Sandy Bay (3-0) to maintain their unbeaten record for the season so far.

The U11s maintained the impressive Macau team performance with wins against Discovery Bay Pirates / Tung Chung (6-2) and USRC Tigers (4-1). They then came up against a strong ShaTin Sha Pei and lost 3-5.

The U12s were playing in the third division of the Richard Hawkes Cup and got off to a very strong start with a 5-1 win over HKFC. Two narrow losses, 1-2 against Sandy Bay and 1-3 with Discovery Bay Pirates meant that topping the league was unlikely. However, a 6-2 win over a combined ShaTin/ TaiPo select resulted in a creditable second place.

Next up for the Bats will be the TaiPo junior tournament for U7 and 8s while the U19s will continue to compete in the Hong Kong Premiership.



STEVE DOUGLAS, RIYADH

ANTHONY Joshua is set for a London homecoming to start his second reign as world heavyweight champion, with his next fight likely to take place at the recently built stadium of Premier League soccer club Tottenham.

Joshua reclaimed his WBA, WBO and IBF titles over the weekend with a unanimous points decision over Andy Ruiz Jr. in Saudi Arabia, having lost to the Mexican-American in New York in June for the first defeat of his career.

They were the Briton's first two overseas bouts, with Joshua earning a reported \$70 million for fighting in Saudi Arabia, but Joshua wants to defend his titles in front of his home fans.

"London's calling, I think," said Joshua, who was born in Watford just outside the capital.

"British supporters do play a big part in my career. Any time I'm on home soil, I can't lose."

Joshua, who won the Olympic gold medal at the London Games in 2012, has fought twice at the 90,000-capacity Wembley Stadium, beating Wladimir Klitschko and Alexander Povetkin.

But Eddie Hearn, Joshua's promoter, says the national soccer stadium "doesn't look great, date-wise" for Joshua's next fight,

BOXING

Joshua set to defend heavyweight titles at Tottenham stadium

which is set to be in April or May against IBF mandatory contender Kubrat Pulev.

Hearn has turned his sights on the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, which was opened in April and has a 60,000 capacity.

"The phone has gone crazy — it's like, 'Bring him here, bring him here,'" Hearn said, sitting alongside Joshua in a restaurant on one of the top floors of a 5-star hotel in Riyadh. "They've seen what we've done here and there's a lot of options internationally, but he does want to box back in the UK."

"We spoke to Spurs about hosting this fight (the rematch against Ruiz), which they were keen to do, but unfortunately the dates didn't work out. They would be keen to do it and it would be a nice stadium to do it in London."

Hearn said the UK pay-per-view numbers for the Ruiz-Joshua rematch were "well over a million," which would break the UK record. AP

AP PHOTO



Defending champion Andy Ruiz Jr. (left) takes a right cross to the face during his fight against Britain's Anthony Joshua



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OPINION

Rear Window

Severo Portela



THE RIGHT AND DIFFICULT STUFF

Already speeding toward the double 20 - December 20th marks two decades as a Special Administrative Region - Macau is facing additional responsibilities as the 'good pupil' of the "One country, Two systems" principle. The top Chinese leadership is not avoiding the elephant in the room played by the sister SAR of Hong Kong, quite the contrary. At the same time as warning Hong Kong to behave according to the constitutional line, they are officially praising Macau for the correct implementation of the Basic Law. Before addressing the red lines apparently drawn from the PRC Constitution, we may highlight that the MSAR success story rests on the patriotism of its leadership and principal officials, and on the implementation of national security related legal tools.

Albeit the attention of MSAR should be on the preparations of the paramount event on December 20th, for all state and political reasons Macau could have a break to evaluate the new government of Chief Executive-to-be on the 20th. The fact is that whilst disregarding the local conventional wisdom of no surprises ever, Ho Iat Seng's team proved to have two jacks in the box.

The very CE, always reserved on political and institutional matters, admitted, and the choice of words says everything, that it was "difficult" for him to make the "decision" to appoint the vice-president of the Executive Council of Municipal Affairs Bureau as his Secretary for Finance and Economy, and the director of Identification Bureau as the new Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, sidelining seasoned and deep-rooted MSAR cadres like Lionel Leong and Ho Veng On.

Although both, and other officials, will find new positions (Ho Veng On will keep the Commissioner of Audit) - for Macau has not an excessive talent pool - the point is the option for the two replacements seems to make sense in the turning of the page on the offices of Edmund Ho and Chui Sai On. If we put aside Raimundo do Rosário, the Secretary for Transportation and Public Works, himself allegedly warming the seat for Caifeng Li, the four, including Wong Sio Chak, share an aura of the class of 90 called to the political front line in the times of adherence to central government policies.

To address this reasoning we just have to reflect on the justifications and comparative qualities the "difficult" decision brought: Ao Ieong U, director of the Identification Bureau, has done an "excellent job" and service. In addition, her portfolio, or the Alexis Tam mega-brief, is the most demanding in terms of a service mindset. Politically, this assessment is equivalent to an interrogation.

However, most intriguing and hard to swallow are the said benefits of the discreet Municipal Affairs Bureau's Lei Wai Nong which Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng sought for the next Secretary for Economy and Finance: he understands SME problems.

Politically, this assessment of the Secretary who will handle the gaming industry, and others, is equivalent to a What Am I Doing Here. So much so that the usually cautious SJM Ambrose So, allowed himself to say he is "uncertain" of what Lei Wai Nong intends for the casino sector. More than this, the SJM Holdings CEO added that it is too "early" to say anything about what Nong's "difficult" appointment would mean for the future of gaming. 2022 is almost tomorrow.

Finally, the high-profile new Secretary for Administration and Justice, André Cheong: Not only he is climbing from the role of the Commissioner for Corruption to the Executive, but he will probably be the future Chief Executive of a SAR more integrated into the GBA. Meanwhile, Cheong's deputy at the anti-graft bureau will be moved to be the Chief-of-Office of the Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng's office.

A final note to the wandering cow that escaped from the slaughterhouse and alarmed the Ilha Verde area. The cow will be adopted by the Municipal Bureau. Locals are betting on a name appropriate to the four-footed. Macau Daily Times knows that MaCow is the favorite.

AMERICA'S INFLUENCE, ONCE SO DOMINANT, WANING UNDER TRUMP

It's whispered in NATO meeting rooms and celebrated in China's halls of power. It's lamented in the capital cities of key U.S. allies and welcomed in the Kremlin.

Three years into Donald Trump's presidency, America's global influence is waning. In interviews with The Associated Press, diplomats, foreign officials and scholars from numerous countries describe a changing world order in which the United States has less of a central role.

And in many ways, that's just fine with the White House. Trump campaigned on an "America First" foreign policy and

says a strong United States will mean a stronger world.

"The future doesn't belong to globalists," Trump told the U.N. General Assembly in September. "The future belongs to patriots."

Trump insists he's abandoning globalism for bilateral ties more beneficial to the U.S..

But there's little sign of that.

Instead, once-close allies — France, Egypt, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Mexico, Turkey, Germany and more — have quietly edged away from Washington over the past three years.



North Korea insulted U.S. President Donald Trump again yesterday, calling him a "headless and erratic old man" after he tweeted that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un wouldn't want to abandon a special relationship between the two leaders and affect the American presidential election by resuming hostile acts.



India Day laborers in New Delhi demonstrated against unsafe working conditions yesterday, a day after at least 43 people were killed in a devastating fire at an illegal factory there. Dozens of workers who were asleep when the fire broke out were trapped Sunday in the burning four-story building.



UK British PM Boris Johnson and opposition leaders were pushing for the finish line in Britain's election campaign yesterday, dashing through multiple constituencies to drum up support in the final 72 hours before polling day. Johnson was touring Labour-held seats across England that his Conservatives need to secure a majority while Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn was in southwest and central England.



Finland A 34-year-old transport minister and lawmaker has been tapped to become Finland's youngest prime minister ever and its third female government leader. Finland's ruling Social Democratic Party council voted 32-29 yesterday to name Sanna Marin (pictured) over rival Antti Lindtman to take over the government's top post from incumbent Antti Rinne.

RUSSIA BANNED FROM GLOBAL SPORTS FOR FOUR YEARS

THE Russian flag and national anthem were banned from next year's Tokyo Olympics and other major sports events for four years yesterday.

Russia's hosting of world championships in Olympic sports also face being stripped after the World Anti-Doping Agency executive committee approved a full slate of recommended sanctions as punishment for state authorities tampering with a Moscow laboratory database.

Russian athletes will be allowed to compete in major events only if they are not implicated in positive doping tests or if their data was not manipulated, according to the WADA ruling.

Still, it is unclear how the ruling will affect Russian

teams taking part in world championships such as soccer's World Cup.

Russia's anti-doping agency can appeal the decision to the Court of Arbitration for Sport within 21 days.

Legal fallout from the WADA ruling seems sure to dominate preparations for the Tokyo Olympics, which open on July 24.

Evidence shows that Russian authorities tampered with a Moscow laboratory database to hide hundreds of potential doping cases and falsely shift the blame onto whistleblowers, WADA investigators and the International Olympic Committee said last month.

"Flagrant manipulation" of the Moscow lab data was

"an insult to the sporting movement worldwide," the IOC said last month.

However, WADA's inability to fully expel Russia from the Tokyo Olympics and 2022 Beijing Winter Games frustrated the doping watchdog's vice president.

"I'm not happy with the decision we made today. But this is as far as we could go," said Linda Helleland, a Norwegian lawmaker who serves on WADA executive committee and has long pushed for a tougher line against Russia. "This is the biggest sports scandal the world has ever seen. I would expect now a full admission from the Russians and for them to apologize on all the pain all the athletes and sports fans have experienced." AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

MDT/Paulo Coutinho



Binoche. IFFAM brought yet another mega-star to the city, this time Juliette Binoche, a most talented and versatile French actress mostly known for her roles in Blue, Chocolat, and The English Patient, which granted her an Oscar. Yesterday, a few hours after her arrival she had a conversation with Mike Goodridge before a full house at CCM.