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# MacauDaily Times

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'



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THE LIGHT RAPID TRANSIT METRO SYSTEM OFFICIALLY OPENED YESTERDAY, OFFERING THE PUBLIC FREE RIDES UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR

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HONG KONG JOURNALIST HELD AT BORDER PRIOR TO LAWMAKER INTERVIEW

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MACAU CASINOS ARE FACING THEIR BIGGEST THREAT TO GROWTH IN FIVE YEARS AS THE INDUSTRY ENTERS A MORE MATURE PHASE

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AP PHOTO  
**Taiwan** Taiwan's top diplomat Joseph Wu said that his government stands with Hong Kong citizens pushing for "freedom and democracy," and would help those displaced from the semi-autonomous Chinese city if Beijing intervenes with greater force to quell the protests. More on p11

**Cambodia** The Cambodian government expressed "strong dismay" yesterday over a U.S. Treasury decision to sanction two businessmen suspected of corruption and illegal logging. A Foreign Ministry statement said the sanctions were based on groundless accusations. "The Executive Order is an ambush against the ongoing efforts to restore trust and confidence."



AP PHOTO  
**India** For years Romi Jan's mornings would begin with the plaintive call to prayer that rang out from the central mosque in disputed Kashmir's largest city. Not anymore. For nearly four months now, the voice that would call out five times a day from the minarets of the Jamia Masjid and echo across Srinagar has been silent. More on p13



AP PHOTO  
**New Zealand** 47 people from New Zealand, United States, Australia, Germany, Britain, China and Malaysia were on a New Zealand volcanic island when it suddenly erupted. Of those, dozens were killed, injured or are missing. Details are scarce because conditions on the island are too dangerous for officials to return and disaster victim identification experts have only begun their work. More on p12

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## LRT FARES SET BETWEEN 6 AND 10 PATACAS PER TRIP

JULIE ZHU

THE six-pataca Macau Light Rapid Transit (LRT) fare previously reported by the Times was confirmed yesterday by the Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo Arrais do Rosário at the long-awaited opening of the metro system.

Yesterday, an inauguration ceremony for the LRT was held at the train depot. On the sidelines of the ceremony, Secretary Rosário revealed that LRT fare will be six patacas for distances travelled within

three stations, eight patacas for up to six stations and ten patacas for journeys more than six stations.

The aforementioned prices are applicable to passengers who pay with cash. A 50% discount will be granted to passengers who use the LRT Pass. Other forms of electronic payments are not yet operational on the LRT.

Students will receive a 75% discount when using their student LRT pass. Seniors above 65 years old, children below 12 years old or shorter than one meter, and people with disability who use

the senior LRT pass may take the train for free. Otherwise, they are still entitled to a 50% discount by paying cash.

Starting from January 1, the aforementioned fare policy will be implemented. Before then, the public is able to take the LRT free of charge.

The first LRT departed yesterday from the Taipa Temporary Ferry Terminal at 3:33 p.m., with many people queuing to be a part of the experience.

However, a carriage on one of the LRT trains suffered a minor

malfuction within the first hour of operation. Passengers were asked to disembark the train at the Lotus Checkpoint station.

The Taipa Line starts at the Taipa Ferry Terminal and passes through Cotai to terminate at Ocean Gardens in northern Taipa. Along the way it stops at the Macau International Airport, the Macau University of Science and Technology, the Macau East Asian Games Dome, the Lotus Checkpoint, Pai Kok in Taipa Village, the Macau Stadium, and the Macau Jockey Club.

The entire route will take about 25 minutes, according to officials, with the maximum speed of trains reaching 80 kilometers per hour in between stations.

Trains will run approximately every five to ten minutes on a daily

basis. The first train departs at 6:30 a.m. and the last one, from Monday to Thursday, departs at 11:15 p.m. On Friday and weekends, the last train will depart at 11:59 p.m.

Secretary Rosário declared that he felt "really happy" about the LRT's opening.

The government outsourced the LRT's operation and maintenance to a subsidiary 100% owned by the MTR Corporation for 5.8 billion patacas over seven years. On an annual basis, the local government will spend 40 million patacas, including electricity costs, on the LRT operation. The LRT project's construction cost a total of approximately 10.1 billion patacas, less than the 11 billion patacas previously expected by the government.

The government estimates the LRT will carry a total of approximately 20,000 passengers daily. However, the Secretary remarked that the estimate "might be wrong" because the LRT is still a new project in Macau.

Earlier this year, the local government established the Macao Light Rapid Transit Corporation, Limited (MLM), for the construction and operation of the LRT, and for the maintenance of its infrastructure and equipment.

In total, Macau has hired over 600 people for the LRT operation, 80% of whom are Macau local residents. Rosário said he hopes that the percentage of local residents can reach up to 90% in future.

## MEMORY LANE

MDT/Renato Marques



These photos show the current Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) building located on Avenida do Coronel Mesquita – a street that was named after the first lieutenant Vicente Nicolau de Mesquita who led a successful incursion by Portuguese forces into China in 1849. It was in 1918



when the road in front of Pou Chai Temple was officially designated Avenida do Coronel Mesquita. The left photo is dated in the 1930s. The Portuguese-style houses were built to serve as the residences of high-ranking civil servants in the city. According to the IAM, today, the street is one of

the most important road arteries in the center of the Macau peninsula. There are also several monument sites on the avenue, including the Kun Iam Temple, regarded as one of the oldest temples in Macau having been founded in the 13th century. IV

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**Times**

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# HK journalist held at border prior to Pereira Coutinho interview

DANIEL BEITLER

**A** Hong Kong journalist was held by immigration authorities for nearly three hours yesterday while attempting to enter the Macau special administrative region.

Phila Siu, a senior reporter who works for the South China Morning Post (SCMP), had arranged an interview with local lawmaker Pereira Coutinho.

He reportedly arrived at the Outer Harbor Ferry Terminal at 11 a.m. and was detained in a small room by immigration authorities. Siu called Coutinho at 1 p.m. to say he had not yet been allowed to enter Macau, and the local legislator traveled to meet him at the border checkpoint. The journalist was finally admitted to the territory at 1:45 p.m.

According to the lawmaker's account of events, Siu was asked about the purpose of his trip to Macau and who he was going to meet.



Lawmaker Pereira Coutinho (right) and senior journalist Phila Siu

Siu has been a journalist since 2009 and mainly reports on human rights, security, politics and societal issues in Hong Kong. According to his biography on the SCMP website, he holds a Bachelor's degree in journalism from Hong Kong Baptist University and a Master's degree in human rights law from the University of Hong Kong.

Coutinho attributed the decision to hold Siu at the border to officials' nerves ahead of Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit later this month. "Of course, Xi Jinping is coming over to Macau and so everything is being done in a very

PAULO CUNHA ALVES

## Consul affirms Macau's role in Sino-Portuguese relations

**M**ACAU plays an important role in Sino-Portuguese bilateral relations, and it has achieved remarkable development in various fields over the past 20 years, Paulo Cunha Alves, Consul General of Portugal in Macau and Hong Kong told Chinese state media Xinhua.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the transfer of Macau's sovereignty to China. Alves said that the Portuguese government has been paying attention to the development of Macau since its return. The 'One Country, Two Systems' principle has been well implemented in Macau, yielding positive results, Alves said in a recent interview with Xinhua.

Over the past 20 years, Macau has made remarkable progress in economic, social and cultural fields and residents' living standards have been improved, he said.

Looking into the future, Macau's integration

into the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area and the participation in the Belt and Road Initiative will bring unlimited opportunities and promote its diversified economic development, he said.

"Macau has always functioned as a link between Portugal and China and as a gateway to the East. Macau plays an important role in Sino-Portuguese bilateral relations in a wide range of fields," he said.

Alves highlighted Macau's role as a platform, citing the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Forum Macau).

The SAR has been designated by the central government as the connecting platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, and this role is very important because of the territory's uniqueness in the global context, said the consul general.

Under the framework of the Forum Macau, China can carry out bilateral cooperation with Portuguese-speaking countries, and Macau can act as a coordinator for multilateral cooperation, he said.

He cited a cooperation project with Cape Verde as an example, in which Portugal provides technology and China provides funding through the China-Portuguese Speaking Countries Cooperation and Development Fund.

In the future, there are many potential areas for Portugal and Macau to cooperate, such as language teaching and collaboration on traditional Chinese medicine between universities, he added.

Alves also cited the tourism cooperation between Macau and Portugal as an example, saying "it is essential not only to train professionals in this field, but also to promote a greater flow of tourists between Portugal and Macau." DB/XINHUA

MACAO LIGHT FESTIVAL

## TEAMS FROM JAPAN, SHENZHEN TO STAGE MAPPING SHOWS



**T**WO teams from Japan and Shenzhen will stage projection mapping shows at the Macao Light Festival 2019 from December 11 to 19 in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Macau special administrative region.

Hailing from Japan, the show "Prism" depicts the historic stories of Macau. Merging the light effects created with 20 new-model programmable LED lights, the show recalls the city's tolerant history, highlighted by its projection on the exquisite architec-

ture of St. Joseph's Seminary Church.

"The Adventures of Snow", created by the team from Shenzhen in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area, unfolds the adventures of a snowflake which floats past attractive delicacies, enjoys the thrill of motorsport and visits a magnificent church. Surprises are discovered along the journey, paying tribute to Macau with dreamlike imagination brought to life.

The Macao Light Festival 2019 is being held from December 1 to 31 in

cautious manner and with a lot of attention paid to security [matters]," the lawmaker told the Times yesterday.

Two American business leaders were turned away at the border just last weekend in what has become only the latest episode in a series of decisions to bar entry to Macau for lawmakers, journalists and activists based in Hong Kong.

Chairman Robert Grieves and President Tara Joseph of the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong were both barred entry to Macau on Saturday night. The local authorities did not provide a reason for denying entry, but did ask the business leaders to sign a statement to say they had "voluntarily agreed not to pursue entry to Macau."

"I was worried about [the journalist's entry] because of what happened on the weekend with the AmCham business leaders," commented Coutinho when asked directly about the case yesterday.

As on previous occasions, Macau's Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak dismissed speculation that the decision of immigration officials was politically-motivated. He also denied the existence of a blacklist used by immigration officials to keep track of undesirables.

various locations across the city, presenting projection mapping shows, light installations, interactive games and more. It is present in the peninsula's northern district for the first time, where various spots are illuminated and a mapping show is being projected at the site of the now-closed Macau (Yat Yuen) Canidrome.

The festival is organized by the Macao Government Tourism Office, counting the support of the Municipal Affairs Bureau, Cultural Affairs Bureau and Sports Bureau. DB

# MACAU CASINOS FACE BIGGEST THREAT TO GROWTH IN FIVE YEARS

TWO decades after Macau returned to Chinese rule, a shift that catalyzed its emergence as the world's biggest gambling hub, casinos are facing serious obstacles to their future growth. Macau casinos are poised for the first decline in annual gaming revenue since 2016, and next year may not be much better either, reports Bloomberg. Indeed, the enclave will find it difficult to return to the double-digit growth pace of the past.

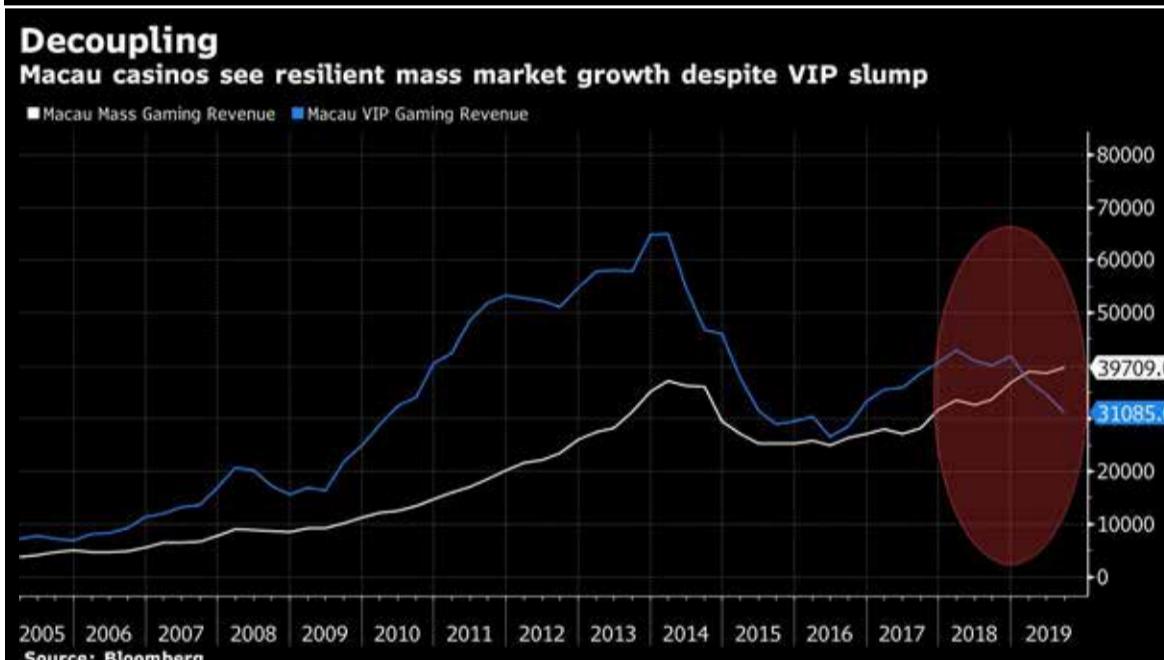
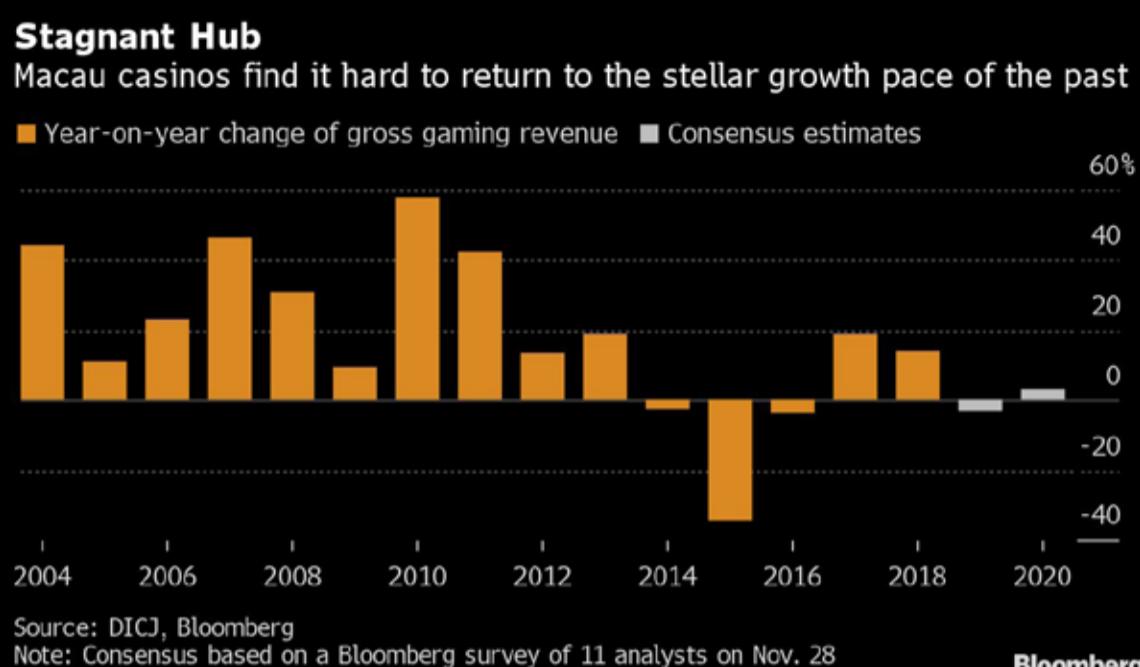
"All of the juice has been squeezed out of the orange," said David Bonnet, a contributing analyst at Bloomberg Intelligence. "Macau is starting to resemble more mature competitive markets such as Las Vegas and Atlantic City."

Analysts surveyed by Bloomberg forecast on average that Macau's gaming revenue will swing from 14% growth in 2018 to a decline of 3% in 2019. They predict a mild improvement of 3% in 2020 on easy comparisons with this year's low levels.

A Bloomberg Intelligence index of Macau casino operators has dropped 20% from a peak in late April. It fell as much as 0.9% yesterday.

The industry went into 2019 expecting a difficult year as the U.S.-China trade spat weighed on China's economy. Although hopes were raised in April for a second-half recovery, the rest of the year presented one setback after another, including the violent protests in Hong Kong that have slowed a record number of tourists to Macau.

One of the biggest blows was the absence of high rollers, or VIP gamblers. Macau, the only place in China where casinos are legal, has made its money for decades on a few thousand rich gamblers. That group is now increasingly more likely to place their bets in emerging



regional gaming hubs in Southeast Asia, as junket operators - middle men who extend credit to wealthy gamblers - shift to those territories.

The biggest, Suncity Group Holdings Ltd., is set to open a Vietnam resort in the first quarter, the launch of which "could result in the redirection of a material chunk of VIP play from

Macau," said Union Gaming analyst Grant Govertsen.

The resorts in regional hubs "will be stunning," adds Ben Lee, a Macau-based managing partner at Asian gaming consultancy IGAMIX, after a recent site visit to view ongoing construction.

One of the biggest threats may come from Japan, which

is likely to emerge as Asia's second-largest gaming hub after a landmark bill legalizing casinos was approved last year. All six Macau operators have expressed interest in setting up a resort in Japan, which has the potential to see gross gaming revenue reach \$20 billion annually, brokerage CLSA predicts.

For now, Macau operators are hopeful for a resolution to the trade war, which Melco Resorts & Entertainment Ltd. Chief Executive Officer Lawrence Ho cited as having the biggest impact on casinos this year.

"If there's a first-stage trade deal, that will boost consumer confidence in China, and that gives me hope certainly for 2020," said Ho on Bloomberg TV last week.

Longer term, casinos such as Melco see their - and Macau's - salvation in the record number of tourists flocking to Macau, even with the disruptions in Hong Kong. Revenue from the so-called mass market surpassed that from the VIP sector this year for the first time.

Casinos are racing to build bigger and flashier resorts to offer more entertainment options. Not only will that help replace weaker VIP revenue, it will also keep the casinos aligned with Macau's guidelines for providing more family-friendly attractions.

Las Vegas Sands is building more rooms designed for tourists as part of its renovation and rebranding of the Londoner resort. Wynn Resorts recently unveiled a \$2.8 billion plan to develop a non-gaming project in Macau, including a theater, art gallery, food pavilion and gardens.

At the same time, infrastructure upgrades will make transport easier for casual gamblers without shiny limousines. A Macau light rail that connects to resorts in the Cotai strip and to a mainland crossing will start operating yesterday.

Robert Goldstein, president of Las Vegas Sands, says China's middle class can still power Macau growth in the years ahead.

"The investment proposition in Macau, going back to the beginning, was always one billion or so people at your doorstep," he said in a conference call in October. "We've always believed that the engine here would be, and should be, all those people across the border." MDT/BLOOMBERG

## GAMING

# Analysts: Xi Jinping visit to dampen December revenue

DANIEL BEITLER

A consensus is forming among analysts that the upcoming visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping later this month will spell bad news for Macau's visitor count and its casino revenues.

Gross gaming revenue dropped 8.5% in year-on-year terms in November to 22.87 billion patacas,

the second-worst monthly posting of the year. Year-to-date gross gaming revenue up to November sits 2.4% lower than in the equivalent period last year.

Meanwhile, December was the third-highest monthly earner in 2018, recording city-wide revenue of 26.46 billion patacas and year-on-year growth of 16.6%. Even a

moderate result for this month will fare poorly in year-on-year terms, given last year's strong comparison base.

The average daily rate for gaming revenue in the first eight days of December was tracking as much as 19% lower this year, according to estimates provided by Nomura's Instinet. At MOP713 million per day, the rate was also

about 7% lower than in the first eight days of November.

Brokerage Sanford C. Bernstein advanced a similar estimate, predicting that the average daily rate for the first eight days of this month has stood about 16% lower than in December 2018 and 6% below that of last month.

As cited by gaming news website GGRAsia,

analysts at the firm wrote in a note that the under-performance of the gaming sector was probably "due to a step up in visa restrictions ahead of President's Xi [Jinping]'s visit later this month, which is something we have been flagging since October."

Credit Suisse said in a note last month that controls on exit visas for mainland Chinese residents

wishing to travel to Macau was already in effect. The controls are thought to dampen visitor arrivals in Macau and by extension the mass market segment of the casino sector.

As previously reported, the outlook for gross gaming revenue in 2020 is considerably brighter, helped by easier comparisons and pent-up demand from the last quarter of this year.

## HEALTH

# Free flu shot now available for Macau residents

AP PHOTO



**H**OLDERS of a Macau resident ID can now receive their free influenza vaccination at participating healthcare facilities after prior online registration.

For residents planning to receive vaccinations at their respective health centers, online registration must be completed before visiting the facilities to receive the shots.

However, if residents plan to get the vaccinations at the vaccination points at S. Januário Hospital or Kiang Wu Hospital, the University Hospital at the Macau University of Science and Technology and the Workers' Clinic, they may walk in directly, announced the Health Bureau.

Vaccines should be obtained as soon as possible because it normally takes two to three weeks for sufficient antibodies to develop in the human body. Administering the vaccination now leaves enough time to protect against the possible wave of flu infections in the peak winter months of January and February.

To cope with the expected wave of the flu, the Health Bureau has ordered 10% more vaccines than last year. The free injection scheme started in September for specific groups of people only. The bureau later expanded it to cover all Macau residents.

Although flu infection numbers in Macau are currently at normal levels, after referencing the

available global data, the bureau predicts there may be a wave of flu infections between mid-January and March.

As Macau's peak flu season also happens around that same period, the bureau encourages all Macau residents to get the injection.

High-risk groups, including children, seniors, pregnant women and the chronically ill, are strongly recommended to receive the shot, as they are more vulnerable to influenza and complications therefrom.

The Health Bureau has ordered quadrivalent vaccines, which can help protect against two types of Influenza A and two types of Influenza B. AL

## Drinking water salinity under control, says Water Bureau

**T**AP water in Macau is still safe for consumption, despite the significant rise in its salt content, the Marine and Water Bureau has assured. The bureau said it is working with mainland facilities to control the salinity level.

Bureau head Susana Wong Soi Man explained that the current rise in salinity levels was caused by astronomical tides. In addition to that, insufficient

fresh water was being collected downstream.

"The current wave of high salinity is expected to last for around a week," said Wong. "If the condition gets too poor, the Pearl River Water Resources Commission will act accordingly."

As for the method of combating the situation, the mainland water commission will release water from upstream to dilute

the water downstream. The water reserve at the Zhuyin Reservoir has been released for dilution.

Meanwhile, Macau's water service provider, Macao Water, is testing a resealing method popular in Europe and America. It fixes underground pipe leakage by inserting a plastic tube into the existing pipe. The advantage of the technique is that no roadworks are required for repair. AL

AD

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**Q&A** CARINA LAU

# 'The rise of Chinese cinema has left Hong Kong behind'

ANTHONY LAM



ANTHONY LAM

ONE of the Talent Ambassadors of this year's International Film Festival & Awards - Macao (IFFAM), Carina Lau demonstrated a bold friendliness during her interview with international press yesterday.

With a career spanning film, television, music and fashion, Lau said she could not imagine retiring as long as she is still loved by audiences. Starting her career in television, she jumped to cinema screens and found fame there. In 1991, she played a role in Wong Kar Wai's Days of Being Wild, which brought her recognition as that year's Best Actress from the Three Continents Festival in Nantes, France.

She was awarded the Best Actress at the Osaka Asian Film Festival for her role in Bends (2013). In 2015, in the stage production Tonnochy, Lau was nominated for the 24th Hong Kong Drama Awards for the first time and won Best Actress.

Although never starred in a Hollywood production, she became a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the engine behind the prestigious Oscars Awards, in 2017.

In yesterday's interview, Lau said that her love for cinema was not about money. She pointed out that she has starred in wonderful small productions without taking a penny.

Lau said she anticipates the development of Macau's fledgling

film industry and said that she is fond of the city. However, the Suzhou-born actress also said she worries that the Hong Kong film industry is stagnating and has already been overshadowed by the rapid development of mainland cinema.

**As the IFFAM's Talent Ambassador, how do you view today's talent in Hong Kong film?**

**Carina Lau** - Unfortunately, the film industry of Hong Kong has [been surpassed by the mainland]. Perhaps it was caused by the strong rise of mainland cinema in the past decade. I think Hong Kong has strong and competent directors, actors and actresses, who stay active in the mainland and other parts of the world. I think it's time Hong Kong revamped its film industry, because back in the 1980's and 90's, the influence of Hong Kong's films reached Southeast Asia, even the world. I think these talents are still here. Hong Kong is still in the old position. No good director or good actor was willing to emerge. This is a serious problem. I hope we can sort out the reason. Meanwhile, I also hope that the government can provide more support to the film industry, so that the industry can keep moving forward.

**What has changed in Chinese cinema?**

**Carina Lau** - With the support of large investment, our productions have become

much larger than before, also in terms of the size of audience. However, I think that mainland Chinese films still lack certain things. For example, scripts lack the depth to facilitate human reflection. The film industry is mainly about commercial productions now, which focus more on the money side. I hope there will be more productions that can delve into human lives or humanity.

**What are your thoughts on the development of Macau's film industry?**

**Carina Lau** - I look forward to the development of the film industry of Macau and seeing more Macau productions. After this participation in the IFFAM, I feel that the Macau government is very supportive of the film industry. I believe that the industry needs to be supported by each department of the government. I appreciate this very much. With all the support, I hope the film industry of Macau will have a better future.

**You have a cameo role in 'A City Called Macau', which is also showing at the festival. What moment or aspect of the film most resonates with you?**

**Carina Lau** - This film tells a story that happened in Macau in a relatively complete fashion. I think it was made with great aesthetic standards, also with a lot of Portuguese culture. It also highlights some scenarios that

occurred after Macau's handover to China. I think the best part is that it has translated a message to us. The message is that if you want to play the game, you need to pay for it.

**What is your next production going to be?**

**Carina Lau** - I'm still waiting for opportunities, but I'm actually looking into some scripts [proposals] now. I hope it's going to be a pure Hong Kong production. Meanwhile, I have plans to become a producer. I'm interested in making something like Ocean's Eleven.

**What role would you love to portray?**

**Carina Lau** - My neighbor, Mrs Wong, maybe, who is a very normal housewife. She may be a middle-aged woman, like me, facing internal change and danger, both psychologically and physically. She may be facing family crisis or marriage crisis. She is just a normal figure.

**Outside of film and television, you are involved in the fashion scene. Why did you decide to become a designer?**

**Carina Lau** - I have liked fashion since I was small. Only after becoming the creative director of my fashion brand, did I realize that making a piece of apparel is nothing easy. The entire process starts from conceptualization, deciding on the materials, to production and sales and marketing, which are all very interesting to me. Most importantly, I believe fashion coexists with films. I actually have got many of my creative inspirations from films. Good fashion is timeless.

**It seems today that the famous cannot escape the prying eye of the public. What do you think should be done to safeguard privacy in the digital age?**

**Carina Lau** - I think things have their own ways of operation in different period or times. [Formerly], each entertainer was well polished before they were shown to the public. They were well protected. Now, with the effect of social media platforms, each entertainer is expected to present themselves very honestly. Live interviews are getting popular on social media now. The good side of it is that you can let your audience know what you are really like.

**Q&A JULIETTE BINOCHE**

# 'Censorship

**T**ALENT ambassador of the 2019 International Film Festival & Awards Macao (IFFAM) Juliette Binoche has told the press to "move on" regarding the public censure of Harvey Weinstein.

Just last week, the producer – charged with two counts of predatory sexual assault – was accused of having violated the conditions of his release, as his whereabouts were unknown on at least 56 separate occasions. The accusation was made by prosecutors who, highlighting Weinstein's serious flight risk, asked a judge to increase the disgraced producer's bond from \$1 million to \$5 million.

Speaking to the international press yesterday, the Oscar-winning actress was not impressed with a question raised regarding the Weinstein allegations.

"It's been on and on," she told the press. "I think he knows it was bad what he did, and he knows that he was judged [...] it's not my story, it's his story and everything has been going through a process."

"You know what? I've expressed myself several times about it and it seems that it's going on and on and it's repeating itself. What I want to say right now is 'move on,'" said Binoche.

According to the French actress, justice has run its course, formerly noting that she had no problems working with the producer on Chocolat and The English Patient.

Meanwhile, Binoche said she was keen for the invitation to star in a film by award-winning Chinese director Diao Yinan, as she expressed on Monday during a public conversation hosted at the IFFAM. Despite the possibility of censorship, the actress signaled that she is ready to embrace the possibility of working with Diao.

**Yesterday, you seemed to accept the invitation from Diao Yinan. If that project goes ahead, are you ready to have your work scrutinized by Chinese censorship?**

**Juliette Binoche** - No, I want to be free, and I will be free. There are many ways to be free. As actors, you have boundaries, definitely. [...] But inside, you've got to find your way. Freedom, truth and love are wonderful inner and hidden ways to free yourself. There are always ways to express yourself, even though it's hard. I always have compassion for the audience who cannot really express themselves here. [...] I think you still have to continue your art as much as you can.

# cannot deny inner truth, love or freedom'

**Working through spectrum of films and directors who took you to other areas and countries, are there still names on the wishlist of people you want to work with?**

**Juliette Binoche** - I try not to think too much because maybe I don't have the time. When I met with three very interesting Chinese directors here that I didn't know before, I was very excited with the idea of having a common film together. It may happen. I don't see it in advance because I don't have too much time, but life does it for you as well. But you've got to really connect with your inner self. That's the key. If you're really in touch and letting yourself be, then things happen - whether you want it or not. That's really what I experience. I hope those projects will happen, you just have to send the right thoughts and feelings about it.

**We live in a very fast-changing media landscape, do you feel that cinema can still change lives as it used to in the last couple of decades?**

**Juliette Binoche** - It can. Maybe the importance is going to change

but it can change one's life. I believe that. It depends on how you see things but it can definitely change one's life.

you're going through it. With Naomi Kawase, I knew that nature was very important. So the need of making the film [required] being in touch with nature.

**"Freedom, truth and love are wonderful inner and hidden ways to free yourself. There are always ways to express yourself"**

**What are the inspirations and working methods for you as an actress?**

**Juliette Binoche** - As an actress, I want to go through a journey I don't know yet. You have to express one's truth and confront yourself with a script, with your way of working. It's just meeting another artist [...] there is a certain rhythm. For me when I start to work, I always start with silence because silence allows everything. You're working with a soul so you're discovering that person while

**Having worked with foreign directors and in foreign countries, do you still retain that "French" spirit?**

**Juliette Binoche** - What is French? Tell me. [...] Maybe the need to be independent? What could it be? I'm not really sure. Rebellious in a way; provoking because you want truth of your own feelings; and not fitting into the stereotype - that, definitely. You have to feel your own truth - coming from your experiences, what you know about life. After that, I don't know what it means, because I feel very close to people that have come from a different world.



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Grand Lapa @ Naam Garden  
12 December 2019



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Sam, I left a copy of my ID documents and itinerary with the family. I've also prepared a list of emergency contacts.

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

**Travel tips:**

- Before your activities abroad
- Select activities that are within your capabilities
- Make sure the equipment for your activities are in good condition
- Make sure that the safety equipment is complete

**In case of emergency**



Contact the local Police, Chinese Embassy and Consulates for assistance

Contact your family

Contact the 24-Hour Tourism Hotline +853-2833 3000 or the Global Emergency Call Center for Consular Protection and Services of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

24-Hour Hotline: +86-10-12308

**+853-2833 3000**

24-Hour  
Tourism Hotline



旅遊局  
Tourism Authority of Macao

# SELF-PROFESSED 'FANGIRLS' DEFEND CHINA FROM HK PROTESTERS AND THE WORLD

ZHEPING HUANG

FOR Li Mo, the footage of black-clad people clashing with police and vandalizing storefronts proved the final straw. The images of Hong Kong protesters fighting for greater autonomy from Beijing incensed the mainland-born postgraduate student and she could no longer remain on the sidelines. So, she joined China's fangirl army.

Ever since anti-government demonstrations in Hong Kong turned violent this summer, China's celebrity-obsessed young generation have patrolled Facebook, Twitter and Weibo, ready to pounce on perceived slights and defend their motherland. Nicknamed "fangirls" because they exhibit the same fervor most often reserved for pop-culture icons, these women and men flood social media with slogans and memes shaming brands - sometimes with far-reaching consequences.

Fangirls called out Houston Rockets General Manager Daryl Morey for supporting Hong Kong protesters, prompting China's state broadcaster to drop National Basketball Association games. They triggered boycotts of brands from Coach to Apple. Many got swept up by Facebook and Twitter account takedowns. And in a recent incident, the onslaught of vitriol they directed at Hong Kong pop-star Joey Yung forced her to apologize for a single Facebook selfie, but not before she got caned from a high-profile gala.

The Hong Kong unrest spurred Li into action. She quickly picked up typical fangirl behavior -- endlessly liking and re-posting trending anti-protest diatribes on Weibo for example -- encouraged that hundreds of thousands shared her values. "I couldn't remain silent any longer," the 28-year-old said. "I don't idolize anyone, I only idolize China."

While many Westerners, particularly Americans, see China's citizens as forced into supporting Beijing or muzzled from expressing their true feelings, fangirls suggest more earnest and resolute backing for their country's government. They show how large pockets of China's youth are rising up to defend their country against what they perceive as mistreatment and misrepresentation by outsiders, and they underscore a growing sentiment that's shaping how China interacts with the world.

China's government has increasingly taken its propaganda efforts overseas, but fangirls' deep convictions set them apart - and perhaps make them more potent - from often wooden, state-sponsored online commen-

BLOOMBERG



tators. Known as wumao, or the "50-cent army," those bloggers are named after the amount they are said to make from each patriotic posting.

The emergence of fangirls comes at a time Beijing is trying to engage younger Chinese by using rap music, cartoons and chat-app stickers to deliver Communist Party ideology. Homegrown corporations like Tencent Holdings Ltd. often aid such efforts. A system of education that often stresses the humiliation China suffered at the hands of foreigners also prepared the ground for their rise.

They're also the latest online patriots to hop the Great Firewall dividing the internet in mainland China from the rest of the world - with a decidedly millennial twist. They call their nation "Brother Ah Zhong" (Brother China), describing it as a pop idol who debuted 5,000 years ago and now boasts a fan base of 1.4 billion.

Fang Kecheng, assistant professor of communication and journalism at the Chinese University of Hong Kong sees state influence working hand-in-hand with young nationalist netizens, including fangirls who take note of the narrative on state media, then act upon it. "That's not to say they are entirely manipulated, or being passively used as a tool," he says. "There are things they're searching for, such as a common identity and the ability to express their opinions."

Jack Zhou, a 20-year-old hair stylist in central China, is one of a score of volunteer leaders of a 20,000-strong fangirl community. People like him help focus and

channel raw emotions that often threaten to spill out of control. In between haircuts, he monitors a chat group of 400 users on messaging app QQ. Participants are charged with spawning content for the group's main Weibo account. One of their latest productions is a three-minute video showcasing protester violence in Hong Kong, from setting a man on fire to ganging up on a police officer and trying to snatch his pistol. They called on those who can access sites like Facebook and YouTube to share the clip, which has English captions. "Let the world know the truth," is their slogan.

Zhou's group has participated in several major online crusades to defend Beijing's line on Hong Kong over the past three months, he said. They spammed Instagram accounts of pro-Beijing celebrities with emojis of the Chinese flag, infiltrated Facebook live streams to clash with pro-democracy sympathizers, and plastered Communist Party slogans on the sites of news outlets from CNN to the Washington Post. Their hard work paid off when the Communist Party's Youth League and state media came out in praise of the campaigns, he said.

Their motivations are widely misunderstood, said Zak Dychtwald, author of *Young China: How the Restless Generation Will Change Their Country and the World*. English-language media writing off Chinese pride as a product of propaganda and brainwashing only fans the flames of nationalism, he said. "There's ardent pride in the coun-

try and fangirls want to defend it," he added. "The energy and sentiment driving the movement in China is genuine."

Zhang Dong, 30, emigrated to Laos in 2013 to work as a tour guide after he graduated from college in China. Only then did he understand how the world depicts his country in such a "horrible" manner. Every day, he churns out dozens of posts on the accounts he registered for the purpose of discrediting Hong Kong's protesters. He's called them "cockroaches," "traitors," and "HKIS," juxtaposing images of them with Islamic State terrorists. There's "essentially no difference" between the two groups, he said.

Zhang is proud of his independence. "I've never received any money from the Communist Party," said Zhang. "If we were wumao, the Chinese government would have owed us hundreds of millions yuan by now."

Fangirls represent another front in social media giants' efforts to curb disinformation campaigns. In August, Twitter suspended nearly 1,000 accounts originating from China, which the company identified as part of a state-backed operation to undermine Hong Kong's protests. Facebook and Google took similar action. That take down didn't have a lasting effect as new accounts emerged to replace those that were removed, a study from social media research firm AstroScreen shows.

Fangirls like Trista Wang say they have been unfairly targeted by these platforms. "Just one Chinese flag can get your account

suspended," said Wang, a traditional Chinese medicine therapist in the port city of Qingdao. She insists Facebook is biased toward Chinese patriots like her, pointing to Chief Executive Officer Mark Zuckerberg's recent China-bashing remarks. "I used to have good feelings about Zuckerberg," Wang said.

A Facebook representative said the company only removes content that violates its community standards. In response to inquiries on two specific fangirl accounts that were disabled or restricted, the representative pointed to policy violations in relation to the use of fake identities, bullying and harassment. A Twitter representative said it acts against accounts for policy breaches but declined to comment on individual examples citing privacy and security reasons.

Fangirls could disappear as fast as they emerged. That's because nationalist movements are always a double-edged sword for the government, said Chinese University's Fang. "When something self-organizes to a certain size, it becomes a taboo - even if it's only online."

Or they could morph into something more alarming. Zhou, the volunteer leader, has already become a kind of online vigilante, notifying the police about a China-based Weibo user expressing support for Hong Kong. He said he was content that the police quickly identified and arrested the blogger. "We must rally all the forces we can to eradicate the soil that breeds Hong Kong separatists," he said. BLOOMBERG

AP PHOTO

**HONG KONG**

# Carrie Lam unbowed after massive weekend protest

**H**ONG Kong's leader yesterday again ruled out further concessions to protesters who marched peacefully in their hundreds of thousands this past weekend, days before she is to travel to Beijing for regularly scheduled meetings with Communist Party leaders.

The six-month protest movement has five demands, in-

cluding that the leader of the semi-autonomous city and lawmakers all be directly elected and that police actions against protesters be independently investigated. The only demand that has been met was the withdrawal of proposed extradition legislation that triggered the movement in June.

But city leader Carrie Lam made clear she won't budge on

the others.

"As for other demands, we really have to stick by certain important principles," she said. "If a particular demand requires us to deviate from the law, not to uphold the rule of law in Hong Kong, or to do things actually beyond the powers of the chief executive, I could not agree to accept those demands."

One of the protest movement's

demands is amnesty for the more than 6,000 people arrested. Lam said that wasn't legally possible.

The protest march Sunday on Hong Kong Island was one of the biggest since mass demonstrations began against the now-withdrawn bill that would have allowed criminal suspects to be extradited for trial in Communist Party-controlled courts in mainland China.

Organizers estimated that 800,000 people joined Sunday's rally. Protesters chanted "Five demands, not one less!" and held up five fingers. Unlike recent smaller-scale events, the rally was relatively peaceful, although police and protesters engaged in occasional standoffs and court buildings were lightly damaged with graffiti and gasoline bombs.

Lam said the march "reflects the freedoms that Hong Kong people are enjoying" and showed that "all those accusations from various quarters that we are eroding people's freedoms are unsubstantiated."

Lam said she will fly to Beijing on Saturday for twice-a-year meetings at which she offers leaders a "full account of what has happened in Hong Kong over the past year." While security is expected to be high on the agenda, Lam said she will also discuss economic initiatives, reflecting concerns over a sharp slowdown in Hong Kong's tourism, retail and logistics sectors.

She said she will explain "what the government had been doing, what more does the government want to do in the coming year, and what are the policy measures that the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region needs from the central government in taking forward some of our major initiatives." AP

## SPECIAL INSPECTION FOR DELTA BRIDGE AHEAD OF XI'S ARRIVAL

Zhuhai's security department has started a special security inspection at the eastern artificial island of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB), according to an announcement released by Zhuhai's security department. The special inspection will last until December 20. Among the three artificial islands that support the HKZMB, the eastern artificial island is the one nearest to the HKZMB Hong Kong port. Previously, Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak indicated that Chinese President Xi Jinping would visit Macau to mark the 20th anniversary of the Macau handover. According to the statement released by Zhuhai's security department, the special inspection is intended to ensure a good social environment on the bridge for the celebration of handover anniversary.

## WANZAI PORT TO OPEN IN EARLY 2020

The Zhuhai government is expecting to see the Wanzai port reopen in early 2020. Yesterday, Party Secretary of Zhuhai city Guo Yonghang said that the Wanzai port is going through reconstruction works and will reopen before the Spring Festival of 2020. Wanzai port, which opened in 1984, is one of the two longest-operating ports of Zhuhai. Since January 17, 2016, Wanzai port has been closed. According to Guo, the Zhuhai government is waiting for the Central Government's approval to open the Hengqin port. Once the approval is granted and the Macau SAR government has established the laws related to the port, the new Hengqin port will be opened.

## 1,500 MACAU SINGLE-PLATED CARS PERMITTED TO ENTER HENGQIN

As of today, the administration in Hengqin has given permission for 1,500 Macau cars to enter the Zhuhai territory, according to the Administrative Committee of Hengqin New Area. These cars are single-plated Macau cars. Starting from December 20, the Hengqin administration is giving permission to single-plated Macau cars to enter Hengqin. The Hengqin administration established the measure in the hopes of attracting Macau residents to invest, work and live in Hengqin. Earlier this year, the Macau Affairs Bureau of Hengqin conducted an online survey to gather Macau residents' opinions on Macau single-plated cars entering Hengqin. The bureau received a total of 500 valid surveys. However, no details concerning the survey have been released as of today.

**GUANGZHOU**

## FORMER SENIOR PROVINCIAL OFFICIAL SENTENCED FOR GRAFT

**Q**IANG Yin'an, a former senior official in northwest China's Shaanxi Province, was sentenced to 14 years in prison yesterday by a Guangzhou court for taking bribes. The Intermediate People's Court of Guangzhou in south China's Guangdong Province handed down the verdict.

Qian, a former member of the Standing Committee of the Shaanxi Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and secretary-general of the CPC provincial committee, was also fined 5 million yuan (about \$710,540), according to the verdict.

Qian took advantage of a number of his posts such as mayor of Shaanxi's Baoji city and secretary

of the CPC Baoji Municipal Committee, to assist certain organizations and individuals in project contracting, job promotions and other affairs between 2001 and 2017, the verdict said.

Qian was convicted of taking money and property worth over 63.13 million yuan.

The illicit gains that Qian had received in the form of bribes, as well as any interests arising from them, will be turned over to the national treasury.

The court decided a lenient punishment as he confessed to his crimes, pled guilty, expressed remorse and voluntarily surrendered his illicit gains.

Qian said he accepted the sentencing and would not appeal. XINHUA

**GUANGZHOU**

## BELT AND ROAD BAR ASSOCIATION FOUNDED TO IMPROVE LEGAL SERVICES

**T**HE Belt and Road International Lawyers Association was launched by the All China Lawyers Association (ACLA) in Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong Province.

The association aims at building a platform that will promote exchanges and collaboration between the members, as well as provide better legal services to support Belt and Road construction.

With 85 founding members from 36 countries and regions, it is the first international lawyer association registered in

China, a nongovernmental and nonprofit professional body for bar associations, law firms and lawyers.

Wang Junfeng, head of the ACLA, was elected president of the new association which has set up its headquarters and secretariat in Beijing. The official working languages are Chinese and English.

According to Wang, the association will give priority to membership development, the building of a normalized legal service network and cooperating with its international counterparts. XINHUA

# BROOKLYN NETS OWNER JOE TSAI BUYS \$10 MILLION STAKE IN ESPORTS TEAM

EBEN NOVY-WILLIAMS

**A**LIBABA Group Holding Ltd. co-founder Joe Tsai is expanding his sports empire, buying a minority stake in competitive gaming franchise G2 Esports.

The owner of the Brooklyn Nets and Barclays Center is investing \$10 million, valuing the Berlin-based franchise at around \$100 million, according to two people familiar with the transaction. G2 is hoping to use the investment from J Tsai Sports — and Tsai's expertise — to expand in Asia, more specifically China, where esports are incredibly popular but Western teams have yet to fully penetrate.

There are more gamers in China than there are people in the U.S. It's also the biggest market for gaming revenue, according to research firm Newzoo. The hope is that Tsai's experience building an e-commerce business in China will help give G2 an edge.

"The biggest challenge for Western teams is to properly play to Chinese culture, to understand the true thinking and mentality of the Chinese audience," said Jens Hilgers, co-founder and chairman of G2. "That's something that we will pay a lot of attention to, but with the support of a Chinese owner in our group, hopefully it goes a bit easier."

Tsai, who has a net worth of \$11.9 billion, was born in Taiwan and moved to the U.S. as a tee-

BLOOMBERG



Joseph Tsai, co-founder of Alibaba Group

nager. In October, when Houston Rockets General Manager Daryl Morey tweeted his support for protesters in Hong Kong — creating an international crisis for the NBA — Tsai was the league's most vocal defender of mainland China's position. He wrote an open letter to NBA fans explaining why many Chinese considered Morey's tweet so offensive.

G2 isn't looking to build gaming teams in China, but it is working to attract followers through video and social media. The franchise is hiring Mandarin speakers, writers and videographers to help it cross the cultural divide.

"We want to be, from a talent perspective, a Western team," Hilgers said. "But we want to bui-

ld fans so that when it comes to international competition, these fans can look to G2 Esports and say, 'I've heard about these guys, I follow these guys, and that's my favorite team when I don't see my home favorite.'

Team G2 stands on the stage before the semifinal match of 2018 The League of Legends World Championship in Gwan-

ju, South Korea. Photographer: Woohae Cho/Getty Images

One of the world's most valuable esports franchises, G2 has 10 teams that play a number of different games, including Fortnite, Counter-Strike: Global Offensive and Rocket League. It also has a franchised slot in Europe's main League of Legends circuit, operated by publisher Riot Games Inc.

G2 raised \$17.3 million earlier this year from a group that included Seal Rock Partners and Everblue Management. Representatives for the team and J Tsai Sports declined to comment on G2's valuation following this most recent investment.

It's the latest sports for Tsai, who first acquired a stake in the Nets in 2018. Earlier this year, he bought the rest of the team, and its arena, paying a total of \$3.5 billion, including debt. He also owns the San Diego Seals, an indoor lacrosse team, and the New York Liberty, a franchise in the WNBA, plus investments in the Premier Lacrosse League and MLS franchise LAFC.

Tsai is just the latest billionaire sports owner to invest in esports. Others with video-game franchises include Stan Kroenke, owner of the St. Louis Rams, Denver Nuggets and Colorado Avalanche; Cleveland Cavaliers owner Dan Gilbert; and Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones.

G2 is also planning to open an office in New York City early next year. That will give the franchise a direct presence in the country's largest media market, and position it in the same city as the Nets, opening the possibility for increased collaboration with the NBA team and its arena. BLOOMBERG

## China's investors eyeing hogs as swine fever abates

**T**HE worst impact of African swine fever may be over, but that doesn't mean investors have stopped betting on the Chinese farm stocks that have benefited from the deadly virus.

Although pork prices have eased from record highs in recent weeks, festivities around the Lunar New Year in January should lift demand for China's favorite meat, even as supply remains fragile. Pig numbers have begun to recover after collapsing more than 40%, but new cases of the disease are still popping up and there's still no vaccine.

Moreover, the government is relying on the largest farms to repopulate the herd, squeezing out smallholders. It leaves stocks like hog-breeder Muyuan Foodstuff Co. - which has already almost tripled over



the past year - open to even more gains.

"Given that the surge in domestic pork prices may continue, and peak in the first quarter of next year, pig stocks are expected to continue their strong performance over the next three months," said Dai Ming, a fund manager with

Hengsheng Asset Management Co. in Shanghai.

Inflation data for November saw Chinese pork prices more than double on the year, lifting consumer inflation to a seven-year high, although the monthly gain was much less sharp than October. Wholesale prices, meanwhile, retreated

almost 20% in November, before paring that drop in the first week of this month.

Other firms to watch include New Hope Liuhe Co., which counts meat processing among its activities and has risen about 170% over the past year, and China's top pig producer Wens Foodstuffs Group Co. which is up around a quarter.

China's farm ministry said on Monday that the hog herd rose 2% in November, the first monthly rise in a year. Pork prices have also fallen as China has boosted meat imports, while the government's plan is to raise domestic pork supply to 80% of normal levels by the end of 2020 by restocking the larger farms.

Thanks to heady expectations of earnings growth

over the next 12 months, Muyuan saw its price-to-earnings ratio sink to a record low of 7.22 times at the end of November, way below its two-year average of 20.2. The consensus target price for the firm is 108.87 yuan, according to six analysts surveyed.

That's almost 30% higher than current levels.

Still, not everyone is as

optimistic. Xiong Qi, a portfolio manager with Windsor Capital Management Co. in Beijing, said he's cut Muyuan from his watchlist as hog stocks are already overpriced. "Anticipation of a surplus of hogs will turn the breeding industry to a downward cycle," he said, adding that interest in the sector is waning among investors.

But time could well be on Muyuan's side. Boos-

ting pig numbers doesn't immediately translate into more pork supplies, which may take over a year to recover, said Lin Guofa, a senior analyst with Beijing-based consultant Bric Agriculture Group. And, the government's policy to allow bigger producers to expand is putting them on "a fast track to take more market share," he said.

Muyuan said in September it expects the number of its sows to exceed 1.3 million by the end of this year, up from around 900,000.

Others see an even longer time-frame. The industry could be generating strong profits for the next three years as it waits for a full recovery in hog numbers, TF Securities Co. said in a note earlier this month. BLOOMBERG

## INTERVIEW

# Taiwan may help if Hong Kong violence expands

ADAM SCHRECK, TAIPEI

**T**AIWAN'S top diplomat said yesterday that his government stands with Hong Kong citizens pushing for "freedom and democracy," and would help those displaced from the semi-autonomous Chinese city if Beijing intervenes with greater force to quell the protests.

Speaking to The Associated Press in the capital, Taipei, Foreign Minister Joseph Wu was careful to say his government has no desire to intervene in Hong Kong's internal affairs, and that existing legislation is sufficient to deal with a relatively small number of Hong Kong students or others seeking to reside in Taiwan.

But he added that Hong Kong police have already responded with "disproportionate force" to the protests. He said that any intervention by mainland Chinese forces would be "a new level of violence" that would prompt Taiwan to take a different stance in helping those seeking to leave Hong Kong.

"When that happens, Taiwan is going to work with the international community to provide necessary assistance to those who are displaced by the violence there," he said.

Chinese paramilitary forces have deployed to the Chinese city of Shenzhen, just outside Hong Kong, since the protests began in June. Neither they nor the thousands of Chinese military troops garrisoned in Hong Kong itself have been deployed to confront the protesters so far.

"The people here understand that how the Chinese government treats Hong Kong is going to be the future way of them treating Taiwan. And what turned out in Hong Kong is not very appealing to the Taiwanese people," Wu said.

China's Communist Party insists that Taiwan is part of China and must be reunited with it, even if by force. Modern Taiwan was founded when Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists, who once ruled on the mainland, were forced to retreat to the island in 1949 after the Communists took power in the Chinese Civil War.

Beijing has suggested that Taiwan could be reunited un-

AP PHOTO



Taiwanese Foreign Minister Joseph Wu

der the "one country, two systems" model that applied to Hong Kong after the former British colony was returned to China in 1997. That agreement allowed Hong Kong to keep its civil liberties, independent courts and capitalist system, though many in Hong Kong accuse Beijing of undermining those freedoms under President Xi Jinping.

Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen has said that the "one country, two systems" model has failed in Hong Kong and brought the city to "the brink of disorder."

Government surveys earlier this year showed that about 80% of Taiwanese citizens oppose reunification with China.

Wu spoke a month before Taiwanese voters go to the polls for presidential and parliamentary elections on Jan. 11. Opinion surveys suggest that Tsai, a U.S. and British-educated law scholar who rejects Beijing's claims to Taiwan, is on track to secure a second term over her more China-friendly rival, Han Kuo-yu of the Nationalist Party.

China severed links with Taiwan's government after Tsai took office in 2016 because of her refusal to accept Beijing's claims on the island. It has since been increasing diplomatic, economic and military pressure on Taiwan.

That includes sending aircraft carriers through the Taiwan Strait — the most recent transit was last month — and peeling away Taiwan's few remaining diplomatic

allies. Two more, the Solomon Islands and Kiribati, switched their diplomatic recognition to Beijing in September.

A second term for Tsai would see a continuation of Taiwan's tough stance against its much larger neighbor.

"If President Tsai is reelected, we'll continue to ... maintain the status quo across the Taiwan Strait. We'll continue to send out goodwill gestures to China," Wu said. "We want to make sure that the Chinese have no excuse in launching a war against Taiwan."

Taiwan, known officially as the Republic of China, lacks a

relationships with several other countries, including the United States, which does not support its independence but is bound by law to ensure its defense.

The Trump administration has increased support for Taiwan even as it is embroiled in a trade war with China. The U.S. this year agreed to sell 66 F-16 fighter jets worth \$8 billion to Taiwan, prompting complaints by China.

Wu said Taiwan's relationship with the U.S. is the best it has been in 40 years — a reference to the four decades since Washington formally

shifted its diplomatic relations with China from the government in Taipei to the one in Beijing.

The ongoing trade war between the U.S. and China is creating both opportunities and challenges for Taiwan, Wu acknowledged. Taiwanese companies are big investors in China, and some are moving their businesses off the mainland as the trade war drags on, he said, citing \$23 billion of investments pledged by companies relocating operations back to Taiwan.

But he said Taiwan enjoys "strong bipartisan support" in Washington and is not concerned that its status with the U.S. could be used as a bargaining chip in the trade negotiations.

"We are being assured ... by very senior Trump administration officials that their relations with Taiwan is independent of relations with any other country and to the United States, Taiwan is a very important partner," he said. AP

**"The people here understand that how [Beijing] treats Hong Kong is going to be the future way of them treating Taiwan.**

JOSEPH WU

seat at the United Nations. It counts on its 15 official diplomatic allies, which are mostly small and poor, to help bolster its claims to international legitimacy.

Safeguarding diplomatic relations with those remaining countries is a top priority for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Wu said.

"I think our relations with these 15 countries are quite strong at this moment and we don't worry that much," he said.

Taiwan also has unofficial

# China sees US postponing Dec. 15 threat as tariff cuts debated

**C**HINESE officials expect the U.S. will delay a threatened tariff increase set for Sunday as both sides focus on de-escalating tensions by cutting import taxes currently in place rather than removing specific products from the target list, according to people familiar with the matter.

Beijing sees the removal of the Dec. 15 threat enabling talks to continue on the unfinished items in phase-one of the accord, two officials said on condition on anonymity because the conversations are private. While the Trump administration has yet to announce any postponement, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said yesterday [Macau time] that he believed there will be "some backing away."

Reducing the existing tariff rates will enable negotiators to avoid having to choose which among thousands of goods can receive relief. The U.S. has added a 25% duty on about \$250 billion of Chinese products and a 15% levy on another \$110 billion of its imports over the course of a 20-month trade war.

The ongoing discussions illustrate the difficulties in reaching an accord that President Donald Trump said more than eight weeks ago was basically done and would take three to five weeks to put on paper. Stock futures reversed losses on news of the potential delay.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, speaking yesterday on Fox Business Network, said getting the right deal is more important than whether it comes before or after Dec. 15. "Every day that goes by, we are in a better negotiating position," he said, adding that most of the tougher issues will be addressed in later phases of negotiations.

Adding to the tough timeline for the phase-one deal by Sunday is U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer's attention this week on getting enough support in Congress to ratify the administration's revamped free-trade agreement with Mexico and Canada.

A tariff reprieve would lift confidence in the global economy and signal that the two sides are determined to push through a deal, despite heightened tension in the past two weeks over non-trade conflicts including the U.S. stance on Hong Kong's protests and alleged abuses in China's Xinjiang province.

As China continues to increase agricultural purchases from the U.S., officials are also still wrangling over the provisions for future buying in the agreement. The U.S. wants to lock China in a firm schedule of purchases. China insists that any buying commitments should not conflict with its obligations under World Trade Organization rules. BLOOMBERG

AP PHOTO

**NEW ZEALAND**

## STORIES OF INJURED, MISSING IN VOLCANO ERUPTION

**OFFICIALS** say 47 people from New Zealand, United States, Australia, Germany, Britain, China and Malaysia were on a New Zealand volcanic island when it suddenly erupted. Of those, dozens were killed, injured or are missing.

Details are scarce because conditions on the island are too dangerous for officials to return and disaster victim identification experts have only begun their work. Some of the initial information about the dead, injured and missing:

**HAYDEN MARSHALL-INMAN**

Hayden Marshall-Inman's brother wrote that the local tour guide had died "doing the one thing he loved."

Mark Inman's social media post was flooded with tributes, well-wishes and memories of Marshall-Inman, who has been celebrated as "a top man who left an impact on the world."

Marshall-Inman was a guide

for Whakatane-based White Island Tours and was leading a tour group on a 7-hour day trip from a cruise ship to the volcano when it erupted.

A local supermarket worker described Marshall-Inman's generous spirit.

"Whenever he came in and made a purchase, he always gave us (NZ) \$5 to pay towards the next person's groceries," Julie Lockett said.

"He had the kindest heart, it was never about him; he definitely created a ripple effect of happiness to others," she added.

**TIPENE MAANGI**

Relatives have not given up hope for Tipene Maangi, another guide thought to be on the volcano when it erupted.

The 24-year-old's partner, Kuini Morehu-Waenga, suffered through a sleepless night sick with worry and is now "absolutely devastated," the Newshub website reported.

The pair were yet to start a family but have been "inseparable" since they met, it said.

The couple grew up together and were best friends for years before starting a relationship about three years ago.

Maangi began his job with White Island Tours in September and was really enjoying the position, his cousin, Anihera Paku, said.

Maangi's grandmother, who did not want to be identified by name, was at Whakatne Wharf early Tuesday waiting for news.

"We're hoping he may have found a cave but knowing him, he would have been helping others before he thought about himself," the grandmother told NZ Herald.

**LAUREN AND MATTHEW UREY**

American newlyweds Lauren and Mathew Urey have been hospitalized with severe burns after surviving their honeymoon adventure.

The 32-year-old bride's mother, Barbara Barham, who lives southeast of Richmond, Virginia, told The Washington Post that the couple "weren't concerned that there was any chance of an eruption."

Lauren Urey has undergone surgery for burns to her lower extremities covering at least 20% of her body and is recovering in an Auckland hospital. Mathew Urey, 36, had burns on 80% of his body and is being treated more than 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) away at a Christchurch burns unit.

Half of the 47 visitors on the island when the volcano erupted were Australians and most were from a cruise ship. Authorities say there were 24 Australians, nine Americans, five New Zealanders, four Germans, two Britons, two Chinese and a Malaysian on the island when the disaster struck.

Authorities have not released the nationalities of the five confirmed dead, eight assumed dead or the 31 hospitalized.

But Australia's prime minister has said three Australians are suspected of being among the confirmed deaths, leaving Australian families frantic for news of who they might be.

Families have confirmed that Jason Griffiths, 33, of Coffs Har-

bor in New South Wales state, as well as Sydney couple Marion London, 56, and Nick London, 58, were in hospitals.

**ADELAIDE FAMILY**

Frantic father Brian Dallow, of Adelaide, South Australia, said his lawyer son Gavin Dallow, 53, his partner Lisa Hosking, 48, and her daughter Zoe Hosking, 15, were among those whose fates were uncertain.

"They were in the island, that's now been confirmed, but whether they got off or what happened we don't know," Dallow told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

"This is the worst. If we knew that something happened to them, it would better than this waiting, I can tell you at the moment. Because we just have to hold our horses and hope for the best," he added.

The family later said Lisa Hosking had been found in a Hamilton hospital.

**SYDNEY FAMILY**

Sydney's Marist College North Shore confirmed a Sydney family of four was missing.

Former student Jesse Langford, his 17-year-old sister, Winoona Langford, and their parents, Anthony and Kristine Langford, were among those visiting the island from the cruise ship.

"Please have the Langford family in your prayers," principal Duncan Troy wrote in a statement.

**BRISBANE MOTHER AND DAUGHTER**

A desperate Australian family was also seeking details about Julie Richards, 47, and her 20-year-old daughter, Jessica Richards, who were booked for a White Island excursion on Monday.

The mother's sister, Barbara Whitehead, told the ABC that relatives were "overwhelmed" by a lack of information from authorities.

But there's been no word about the two, despite other checks with New Zealand police, foreign affairs officials, and their cruise company. AP

**AFGHANISTAN**

## Taliban abduct 45 people from gov't employee's funeral

**THE** Taliban abducted as many as 45 elderly family members of a late Afghan government employee who were attending his funeral, officials said yesterday.

The Taliban singled out the old men from a funeral procession carrying the deceased employee's coffin to a graveyard, according to interior ministry spokesman Nasrat Rahi-

mi. The young men in the group were not taken, he said.

The Taliban have consistently warned people not to attend the funerals of anyone working with the Kabul government, according to Payghambarpul Khuram, the head of intelligence in Jawzjan province, where the kidnappings took place.

Khuram disputed the

number of people who were kidnapped, saying only six family members were taken and that other local elders were negotiating with the Taliban for their release.

The Taliban did not immediately comment on the abduction.

The insurgent group controls or holds sway over nearly half of Afghanistan, staging near-daily

attacks that target Afghan security forces and government officials but also kill scores of civilians.

A suicide car bomb attack Monday killed at least five Afghan soldiers and wounded four others in the southern Helmand province, ministry of defense spokesman Fawad Aman said.

He said the attacker was shot and killed before rea-

ching his intended target — a checkpoint for an Afghan national army compound — at which point the vehicle exploded.

The Taliban immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

U.S. peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad on Saturday held the first official talks with Afghanistan's Taliban since President Donald Trump declared a near-

-certain peace deal with the insurgents dead in September.

The talks will initially focus on getting a Taliban promise to reduce violence, with a permanent cease-fire being the eventual goal, said a U.S. statement. Khalilzad is also trying to lay the groundwork for negotiations between Afghans on both sides of the protracted conflict. AP

AP PHOTO



INDIA

# Crackdown hits religious freedom in disputed Kashmir

AIJAZ HUSSAIN,  
SRINAGAR

FOR years Romi Jan's mornings would begin with the plaintive call to prayer that rang out from the central mosque in disputed Kashmir's largest city. The voice soothed her soul and made her feel closer to God.

Not anymore. For nearly four months now, the voice that would call out five times a day from the minarets of the Jamia Masjid and echo across Srinagar has been silent, a result of India's ongoing security operations in this Muslim-majority region.

"The mosque closure is a relentless agony for me and my family," Jan said. "I can't tolerate it, but I am helpless."

Already one of the most militarized places in the world, last summer India began pouring more troops into its side of Kashmir, which is divided between India and Pakistan and claimed by both in its entirety. It implemented a security lockdown in which it pressed harsh curbs on civil rights, arrested thousands of people, blocked internet and phone service, and shuttered important mosques.

All of this was laying the groundwork for the Hindu nationalist-led government's Aug. 5 decision to

strip Kashmir of its semiautonomous status and remove its statehood, moves it knew would be met with fury by Kashmiri Muslims, most of whom want independence or unification with Pakistan. The government said the restrictions were needed to head off anti-India protests and violence.

While some of the conditions have since been eased, some mosques and Muslim shrines in the region either remain shuttered or have had their access limited. Muslims say this is undermining their constitutional right to religious freedom and only deepening anti-India sentiment.

The centuries-old Jamia Masjid, made of brick and wood, is one of the oldest in this city of 1.2 million, where 96% of people are Muslim. When it's open, thousands of people congregate there for prayers.

Romi would take her two children there every day and sit inside the compound while they would play.

"I would forget all my miseries there," she said.

Now, when her kids ask why they can't go to the mosque, she draws a blank face.

"I open my window of the house which faces the mosque and show my kids the soldiers that are stationed

outside it," Romi said.

That it's a target for authorities is neither surprising nor new. Friday sermons at the mosque mainly revolve around the Kashmir conflict, and its surrounding neighborhoods are often where stone-throwing protesters clash with government forces as part of an ongoing anti-India rebellion.

Authorities have banned prayers at the mosque for extended periods during unrest in 2008, 2010 and 2016. Official data show the mosque was closed at least 250 days in those three years combined.

Mohammed Yasin Bangi, the 70-year-old whose voice has called out the prayers at the mosque for the last 55 years, said the current restrictions are the worst he has seen.

"During earlier restrictions, we would be sometimes allowed to offer evening prayers. But not even once during this time around," he said. "The closure of the mosque has robbed me of my peace. I've been subjected to spiritual torture."

A top police officer in the city, speaking on condition of anonymity in keeping with department policy, said authorities decided the mosque could reopen last month for Friday prayers but mosque officials refused. AP

AD



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INSTITUTO DE FORMAÇÃO TURÍSTICA DE MACAU  
Macao Institute for Tourism Studies

[www.ift.edu.mo](http://www.ift.edu.mo)

Macao Institute for Tourism Studies (IFTM), a rapidly growing public higher education institution in Macao devoted entirely to education and training for the tourism and hospitality industry, invites applications for the following full-time teaching posts. *Subjects to be taught in English and/or Chinese. Successful candidates are required to teach in both the daytime and evening degree programmes.*

## School of Hospitality Management / School of Tourism Management

### ◆ Professor in Tourism Management (1 vacancy) – Ref. No. 017/AC/2019

should be able to teach/develop specific subjects such as Tourism Planning and Development, Intercultural Issues in Tourism, Special Interest Tourism, Recreation and Leisure Management, and Travel Agency Operations.

### ◆ Assistant Professor in Management and Marketing (1 vacancy) – Ref. No. 018/AC/2019

should be able to teach/develop specific subjects such as Human Resources Management, Strategic Management, Leadership, Service Quality Management, Research Methods, and Advanced Marketing.

Candidates are expected to engage in research and industry collaborations, and teach/develop the subject areas above. For a full list of subjects in the current curriculum and details of the academic unit, please visit [www.ift.edu.mo](http://www.ift.edu.mo).

#### Requirements:

Professor: must have (1) a PhD degree in the relevant area and (2) at least 4 years of full-time teaching experience as Assistant Professor

Assistant Professor: must have (1) at least a Master's degree in the relevant area and (2) at least 4 years of full-time teaching experience as Lecturer

Candidates who do not meet the listed requirements above, or who do not upload supporting documents together with their applications (including graduation certificates, transcripts, employment testimonials indicating positions and complete service durations with exact start dates and end dates issued by current/previous employers for the requirements) need not apply for the vacancies.

#### Annual Taxable Remuneration and Benefit:

Professor : MOP948,640 - MOP1,268,960 (salary index: 770 – 1030)

Assistant Professor : MOP665,280 - MOP936,320 (salary index: 540 – 760)

- The current local income tax rate ranges from 7% to 12%. Exchange rate: approx.USD1 = MOP8.

- The position and remuneration offered will be commensurate with academic qualifications, higher education teaching and professional experience.

- For benefits and FAQ, please refer to *Job Vacancies* at IFT website <http://www.ift.edu.mo/visitors/job-vacancies>.

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#### Selection:

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Apply *online* at IFT website (<http://www.ift.edu.mo/visitors/job-vacancies>) and submit the following required documents in PDF format:

- Copies of graduate certificates of all academic degrees awarded and transcripts for the academic qualifications required as above

- Employment testimonials issued by current/previous employers, indicating positions and complete service durations (with exact start dates and end dates) for the current/past full-time teaching experiences in tertiary education institutions or relevant full-time working experiences

- Identity card or passport copy

- Full resume

- Cover letter

- List of academic journals or articles published (if available) with ISBN

Applications will not be considered if the required qualifications and teaching experiences are not supported by certificates, employment testimonials and/or documents listed above or no identity card or passport copies are provided at the time of submission of application.

**Application closes on 30 December 2019**

- The selected candidates are expected to assume duty in 2020.

- Final result name list will be announced on IFT website around first-quarter of 2020.

- Please note that ALL application materials must be received by the closing date (Macao time). Application received by IFT after the closing date will only be included in the next round of recruitment, if applicable.

- Personal data provided by applicants will be kept confidential and used for recruitment purpose only.

For application details, please visit  
<http://www.ift.edu.mo/visitors/job-vacancies>

For enquiries, please send to Job Vacancies On-line enquiry  
<http://www.ift.edu.mo/visitors/job-vacancies/job-vacancies-on-line-enquiry>

US

# Federal watchdog says FBI was justified in

ERIC TUCKER, WASHINGTON

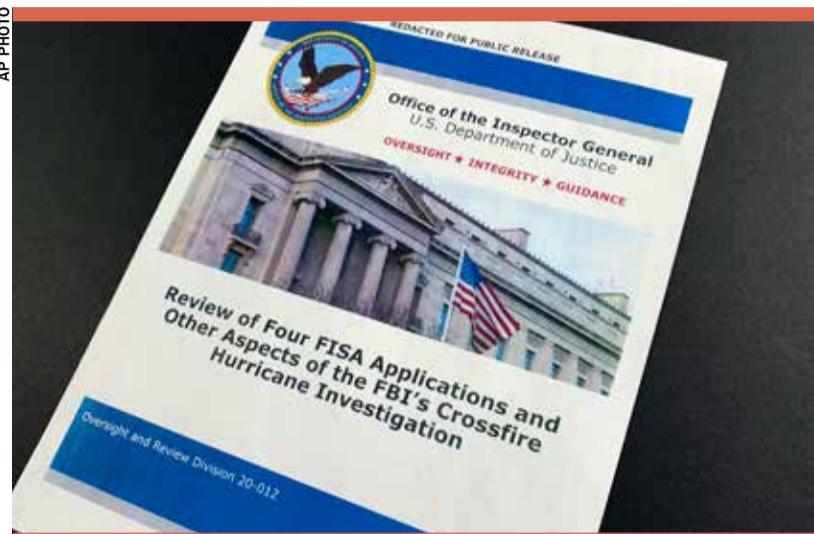
**T**HE FBI was justified in opening its investigation into ties between the Trump presidential campaign and Russia and did not act with political bias, the Justice Department's internal watchdog declared, undercutting President Donald Trump's repeated claims that he has been the target of a "witch hunt."

The long-awaited report, issued yesterday [Macau time], rejected theories and criticism spread by Trump and his supporters, though it also found "serious performance failures" up the bureau's chain of command that Republicans are citing as evidence that Trump was targeted by an unfair investigation.

The affirmation of the investigation's legitimacy, balanced by criticism of the way it was conducted, ensured that partisan battles would persist over one of the most politically sensitive investigations in FBI history.

Yesterday's review by Inspector General Michael Horowitz knocked down multiple lines of attack against the Russia investigation, finding that it was properly opened and that law enforcement leaders

AP PHOTO



were not motivated by political bias. Contrary to the claims of Trump and other critics, it said that opposition research compiled by an ex-British spy named Christopher Steele had no bearing on the decision to open the investigation known as Crossfire Hurricane. And it rejected allegations that a former Trump campaign aide at the center of the probe was set up by the FBI.

It found that the FBI had an "authorized purpose" when it opened its investigation in July 2016 into whether the Trump campaign was coordinating with Russia to tip the

election in his favor. The report said the FBI had cause to investigate a potential national security threat.

FBI Director Chris Wray, in an interview with The Associated Press, noted that the report did not find political bias but did find problems that are "unacceptable and unrepresentative of who we are as an institution."

The FBI is implementing more than 40 actions aimed at fixing some of the bureau's most fundamental operations, such as applying for surveillance warrants and interacting with confidential sources.

Those changes are in response to some of the report's criticisms. They largely centered on how agents and prosecutors set about eavesdropping on a former Trump campaign aide who they said they feared was being targeted for Russian government recruitment.

The inspector general identified 17 "significant inaccuracies or omissions" in applications for a warrant and later renewals from the secretive Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to monitor the communications of former Trump campaign adviser Carter Page.

The report also details that the FBI used an informant to set up and record a September 2016 meeting with a high-level Trump campaign official. The official wasn't identified by name, but was not a subject of the Russia investigation, the report said. While the information collected wasn't used during the Russia probe, it does lend support to the assertions by Trump and Barr that the Trump campaign was spied upon.

The report said the errors resulted in "applications that made it appear that the information supporting probable cause was stronger than was actually the case." The watchdog found that the FBI had

overstated the significance of Steele's past work as an informant and omitted information about one of his sources who he said "may engage in some embellishment."

Republicans have long criticized the process since the FBI relied in part on opposition research from Steele, whose work was financed by Democrats and Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign and that fact was not disclosed to the judges who approved the warrant.

Though the surveillance has been central to Republican objections about the investigation, the eavesdropping was not necessarily central to the probe itself — which had been underway for months before the warrant was sought.

The report's release, coming as a House Judiciary Committee impeachment hearing centers on the president's interactions with Ukraine, brought fresh attention to the legal and political investigations that have entangled the White House from the moment Trump took office.

Political divisions were evident in responses to the report.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said it makes clear that the basis for the FBI's investigation

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# probing Trump-Russia

was "valid and without political bias." Trump, in remarks at the White House, claimed it showed "an attempted overthrow and a lot of people were in on it."

The president has repeatedly said he is more eager for the report of John Durham, the prosecutor Barr selected to investigate how intelligence was gathered. Both Barr and Durham issued statements rejecting the inspector general's conclusion that there was sufficient evidence to open the FBI investigation. The attorney general's reaction was especially unusual in that the head of the Justice Department typically would not take issue with an internal investigation that clears a department agency of serious misconduct.

"The Inspector General's report now makes clear that the FBI launched an intrusive investigation of a U.S. presidential campaign on the thinnest of suspicions that, in my view, were insufficient to justify the steps taken," Barr said in a statement.

Durham, in a brief state-

ment, said he had informed the inspector general that he also didn't agree with the conclusion that the inquiry was properly opened, and suggested his own investigation would back up his disagreement.

The FBI's Russia investigation, which was ultimately taken over by special counsel Robert Mueller, began in July 2016 after the FBI learned that a former Trump campaign aide, George Papadopoulos, had been saying before it was publicly known that Russia had dirt on Democratic opponent Clinton in the form of stolen emails. Those emails, which were hacked from Democratic email accounts by Russian intelligence, were released by WikiLeaks before the election in what U.S. officials have said was an effort to harm Clinton's campaign and help Trump.

The report concluded that that revelation was a sufficient basis for opening the investigation and it knocked down claims by Papadopoulos that he had been set up by the FBI or that the professor who told him about the hacked emails was an

FBI informant.

Months later, the FBI sought and received the Page warrant. Officials were concerned that Page was being targeted for recruitment by the Russian government, though he has denied wrongdoing and has never been charged with a crime.

The inspector general also found that an FBI lawyer is suspected of altering an email to make it appear that an official at another government agency had said Page was not a source for that agency, even though he was.

Agents were concerned that if Page had worked as a source for another government agency, the FBI would have needed to tell the surveillance court about that, the report said, and contacted the other agency to obtain additional information. But the FBI lawyer "did not accurately convey, and in fact altered, the information he received from the other agency."

The lawyer is not identified by name in the report, but people familiar with the situation have said he is Kevin Clinesmith. AP

## CHILE

### MILITARY PLANE MISSING WITH 38 ON WAY TO ANTARCTICA

**C**HILE'S air force lost radio contact with a transport plane carrying 38 people on a flight yesterday to the country's base in Antarctica, and authorities indicated several hours later that they were not optimistic about the aircraft's fate.

The military said earlier that it had declared an alert and activated search and rescue teams.

The C-130 Hercules carried 17 crew members and 21 passengers, including three civilians. The personnel were to check on a floating fuel supply line and other equipment at the Chilean base.

President Sebastián Piñera said via Twitter that he was with his defense and interior ministers at the air force headquarters monitoring developments.

In a statement early Tuesday, the air force said the plane had not been heard from in



more than seven hours and likely would have run out of fuel around 12:40 a.m.

The air force "continues the search in the sector where communication with the aircraft was lost, in order to rescue potential survivors," the statement said.

The plane took off at 4:53 p.m. from the southern city of Punta Arenas, which is more than 3,000 kilometers from the capital of Santiago. Contact was lost at 6:13 p.m., the initial announcement said.

Drake's Passage, whe-

re the plane was missing, is infamous for severe weather conditions, including freezing temperatures and ferocious storms. But the air force said late Monday that the weather was good when the plane began its flight, or the mission would not have been carried out.

Gen. Eduardo Mosqueira of the Fourth Air Brigade told local media that a search was underway and a ship was in the general area where the plane should have been when contact was lost. AP

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## what's ON

### 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

### THE WORLD AS WILL AND IDEA – COLLECTIVE EXHIBITION OF EMERGING ARTISTS FROM MAINLAND CHINA

**TIME:** 10am-7pm (No admittance after 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)**UNTIL:** February 23, 2020**VENUE:** Macau Contemporary Art Centre - Navy Yard No.1, located at Rua de S. Tiago Da Barra**ADMISSION:** Free**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 8791 9814

### FASHION INTERACTION - GUANGZHOU-HONG KONG-MACAU-SHENZHEN CREATIVE FASHION EXHIBITION

**TIME:** 10am-8pm (Closed on Mondays)**UNTIL:** December 31, 2019**VENUE:** Macau Fashion Gallery**ADMISSION:** Free**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 2835 3341

## Offbeat

### IN SWEDEN'S ARCTIC, ICE ATOP SNOW LEAVES REINDEER STARVING

AP PHOTO



Thick reindeer fur boots and a fur hat covering most of his face shielded Niila Inga from freezing winds as he raced his snowmobile up to a mountain top overlooking his reindeer in the Swedish arctic.

His community herds about 8,000 reindeer year-round, moving them between traditional grazing grounds in the high mountains bordering Norway in the summer and the forests farther east in the winter, just as his forebears in the Sami indigenous community have for generations.

But Inga is troubled: His reindeer are hungry, and he can do little about it. Climate change is altering weather patterns here and affecting the herd's food supply.

"If we don't find better areas for them where they can graze and find food, then the reindeers will starve to death," he said.

Already pressured by the mining and forestry industry, and other development that encroach on grazing land, Sami herding communities fear climate change could mean the end of their traditional lifestyle.

Slipping his hand from a massive reindeer skin mitten, Inga illustrated the problem, plunging his hand into the crusted snow and pulling out a hard piece of ice close to the soil.

Unusually early snowfall in autumn was followed by rain that froze, trapping food under a thick layer of ice. Unable to eat, the hungry animals have scattered from their traditional migration routes in search of new grazing grounds.

Half the herd carried on east as planned, while the rest retreated to the mountains where predators abound, and the risk of avalanches is great.

## TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Água do Mar
15:30	Bing
15:45	Os Ursos Boonie na Neve
16:15	Caminhos de Irmandade
16:45	Portugueses Pelo Mundo Sr.1
17:45	Império (Repetição)
18:35	TDM Entrevista (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	Semana Internacional
22:00	Dez Grandes Segredos e Mistérios - Estreia
22:25	Império
23:15	TDM News
23:50	O Último Reino Sr.2
00:50	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:35	RTPi Directo

## 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



### 1979 RHODESIA REVERTS TO BRITISH RULE

The Zimbabwe-Rhodesian Parliament has voted itself out of office and handed power back to the British until democratic elections can take place.

Both the House of Assembly and the Senate unanimously approved the Constitution of Zimbabwe-Rhodesia Bill.

The country will be renamed Zimbabwe after the elections.

The new law effectively revokes the illegal 1965 unilateral declaration of independence, or UDI, which led to 14 years of white minority rule under the former Prime Minister Ian Smith.

The British Governor-Designate, Lord Soames, will arrive in the capital, Salisbury, tomorrow to take over from the current president, Josiah Gumede.

One of his most pressing tasks will be to control the violence between the black opposition group, the Patriotic Front, and the Rhodesian military.

Last year an "internal settlement" was signed by Mr Smith and Bishop Abel Muzorewa, the leader of the only recognised black party, the United African National Council.

A whites-only referendum in January this year approved a new constitution for Zimbabwe-Rhodesia.

In April's elections for transitional legislature - boycotted by the Patriotic Front made up of Zanu and Zapu - Bishop Muzorewa and his UANC won.

He took office as prime minister in June but the Government of National Unity fell short of international and opposition parties' demands for black majority rule, leading to continued sanctions and violent rebellion.

Now the former white rulers have had to accept that the 14-year rebellion against the British Crown has ended and a new chapter in the nation's history is about to begin.

Introducing the bill in parliament, the Minister of Justice, Chris Anderson told both black and white MPs that there was no point in being negative about the changes.

He said: "I believe there would be far more profit in concentrating on what has been won."

And even Paddy Milton, a member of the white supremacist Rhodesian Front party, said he supported the bill because there was "no viable alternative" but to return to British rule until elections were held.

In what some have described as a final act of defiance, Mr Smith will not attend Lord Soame's official welcome party at Salisbury airport tomorrow afternoon.

His spokesman says he will be unable to attend because he will be away.

**Courtesy BBC News**

## IN CONTEXT

The following day the country reverted to being the British Dependency of Southern Rhodesia on the arrival of the new Governor, Lord Soames.

The British government then formally advised the UN Security Council that sanctions could be lifted.

On 21 December, Robert Mugabe and Joshua Nkomo, the exiled Patriotic Front leaders, together with the former Prime Minister Bishop Muzorewa, signed a peace deal at Lancaster House in London.

Lord Soames governed for four months until elections were held.

In March 1980, Robert Mugabe leader of Zanu PF was elected to power. Zimbabwe became independent and a member of the Commonwealth.

**YOUR STARS****ARIES**

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

When you are showered with compliments today (and you will be), try to accept them all graciously. Don't go for false modesty; it simply does not become you.

**TAURUS**

Apr. 20-May. 20

You won't have a full understanding of the true amount of work you have to do until later in the afternoon, when social time is over and you're back to spending some time by yourself.

**GEMINI**

May. 21-Jun. 21

There will be some more money coming into your life today, but it could create misunderstandings if you're not careful. If you and a friend are going out together, resist the urge to treat them to dinner.

**CANCER**

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Today, if you get the feeling that something is being kept from you, you're right. Your usually strong intuition is stronger than ever now, and it's picking up on some seriously mysterious vibes.

**LEO**

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

There will be a huge spike in your creative writing skills today, and you are in the perfect frame of mind to make the most of it! It will be a breeze for you to add some rhymes and witty stuff to your emails.

**VIRGO**

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

You have the wonderful gift of fresh perspective, today, so take another look at the problems you've been having in your life, lately. Chances are, they will look nowhere near as gigantic as they looked yesterday.

**LIBRA**

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Just like you shouldn't get on a scale every day when you're on a diet, you can't constantly stare at the finish line if you want to win the race. You have to think about the here and now.

**SCORPIO**

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

You could benefit from more exercise today. But the exercise you really need doesn't revolve around working out and getting sweaty—it revolves around using your imagination.

**SAGITTARIUS**

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

What's your hurry? The upcoming event you're so excited about isn't going anywhere—and trying to speed up your life to get there quicker is not only impossible, it's a total waste of energy.

**CAPRICORN**

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

You can't let yourself take anything too seriously today. Even if you're taking a big exam, going on an important job interview, or trying to charm a first date, you have to remember to keep it loose.

**AQUARIUS**

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Is someone casting a spell on you? Be careful not to let the mystical charms of someone cute fog your mind and keep you from having a realistic view of who they are as a person.

**PISCES**

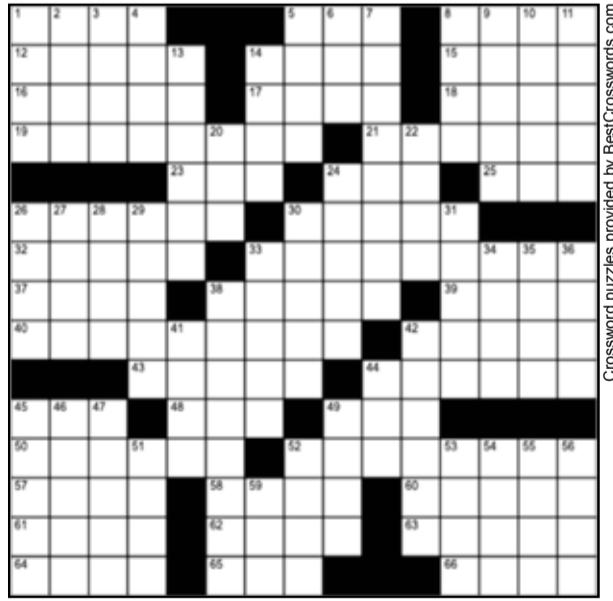
Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Are you expecting major transformations to happen overnight? It's time to face the fact that it's going to take longer than you thought. Whether you are looking for changes in yourself or in someone else.

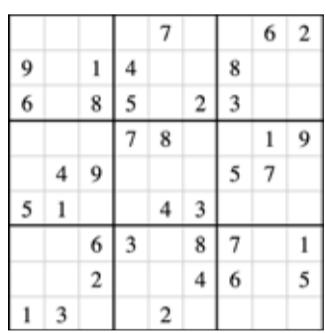
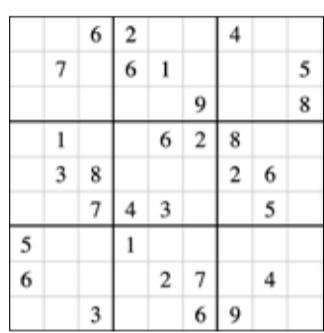
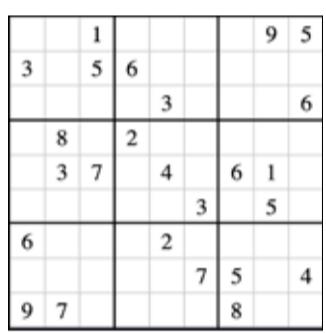
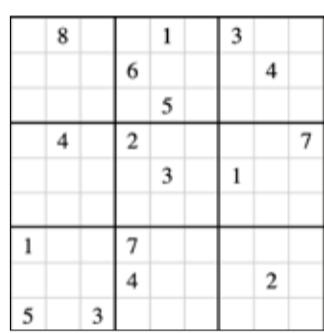
**CROSSWORD**

**ACROSS:** 1- First name in spydom; 5- Meditative sect; 8- Blind piece; 12- Battle site of 1836; 14- Religious ceremony or ritual; 15- Change for a fifty; 16- Word with panel or energy; 17- Machu Picchuresident; 18- \_\_\_ boy; 19- Blindalley; 21- Eraser; 23- Chat room chuckle; 24- Hostly; 25- Begley and Bradley; 26- Collar; 30- Dined at home; 32- Feudal lord; 33- Covered with sand and lime mixture; 37- "Rubaiyat" poet Khayam; 38- Lively dances; 39- Yorkshire river; 40- Transmission of data; 42- Took the wrong way?; 43- Religious doctrine; 44- Clown; 45- 100 square meters; 48- Rocky hill; 49- Sock part; 50- Composer Mahler; 52- Grass pile; 57- Adamson's lioness; 58- Help a hood; 60- Circus performer; 61- Tide type; 62- Bluefin, e.g.; 63- Man from Muscat; 64- \_\_\_ Little Tenderness; 65- The middle of summer?; 66- Grounded fleet;

**DOWN:** 1- Like some Fr. nouns; 2- Baseball family name; 3- Hard to believe; 4- Diary of \_\_\_ Housewife; 5- Blush-white metal; 6- Space-saving abbr.; 7- Proximity; 8- Effort; 9- Do not disturb; 10- Chipped in; 11- Autocratic Russian rulers; 13- End of a threat; 14- 100 dinars; 20- Boozehound; 22- Condo division; 24- Pisa place; 26- Often; 27- Icy coating; 28- Actual; 29- Marsh bird; 30- Watchful; 31- \_\_\_-foot oil; 33- Tire (out); 34- Uproar; 35- Perry's creator; 36- Cervine creature; 38- Restore to good condition; 41- Intro to physics?; 42- Handles; 44- Happiness; 45- Spy; 46- Sovereign; 47- Composition; 49- Toodles!; 51- Spanish snack; 52- Coop group; 53- Highland hats; 54- Latin I word; 55- Copper; 56- Actor Kristofferson; 59- Derelict;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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

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

**WORLD**

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

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Fire department 28 572 222

Water Supply – Report 2822 0088

PJ (Open line) 993

Telephone – Report 1000

PJ (Picket) 28 557 775

Electricity – Report 28 339 922

PSP 28 573 333

Macau Daily Times 28 716 081

Customs 28 559 944

S. J. Hospital 28 313 731

Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333

Commission Against

Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300

IAM 28 387 333

Tourism 28 333 000

Airport 59 888 88

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One Central lakeview high floor, Macau  
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**FOR RENT**

Taipa studio, Largo de Ponte  
\$8,500/mth 426 ft<sup>2</sup> 1 ♂

**FOR SALE**

[Taipa] Apartment w/balcony 2 ♂ 1 ♀ 787 ft<sup>2</sup> \$4,950,000 (ref: 19106001)  
[Macau] One Central 2 ♂ 2 ♀ 1,349 ft<sup>2</sup> \$14,839,000 (ref: 19096004)

[Taipa] Manhattan 3 ♂ 2 ♀ 1,720 ft<sup>2</sup> \$12,980,000 (ref: 19096006)  
[Taipa] One Grantai 4 ♂ 2 ♀ 2,556 ft<sup>2</sup> \$25,600,000 (ref: 19096001)

**FOR RENT**

[Taipa] Studio, Largo de Porte 1 ♂ 470 ft<sup>2</sup> \$9,500/mth (ref: 19101002)  
[Taipa] Manhattan 3 ♂ 2 ♀ 1,720 ft<sup>2</sup> \$23,800/mth (ref: 19101006)  
[Taipa] Nova Grand 2 ♂ 1 ♀ 935 ft<sup>2</sup> \$17,800/mth (ref: 19091004)  
[Macau] Ocean Garden 4 ♂ 4 ♀ 3,700 ft<sup>2</sup> \$35,000/mth (ref: 18040674)

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# IFFAM 2019 Closed in style



Alice Augusto and Mike Goodridge



Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes and Alvin Chau



Wisdom Tooth



Variety Asian Stars 2019 Award Presenter



Two One



To Love To Sing



Festival Director Jeon HyeJung



Festival Director Noa Regev



Bhumi Pednekar

 THE FOURTH edition of the International Film Festival & Awards-Macao (IFFAM) ended yesterday at the Macao Cultural Center, with the Closing Red Carpet ceremony.

The six-day major event included two main competitions, one an international event where 10 feature films from first or second-time filmmakers vie for a \$60,000 prize, and the New Chinese Cinema section, which sees seven Chinese-language films go head to head.

Top award went last night to "Give me Liberty," an American production directed by Kirill Mikhanovsky (see p20).

IFFAM 2019 positioned itself as one of the key events celebrating the 20th anniversary of the handover of the former Portuguese colony to the People's Republic of China.

Five local features were among the highlights of this year's selection of 50 films, said Mike Goodridge, IFFAM artistic director. "It's more than we ever played before," he said earlier during the announcement of the programme.

On the other hand, Goodridge said that IFFAM has expanded the New Chinese Cinema section, this year in its second edition.

Entries included Derek Tsang's "Better Days," which was pulled out from the Berlinale earlier this year; family drama "Dwelling in the Fuchun Mountains" by Gu Xiaogang from mainland China; "Lucky Grandma," a Mandarin-language comedy set in New York City by Susie Sealy of the U.S.; "Over the Sea," a drama addressing the issues of left behind children in mainland China by Sun Aoqian; a mainland Chinese-French co-production "To Live, To Sing" by Johnny Ma; "Wet Season," the well-received second feature by Singapore's Anthony Chen; and Liang Ming's "Wisdom Tooth," which recently bagged the jury prize and best director at the Pingyao International Film Festival.

While the festival opened with "Jojo Rabbit," a high-profile international title with Oscar potential, it closed yesterday with something much closer to home, "i'm livin' it," a directorial debut by Hong Kong's Wong Hing-fan. It stars the award-winning superstars Aaron Kwok and Miriam Yeung and tells a story about homeless people sheltering in a fast food joint.



International Jury



Shorts Jury



The Captain

**FOOTBALL**

# France coach Deschamps signs new contract until end of 2022

JEROME PUGMIRE, PARIS

FRANCE coach Didier Deschamps has extended his contract until 2022, giving him a chance to defend the World Cup title.

Since taking charge after the 2012 European Championship the former France captain has guided Les Bleus to the Euro 2016 final on home soil before winning the World Cup in Russia last year.

That made him one of only three coaches in soccer history to have won the World Cup as both a player and a coach, along with Mario Zagallo (Brazil) and Franz Beckenbauer (West Germany).

"I'm proud and honored to be the France coach. You know the attachment I still have for what this jersey represents," Deschamps said yesterday. "We are world champions (and) you are judged on your results. If France has not had good since results since 2012, I wouldn't be sitting here now."

Deschamps has formed a close relationship with French Foo-

AP PHOTO



tball Federation president Noël Le Graët, and they recently celebrated his national record-extending 100th game in charge. He has the highest number of wins (65) of any France coach, ahead of Michel Hidalgo and Raymond Do-

menech (tied on 41).

"It seems important for French football that Didier Deschamps stays in charge of the national team until December 31, 2022, in other words until the end of the World Cup in Qatar," Le Graët

said.. "Furthermore, there is no arguing with his results (so) it's a very logical decision."

France will again be among the favorites at Euro 2020, with Le Graët setting Deschamps the usual target of reaching at least

the semifinals.

"Our team is among the best in the world today, second in the FIFA rankings," Le Graët said. "It wouldn't be very serious not to have high expectations."

Deschamps is also unique in having both played for and coached France at least 100 times, making 103 international appearances as a gritty but technically assured central midfielder with outstanding leadership and organizational skills. Since replacing former France teammate Laurent Blanc after Euro 2012, he has taken those same qualities into his coaching.

But his new contract is unlikely to be good news for Karim Benzema, the Real Madrid striker who remains sidelined since falling out of favor with Deschamps four years ago in a bitter fallout following Benzema's alleged involvement in a sex-tape scandal.

Deschamps has shown both great loyalty and a ruthless streak, in keeping his faith in striker Olivier Giroud — despite Giroud being left out of the Chelsea side this season—and maintaining his hardliner position in overlooking Benzema despite his outstanding performances for Madrid.

"I'm happy in my job," Deschamps said. "I have the best French players with a remarkable team spirit. There are many great things still to be done." AP

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## OPINION

### Animal Farm

Albano Martins



### WHY A SLAUGHTERHOUSE IN MACAU?

A bull or a cow fled the Matadouro (Macao slaughterhouse) a few days ago. I would also have done the same.

What is the use of this company now in a small city like Macau, with no land and in a process of full integration into the Greater Bay Area?

I am not just talking about the welfare of the animals taken to the abattoirs, the conditions in which they are taken and the conditions in which they are dumped. I am not just talking about the animals that are there and being slaughtered with methods that are probably no longer used in any civilized country. I also talk about the public health issues that we need to be aware of, such as the spread of dangerous diseases from live animals coming from areas not controlled by our health authorities.

I also talk about the pollution of the surrounding waters, knowing that from this slaughterhouse all the waste is discharged directly to the surrounding waters, without any kind of treatment.

I also refer to the characteristics of that enterprise as it makes no sense that animals have to be slaughtered in Macao when their production is in China.

I also mention the huge space occupied by the facility that could be used for other community purposes in a heavily populated area with the highest population density in the world.

Has anyone done a cost-benefit analysis of this project? No, certainly not, because if so, it would ascertain who actually gains from that activity.

The government? No. The community? No.

If we are talking about meat, why doesn't it come already chilled from China, which has space and lots of slaughterhouses.

The Macao slaughterhouse is a business that has consistently been characterized by substantial economic unfeasibility, with accumulated losses over the years of more than 20 million patacas.

The rule in the slaughterhouse is always or almost always the same: at the end of the year they have to deal with annual losses!

That is why the results carried over are brutally negative, already exceeding half of the capital stock!

Therefore, being a deficit activity, it obviously does not contribute to the public coffers, but on the contrary, it will continue to suck up money.

Where are our legislative members who speak about everything that they don't know and nothing of what concerns us all?

Matadouro is a company which, in order to escape the provisions of the Commercial Code, and in view of the fact that its capital is being successively eaten into by the annual losses, engineers, where necessary, its accounting to hide the situation.

That is, it makes, when appropriate, successive revaluations of the assets, to hide a capital stock that is constantly being eaten into, which under Macao's commercial law would require further capital reinforcement if the creative accounting were not authorized.

It did this in 2010 after finding that by the end of the previous year the capital had already been eaten into by more than half. It revalued the assets by MOP38,047,022, which was enough to bring its net worth from 19.5 million (below 40 million share capital) to over 56.6 million patacas.

Then last year (2018) it did the same engineering again. The revaluation was MOP50,446,254.00 but the losses remained at more than half the share capital. Now this ingenious exercise of artificial wealth creation has made its net worth soar to MOP70,277,670.00!

And who had led this organization in the last term of its Board of Directors? Imagine. The new Secretary for the Economy and Finance!

I now hope that with his in-depth knowledge of the reality of the slaughterhouse he will decide for the population and also for the animals, now that he has the power in his hands.

## MERRIAM-WEBSTER DECLares 'THEY' ITS 2019 WORD OF THE YEAR

A common but increasingly mighty and very busy little word, "they," has an accolade all its own.

The language mavens at Merriam-Webster have declared the personal pronoun their word of the year based on a 313 percent increase in look-ups on the company's search site, Merriam-Webster.com, this year when compared with 2018.

"I have to say it's surprising to me," said Peter Sokolowski, a lexicographer and Merriam-Webster's editor at large, ahead of yesterday's announcement. "It's a word we all know and

love. So many people were talking about this word."

Sokolowski and his team monitor spikes in searches and "they" got an early start last January with the rise of model Oslo Grace on top fashion runways. The Northern Californian identifies as transgender nonbinary, walking in both men's and women's shows around the world.

Another look-up spike occurred in April, when U.S. Rep. Pramila Jayapal, D-Washington, got emotional while talking of her gender-nonconforming child during a House committee hearing as she advocated for LGBTQ rights legislation.



**Australia** Wildfires engulfed Sydney in haze so thick in some places it was 11 times worse than the level considered "hazardous," and was apt to trigger fire alarms. The city canceled ferries and some offices in the downtown area were evacuated. Local health officials advised people to stay indoors as much as possible.



**Japan** Securities regulators are recommending that automaker Nissan be fined 2.4 billion yen (\$22 million) for under-reporting compensation for its former chairman, Carlos Ghosn. The Securities and Exchange Surveillance Commission said it made the recommendation to the government's Financial Services Agency over disclosure documents from 2014 through 2017.



**Vietnam** Former U.S. first lady Michelle Obama spoke to students at a school in southern Vietnam while promoting education for girls to help reach their full potential. Obama, accompanied by actresses Julia Roberts and Lana Condor and "Today Show" co-host Jenna Bush Hager, met on Monday with girls at a high school in Long An province by the Mekong delta, where they listened to the students talk about their schoolwork and challenges.

**US** The FBI was justified in opening its investigation into ties between the Trump presidential campaign and Russia and did not act with political bias, the Justice Department's internal watchdog declared, undercutting President Donald Trump's repeated claims that he has been the target of a "witch hunt." The rejected theories and criticism spread by Trump and supporters.

More on p14-15

## GIVE ME LIBERTY WINS BEST FILM ATIFFAM

LYNZY VALLES

**A**merican film *Give Me Liberty* won Best Film in the international competition category of the 4th International Film Festival Awards - Macau, topping the nine other films in the competition.

The comedy film directed by Kirill Mikhanovsky, written by Alice Austen and Mikhanovsky, and produced by Austen was previously screened at the Directors' Fortnight section at the 2019 Cannes Film Festival.

"It feels wonderful and great. It's well deserved by the people who are part of the people in the frame. I'm happy for the film that almost didn't exist. It's a miracle. Every single wonderful moment that happened in the film was a miracle," said Mikhanovsky.

"It's a great way to celebrate comedy of life because that's the only way we get confront life," he added.

President of the International Competition Jury Peter Chan commented, "We're very compatible with each other, we didn't argue a lot. We shared almost very similar ideas and feelings. We voted for the same movies, we made decisions within a short period of time. This is very rare," said Chan on sharing his experience on leading the jury.

"Most of the directors are first and second time directors. I've seen they used new ways to make movies, which is very inspiring for me," the director added.

Buoyancy also won as the Macao Audience Choice Award.



Alice Austen (left) and Kirill Mikhanovsky

Meanwhile, Buoyancy's Sarm Heng won Best Actor in the International Film category.

This is the first time the actor - who is still a student - has received an award.

"I'm really happy. This is my first time to have a won an award and this has been a dream too. It feels amazing because I've gained a lot of experience," the Cambodian actor said.

Best Director in the same category was awar-

ded to Fyzal Boulifa from the movie *Lynn+Lucy*, while Roxanne Scrimshaw - who played the character - won Best Actress.

Best Screenplay was awarded to Bellbird where the director and schoolteacher Hamish Bennett based his script on memories of growing up in rural Northland, New Zealand.

Another significant award this year is the "Spirit of Cinema" Achievement Award that was won by director Li Shaohong.

"I'm really surprised," she said. "In terms of age, it's kind of early for me to get this award. I still want to show more films. I've shot 16 films and TV shows in the last 30 years [...] and I think I still have the energy and desire to shoot more great films."

Meanwhile, the Cinephilia Critics' Award for Best Macau Film was awarded to *Years of Macau* - which is a local production about the changing city set in different times and locations spanning over 20 years.



Sarm Heng, Best Actor (second from right)