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**FITCH HAS REAFFIRMED THE SAR'S CREDIT RATINGS BUT WARNED THEY WON'T HOLD IF ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AUTONOMY WANE** P6

**CHINESE PRESS REPORTEDLY RECEIVING THREATS AHEAD OF XI'S VISIT** P2

**XI JINPING SAID HONG KONG THIS YEAR FACED ITS 'GRIMMEST AND MOST COMPLICATED' SITUATION SINCE RETURNING TO CHINESE RULE** P9

# LAWMAKERS REVIEW 20 YEARS OF AUTONOMY

China's government said Arsenal forward Mesut Ozil was "blinded and misled" when he criticized Beijing's crackdown on ethnic Muslims in Xinjiang. The government said Ozil was welcome to visit the northwest region and "look around." "I don't know if Mr. Mesut Ozil has ever visited Xinjiang. It seems that he was blinded and misled by some false reports and untrue words," a foreign ministry spokesman said. More on p11



**Philippines** Rescuers pulled out two bodies yesterday from a three-story building that collapsed in a strong earthquake in the southern Philippines and scrambled to find at least seven more people who were trapped inside. At least five people died in Sunday's magnitude 6.9 quake.



**New Zealand** New Zealanders observed a minute's silence yesterday at the moment that a volcano erupted a week earlier, killing 18 people and leaving others with severe burns. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said that wherever people were in New Zealand or around the world, it was an opportunity to stand alongside those who had lost loved ones in the tragedy.

**US** A senior U.S. diplomat said yesterday that Washington won't accept a year-end deadline set by North Korea to make concessions in stalled nuclear talks and urged Pyongyang to return to a negotiating table immediately. "On this point, let me be clear: The U.S. does not have a deadline," said Stephen Biegun, the U.S. special representative for North Korea.

More on backpage



## CHECKPOINTS ENFORCED ON MEGA BRIDGE, ZHUHAI CONFIRMS ARREST

P4



XINHUA



### THREE COMPLAINTS SO FAR ON NEW PLASTIC BAG CHARGE

The Consumer Council has received three complaints regarding the plastic shopping bag charge since the new law came into effect on November 18. A Green Future representative recommended that local residents report charge abuse to the Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA), and the same representative recommended that shops donate the money from plastic shopping bag charges to environmental protection work. A representative of the Environmental Advisory Committee wants to charge for polybags as well, and the same representative defended shops by saying that some service providers are not clearly aware of the regulation. Some listeners at the forum proposed that the local government launch a program to recycle shopping bags.

### MAJORITY DISAPPROVE OF GOV'T WASTE REDUCTION POLICY

The majority of the city disapproves of the local government's waste reduction policies, owing to their perceived ineffectiveness. According to a survey conducted by the Collective Wisdom Policy Center, nearly 70% of respondents said that the local government's waste reduction policies achieved very little. In total, 1,214 people were interviewed. Nearly 60% of the interviewees were unsatisfied with the government's work in handling trash. The Center proposes that the Macau government establish an environmental protection policy to review the effectiveness of solid waste recycling. The center also believes that it is necessary to develop and improve food waste collection models and support plans as soon as possible.

### GUANGZHOU R&F WINS WYNN CUP FOOTBALL CHALLENGE

The Guangzhou R&F Football Club won the Wynn Cup Football Challenge earlier this month. In order to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the People's Republic of China and the 20th anniversary of the Macau Handover, and with the aim of enhancing sports and cultural exchange among cities of the Greater Bay Area, the Alumni Association of the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) held the football match on December 7 and 8. On December 8, the Wynn Handover Cup was held. The MUST team and Guangdong R&F competed for the trophy, with the mainland team winning the title.

# WANG SAI MAN INAUGURATED, TAKES HIS SEAT AS LAWMAKER

RENATO MARQUES

**W**ANG Sai Man, the winner of the Legislative Assembly (AL) indirect constituency's by-election has been inaugurated as a lawmaker, taking his seat at the AL for the first time during yesterday's plenary session.

The lawmaker elected in representation of the industrial, commercial and financial sector was officially inaugurated in a ceremony held at the AL a few minutes before the plenary session.

After the ceremony and speaking to the media the lawmaker addressed some of the measures expected to be announced later this week by the president Xi Jinping saying, "I think the idea of creating in Macau a stock exchange is a very good idea and I hope we [at the AL] can pay our support to promote such an initiative."

Commenting on the development of Hengqin Island and the possibility of Macau taking on more roles in its development, Wang said, "I hope that during his visit to Macau, President Xi Jinping can give us more orientation on that topic."

Also questioned by the media on if he fears to have his duties as lawmaker suspended due to the issue previously noted and under investigation by the Electoral Affairs Commission for the



Legislative Assembly Election (CAEAL) case, lawmaker Wang said that he would not comment.

After the election, the president of the CAEAL, Tong Hio Fong, told the media that despite winning the election, Wang

Sai Man was under investigation by the Commission for an alleged instance of electoral fraud.

The investigation was prompted by a piece of information received by the CAEAL claiming that the sole candidate had campaigned on voting day, which, if

proved, would violate the law.

A total of 822 ballots were cast from 920 eligible voters, a figure that represents a voter turnout rate of approximately 89%. Representing the "União dos Interesses Empresariais de Macau," Wang received 813 votes.

## Members of Chinese press report receiving threats ahead of Xi's visit

**T**HE Macau Portuguese and English Press Association (AIPIM) has said that the organization has not received any reports of threats from its community, contrary to what members of the Chinese press said they experienced recently.

Macau Business reported that the Macau Journalists' Association (AJM) said there were instances of local repor-

ters being instructed to be cautious about what they say.

Chinese President Xi Jinping is set to visit the SAR for three days starting tomorrow for ceremonies to mark the 20th anniversary of the handover.

Meanwhile, the press association for Portuguese and English-speaking press said that it has no knowledge of such threa-

ts occurring among its community.

"We don't have any knowledge of threats against members of AIPIM or journalists working for Portuguese and English media outlets in Macau," the association replied to the Times.

"What we can say is that any confirmed situation of threats against journalists is unacceptable," it added.

Last week, a Hong Kong journalist was held by immigration authorities for nearly three hours while attempting to enter Macau.

The senior reporter for the South China Morning Post (SCMP) who mainly reports on human rights, security, politics and societal issues in Hong Kong was detained in a small room by immigration authorities and was

questioned by lawmaker Pereira Coutinho.

In light of this, AIPIM also issued a statement last week noting, "in face of recent cases of journalists from outside of Macau being denied entry or being subject to lengthy questioning at the borders, AIPIM expresses concern and calls on Macau authorities to respect the journalists' freedom of movement and stresses the importance of ensuring that press freedom is fully upheld."

The Chinese press association also considered these incidents unprecedented. LV

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RENATO MARQUES



## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

# Macau's 20-year review dominates lawmaker discourse

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE topic of the 20th anniversary of Macau's handover accounted for half of yesterday's interventions from lawmakers at the Legislative Assembly (AL) during the period before the agenda.

With the celebrations to be held later this week, several lawmakers dedicated their time to address this topic exclusively, making a review and comparison of Macau before and after the last 20 years.

Ip Sio Kai was the first to launch the topic, saying that with the handover, Macau had entered a new era of governance with high autonomy under the principles of "One Country, Two Systems" and "Macau governed by its people."

This new situation contributed to the rapid development that transformed Macau "from a small, almost unknown city to a world tourism and leisure center," the same lawmaker said, while adding that the gaming industry, "as a pillar has made major contributions to economic growth, but the risks of this single-industry-dependent model of economic growth are becoming increasingly complicated."

For Ip, to solve such a problem, the new government should take the opportunities and roles provided by the central government to engage in providing financial services to companies in the Greater

Bay Area, "by actively exploring cross-border financial cooperation."

Such opportunities, stemming from growing need for financial services within the GBA, would also extend to people and families that are increasingly seeking to "work, buy a home, study and seek medical treatment in Mainland China."

Such remarks were followed by the speech of Ma Chi Seng, addressing the plenary also in the name of Wu Chou Kit and Pang Chuan, who praised Macau's development over the last 20 years.

In the words of the lawmakers, Macau is currently living through "the best period in its history."

"From the early phase of the handover, when there was almost nothing [compared] to this day, we have had many examples of success in implementing the 'One country, two systems' principle," Ma said, adding that the 20 successful years of Macau "will be undoubtedly marked in history as an important part of the great national renaissance."

The lawmakers then listed all the major developments achieved by the previous and current government in five groups in which they included, among others, the government catering for the people through wealth distribution and talent training, as well as people's resilience in the overcoming of crisis and natural catastrophes.

"The social security system, housing, health, education, talent training, and disaster prevention and reduction, [established by the successive governments] left residents happy and with a full sense of belonging to society, a phenomenon that was not recorded before the handover," Ma said.

The lawmakers also praised the economic growth of the region, with per capita gross domestic product now the second-highest worldwide.

The lawmakers concluded, "the policy of adequate diversification of industries has had effects; and a diversified cultural exchange base is gradually being promoted within the 'One Center, One Platform' strategy, all of which forms the basis for long-term economic development."

Lawmaker Zheng Anting also noted the economic achievements and "great improvements" in general in the region after the handover, but contrary to others, he did not forget to mention "several existing social problems" that come as some of the bigger challenges and responsibilities for the upcoming government of Ho Iat Seng.

Noting that there is still room for improvement, Zheng remarked on the low efficiency of the administration and the conflict or lack of synergy among the different government departments.

With the Light Rapid Transit as the main focus of her speech, lawmaker Agnes Lam also noted the celebratory date, praising, above all, the attitude of the leaders over the last 20 years when compared to the ones before them.

"The attitude of the leaders improved significantly, compared to 20 years ago. This evaluation shows that the government has implemented its actions effectively. But although recognizing the political merit of the government, the people of Macau hope that the problems accumulated over the years will be resolved."

### SULU SOU DISAGREES

Lawmaker Sulu Sou took the opposite view.

The lawmaker took the opportunity yesterday to criticize the jumping to conclusions about a process that is far from being concluded.

"Twenty years after the establishment of the MSAR, the implementation of the 'One Country, Two Systems, Macau governed by its people and high autonomy' should still be underway. However, it seems that the central government has already drawn a conclusion [...] that the implementation has been successful."

In Sou's opinion, this fact has generated "a wave of the local political and business sectors taking every political occasion or public activity to perform this political mission on stage," and yet it is an unconvincing performance.

According to the same lawmaker, this method of selling the virtues of Macau in prejudice of other places, like the neighboring region of Hong Kong, is not even a novelty, since it started "in the era of Tung Chee-hwa, and has now become more clear after the umbrella and anti-extradition movements," he said. Tung was the first Chief Executive of Hong Kong.

Sou criticized this way of "showing the world the success of Macau as the good pupil," making use of the region as an "instrument, not a protagonist" to show that the same is possible to be achieved in Hong Kong and Taiwan.

The lawmaker remarked that, contrary to such political messages, what happens in reality is, "Macau people have a very limited voice, as they are only informed when plans are already in place. This was done with the role of building a world tourism and leisure center, in establishing the cooperation platform between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries, and in the event of the opening of a stock exchange."

Sou added that such fact is due to a sense of self-censorship instilled in the local community.

For the lawmaker, the government's annual distribution of money has been working as a remedy to patch up real problems and to convey an image of prosperity, which the people, in general, are not actually enjoying.

Also contrary to what was said previously by the other lawmakers, Sou listed several major concerns and ambitions of the local population, adding that after 20 years of governance, very little of what was promised has been achieved.



## CRIME

# TWO GET LUCKY IN RETRIEVAL OF LOST PHONES

**T**HE Public Security Police Force (PSP) has retrieved and returned two lost phones to their owners.

Last Friday, at 1:45 a.m., a woman reported her lost phone to the Public Security Police Force. She told the police that she left her cell phone in a taxi she had taken earlier from Rua de Malaca to a hotel in Cotai. The victim was a tourist from mainland China.

She tried calling her own number afterwards but found that while the phone was on, the call was not answered. She then started to suspect that the phone was picked up by somebody. Therefore, she decided to report the case to the police.

The police managed to get in touch with the taxi driver concerned, who mentioned that after alighting the victim, a group of four, two males and two females, got into the taxi right away and asked to go to Rua do Regedor.

The taxi driver stressed that he did not see the reportedly lost cell phone in his car.

The police later got in touch with the security team of the concerned hotel in Cotai. The security guards escorted the police to review the surveillance camera footage, in search of the probable suspects.

Around 11.30 a.m. on the same day, the security department reported the sighting of two people who were believed to be the suspects in the case to the police.

The security guards invited the two people to the security office to await for the police investigation. Upon arrival, police officers conducted an inquiry on the two people. One of the suspects, a man surnamed Dai from mainland China, confessed that he had obtained the cell phone during the taxi ride. Dai is around 30 years old. The other person is a female who told the police that she is Dai's spouse.

MATEUSZ TWORUSZKA



Dai confessed that he had spotted the cell phone in the seat of the taxi and decided to keep it as his own. He was then transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office on the same day.

The victim, who was able to retrieve the phone, said the device was worth 5,300 patacas.

In another case, a Mongolian man was arrested for stealing two cell phones.

At 5:45 p.m. on Sunday, PSP officers were conducting regular patrols in the Cotai District when they intercepted the Mongolian man, reported by the police to be named Enkhee, in whose bag the officers found four cell phones.

The Mongolian man said that two cell phones belonged to him, while the other two were "picked up" in Cotai. He failed to explain to the officers why he did not pass the phone on to competent departments, such as the police or the security departments of any Cotai resorts.

At this very moment, one of the two phones rang, and an officer answered the call, which was found to be made by the owner. The owner was instructed to show up at the spot to assist with the case.

The owner realized that the phone had disappeared while shopping. However, the exact

location where the phone disappeared was unknown. The owner said the phone was worth 7,000 patacas.

The Mongolian man then confessed to the crime, before being referred to the Public Prosecutions Office yesterday.

The suspects in both cases were charged with Article 200 of the Criminal Code.

Also, a casino croupier has been caught stealing chips from the Cotai casino in which she worked. The suspect is surnamed Wong and is 56 years old. She is a Macau resident and has worked in the casino for five years.

Her case was unearthed at 2

p.m. on Sunday. Her colleagues at the surveillance department saw her hiding a chip, which was worth HKD10,000, in her palm. The department reported the case to the Judiciary Police (PJ), who later arrested her.

It turned out that this was not her first time conducting the act. Before this time in which she got arrested, she had carried out four similar acts. In each act, she stole a chip worth HKD10,000.

In her confession to the police, she said she committed the theft because of her gambling habit or addiction. She has stolen HKD50,000 worth of chips in total. **AL**

## Zhuhai police confirms arrest of man on HKZMB

**T**HE man who reportedly went missing on the Hong Kong-Macau-Zhuhai Bridge (HKZMB) while on his way to Macau has been arrested for cartel crime, the Zhuhai Public Security Bureau confirmed on its microblog account yesterday.

"After cross-reference, the Police Bureau confirmed that the man has been wanted by the Shenzhen

Airport Customs Bureau since August 2012," the Zhuhai Police indicated in the microblog post.

It was also indicated that the man, surnamed Chung, is believed to have organized the smuggling of mobile phones in a group consisting of cross-border truck drivers from Guangdong and Hong Kong.

Mainland authorities have tightened security

measures on the bridge by adding a security checkpoint on the Eastern Artificial Island of the bridge. From the island, one can see an opening of the underwater tunnel that forms part of the transport facility.

Netizens said on social media platforms that they witnessed squads of mainland police officers conducting checks on all

passengers. Guns and mission dogs were also seen, according to these social media posts.

Such measures are being carried out, according to the authorities, to ensure a stable and advantageous environment for the celebrations of the 20th Anniversary of the Macau Special Administrative Region.

Hong Kong media outle-

ts reported that the man was believed to have gone missing at the additional security checkpoint. According to the reports, the man's last communication with his family was made through WhatsApp, notifying his family that he was under arrest.

In the Zhuhai Police's account on Chinese microblogging system, Weibo, a post reads, "Chung is an

important member of the gang, and Zhuhai border control has already transferred him to the relevant authority."

Earlier reports indicated that the man's son had paid a visit to Macau's Public Security Police Force (PSP), searching for his father. The son told Hong Kong media that according to the PSP, his father did not enter Macau, so a case could not be formed.

The Times has emailed the PSP for comment, but did not receive a reply by press time. **AL**



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

# Baidu: still a while before self-driving cars operate on roads

**S** EARCH engine giant Baidu has said that it will be a while before autonomous vehicles finally get working on the roads.

Last year, the Chinese firm registered nearly 140,000 kilometers in Beijing in self-driving distances, representing about 91 percent of total distances traveled by the eight licensed transportation companies in China.

Baidu has been running a platform – Apollo – which lets its third-party developers access its autonomous tech.

In a talk yesterday at the University of Macau, Zhang Yaquin, president of Baidu, recalled that the first milestone took place in 2009, when Google started to invest resources and capital into autonomous vehicles.

In China, Baidu started its serious research about five or six years ago.

“Another major milestone was in 2017 when Baidu opened Apollo to the public and made it an open source platform. Most



A self-driving robotaxi developed by Chinese search provider Baidu and Chinese carmaker FAW Hongqi participates in a test ride in Changsha, Hunan Province

car companies are using it,” said the scientist.

“Why is there such a big undertaking and so much interest? The first and foremost reason is safety, [...] and secondly, safety,” said Zhang.

In China, car accidents kill

more than 200,000 people each year, 95% of which are caused by human error.

For Zhang, economic value also remains a significant factor as to why market players are investing in the project.

Research co-conducted by

the firm foresees that the automotive industry will amount to \$1.6 trillion in the next 10 years.

“There’s an additional \$1.6 trillion opportunity from the ecosystem of driving [including] system, hardware, technology. New revenue opportunities can

be created from these,” he said.

Still, “it’s going to be a while” before these cars get onto real road lanes, said Zhang, citing the joint research of Baidu and McKinsey & Company, which shows that in 10 years, about 15% of new cars will be level 4 and above, while 50% of automobiles will be level 3 and above.

Zhang was referring to a system defined by the Society of Automobile Engineers, which details six levels of automation starting from Level 0, indicating no automation, to Level 5, indicating full automation.

Meanwhile, contrary to the comments made by Elon Musk on the use of lidar – a device that acts as an ‘eye’ for autonomous vehicles – who said that “anyone relying on lidar is doomed,” Zhang thinks the opposite.

Lidar is a technology that uses safe, invisible laser beam pulses to detect objects both in motion and at rest.

“Lidar provides additional data which serves your advantage, so why not? We were able to build cars [...] with lidar and it’s more safe and has more capabilities,” the scientist explained.

“Lidar is more expensive but we believe as an approach that it will be cheaper. [...] With all this data, it gives us more things to compute,” he added. LV

AD



## Global Tourism Economy Forum • Macao 2019 Adjourns with Success Creates New Avenues for Progress in Tourism & Leisure Navigates New Insights to the Roadmap to a Beautiful Life

The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the Global Tourism Economy Forum-Macao 2019 was successfully held from 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> October at MGM COTAL. Aligned with President Xi’s concept of ‘Beautiful Life’ and highlighting key elements under the Belt & Road Initiative and the Greater Bay Area Plan, GTEF 2019 “Tourism and Leisure: Roadmap to a Beautiful Life,” featured a range of programs including discussion panels, keynotes, special interviews as well as concurrent activities such as workshops, exhibitions, and customized business matching. The Forum engaged more than 2,000 participants including ministerial officials, industry leaders, experts, and scholars, from across the globe, along with delegations from Partner Countries Argentina and Brazil, as well as Featured Chinese Province Jiangsu.



Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and Forum Chairman of GTEF, Ho Hau Wah

Global Tourism Economy Forum's success in 2019 is largely attributable to partnership with the following organizations and entities:

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Chief Executive of the Macao SAR, Chui Sai On

### Leaders, Experts, and Guests of Honours

43 Guests of Honours officiated GTEF 2019 during the Opening Ceremony on 14<sup>th</sup> October. Among them included: Chief Executive of the Macao Special Administrative Region, Chui Sai On; Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and Forum Chairman of GTEF, Ho Hau Wah; Director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macao Special Administrative Region, Fu Ziyang; Secretary-General of World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), Zurab Pololikashvili; Executive Vice Chairman of All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce (ACFIC), Xu Lejiang; Commissioner of the Office of The Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the Macao Special Administrative Region, Shen Belli; Minister of Tourism of the Secretariat of State for Tourism of Argentina, Gustavo Santos; Minister of Tourism of Brazil, Marcelo Álvaro Antônio; Vice Minister of Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the People's Republic of China, Zhang Xu; Chairperson of China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), Gao Yan; Vice-Governor of the People's Government of Jiangsu Province, Wang Jiang; Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture of the Macao SAR Government and Executive Chairman of GTEF, Alexis Tam; Vice Chairman and Secretary-General of GTEF, Pansy Ho.

Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and Forum Chairman of GTEF, Ho Hau Wah, expressed in his welcome speech, “According to the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area launched in early 2019, Macao is positioned as one of four GBA major hubs, offering a once in a lifetime and unprecedented opportunity for the city's development prospect.”

Chief Executive of the Macao SAR, Chui Sai On, stated in his welcome remarks, “The Central Government has bestowed huge continuous support upon Macao in our move forward...As an international tourism hub in a unique East-meets-West milieu, Macao strives to harness talents and resources to promote cultural and commercial exchange across countries along the Belt and Road.”

During the Closing Ceremony, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture of the Macao SAR Government and Executive Chairman of GTEF, Alexis Tam, stated in his closing remarks, “2019 is a momentous year for Macao as we celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China as well as the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of the Macao Special Administrative Region. It is a high time to further our development as a world centre of tourism and leisure, under the colourful backdrop of the Belt and Road initiative and with the collaborative actions with our brother cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.”

In her concluding remarks, Vice Chairman and Secretary-General of GTEF, Pansy Ho, said, “GTEF was founded upon the mission of connecting East-West tourism interests...In Macao, not only have we continued to reinvest, but to reinvent. Blessed by our national policy, Macao is ready to take on another wave of development, as we continue to integrate into the Greater Bay Area framework, contributing our tourism experience to drive cross-industry collaboration with our neighbors, to share our culture and heritage with the world, and instill a sense of national pride among our people.”



Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture of the Macao SAR Government and Executive Chairman of GTEF, Alexis Tam

### Building Upon Previous Successes, Expanded Programme in 2019

The “GTEF - World Tourism Investment and Financing Conference” was also launched in this edition, inspiring delegates to explore new possibilities in the tourism markets along the Belt and Road and across the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. The Forum also deepened its collaboration with the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) by bringing the finale of the “UNWTO Tourism Tech Adventure: SportsTech” to Macao for the first time, to foster reform and innovation in the tourism value chain.

### GTEF 2020 Features Italy as Partner Country and Gansu as Featured Chinese Province

Announced during the Closing Ceremony, GTEF 2020 will be consists of Partner Country Italy and Featured Chinese Province Gansu. Italy, the first country in the Group of Seven (G7) to join China's Belt and Road Initiative, will celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its diplomatic relations with China as well as Italy-China Tourism Year in 2020. GTEF also welcomed its renewed partnership with Gansu since the inaugural edition, a northwestern Chinese province enriched with profound traditions and plethora of untapped business opportunities.



Vice Chairman and Secretary-General of GTEF, Pansy Ho



## LRT SERVICE SUSPENDED DURING XI JINPING VISIT

The operator of the Light Rapid Transit has said that the newly-opened service will be suspended during Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Macau, starting tomorrow. The suspension begins at 1 p.m. tomorrow and will last until Friday. In a statement, the operator said that the decision had been made "in coordination with the special security measures of the Government of Macau." The long-anticipated light rail project opened to the public on December 10.

## DIRECT SHUTTLES LAUNCHED BETWEEN MACAU, HKIA

A 24-hour direct shuttle service connecting Macau to the Hong Kong International Airport became operational yesterday, with 38 daily shifts running during weekdays and 44 on weekends. The general manager of market and connectivity development at the Airport Authority HK told public broadcaster TDM that the route generally takes about 55 minutes. However, the immigration control procedures would vary and it might take longer at times. The new service allows passengers to check their bags inside the Macau port. Currently, they must collect their luggage on the other side before passing through the Hong Kong port, but by 2022 passengers will be able to use a baggage check-through service. A one-way ticket is priced at HKD185 for adults, and HKD120 for children and seniors.

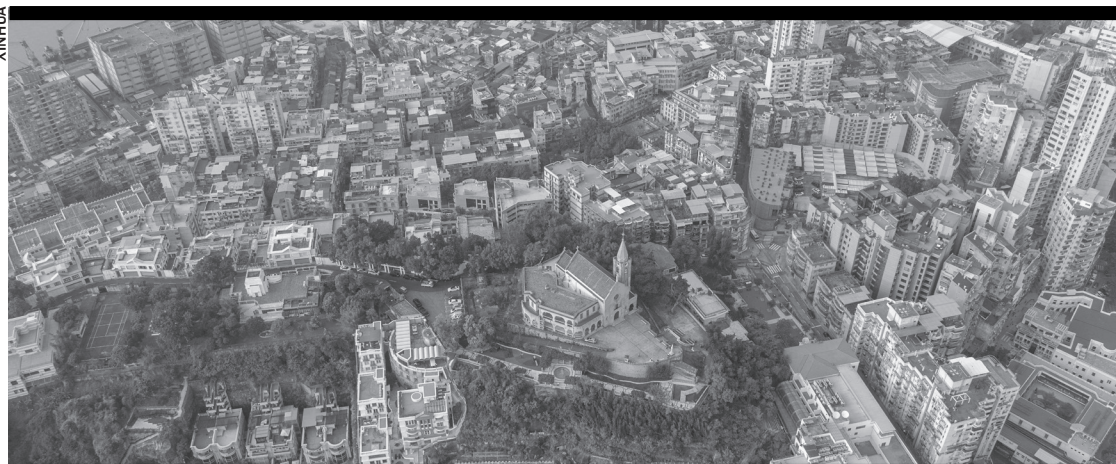
# FITCH WARNS CREDIT RATING DEPENDS ON POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AUTONOMY

**F**itch Ratings yesterday affirmed the Macau SAR's credit ratings (long-term foreign and local currency issuer default ratings) at "AA", however it warned that they might not hold up if trends of economic integration in the Greater Bay Area are realized.

According to a statement issued by the Macau government, the reaffirmation of Macau's "AA" rating, the third-highest rating offered, was "mainly because of the territory's strong fiscal position for payment of financial commitments," as well as the government's fiscal prudence.

Official data shows the fiscal reserve is equivalent to 129% of the nominal gross domestic product of 2018, or over five years of the 2019 budgeted government expenditure. The SAR government also maintains its zero-debt status.

However, according to Fitch report released yesterday, the rating is in part due to Macau's political and economic autonomy.



The rating "rests on the assumption that the territory's governance, rule of law, economic policy framework, and business and regulatory environments remain distinct from that of the mainland," noted Fitch in yesterday's report.

"These assumptions are now evolving as China's Special Administrative Regions (SARs) become more closely integrated into the national governance system, which has been accelerated by events in Hong Kong, as well as via policy initiatives

such as the Greater Bay Area, which seek to enhance long-term regional growth opportunities by more closely integrating the economies of southern China."

The AA rating on Macau currently sits two notches above that of mainland China (A+/Stable).

Meanwhile, the rating agency has revised the rating outlook to "negative" as the weakening performance of the tourism and gaming industry may dampen economic growth.

Fitch said that the ratings "are constrained by Macau's high GDP volatility and narrow economic base, which largely consists of gaming tourism from mainland China."

"The gaming industry represents 51% of aggregate activity and 22% of the employed population, despite efforts to diversify into other sectors. This elevated concentration to a single industry exposes the economy to shocks, and has contributed to Macau's historically high level of GDP volatility." DB

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MUST RECTOR LIU LIANG

# Chinese medicine was the first in medical history

JULIE ZHU

**T**HE Rector of the Macau University of Science and Technology has called for traditional Chinese medicine to more closely align with modern science, adding that being the first formalized medical practice in human history, it was worthy of being passed down to younger generations.

As a researcher in the field of Chinese medicine, MUST Rector Liu Liang discussed traditional Chinese medicine yesterday during a seminar in front of approximately 300 people, the majority of whom were middle school students.

Liu talked about the glamorous history and promising future of Chinese medicine. Liu used the examples of anesthetics and acupuncture, among others, to claim that Chinese medicine appeared in human history earlier than modern medicine.

"Chinese medicine was all kinds of 'first' in world medicine

history," said Liu, who also stated that many modern medicines result from the combination of Chinese medicine with modern technologies.

Liu, who was recently announced as Macau's first member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, made proposals for Chinese medicine research and for the future of Chinese medicine.

In Liu's opinion, Chinese medicine must closely integrate advanced and modern technology, similar to what modern medicine is doing. For example, it must seek the scientific explanations behind its effectiveness, he said.

Liu believes that the approaches, theories and methods of Chinese medicine are fundamentally different from modern medicine.

Traditional Chinese medicine is growing as a discipline in Macau.

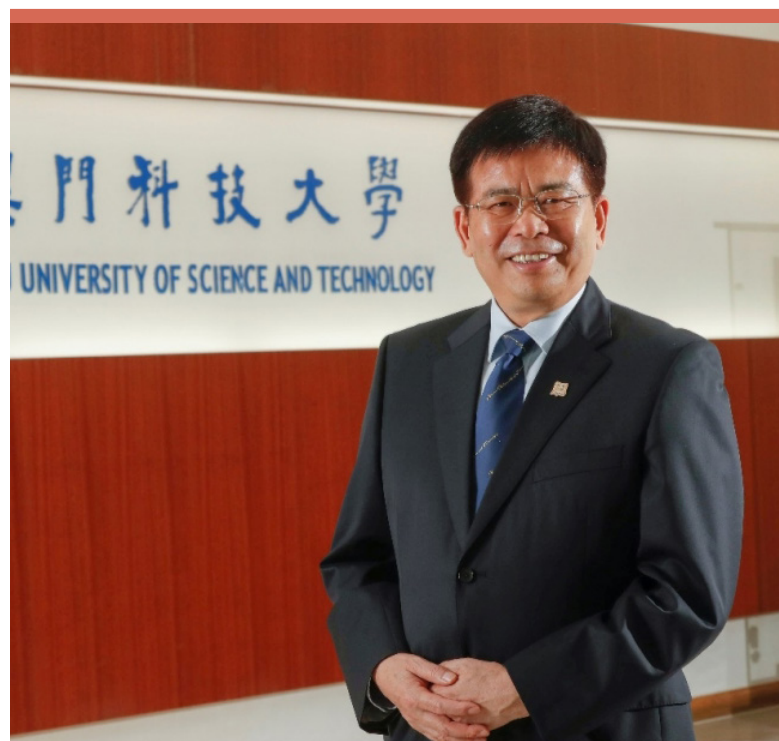
In August 2015, the World Health Organization Collaborating Center for Traditional Medicine was officially established in Macau. The Macau University of

Science and Technology has set up a traditional Chinese medicine education and research system, including the State Key Laboratory of Quality Research in Chinese Medicines, which is jointly operated with the University of Macau.

Moreover, the Guangdong-Macao traditional Chinese medicine science and technology industrial park, established by the Macau SAR government and the Guangdong provincial government, now has 159 registered traditional Chinese medicine companies and 39 of them are from Macau.

The idea is to make Macau a gateway to the world for traditional Chinese medicine, particularly for countries along the Belt and Road Initiative.

During a question and answer session at yesterday's event, two attendees asked Liu about how Chinese medicine can reassure the public about its value and effectiveness, which are sometimes questioned. One question also touched on how Liu overcame this difficulty during his research



MUST Rector Liu Liang

on traditional Chinese medicine.

In answer to the questions, Liu pointed out that there is a strong support in Macau for traditional Chinese medicine. In contrast, in Hong Kong, people do not attach importance to Chinese medicine and instead value modern medicine alone. Liu said that the state of disbelief in Hong Kong disappointed him.

Liu voiced that Chinese medicine is an "open" field, meaning Chinese medicine researchers are open to modern changes and mo-

dern technologies.

He also stated that "Chinese medicine research is very important [in the task of providing] evidence [in accordance] with international standards."

Talking in front of a body of students, Liu expressed his hope that the younger generation can learn about Chinese medicine in order to pass down the tradition. He believes that the participation of younger generations will make the future development of Chinese medicine even brighter.

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MARKETS

# HONG KONG DOLLAR'S LONGEST RALLY IN FIVE YEARS IS BURNING SHORTS

TIAN CHEN

**H**ONG Kong dollar bears are abandoning bets the currency will weaken, squeezed by the longest streak of gains in more than five years.

The local dollar rose as much as 0.13% to 7.7867 versus the greenback on Monday, taking its six-day gain to about 0.5% - a large move for a pegged exchange rate. Supporting the advance are bets that borrowing costs will remain elevated versus falling U.S. dollar rates, as banks hoard cash for year-end regulatory checks. An easing of trade tensions between China and the U.S. has also helped, with foreign funds snapping up stocks in Hong Kong.

While the former British colony keeps its currency on one of the world's tightest leashes, the Hong Kong dollar is no stranger to painful stampedes - it surged the most in 15 years in September last year despite no obvious trigger. Short-sellers are fleeing yet again, with a gauge tracking bearishness in the options market tumbling to

a five-week low. Analysts predict the currency will hold in a new trading range after the latest bout of strength.

"The currency is benefiting from the unwinding of short positions and capital inflows into the stock market," said Tommy Ong, managing director for treasury and markets at DBS Hong Kong Ltd. Still, "it will fluctuate between 7.78 and 7.82 in the coming three months without touching either side of its trading band because interest rates won't fall sharply next year and the inflows won't be sustainable."

Pegged to the U.S. dollar since 1983, the Hong Kong dollar is often a dull currency. While its trading band of 7.75 to 7.85, set in 2005, has never been broken, it keeps getting tested. The central bank was forced to defend the peg on multiple occasions in the past two years, shrinking the city's liquidity pool.

That's in turn made the local dollar more volatile, and particularly vulnerable to shifts in demand for cash. It means large

share sales or dividend-payment season can cause spikes in interest rates and dramatic moves in the currency.

This time, a short squeeze is exacerbating a rally that started amid speculation the liquidi-

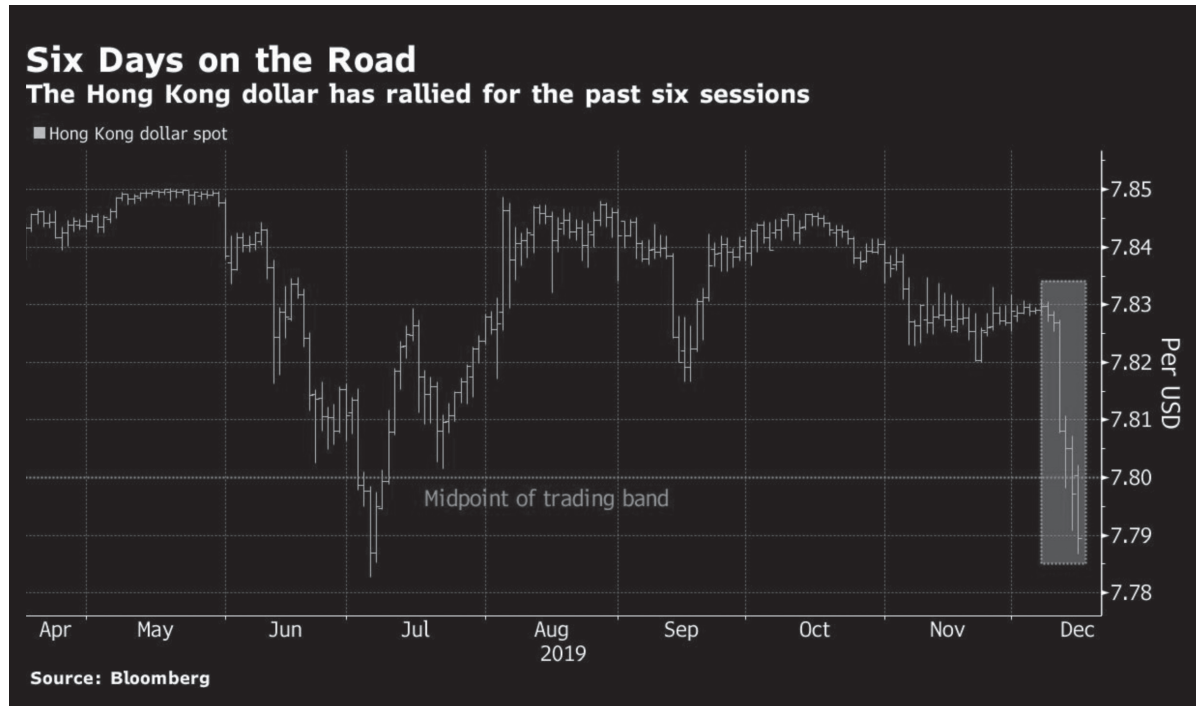
ty would tighten into year end. But while there's some evidence of that happening, it's nothing like the sudden rush that in June pushed local borrowing costs to their highest since 2008. The Hong Kong dollar's one-month

interbank funding rate, known as Hibor, rose 9 basis points to 2.6% yesterday, the highest level in a month. Other tenors also remain off their 2019 highs.

It's all sounding the death knell for the Hong Kong dollar carry trade, a once-popular strategy where investors borrowed the currency cheaply to invest in higher-yielding American assets. That trade turned unprofitable in June, when the cost to borrow the Hong Kong dollar turned higher than the income a trader can expect on U.S. dollars for the first time this year.

The Hong Kong dollar rate has been elevated since last month, with the premium over its U.S. counterpart briefly touching the highest since the 1990s. It was higher than the income for U.S. dollar assets for 27 straight days as of Friday, the longest stretch in four years.

"The Hong Kong dollar can stay stronger than 7.8 for some time," said Becky Liu, head of China macro strategy at Standard Chartered Plc, adding it won't touch the strong end of the band in the foreseeable future amid a weakening economic outlook. "I don't think Hong Kong will have huge capital inflows, and the rates won't spike much higher from here after the year-end seasonality demand" passes. **BLOOMBERG**



AD

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

The Greater Bay project is coming and it will bring both opportunities and challenges to our little-big town. Macau Daily Times wants to hear your voice. We invite our readers to write in with Letters to the Editor on the topic of the Greater Bay Area.

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# Xi Jinping says Hong Kong faced 'grimmiest' challenge in 2019

**P**RESIDENT Xi Jinping said Hong Kong this year faced its "grimmiest and most complicated" situation since returning to Chinese rule, urging the city to come back to the "right path."

Xi reaffirmed support for Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam as he hosted the embattled chief executive for her annual duty visit to Beijing. He praised her efforts to stimulate the battered Hong Kong economy and called on the city's residents to help overcome challenges after more than six months of pro-democracy protests.

"The central government fully recognizes the courage and responsibility you demonstrated in such testing times," Xi told Lam in briefly televised remarks. "We will continue to firmly support you in leading the Hong Kong government to rule in accordance to the law, to firmly support the police force in strictly enforcing the law, and hope that various sectors would come together to put Hong Kong's development back on the right path."

Lam said the Hong Kong economy's "return to the right path" would require the continued support of the central government in Beijing. When asked whether Chinese leaders had pressured her to introduce a national security law as required by Article 23 of Hong Kong's Basic Law, Lam said such legislation would require "favorable opportunities, a favorable environment and conditions" and that the current priority was to stop violence and restore order.

"During my meeting with the premier, I suggested that the central government could in the future introduce measures favorable to Hong Kong in different economic areas, including development in the Greater Bay Area," she said at a briefing following her meeting with Xi. "The response from the premier has been positive."

AP PHOTO



The visit by Lam, whose public approval rating has falling to historic lows over her handling of the unrest, comes after an estimated 800,000 people took to the streets in a demonstration last week. It also follows a landslide victory by opposition pro-democracy parties over her pro-establishment allies in local elections.

On Sunday night, Hong Kong protesters blocked roads in Mong Kok - a commercial area known for its night market - and threw

glass bottles and other items at police. Police sprayed tear gas to disperse the crowds, according to a statement from the city's government.

**"I suggested that the central government could in the future introduce measures favorable to Hong Kong in different economic areas."**

CARRIE LAM  
HK CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The clashes followed a more subdued weekend of demonstrations in the city. Lam said yesterday that her administration's steps

to restore order had proved effective given the relative calm.

Throughout the chaos, China has steadfastly supported Lam and condemned violent protesters while resisting calls for greater democracy. The clashes have taken a toll on Hong Kong's economy, which is expected to enter its first annual recession in a decade.

Earlier yesterday, Lam met with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, who also repeated support for her leadership. Vice Premier Han Zheng, Liaison Office Director Wang Zhimin and Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office Director Zhang Xiaoming were among the senior officials who also met with Lam.

The clash in Mong Kok late Sunday followed an earlier gathering of several hundred people in Edinburgh Place in central Hong Kong, calling for a strike by social workers. In the New Territories area of Sha Tin, police said they had taken "enforcement actions" after scuffles with protesters in a mall broke out earlier in the day.

Earlier on Sunday, hundreds of people also gathered in Tamar Park in the city center for a rally in support of the government. People waved China flags and chanted "say no to violence" as speakers called for an end to anti-Beijing protests.

During his meeting with Lam on Monday, Li urged Hong Kong's government to continue to curb violence and to study the "deep-rooted economic and social problems" and "unprecedented complexity" it faced. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

## HONG KONG

# Ad campaign touts protest-stricken city's freedoms

**H**ONG Kong authorities have taken out an advertisement overseas for the second time in three months, aiming to reassure the world that the Asian financial hub remains free and stable after months of violent clashes between demonstrators and police.

A full-page advertisement attributed to the government appeared in yesterday's editions of the Australian newspaper, the

Wall Street Journal and the Financial Times.

"It's been tough, but we will soldier on," the ad read. "The economy has taken a dip, but we will bounce back strong." It said the city "remains a welcoming, free society."

The ad said Hong Kong's fundamentals - including the "One Country, Two Systems" principle by which it is governed by China, its rule of law and its "highly internationalized, competitive, A-level playing field" - were strong. It listed nine freedoms it said the city enjoys, such as freedom of speech and the press and capital flows. The words "freedom," "freest" or "free" were bolded in each bullet point.

The ad marks the government's second global newspaper advertisement campaign since September as it increases efforts to address concerns that its freedoms are being eroded. Months of increasingly violent pro-democracy protests have shaken its venerable tourism and retail sectors and risked its reputation as a stable place to do business.

Hong Kong authorities have said they want to combat fake news and rumors they believe have been spread to "provoke" recent social conflicts and smear the city's police force, which has come under fire for its aggressive tactics against protesters.

Government officials located in overseas trade offices, as well as the police's public relations branch, have in recent months sent letters to newspaper editors worldwide to respond to what they consider "untrue" or "false" reporting.

The government's Information Services Department has also created a series of one-minute Cantonese-language videos called "Check Facts to Keep Fake News in Check" with hosts discussing specific acts of violence by protesters and their consequences, or repeating clarifications from official statements.

The series aims to "remind the general public to beware of various information that they come across," Chief Secretary Matthew Cheung, the city's No. 2 official, told lawmakers last week. **BLOOMBERG**





AVIATION

# BOEING CONSIDERS HALTING PRODUCTION OF 737 MAX

JULIE JOHNSON

**B**OEING Co. dropped the most in nearly two months on news that the company is weighing a temporary production halt for the grounded 737 Max.

With regulatory approval for the jet's return increasingly likely to slip beyond January, Boeing's board is considering whether to slow already-pared output of its best-selling jet, a person familiar with the matter said. Some executives are convinced, however, that a full pause instead would be less disruptive, said the person, who asked not to be identified as the discussions were confidential.

A decision could come as soon as this week as directors review manufacturing plans for the 737 program, the company's biggest source of cash, as part of a regularly scheduled December board meeting. The board typically sets the company's dividend for the coming year at such sessions and

decides on its share repurchases, which have been suspended amid the crisis prompted by the unprecedented grounding.

Boeing dropped 2.9% to \$331.89 at 9:40 a.m. in New York after tumbling 4.5%, the most intraday since Oct. 21. Through last week, Boeing had declined 19% since a March crash in Ethiopia sparked a global grounding of the Max, the biggest drop on the Dow Jones Industrial Average.

The Wall Street Journal reported earlier that the production plans have become more urgent as the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration signaled it wouldn't certify the revamped Max this year.

"We continue to work closely with the FAA and global regulators towards certification and the safe return to service of the Max," Boeing said in an email. "We will continue to assess production decisions based on the timing and conditions of return to service,

which will be based on regulatory approvals and may vary by jurisdiction."

## CONTINGENCY PLANS

The Chicago-based plane-maker has drafted contingency plans for a variety of scenarios as the Max's global grounding stretches to more than nine months following two fatal crashes that killed 346 people.

Boeing slashed 737 production by 19% in the weeks following the March tragedy. Meanwhile, inventory costs have ballooned to record levels as the company's factory in Renton, Washington, continued to churn out 42 of the jets a month.

Since the company isn't allowed to deliver the aircraft while the flying ban remains in place, Boeing has placed more than 380 newly built planes in storage, according to a tally by 737 production blogger Chris Edwards. The build-up would continue if pro-

duction were slowed rather than halted.

"They are doing the sensible thing by halting or putting a pause on the production line," said Shukor Yusof, founder of aviation consulting firm Endau Analytics. "Cash burn has been bad."

Boeing's board is meeting after a bruising week for the aerospace giant. In a sign of growing rancor between the company and its regulator, FAA Administrator Steve Dickson chastised Boeing Chief Executive Officer Dennis Muilenburg in a Dec. 12 meeting for pursuing an unrealistic schedule for the Max's return to service.

The FAA said it was worried by a perception that Boeing was pressuring regulators to take action. In a message to the U.S. Congress, the FAA said it had used the meeting to exhort the company to focus on the "quality and timeliness of data submittals for FAA review."

## RARE ADMONISHMENT

The rare public admonishment came a day after Dickson was grilled for hours by the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee over the FAA's decision to allow the 737 Max to continue flying after the initial fatal Max crash off the coast of Indonesia on

Oct. 29, 2018.

With the FAA having signaled that the Max wouldn't be cleared to fly until next year, American Airlines Group Inc. further delayed a return of the planes to its schedule until early April. Southwest Airlines Co., the largest operator of the single-aisle plane, said it was considering a similar move.

The Max was grounded after the second crash, of an Ethiopian Airlines flight, on March 10. The disasters prompted the longest flying ban for a U.S. airliner in the jet age.

The production decision isn't easy for Boeing amid the tightest job market in a half century.

## RISK OF UNRAVELING

The largest U.S. industrial company by market value wants to avoid a potential unraveling of manufacturing expertise across a broad swath of North America as it recovers from the Max crisis. That's the risk if large numbers of highly skilled workers from the 600 mostly U.S. companies building components for the jet were to move on to other jobs at a time of historically low unemployment.

The company has been studying whether to pause Max manufacturing for a short, clearly defined period of time, Bloomberg reported in August. Executives figure that that approach would conserve cash and be less likely to trigger widespread layoffs than imposing another factory slowdown.

Boeing officials won't discuss the finer points of how they would manage through a shutdown, including details like worker pay. But the idea is that coveted employees would prefer the certainty of a surgical shutdown to an open-ended period of slower production that could lead to layoffs.

The 400,000 parts that go into each Max arrive in a tightly choreographed sequence timed, in some cases, down to the hour. But suppliers do regularly navigate stoppages telegraphed in advance, such as strikes, and Boeing's traditional year-end factory closing - which could be extended this year into the longer pause. **BLOOMBERG**

## CORPORATE BITS

### St. Regis Macao launches new family traditions program

The St. Regis Macao, Cotai Central is delighted to launch the next evolution in the St. Regis Family Traditions Program featuring a 'Chá Gordo Macanese Afternoon Tea cooking masterclass' for families.

Inspired by the destination and infused with tradition, the St. Regis Family Traditions program creates a persona-

lized experience for guests travelling with families, and offers engaging activities that bring families together and insert a sense of wonder during their stay to create long-lasting family memories.

Daniella Tonetto, General Manager of Sales & Marketing at The St. Regis Macao, said she was thrilled to see

another addition to the Family Traditions offering that provides families with an exclusive experience as part of their stay at The St. Regis Macao.

Family Traditions positions The St. Regis Macao as an ideal destination for families visiting Macao, she said, offering captivating activities for younger guests and their families.

### Cantopop band The Wynners returns to The Venetian Macao

Popular Cantopop The Wynners will return to the Cotai Arena at The Venetian Macao on February 1, 2020, to perform "Suncity Group Presents: The Wynners Chinese New Year Live" for their Macao fans. Tickets go on sale today at all Cotai Ticketing box offices.

The Wynners have recrui-

ted fans across multiple generations since forming in 1973. In those 47 years they have produced numerous albums, performed huge concerts and made TV shows and movies. While the members have gone on to have successful solo careers, the band has never broken up, occasionally reforming for sold-

-out concerts.

To celebrate the upcoming Chinese New Year, The Wynners original line-up will put on a show in Macao. As well as performing their classic hits, the band will interact with the audience, displaying the chemistry which has been part of the secret to their success and longevity.



XINJIANG

# Chinese TV pulls Arsenal game coverage after Ozil criticism

**C**HINESE television pulled coverage of Arsenal's Premier League match against Manchester City on Sunday after Mesut Ozil, a forward for the London club, criticized Beijing's brutal mass crackdown on ethnic Muslims in the country.

China is the Premier League's most lucrative overseas broadcast market, with the rights sold for \$700 million in a three-year deal that runs through 2022.

But instead of the sports channel of Chinese state television showing Ozil featuring in Arsenal's 3-0 loss to City, it scheduled a delayed recording of Tottenham's 2-1 victory over Wolverhampton from earlier Sunday, according to information from the network.

Streaming service PPTV.com also canceled a feed of Arsenal's match which featured Ozil for almost an hour before he was substituted amid cheers and some jeers from his own fans. Ozil reacted by kicking his gloves on the touchline.

"How he reacts is up to him



Arsenal's Mesut Ozil

and I'll deal with it," interim Arsenal manager Freddie Ljungberg said. "We'll see what it means for the future but of course we want players to behave the right way."

Ljungberg would not discuss the specifics of Ozil's social media post from Friday which embroiled Arsenal in controversy in China.

"The China thing is political," Ljungberg said, "and I'll leave that to the club."

Arsenal used a post on Chinese social media network Weibo to dissociate itself from Ozil's action.

"The content he expressed is entirely Ozil's personal opinion," the north London club said. "As

a football club, Arsenal always adheres to the principle of not being involved in politics."

Ozil added to condemnation of the detention of more than 1 million Uighurs and other minorities in so-called reeducation camps in China's northwestern region of Xinjiang, where they are subjected to political indoctrination, torture, beatings, and food deprivation, as well as denial of religious and linguistic freedom.

A social media post from Ozil on Friday denounced China for burning Qurans, closing mosques and the killing of religious scholars. The Arsenal player complained that "Muslims stay quiet."

The Chinese Football Association expressed "great indignation and disappointment" at Ozil's comments, according to the Global Times newspaper published by the ruling Communist Party.

China's government increasingly uses the threat of loss of access to the country's growing market as leverage to try to control what companies, universities and others say or do abroad about po-

litical issues.

Arsenal will be hoping to avoid the backlash faced by the Houston Rockets earlier this year after the NBA team's general manager, Daryl Morey, tweeted support for anti-government protesters in Hong Kong, angering fans and officials in China.

There is a growing a backlash in China against Ozil, who is Muslim of Turkish descent.

"I think he is very wrong," lawyer Chen Wangshu said in Beijing. "As a sportsman, his most important responsibility is to do his job well, or to play good football."

### WELCOME TO VISIT

China's government said yesterday Arsenal forward Mesut Ozil was "blinded and misled" when he criticized Beijing's crackdown on ethnic Muslims in Xinjiang.

The government said Ozil was welcome to visit the northwest region and "look around."

"I don't know if Mr. Mesut Ozil has ever visited Xinjiang. It seems that he was blinded and misled by some false reports and untrue words," said Geng Shuang, a foreign ministry spokesman.

"We welcome Mr. Ozil to visit Xinjiang to look around," said Geng. "As long as he has a conscience, can distinguish right from wrong and uphold objective and impartial principles, he will see a different Xinjiang." MDT/AP

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TRADE WAR

# TRUMP DEAL BUYS XI TIME BEFORE NEXT US-CHINA BATTLE

**F**OR Chinese President Xi Jinping, the phase-one trade deal with U.S. President Donald Trump isn't exactly a reason to pop open the champagne.

After months of arduous negotiations, false starts and dashed hopes, the agreement announced last week helps steady a relationship in free-fall. While that's important for Xi, who has faced rumblings of discontent as the economy grows at the slowest pace in almost three decades and protests in Hong Kong rage with no end in sight, it's at best a temporary respite.

The deal did nothing to address the swathe of industrial policies that have driven frustrations with China in Washington. Nor will it reduce the intensifying competition between the two sides over the future of 5G technology, geopolitical hot spots like Taiwan and the South China Sea, or Beijing's hard-line policies in China's far western region of Xinjiang - all areas that Xi's critics say could've been handled better.

"The party secretary has always been the prime custodian of the U.S. relationship, so its rapid implosion reflects poorly on Xi," said Richard McGregor, a senior fellow at the Sydney-based Lowy Institute who wrote "The Party: The Secret World of China's Communist Rulers." "All he has been able to do is to fight the other side to a messy draw which hasn't resolved any of the underlying rivalries. The two sides will inevitably clash again."

For the moment, Xi can point to some positives. While the phase-one deal only reduced instead of rolled back tariffs as Beijing demanded, the suspension of future



increases helps bring some certainty for investors who have seen Chinese exports to the U.S. fell in 10 of the 11 months this year. Several key economic data points for November came in stronger than expected, helping to boost stocks yesterday.

Charles Liu, a former economic negotiator with the Chinese delegation at the United Nations and founder of Hao Capital, said the deal will help put a lid on the trade-war inspired nationalism that would make compromise more difficult and hinder China's long-term development plans. It would also help Xi rebut criticism about his more assertive foreign policy.

"The deal means that he can clearly show to the population that he's attempting to form a

more collaborative relationship with the United States," Liu said. "There has been some domestic criticism for China coming out on the global front too aggressively too early. This helps to reduce that pressure."

But China is well aware that major hurdles remain, a sentiment reflected in coverage of the deal by state-run media outlets that played down the deal while noting that it might stabilize the economy.

Hu Xijin, editor of the Global Times newspaper, noted that China "felt the strength of the U.S." throughout the trade war and called on both countries to respect each other to avoid "a cruel strategic clash."

The most likely immediate flash point is the future of 5G and

the fate of Huawei Technologies Co., China's flagship tech company. The Trump administration has already hit it with sanctions and sought to prosecute its chief financial officer. Now both the U.S. and China are racing to convince nations across the world to follow their lead, sometimes using threats: On Saturday, China's ambassador to Germany threatened retaliation if Huawei was excluded as a provider of 5G wireless equipment.

On the ground, Chinese officials are preparing for the tech war to continue indefinitely.

"There is this impetus to decouple down to a very detailed level," said Paul Triolo, head of global technology policy at Eurasia Group, who said China has sent officials to companies to unders-

tand their level of dependence on U.S. technology. "There seems to be resignation that the U.S. is not going to let up."

There's also no sign of geopolitical tensions easing, with officials from both nations increasingly noting that the conflict amounts to a clash of systems. At a briefing in Bangkok on Friday, Pacific Fleet Commander Admiral John Aquilino said the U.S. and China "have inherent disagreements between ideologies."

Even if Trump wins re-election and moves to repair the relationship with Xi -- a big question mark -- the U.S. Congress has become increasingly hostile to Beijing. U.S. lawmakers voted overwhelmingly to pressure China over Hong Kong, and they are pushing for measures to address China's detention of an estimated one million ethnic Muslim Uighurs in "re-education" camps.

China's Foreign Minister, Wang Yi, voiced some of the country's frustrations in a speech on Friday in which he accused the U.S. of "slandering China's social system, development path and cooperation with other countries." After the last round of talks broke down in May, Xi renewed calls for China to pursue "self-reliance" in key technologies and even called on citizens to join a "new Long March."

These tensions are likely to resurface at a political level as soon as the two sides begin talking about a phase-two trade deal. While China is likely to insist that Trump drop all punitive tariffs, the U.S. is likely to ask for structural changes to China's economy that wouldn't be palatable to the nation's hawks, according to He Weiwen, who previously served as a commercial attache at the Chinese consulates in New York and San Francisco.

"For China, this is a matter of sovereignty," He said. "A phase two deal will be more difficult." - **BLOOMBERG**

## First group of Chinese immersion students enter high school

**T**AMBLYN Lonergan remembers crying at the kitchen table when she was in fourth grade as she told her parents how difficult it was to learn Chinese.

That is now a distant and amusing memory for Lonergan, a 10th grader who is among the first class of Chinese dual immersion students in the Alpine School District who now in high school and fresh off a recent trip to China where they were able to try out those hard-earned language skills, the Daily

Herald in Provo reports.

"I am so happy that they made me stick with it, because I have all this knowledge I can take throughout my whole life," Lonergan said.

Lonergan and her fellow students traveled to a youth summit at the Suzhou Foreign Language School in Suzhou, China, which the Orem High School students are working to make an official sister school. The students studied different aspects of Chinese culture and did a presentation about what

they learned.

"We had to work together, but we all don't speak the same language, so we had to get through that," Lonergan said.

The students spent half of their time learning Chinese in elementary school and are expected to have enough college credit by the time they graduate high school to earn a minor in Chinese.

Alan Heath, a Chinese teacher at Orem High School, called the trip to China a great success. He said the benefits to learn-

ing Chinese are endless.

"There are so many opportunities business wise, but also with cultural exchanges and with students who just want to experience the world," Heath said.

The trip also had students not in the dual-immersion program who are taking Chinese courses at Orem High School.

"I struggled for the first few days, and then I'd go up and start the conversation in Chinese instead of English," said Edwin Nazario. "It got so much easier." **AP**







INDIA

# Opposition building against citizenship law

EMILY SCHMALL & SHEIKH SAALIQ, NEW DELHI

**T**HOUSANDS of university students flooded the streets of India's capital, while a southern state government led a march and demonstrators held a silent protest in the northeast yesterday to protest a new law giving citizenship to non-Muslims who entered India illegally to flee religious persecution in several neighboring countries.

The protests in New Delhi followed a night of violent clashes between police and demonstrators at Jamia Millia Islamia University. People who student organizers said were not students set three buses on fire and police stormed the university library, firing tear gas at students crouched under desks.

Members of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party said opposition parties were using the students as pawns.

At Jamia Millia Islamia University, thousands stood outside the locked-down campus. Inside, hundreds of students took part in a peaceful sit-in, holding placards denouncing the injuries of dozens of students the night before.

Mujeeb Ahmad, a 21-year-old Arabic major, returned to campus yesterday to join the sit-in and retrieve the book bag he had lost fleeing the library, where he had been studying for exams.

"We thought we were safe in the library," he said, adding that he and others had locked the li-

brary doors from the inside. Policemen broke them down, and at least one officer fired tear gas, he said, holding up an empty canister he said he'd picked up from the library floor.

## At Jamia Millia Islamia University, thousands stood outside the locked-down campus

Modi's government says the Citizenship Amendment Bill, which was approved by Parliament last week, will make India a safe haven for Hindus and other religious minorities in Muslim-majority Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan. But critics say the legislation, which for the

first time conditions Indian citizenship on religion, violates the secular constitution of the world's largest democracy.

The law's passage has triggered protests across India, but Assam, the center of a decades-old movement against illegal immigrants, has seen the highest toll.

Assam police officials say officers have fatally shot five protesters in the state capital of Gauhati while attempting to restore order to a city that has been engulfed in demonstrations since last week. About 1,500 people have been arrested for violence

including arson and vandalism, police spokesman G.P. Singh said, adding that authorities were reviewing surveillance videos and anticipated making more arrests.

Schools remain closed through Dec. 22, the government has blocked internet service statewide and a curfew has been imposed from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. Foreign journalists are not permitted to travel to India's northeastern region, including Assam, without a permit.

Municipal workers were clearing the city of burned tires and other debris and some busines-

ses had reopened as the All Assam Students Union, which has spearheaded Assam's anti-immigration movement for decades, led a silent protest. The group and its followers fear an influx of migrants will dilute native Assamese culture and political sway.

The citizenship law follows a contentious citizenship registry process in Assam intended to weed out people who immigrated illegally. Home Minister Amit Shah has pledged to roll it out nationwide, promising to rid India of "infiltrators."

Nearly 2 million people in Assam were excluded from the list, about half Hindu and half Muslim, and have been asked to prove their citizenship or else be considered foreign. India is constructing a detention center for some of the tens of thousands of people the courts are expected to ultimately determine came to the country illegally.

The Citizenship Amendment Bill could provide protection and a fast track to naturalization for many of the Hindus left off Assam's citizenship list.

Bangladesh has repeatedly said that it would not accept anyone India determines to be a foreigner, but on Sunday, Foreign Minister A.K. Abdul Momen said it has asked the Modi government for details on Bangladeshis living illegally in India so that they could be repatriated.

Momen made the comment amid concern that people were being pushed into Bangladesh from the Indian state of West Bengal.

Authorities in Bangladesh say at least 329 people were arrested on charges of trespassing from India last month and failing to prove they are Bangladeshis.

Momen said if they are determined to be non-Bangladeshi they will be sent back to India. AP

JAPAN

# Former official sentenced for killing reclusive son

**A** Tokyo court sentenced a former senior government official to six years in prison yesterday for fatally stabbing his socially reclusive son with a kitchen knife.

The Tokyo District Court found Hideaki Kumazawa, 76, a former vice minister of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, guilty of repeatedly stabbing his son Eiichiro, then 44, in the neck and chest at his home in Tokyo in June. The son died from massive blood loss.

Kumazawa, who immediately called police and admitted to the killing, pleaded guilty to the crime during the trial.

In the closing court ses-

sion last week, Kumazawa said, "It is my duty to pay for the crime and pray for my son so he can pave a peaceful time in his afterlife."

His son had a developmental disorder and was routinely violent toward his mother. He was removed from his parents and lived alone in an apartment until he returned home a week before the killing. The court said in its ruling that the son resumed his violence as soon as he returned home and threatened to kill his father.

Defense lawyers had sought a suspended term, saying Kumazawa had long supported his son despite his violence toward his mother,

and that Kumazawa killed him in self-defense after the son's threat.

They also said that Kumazawa feared his son might harm others as in a case days earlier, when a man described a social recluse — known in Japan as "hikikomori" — stabbed a number of schoolchildren at a bus stop outside Tokyo, killing two people and wounding 17 others, mostly schoolgirls, before killing himself.

Judge Tomoyuki Nakayama said the son's body had more than 30 stab wounds, including some that were very deep, indicating that the killing was not purely self-defense.

Prosecutors sought an eight-year prison term. The court ruled that Kumazawa deserved a more lenient six years in prison, taking into consideration his effort to improve his family's relations with the son, the violence inflicted by his son and the threat of being killed.

The case and the earlier attack in Kawasaki highlighted growing concerns about "hikikomori." A government survey in March showed there are an estimated 610,000 "hikikomori" between the ages of 40 to 64 in Japan, mostly men, with many still taken care of by their elderly parents without proper support from the outside. AP



Hideaki Kumazawa a former top Japanese government official, leaves a police station in Tokyo



# UK PM JOHNSON TO WELCOME NEW LAWMAKERS, GET BREXIT ROLLING

GREGORY KATZ  
& DANICA KIRKA, LONDON

**BRITISH** Prime Minister Boris Johnson is ready to give a pep talk yesterday to a new group of Conservative Party lawmakers as he begins his push to secure parliamentary approval for his Brexit deal.

Johnson will welcome 109 newly elected colleagues, many of them coming from parts of the country that were once strongholds of the opposition Labour Party.

Buoyed by the Conservatives' decisive win in last week's election, Johnson will move fast to deliver on his campaign mantra to "get Brexit done." That means ensuring a Brexit withdrawal agreement bill is passed in time for the U.K. to complete its historic departure from the European Union by the current deadline of Jan. 31.

Johnson spokesman James



AP PHOTO

Slack said the government will introduce the EU withdrawal bill on Friday. It will be up to the speaker of the House of Commons to determine if Parliament

will hold its first major vote on the bill that same day or will wait until January after the Christmas recess.

The Brexit divorce bill is ex-

pected to receive strong support in Parliament, where Johnson's Conservatives hold a strong majority. The party won 365 of the 650 seats in the House of Commons in a landslide election.

If the bill passes and Britain leaves the EU on time, the country will enter a transition period when EU rules and regulations would still apply in the country and people and goods would still be able to pass freely between the U.K. and the remaining EU members.

Negotiators for the British government and the EU would start trade talks with an eye toward reaching a comprehensive post-Brexit agreement.

Queen Elizabeth II will formally open Parliament on Thursday with a speech outlining the government's legislative program. The pomp and ceremony surrounding the queen's speech will be less lavish than usual because she last formally opened

Parliament just two months ago for a session cut short by the vote to hold an early election.

New lawmakers took to Twitter to chronicle their first day at work.

The new representative for Bury in northwest England, Christian Wakeford, tweeted: "Reality with a bump, 5:33 train down to #Westminster not a morning person at all but couldn't be happier to be on this train."

Newcastle-under-Lyme lawmaker Aaron Bell shared an image of himself smiling in front of the Palace of Westminster: "Good morning Newcastle. A new dawn has broken, has it not?"

There was no such giddiness on the Labour side, which saw its worst result since 1935 in the vote Thursday, winning only 203 seats. The party is gearing up for a bruising leadership contest, which is expected to formally begin in early January. The goal is to have a replacement for leader Jeremy Corbyn in place by the end of March.

Corbyn has apologized for the party's dismal performance and has agreed to step down when a new leader is chosen. AP

AD

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GERMANY

# Merkel mulls how to attract skilled labor from outside EU

**C**HANCELLOR Angela Merkel is meeting top German business and union officials early today [Macau time] to discuss how to attract skilled workers from outside the European Union as the country tries to tackle a shortfall of qualified labor.



Legislation is due to take effect March 1 making it easier for non-EU nationals to get visas to work and seek jobs in Germany. Arrangements currently applied to university graduates are being expanded to immigrants with professional qualifications and German language knowledge.

"Many companies in Germany are urgently seeking skilled workers,

even in times of a weaker economy," Eric Schweitzer, the head of the Association of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry, told the Funke newspaper group. "For more than half of companies, the shortage of skilled workers is cur-

rently the biggest risk to business."

He called for "unbureaucratic and effective implementation" of the new legislation.

Sectors including information technology and nursing have complained of a shortage of workers.

Monday's meeting will discuss which countries German business wants to focus on "and we will cut out the bureaucratic hurdles," Labor Minister Hubertus Heil told RBB Inforadio. He named as examples the process of recognizing professional qualifications, language ability and visa procedures.

Like many other European countries, Germany is trying to strike a balance between the needs of its labor market, an aging native population and concern about immigration.

Heil said that the aim isn't to undercut German wages and "our problem at the moment is rather that we are not being overrun, that we are not getting qualified workers." AP

FRANCE

# TRANSPORT WORKERS ENTER NEW WEEK OF STRIKES OVER PENSION CHANGES

**F**RENCH transport strikes against a planned overhaul of the pension system entered their twelfth day yesterday as French president Emmanuel Macron's government remains determined to push ahead with its plans.

Authorities measured a record traffic jam of 630 kilometers of traffic in the morning in the Paris region, where only two Metro lines, using automated trains with no drivers, were fully running. The other 14 metro lines were closed or only very partially running.

Most regional and national trains were at a standstill. International train routes also suffered disruptions.

Truck drivers launched a separate protest movement Monday morning, staging road blockages across France to demand better salaries and working conditions.

Macron said last week he



wants the government to "continue the work" on the pension changes, which include raising the retirement age to 64 and ending special privileges for some workers.

Major unions want to push the strike through Christmas as a new round of protests across France was planned Tuesday.

The strikes involve mostly public sector workers, including train drivers, teachers and hospital employees, who fear they will have to work longer for lower pensions. AP

AD

## ACCURATE, TIMELY & COMPETITIVE TRANSLATIONS

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FRENCH, ARABIC,  
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**what's ON**



**RED DECEMBER - EXHIBITION OF CARLOS MARREIROS**  
**TIME:** 10am-9pm  
**UNTIL:** February 13, 2020  
**VENUE:** Tap Seac Gallery, Avenida Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida, No 95  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 8988 4000

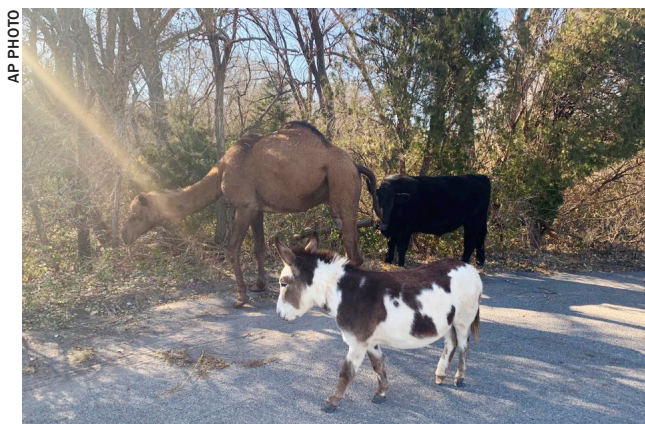
**FASHION INTERACTION - GUANGZHOU-HONG KONG-MACAO-SHENZHEN CREATIVE FASHION EXHIBITION**  
**TIME:** 10am-8pm (Closed on Mondays)  
**UNTIL:** December 31, 2019  
**VENUE:** Macao Fashion Gallery  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 2835 3341

**A CHERISHED MEMORY FROM 1999 - ARCHIVES EXHIBITION IN CELEBRATION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RETURN OF MACAO TO THE MOTHERLAND**  
**TIME:** 10am-6pm; (Closed on Mondays and public holidays)  
**UNTIL:** December 27, 2019  
**VENUE:** Archives of Macao, Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida 91-93  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 2859 2919

**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:** Macao Contemporary Art Centre - Navy Yard No.1, located at Rua de S. Tiago Da Barra  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 8791 9814

**Offbeat**

**WANDERING CAMEL, COW, DONKEY TO BE FEATURED IN LIVE NATIVITY**



A camel, cow and donkey that were found roaming together along a Kansas road have been booked to appear in a Christmas Nativity scene.  
 The trio will be the celebrity guests Saturday during a holiday event at the Tanganyika Wildlife Park. The Wichita Eagle reports. Sully the camel, Gus the donkey and Rufus the cow made headlines last month when the Goddard Police Department asked for help in a Facebook post locating the owners of the "three friends traveling together (towards a Northern star)."  
 Law enforcement later determined that they belonged to an employee of the wildlife park, but not before posting that if they couldn't find the owner, they would be "halfway toward a live Nativity this Christmas season."  
 The holiday event, called Happy Hoof-i-days, is a first-ever for the park, which normally is closed from mid-November through about mid-March.  
 Goddard is about 15 miles west of Wichita.

**TV canal macau**



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Água de Mar
15:30	Bing
15:45	Os Ursos Boonie na Neve
16:15	Caminhos de Irmandade
16:50	Portugueses Pelo Mundo Sr.1
17:35	Império (Repetição)
18:25	TDM Desporto (Repetição)
19:30	Ouro Verde Sr.1
20:30	Telejornal
21:10	Macau 20 Anos
21:25	TDM Entrevista
22:00	Índia Majestosa com Samira
22:25	Império
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Motel Bates Sr.4
00:35	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:20	RTPi Directo

**cinema**



**CINETEATRO**

12 - 17 Dec



**JUMANJI, THE NEXT LEVEL**  
**ROOM 1**  
 2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm  
**Director:** Jake Kasdan  
**Starring:** Dwayne Johnson, Jack Black, Kevin Hart, Karen Gillan  
**Language:** English  
**Duration:** 123min

**BRING ME HOME**  
**ROOM 2**  
 2:30, 4:30, 7:30pm  
**Director:** Kim Seung-Woo  
**Starring:** Lee Young-Ae, You Checa-Myung, Park Hac-Jun  
**Language:** Korean (Chinese/English)  
**Duration:** 99min



**LAST CHRISTMAS**  
**ROOM 2**  
 9:30  
**Director:** Paul Feig  
**Starring:** Emilia Clarke, Henry Golding, Michelle Yeoh  
**Language:** English  
**Duration:** 103min

**THE WHISTLEBLOWER**  
**ROOM 3**  
 2:30, 5:00, 9:30pm  
**Director:** Xue Xiaolu  
**Starring:** Tang Wei, Lei Jiayin  
**Language:** Putonghua (Chinese/English)  
**Duration:** 99min

**FROZEN II**  
**ROOM 3**  
 7:30pm  
**Director:** Chris Buck, Jennifer Lee  
**Starring:** Kristen Bell, Jonathan Groff, Idina Menzel  
**Language:** Cantonese  
**Duration:** 103min

**this day in history**



**1968 MARY BELL FOUND GUILTY OF DOUBLE KILLING**

An 11-year-old girl has been sentenced to life in detention after being found guilty at Newcastle Assizes of the manslaughter of two small boys.  
 Mary Bell is said to have strangled the boys, aged four and three, "solely for the pleasure and excitement of killing".  
 The jury heard Mary, also known as May, was suffering from diminished responsibility at the time and therefore found her not guilty of murder.  
 Her accomplice, known only as Norma, aged 13, who had been jointly charged with Mary, was acquitted.  
 As the verdict was read out, Mary broke down and wept.  
 Mr Justice Cusack described her as dangerous and said there was a "very grave risk to other children if she is not closely watched".  
 Mary's mother and grandmother, who were sitting behind her on the benches, also wept when the verdict was announced.  
 Martin Brown, aged four, of Scotswood in Newcastle was found dead in a derelict house on 25 May. The body of Brian Howe, three, also of Scotswood, was found on waste ground near his home two months later.  
 The two girls, who were playmates, also lived in the Scotswood area of Newcastle. They denied the charges.  
 The court had earlier heard Norma give evidence in which she described how Mary had tried to strangle Brian Howe. She said Mary ignored her pleas to stop hurting the boy so she left them and next time she saw Mary she was on her own with Brian's dog.  
 Jurors were told despite the age difference, Mary was the more dominant personality with a very worldly attitude.  
 Rudolph Lyons QC said: "For example, when she was being questioned by a detective chief inspector about a charge of murder she said to him, 'I'll phone for some solicitors, they will get me out. This is being brainwashed.'  
 He said she also tried to throw suspicion onto an innocent boy in a "very cunning and insidious manner".  
 He continued: "Both girls well knew that what they did was wrong and what the results would be."  
 Home Office psychiatrist Dr David Westbury told the court Mary had a psychopathic disorder for which she needed treatment.  
 The judge said: "It is a most unhappy thing that, in all the resources of this country, it appears that there is no hospital available that is suitable for the accommodation of this girl."  
 Mary is being held at a remand centre. It seems likely she will be sent to an approved school where she will be held in a secure unit.

Courtesy BBC News

**IN CONTEXT**

Mary was sent to Red Bank approved school in Newton-le-Willows in Lancashire.  
 The special security unit of the school, which accommodates more than 200 boys, was adapted to take her in February 1969.  
 Although there were concerns she was being starved of female company, it was felt too disruptive to move her to a new centre for "severely maladjusted children" which opened at Brentwood in Essex in 1972.  
 Her MP at the time, Labour's Robert Brown, said he was satisfied she was receiving psychiatric supervision and full-time education. He said: "She is turning into a very presentable young woman and a very bright young woman indeed."  
 Mary Bell was released on licence in 1980. She was given a new identity and has since had a daughter.  
 Her case raised controversy again when her biography was published in 1998 and it emerged she had been paid for contributing to the book.  
 When her daughter reached 18 in May 2002 their right to anonymity could have been lifted.  
 However, the High Court granted them both lifelong anonymity under the Human Rights Act, in May 2003, on the grounds they were entitled to a private and family life.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**



**ARIES**

**Mar. 21-Apr. 19**

All eyes will be on you today, but don't succumb to stage fright—these eyes belong to very friendly, supportive people. It looks as though this is one of those critical points you've been waiting for.



**TAURUS**

**Apr. 20-May. 20**

Good things come to those who wait—so if you have been waiting for a time when things might free up a bit, today just might be the day! Get ready for some last-minute cancellations.



**GEMINI**

**May. 21-Jun. 21**

Preparing for a challenge? Then start visualizing your victory! As soon as you get up this morning, fill your mind's eye with the image of a gold medal being pinned to your chest.



**CANCER**

**Jun. 22-Jul. 22**

The decision about how to tackle past mistakes will be made for you today when a new opportunity comes along. There will be a time crunch, so you won't be able to mull it over. Jump ahead and don't look back.



**LEO**

**Jul. 23-Aug. 22**

You are entering a very powerful phase when you can see what needs to be dealt with—and you will know exactly what to do. But in order to make the most of this phase, you need input! Get all the facts you can.



**VIRGO**

**Aug. 23-Sep. 22**

There won't be many shades of gray in your life today—all the issues should be straightforward and easy for you to figure out in your usual efficient way.



**LIBRA**

**Sep. 23-Oct. 22**

If someone is not getting the message you are trying so hard to send, today is the day to think about letting go of this particular project. This person's skull may just be too thick.



**SCORPIO**

**Oct. 23-Nov. 21**

If you feel any urge whatsoever to hold on to your money, obey it! You are feeling highly sensitive about financial matters, and there could be good reasons.



**SAGITTARIUS**

**Nov. 22-Dec. 21**

Your version of what needs to happen and someone else's ideas of where to go from here are not in sync right now—and this will naturally cause a pause in the action of your lives together.



**CAPRICORN**

**Dec. 22-Jan. 19**

It's time to get in touch with an old friend, reread one of your favorite books, improve your skill at a favorite activity or just flip through some of your old photos. Remind yourself that there's a world of exploration.



**AQUARIUS**

**Jan. 20-Feb. 18**

A quick look at your social calendar today should tell you that you are starting to spread yourself too thin! One great way to save yourself time and stress is to consolidate your social engagements.

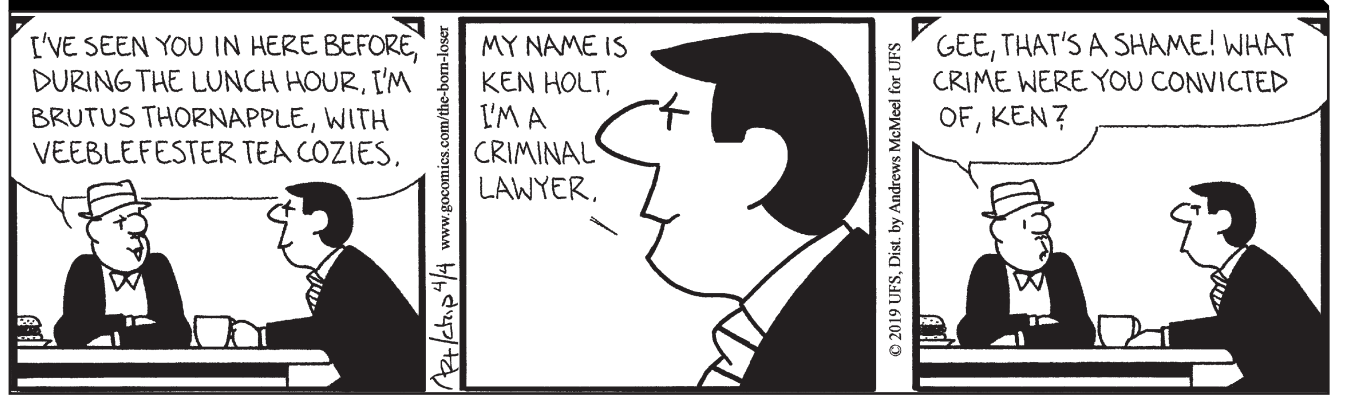


**PISCES**

**Feb. 19-Mar. 20**

Anything is possible today! It is a great day to get something new started—something that you are just the tiniest bit intimidated by. Pick your biggest goal and go for it!

**The Born Loser by Chip Sansom**



**SUDOKU**

**EASY**

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

**EASY+**

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

**MEDIUM**

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

**HARD**

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

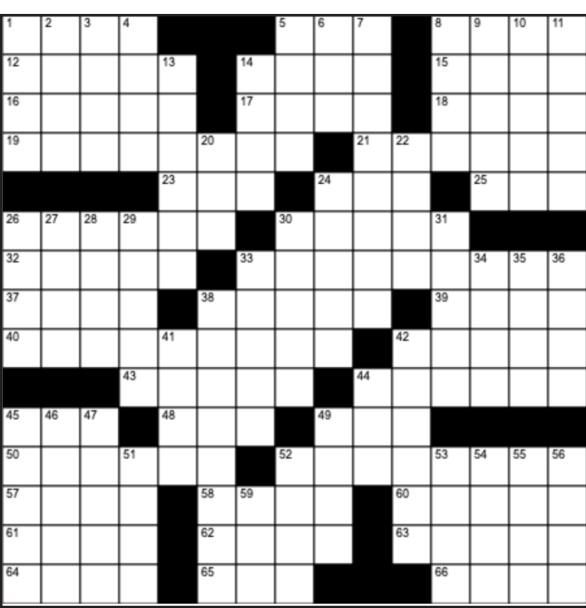
**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	-3	6	clear
Harbin	-15	-4	cloudy
Tianjin	-2	5	clear
Urumqi	-9	-4	foggy
Xi'an	0	8	overcast
Lhasa	-4	8	clear
Chengdu	9	12	overcast
Chongqing	10	13	overcast
Kunming	3	20	clear
Nanjing	9	14	drizzle
Shanghai	11	15	drizzle
Wuhan	7	10	drizzle
Hangzhou	12	17	drizzle
Taipei	17	24	clear
Guangzhou	18	26	cloudy
Hong Kong	20	24	cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	1	3	drizzle
Frankfurt	4	9	cloudy
Paris	8	10	drizzle
London	2	8	drizzle
New York	-1	1	sleet

**CROSSWORDS**

ACROSS: 1- Per person; 5- Zadora of "Butterfly"; 8- You wish!; 12- Backpack part; 14- Wagers; 15- Second start?; 16- To any degree; 17- Small children; 18- Sicilian peak; 19- Not defeated; 21- High regard; 23- Henry VIII's desire; 24- Actress Thurman; 25- Boring; 26- Small crustacean; 30- Ready to hit; 32- Coniferous evergreen forest; 33- Wind propelled ships; 37- A Great Lake; 38- Blackbird; 39- Netman Nastase; 40- Parasitic plant; 42- Doppelganger; 43- Quinn of "Legends of the Fall"; 44- Owner of a slave; 45- Room within a harem; 48- Gain a lap?; 49- Japanese honorific; 50- 12 constellations; 52- Large burrowing African mammal; 57- \_\_\_ about; 58- Comrade; 60- Ushered; 61- Writer Ephron; 62- Evens the score; 63- Related on the mother's side; 64- Sea eagle; 65- New Year's \_\_\_; 66- Woody plant;

DOWN: 1- Son of Isaac and Rebekah; 2- Envelope abbr.; 3- Cancer's critter; 4- Hearty partner; 5- Lowly laborer; 6- Addams Family cousin; 7- Bring together; 8- Work without \_\_\_; 9- Satisfied; 10- Type of sanctum; 11- Frothy; 13- Blood fluid; 14- Bingo call; 20- Peak; 22- Swedish auto; 24- Of service; 26- Stalk; 27- Mata \_\_\_; 28- Reformer Jacob; 29- \_\_\_ Kick Out of You; 30- Brother of Moses; 31- Works hard; 33- Attack; 34- Plenty; 35- Pitchfork part; 36- Prophet; 38- Sedate; 41- One of the Simpsons; 42- Taper; 44- Tarnish; 45- Form of oxygen; 46- Philanthropist; 47- Embellish; 49- Utters; 51- Dies \_\_\_; 52- Sheltered, nautically; 53- Dryer outlet; 54- Purim month; 55- Bar mitzvah, e.g.; 56- Patella's place; 59- Tyler of "Armageddon";



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

- Emergency calls 999
- Fire department 28 572 222
- PJ (Open line) 993
- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IAM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
- Telephone - Report 1000
- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
- Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



**FOR SALE**

**Man Fai, Taipa**  
**HK\$8,580,000** 1,390 ft<sup>2</sup> 3 1/2 2 1/2

**FOR RENT**

**Nova Grand, Taipa**  
**\$17,800/mth** 935 ft<sup>2</sup> 2 1/2 1 1/2

**FOR SALE**

- [Taipa] 2 connected apartment 4 1/2 2 1/2  
 1,404 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$8,680,000** (ref: 19096006)
- [Taipa] Nova City 3 1/2 2 1/2  
 1,515 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$11,750,000** (ref: 19106001)
- [Taipa] Manhattan 3 1/2 2 1/2  
 1,720 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$12,980,000** (ref: 19096006)
- [Coloane] Large apartment 2 1/2 3 1/2 2 1/2  
 2,530 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$13,800,000** (ref: 19096000)

**FOR RENT**

- [Taipa] Studio (new building) 1  
 470 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$9,500/mth** (ref: 19101002)
- [Taipa] Nam Long 2 1/2 1 1/2  
 645 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$11,800/mth** (ref: 19111001)
- [Taipa] Nova Grand 2 1/2 1 1/2  
 935 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$17,800/mth** (ref: 19091005)
- [Taipa] Manhattan 3 1/2 2 1/2  
 1,720 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$23,800/mth** (ref: 19091006)

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## IN REVERSAL, HALLMARK WILL REINSTATE SAME-SEX MARRIAGE ADS

**T**HE Hallmark Channel, reversing what it called a “wrong decision,” said it will reinstate commercials featuring same-sex couples that it had pulled following a complaint from a conservative group.

The earlier decision by Crown Media, Hallmark’s parent company, to pull several ads for the wedding planning site Zola featuring two brides kissing at the altar had launched a storm of protest. Celebrities like Ellen DeGeneres and William Shatner criticized the move and the hashtag #BoycottHallmarkChannel was trending on Twitter at one point.

“The Crown Media team has been agonizing over this decision as we’ve seen the hurt it has unintentionally caused,” said a statement issued yesterday [Macau time] by Hallmark Cards CEO Mike Perry. “Said simply, they believe this was the wrong decision. ... We are truly sorry for the hurt and disappointment this has caused.”

Zola, the wedding planning



site that made the ads, said it was relieved that the decision to pull them had been reversed. In an email to The Associated Press, the company said it would be in touch with Hallmark “regarding a potential return to advertising.”

“We are humbled by everyone who showed support not only for Zola, but for all LGBTQ couples and families who express their love on their wedding day, and every day,” said a state-

ment Sunday evening from the company’s chief marketing officer, Mike Chi.

The LGBT advocacy group GLAAD also expressed relief at the reversal. Its president and CEO, Sarah Kate Ellis, said Hallmark’s “decision to correct its mistake sends an important message to LGBTQ people and represents a major loss for fringe organizations like One Million Moms, whose sole purpose is to hurt families like mine.”

## CHESS GRANDMASTER BECOMES NO. 1 IN FANTASY SOCCER

**M**AGNUS Carlsen is a No. 1 player in both reality and fantasy.

The world chess champion from Norway is showing he has a flair for another game by moving to the top of the standings in Fantasy Premier League, an online soccer competition played by more than 7 million people.

The 29-year-old Carlsen even changed the bio on his Twitter page to reflect his new-found status. It now reads: “The highest

ranked chess player in the world. Current (live) #1 Fantasy Premier League player.”

The fantasy game involves picking a squad of 15 players from Premier League clubs who score points through goals, assists, defensive shutouts and a few other elements during each round of games in England’s top division.

Carlsen’s team, which he has called “Kjell Ankedal, rose to No. 1 in the world on Saturday after Mohamed Salah scored twice

for Liverpool in its 2-0 win over Watford. Carlsen picked Salah as his captain, which means he earned double points from the Liverpool forward.

“Since a lot of people are asking about my FPL strategy,” Carlsen told his 246,900 followers on Twitter, “mine is the not so groundbreaking one of part stats and part gut feeling.”

It was working well in a game played by 7,190,421 players from around the world this season.



AD



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MACAU BATS RUGBY

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FOOTBALL

# Ronaldo scores 2 as Juventus beats Udinese in Serie A

DANIELLA MATAR, MILAN

JUVENTUS 3, UDINESE 1

**C**RISTIANO Ronaldo is back to his imperious best.

The Juventus forward scored twice over the weekend to help the Bianconeri to a 3-1 win over Udinese in Serie A. Leonardo Bonucci scored the other goal.

Ronaldo also hit the post late on.

It was the fourth successive match Ronaldo has scored in, with the Portugal international having a fantastic month after not scoring in all of November.

Juventus moved back to top of the table, level on points with Inter Milan after a late goal saw the Nerazzurri held to a 1-1 draw at Fiorentina.

Juventus is above Inter on goal difference although head-to-head is the first tiebreaker at the end of the season.

"I played well but the individual performance doesn't matter as much as the team's," Ronaldo said. "We must continue like this, training in the right way and doing good things in the game."

Juventus coach Maurizio Sarri started Paulo Dybala, Gonzalo Higuain and Ronaldo.

AP PHOTO



"Right now, the front three are doing very well," Sarri said. "We did well for a long stretch, and today we could afford to play this 'trident'."

"This is an extraordinary solution, but to be kept in mind at certain times during the games and the season."

It took just nine minutes for Juventus to open the scoring as Dybala chested down Bonucci's pass from his own half and flicked the ball on for Ronaldo to fire into the bottom right corner.

Despite a number of chances it took Juventus until the 37th minute to double its tally when

Ronaldo drove home Higuain's through-ball.

Bonucci headed in the third on the stroke of halftime.

Udinese scored a stoppage-time consolation through Ignacio Pussetto.

Teenager Dušan Vlahovi scored a stunning solo goal in

stoppage time to possibly save the job of Fiorentina coach Vincenzo Montella and add to Inter's miserable week.

The 19-year-old Vlahovi raced from inside his own half before hitting the ball across the face of goal and into the far top corner.

It ended a run of four successive defeats for Fiorentina.

"It's an important draw," Montella said. "The team had a great game, losing would have been unfair. There was a desire to have a great performance ... It was a great goal from Dusan. I'm happy for him, he will go far because he has the desire to work and to suffer. We are working on this kid. I put my faith in him last year too."

It was the third time in four matches against Inter that Fiorentina has scored a stoppage-time equalizer.

Former Fiorentina hero Borja Valero had scored the opener in the eight minute, gathering Marcelo Brozovic's throughball and turning Nikola Milenkovic inside out before shooting into the near bottom corner from close range. AP

## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE LAST 16

- Borussia Dortmund vs PSG
- Real Madrid vs Man City
- Atalanta vs Valencia
- Atletico Madrid vs Liverpool
- Chelsea vs Bayern Munich
- Lyon vs Juventus
- Tottenham vs RB Leipzig
- Napoli vs Barcelona

BOXING

# Fury changes trainers ahead of Wilder rematch; Crawford unbeaten

**T**YSON Fury has changed trainers two months before his likely heavyweight rematch with WBC champion Deontay Wilder.

Fury split with Ben Davison after two years and will team up with Javan "Sugar" Hill, the nephew of the late trainer Emmanuel Steward.

Fury, who previously worked with Steward out of the Kronk gym in Detroit, used social media to post a picture of them both — along with Hill and former world champion Andy Lee — with the caption: "Getting the old team back up and running."

The 31-year-old Fury fought to a draw with Wilder in Los Angeles last December. They are expected

to fight again in February, although the bout has not been officially announced.

Davison helped Fury recover from mental health and addiction issues that affected him after beating Wladimir Klitschko to become world heavyweight champion in 2015.

"Tyson and myself had to both make decisions for our careers, which resulted in our working relationship coming to an end," Davison wrote on Twitter yesterday [Macau time].

On Saturday, Terence Crawford's latest opponent had not only never been knocked down, but Crawford couldn't recall seeing him even hurt.

Then again, he'd never been in a ring with a fighter

like Crawford before.

Crawford dropped Egidijus Kavaliauskas three times before stopping him in the ninth last weekend night to remain unbeaten and defend his welterweight title at Madison Square Garden.

"I wanted to give the crowd a knockout," Crawford said. "When I started letting my hands go, I started landing more fatal shots."

Crawford knocked down the challenger once in the seventh round and twice more in the ninth before referee Ricky Gonzalez stopped it at 44 seconds of the round.

Crawford (36-0, 27 KOs) absorbed perhaps more shots than usual but see-

med to enjoy getting to show he has power, too, letting out a big smile as Kavaliauskas returned to his corner looking frustrated after one round late in the fight.

"I thought I had to entertain you all for a little bit," Crawford said. "He's a strong fighter, durable, and I thought I'd give the crowd something to cheer for."

Kavaliauskas (21-1-1), a Lithuanian who was the mandatory challenger for Crawford's WBO belt, had some good moments in the first few rounds before Crawford took control midway through the fight and then poured it on late.

Crawford fought cautiously at the outset and Kavaliauskas showed why there was reason to when

AP PHOTO



Terence Crawford (right) punches Lithuania's Egidijus Kavaliauskas

he landed a big right early in the third round and then a couple more punches inside as Crawford tried to hold on. Crawford ended up going to a knee but Kavaliauskas wasn't credited with a knockdown, the referee apparently determining Crawford had been pushed down.

Crawford said afterward he wasn't hurt by that shot

and it wasn't long before he was the one doing more damage.

Kavaliauskas kept throwing big punches that drove Crawford backward when they landed, but Crawford used his speed advantage to slip out of the way of many of them while landing his own combinations. MDT/AP



**OPINION**

**Macau Matters**

Richard Whitfield



**RIVER TRASH COLLECTION**

One of the things I love about the World Wide Web is how you can serendipitously find interesting information and technologies. I especially like finding things that can potentially have application in Macau and its hinterland.

I recently ran across a great article ([www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/11/bubble-barrier-amsterdam-canal-plastic-pollution-waste-river-ocean-sea/](http://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/11/bubble-barrier-amsterdam-canal-plastic-pollution-waste-river-ocean-sea/)) about how perforated pipes can be laid diagonally across the beds of rivers and have air pumped through them to create “barriers” of bubbles. Trash floating downstream gets caught in the bubble barrier and is moved to the edge of the river where it can be easily collected. Tests in the Netherlands have shown that this technology can catch around 85% of the trash floating downstream in a river.

Bubble barriers have previously been used to contain oil spills and to reduce underwater noise around seabed construction sites but this is the first time the idea has been adapted to collect waterborne trash. Fish can simply swim through the bubbles and boats can float across them without harm. As well as being a great river trash collector, the bubble barriers also oxygenate the water making it better for fish and discouraging the growth of harmful river algae. It is also already well known that bubble barriers reduce man made underwater noise to reduce the stress on fish and other marine animals.

It is estimated that each year over 8 million tonnes of plastic and other trash floats down rivers and storm water systems and ends up in the sea where it accumulates in huge mid-ocean gyres causing untold damage to marine ecosystems. Several international cleanup initiatives are now going on to try and resolve this major global problem. Surely, cleaning trash from waterways should be a cost effective way to help solve the problem – prevention is always better than cure!

Now, garbage boats collect and remove about 42 tonnes of rubbish from Amsterdam’s waterways each year. Bubble barriers could be a more cost effective way to do this work. I would be very interested to know how much rubbish is collected from Macau’s beaches and waterways each year – I bet it is a lot. If you spend any time traveling round the waterways in the Pearl River Delta you will see huge amounts of rubbish that ends up in the sea. You will also see great efforts made to beautify the countryside so that it is clearly unacceptable to spoil these efforts with rubbish running rampart.

How about a school competition throughout the Delta where kids go out to identify and document heavily polluted waterways. Universities could then be contracted to develop and experiment with bubble barriers and other methods for collecting rubbish from the worst polluted waterways and document the improvements achieved. In this way we could gradually clean up all the Delta’s waterways and scientifically determine the most cost-effective cleanup approaches, and disseminate this information globally. We could even take it a step further to trace back to where the rubbish first enters the waterways and take action to eliminate these pollution sources. Such a long term project would not be expensive, and would provide substantial practical and educational benefits.

**PUTIN HAILS RUSSIAN ARMS SALES ABROAD**

THE BUZZ

Russian President Vladimir Putin says that arms sales abroad have continued to increase over the past year.

Speaking yesterday at a meeting with top officials, Putin said that arms exports are expected to top \$13 billion this year, which he said exceeds last year’s sales by more than \$2 billion.

The Russian leader added that Moscow’s positions on the global arms market have continued to strengthen despite Western sanctions.

Russian arms shipments abroad this year included the de-

livery of the S-400 air defense missile systems to Turkey — a deal that vexed Washington.

Putin said Russian arms manufacturers now have foreign orders totaling \$50 billion.

During the meeting, Putin urged Russian officials to pay special attention to arms sales to Africa and show a “flexible” approach to deliveries and payments. Russia hosted an Africa summit in October in a bid to expand its clout on the continent by touting military aid and economic projects.



AP PHOTO

**WWII ALLIES, EX-ENEMY GERMANY MARK 75TH BATTLE OF THE BULGE**

**RAF CASERT, BASTOGNE**

**S**ide by side, the Allies and former enemy Germany together marked yesterday the 75th anniversary of one of the most important battles in World War II — the Battle of the Bulge, which stopped Adolf Hitler’s last-ditch offensive to turn the tide of the war.

At dawn on Dec. 16, 1944, over 200,000 German soldiers started the most unexpected breakthrough through the dense woods of Belgium and Luxembourg’s hilly Ardennes. Making the most of the surprise move, the cold, freezing weather and wearied U.S. troops, the Germans pierced the front line so deeply it came to be known as the Battle of the Bulge.

Initially outnumbered, U.S. troops delayed the attack enough in fierce fighting to allow reinforcements to stream in and turn the tide of the battle by Christmas. After a month of fighting, the move into Germany was unstoppable.

U.S. Secretary of Defense Mark Esper paid tribute to over 19,000 U.S. troops who died in one of the bloodiest battles in the nation’s history.

“Their efforts not only defended America but also

ensured that the peoples of Europe would be free again,” Esper said, calling the Battle of the Bulge “one of the greatest in American history.”

Even though German deaths also exceeded well over 10,000 in the battle that stretched deep into January, German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier took special time to thank the U.S. troops.

**“ [Soldiers who died] not only defended America but also ensured that the peoples of Europe would be free again.**

MARK ESPER  
 US SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

“On this day, we Germans would like to thank the United States of America. The American armed forces, together with their allies, liberated Europe and they also liberated Germany. We thank you,” Steinmeier said.

“Those who died were victims of hatred, delusion, and a destructive fury that originated from my country,” he said.

Germany is now an ally of the United States and its wartime partners, uni-

ted in the NATO alliance. During the poignant ceremonies under leaden skies and rain at the star-shaped Mardasson memorial in Bastogne, the current discord between the United States and several European allies over trade and security were never mentioned.

Even if it was relatively warm 6 degrees Centigrade (43 degrees Fahrenheit) compared to the shivering conditions 75 years ago, there was also a fog hanging low.

Hitler had hoped the advance would change the course of World War II by forcing U.S. and British troops to sue for peace, thus freeing Germany to focus on the rapidly advancing Soviet armies in the east.

Out of the blue at dawn, over 200,000 German troops counter-attacked across the front line in Belgium and Luxembourg, smashing into battle-weary U.S. soldiers positioned in terrain as foreign to them as it was familiar to the Germans.

Yet somehow, the Americans blunted the advance and started turning back the enemy for good, setting Allied troops on a roll that would end the war in Europe less than five months later. **AP**



AP PHOTO

**India** Thousands of university students flooded the streets of New Delhi, while a southern state government led a march and demonstrators held a silent protest in the northeast to protest a new law giving citizenship to non-Muslims who entered India illegally to flee religious persecution in several neighboring countries. **More on p13**

**Nepal** A bus carrying Hindu pilgrims drove off a highway and crashed in Nepal over the weekend, killing 14 people and injuring 18, police said. The pilgrims were returning home after visiting the famed Hindu Kailinchowk Bhagwati temple when the bus veered off the highway about 80 km east of Kathmandu, police said.



AP PHOTO

**UK** PM Boris Johnson gave a pep talk yesterday to his new group of Conservative Party lawmakers as he begins his push to secure Parliamentary approval for his Brexit deal. Johnson welcomed some 100 newly elected colleagues, many of them coming from areas were once the strongholds of the opposition Labour Party. **More on p14**



AP PHOTO

**Germany** Chancellor Angela Merkel meets top German business and union officials to discuss how to attract skilled workers from outside the European Union as the country tries to tackle a shortfall of qualified labor. Legislation is due to take effect March 1 making it easier for non-EU nationals to get visas to work and seek jobs in Germany. **More on p15**