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“THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’”

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MACAU AND NYU SHANGHAI LAUNCHED A MOBILE APPLICATION TO MONITOR STUDENTS' MENTAL HEALTH

P4

UNREGISTERED MACAU PASS HOLDERS TO PAY FULL FARE NEXT MONTH

P4

THE CITY'S GDP INCREASED BY 32.9% YEAR-ON-YEAR IN REAL TERMS IN Q3, NOTCHING POSITIVE GROWTH FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE QUARTERS

P3

AP PHOTO



Malaysia Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob's Malay party won a landslide victory in a state election Saturday, defeating its allies in the ruling coalition as well as the opposition ahead of national polls. The victory in southern Malacca state by Ismail's United Malays National Organization, or UMNO, was seen as a bellwether that could shape alliances in national elections following a period of political turmoil. The elections are not due until 2023 but are widely expected to be called next year.

AP PHOTO



Saudi Arabia Pop star Justin Bieber is facing growing calls to cancel his concert in Saudi Arabia next month as the fiancée of slain Saudi critic Jamal Khashoggi joined a chorus of voices yesterday urging him not to perform at the kingdom's Formula One race. In an open letter published by The Washington Post, Hatice Cengiz urged the Canadian megastar to cancel his Dec. 5 performance in the Red Sea city of Jiddah to "send a powerful message to the world that your name and talent will not be used to restore the reputation of a regime that kills its critics."

AP PHOTO



Yemen The foreign minister of Yemen's government in exile warned yesterday that a rebel takeover of the crucial, energy-rich city of Marib would be a disaster on the scale of the collapse of its ancient dam that decimated an entire kingdom. Ahmad Awad Bin Mubarak's comments mark some of the most dire made regarding the offensive by the Iran-backed Houthi rebels, who have held Yemen's capital since September 2014.

More on backpage



RENATO MARQUES

SECOND GP VICTORY FOR CHARLES LEONG

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PANDEMIC-HIT CUPPACOFFEE TO CLOSE

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68 Times
LADY LUCK ON O'YOUNG'S SIDE THIS TIME

SUPPLEMENT



ANALYSIS

CHINA HAS PLANS FOR MACAU

I. NELSON ROSE*

ALL six casino concessions in Macau are about to expire. The big question is whether the US-based companies – MGM, Wynn, and Las Vegas Sands – will be able to continue operating some of the most successful casinos in the world.

Of much less importance is whether Macau will let other operators come in.

A concession is not a license: Each of the three concessionaires and three sub-concessionaires already has the right to open as many casinos as they want. They also can have unlimited numbers of partners, some of whom are the real owners and operators of their casinos.

The current limit on concessions really only serves to cut out two groups: Casino companies that failed to get in when they had the chance, namely Caesars and Genting, and wealthy Mainland Chinese companies like railroads, which like the cash flow produced by legal gambling.

All current concession-holders will undoubtedly be renewed. No matter how bad the relationship between the US and China – short of a shooting war – economic ties require that everyone play nice. American companies spent billions of dollars building the most massive casinos in the world; there will be no more foreign investments if Macau says, “Thanks. Now, goodbye.”

(Legally, if concessions are not renewed, the casino companies still own the land- leases and buildings, which, without legal gambling, would be the most massive white elephants in the world.)

There has also been a lot of anguish over the length of the renewals. The original concessions were 20 years. But the political and economic realities requiring renewals now will continue to exist in ten years.

The real danger comes from Beijing, which has decided to reassert control over Macau.

The People's Republic of China was never happy with the pro-democracy politics of Hong Kong. It seized the opening it was given by COVID and Donald Trump's weakness and cracked down, eli-

minating all demonstrations and free press.

Having gotten control over Hong Kong, Beijing turned to Macau.

The Chinese government has always wanted a bigger share of Macau casinos' profits to stay in China. So, all American casino companies will have to sell more than 10% to local Macanese partners. And the government will decide when companies can declare dividends.

Top officials are concerned with the enormous amounts of cash fleeing the Mainland, often through smuggling. A new law puts more restrictions on junket operators, especially when cash is involved.

The PRC is a Marxist government and believes in imposing 10-year plans on its society. The massive Harbor Plan envisions remaking most of southern China, in a giant crescent from Hong Kong to the border with Vietnam. Factories will be built, villages turned into urban centers. Land-poor Macau will be given control over most of the large, neighboring Hengqin Island, where the University of Macau already built a \$1.2 billion new campus.

Beijing has told Macau to diversify. My guess is casino companies will be told if they want their concessions renewed, they will have to contribute tens of millions of dollars to build soccer stadiums on Hengqin, and more public transport.

The southern tip of Hengqin is designated a non-gambling center for resorts, hotels, and amusement parks for Mainland Chinese

tourists. Many will be funneled to the casinos in Macau; the new passage from Hengqin can handle 80 million people a year.

To ensure Macau's casinos will change their focus from high-rollers to the mass market, the government will now have a representative on every casino's board of directors. The proposed new laws will also require that a government representative will supervise day-to-day operations.

This is the most frightening proposal. I have had direct experience with Chinese government bureaucrats. When I first started teaching Gaming Law at the University of Macau, Business Class tickets from L.A. to Hong Kong cost \$10,000; Economy Class only \$3,000. So I said I would bring my wife and daughter and fly Economy Class, and the University would save \$1,000.

“No,” I was told. “Full Professors have to fly Business Class.”

To get from Hong Kong to Macau, I took the Jetfoil.

“Oh! You went Business Class,” I was told. “You are only allowed to go Economy Class.”

So, I was reimbursed \$10,020 instead of \$10,029.

By the end of next year, these same government bureaucrats will be in charge of the day-to-day operations of the Wynn Macau, MGM Grand Macau, and the Venetian Macau, the largest casino-hotel in the world.

What could possibly go wrong? **MDT/GAMBLINGANDTHELAW.COM**

* Professor I. Nelson Rose is a gambling and gaming law expert.

DSAL: 330 OF 1,530 JOB-SEEKERS FIND EMPLOYMENT

ANTHONY LAM

BETWEEN January and October this year, 330 jobseekers from a pool of 1,530 were hired, said Wong Chi Hong, director of the Labor Affairs Bureau (DSAL), in response to lawmaker Leong Sun Iok's written enquiry.

Following the government's announcement of a new subsidy plan for workers who have earned less than MOP144,000 last year, the lawmaker pointed out in his enquiry that many unemployed individuals may not have been

eligible for the scheme.

Since the government evaluates eligibility based on tax declaration records, those who lost their jobs during the pandemic may not be eligible for subsidy because they do not have tax declaration records.

Therefore, Leong asked whether the government could expand the plan's coverage so that individuals in this situation can be supported as well. He also asked whether the government would enhance its work-support policy, which expands public investments to provide jobs

rather than offering direct subsidies.

The DSAL director disclosed the aforementioned employment figures in response, although he stressed that DSAL and the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau have established a coordination mechanism to match jobseekers with jobs more swiftly.

Wong added that, during the same period, 29 job-matching sessions have been held to recruit workers in security, catering, retail and hotels, among other sectors. Par-

ticipating employers have hired 395 of 725 candidates interviewed.

Meanwhile, 14 recruitment fairs were held with the six gambling concessionaires finding jobs for 440 jobseekers.

Overall, the DSAL has matched 2,869 jobseekers with jobs.

Over 1,000 vacancies in public works are expected in future, and the DSAL will arrange job-matching programs accordingly.

In answer to Leong's second question, Wong emphasized that the plan has helped local small and



medium sized enterprises to save jobs and further develop, which should help control the unemployment rate.

He added that the government has expanded public investment to create more jobs for local residents.

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Times
DIRECTOR & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF_Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR_Lynzy Valles
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS_Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai
NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS_Albanjo Martins, Annabel Jackson, Anthony Lam, Emilie Tran, Irene Sam, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Juliet Risdon, Linda Kennedy, Paulo Cordeiro de Sousa, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Viviana Segui
DESIGNERS_Eva Bucho, Miguel Bandeira | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS_JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES_Associated Press, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua
SECRETARY_Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION
ADMINISTRATOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com
OFFICE MANAGER Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com
ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR
Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84
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FORMULA 4

Charles Leong goes two for two in Macau GP

RENATO MARQUES

LOCAL driver Charles Leong has fulfilled all the predictions that pointed him as the favorite to win the Macau Grand Prix Formula 4 (F4) race.

For the second time in a row, Leong showed supremacy over the weekend taking Pole Position on Friday, followed by two wins in two races on Saturday and Sunday.

Also as expected, the only driver capable of challenging Leong at some point was another local driver, Andy Chang, who repeated the second place overall from last year; and was able to make the fastest lap around the Guia circuit with the time of 2:29.331.

Also repeating last year's story, mainland racer Li Si

Cheng won third, completing the podium.

In a race without much of a story and with Leong controlling the pace since the second lap after a first lap scare in which Chang attempted a pass at Lisboa Bend, the unpredictability came only when Chang, running in second and with a comfortable gap for the third, was forced into a drive-through the pitlane as a penalty handed by the race stewards that no one, including Chang, could explain.

Still, Chang managed to push back after that unexpected event and retook his second position not long after, a time in which he was put to the test and eventually recorded the fastest lap around the Guia circuit in an F4 car.

At the press conference

after the race, Leong said that this victory and his dominance proves that he has the skills and the talent to go further and higher in a racing career that was abruptly stopped when Leong was racing in the F3 championship due to difficulties in granting enough sponsors to continue racing.

"Without much track time since last year [Macau GP] it really pushed me to show again that I have the ability to go a lot higher [in this sport]. I am here to prove that ability and talent that I have and I think that just pumped me up [to this weekend]," Leong said noting that his weekend was just perfect and without any mechanical failure or any problem that could make his task more complicated.



ECONOMY

GDP growth rises sharply in Q3 driven by tourism rebound

LYNZY VALLES

MACAU'S gross domestic product (GDP) increased by 32.9% year-on-year in real terms in the third quarter of 2021, notching positive growth for two consecutive quarters.

Including this quarter's increase, the city has recorded a GDP rise of 27.5% since the first quarter of this year.

Exports of services surged 181.3% year-on-year in the third quarter, driven by a rebound in the number of visitor arrivals (up 143.6% year-on-year). Exports of gaming services and other tourism services soared by 302.6% and 303.3% respectively, according to data from the Statistics and Census Service.

Last month, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) heavily downgraded its forecast for Macau's 2021 GDP growth to 20.4%, a drop of 40 percentage points from its April prediction of a 61% rebound.

The change in the fund's forecast follows the city's latest wave of Covid-19 infections, which led to: the closure of government and enter-

tainment venues; a third round of mass testing; and a halt on travel due to the Zhuhai authorities' requirement that individuals arriving from Macau undergo 14 days of quarantine.

Although casinos remained open, Macau's gross gaming revenue (GGR) took a hit in October from these impacts on travel. GGR for the month was down 25.8% compared with September, to just MOP4.37 billion.

In October, the government collected MOP2.3 billion in tax revenue from the gaming sector.

This brings the government's gaming tax receipts to MOP29.54 billion for the year to date.

A statement from the Executive Council on Friday said that the government would dip into its financial reserves due to low tax receipts from the gaming sector. The proposal provides for an increa-

se of MOP6.34 billion to be taken from the reserves.

Local economist Albano Martins previously told the Times that the initial prediction of the IMF – a 61% rise – was not possible, even if the gaming industry had seen business growth.

He forecasts "no more than 20% growth all year."

Meanwhile, the government's final consumption expenditure dropped by 3.8% year-on-year as expenditure on pandemic prevention and medical and health services in the third quarter of 2021 was lower than in the same quarter last year. Net purchases of goods and services went down by 6.9%, while wages paid to employees increased by 0.4%.

TOURISM

VISITOR ARRIVALS AT RECORD HIGH SINCE SEPTEMBER OUTBREAK

STAFF REPORTER

MACAU registered 35,525 visitors on Friday, topping the recent record number of 30,000 from previous weeks. This is the highest recorded number of visitors since September 25, when Macau entered an immediate state of prevention due to a Covid-19 outbreak and implemented strict infection control measures.

186,582 visitors arrived during the past week, averaging 26,655 a day, according to information from the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO). These numbers represent an increase of 150.9% compared to the numbers from October, when the average was around 10,622 visitors per day.

In an attempt to attract more visitors to Macau, a series of events will be held from mid-November and throughout December, including the Macao Light Festival and the Light Up Macao Drone Gala, and the Macao Food Festival, which has already started and will continue until December 5.

In light of the recent arrival numbers, the MGTO expects tourist arrivals in 2021 will exceed six million.

"Right now, we should be able to pass six million. [...] It [may even] reach seven million. But if we do get seven million, that would be slightly higher than last year," said the MGTO Director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes during a press conference last week.



FREE FLU VACCINE PROGRAM TO BE EXTENDED TO ALL RESIDENTS

Over 57,000 people from high-risk groups have taken a flu vaccine as part of the 2021-2022 free flu vaccination program, which began on September 20. In order to strengthen the community's immunity, the Health Bureau has made the program available to all Macau residents. From today, all residents can access a flu vaccine free of charge. The minimum age for vaccination is six months. To reduce waiting times and avoid crowding, health authorities have implemented an online booking system.

IFTM CO-HOSTS 5TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF EVENTS

The Macao Institute for Tourism Studies (IFTM) co-hosted the 5th International Conference on Events (ICE) – "Making Waves in Africa: Exploring New Frontiers in Festivals and Events," held in Cape Town, South Africa. Due to the pandemic, the conference was held both online and in-person, attended by over 130 South African delegates as well as international delegates from 19 different countries and regions. IFTM academics made 17 presentations of research studies, on topics spanning economic, social and environmental issues.

UM, NYU SHANGHAI LAUNCH APP TO BOOST STUDENTS' MENTAL HEALTH

ANTHONY LAM

A mobile application to monitor users' mental health was recently launched to provide reliable and effective self-help to its users.

Aimed at university students, the 'Step by Step' app was jointly developed by the University of Macau (UM) and New York University Shanghai (NYU Shanghai), and is currently being trialed.

One of the scholars behind the app, Dr Brian J. Hall, is an academic in global public health and clinical psychology now at NYU Shanghai, formerly at UM. He says Macau needs improved training to develop its mental health supports.

With a series of deaths by suicide taking place in Macau over the past couple of years, the government and several non-government organizations have commenced work to improve mental health and related supports.

Between January and September, Macau recorded a total of 38 deaths by suicide, a 30.9% decrease from the previous year. In 2020, the city's total number of suicide deaths was 65.

For Hall, there is more that society can do about this issue.

In an interview with the Times, the academic emphasized that there is no clinical psychology training at master's level available in Macau.

In developed regions, in order to practice what is referred to as psychotherapy in Macau an individual must possess at least a master's degree in clinical psychology, the discipline that focuses on supporting people in a clinical setting.

Pursuant to Executive Regulation No. 23/2021, registrants in psychotherapy in Macau must possess a master's degree in clinical psychology. "That's usually a minimum credential to enter the



field," says Hall. However, the situation in Macau is a little tricky because "no [master's] program is offered in Macau."

Most people experiencing mental health issues fail to receive timely and appropriate psychological intervention

"Currently there are no clinical psychology training programs in Macau," says the scholar, a scenario he finds "problematic."

"There are so many universities in Macau, [so] why can't this critical need be addressed?" he asked. "People have to leave Macau to seek training and that training may or may not be appropriate for the Macau setting – [there may be] language and cultural differences, for example."

In addition to commencing the

provision of master's level programs in clinical psychology, the academic suggests that the city should also improve the delivery of evidence-based care by training specialists.

According to a statement from the UM, most people experiencing mental health issues fail to receive timely and appropriate psychological intervention, which may be due to inadequate resources in the health care system, a lack of access to appropriate channels of assistance, or a lack of understanding or fear of discrimination in the community.

To fill the gaps in existing mental health services, the World Health Organization (WHO) created an e-mental-health mobile app in 2017, intending to trial its use worldwide once it could be adapted to suit different languages and cultures.

Last week, on the sidelines of the launching ceremony of the mental support app, Elvo Sou, head of the Student Counselling Section of the Student Affairs Office at UM, said

that the average age of individuals suffering from mental health issues has been dropping during the past few years.

"The trend of persons suffering from mental illnesses at a younger age is global," Sou said in a TDM report. "Everyone is facing stress – including young people [and] students of [all education levels] – they need more support mentally."

Sou hopes that this program can provide an additional channel for people to find support, and that the results from this research can be applied to different communities.

The app allows users to access evidence-based e-mental-health interventions to improve their mental well-being and learn about available services and resources at their convenience.

The UM-NYU Shanghai research team will recruit university students to join an eight-week training program using the app. Participants will be evaluated twice, in the eighth week of the program and three months after completing the program, in order to collect data for evaluating and improving the app.

Unregistered Macau Pass holders to pay full fare from Dec. 11

STAFF REPORTER

FROM December 11, individuals using an unregistered Macau Pass (MP) bus card will pay the full fare of MOP6 per ride, the Transport Bureau has announced.

To facilitate more efficient contact tracing of Covid-19 cases, the government has collaborated with Macau Pass and the two local bus companies, TRANSMAC and TCM,

to implement a "bus rider real name registration scheme." Those who register their cards will continue to receive a fare discount of MOP3.

Registration of bus cards opens this Saturday, November 27, at 10 a.m. To register, users must sign up online, and provide their Macau Pass number, name and phone number. They will then receive a confirmation message, and can then activate their card at

any of Macau's 130 card-tapping points, including those located at the bureau's service area, public car parks, MP customer service centers, public bus terminals, nucleic acid test stations and the six gaming operators.

Residents with senior citizen passes, disability passes, student passes, auto-top-up cards, e-consumption cards, and MPay users do not need to register as their details are already in

the system. A single phone number can be used to register up to three cards.

The bureau will eventually implement a system to track those who pay with cash or use unregistered passes so as to better trace passengers' travel history.

Passengers who fail to register and activate their cards by December 11 will have to pay the full fare for rides until their cards are fully registered and activated.





CuppaCoffee to close by year-end

STAFF REPORTER

AFTER struggling financially since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, the much-loved CuppaCoffee café will close its doors, with its last day of operations

on December 30, the Times has learned.

The local coffee shop has two branches, one in Taipa, which has been open since June 2008, and one opened in Central Macau in April 2019. CuppaCoffee's bakery, Nata, will continue to take online

orders until January 8.

CuppaCoffee is owned locally by Cristiana Figueiredo, and has been a part of the Macau community for almost 14 years. It has worked alongside the associated Nata Bakery, which has operated for almost 16

years. CuppaCoffee will celebrate its 14 year anniversary on December 30 at the Taipa branch.

Speaking to the Times, Figueiredo expressed that her vision was to expand the brand, not just in Macau but also in China.

"With Covid-19 hitting, we were unable to achieve this goal. The reason for closing all units is that they are interdependent and we need a minimum of two CuppaCoffee stores to make Nata Bakery a profitable operation," Figueiredo said.

The pandemic has hit the profitability and sustainability of local small and medium enterprises in the city.

According to the owner, "it just became an even more serious [problem] as the [pandemic] progressed."

"There is a dissociation from reality. [...] The government handout helped to heal the damage from the lockdown [...] but it is a short-term assistance," she added.

The businessowner did not consider any loans as it is an "extra commitment in an uncertain situation."

Despite the shutdown of the business, the entrepreneur said that they are open to licensing the local brand in the future.

CE MEETS WITH MACAU CHINESE ENTERPRISES ASSOCIATION

STAFF REPORTER

THE Chief Executive (CE) Ho Iat Seng met with the president of the Macau Chinese Enterprises Association Fu Jianguo at the government headquarters on Friday, November 19. Other members of the organization attended the meeting as well, contributing views on the development of the financial, construction and telecommunications sectors, as well as the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin.

With the association celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, the CE remarked that Chinese-owned companies in Macau have supported development in different areas of the territory, giving his thanks on behalf of the government. He expressed his hope that the members of the Macau Chinese Enterprises Association will remain faithful to their original convictions, and continue to promote the successful implementation of the "one country, two systems" principle with Macanese characteristics.

The CE noted that Macau's economy continues to suffer the impact of the pandemic and recognized Chinese-owned companies in Macau for their support of the government's responsive measures. He expects the association will actively participate in the development of the Hengqin cooperation zone, in order to maximize its capabilities and benefits.

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Barrier Gates Removal Schedule for the 68th Macau Grand Prix

As the 68th Macau Grand Prix draws to a successful conclusion, the Macau Grand Prix Organizing Committee would like to express our gratitude to all citizens for your support and cooperation! Barrier removal works have been started after the event and the barrier gates are expected to be completely removed on 2nd of December. The schedule is as follows:

Date	Time	Location
22 nd to 25 th of November	08:00 to 20:00	(1) Remove all movable gates
		(2) Remove all barrier gates on both sides of the movable gates
22 nd to 27 th of November	08:00 to 20:00	Remove all barrier gates from Avenida da Amizade to Reservoir Bend
25 th of November to 2 nd of December	08:00 to 20:00	Remove all barrier gates from Rua dos Pescadores to Reservoir Bend
27 th of November to 2 nd of December	08:00 to 20:00	Remove all barrier gates at the upper part of the Guia Hill

PENG SHUAI

MISSING CHINESE TENNIS STAR REAPPEARS IN PUBLIC IN BEIJING

JOE MCDONALD, BEIJING

MISSING tennis star Peng Shuai reappeared in public yesterday at a youth tournament in Beijing, according to photos released by the organizer, as the ruling Communist Party tried to quell fears abroad while suppressing information in China about Peng after she accused a senior leader of sexual assault.

The post by the China Open on the Weibo social media service made no mention of Peng's disappearance or her accusation. The three-time Olympian and former Wimbledon champion was shown standing beside a court, waving and signing oversized commemorative tennis balls for children.

The ruling party appears to be trying to defuse alarm about Peng without acknowledging her disappearance after she on Nov. 2 accused Zhang Gaoli, a member of the party's ruling Standing Committee until 2018, of forcing her to have sex.

Peng's disappearance and official silence in response to appeals for information prompted calls for a boycott of the Winter Olympics in Beijing in February, a prestige event for the Communist Party. The women's professional tour threatened to pull events out of China unless the safety of the former No. 1 doubles player was assured.

Discussion of Peng's accusation has been deleted from websites in China. A government spokesman on Friday denied knowing about the outcry. The ruling party's internet filters also block most people in China from seeing other social media abroad



and most global news outlets.

Comments on Chinese social media on Sunday criticized the Women's Tennis Association and others who spoke up about Peng. Comments in Chinese on Twitter poked fun at the awkward release of photos and video of Peng by employees of state media this weekend while the government stayed silent.

"When will the WTA get out of China?" said a comment on the Sina Weibo social media service, signed "Sleep Time."

Peng adds to a growing number of Chinese businesspeople, activists and ordinary people who have disappeared in recent years after criticizing party figures or in crackdowns on corruption or pro-democracy and

labor rights campaigns.

Some reemerge weeks or months later without explanation, suggesting they are warned not to disclose they were detained or the reason.

Peng's appearance Sunday was mentioned in the final sentence of a report about the tournament on the website of the English-language Global Times, a newspaper published by the ruling party and aimed at foreign readers, but not immediately reported by other media within China.

The Global Times editor, Hu Xijin, said Saturday on Twitter, which can't be seen by most internet users in China, that Peng "stayed in her own home freely" and would "show up in

public" soon.

The Global Times is known for its nationalistic tone. Hu uses his Twitter account to criticize foreign governments and point out social and economic problems abroad.

A comment on Twitter signed bobzhang999 said, "Hu Dog, with so many photos, why don't you let Peng Shuai talk?"

Another, signed Magician, said, "Let Peng Shuai's parents hold a news conference."

Tennis stars and the WTA have been unusually vocal in demanding information about Peng. Other companies and sports groups are reluctant to confront Beijing for fear of losing access to the Chinese market or other retaliation.

The ruling party has given no indication whether it is investigating Peng's accusation against Gao, 75, who left the Standing Committee in 2018 and has largely disappeared from public life.

Even if Peng's accusation is deemed valid, people in China often are jailed or face other penalties for embarrassing the party by publicizing complaints about abuses instead of going through the secretive, often unresponsive official system.

The status of star athletes such as Peng is especially sensitive. State media celebrate their victories as proof the party is making China strong. But the party is vigilant about making sure they cannot use their prominence and public appeal to erode its image.

Steve Simon, the WTA's chairman and CEO, expressed concern for Peng's safety after Hu,

the newspaper editor, posted two videos Saturday that appeared to show her in a restaurant.

"While it is positive to see her, it remains unclear if she is free and able to make decisions and take actions on her own, without coercion or external interference. This video alone is insufficient," Simon said. "Our relationship with China is at a crossroads."

The International Olympic Committee has remained quiet about the status of Peng, who competed in three Olympics, helping to contribute to the IOC's multimillion-dollar revenue from broadcasting and sponsorships.

The Olympic body's stated policy is "quiet diplomacy." The IOC said Saturday it would "continue our open dialogue on all levels with the Olympic movement in China."

Asked two weeks ago about human rights in China, senior IOC member Juan Antonio Samaranch said "we are not discussing with the Chinese government anything" about that subject.

The IOC has previously said its partner in organizing the Winter Games is the local organizing committee, not the Chinese state. That committee is controlled by the Communist Party.

Emma Terho, the newly elected head of the IOC's Athletes' Commission that is charged with representing the interests of Olympic athletes, said in a statement Saturday "we support the quiet diplomacy" approach favored by the IOC.

Last week, the foreign arm of state TV issued a statement in English attributed to Peng that retracted her accusation against Zhang. The WTA's Simon questioned its legitimacy while others said it only increased their concern about her safety. **MDT/AP**

DIPLOMACY

China reduces ties with Lithuania in Taiwan spat



Eric Huang, newly appointed director to the representative office (third from right) poses with other staffers outside the Taiwan Representative Office in Vilnius, Lithuania, last week

CHINA reduced the level of its diplomatic relations with Lithuania to below ambassador level yesterday in retaliation for the Baltic nation allowing Taiwan, the island democracy claimed by Beijing as part of its territory, to open a representative office.

China earlier expelled the Lithuanian ambassador, reflecting its intense sensitivity over the status of Taiwan, which Beijing says has no right to conduct foreign affairs. China also withdrew its own ambassador

from Lithuania.

The foreign ministry said relations would be downgraded to the level of charge d'affaires, an embassy's No. 2 official.

Lithuania's move reflects growing interest among governments in expanding ties with Taiwan, a major trader and center for high-tech industry, at a time when Beijing has irritated its neighbors and Western governments with an increasingly assertive foreign and military policy.

Taiwan and the mainland

have been ruled separately since 1949 following a civil war.

The foreign ministry accused Lithuania of "undermining Chinese sovereignty and territorial integrity." It called on the Lithuanian government to "correct the mistakes immediately."

Beijing refuses to have official relations with governments that recognize Taiwan as a sovereign country. It has persuaded all but 15 countries, most of them small and poor in Africa and Latin America, to switch recogni-

tion to the mainland.

Many governments, including the United States and Japan, have official diplomatic ties with Beijing while maintaining extensive commercial ties with Taiwan. Many maintain relations with the island's democratically elected government through trade offices that serve as informal embassies.

Lithuania broke with diplomatic custom by agreeing that the Taiwanese office in Vilnius would bear the name Taiwan instead of Chinese Taipei, a term used by other countries to avoid offending Beijing.

Lithuania said earlier it plans to open its own representative office in Taiwan. **MDT/AP**

INDO-PACIFIC

Top US admiral warns about China threat at Halifax forum

THE head of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command said yesterday [Macau time] the United States and its allies need to operate with a greater sense of urgency amid rising tensions and China's increasingly assertive military actions.

Adm. John C. Aquilino reaffirmed America's commitment to achieving a free and open Indo-Pacific region during meetings with allies at the Halifax International Security Forum.

"Look at what the Chinese have said. President Xi (Jinping) has tasked his forces to be at a level of military parity with the United States by 2027. Those are his words," Aquilino said in a meeting with journalists.

Aquilino said the U.S. and its allies need to work together more frequently in international waters to build interoperability so they can operate together quickly if needed.

"We need to deliver capabilities sooner and faster," he said



Adm. John Aquilino (center) Commander of the United States Indo-Pacific Command

Tensions have heightened as the Chinese military has dispatched an increasing number of fighter jets near the self-ruled

island of Taiwan, which Beijing considers part of its territory. China has threatened to use force to unite with it if necessary.

This week Chinese coast guard ships also blocked and sprayed water at two Philippine boats carrying supplies to a disputed South China Sea shoal in a flare-up of long-simmering territorial disputes in the strategic waterway.

China claims virtually the entire South China Sea and has transformed seven shoals into missile-protected island bases to cement its assertions, ratcheting up tensions and alarming rival claimants and Western governments led by the U.S.

President Xi has overseen an assertive foreign policy and expansion of the party's military wing, the People's Liberation Army. It has the world's second-largest military budget after the United States and is developing submarines, stealth aircraft and ballistic missiles that can carry nuclear warheads.

"They are working at a very accelerated pace," Aquilino said.

The U.S. and its allies have been promoting the goal of a free and

open Indo-Pacific to ensure peace, free navigation and rule-based international order in the key international sea lanes, a move also joined by Japan, Australia and India in a framework known as the Quad. The strategic dialogue is seen as a move to counter China's increasing influence in the region.

Britain and France, as well as some other nations, have also shifted their attention to the region and recently conducted joint military exercises.

China has defended its growing maritime activities, saying it has the right to defend its sovereignty, security and development interests.

"We are fighting for our values and our ability to be free. Those are the stakes," Aquilino said.

"The difference between free and open or authoritarian and closed. Which Indo-Pacific would you like to be a part of? It's clear for the like-minded nations," he added

Aquilino met with the Canadian chief of defense along with Canada's minister of defense on Friday.

In its 13th year, the Halifax International Security Forum attracts defense and security officials from Western democracies. About 300 people gather each year in an intimate setting at Halifax's Westin hotel. **MDT/AP**

AD

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Local | Lago Nam Van | Horário | 21:45-22:00
Location | Nam Van Lake | Time

AP PHOTO



Vietnamese workers who are helping construct the first Chinese car tire factory in Europe ride bicycles past security officers near the northern Serbian town of Zrenjanin, 50 kilometers north of Belgrade

SERBIA

Vietnamese workers at Chinese factory cry for help

DUSAN STOJANOVIC,
ZRENJANIN

THEY are shivering in barracks without heat, going hungry and have no money. They say their passports have been taken by their Chinese employer and that they are now stuck in a grim plainland in Serbia with no help from local authorities.

These are the Vietnamese workers who are helping build the first Chinese car tire factory in Europe. The Associated Press visited the construction site in northern Serbia where some 500 of the workers are living in harsh conditions as China's Shandong Linglong Tire Co. sets up the huge facility.

The project, which Serbian and Chinese officials tout as a display of the "strategic partnership" between the two countries, has already faced scrutiny from environmentalists over potentially dangerous pollution from tire production.

Now, it has caught the attention of human rights groups in Serbia, which have warned that the workers could be victims of human trafficking or even slavery.

"We are witnessing a breach of human rights because the Vietnamese (workers) are working in terrible conditions," Ser-

bian activist Miso Zivanov of the Zrenjaninska Akcija (Zrenjanin Action) nongovernmental organization told The Associated Press at the drab one-story warehouses where the workers are living.

"Their passports and identification documents have been taken by their Chinese employers," he said. "They have been here since May, and they received only one salary. They are trying to get back to Vietnam but first need to get back their documents."

Workers sleep on bunk beds without mattresses in barracks with no heating or warm water. They told the AP that they have received no medical care even when they developed COVID-19-like symptoms, being told by their managers simply to remain in their rooms.

Nguyen Van Tri, one of the workers, said nothing has been fulfilled from the job contract he signed in Vietnam before embarking on the long journey to Serbia.

"Since we arrived here, nothing is good," he said. "Everything is different from documents we signed in Vietnam. Life is bad, food, medicine, water [...] everything is bad."

Wearing sandals and shivering in the cold, he said about 100 of his fellow

workers who live in the same barracks have gone on strike to protest their plight and that some of them have been fired because of that.

Linglong did not respond to an AP call seeking comment but denied to Serbian media that the company is responsible for the workers, blaming their situation on subcontractors and job agencies in Vietnam. It said the company did not employ the Vietnamese workers in the first place. It promised to return the documents it said were taken to stamp work and residency permits.

The company denied that the Vietnamese workers are living in poor conditions and said their monthly salaries were paid in accordance with the number of working hours.

Populist-run Serbia is a key spot for China's expansion and investment policies in Europe, and Chinese companies have kept a tight lid on their projects amid reports they run afoul of the Balkan nation's anti-pollution laws and labor regulations.

Chinese banks have granted billions of dollars in loans to Serbia to finance Chinese companies that build highways, railways and factories and employ their own construction workers. This is not the first

time rights groups have pointed out possible breaches of workers' rights, including those of Chinese miners at a copper mine in eastern Serbia.

After days of silence, Serbian officials spoke against "inhumane" conditions at the construction site but were quick to downplay Chinese responsibility for the workers' plight.

Serbian Prime Minister Ana Brnabic said she "would not rule out that the attack against the Linglong factory" is organized "by those against Chinese investments" in Serbia — referring to frequent criticism from the West that Chinese projects there are not transparent, are ecologically questionable and are designed by Beijing to spread its political influence in Europe.

"At the beginning, it was the environment. Now they forgot that and they focused on workers there. After tomorrow there will be something else," she said.

Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic said Friday that a Serbian labor inspector has been sent to the Linglong construction site but was blunt on the expected outcome of the eventual findings.

"What do they want? Do they want us to destroy a 900 million-dollar investment?" Vucic asked. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1963 KENNEDY SHOT DEAD IN DALLAS



The President of the United States has been assassinated by a gunman in Dallas, Texas.

John F Kennedy was hit in the head and throat when three shots were fired at his open-topped car.

The presidential motorcade was travelling through the main business area of the city.

Texas Governor John Connally was also seriously injured when one of the unknown sniper's bullets hit him in the back.

The men were accompanied by their wives, who were both uninjured.

Vice-president Lyndon Johnson - who was following in a different car - has been sworn in as the new US leader.

The presidential party was driving from Dallas airport to the city centre when witnesses said shots were fired from the window of a building overlooking the road.

The president collapsed into Jackie Kennedy's arms, who was heard to cry "Oh no". Seconds later Governor Connally was also hit.

Dallas Times Herald photographer Bob Jackson was in the motorcade close behind the Democrat leader's car and heard the shots as it entered Dealey Plaza.

"As I looked up I saw a rifle being pulled back from a window - it might have been resting on the windowsill - I didn't see a man," he said.

Mr Kennedy's limousine was driven at speed to Parklands Hospital immediately after the shooting.

The president was alive when he was admitted, but died at 1400 local time (1900 GMT) - 35 minutes after being shot.

Police and Secret Service agents stormed the School Book Depository building moments after the shots were fired and recovered a rifle with a telescopic sight, said to be the assassination weapon.

The mood of shock in the US was echoed by Senator Mike Mansfield in an emergency forum of the senate. "This is terrible - I cannot find words," he said.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

A little under an hour after the shooting, a policeman approached Lee Harvey Oswald, believing he recognised his description.

The policeman was shot dead. Oswald was arrested almost immediately under suspicion of murder. Shortly afterwards, he was also charged with the assassination of President Kennedy.

The suspect was never tried as he was shot dead himself two days later by nightclub owner Jack Ruby.

The Warren Report, commissioned to investigate the president's death, concluded he had been killed by shots fired by Mr Oswald from the School Book Depository building.

But conspiracy enthusiasts quickly turned the assassination into one of the most disputed events in modern history, with theories ranging from claims it was an elaborately staged suicide to the driver being the murderer.



Eida Lemos
(853) 6226 8566
eida@jmlproperty.com

Windy Lam
(853) 6881 1007
windy@jmlproperty.com

Sam Lee
(853) 6611 0975
sam@jmlproperty.com

Kitty Lou
(853) 6630 0730
kitty@jmlproperty.com

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(853) 6680 9804
juliet@jmlproperty.com

Property of the Week



Hellene Gardens
HKD 14,980,000 2,350 ft² 4 🛏️ 2 🚿 1 🚗

Hellene Gardens always a popular complex close to Hac Sa Beach.

This apartment in Hellene Gardens feels a bit like a villa with a couple of balconies at the front and side of the apartment. The kitchen is huge with extra store and maids room adjacent. The master bedroom has an ensuite. The other three guest bedrooms share a separate bathroom. Open plan living dining area have with stunning views over the South China Sea. One car parks included. Viewings can be arranged anytime.

Viewings can be arranged by appointment.
Find out more on www.jmlproperty.com



Ref: 2106 6003

Property Hotlist



Hellene Gardens
HKD 10,880,000

1,707 ft²

2 🛏️
2 🚿
1 🚗



Ref: 2107 6005



Taipa Village
HKD 9,988,000

2,073 ft²

4 🛏️
3 🚿
1 🚗



Ref: 2111 6002



One Oasis
HKD 11,200/mth

1,185 ft²

2 🛏️
2 🚿



Ref: 2109 1001

More Listings

For Sale

- [Taipa] Lun Vo 2 🛏️ 1 🚿 770 ft² **HKD 4,800,000** Ref: 2107 6001
- [Taipa] Taipa Village 4 🛏️ 2 🚿 1,404 ft² **HKD 8,380,000** Ref: 1909 6006
- [Macau] Basement style 2 🛏️ 2 🚿 2,200 ft² **HKD 9,990,000** Ref: 1511 5464
- [Taipa] Hellene Gardens 4 🛏️ 2 🚿 2,305 ft² **HKD 14,980,000** Ref: 2106 6003
- [Taipa] Manhattan 4 🛏️ 2 🚿 2,305 ft² **HKD 15,980,000** Ref: 2005 6001

For Rent

- [Taipa] Old Taipa Studio 1 🚿 440 ft² **HKD 8,200/mth** Ref: 2110 1001
- [Taipa] Va Fat 1 🛏️ 1 🚿 740 ft² **HKD 9,500/mth** Ref: 1910 1006
- [Coloane] One Oasis 2 🛏️ 2 🚿 1,033 ft² **HKD 11,900/mth** Ref: 2107 6003
- [Coloane] One Oasis 2 🛏️ 2 🚿 1,112 ft² **HKD 13,900/mth** Ref: 2102 1004
- [Taipa] Manhattan 3 🛏️ 2 🚿 1,626 ft² **HKD 17,500/mth** Ref: 2003 1001

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Hellene Gardens
HKD 7,980,000

1,663 ft²

3 🛏️
2 🚿
1 🚗



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RUGBY

France stun NZ for first time in Paris since 1973

JEROME PUGMIRE, PARIS

FRANCE 40, NEW ZEALAND 25

A moment of genius by Romain Ntamack overturned a New Zealand fightback and returned France on course to a stunning 40-25 victory in their gripping rugby test yesterday [Macau time].

The All Blacks responded to a wretched first half by punching in three tries in 12 minutes to trail France only 27-25 going into the last quarter.

They swept back downfield and kicked the ball into the French in-goal. Ntamack gathered and appeared trapped, but he slipped past Richie Mo'unga and Jordie Barrett and burst upfield in a counterattack that almost ended with a team try.

The outcome was even better. All Blacks No. 8 Ardie Savea was sin-binned for a cynical foul, and the faultless Melvyn Jaminet kicked over the penalty for 30-25

and some breathing space.

Ntamack was brought off to a huge ovation. He had been restored to flyhalf from the midfield in the previous autumn wins against Argentina and Georgia, and had his best game since he made his name at the 2019 Rugby World Cup.

"It was just as the All Blacks were getting back in the game and came during a moment of pressure for us," Galthie said of Ntamack's escape.

"We had this game in mind as a moment of truth and everyone turned up for us tonight. The team lived up to what we promised ourselves."

Ending a 14-match, 12-year losing streak to the All Blacks marked the biggest statement yet by a rapidly improving side. Galthie is growing out of the French junior world champion teams of 2018 and 2019. Nine of France's starting side were facing the All Blacks for the first time.

"We won in style, and it feels in-

credible," scrumhalf and captain Antoine Dupont said. "We will remember this win for sure."

France topped the All Blacks in Paris for the first time since 1973, and for the first time anywhere at home since 2000.

It was set up in a stunning first half as France scored two tries after barely 12 minutes.

Hooker Peato Mauvaka bundled over following a lineout maul, and France showed it wasn't just powerful in the tight but lethal in open space when Ntamack ghosted inside three players with sidesteps from the right to go under the crossbar for another converted try.

Jaminet, a revelation from the summer tour of Australia, landed another excellent kick from wide left to make it 17 points to two Barrett penalties, then Gael Fickou and Ntamack combined to give winger Gabin Villiere a chance in the left corner. He was held up, but France won another lineout 10 meters out and Mauvaka



AP PHOTO

steamed through in a maul. Mauvaka has five tries in three games.

New Zealand added Akira Ioane, Dane Coles and Sam Cane to wise up the pack, but they were overwhelmed. The All Blacks were nervy and sloppy and the French feasted on the errors. Under Dupont's direction, they were relentless. France led 24-6, its biggest ever halftime lead against the All Blacks.

The new half brought new resolve, however, and after 102-cap scrumhalf Aaron Smith almost scored, Barrett got over in the left then botched his conversion.

Moments later, center Rieko Ioane sprinted clear from halfway for a converted try and the lead was slashed to six points.

The speed of New Zealand's pi-

ck-and-go's was becoming hard to deal with and France was flagging when Savea went over for a converted score in the 59th.

New Zealand had all the momentum, but moments later Ntamack stole it, Savea was in the sin-bin and the All Blacks' comeback was effectively over.

For the first time since 1994, the All Blacks lost consecutive games to European teams a week after Ireland topped them 29-20 in Dublin in another inspirational display.

They and France are destined to meet again at the Stade de France on the opening night of the 2023 Rugby World Cup. Thanks to Saturday night, the French will be brimming with confidence. **MDT/AP**

AD

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OPINION

World Views

Lisa Bosman, Purdue University
MDT/The Conversation



ENTREPRENEURSHIP
CLASSES AREN'T JUST FOR
BUSINESS MAJORS

Colleges are returning to normal operations, and many have begun to offer in-person classes once again. But are they prepared to teach students how to navigate post-pandemic life? Or how to get a job in an economy fundamentally changed by COVID-19?

As professors of engineering and entrepreneurship, and authors of a new book on teaching entrepreneurial thinking to college students, we have studied how entrepreneurial skills can improve students' confidence, creativity, critical thinking, collaboration and communication.

Such curriculum is a staple in business schools, especially for students who want to start a company. But it has the potential to benefit all students – including majors in engineering, agriculture and even the arts.

Graduates who develop an entrepreneurial mindset learn to habitually and intuitively recognize new opportunities and create value within an organization. This value could be new product development or related to continuous improvement, like implementing a more ergonomic workspace to combat healthy and safety issues. These entrepreneurial skills leave graduates better prepared to enter today's workforce and solve the complex challenges raised by the pandemic.

The entrepreneurial mindset is defined as the inclination to discover, evaluate and exploit opportunities. For example, an employee with an entrepreneurial mindset might recommend ideas to improve a company's general cost savings, or focus on improvements related to quality, productivity or safety.

Entrepreneurial training has long helped graduates succeed in business and technology. The University of Michigan was one of the first to offer a course in entrepreneurship as early as 1927. However, the real growth in entrepreneurial education began in the 1970s, despite being in the midst of an economic downturn.

In 1975, there were only about 100 college majors, minors or certificates in entrepreneurship throughout the United States. Today, more than 3,000 colleges and universities throughout the world have courses and programs related to entrepreneurship.

In these courses, students learn how to validate a business model, interview potential customers and pitch an idea to investors and decision-makers. The goal is to learn how to identify the intersection between meeting customer desires and optimizing their own business capabilities.

Such training works.

Research shows that developing behaviors linked with entrepreneurial thinking is valuable, if not vital, for long-term business success. Entrepreneurship training helps students to better communicate, collaborate and solve problems. In short, it allows students to better understand and implement activities that generate value within and across organizations.

And yet, despite these benefits, most universities offer entrepreneurial education simply as an option for students specifically interested in business.

However, an entrepreneurial approach to curriculum could benefit all courses and university majors.

Take, for example, engineering majors.

Typically, a company's marketing department will study consumer trends to identify products and needs. The marketing department then expects engineers to obey their orders without questioning the problem at hand.

But entrepreneurially minded engineers could be involved in the process from the beginning. This is what we explored in our previous book, which focused on how to integrate engineering and entrepreneurship education. Being able to help identify problems and recognize new opportunities leaves engineers better prepared to identify and solve problems that arise while designing certain products.

Within the liberal arts and humanities, design and media majors can also develop their entrepreneurial mindsets in order to be better prepared for entering the gig economy as independent contractors.

For example, photographers, book illustrators and graphic designers can be trained not just on how to make great art according to theory and books, but how to sell great art.

The pandemic highlighted the importance of entrepreneurial training in the health sciences. Nurses and hospital staffs provided design insights and practical feedback to increase mask and ventilator production. They then worked to develop efficient COVID-19 testing and vaccination processes. The result? Many lives saved.

We believe it's time to integrate the entrepreneurial mindset across the university – and truly prepare students to succeed in the post-pandemic world.

[Abridged]

CHINA FINES TECH GIANTS OVER
ANTI-MONOPOLY VIOLATIONS

THE
BUZZ

Chinese tech giants including Alibaba Group and Tencent Holdings were fined this weekend for failing to report corporate acquisitions, adding to an anti-monopoly crackdown by the ruling Communist Party.

The companies failed to report 43 acquisitions that occurred up to eight years ago under rules on "operating concentration," according to the State Administration for Market Regulation. Each violation carried a penalty of 500,000 yuan (\$80,000), it said.

Beijing has launched anti-monopoly, data security and other crackdowns on tech companies since late 2020. The ruling party

worries the companies have too much control over their industries and has warned them not to use their dominance to gouge consumers or block entry to new competitors.

Other companies fined in the latest round of penalties include online retailers JD.com Inc. and Suning Ltd. and search engine operator Baidu Inc.

Alibaba, the world's biggest e-commerce company by sales volume, was fined \$2.8 billion in April for practices that regulators said suppressed competition. Meituan, a food delivery platform, was fined \$534 million on Oct. 8.

AP PHOTO



MANCHESTER UNITED
FIRES MANAGER OLE
GUNNAR SOLSKJAER

ROB HARRIS, LONDON

MANCHESTER United fired Ole Gunnar Solskjaer after three years as manager yesterday after a fifth loss in seven Premier League games.

"Ole will always be a legend at Manchester United and it is with regret that we have reached this difficult decision," United said a day after a 4-1 loss to Watford.

Former midfielder Michael Carrick, who was on Solskjaer's coaching staff will be in temporary charge, starting with a trip to Spain for a Champions League match at Villarreal in the group stage on Monday. United said it would look to then appoint a manager only until the end of the season.

Solskjaer's future has hung in the balance before but he has finally lost his job at the club where he was adored as a player, notably for scoring the dramatic late winner in the 1999 Champions League final. He couldn't replicate that success as a manager, failing to win a single trophy.

"While the past few weeks have been disappointing, they should not obscure all the work he has done over the past three years to rebuild the foundations for long-term success," United said. "Ole leaves with our sincerest

thanks for his tireless efforts as manager and our very best wishes for the future.

"His place in the club's history will always be secure, not just for his story as a player, but as a great man and a manager who gave us many great moments. He will forever be welcome back at Old Trafford as part of the Manchester United family."

Coming after chastening losses to fierce rivals Liverpool (5-0) and Manchester City (2-0) in the last month, Solskjaer said he was "embarrassed" after United's lackluster performance at Watford but insisted after the game he still could turn things around at the club.

Recent results suggested otherwise. The team is seventh in the Premier League, already 12 points behind leader Chelsea after 12 games.

That's far from good enough for a team that finished second last season and was supposed to challenge for the title after adding superstar Cristiano Ronaldo in the offseason along with the \$100-million signing of England international Jadon Sancho.

Solskjaer, who played for United from 1996-2007 under Alex Ferguson, was hired as caretaker manager to replace Jose Mourinho in Decem-

ber 2018 and was handed the job permanently after a promising start at Old Trafford, having rediscovered some of the team's attacking verve and bringing calmness after a toxic ending to Mourinho's tenure.

United finished third and second in the last two seasons in the Premier League, suggesting the team was heading in the right direction under Solskjaer. However, the regression has been stark this season and he leaves as a nostalgia appointment gone wrong, his tactical limitations clearly apparent and the team's inconsistent performances leading to ever-present doubts among some fans and critics about his pedigree as a manager.

Those doubts only grew louder in recent weeks — especially after the collapse at Watford.

The Norwegian had been able to ride out previous stretches of underperformance, in part because of his popularity with fans as a former striker who took on legendary status because of his ability to come off the bench to score crucial winners.

But even the traveling United fans seemed to turn against him when he came over to applaud them after the Watford game. MDT/AP

Israel is set to sign a declaration of intent with neighboring Jordan on building a major solar power plant in the kingdom that will be used to generate electricity for Israel, as well as power a desalination plant there to send water onto Jordan. The deal will be signed in the United Arab Emirates today between the two countries' energy ministers, said Eyal Hulata, Israeli national security adviser.

AP PHOTO



Austria Tens of thousands of protesters, many from far-right groups, marched through Vienna on Saturday after the Austrian government announced a nationwide lockdown beginning today to contain skyrocketing coronavirus infections. Demonstrations against virus restrictions also took place in Switzerland, Croatia, Italy, Northern Ireland and the Netherlands on Saturday, a day after Dutch police opened fire on protesters and seven people were injured in rioting that erupted in Rotterdam.

AP PHOTO



French authorities are sending police special forces to the Caribbean island of Guadeloupe, an overseas territory of France, as protests over COVID-19 restrictions erupted into rioting. Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin denounced "unacceptable" violence in an interview with Le Parisien newspaper that was published yesterday. He said that 50 officers from police special forces are due to arrive in Guadeloupe. They come in addition to 200 other police sent to the Caribbean island from France's mainland.

Venezuela Thousands of Venezuelan musicians, most of them children and adolescents, have earned the title of the world's largest orchestra. The record was set by 8,573 musicians. Guinness World Records in a video released Saturday announced that the musicians, all connected to the country's network of youth orchestras, earned the designation with a performance a week earlier of Tchaikovsky's "Slavonic March."