



### 'RAW FOOD, FITNESS RETREAT'

Two local companies known for promoting a vegan lifestyle are set to hold a full-day "wellness raw food and fitness retreat"

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### TRIAL POSTPONEMENT REQUESTED

Ho Iat Seng wrote to the First Instance Court requesting the postponement of the trial involving lawmaker Sulu Sou

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### NEW LOGO FOR JAPAN PROJECTS REVEALED

"Entertainment is our DNA," Edward Tracy said as Hard Rock upped the ante at a sold-out Yokohama concert

P11 GAMING

WED. 15  
Nov 2017

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N. 2927  
MOP 7.50  
HKD 9.50

# MacauDaily 澳門每日時報

# Times

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

## WORLD BRIEFS



**MYANMAR** Myanmar's military issued its most forceful denial yet that security forces committed atrocities during "clearance operations" in the west of the country. The report contradicts consistent statements from ethnic Rohingya Muslim refugees now in Bangladesh who have described massacres, rape, looting and the burning of hundreds of villages by Myanmar's army and civilian mobs.

**KOREA** Four North Korean soldiers fired about 40 rounds at a comrade fleeing into South Korea and hit him five times in the first shooting at the jointly controlled area of the heavily fortified border in more than 30 years, the South's military said yesterday. [More on p13](#)



**IRAN-IRAQ** Rescuers yesterday used backhoes and heavy equipment to dig through the debris of buildings toppled by a powerful earthquake on the border between Iran and Iraq that killed over 530 people, with weeping women crying out to God as aid workers found new bodies.

**SAUDI ARABIA** The United Nations says there's "no indication" a Saudi-led coalition fighting Yemen's Shiite rebels is lifting its blockade of Yemeni airports and sea ports as it announced the previous day.

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## POLICY ADDRESS

# Slight increase in welfare subsidies

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RENATO MARQUES



## GAMING

# Regulator says junkets scrutiny to be increased

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GP SUPPLEMENT INSIDE

GT FIAT WORLD CUP

FIRST ALL-PRO FIELD EVER



Guilherme and Cintia Martins, founders of Mana Vida

## LIFESTYLE

# Enthusiasts to hold first 'raw food, fitness retreat'

Lynzy Valles

**T**WO local companies known for promoting a healthy, vegan lifestyle are set to hold their first full-day "wellness raw food and

fitness retreat" at One Oasis on Sunday from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Rawlicious and Mana Vida collaborated to work on "Raw Vida." The event will consist of many fitness activities,

where participants will learn how to prepare raw vegan food and gain tips on conducting a healthy lifestyle.

Cintia Martins, co-founder of Mana Vida explained to the Times that "Raw Vida"

aims to promote a healthier lifestyle, disseminating raw food options and encouraging its participants to prepare their own meals rather than dining out.

"We came up with this idea of doing a special retreat where people can have a break from the real world. [So] they come and have a good time [learning about] fitness and nutrition," said Martins.

According to Martins, who is also a personal trainer, locals are now more aware of the food they eat, adding that a number of residents are becoming intolerant to particular ingredients or animal-sourced food.

Noting that a vegan lifestyle is more popular in the neighboring SAR, the fitness enthusiast noted that the event hopes to encourage residents to see nutrition in a different way.

"This is a vegan event, it's a little bit promoting the vegan lifestyle. [...] We're trying to make it clean as possible so it's a gluten-free event," said Martins.

"Not that they have to incorporate this a hundred percent, but this is an option and we want to show residents that we do this in Macau and people can start looking for us to find more activities and opportunities to learn about this lifestyle," the co-

organizer added.

Practicing a vegan lifestyle in the city remains a challenge, as products are significantly more expensive than low-fat commodities; the limited availability of vegan products is also an issue.

Raw Vida is also addressing the issue through the help of Blissful Carrot, who along with co-organizer Rawlicious will hold meal preparation sessions and seminars. "[The vegan diet] is something that if you don't know how to do it in Macau, it could be very expensive and discouraging so [Raw Vida] is a way for us to open their eyes and encourage them that they can do it," said Martins, who also incorporates vegan foods in her lifestyle.

Meanwhile, Raw Vida is also looking at holding other retreats and workshops that aim to encourage the public to practice a healthier lifestyle in terms of their nutrition intake and fitness activities.

According to Martins, they are also looking at working with other related firms to expand their community.

"We want to be part of something where the community can come and see options," said the co-organizer. "We don't want to show ourselves as the only option but put companies together and motivate people," she concluded.

## HERITAGE

# Tin Hau Temple fire alarm incident draws attention of IC

**A** fire alarm was triggered at the Tin Hau Temple yesterday morning, however no damages have been recorded in the temple itself, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) said in a press release issued yesterday.

Yesterday, around 9 a.m., the IC received a notification from the Fire Services Bureau about the incident. According to the Fire Bureau, the alarm was triggered by a fire in a tin-roofed area near to the temple.

The IC later confirmed that both the Tin Hau and the

Kuan Yam temples, which is behind the Tin Hau temple, were not involved in the fire, however, several spots inside the Tin Hau Temple were blackened by the smoke. No injuries were recorded.

At the time of printing, the Fire Services were still investigating the cause of the fire.

Due to the damages caused by Typhoon Hato, the IC has been carrying out a series of restoration works at the Tin Hau Temple, including repairing its roof and Buddhist library, as well as the power supply.

"We think this is indeed a

serious case. We said it many times before and we have also required the protection of these cultural relics to be done well," said IC President Leung Hio Meng.

Following yesterday's incident, the IC pledged that it will implement five additional prevention measures. It also requested all temple owners and users to try their best to manage cultural relics responsibly.

According to an inscription found at the site, the area was converted into a temple in 1865, and later restored in 1987.

## CRIME

# HK men arrested for 2015 rape and robbery case

**T**WO Hong Kong men have been arrested for a rape and robbery case which took place two years ago, the Judiciary Police (PJ) reported this week.

On August 14, 2015, a then 24-year-old mainland woman, through chatting on a mobile app, agreed to meet with a Hong Kong man, who was a stranger to her, in a hotel room in Macau.

Upon her arrival, four men, inclu-

ding the stranger, showed up at the hotel room with clear intentions to rape the mainland victim.

The woman struggled aggressively in self-defence, however she was beaten and forced to practice sexual acts on one of the four suspects. The four men stole two phones and cash from the victim and left the scene.

One of the four suspects was caught right after the police received reports of the case.

The remaining three men returned to Hong Kong safely after having committed the crime.

Only last Thursday were two of the other men arrested by PSP, while they were crossing the border checkpoints at the Macau Ferry Terminal. They are Hong Kong residents, aged 35 and 34 years old, working as cleaners and waiters in Hong Kong. Both have admitted to their crimes.

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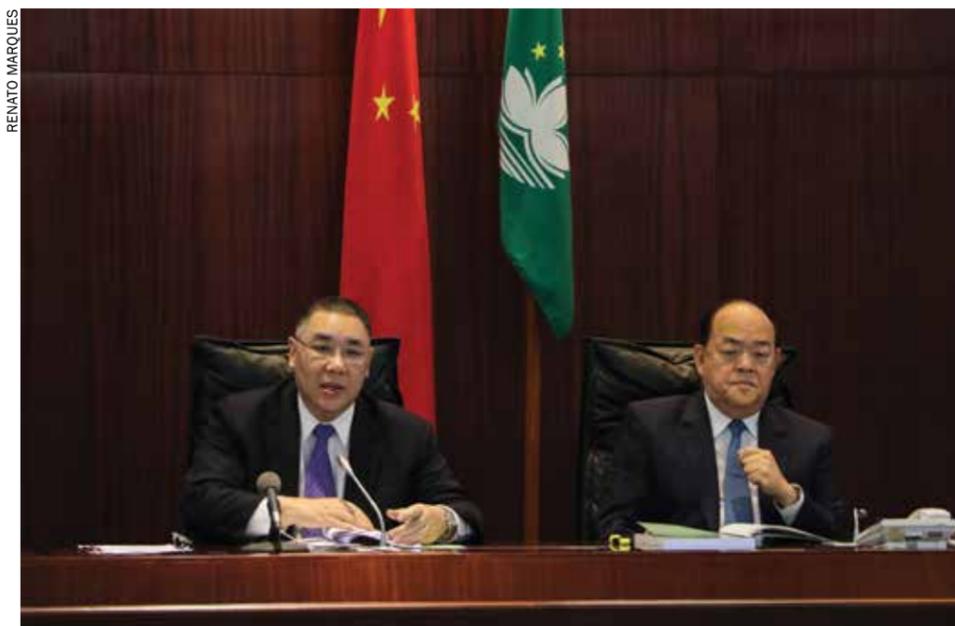
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Chui Sai On (left) and Ho Iat Seng



Lawmakers attend the CE speech

# Social measures highlighted in 2018 Policy Address

Renato Marques

**T**HE Chief Executive (CE), Chui Sai On, went yesterday to the Legislative Assembly (AL) to present the government's Policy Address for 2018. There he extracted and highlighted specific social policies in an extensive report that otherwise contained few concrete measures. The CE dedicated more time to highlighting these social policies than that of other areas, listing a large number of measures that have been enforced already, some of them for several years. As novelties, Chui noted the significant increase to the birth grant that will increase from MOP1,700 to MOP5,000.

At the same time, the annual subsidy for senior citizens registered an increase of MOP1,000, reaching MOP9,000, while the elderly allowance remained unchanged at MOP3,450.

The salaries of the civil servants were also increased by 2.4 percent with the salary in-

dex moving from MOP83 to MOP85, representative of the smallest increase in the last six years. The CE said that the proposal had already been delivered to the AL, and is expected to enter into force from January 2018.

Questioned on this matter during a press conference at the government's headquarters following the AL presentation, the CE replied that the government had made the calculations "according to the reality," after consulting several entities.

Unchanged were also several other subsidies including in the Wealth Partaking Scheme from the government, where the annual cheque amount conceded to permanent and non-permanent residents will remain for the second year in a row at MOP9,000 and MOP5,400 respectively. The MOP600 medical voucher provision and the MOP6,000 Continuing Education plan for residents will also both remain unchanged next year.

A new subsidy will be introduced for Macau students receiving primary and secondary-level education in Guangdong Province amounting to MOP6,000, while the subsidy for those studying in the province at kindergarten-level will be updated to MOP8,000.

## ■ The gov't will spend MOP12.89b on public subsidies next year

Regarding tax relief measures, the government announced the return of the personal income tax rebate scheme, which will remain at 60 percent but have its ceiling raised to a maximum of MOP14,000.

The government will also continue to inject MOP10,000 of seed capital into the Central Provident Fund savings account

of every eligible resident, as well as an additional MOP7,000 each from the fiscal surplus.

Chui clarified that all of these welfare measures will cost the government an amount close to MOP12.89 billion.

He said the government was cautiously optimistic about Macau's economic outlook and anticipated the economy would continue growing next year.

Questioned on this matter during the press conference and more specifically on the gaming revenue forecast that surpassed expectations for 2017, the CE predicted the sector to record a total revenue of MOP230 billion this year.

Remarking on the impetus behind the growth, the CE noted, "the tourism sector has been growing and the gaming sector grows in consequence."

In the area of economy and administration, Chui said at the policy address that the government would aim to foster stable economic development and a deepening of public administration reform.

This should be achieved through a bet on the non-gaming sector, he said, and specifically on the development of the convention and exhibition industry and the cultural and creative industries, as well as enhancing regional exchanges and cooperation.

The CE also suggested that the exhibition and convention sector should use this opportunity to promote local culture and heritage sites and the participation of local SMEs in the process.

Another of the areas of consideration is the financial sector, which Chui said had its "own characteristics." The CE said the government would

actively develop specialized financial businesses focusing on two major areas: financial leasing and wealth management. On the other hand, the government will encourage SMEs to adopt innovative business models, and enhance cooperation with e-commerce operators in mainland China to build a foundation for exploring e-commerce markets in Portuguese-speaking countries.

Addressing the lack of manpower required by SMEs and the regulations for imported labor, the chief executive said the government will actively promote vocational training in order to enhance local residents' vocational skills, employment competitiveness and entrepreneurship. He said that employment policies will always focus on facilitating better career development for local residents.

To this end, amendments to the Labor Relations Law, the regulations for part-time employment and minimum wage have been included in the proposals for legislation for 2018 and 2019.

On the issue of administration reforms, the CE noted the government is advancing a responsibility regime for high ranked officials. He said that the government "is already in possession of an evaluation made by a third party entity," adding, "we already started the revision but we want to reinforce on this matter."

Questioned on the gaming concessions license renewals - more specifically on the fact that the topic was not overtly mentioned in the policy address - the CE said, "I have already publically [spoken] on this matter. We have been working together with the [gaming] sector and the process is being conducted. We don't have yet many novelties to announce."

The CE continues with the Policy Address today, when he will be at the AL for the second consecutive day to answer lawmakers' questions.

## CE hopes to see the Islands Hospital

**T**HE Chief Executive (CE), Chui Sai On, said yesterday during the press conference that he still expects to see the Islands Health Service Complex (Islands Hospital) completed before his mandate ends.

His expectation was shared following a media enquiry on the progress of the complex's development.

According to the CE, "we have information from the Health Bureau [stating] that about 40 percent of the work is done. In 2019 I hope to see the building almost done. I would like to see it [completed] before the end of my mandate."

Another infrastructure topic touched upon by Chui was public housing, which has suffered a reduction in the number of units to be built as stated in this year's policy address,

The CE explained that the government "plays by the same rules as everyone else," noting that the former estimates proved too ambitious after pertinent analysis by the Urban Planning Committee and environmental assessments.

On the topic he added that he expects Zone A of the new landfills to be ready by the end of this year, sharing his hopes that during 2019, "we can be opening the tender again for social housing on zone A."

## GAMING

# Scrutiny of junkets to be increased as VIP business thrives

MACAU regulators are heightening their scrutiny of gaming promoters that bring in high-stakes players to casinos, amid an increase of VIP visitors to the region.

The local government plans to tighten standards for junket operators beginning in January when they review applications for new and renewed licenses, according to Paulo Martins Chan, director of the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau. The moves come as business in the world's biggest gaming hub is booming, with VIP gamblers helping to drive a rebound that saw casino revenue climb to a three-year high in October.

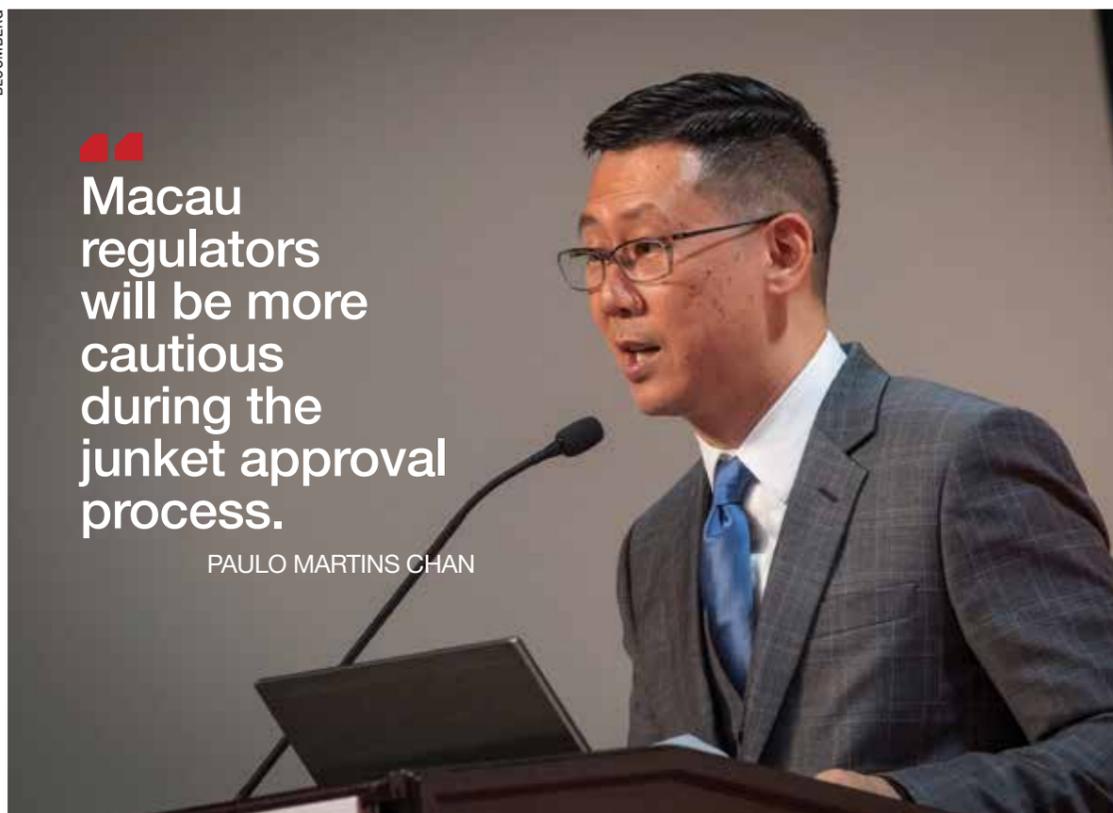
"The government will review and strengthen the gaming rules," Chief Executive Chui Sai On said in his annual policy address yesterday. "The government will also regulate junket operations, promote responsible gaming and boost the Macau casino industry's competitiveness."

Macau has an uneasy relationship with the junket businesses that bring in mostly Chinese high-stakes players. Though the high-roller business has been girding the casino industry's rebound, the Macau government reiterated its call for operators to increase non-gaming revenue and to expand offerings to appeal to casual gamblers and tourists.

BLOMBERG

Macau regulators will be more cautious during the junket approval process.

PAULO MARTINS CHAN



"When the market gets better, more people are eager to come back and do business, but Macau regulators will be more cautious during the junket approval process," Chan said in a briefing in Macau yesterday.

He said the Macau gaming regulator has conducted several reviews this year on junket promoters to examine whether they have strictly adhered to government requirements and

established a sound financial accounting system. Last year, the government announced plans to increase supervision of the junkets and raise capital requirements.

Stronger oversight may not be a bad thing, according to Bloomberg Intelligence analyst Margaret Huang, because it allows the larger junkets to target better quality players from China.

"Operators would also strive to better compete in this market by delivering higher quality, luxury facilities and amenities to cater to this business segment," Huang said.

Macau is the only place in China that allows casinos, and tightened regulations also reflect Beijing's drive to stanch capital outflows, some of which make their way to the territory. Across Macau this year, the go-

vernment deployed ATM-machines with facial recognition software to verify identities and help monitor transactions for those using Chinese bank cards. As a result, the ATMs have seen a decrease in the number of withdrawals and transaction value, according to an Apple Daily report this week.

The ATM rules followed a ban last year that prohibits proxy betting by telephone aimed at curbing bets from gamblers in China.

Macau has also stepped up its screening of visitors. More than 250 people have been banned from entering casinos this year due to illegal activities such as theft and improper use of phones, Chan said.

The regulations could pose a risk to the 15-month growth streak in gaming receipts, while any slowdown in the Chinese economy could also present a challenge. Data on Tuesday showed China's economic expansion dialed back a notch in October. Still, the world's second-largest economy is on track for its first full-year acceleration in seven years.

Analysts see Macau benefiting from increased integration with the mainland. Completion of infrastructure projects including a cross-bay bridge linking Hong Kong, Zhuhai and Macau are expected to draw more visitors.

The Bloomberg Intelligence index of Macau casino stocks declined 0.5 percent yesterday, retreating for a third day after touching a more than two-year high last week. MGM China Holdings Ltd. dropped 1.7 percent in Hong Kong trading, while Wynn Macau Ltd. slipped 0.2 percent. **MDT/Bloomberg**

## 250 people added to DICJ's casino entry blacklist

TWO hundred and fifty people have been banned from entering Macau casinos, the Director of the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) Paulo Martins Chan said yesterday, on the sidelines of the opening ceremony of the MGS Entertainment Show and Summit.

"[I] do not have official statistics, but Macau residents are not in the majority," said Chan.

At the end of last year, DICJ once again implemented measures to ban specific people from entering casinos.

"They [the banned people] engaged in erroneous behaviors, and practiced semi-public crimes. A few victims did not report them, which leaves

nothing to do in terms of criminal procedures. These [misbehaving people] repeatedly do such things as stealing small casino chips, which is disruptive to the casinos' orders [function]," said Chan, adding that these are the main reasons why DICJ re-initiated the practice of banning miscreants.

The DICJ director also noted that the bureau is trying to conclude a report on the consultation of laws regarding requirements for entry to casinos and for working in the gaming sector.

"We are still sorting out the opinions; we will write a report later. [...] We hope to have a report before the end of this year," announced Chan.

When speaking about this year's casino gross gaming revenue (GGR) increase, as well as that of next year, Chan said "the increase of the GGR is not our most fundamental job. We mostly supervise. But we hope that we can provide the best commercial environment, which can lead tourists to feel secure, and the world to be confident [in us]," said Chan.

DICJ, together with gaming operator executives, agreed on establishing an emergency mechanism to deal with risks and crises such as typhoons.

According to Chan, the mechanism has been proved successful following its implementation after the deadly typhoon Hato hit the city.

"Regarding security, we [DICJ and casino executives] had several meetings. DICJ ordered them to purchase some equipment to be [put] in place consistently, and to be installed soon," explained Chan, adding that the equipment consists mainly of "communication facilities and human resources."

The DICJ head also informed that the government is preparing an anti-terrorism drill. However, since the drill will be organized through the police force, Chan did not disclose more information regarding it.

In relation to gaming table applications, Chan reaffirmed "we reiterate that any application for gaming tables must

be submitted by the six gaming operators. Until now, no gaming operator has submitted an application," said Chan.

When asked if DICJ will enhance supervision over junket promoters, Chan responded: "Actually, we

have been paying much attention to the supervision of junket promoters for the past two years, aside from several regulations [...]. Overall, we hope the entire industry can have a healthy development." **JZ**

### MGS OPENS 3-DAY EXHIBITION AND SUMMIT

**THE 2017** MGS Entertainment Show and Summit kicked off yesterday morning with its opening ceremony at The Venetian Macao. MGS organizer Jay Chun, Chairman of the Macau Gaming Equipment Manufacturers Association (MGEMA), delivering the welcoming speech to the more than 300 guests in attendance. "The theme of this year's show

is the Smart City, and we have many smart-city technologies displayed on the show floor – robotics, video surveillance, cloud computing, and mobile software applications. It is our goal to help pave the way for entrepreneurs who are coming up with innovative ideas that will change entertainment and everyday life for all of us," Jay Chun said.

(TRANSLATED VERSION)

# Highlights of Policy Address for the Fiscal Year 2018 of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR)

## Be pragmatic yet enterprising, and share the fruits of development

In 2017, the Government leveraged the advantages of "One country, two systems" to overcome challenges; facilitated a gradual economic rebound; continued perfecting laws and regulations; consistently improved people's livelihoods; and maintained solid public finances, to sustain a stable foundation for the development of society.

In the coming year, the Government will seize the opportunities of the new age with confidence and courage, and work hard to deliver results, to realise the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation, and strive harder to achieve the long-term prosperity and stability of Macao.



### All Macao residents

#### Individual accounts of the Central Provident Fund

Start-up fund of 10,000 patacas (for eligible residents)  
Additional fund injection of 7,000 patacas (for eligible residents)

#### Wealth Partaking Scheme

9,000 patacas (permanent residents)  
5,400 patacas (non-permanent residents)

#### Healthcare voucher (validity extended)

600 patacas per person (permanent residents)

#### Birth allowance

Increase to 5,000 patacas ↑ (both parents may apply at the same time)

#### Continuing Education Programme (Phase 3)

Maximum 6,000 patacas per person

#### Electricity bill subsidy for residential units

200 patacas per month (each residential unit)

#### Water tariff subsidy for residential units

Ongoing

#### Bus fare concessions for the elderly, students, people with disabilities, and other members of the public

Ongoing

#### Real estate tax

Deduction of first 3,500 patacas of tax (Macao residents)

#### Waiver of real estate stamp duty

First three million patacas of a residential unit's value (Macao permanent residents purchasing residential properties for the first time)



### The elderly

#### Old age allowance

Increase to 9,000 patacas per year ↑

#### Pension

3,450 patacas per month

#### Overview of elderly benefits

Old age allowance: 9,000 patacas ↑  
Pension: 3,450 patacas x 13 months  
Wealth Partaking: 9,000 patacas  
Additional fund injection to individual accounts of the Central Provident Fund: 7,000 patacas

**Total benefits received per year: 69,850 patacas ↑**  
**(Benefits received per month: approx. 5,820 patacas)**  
Healthcare voucher: 600 patacas



### Students

#### Non-tertiary education: Textbook allowance

Increase to 3,300 patacas per school year (each secondary school student) ↑

Increase to 2,800 patacas per school year (each primary school student) ↑

Increase to 2,200 patacas per school year (each kindergarten pupil) ↑

#### Students from families with financial difficulties

Tuition fee subsidies:

9,000 patacas per school year (each senior secondary school student)

6,000 patacas per school year (each junior secondary school student)

4,000 patacas per school year (each kindergarten or pupil or primary school student)

Meal allowance: Increase to 3,600 patacas per school year ↑

Stationery allowance:

Increase to 3,100 patacas per school year (each secondary school student) ↑

Increase to 2,400 patacas per school year (each kindergarten pupil or primary school student) ↑

#### Tertiary education: Study allowance

3,000 patacas (Macao residents)

#### Tuition fee subsidies for Macao students studying in Guangdong

Increase to 6,000 patacas per school year (each senior secondary school student) ↑

6,000 patacas per school year (each junior secondary school student) ↑

6,000 patacas per school year (each primary school student) ↑

Increase to 8,000 patacas per school year (each kindergarten pupil) ↑



### Disadvantaged families

#### Minimum subsistence index

4,050 patacas per one-person household

#### Financial assistance

Disburse an additional month of financial assistance to eligible families

#### Special subsidy for three categories of disadvantaged families

Ongoing

#### Special living allowance under the Social Inclusion Scheme

Ongoing

#### Short-term Food Assistance Programme

Ongoing

#### Public housing tenants

Implement rent waiver

#### Temporary housing subsidies for eligible families on the waiting list for public housing

Ongoing

#### Subsidy for low-income, full-time employees

Up to 5,000 patacas per month

#### Positive Life Programme and the Community Employment Assistance Scheme

Ongoing



### People with disabilities

#### Disability gratuity

8,000 patacas per year (ordinary)

16,000 patacas per year (special)

#### Temporary disability allowance

3,450 patacas per month

#### Subsidy for eligible employees with disabilities

Up to 5,000 patacas per month

#### Employers hiring people with disabilities

A tax deduction of up to 5,000 patacas on profit tax or personal income tax per employee with disabilities



### Employed citizens / middle-income class

#### Personal income tax

Continue with the 30 percent reduction in personal income tax, with the basic allowance set at 144,000 patacas

#### Extra tax rebate

An additional 60 percent rebate of the personal income tax paid by each tax-paying Macao resident, subject to a ceiling increased to 14,000 patacas ↑ (rebates to be received in 2019)



### Business owners and related persons

Profit tax allowance remains at 600,000 patacas per year

Continue providing waivers of all business taxes, hawkers licence fees, wet market stall rents, inspection and quarantine fees for live food, and stamp duty on life insurance, other insurance and bank service charges

Provide waivers of signboard fees for businesses, and exemption from tourism tax for restaurants

Provide waivers of stamp duty on entrance passes and tickets for cultural and arts performances, exhibitions and entertainment programmes

Provide waivers of stamp duty for auction activities ↑



### Post-typhoon emergency relief measures

Reduction or waiver of motor vehicle tax for purchase of a new vehicle to replace the one damaged by Typhoon Hato, in accordance with the proportion of the upper limit, with total tax reductions or waivers estimated at 227 million patacas

(TRANSLATED VERSION)

# Highlights of Policy Address for the Fiscal Year 2018 of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR)

## Continue Perfecting the Five Long-term Mechanisms for People's Well-being

### Liveable City

- Commence compilation of the draft of the Urban Development Master Plan
- Complete formulation of the Medium-to-long-term Plan for Usage and Development of the Waters of the Macao Special Administrative Region (2016-2036)



### "Post-19,000 units" public housing

New Urban Zone A	Complete 28,000 public housing units in four phases The draft plan for 7,000 units of phase one is currently being formulated
Avenida Wai Long, Taipa	Estimated to provide about 6,500 public housing units
Original site of the power station	Estimated to provide about 1,000 public housing units
Western stretch of Avenida dos Jogos da Ásia Oriental, Taipa	Estimated to provide about 2,000 public housing units

- Resumed application for public housing; and application for Home-Ownership Scheme housing is anticipated to be resumed in the coming two years
- Construct a new transport and community facility complex in Seac Pai Van
- Expedite building plan approvals for private residential developments

### Healthy City and Family-friendly Measures



- Perfect food safety inspection
- Facilitate establishment of the System for Professional Qualification and Licensing for Medical Workers
- Commence operation of the Bairro da Ilha Verde Health Centre
- Increase subsidised places for dementia day-care services
- Launch the Elderly Persons' Social Enterprise Scheme
- Promote the implementation of the General Guidelines on Design and Construction of Accessibility Facilities in the Macao SAR
- Launch a support scheme for mobility impaired residents living in old buildings
- Subsidised places in homes for the elderly increased to 2,300
- Attach importance to education and medical services for children with special needs
- Subsidised places for childcare services increased to 11,000

### Letting Macao Thrive through Education and Building Macao with Talent



- Tertiary Education System will come into effect by next year
- Implement an incentive scheme for talent cultivation and accreditation
- Launch youth programmes related to knowledge of national affairs, entrepreneurship and innovation in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and voluntary poverty alleviation services
- Enhance cultivation of talented people in technology and Portuguese language
- Establish Macao as a tourism education and training base

## Expedite Urban Development

### Emergency Response System and Public Security



- Establish a long-term mechanism for disaster prevention and mitigation
- Set up a department focused on civil protection and emergency response coordination
- Revise the by-law on weather warnings
- Improve the basic flood control and drainage facilities of the Inner Harbour, while the tender for construction of a new pump house is expected to be initiated in the first half of next year
- Establish a unified information release platform
- Commence formulation of a ten-year plan for disaster prevention and mitigation (2019-2028) next year
- Enhance anti-terrorism drills

### Smart City



- Initially complete and commence operations of the Government's cloud computing centre and big data platform
- Expand the coverage of wireless networks
- Support the development of a third-party electronic payment platform
- Expedite formulation of a long-term development plan for the telecommunication industry
- Encourage development of smart city mobile apps

### Accessible City



- Spare no effort in the overall facility renewal of the Border Gate bus terminal
- Perfect the Inspection and Administration System for Road Facilities
- Develop new walking routes
- Commence full operations of 100 special taxis next year
- Expedite the establishment of an LRT operation company

### Environmental Protection



- Facilitate planning of the incineration centre's phase-3 expansion project
- Proceed with the optimisation and design of the basic facilities of Macao's sewage treatment system
- Plan to establish a centralised food waste processing facility
- Implement planning for tree replanting and maintenance

## Continue Promoting Stable Economic Development

### Gaming Industry



- Comprehensively review the laws and regulations on the gaming industry
- Encourage gaming operators to continue developing non-gaming businesses
- Support gaming enterprises with prioritising procurement of products and services that are designed and made in Macao
- Promote interactive development between gaming enterprises and local SMEs, long-established local shops and cultural and creative industries

# Highlights of Policy Address for the Fiscal Year 2018 of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR)

(TRANSLATED VERSION)

## Tourism

- Optimise monitoring and assessments of the tourism carrying capacity
- Develop smart tourism
- Explore and promote diverse tourism routes

## Nascent Industries



- Attract more professional and international branded conventions and exhibitions to be held in Macao
- Provide specific subsidies to support businesses with developing cultural and creative brands, such as for fashion designs, cultural performances, and publications
- Leverage the technological strengths of state key laboratories to transform original science and technology research results into traditional Chinese medicine products
- Actively develop specialised financial businesses focusing on financial leasing and wealth management

## SMEs

- Optimise the existing licensing scheme
- Strongly support re-branding of time-honoured shops
- Optimise the Young Entrepreneurs Aid Scheme

## Work-friendly City



- Promote diverse and practical middle-to-high-level vocational training
- Process non-resident employment application strictly according to the law
- Follow up regarding the amendments to the Labour Relations Law, prioritising the items related to paid paternity leave, overlapping leave and compensation leave

## Regional Cooperation



- Establish a department focusing on coordination of regional cooperation
- Leverage the coordination function of the Committee for Development of the Commercial and Trade Cooperation Service Platform Between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries
- Consolidate major cooperative projects in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and establish a multi-cultural exchange and cooperation base with an emphasis on Chinese culture
- Enhance facilitation of border crossings

## Deepen Public Administration Reform

## Public Administration



- Implement phase 2 functional restructuring involving 17 public departments
- Increase fully digitised public services
- Commence consultation on the second stage of revision of the Civil Servant Ranking System
- Optimise the promotion system for civil servants
- Review the accountability system for government officials

## System Establishment

- Commence legislative procedures for the establishment of a municipal organisation that is not an organ of political power
- Enhance rejuvenation and professionalism in consultation groups
- Commence amending the Judicial Organisation Framework Law, the Civil Procedural Code, and the Penal Code

## MACAO SAR BUDGET - REVENUE AND EXPENSES FOR 2018 OVERVIEW

REVENUE ITEMS	Proposed budget for 2018	REVENUE ITEMS	Proposed budget for 2018
<b>General integrated budget of public expenditure</b>			
<b>RECURRING REVENUE</b>	<b>104,603,955,100.00</b>	<b>CAPITAL REVENUE</b>	<b>3,430,631,300.00</b>
Direct tax	91,404,437,800.00	Disposal of investment assets	2,022,778,900.00
Indirect tax	4,730,072,200.00	Transfer	-
Fees, fine and other monetary penalties	1,593,248,300.00	Financial assets	388,601,900.00
Asset revenue	722,487,900.00	Other capital revenue	986,917,100.00
Transfer	4,766,744,000.00	Refunds not deducted from payments	32,333,400.00
Sale of durable items	2,154,600.00		
Sale of labour and non-durable items	1,266,979,100.00		
Other recurring revenue	117,831,200.00		
		<b>General integrated budget of public revenue</b>	<b>108,034,586,400.00</b>
<b>Revenue of special organisations</b>			
Statutory income and transfer from the MSAR budget	10,139,762,000.00	<b>Total revenue of special organisations</b>	<b>16,054,304,400.00</b>
Income from sales and provision of services	467,118,800.00		
Income from financial investments	5,352,412,900.00	Adjustment	4,918,946,800.00
Other income	95,010,700.00	<b>Grand total</b>	<b>119,169,944,000.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES ITEMS</b>	<b>Proposed budget for 2018</b>	<b>EXPENSES ITEMS</b>	<b>Proposed budget for 2018</b>
<b>General integrated budget of public expenditure</b>			
Macao SAR Government	20,520,700.00	Cartography and Cadastre Bureau	89,002,100.00
Office of the Chief Executive	307,365,400.00	Judiciary Police	1,008,229,100.00
Executive Council	33,444,500.00	Environmental Protection Bureau	361,844,600.00
Office of the Secretary for Administration and Justice	39,639,800.00	Legal Affairs Bureau	265,537,200.00
Office of the Secretary for Economy and Finance	55,034,600.00	Lands, Public Works and Transport Bureau	485,400,300.00
Office of the Secretary for Security	37,917,800.00	Sports Bureau	204,421,300.00
Office of the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture	86,035,100.00	Cultural Affairs Bureau	843,673,400.00
Office of the Secretary for Transport and Public Works	28,215,200.00	Investment projects	21,148,341,100.00
Macao Economic and Trade Office in Lisbon	13,386,600.00	Designated accounting items: designated appropriations, shared allocations and transfer budget	4,778,946,800.00
Macao Economic and Trade Office to the European Union in Brussels	4,919,100.00	Student Welfare Fund	394,487,000.00
Office of the Macao SAR in Beijing	22,595,500.00	Housing Loan Fund	43,128,100.00
Macao Economic and Trade Office to the World Trade Organization	13,217,700.00	Industrial and Commercial Development Fund	2,400,055,600.00
Office for Personal Data Protection	54,202,700.00	Tourism Fund	735,450,300.00
Infrastructure Development Office	65,920,800.00	Social Welfare Bureau	3,579,916,900.00
Office for Development of the Energy Sector	39,176,600.00	Judiciary Police Welfare Association	6,715,000.00
The Supporting Office to the Permanent Secretariat to the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries	114,389,600.00	Public Security Police Force Welfare Association	55,983,700.00
Financial Intelligence Office	39,496,800.00	Coifer of Legal Affairs	220,767,400.00
Transportation Infrastructure Office	601,115,500.00	Government Printing Bureau	138,112,000.00
The Macao SAR Government Policy Research Office	51,569,600.00	Correctional Fund	6,031,100.00
Macao Economic and Cultural Office in Taiwan	16,376,200.00	Housing Bureau	476,325,400.00
Protocol, Public Relations and External Affairs Office	76,253,400.00	Civil Aviation Authority	95,917,200.00
Talents Development Committee	13,450,200.00	Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute	689,775,100.00
Medical Incident Assessment Committee	13,426,700.00	Commission Against Corruption	357,638,700.00
Medical Dispute Arbitration Centre	3,207,000.00	Health Bureau	7,565,045,900.00
Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau	502,134,200.00	University of Macau	2,338,957,600.00
Education and Youth Affairs Bureau	6,505,000,100.00	Macao Polytechnic Institute	855,651,700.00
Statistics and Census Service	195,121,200.00	Sports Fund	812,929,700.00
Finance Services Bureau	510,184,400.00	Culture Fund	534,350,700.00
Pension and retirement compensation	9,321,000.00	Consumer Council	46,991,700.00
General expenses	23,014,197,300.00	Institute for Tourism Studies	427,573,800.00
Tertiary Education Services Office	247,819,400.00	Macao Public Administration Welfare Fund	50,976,100.00
Transport Bureau	1,872,906,400.00	Fire Services Welfare Association	7,393,100.00
Identification Bureau	346,034,400.00	Commission of Audit	188,888,900.00
Macao Economic Services	224,321,000.00	Office of the Public Prosecutor General	435,354,300.00
Correctional Service Bureau	617,478,000.00	Office of the President of the Court of Final Appeal	612,074,600.00
Macao Customs Service	941,170,300.00	Legislative Assembly	188,227,800.00
Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau	119,931,400.00	Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau	2,536,659,800.00
Macao Government Tourism Office	327,908,300.00	Customs Welfare Association	3,347,800.00
Government Information Bureau	134,119,400.00	Science and Technology Development Fund	228,051,000.00
Unitary Police Service	50,482,400.00	Marine and Water Bureau Welfare Association	2,445,000.00
Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau	297,723,400.00	Fisheries Development and Support Fund	90,015,000.00
Marine and Water Bureau	1,029,153,500.00	Property Maintenance Fund	73,624,200.00
Public Security Forces Affairs Bureau	5,264,742,000.00	Education Development Fund	817,399,400.00
Labour Affairs Bureau	493,038,000.00	Grant Panda Foundation	7,390,800.00
Judicial Council	613,300.00	Environmental Protection and Energy Conservation Fund	37,316,800.00
		Cultural Industry Fund	222,893,500.00
		Labour Creditor's Rights Protection Fund	188,003,600.00
		<b>General integrated budget of public expenditure</b>	<b>101,111,538,700.00</b>
<b>Expenditure of special organisations</b>			
Macao Post and Telecommunications Bureau	584,275,000.00	Macao Foundation	2,886,240,000.00
Postal Savings Office	44,359,000.00	Deposit Protection Fund	3,125,000.00
Macao Pension Fund	2,446,425,900.00		
Social Security Fund	4,758,192,700.00	<b>Total expenditure of special organisations</b>	<b>13,419,838,600.00</b>
Monetary Authority of Macao	2,688,937,000.00	Adjustments	4,918,946,800.00
Automobile and Maritime Security Fund	8,284,000.00	<b>Grand total</b>	<b>109,612,430,900.00</b>
<b>Budget balance &amp; estimated surplus for this year</b>			
Central budget balance	6,923,047,700.00	<b>Budget balance &amp; estimated surplus of the year</b>	<b>9,557,513,500.00</b>
Estimated surplus of special organisations	2,634,465,800.00	<b>Total expenditure, budget balance and estimated surplus of the year</b>	<b>119,169,944,000.00</b>

(TRANSLATED VERSION)

## Major Policies on Various Areas

### Administration and Justice

The administration and justice system will continue to diligently implement the basic principle of "One country, two systems", support the Government's development positioning regarding the establishment of "One Centre, One Platform, and One Base", actively align with our national Fifteenth Five-Year Plan and participate in the "Belt and Road" initiative to seize the development opportunities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. We will continue focusing on public administration and legal system reform, put improvement of people's livelihoods at the core, and facilitate the establishment of a corruption-free and efficient government, to create a liveable coastal city of international standard.

#### Public administration

- Continue implementing the second-phase administrative structural reform, draft the bill for the establishment of a municipal organisation that is not an organ of political power, commence the related legislative process, and progressively optimise the consultation system;
- Strive to implement the overall development of e-governance, optimise services workflows, improve the e-governance management system and related infrastructure, to enhance the efficiency of public administration;
- Gradually improve the civil service system, enhance civil servants' awareness of rule by law, knowledge of national affairs, and emergency response capability; and support the effective fulfilment of the Government's administrative plans and goals;
- Implement regular performance assessments, and commission a third-party academic institution to conduct assessments of the public service quality of government departments;
- Promote openness of government information and strengthen the operational capability of the Government Data Centre in line with big data application and smart city development; and
- Pursue various follow-up work regarding the Legislative Assembly Election in 2017, explore optimisation of the voter registration system, and enable citizens to better understand and participate in the MSAR's electoral affairs through multi-channel promotions.



Citizens vote in an orderly manner during the 6th Legislative Assembly Election

#### Legal affairs

- Strictly enforce the centralised coordinated legislative mechanism to fully oversee progress with planning annual legislative work, and follow up regarding the implementation of laws and regulations, to ensure smooth progress with legislation;
- Implement legislation, including the establishment of a municipal organisation that is not an organ of political power, and amendments to the "Five Codes", and continue with rectifying and adapting laws;
- Strengthen collaboration with community groups, to promote legal knowledge through an innovative and information-rich approach, with the aim of enhancing citizens' knowledge of the principle of "One country, two systems", the Constitution of the People's Republic of China, and the Basic Law of Macao; and
- Deepen mutual judicial assistance and cooperation with Portuguese-speaking countries and regions along the "Belt and Road", and comply with the Central People's Government's development plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area metropolis, to commence studies on the coordination and integration of administrative and legal systems and judicial cooperation between Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao.

#### People's Livelihoods

- Strengthen the food safety supervision mechanism, formulate food safety standards and guidelines, promote education on food safety and risks, and foster regional cooperation, to ensure food safety and healthy consumption through diverse approaches;
- Formulate short-, medium- and long-term re-greening, continue to improve the urban drainage system, and implement construction of rainwater interception drains and a rainwater pumping station in the Inner Harbour;
- Continue optimising the functional layout of community services, implement smart municipal services, improve municipal facilities, and expand services related to the people's well-being, to build a harmonious and inclusive community.

### Economy and Finance

Macao's economy has undergone a relatively deep adjustment, but still maintains its stability due to increased external and internal demands. Despite the heavy damage caused by Typhoon Hato, affected business operators and residents have been able to recover gradually and the overall economy remains stable through the joint efforts of all sectors. We will continue to stay vigilant regarding potential risks and crises, treasure our goal of achieving a fruitful outcome of development, expedite the development of "One Centre, One Platform", and promote adequate economic diversification, to broaden the horizons for development for businesses and citizens – especially the micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, professionals and young entrepreneurs, and share our economic achievements.

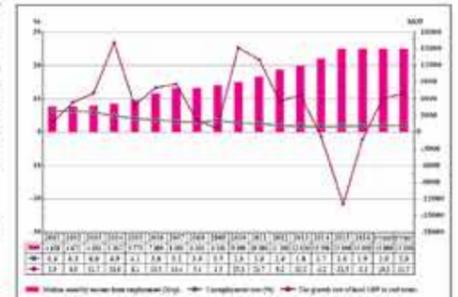
#### Consolidate Economic Foundation and Strengthen Momentum for Development

- Implement national policy and the MSAR's Five-year Development Plan, actively participate in the development of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area metropolis, support the realisation of the "Belt and Road" initiative, and expedite the establishment of "One Centre, One Platform";
- Focus on promotion of nascent industries, such as the convention and exhibition industry, traditional Chinese medicine industry and specialised financial industry, and expedite adequate economic diversification;
- Continue strengthening regulation of the gaming industry, and persist with the policy of "adequate scale, sound management and sustainable development";
- Align with the upgrading of CEPA, to support upgrading and transformation of the manufacturing industry and enhance the quality of development; and

- Strengthen the foundation for the establishment of a trade and economic cooperation services platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, seize the opportunities arising through relocation of the headquarters of the China-Portuguese-speaking Countries Cooperation and Development Fund to Macao, and the establishment of the China-Portuguese-speaking Countries Young Entrepreneur and Innovation Exchange Centre.

#### Facilitate Business Development and Safeguard Employment and People's Well-being

- Optimise vocational training, create diverse employment opportunities, and improve employment quality;
- Improve management of non-resident employees, strengthen occupational health and safety supervision, and protect labour rights;
- Encourage enhancement of the quality of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, and facilitate local procurement by large-scale enterprises to promote a community economy;
- Encourage young people to enhance employment and entrepreneurship competitiveness, and seize development opportunities;
- Strengthen "risk-based" regulation, and perfect the establishment of a legal system, to maintain safety and stability of the financial system;
- Enhance public finance administration in accordance with the Budget Framework Law; and
- Stabilise consumer prices and protect consumer rights.



The growth rate of local GDP in real terms, unemployment rate, and median monthly income (2001-2017)

### Public Security

According to the internal and external security situation, the security authorities of Macao will consider developing smart policing, to improve and renew various systems with more proactive strategies, optimise law enforcement and administrative deployment, deepen regional cooperation, enhance interactions between the police and the public, and foster development of the police culture, to gradually realise our vision of being a "Safe City".

#### Technology Application - Develop Proactive Law Enforcement Strategies

- Commence a study on the application of big data, for developing a smart policing model to enhance proactive law enforcement; and
- Establish a specialised anti-terrorism department, to improve the anti-terrorism system and enhance vigilance regarding and prevention of terrorism.

#### Comprehensive Review - Reform the Organisational Structure of Civil Protection

- Plan to establish the Civil Protection and Emergency Coordination Bureau, to strengthen responses to emergencies; and
- Improve disaster response coordination, and enhance awareness of potential risks and crises.



Planning to establish the Civil Protection and Emergency Coordination Bureau, and encouraging all communities to jointly prevent and overcome disasters

#### Perfect Deployment - Improve Overall Efficiency of Law Enforcement

- Enhance departmental synergy, to combat serious offences and new types of crime; and
- Implement comprehensive prevention measures, to maintain safety in society.

#### Innovation - Improve Legal System

- Expedite completion of the amendments to the General Rules for Disciplined Personnel of Security Forces of Macao; and
- Establish and improve an online security system, and enhance the establishment of a dangerous goods safety system.

#### Strengthened Management - Promote Modern Police Culture

- Establish a modernised policing model and continue maintaining strict discipline in the police force; and
- Strengthen the rigid management system and cultivate a healthy and diligent culture.

#### Integrated Relationships - Building a New Model for Cooperation

- Promote a new model for police cooperation, to combat cross-boundary crimes; and
- Enhance diverse publicity, to promote unity and cooperation between police and citizens.

#### Border Crossing Technology - Optimise Tourism City Image

- Implement a new border-crossing model, improve the standby border-crossing system, and ensure carrying capacity and ability to respond to malfunctioning; and
- Establish smart administration of Macao's waters, and plan to establish a quick reaction force, to strengthen maritime law enforcement.

#### Facilitating Rehabilitation - Establish a New Correctional Model

- Make good use of community power to facilitate social rehabilitation; and
- Increase uses of technology to strengthen prison supervision.

#### Fulfilling Responsibility - Support Youth Education

- Join hands with the community to cultivate crime prevention and crime fighting forces; and
- Commence inter-departmental cooperation to enhance the effectiveness of youth education.

(TRANSLATED VERSION)

## Major Policies on Various Areas

### Social Affairs and Culture

Departments responsible for social affairs and culture will make determined efforts to know the needs, address the concerns and relieve the difficulties of the people, put public health and safety as the first priority, and take preventive measures against potential risks and crises, to perfect the measures related to social affairs, culture, and people's livelihoods and welfare.

#### Healthcare

- Focus on the health of particular groups, and improve prevention and emergency response mechanisms, to ensure citizens' safety and health; and
- Strengthen primary healthcare, diagnosis and medical treatment services, and facilitate smart healthcare development, to build a happy home for everyone.

#### Education and Youth

- Establish the tertiary education system, optimise a quality assurance framework to guarantee the quality of higher education, and facilitate the establishment of a cradle for cultivating talented individuals who are bilingual in Chinese and Portuguese, and a base for tourism education;
- Implement education planning, expedite the development of teaching materials, expand the education and research platform, improve the education environment, and foster the development of moral education; and
- Implement the "Unity and Companionship" programme, to deepen people's experiences of loyalty to the country.

#### Social Work and Social Security

- Expand community collaboration, build happy and harmonious families, plan to optimise childcare services, and facilitate parent-child and youth-elderly harmony;
- Implement medium-term measures on elderly and rehabilitation services, strengthen services for dementia patients, and enhance home-care support for early treatment; and
- Increase subsidies for professional enhancement, optimise disaster response mechanisms, and facilitate the implementation of the non-mandatory central provident fund.

#### Tourism, Culture and Sports

- Strengthen synergy between tourism, culture and sports; and organise large-scale cultural, art and sports events that integrate with cultural and creative elements to promote culture, sports and gourmet products, to build Macao as a city of mega events and a centre for exchanges between Chinese and Portuguese cultures; and
- Promote smart tourism, improve the tourism environment, create a culture-enriched community, and expedite building of an international tourism city with more favourable conditions for living, work, transport, travel and entertainment.



The Government organises a series of activities with the theme "Macao - A Happy and Healthy Home", with the aim of building a healthy city.

### Transport and Public Works

Developing Macao as a world tourism and leisure centre is a positioning strategy of the Macao SAR Government. All policies related to transport and public works are implemented in this direction, to improve Macao's urban environment and people's livelihoods.

#### Urban Planning

- Complete the process for awarding the contract for the compilation of the Macao Urban Development Master Plan;
- Strive to commence the project to develop the fourth Macao-Taipa cross-harbour passage; and
- Establish a government-owned urban renewal corporation.

#### Public Works

- Establish an LRT operation company;
- Expedite construction of sluices at the Inner Harbour; and
- Expedite construction of the Macao section of the fourth raw water pipeline.



Macao border crossing area of Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge

#### Transport

- Proceed with renewing the contracts of three bus companies;
- Commence the public bidding process for 100 taxi licences and 100 special taxi licences; and
- Complete the replacement of all parking meters in Macao.

#### Housing

- Follow up regarding the draft amendment to the Home-Ownership Scheme Housing Law, and strive to submit the bill to the Legislative Assembly for deliberation;
- Allocate in advance and sell multiple-room housing units to qualified applicants, and follow up regarding the move-in arrangements of Bairro da Ilha Verde Building, Cheng Tou Building, Fai Ieng Building, and Iat Fai Building; and
- Follow up regarding the assessment of the newest batch of public housing applications, for announcement of the finalised list.

#### Environmental Protection

- Complete the Macao Sewage Treatment Facilities Master Plan and the Assessment of Macao's Overall Solid Waste Management System;
- Commence improvement of construction waste landfill soil, for the project to accommodate inert construction and demolition materials; and
- Strive to launch a scheme to subsidise equipment for the recycling industry.

### Commission Against Corruption

In 2018, the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) will continue to combat corruption with determined efforts, fulfil its function of handling complaints to the ombudsman, and implement the "Jointly Build a Corruption-free Macao" campaign.

#### Actions against Corruption

- The CCAC will continue to combat all kinds of corruption related crimes as usual, with special focus on the corrupt behaviour possibly derived from projects that involve significant interests of Macao society, and actively fulfil its steadfast anti-corruption mission;
- Summarise the results and difficulties experienced in law enforcement during the 6th Legislative Assembly Election, to lay a solid foundation for perfecting enforcement of laws against corruption during the ever-changing situation in future;
- Increase equipment and technical support, enhance flexibility in resources allocation, and continue to strengthen applications of technology for anti-corruption investigations, to deal with ever more digitised, covert corruption;
- Enhance the professional competence, accountability requirements and welfare and remuneration of the anti-corruption team; and enrich and deepen the computer forensics, criminal investigation and legal knowledge and skills of anti-corruption staff, to improve the overall standard of law enforcement; and
- Maintain closer contacts and more effective cooperation with the law enforcement authorities and officers of neighbouring countries and regions, to combat cross-boundary corruption.

#### Complaints to the Ombudsman

- Proactively conduct special investigations into issues of public concern related to public administration and public services, and provide recommendations for improvements;
- Implement the "Jointly Build a Corruption-free Macao" programme, to cooperate with public departments on preventing offences involving abuse of power and administrative irregularities;
- Through seminars or other channels, enable staff of private companies to understand the importance of corruption-free management with integrity; and
- Optimise internal management, improve the handling of complaints to the ombudsman, and effectively respond to public aspirations.

#### Publicity, Education and Community Relations

- Continue to implement integrity education amongst civil servants, and raise their awareness of self-discipline and law-abidance;
- Enhance promotion of the Law on Prevention and Suppression of Bribery in the Private Sector, to advocate governance with integrity in privately-owned businesses;
- Make use of new media and online platforms to advocate integrity, facilitating more efficient communication of messages; and
- Leverage the advantages of community offices to develop community relationships, and urge all walks of life to support and participate in building a corruption-free society.

### Commission of Audit

In 2018, the Commission of Audit (CA) will uphold the principles of objectivity, fairness and pragmatism, to exercise its authority in audit according to law, reflect problems, and step up efforts to fulfil its auditing and supervisory duties with the aim of implementing government policies and revealing waste or misallocation of public resources.

#### Audit and Computer-assisted Audit

- In accordance with the new Budget Framework Law, exercise proper deployment for the transition between the new and the old systems of Government budgets, to ensure synchronised audit arrangements; and
- Based on practical experience, deploy resources for the next phase of the audit system development plan, and consider using big data and enhancing data analyses to boost performance audits through improved technology and work arrangements.

#### Performance Audit, Special Audit and Follow-up Audit

- Enhance planning of various items, focusing on overall deployment of resources for the year, proper allocation of audit resources, and commence projects that assist the Government with preventing risks, fostering development and facilitating thorough implementation of policies.

#### Staff Training

- Maintain a positive attitude to learning and pursuing continued study; and develop or select appropriate training programmes for CA staff according to the major requirements of auditing work, enabling the auditing team to keep up-to-date.

#### Internal Management

- Establish an unhindered communication mechanism for staff at all levels, continue to establish and enhance standard workflows of internal management, and review overall administrative operation, for appropriate division of responsibility.

#### International Exchanges

- Maintain close contact with the National Audit Office, the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI), the Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI), and the Supreme Audit Organisation of the Portuguese-speaking Countries Alliance (OISC/CPLP).

#### Audit Culture

- Organise seminars on audit culture or related workshops, to enhance civil servants' understanding of the Government's auditing work, and explain the practical functions of auditing in preventing serious problems.

#### Public Opinion

- The Commission of Audit has set up a hotline and an email account for the public to comment on the services provided by the Government, and will follow up on the comments or transfer them to relevant departments, for service enhancement.

# Ho Iat Seng requests postponement of Sulu Sou's trial

**T**HE president of the Legislative Assembly (AL), Ho Iat Seng, wrote to the First Instance Court requesting a postponement of the trial date for lawmaker Sulu Sou, Ho said at a press conference yesterday.

The AL president pointed out that Sulu Sou has been accused of qualified disobedience. The trial is planned to start on November 28. Ho observed that this is the first time since the establishment of the Macau SAR that a lawmaker faces criminal charges.

According to Ho, the AL needs to hold a plenary meeting to decide whether it agrees to suspend Sou's mandate and consequently remove AL immunity, meaning that Sou would stand trial.

Ho noted that all matters will be settled according to the AL's rules of procedure. The AL president further noted that, according to the law, the AL can decide whether a lawmaker is required to be tried by the court. If more than half of the votes do not endorse Sou's suspension,

REINATO MARQUES



Ho listens to Sou's intervention at the Legislative Assembly

then the court will suspend the trial and wait until he is no longer a lawmaker, after which point the trial can take place.

However, as Ho explained, if the AL plenary meeting decides that Sou should face the case, then Sou himself will have to follow the current legal proce-

dures and go to trial.

Since the AL will be, for several consecutive days, conducting meetings to debate next year's Policy Address, and other topics cannot be added to these meetings, Ho has requested the court postpone Sou's trial.

Yesterday, Secretary for Se-

curity Wong Sio Chak expressed the opinion that the police force enforced the law in line with procedure when charging Sulu Sou for qualified disobedience, clarifying that this is not a political prosecution. Wong thus hopes that the public will not misinterpret the circumstances.

Wang pointed out that Sou was not a lawmaker when he participated in the demonstrations, nor was he a lawmaker when he was prosecuted in March.

Wong refuted the claim that the police force was unfair in labelling Sou's actions as qualified disobedience, noting that when any suit procedure enters the prosecution stage, it means that the Prosecution Office has determined the police's law enforcement to be legal and effective.

Yesterday, Chief Executive Chui Sai On said that Sou's alleged crime did not take place recently, and that both the collection of evidence by the police and the works of the Prosecution Office (MP) regarding general cases do not need to be reported to the CE.

He emphasized that everyone is equal before the law, and that the MP and the court only obey legal procedures.

Sulu Sou said yesterday that he would not comment on the MP's or the police's assessment of the case because the AL is not a court, and that it is only appropriate to make his case in a court in front of judges. However, in previous statements, he said that the accusation is a "political case" linked to freedom of speech.

AD

Light Ball Orchestra

Sketch Christmas / Sketch Town

Sketch Town Papercraft

teamLab★

Learn&Play!

teamLab★

Future Park

未來遊樂園

Graffiti Nature - Mountains and Valleys

teamLab★

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# Hard Rock unveils new logo for Japan projects

**H**ARD Rock International has upped the ante in its charm offensive ahead of Japan's much-awaited integrated resort license bid.

The company unveiled its banner at a sold-out Yokohama concert featuring alternative rock band Muse, in which they revealed an all-new logo for Japan, according to Asia Gaming Brief. The logo includes a Japanese-language subtitle that translates as "The Future of a Japan-Style IR".

Hard Rock CEO for Asia Edward Tracy said at a press conference that the company's focus on en-

tertainment would differentiate it from the other bid contenders.

"Entertainment is our DNA," he said. "We are an entertainment company first and a casino company second."

Tracy also said that Hard Rock is interested in bidding for the rights to operate an integrated resort in both municipal and regional locations. He informed that the company has submitted plans to two local governments, but did not disclose which ones.

Japan's legislature recently approved the country's Integrated Resorts Promotion Bill, marking the first step toward the legaliza-

tion of gaming in a market that CLSA gaming analysts estimate to be worth approximately USD40 billion.

According to Hard Rock, the company intends to expand its Asia-Pacific portfolio and is prepared to make a "major investment" in Japan to this end.

Asked at the event about the level of investment Hard Rock was contemplating, Tracy said only that it would depend on the specific circumstances of a concession, including whether the company will be required to partner with a local institution.

The company already has 30



Edward Tracy

years of experience in the Japanese market, with six Hard Rock Café locations currently in operation.

Tracy has held a number of positions within the gaming and hospitality industry in the past. In July 2010 he joined Sands China Ltd, a subsidiary of Las Vegas Sands Corp., as its president and chief operating officer. He later became the company's CEO in July 2011,

responsible for overseeing the largest integrated resort operator by revenue in Macau.

Prior to Sands, Tracy served as president and CEO of Capital Gaming, as well as president and CEO of the Trump Organization. In 2014, Harvard Business Review named Tracy as one of "The Best-Performing CEOs in the World" in its annual top-100 ranking.

# Toshiba sells TV, visual solutions unit to Hisense of China

Yuri Kageyama

**T**ROUBLED Toshiba Corp. is selling 95 percent of its TV and other visual products subsidiary to Chinese electronics maker Hisense Group as part of its effort to stay afloat.

Tokyo-based Toshiba announced the 12.9 billion yen (USD113 million) deal yesterday. It's set to be completed by or after February 2018, pending regulatory approval and other steps.

Tokyo-based Toshiba is suffering massive losses from its nuclear business. Its U.S. nuclear operations at Westinghouse Electric Co. filed for bankruptcy earlier this year. The Japanese electronics, computer chip and nuclear giant said the deal will improve its financial results.

Toshiba is meeting resistance from its U.S. joint venture



partner Western Digital to its plan to sell its lucrative chips business to a multinational consortium led by Bain Capital investment fund.

Western Digital has filed in the U.S. arbitration court in San Francisco to block the sale. The litigation could take years, but a decision is expected soon on whether the sale would be suspended pending resolution of the case.

Toshiba's massive red ink began with reactors it has been building in the U.S.

which are still unfinished, partly because of beefed-up safety regulations following the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster in northeastern Japan.

Analysts and former employees say Toshiba, for decades one of Japan Inc.'s premier brands, was eager to get into the nuclear business because it saw it as a safe infrastructure investment, free of the seasonal fluctuations of the consumer electronics industry. **AP**

# Family of Samsung worker wins compensation case

**O**VERTURNING an appeals court's decision, South Korea's Supreme Court said yesterday the family of a Samsung worker who died of a brain tumor should be eligible for state compensation for occupational disease.

The ruling on Lee Yoon-jung, who was diagnosed with brain tumor at 30 and died two years later, reflects a shift in the handling of such cases in South Korea.

Workers used to have the onus of proving the cause of a disease resulting from their work. But after years of campaigning by labor advocates to raise awareness about the obstacles workers face in getting information about chemicals used in manufacturing, courts sometimes have begun to rule in favor of workers.

Lee worked at a Sam-

sung chip factory for six years from 1997 to 2003 but there was no record available of the levels of chemicals she was exposed to while working there.

An appeals court denied the claim filed by Lee, based on government investigations into the factory conducted after she left the company. The investigations reported the workers' exposure to some toxins, such as benzene, formaldehyde and lead, were lower than maximum permissible limits. They did not measure exposure levels of other chemicals or investigate their health risks.

In the latest ruling, the Supreme Court said such limitations in government investigations should not be held against a worker with a rare disease whose cause is unknown.

The case filed by Lee's family is the second time this year South Korea's highest court has ruled in favor of a worker. In August, the Supreme Court struck down a lower court's ruling that denied compensation to a former Samsung LCD factory worker with multiple sclerosis.

The government-run Korea Workers' Compensation & Welfare Service, the defendant in the case, did not respond to requests for comment.

Lim Ja-woon, the lawyer representing Lee, said that brain tumors are the second-most common disease among former Samsung workers after leukemia, among the known cases. He said 27 Samsung Electronics workers have been diagnosed with brain tumors, including eight people who worked at the same factory as Lee. **AP**

## corporate bits

### MGM HOLDS WAGYUMAFIA COMPETITION



MGM and Tokyo-based wagyu enterprise Wagyumafia recently co-presented the first Wagyumafia World Championship, a contest in which six world-renowned Japanese chefs showcased their culinary skills in creating some of the best wagyu beef dishes.

The inaugural Wagyumafia World Championship kicked off as Macau celebrated its official designation as a Creative City of Gastronomy by The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in early November.

According to a press release issued by MGM, the contest introduces new ideas, embracing Ma-

cau's international culinary legacy by blending the essence of different gastronomic fields.

Following the success of the inaugural edition, the championship will become an annual event in Macau, featuring international chefs creating wagyu dishes. This will also raise awareness of this meat, which is famously found in Japanese cuisine.

The first Wagyumafia World Championship edition featured a top-notch Japanese chef lineup, where they reinvented the presentation, fragrance and flavor of dishes with A5 Kobe beef.

Chef Hitoshi Yamamoto, chef of Tokyo-style contemporary Chine-

se cuisine restaurant Ginza Yamamoto in Tokyo won the Championship with his creation: Kobe Beef "Mabo - Tofu" Edo-Chuuka Style. His prize was the full beef portion from an exclusive Kobe cattle, handpicked by Mr. Hisato Hamada, co-founder of Wagyumafia, worth USD50,000, with one year expiry period.

This is a particularly exciting prize because few chefs can buy the whole wagyu - usually only specific cuts are available. Other winners' prizes included a Wagyumafia World Championship 2017 trophy and two nights' suite accommodation and breakfast at MGM Macau. Hamada commented, "Wagyu-

mafia World Championship is a collaboration reflecting the common vision in culinary art and cultural exchange shared by MGM and Wagyumafia."

Hamada added that Wagyumafia is looking forward to engaging in more culinary exchanges with Macau in the future.

Pansy Ho, co-chairperson & executive director of MGM China said that "it is especially meaningful for the city to inject fresh culinary ideas like the inaugural Wagyumafia World Championship. We are also delighted that Wagyumafia has expressed its appreciation for Macau and MGM in pursuing gastronomic excellence."

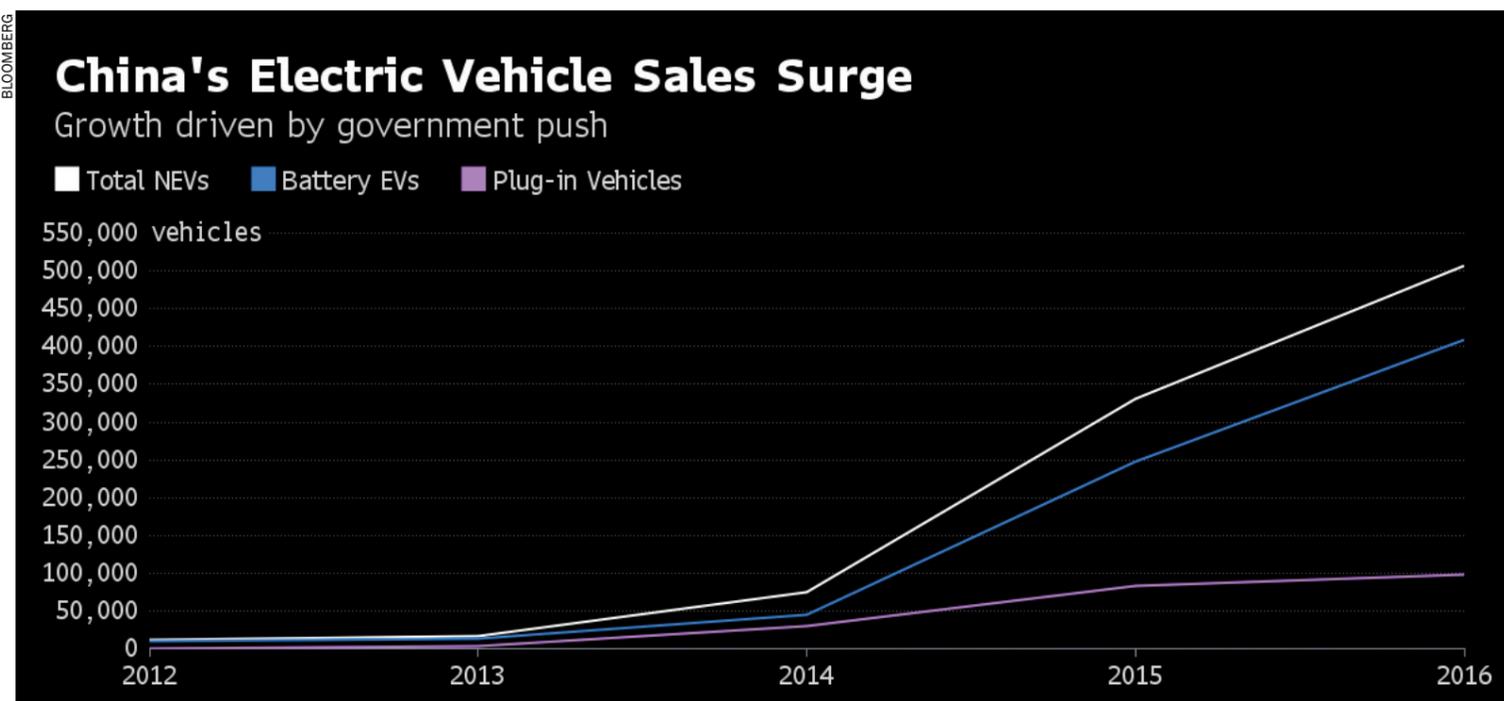
# Beijing is said to consider resumption of new electric car permits

CHINA'S government is considering a resumption of new permits to make electric vehicles as early as the first half of 2018, a move that would clear the way for Ford Motor Co. and Tesla Inc. as well as a string of local manufacturers to start production, people with knowledge of the matter said.

The National Development and Reform Commission, which oversees new investments in the auto industry, halted a license program earlier this year to rein in capacity expansion. While Beijing remains concerned about the issue - factories under construction are slated to add a capacity of more than 2 million new energy vehicles a year - the government is revisiting the arrangement as it deals with a backlog of several dozen applicants, said the people, asking not to be identified because the deliberations are confidential.

Authorities in Beijing have announced a series of measures that would allow foreigners to step up investment in the USD11 trillion economy even as U.S. President Donald Trump wrapped up his visit to China without securing concrete concessions on a yawning trade deficit. However, in a major win for American finance, China said last week it will remove foreign ownership limits on banks, while allowing firms abroad to take majority stakes in local securities ventures, fund managers and insurers.

China also said last week it will carry out a trial by June that would allow overseas carmakers to set up wholly owned electric-vehicle businesses in its free-trade zones, taking the first step toward



## ■ The state support helped China surpass the US in 2015 to become the world's biggest market for new-energy vehicles

overhauling the country's decades-old auto industry policy.

The NDRC didn't immediately respond to a fax seeking comments. The regulator is working on amending the current license

program and wants to raise the threshold for new entrants, the people added.

Since March 2016, China has handed out 15 EV licenses -- local manufacturer Wanxiang Group and a Volkswagen AG joint venture were among the recipients -- to foster competition for the predominantly state-owned auto industry. The ensuing rush saw makers of smart TVs to air conditioners drumming up plans to enter the auto industry.

On top of that, Ford and Tesla are among foreign carmakers that are preparing their China EV strategy to meet the country's stricter emission and fuel-economy rules. Ford's new venture with Anhui Zotye Automobile Co. plans to

apply for a permit for a factory that can churn out 100,000 pure electric passenger vehicles every year. Tesla is said to have reached a preliminary agreement with Shanghai's government to produce locally, and Chief Executive Officer Elon Musk told investors this month that the company is still three years away from starting production in China.

Shares of BAIC Motor Corp. extended the day's gains in Hong Kong, while Zotye pared some of the day's declines after dropping as much as 2 percent earlier in Shenzhen.

The license program is a key tool for Beijing's carrot-and-stick approach in managing the world's largest new energy vehicle market.

Starting in 2019, China will require most carmakers to obtain a new energy vehicle score and those failing to meet the requirement will have to buy credits from others or pay a fine.

The state support helped China surpass the U.S. in 2015 to become the world's biggest market for new-energy vehicles - comprising electric vehicles, plug-in hybrids and fuel-cell cars. A total of 507,000 such vehicles were sold last year in the country, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers. China, which has a moratorium on new capacity for making conventional gasoline-run vehicles, aims to boost annual sales of new-energy vehicles to 2 million units by 2020. **Bloomberg**

# China-Australia year of tourism records impressive gains

A major one-year long event to mark tourism between China and Australia looks set to record impressive gains, with the large numbers of travelers from both sides reflecting the growing importance of the sector.

Within the first nine months of this year, more than 950,000 Chinese tourists had visited Australia and more than 540,000 Australians had traveled to China, compared with a total of close to 2 million mutual visits last year, said China National Tourism Administration Vice Chairman Li Shihong.

Li was speaking at an evening gala Tuesday in Sydney to mark the 2017 China-Australia Year of Tourism, which was put forth by both countries to help bring them closer together and provide more opportunities for engagement at multiple levels.

The "booming tourism exchange" promotes understanding, drives development in related industries and delivers real benefits for the two sides, said Li.

More than 300 luminaries and representatives from the public and private sectors attended the event, including those

## ■ Within the first nine months of this year, more than 950,000 Chinese tourists had visited Australia

from the tourism bureaus of 11 Chinese provinces and municipalities.

"I'm pleased to see that more and more Chinese

are coming to this country [...] At the same time, I'd also like to welcome more Australians going to China," said China's Ambassador to Australia, Cheng Jingye.

"Tourism plays an important role in promoting better bilateral relations between countries [...]. Tourism also can act as a bridge which brings our two peoples much closer, and further promotes mutual understanding and friendship. It also creates more opportunities for both countries."

John O'Sullivan, the managing director of Tourism Australia, the Australian



government agency charged with promoting the country as a business and leisure destination, said more than 100 activities, promotions and events have helped marked the tourism year between the two countries.

"China is an incredibly important market for the Australian visitor economy," said O'Sullivan, adding that one in eight

visitors to Australia comes from the Chinese mainland and one in four Australian dollars spent by international visitors in Australia is spent by the Chinese visitors.

"We continue to push the message that Australia is a welcoming country, a country that has many of the experiences that Chinese visitors are looking for." **MDT/Xinhua**

# Trump: Asia trip 'tremendously successful'

Jonathan Lemire, Jill Colvin

**W**RAPPING up his extensive tour of Asia, President Donald Trump yesterday hailed "tremendous amounts of work" on trade and said nations around the globe have been put on notice that the U.S. will demand improved trading conditions.

Trump told reporters in Manila that the "fruits of our labor are going to be incredible." He was closing a nearly two-week trip through Japan, South Korea, China, Vietnam and the Philippines that included one-on-one meetings with the leaders of those nations during which he stressed trade.

The president, who campaigned on shredding multilateral trade agreements he has deemed unfair, insisted during his travels that multibillion-dollar deficits that favor U.S. trading partners will be reduced to zero, and that trade overall must be fair and mutually beneficial.

"The United States has to be treated fairly and in a reciprocal fashion," Trump tweeted before heading back to Washington, where he is scheduled to arrive later yesterday. "The massive TRADE deficits must go down quickly!"

Trump told reporters before departing an international summit, "We've had a tremendously successful trip. Tremendous amounts of work was



Donald Trump (left) and Rodrigo Duterte hold a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the 31st Association of Southeast Asian Nations

done on trade."

The president spoke along the sidelines of the annual East Asia Summit of leaders from throughout the Asia-Pacific region, his final summit after attending a gathering of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on Monday. Trump said he planned to make a "major statement" about his trip from the White House later this week, and spoke of the "many good friends" he made during the trip.

Among Trump's newest friends in the region is Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, whom Trump repeatedly praised and joked around with on Monday. Duterte has overseen a bloody crackdown on domestic drug dealing that has featured extrajudicial killings, earning him scorn

from human rights advocates.

Trump did not publicly take Duterte to task for the crackdown. Instead, Trump said he and Duterte have "had a great relationship" and avoided questions about whether he'd raise human rights concerns with the Filipino leader during a private meeting.

The White House later said they discussed the Islamic State group, illegal drugs and trade during the 40-minute meeting. Press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said human rights came up "briefly" in the context of the Philippines' fight against illegal drugs. She did not say if Trump was critical of Duterte's program.

Her readout appeared to conflict with the Filipino version of the meeting. Harry Roque,

a spokesman for Duterte, said: "There was no mention of human rights. There was no mention of extralegal killings. There was only a rather lengthy discussion of the Philippine war on drugs with President Duterte doing most of the explaining."

Despite all that, they later issued a joint statement saying they "underscored that human rights and the dignity of human life are essential, and agreed to continue mainstreaming the human rights agenda in their national programs."

Duterte's war on drugs has alarmed human rights advocates around the world who say it has allowed police officers and vigilantes to ignore due process and to take justice into their own hands. Government officials estimate that well over 3,000 people, mostly drug users and dealers, have died in the ongoing crackdown. Human rights groups believe the victim total is far higher, perhaps closer to 9,000.

In Manila for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations conference, and the subsequent East Asia Summit, Trump looked to strengthen ties with Pacific Rim allies, aiming to strike one-on-one trade deals rather than multinational trade agreements, and increase pressure on North Korea to abandon its nuclear program.

He met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and highlighted their two nations' "deeper and more comprehensive" ties,

looking to strengthen a relationship that is vital to the U.S. vision of an Indo-Pacific region that attempts to de-emphasize China's influence.

He jointly met with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, with whom he had a contentious phone call last winter, and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who hosted the president in Tokyo earlier in the trip. Trump raved about his accomplishments on his five-nation journey, particularly on trade and on North Korea, which the White House has suggested may be designated a state sponsor of terror.

Trump said he would wait until he was back in Washington to elaborate with a "major statement" on those two topics, but hinted at progress while in Manila.

"We've made some very big steps with regard to trade — far bigger than anything you know," Trump told reporters, pointing to business deals forged between U.S. and foreign companies.

Trump also said the trip had been "very fruitful" for the United States and pointed to the warm welcomes he had received in capitals like Tokyo, Seoul and Beijing.

"It was red carpet like nobody, I think, has probably ever received," Trump said. "And that really is a sign of respect, perhaps for me a little, but really for our country. And I'm really proud of that." AP

Hyung-Jin Kim

**F**OUR North Korean soldiers fired about 40 rounds at a comrade fleeing into South Korea and hit him five times in the first shooting at the jointly controlled area of the heavily fortified border in more than 30 years, the South's military said yesterday.

South Korean soldiers did not fire their weapons, but Monday's incident occurred at a time of high animosity over North Korea's nuclear program. The North has expressed intense anger over past high-profile defections.

The soldier is being treated at a South Korean hospital after a five-hour operation for the gunshot wounds he suffered during his escape across the Joint Security Area. His personal details and motive for defection are unknown and his exact medical condition is unclear.

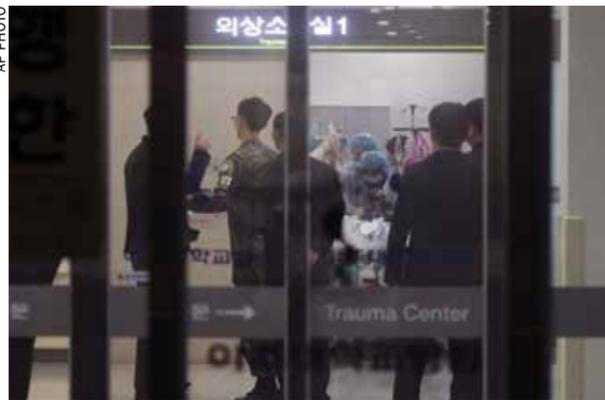
South Korea's military said he suffered injuries in his internal organs but wasn't in a life-threatening condition. But the Ajou University Me-

## Seoul: N. Koreans fired 40 shots at defector, hit him with five

dical Center near Seoul said the soldier was relying on a breathing machine after the surgery removed the bullets. Lee Guk-jong, a doctor who leads Ajou's medical team for the soldier, described his patient's condition as "very dangerous" and said the next 10 days might determine whether he recovers.

On Monday, he first drove a military jeep but left the vehicle when one of its wheels fell into a ditch. He then fled across the JSA, with fellow soldiers chasing and firing at him, South Korea's military said, citing unspecified surveillance systems installed in the area.

Suh Wook, chief director of operations for the South's Joint Chiefs of Staff, told lawmakers that North Korea fired a total of about 40 rounds in a shooting that his office suggested started when



A South Korean army soldier (second from left) is seen as medical members treat an unidentified injured person, believed to be a North Korean soldier, at a hospital in Suwon, South Korea

le the soldier was in the jeep.

The soldier was found beneath a pile of leaves on the southern side of the JSA and South Korean troops crawled there to recover him. A U.N. Command helicopter later transported him to the Ajou medical center, according to South Korean officials.

The North's official media haven't reported the case as yesterday afternoon. They have previously accused South Korea of kidnapping or enticing North Koreans to defect. About 30,000 North Koreans have fled to South Korea, mostly via China, since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War.

The JSA is jointly overseen by the American-led U.N. Command and by North Korea, with South Korean and North Korean border guards facing each other only meters (apart. It is located inside the 4-kilometer-wide Demilitarized Zone, which forms the de facto border between the Koreas since the Korean War. While both sides of the DMZ are guarded by barbed wire fences, mines and tank traps, the JSA includes the truce village of Panmunjom which provides the site for rare talks and draws curious tourists.

Monday's incident was the first shooting at the Joint Security Area since North Korean and U.N. Command soldiers traded gunfire when a Soviet citizen defected by sprinting to the South Korean sector of the JSA in 1984. A North Korean sol-

dier defected there in 1998 and another in 2007 but neither of those events involved gunfire between the rivals, according to South Korea's military.

The 1984 exchange of gunfire happened after North Korean soldiers crossed the border and fired, according to the U.N. Command. In Monday's incident, it wasn't known if the North continued firing after the defector was officially in the southern part of the Joint Security Area. The U.N. Command said yesterday that an investigation into the incident was underway.

The Joint Security Area was the site of some bloodshed during the Cold War but there hasn't been major violence there in recent years. In 1976, North Korean soldiers axed two American army officers to death and the United States responded by flying nuclear-capable B-52 bombers toward the DMZ in an attempt to intimidate the North. AP

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# EU bans arms sales to Venezuela, takes aim at officials

**T**HE European Union on Monday banned arms sales to Venezuela and set up a system to slap asset freezes and travel restrictions on Venezuelan officials as it sought to ramp up pressure on President Nicolas Maduro.

The move was decided by EU foreign ministers at talks in Brussels. The weapons ban would stop sales of military equipment that could be used for repression or surveillance of Venezuelans.

"These measures will be used in a gradual and flexible manner and can be expanded, by targeting those involved in the non-respect of democratic principles or the rule of law and the violation of human rights," the ministers said in a statement.

They said the sanctions could be reversed depending on how Maduro reacts to the demands for more democracy in the South American nation and the release of political prisoners.

The United States last Thursday put financial sanctions on another



Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro

10 current and former Venezuelan officials over corruption and abuse of power allegations related to Maduro's crackdown on the opposition.

Venezuela's government has faced international criticism since the country's Supreme Court gutted powers of the opposition-controlled congress in March. The ruling was later reversed, but a new constitutional assembly composed entirely of government loyalists has claimed supreme power

and has gone after Maduro's political opponents.

The country's oil-dependent economy spiraled into crisis after world oil prices began a plunge in 2014, and it has been hit further by the U.S. sanctions.

In September, the U.N.'s human rights chief said that Venezuela's security forces may have committed "crimes against humanity" in dealing with protesters, and called for an international investigation. **AP**

## SYRIA

### Death toll from airstrikes on market climbs to 61



A Syrian war monitoring group says the death toll from airstrikes on a market in northern Syria the previous day has climbed to 61. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights says there were six women, five children, and three police officers among those killed in the three strikes on Monday on the market in the opposition-held town of Atareb. The Observatory's director, Rami Abdurrahman, says the rest were male civilians. Yasser Hmeish, a clinician at the scene, says rescuers were still pulling bodies from the rubble yesterday morning. The Observatory said it couldn't determine whether Russia or the Syrian government was behind the attack. The opposition Syrian National Coalition accused Russia, Syrian President Bashar Assad' chief military backer.

## FRANCE

### 130 killed in Paris attacks honored, two years on

In silence and tears, families of the victims of France's deadliest terror attacks stood alongside President Emmanuel Macron Monday to honor the 130 people killed two years ago when Islamic State extremists attacked the City of Light. A crowd joined them on the memorial sites to lay roses and light candles in memory of the victims.



Dozens of families and Parisians gathered outside the Bataclan concert hall, where the attacks took their most chilling turn as extremists opened fire on a dancing crowd and held hundreds hostage in an hours-long standoff with police. Ninety people were killed.

AD

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monitora/monitor: Cristina Vinhas

horário/schedule: Quartas, Quintas e Sextas / Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays / 18h00 - 21h00

total: 30 horas/hours / 10 sessões/sessions

início/starts: 17/11/2017 / fim/finishes: 13/12/2017

propina/fee: MOP 1200 \*

língua/language: Português e Inglês/Portuguese and English \*\* / patrocínio/sponsor: Fundação Macau

local/venue: Avenida do Dr. Francisco Vieira Machado n° 431- 487 Edf. Industrial Nam Fung 8º andar B, sala 1, Macau

número máximo de participantes/maximum number of participants: 10 (Será respeitada a ordem de inscrição sendo esta efetiva mediante o pagamento de propina). / 10 (The registration order will be respected and registration is considered when payment is done).

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## what's ON



## 17TH MACAU FOOD FESTIVAL

TIME: 5pm-11pm (Mondays to Thursdays)  
3pm-12am (Fridays to Sundays)

UNTIL: November 26, 2017

VENUE: Sai Van Lake Square, Largo da Torre de Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2857 5765

## CITY OF ECHOES

TIME: 11am-6pm

UNTIL: November 22, 2017

VENUE: A Porta da Arte, No. 42, Rua dos Ervanários

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 6238 6441

## FESTIVE VIBES AT ALBERGUE SCM

TIME: 3pm-8pm (Mondays)

12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)

UNTIL: December 6, 2017

VENUE: Hall D1, Albergue SCM, No. 8, Calçada da Igreja de São Lázaro

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550

## CERAMICS AND SEALS OF 108 HEROES OF SHU HU LEGEND FROM THE MAM COLLECTION

TIME: 10am-7pm, last admission at 6:30pm (Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)

UNTIL: November 19, 2017

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, NAPE

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

## Offbeat

## RISE IN TEEN SUICIDE, SOCIAL MEDIA COINCIDE; IS THERE LINK?

An increase in suicide rates among U.S. teens occurred at the same time social media use surged and a new analysis suggests there may be a link.

Suicide rates for teens rose between 2010 and 2015 after they had declined for nearly two decades, according to data from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Why the rates went up isn't known.

The study doesn't answer the question, but it suggests that one factor could be rising social media use. Recent teen suicides have been blamed on cyberbullying, and social media posts depicting "perfect" lives may be taking a toll on teens' mental health, researchers say.

"After hours of scrolling through Instagram feeds, I just feel worse about myself because I feel left out," said Caitlin Hearty, a 17-year-old Littleton, Colorado, high school senior who helped organize an offline campaign last month after several local teen suicides.

"No one posts the bad things they're going through," said Chloe Schilling, also 17, who helped with the campaign, in which hundreds of teens agreed not to use the internet or social media for one month.

The study's authors looked at CDC suicide reports from 2009-15 and results of two surveys given to U.S. high school students to measure attitudes, behaviors and interests. About half a million teens ages 13 to 18 were involved. They were asked about use of electronic devices, social media, print media, television and time spent with friends. Questions about mood included frequency of feeling hopeless and considering or attempting suicide.

The researchers didn't examine circumstances surrounding individual suicides. Dr. Christine Moutier, chief medical officer at the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, said the study provides weak evidence for a popular theory and that many factors influence teen suicide.

The study was published yesterday in the journal *Clinical Psychological Science*.

He noted that skeptics who think social media is being unfairly criticized compare it with so-called vices of past generations: "When dime-store books came out, when comic books came out, when television came out, when rock and roll first started, people were saying 'This is the end of the world.'"

With its immediacy, anonymity, and potential for bullying, social media has a unique potential for causing real harm, he said.

"Parents don't really get that," Strasburger said.

## TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	RTPi News (Delayed Broadcast)
14:55	Question Session on the report of the Governance Action Lines for the financial year 2018 with the presence of the Chief Executive (Live)
17:30	Football Match: Portugal x EUA (Repeated)
19:15	TDM Interview (Repeated)
19:50	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-daily Portuguese News
21:30	Miscellaneous
22:10	Brazilian Mini Serie
22:40	Miscellaneous
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:50	RTPi Live

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

09 Nov - 15 Nov



## LOGAN LUCKY

ROOM 1

2:15, 4:30, 9:30pm

Director: Steven Soderbergh

Starring: Daniel Craig, Channing Tatum, Adam Driver, Ridley Keough

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 118 min



## THOR: RAGNAROK

ROOM 1

7:00pm

Director: Taika Waititi

Starring: Chris Hemsworth, Cate Blanchett, Tom Hiddleston

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 109 min



## MIX!

ROOM 2

2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm

Director: Junichi Ishikawa

Starring: Yui Aragaki, Eita Ryoko, Hiroe Koji Seto, Mei Nagano, Yu, Aoi

Language: Japanese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 120 min

## FLATLINERS

ROOM 2

2:30, 4:30, 9:30pm

Director: Niels Arden Oplev

Starring: Ellen Page, Diego Luna, Nina Dobrev, James Norton

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 110 min

## LET ME EAT YOUR PANCREAS

ROOM 3

2:30, 4:30, 7:30pm

Director: Sho Tsukikawa

Starring: Minami Hamabe, Takumi Kitamura, Shun Oguri

Language: Japanese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 115min

## this day in history



## 1985 ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT SIGNED

Britain and the Republic of Ireland have signed a deal giving Dublin a role in Northern Ireland for the first time in more than 60 years.

Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said it brought new hope of ending the violence in Northern Ireland.

But Treasury minister Ian Gow - one of Mrs Thatcher's closest political allies - has resigned in protest at the deal which is also opposed by the Ulster Unionists.

In a letter, Mr Gow told Mrs Thatcher the government's change of policy on Northern Ireland would "prolong and not diminish the agony of Ulster."

The Anglo-Irish Agreement was signed by Margaret Thatcher and Irish Prime Minister Garret FitzGerald at Hillsborough Castle in County Down, Northern Ireland.

It sets up a framework for regular conferences between British and Irish ministers to discuss matters affecting Northern Ireland.

However, if a devolved government were established in Northern Ireland, matters transferred to its power would no longer fall under the remit of the conferences.

That is being seen as an inducement for unionists who want to remain part of the United Kingdom and keep Dublin at bay.

But, for the first time, the British Government has officially committed to promoting legislation for a united Ireland if a majority is in favour.

The deal has been met with anger and bitterness by the majority loyalist community in Northern Ireland.

The 15 Ulster Unionist MPs have accused Mrs Thatcher of treachery and have said they will resign unless a referendum is held on the agreement.

However, opposition leaders at Westminster have pledged their support and the government seems certain to secure a big majority when the deal comes up for approval.

Irish MPs also have to approve the agreement which will be reviewed after three years.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Thousands turned out for demonstrations led by unionist MPs against the agreement.

Ian Gow was among Conservatives who set up an anti-agreement group in 1986 to fight the case for keeping the status quo in Northern Ireland.

In July 1990 Mr Gow was killed by a bomb planted at his home in Sussex by the IRA.

The Anglo-Irish agreement followed a failed attempt in 1973 to set up a power-sharing executive of nationalist and unionist politicians and an all-Ireland Council.

No deal accepted by all sides was reached until the Good Friday Agreement in April 1998 which created the Northern Ireland Assembly and new cross-border institutions.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You don't like to hold back when you have something to say. In fact, it's so completely out of character that when you do, your friends start asking what the heck is wrong with you!

Taurus April 20-May 20 This dutiful, responsible mood that has overtaken you has gone on for far too long, and you've decided that when you do, your friends start asking what the heck is finally enough. You're going to have some serious fun.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 We all need to let loose and have some fun every now and then - especially you! It's not all that an uncommon state of affairs for you because after all, you can't live without variety.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Invitations aren't hard for you to come by, and it's not too hard to talk you into accepting them. The most attractive offer likely arrives via someone who wants to thank you.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 'Entertainer' is your middle name, and you really feel it today. You can create an audience out of just about anything, too. There are plenty of opportunities to strut your stuff over the next couple of days.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 No matter what your best friend says today, you need to trust your instincts now and ignore all the doubts and worries that inevitably come your way.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 A sweet, frivolous invitation arrives today - one that involves nothing but fun. After the past week, you're unlikely to refuse, or even think about refusing. You may need to talk your current babe into joining you.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You don't mind at all when someone else steps on your lines or tries to steal credit from you - it's like they don't understand that making things happen is more important than simple recognition.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Recent events that you're somewhat less than pleased about might make it tempting to just hop in the car, on a bus or on a plane - basically, to go anywhere but here. That's not really your style, though.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 As is so often the case, you've got something to show the world. This time, the lesson involves the virtue of subtlety at a time when it's far easier for us all to just give in and make a show of things.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You've already paid your dues, and nobody can argue with that. Your karmic account should now be firmly in the black, so it's definitely time for some much-deserved fun.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You do not expect it from them, but a coworker does you a tremendous favor today. You're not expecting this particular person to go out of their way for you.



SUDOKU

Easy Sudoku grid with numbers 7, 4, 9, 8, 3, 5, 3, 5, 4, 7, 1, 6, 8, 3, 9, 3, 8.

Easy+ Sudoku grid with numbers 2, 1, 8, 9, 3, 1, 6, 8, 1, 7, 9, 2, 8, 5, 2, 6, 1, 1, 3, 7, 6, 8, 5, 7, 4, 1, 3.

Medium Sudoku grid with numbers 8, 6, 1, 9, 5, 8, 7, 1, 2, 8, 9, 4, 6, 7, 9, 3, 5, 4, 8, 7, 1, 2, 6, 1, 2, 2, 9, 1, 3.

Hard Sudoku grid with numbers 4, 1, 2, 6, 4, 1, 2, 3, 5, 3, 1, 8, 5, 2, 6, 7, 3, 7, 1, 8.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Rows for CHINA (Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, Urumqi, Xi'an, Lhasa, Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming, Nanjing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Hangzhou, Taipei, Guangzhou, Hong Kong) and WORLD (Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York).

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Fountain treats; 6- Ascended, flower; 10- Diner orders; 14- Thorax; 15- Pianist Gilels; 16- Dregs; 17- The color of honey; 18- Mil. leaders; 19- Coffee dispensers; 20- East Lansing sch.; 21- Giving the once-over; 23- \_\_\_ Perot; 24- Autocratic Russian rulers; 26- Eagle's home; 27- German composer; 29- Inspire anew; 31- Vintner's prefix; 32- Beetle Bailey's boss; 33- Yellow and black insect; 36- In spite of; 40- Legal ending; 41- Falls; 42- Injectable diazepam, in military lingo; 43- Eats to a plan; 44- Did penance; 46- California-Nevada lake; 48- Inanimate object; 49- Charged; 50- Mother of Perseus; 52- Strike caller; 55- Banned apple spray; 56- You've Made \_\_\_ Very Happy; 57- Sovereign; 59- Meager; 60- Attack a fly; 61- Papal garment; 62- Tree frog; 63- Actress Daly; 64- Grimy; DOWN: 1- Swindle; 2- Resistance units; 3- Society girl; 4- Peer Gynt's mother; 5- Flowing water; 6- Philbin of TV; 7- Predictive sign; 8- Vocalize melodically; 9- Windy City trains; 10- Indistinct; 11- Vive \_\_\_!; 12- Keyed up; 13- Flat sound; 22- Mos. and mos.; 23- Troy beauty; 25- Demonstrate; 26- Pond organism; 27- Tibia, e.g.; 28- Classic cars; 29- Rough files; 30- Plastic or liberal, e.g.; 32- Ammo; 33- Having two angles; 34- Feminine suffix; 35- Old oath; 37- Fool; 38- Woody plant; 39- Pest control brand; 43- Teaching of the Buddha; 44- Bingo!; 45- Steering system component; 46- Reckoning; 47- For want of \_\_\_\_; 48- Govt. security; 49- Impetuous; 50- Like grass in the morning; 51- Slippery \_\_\_eel; 53- Dissolve; 54- One hunted; 56- Colo. clock setting; 58- Altdorf's canton;

Yesterday's solution crossword grid with words: ADAPTS, UMPHS, TISE, VALLET, GASH, RUN, IMMUNE, ITTIGANT, APOSTASY, NOIRE, BIN, SDI, OPBONIN, LEET, GASE, PEST, GRAYTA, SHAH, CEE, JERUSALEM, PIO, LOSE, EMOTES, ITAT, SESS, WANT, RELATED, ASP, GMA, ERATO, POLESTAR, VAHIMAH, I, ERNEST, ATA, ERIC, PLEASE, NED, ICET, YEEMED.

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# The New Tiguan2. All grown-up



Active Info Display



1.4TSI with 150HP



5 star NCAP



LED Headlight



3D LED Taillight

The Tiguan 2 is a great all-grown-up SUV with distinctive styling which redefines its class and confidently points the way to the future. The new generation Tiguan is the first sport utility vehicle to be based on the modular transverse matrix (MQB), and it sets new standards in design, comfort and functionality. In doing so it of course remains capable of off-road, with a rugged all-wheel drive system that includes premium class technology for use on and off the highway. The Tiguan 2 is, then, both more SUV and more than an SUV.



Volkswagen

PS : 1) The pictures are for reference only.

2) In the event of any dispute, Volkswagen Hong Kong reserves the right to make the final decision.

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### 'A national shame': Local papers react harshly to Italy exit

**T**HE End. The Apocalypse. A national shame. Italian newspapers spared no words yesterday in describing four-time champion Italy's failure to qualify for the World Cup for the first time in six decades.

The Gazzetta dello Sport headline read "FINE" — "The End" — in big, block letters, while Turin daily La Stampa wrote "Apocalypse Azzurra."

Rome daily Il Messaggero called it "A national shame," and

Rome sports daily Corriere dello Sport said "Everyone out."

After a scoreless draw with Sweden yesterday [Macau time], Italy lost a qualifying playoff on 1-0 aggregate.

Italy had participated in every World Cup since failing to qualify for the 1958 tournament, which coincidentally was held in Sweden.

The previous major competitions Italy missed were the 1984 and 1992 European Championships.

# Sumo champ investigated over alleged assault

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

**J**APANESE sumo officials are investigating allegations yesterday that nine-time grand champion Harumafuji assaulted a lower-ranked wrestler, causing serious head injuries.

Japanese media reported that Harumafuji hit his fellow Mongolian wrestler Takanoiwa in the head with a beer bottle at a party last month, fracturing his skull base and causing other injuries.

Harumafuji, who holds sumo's highest ranking of yokozuna, appeared on Japanese television to acknowledge his role in the incident and express his remorse.

"I sincerely apologize for causing trouble," Harumafuji told reporters in Fukuoka, a southern Japanese city where the Kyushu Grand Sumo tournament is currently being held.

The Japan Sumo Association



Mongolian sumo grand champion Harumafuji leaves the ring

tion, which imposes strict rules on wrestlers, said 33-year-old Harumafuji will sit out the 15-day Kyushu event, which started Sunday, while the investigation takes place.

Harumafuji's stable mas-

ter Seiya Isegahama told reporters that the grand champion would visit the victim's stable later to offer a personal apology.

The news dominated Japanese television talk shows and evening news-

papers yesterday as the nation expressed its shock at claims against a yokozuna, whose behavior in sports and society is expected to be exemplary.

Born Davaanyam Byambadorj, Harumafuji debuted in 2001 and has won the championship nine times, with his most recent victory at the autumn tournament in September. He was promoted to yokozuna in 2012.

The incident is the latest scandal to rock the sport of sumo in recent years following investigations into hazing and match-fixing.

In 2010, then-yokozuna Asashoryu, also from Mongolia, retired from the sport after allegations he had attacked a man outside a Tokyo nightclub during a tournament. In June 2007, a stable master and his three wrestlers were convicted over a bullying-death of a 17-year-old junior wrestler. **AP**

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opinion

**World Views**

Ferdinando Giugliano, Bloomberg

**THE ECB NEEDS AN INFLATION PLAN, JUST IN CASE**

Nearly three weeks after the European Central Bank halved the pace of its monetary stimulus to the euro zone economy, something strange is happening in the sovereign debt market.

Even as the ECB takes a little step back from quantitative easing, investors are continuing to pile into government bonds, particularly from some countries that were most affected by the crisis. The risk is that markets may be in for a rude awakening.

The cases of Italy, Spain and Portugal best represent this trend. The Italian 10-year bond yield has fallen by 20 basis points to 1.82 percent since the ECB announcement. The interest rates on similarly dated Portuguese and Spanish debt have decreased, respectively, by 30 and 11 basis points, to 1.95 percent and 1.52 percent. True, the ECB has extended purchases to September, and has left it open what it intends to do next. Even then, however, this does not look like the reaction to a monetary tightening.

Last week, in an interview in Rome, I asked Victor Constancio, the ECB vice president, what he made of the reaction to the bank's tapering announcement. He first interpreted this as a sign of confidence in the euro zone economy.

"Everyone is now expecting that growth will continue," Constancio told me. "Only an extraordinary international event could derail the continuation of the current significant growth path. That changes prospects for everything, and it perhaps provides an explanation for why markets reacted the way they did."

There is little doubt that the economic outlook for the currency area has improved substantially in recent months. The International Monetary Fund believes the euro zone will grow by 2.1 percent this year, up from 1.8 percent in 2016. All member states are taking part in the recovery, with differences in growth rates among the countries now much narrower than in the past. This makes sovereign debt in the euro zone periphery attractive, especially in a world of very low interest rates.

The trouble with this explanation is that it does not fit with what normally happens to the bond market in the event of a positive growth surprise. In theory, investors should demand higher interest rates to compensate for the possibility of higher inflation in the future. This is the opposite of what we have observed.

Constancio explains this apparent contradiction citing a favorite argument for central bankers: the "mystery" of missing inflation. In the euro zone, prices rose by 1.4 percent in the year to October, less than the ECB's target of just below 2 percent. He says this is not just a euro zone phenomenon, but one that is also going on in the U.S. In fact, what is happening across the Atlantic may well be spilling over to Europe.

"In the markets, what prevails, also in the U.S., is that there is a very subdued view about future inflation," Constancio said. "That has also happened in our markets, with yields going down." He added:

"Markets don't expect in the short run inflation and nominal growth going up significantly, and that explains their reaction. That's the way they see the future. It is important for us to really take that into consideration."

How exactly should the ECB take this into consideration, though? The central bank obviously sets its monetary policy on the basis of what it believes will happen to inflation, not to the bond market. Still, so far, the ECB has been skillful in communicating its intentions to investors: This has avoided a disorderly reaction, even as the central bank was taking a first step back from quantitative easing.

But what would happen were inflation to begin to surprise on the upside? Right now, investors seem unprepared, meaning calm could easily turn into chaos. However remote this risk may seem at the moment, the ECB should start thinking about how to deal with it. Sudden shifts in monetary policy are the hardest to communicate.

**THE BUZZ HALF OF US ADULTS HAVE HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE IN NEW GUIDELINES**

New guidelines lower the threshold for high blood pressure, adding 30 million Americans to those who have the condition, which now plagues nearly half of U.S. adults.

High pressure, which for decades has been a top reading of at least 140 or a bottom one of 90, drops to 130 over 80 in advice announced yesterday by a dozen medical groups.

The change means an additional 14 percent

of U.S. adults have the problem, but only an additional 2 percent will need medication right away; the rest should try healthier lifestyles, which get much stronger emphasis in the new advice. Poor diets, lack of exercise and other bad habits cause 90 percent of high blood pressure.

But the risk for heart disease, stroke and other problems drops as blood pressure improves.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	30-50 Good
High Density Residential Area	35-55 Good
Ambient	30-50 Good

SOURCE: DSI/MG

**UK Scrabble group bans star player for breaking tile rule**

Danica Kirka, London

THE Association of British Scrabble players banned one of its star players for three years after an independent investigation concluded that he had broken rules in the popular word game.

Allan Simmons has authored books on Scrabble and contributed game coverage to The Times newspaper, which first reported his ban from competition. The London-based newspaper says it will no longer use him as a contributor.

A committee member for the association, Elie Dangoor, said Monday that three independent witnesses saw Simmons put a hand with freshly drawn letter tiles back into a bag to draw more tiles — contrary to the rules.

"The natural conclusion had been that he had been cheating," Dangoor told The Associated Press.

There were four instances dating back to 2016, and the committee conducted an independent probe which was concluded a few weeks ago. The matter came to larger public attention only recently, and was discussed during the World En-



AP PHOTO

glish Language Scrabble Players Association event that ended Sunday.

Simmons told the Times he denied cheating, and that he had suffered the same "untimely bad luck from the bag as anyone else."

"You have to remember that at the top level, games can be quite intense and there's a lot going through one's mind let alone remembering to religiously ensure tile drawing rules are followed meticulously," Simmons was quoted by the Times as saying. "From the outset I have said that no one is beyond

suspicion and complied fully with the investigative process."

Dangoor said that Simmons had been "a huge part of the game's development" and that there was "great disappointment," as he is a liked and respected part of the Scrabble community. But action had to be taken.

"There's no one person bigger than the game," Dangoor said.

Efforts to reach Simmons were unsuccessful. The Times quoted him as saying he planned to concentrate on "more important things in life." AP

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**

Rainer Jensen/dpa via AP



Climate wheel. A globe and a Ferris Wheel stand in the forest near Bonn, Germany, where the UN Climate Conference takes place till November 17.

**WORLD BRIEFS**



AP PHOTO

**ZIMBABWE** was on edge yesterday as army tanks were seen outside the capital a day after the army commander (pictured) threatened to "step in" to calm political tensions over the president's firing of his deputy.



AP PHOTO

**POLAND** The Polish prime minister says her government has won its dispute with the European Union over migration and that the EU has even changed its own stance on the matter thanks to the "influence of Poland's resolute and unyielding attitude."



AP PHOTO

**SPAIN**'s state-run broadcaster, RTVE, has come under criticism for playing a segment of the theme tune of the 1970s horror movie "The Exorcist" as background music to a clip of ousted Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont.

**PERU-CHILE** Pope Francis' trip to Chile and Peru in January is likely to focus on the plight of indigenous peoples, with a day dedicated to the Amazon and a visit to a region wracked by tensions with Chile's Mapuche group.

**VENEZUELA** Ratings agency Standard & Poor's says Venezuela has defaulted on its debt after it failed to make payments due on some of its bonds. The agency said yesterday it was downgrading Venezuela's sovereign debt grade to SD — short for "selective default." Previously it had Venezuela in junk bond status.