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A Manila representative was in Macau to promise more support for Filipino migrant workers

P8

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LAWMAKER MANDATE SUSPENDED

Sulu Sou pledges to 'keep on working'

P4

RENATO MARQUES



WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



N. KOREA The crew of a Cathay Pacific flight saw what it believes was North Korea's latest missile test last week, the second airline to report sighting it. Cathay said yesterday that the flight from San Francisco to Hong Kong reported witnessing the apparent re-entry of the ICBM. More on p13

PHILIPPINES The manufacturer of a dengue fever vaccine that was suspended after a study showed a greater risk of severe cases in people without previous infection said it is working with authorities to address the fears.

AP PHOTO



INDIA Rahul Gandhi, the scion of India's Nehru-Gandhi political dynasty, submitted nomination papers yesterday to succeed his mother as president of the main opposition Congress party, which previously governed the country for decades.

More on backpage



TOURISM

Light Festival to turn into 'one of Macau's annual signature events'

THE third edition of the Macau Light Festival kicked off on Sunday. This year, the program includes projection mapping shows, light installations, interactive games and a series of new activities, such as the "Light Art Exhibition" and the "Light Dinner."

This edition's routes cover areas more extensive than the past two editions, encompassing eight designated locations in total. Radiating from "Boundless Love" at the Ruins of St. Paul's as the heart of the event, a total of three routes extend towards seven other locations: "Love Stems from the Heart" at Senado Square, "Playground of Lights" at Anim'Arte Nam Van until "The Maze of Flowers" at Nam Van

Lake Nautical Centre; "The Lighthouse of Life" at St. Anthony's Church and "Embrace Integration" at Camões Garden; "Mercy and Love for All" at St. Lazarus Church and Calçada da Igreja de S. Lázaro, as well as "Happy Homestead" at the Taipa Houses.

During the event's opening ceremony at the Ruins of St. Paul's on Sunday, the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) director Senna Fernandes remarked that the Macau Light Festival is part of a string of events that will be held this month, such as the 2nd International Film Festival & Awards and the Macau International Parade. She noted that MGTO aspires to forge the festival into "one of Macau's annual signature events."



CRIME

Man arrested for defrauding usurer

Julie Zhu

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) announced yesterday that one man had been arrested following an illegal usury operation.

The detainee is a 37-year-old mainland resident, surnamed Lin, who comes from the autonomous region of Inner Mongolia.

On the night of November 28, Lin, while at a VIP room in a casino located at the Zona de Aterros do Porto Exterior (ZAPE), reached an agreement with an usurer to lend him money to gamble in the VIP room.

The agreement was

that Lin would provide HKD350,000 and the usurer would contribute HKD600,000 for Lin to gamble. Whenever Lin would win money, 20 percent of the winnings would go to the usurer.

Around 1:30 a.m., on November 29, Lin stopped gambling and left the casino with a HKD500,000 casino chip. Upon his departure, he entered a car which was operated by his companion. The usurer followed Lin and entered the same car.

Inside the car, the usurer asked Lin to return the chip, but Lin refused. The usu-

rer and Lin then went together to the Public Security Police Force Taipa headquarters to report the case and request assistance from the police. The case was

forwarded to the PJ.

The usurer reported a loss of HKD300,000. PJ arrested the man for fraud and said that Lin did not cooperate during the investigation.

Regarding the usurer's case, the PJ opened another file to investigate. The police are still investigating Lin's driver, who was believed to be his accomplice.

HK-mainland police bust gambling syndicate

HONG Kong police authorities busted a cross-border gambling syndicate, RTHK reported yesterday. The authorities reportedly arrested more than 70 people on both sides of the border.

A total of 23 people were arrested in Hong Kong, while 48 were arrested in the mainland. Two people from the Hong Kong detainees are suspected of masterminding the operation.

The syndicate facilitated illegal betting on horseracing and football matches across the world for those living within the mainland. Around HKD108 million was found by police authorities from both Hong

Kong and the mainland during the course of a sting operation.

Chief Inspector Lo Chung Wong from the Organized Crime and Triad Bureau said that the police force believes it has already apprehended the group's masterminds. He added that it is believed that two Hong Kongers acted as "senior brokers" and received bets from gamblers or brokers.

Gambling is strictly illegal in China, however exemptions are provided to certain jurisdictions like Hong Kong and Macau. While horseracing is considered a legitimate activity on the mainland, it is forbidden to bet on the races themselves.

STUDENT LOST RMB 8,000 TO A CONCERT TICKET SALES SCAM

A MAINLAND female resident who is studying at a university in Macau lost RMB8,194.28 after purchasing concert tickets online in October. The victim paid RMB360 for two tickets to a concert that was being held in Macau. After she paid for the tickets, the seller told her that she needed to ac-

tivate a QR code in order to complete her purchase, but that for the activation, she would need to pay an additional amount. The victim made payments to the seller twice, totaling RMB 8,194.28. The suspect kept asking the victim for additional payments at which point, she realized that she might have been

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First nine months saw 81 cases of domestic violence

TANG Yuk Wa, director of Family and Community Services of the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) said that in the first nine months of this year, the IAS recorded a total of 81 confirmed cases of domestic violence, according to a report by Jornal Va Kio.

During this period, IAS received 1,731 reports (including the aforementioned 81 cases) and assistance requests in relation to domestic issues.

Excluding those confirmed domestic violence cases, most of the cases related to domestic disputes and conflicts.

Tang claimed that IAS follows every single case, and provides appropriate services to affected families. These services can include judicial assistance and counseling. She also clarified that as

not every single family is ready to have a third party involved in their domestic issues, IAS carefully handled each case.

On October 31, IAS released statistics on domestic violence cases with respect to the first half of 2017.

The data showed that domestic violence is dominated by corporal offenses, which totaled 38 cases (66.7 percent). Four cases (7 percent) were related to emotional violence, three cases (5.3 percent) involved sexual abuse, two cases (3.5 percent) involved improper child care, and ten cases were linked to various types of violence (17.5 percent)

In the first half of the year, 45 cases of domestic violence concerned marital violence and 11 were cases of violence against minors.

TRANSPORT

Bus tracking application to feature additional functions

FROM the end of December, bus users will be able to check additional information about the bus network on their mobile devices, the Transport Bureau (DSAT) announced yesterday at a press conference.

The new functions will include an indication of bus occupancy load, wheelchair-accessible buses, the opening hours of Macau's three bridges, traffic levels across all districts, and A-level roads.

In the coming January, DSAT will launch a bus reporting application for WeChat, as well as an application for visually disabled passengers.

DSAT will also install electronic bus stop signboards at each bus stop, several of which will be solar powered. These signboards are expected to be put into service in the first quarter of next year.

According to DSAT, more than 278,000 users have already down-



loaded the bus tracking application. An average of 42,000 active users per day has been recorded.

DSAT said that launching new functions will enable application users to access more relevant information and notifications. The new functions are also expected to respond to the needs of different types of user groups.

Currently, a total of 20 buses have already installed an estimation system for the number of passengers. This system will allow passengers to determine the load of each bus. Therefore, passengers who are waiting for buses can consider alternatives if the approaching buses are at capacity. The rest of the bus fleet will soon be fitted with the estimation system.

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AL PLENARY

Sulu Sou's suspension goes ahead with 28 votes in favor

Renato Marques

THE Legislative Assembly (AL) has voted for the suspension of the mandate of lawmaker Sulu Sou, allowing the continuation of the pending prosecution against him over an alleged misconduct after a demonstration on May 15 of last year.

Sou was charged last month for aggravated disobedience to police authorities. Allegedly, after the demonstration ended at the Nam Van Lake area, a group of members of the New Macau Association (ANM) tried to deliver a letter to the official residence of the Chief Executive (CE) at Penha Hill.

The protest had been called by the ANM and they were joined by other organizations and associations to attempt to pressure the CE to withdraw an intended donation of RMB100 million by the Macao Foundation (FM) to Jinan University in Guangdong Province, as the university was in fact linked to the CE.

This suspension puts to an immediate stand-by the mandate of the youngest ever Macau lawmaker, after he held the position for only seven weeks. In the most recent election, Sou was voted in as the 12th legislator of Macau, backed by 9,212 votes.

The suspension was approved

through a vote conducted by secret ballot, which resulted in an overwhelming 28 votes in favor and only four against during yesterday's afternoon session of the AL. The session was scrutinized heavily by the media.

After the results were known and the session came to a clo-

sure, Sou joined a group of supporters of ANM, including the president Kam Sut Leng. The assembled group raised their arms in the air in a cross-shape and shouted, "We will continue working, we will not give up."

To the media while exiting from the AL plenary session,

Sou said, "I am going to continue to have a smooth attitude in order to face the criminal case. I hope that the courts can deliver justice to me." He noted that there is not yet a new date for the start of the trial, which was postponed from November 28.

Sou presents defense omitted from advisory paper

YESTERDAY'S unusual session of the Legislative Assembly (AL) saw the debate before the vote over Sulu's suspension mostly centered on questions and explanations between lawmakers Pereira Coutinho, Vong Hin Fai and Sulu Sou.

Pereira Coutinho was one of the most active in questioning several procedures and the conclusions reached by the Committee of Regiment and Mandates of the AL regarding the case of Sou. The lawmaker questioned why the opinions expressed by him and Sou during the two meetings of the Committee had not been included in the final document, adding that it looked like "a case of censorship."

"The committee has the obligation to issue an opinion, either in favor or against. It didn't," said Coutinho, noting that the process involved several illegal actions, including the lack of a hearing session to allow lawmaker Sou to present his version of events.

Consequently, Coutinho urged Sou to repeat to the plenary the "defense" that he had provided to the committee.

Sou accepted the challenge and explai-

ned that in his opinion "there was no disobedience to the authorities" in the case of which he stands accused. "I always [maintained] good communication with the frontline police officers during all demonstrations," he said.

Advancing on the topic, Sou said, "It was always our wish and ambition from the start to deliver our petition to the CE. After the demonstration that ended at the Nam Van Lake, a small group headed to the official residence leaving megaphones behind and aiming to deliver a letter."

Sou clarified that while it is necessary to obtain pre-authorization to hold a demonstration, such permission is not required for delivering a petition or letter to the CE. "The police confused both events and considered that this second part was an illegal gathering," he explained. "We disagree."

Lawmaker Kou Hoi In had read the opinion from the committee surmising that "parliamentary immunity is not an absolute value." He said that Sou had been present in both meetings of the Committee and had been given the opportunity to present his "defense."

"I have to take this opportunity to say sorry to the citizens since tomorrow [today] and although I had prepared a lot of work regarding the Policy Address sectorial debate of the Land and Public Works, I will not be able to participate from the plenary session. I'm really sorry, my mandate was suspended, I cannot fulfill my duties of lawmaker in the inspection of the government [activities and policies]," Sou said. "But my office will still be open to listen to the citizens and to their opinions. If you need any assistance, please come," he added.

I'm really sorry, my mandate was suspended. I cannot fulfill my duties of lawmaker in the inspection of the gov't.

SULU SOU

Questioned on the results of the vote, Sou expressed the feeling that the government has "influenced the voting of the lawmakers." He noted that it, "seems like the government and the AL are taking steps together, jeopardizing the independence of the AL."

The crime of which Sou is accused has a penal framework up to two years of imprisonment and any conviction with a jail term of over 30 days would disqualify him as a lawmaker and bring into doubt his future eligibility for such positions.

"We cannot make any judgment on the case [and take a side]," added Vong Hin Fai. "If we did we would put at risk the work of the courts and of the judiciary powers on the trial of the case." Vong went on to ridicule Coutinho's opinion, which he described as "ridiculous" and "disrespectful" to the AL and to the lawmakers involved.

Ng Kuok Cheong expressed his support for Sou, noting the case "didn't involve any violence or anything related to Macau independence. [...] If [the lawmaker] expresses the will to fulfill his mandate with honesty, we should allow it."

Both Coutinho and Sou tried to highlight the fact that voting down the suspension would not allow Sou to evade justice. He would still need to respond at a later date, they argued. According to the legal advisory from the AL, "there is no legal basis for the AL to set an exact timeframe for the suspension period," adding that according to the regulations, "it expires after the trial and sentence has been attributed," but remarking, "the AL is sovereign in the decisions that it takes."

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Philippines officially vows to improve welfare of migrant workers

Lynzy Valles

THE Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) of the Philippines pledged to continually assist Filipino migrant workers in the MSAR, along with the bureau's substantial increase in its budget for 2018, which amounts to PHP1 billion from PHP400 million last year.

The pledge was in line with the country's president Rodrigo Duterte's directives, which prioritize the concerns of migrant workers by improving their welfare and their access to the country's agencies and services.

The DFA has also been working with the Philippines Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) in a bid to develop its coordination in responding to Filipino's request for assistance.

DFA secretary Alan Peter Cayetano reiterated that the increase in its budget would allow the bureau to assist these migrant workers' legal cases. Cayetano also noted that the work also lies in creating dialogues with the governments of regions with significant numbers of Filipino workers.

"Upon the directives of the presi-



DFA secretary Alan Peter Cayetano (standing) and consul Lilybeth Deapera



Aspect of the Christmas party organized by the consulate

dent, if a [legal] case is set to start, we can immediately use the [legal assistance] fund [but] it doesn't mean to say that we're going to be able to cover everywhere," said Cayetano, who was speaking on the sidelines of Sunday's Christmas party organized by the Philippine Consulate General of the SAR (PCG).

"There are things we're working out on a diplomatic level," the official continued.

Cayetano recently vowed to launch new initiatives in the Philippines and abroad so as to improve the delivery of consular and other services.

Speaking to the press, the secre-

tary said that technology would play a significant role in these initiatives, revealing that the bureau is developing a specific app that migrant workers will be able to use to renew their passports.

He admitted that the renewal of passports has been a challenge as the backlog is large and the data, including fingerprints and biometrics, has not been converted to electronic files.

In Macau's PCG, only 22 personnel are available to serve some 32,000 Filipinos in the region.

When questioned about whether there are plans to increase the numbers, the secretary implied that it is being considered,

along with its budget.

"We have identified areas where there are many Filipinos [who need consular] services," he said.

The official also said that it is working on a proposal for the creation of an Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW) Cluster, which would include the DFA, DOLE and other government agencies to ensure better coordination in matters involving migrant workers and their families.

According to him, the OFW Cluster that he proposes will not only improve coordination but will serve as a command center to integrate services among different departments to deliver assistance

to the families of migrant workers. "There is a lack of program and coordination of how to help their families integrate into businesses or investment," the official explained.

"If we're only just dependent on our OFWs, our economy won't grow that much; their families will not go up the economic ladder."

Manila and Beijing are set to hold South China Sea talks early next year, and Cayetano vowed that the country would fight for the national interests of the Philippines.

He noted that Duterte's directives aim to produce warmer ties which will lead to more cooperation, more stability and more development.

"We are isolating the problems or issues we have with China and bolstering the relationship in other aspects, and having said that, we assure the people that we will fight for the national interest in both cases," the secretary said.

The annual Christmas party of the consulate, which was held at St. Joseph the Worker Church, featured performances, games and raffle draws.

Commenting on the event, Labor attaché Vivian Tornea said, "this is a chance where the Filipino community gets together. They have made their preparations to share talents and resources so they can give joy to their compatriots in Macau."

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CVS to buy Aetna for USD67.5b, remaking health sector

Zachary Tracer, Robert Langreth

CVS Health Corp. will buy Aetna Inc. for about USD67.5 billion, creating a health-care giant that will have a hand in everything from insurance to the corner drugstore.

CVS will pay \$207 a share for Aetna, with \$145 a share in cash and the rest in stock, the companies said in a statement Sunday. That's a 29 percent premium to Aetna's share price on Oct. 25, the day before the companies were reported to be in talks.

The deal is among the biggest health-care mergers of the past decade, combining the largest U.S. drugstore chain with the third-biggest health insurer. CVS also manages drug-benefits plans for employers and insurers, a business that could help steer some of Aetna's 22 million customers into CVS drugstores when they fill



a prescription. The deal will give Aetna's insurance plans a closer on-the-ground tie to where customers get care.

Including CVS's assumption of Aetna's debt, the deal will be valued at \$77 billion, the companies said in the statement. It's expected to close in the second half of 2018, the companies said.

In a joint interview, CVS Chief Executive Officer Larry Merlo and Aetna CEO Mark Bertolini said combining the companies would help CVS expand a variety of retail medical services, from vision care to nutrition advice to

audiology, making basic care more convenient and less costly for consumers. Aetna will be operated as a separate business unit, and any new services will be designed to appeal broadly to customers of other insurance companies as well, the executives said.

The immediate financial benefits of the deal are projected to be relatively modest. The companies said they expect \$750 million in synergies, and profit improvements in the low-to-mid single digits the second full year after the merger is completed. The companies are betting on longer-term profit from

reshaping how their customers get care, by creating what the executives are calling "10,000 new front doors for the health-care system" at CVS's stores and clinics.

"Think of these stores as a hub of a new way of accessing health-care services across America," Merlo said in the joint interview. "We're bringing health care to where people live and work."

The deal will be financed with a mix of cash and debt. Barclays Plc, Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and Bank of America Corp. have committed to provide \$49 billion of financing, the companies said.

CVS and Aetna are joining hands as the health sector is looking over the horizon at Amazon.com Inc., and how the Internet retailer could shake up the business of buying, distributing and selling drugs and medical products if it gets into health care. The retail industry has been battered by the online giant. Amazon hasn't revealed its plans.

"One of the problems with the health-care system is it's so fragmented and there's so little coordination," said Steve Kraus, who invests in health firms at Bessemer Venture Partners. "A better vertically integrated, less-siloed system is a good thing in my mind."

Merlo, the chief executive of CVS, disputed the idea that the deal was a defensive move against Amazon's possible entry into the pharmacy business.

"This transaction is really about growth, it is about expansion, it is not about contraction," Merlo said.

The deal could also set off a new round of takeovers as CVS and Aetna's competitors look at the reshaped landscape. On Nov. 30, Express Scripts Holding Co.'s top executive said the company would be open to a deal at the right price, though wasn't actively looking for one.

"We don't need to sell to be very successful in the future, but we are always open to others who may all of sudden conclude they want what we have," Express Scripts CEO Tim Wentworth said in an interview. He also mentioned the possibility of partnering with Amazon on an online-pharmacy arrangement. **Bloomberg**

Lamborghini joins the boom in supercar SUVs

SUPERCAR makers have long known that parked next to that snarling Lamborghini, racing-red Ferrari, or stately Bentley at some of the globe's toniest addresses is a practical SUV. With the sport utility vehicle market growing by leaps and bounds, they increasingly want in on those profits.

Lamborghini unveiled the once-improbable Urus SUV yesterday at its headquarters in Sant'Agata, Italy, where the supercar maker owned by the Volkswagen group is expanding the factory to meet utility vehicle demand.

The Urus enters a luxury field crowded with the Mercedes G-Class, the Bentley Bentayga and the trailblazing Porsche Cayenne — and soon to be joined by Aston Martin, Rolls Royce and, in all probability, Ferrari.

Analysts say that the move into SUVs has become a natural fit for most brands, even supercar makers like Lamborghini, despite the risk of alienating aficionados.

"I think if you look at those brands' image, I think you would look at an SUV — especially a Lamborghini — as

almost a sell-out move. I don't think that is the case anymore," Jeff Schuster, senior vice president at LMC Automotive in Detroit. "There is some risk to the purist, who can only see one view of the brand. But as long as they don't move too far out of who they are, a lineup can include an SUV in these brands. I wouldn't have said that five years ago."

From being nonexistent in 2006, high-end SUVs have more than quadrupled in sales since 2010, from 4,700 units to almost 21,000 units in 2016, driven by the Mer-

cedes G-Class and Bentley Bentayga, according to IHS Automotive. The entry of the Urus along with the planned Aston Martin DBX and Rolls Royce "High Side Vehicle" is expected to push those numbers up to 29,300 by 2020. Even Ferrari is considering entering the category, with a decision expected early next year, which could leave McLaren as the only hold-out among supercars.

Luxury SUVs are merely following the mass-market trend. SUVs are the fastest-growing overall segment of

the car market, tripling in sales in a decade from just under 8 million units in 2006 to nearly 26.5 million units last year. SUV sales are forecast by IHS Automotive to grow by another 28 percent to over 34 million units by 2020.

Before having a true luxury option, IHS automotive analyst Ian Fletcher said, many SUV owners went to private modifiers and tuners to increase performance and add luxury swag to their off-the-line mass-market vehicle. "A lot of manufacturers said, 'Oh,

we can have a piece of that,'" Fletcher said.

Porsche proved the market with the Cayenne, and was followed by the Mercedes G-Class, "which went from being utilitarian to being something synonymous with the Kardashians," he said.

The decision to enter the SUV market was a no-brainer for Lamborghini, which as part of the VW group shares luxury SUV platforms with the Bentley Bentayga and the Audi Q7, bringing down development costs and increasing profit margins. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

STUDIO CITY PRESENTS 'ALAN TAM 40TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT TOUR'



Canto-pop singer Alan Tam will be performing at the Studio City Event Center (SCEC) on January 20, 2018 for his anniversary concert, "Alan Tam 40th Anniversary Concert Tour 2018 in Macau." Tickets go on sale tomorrow at 10 a.m.

Celebrating his 40 years in Hong Kong's music industry, the concert will use the four seasons to represent the different phases of Tam's illustrious career.

According to a statement issued yesterday by Melco, "with SCEC's impressive stage and effects, the concert will transform into a huge extravaganza, where fans can celebrate and party along with Alan."

The Hong Kong singer and actor will also collaborate with an orchestra to present his timeless hits like "Friends", "Love Trap" and "Illusion," among many more. His popular ballads such as "Flower in Water" and "Don't Say Goodbye" will be re-arranged especially for the concert.

The world tour kicked off in Hong Kong with 13 sold-out shows.

TIFFANY PROFITS SPARKLE AS CHINA'S DEMAND FOR LUXURY RISES



Tiffany & Co., which has struggled with online competition and lost its luster with younger shoppers, reported

a quarterly profit that beat Wall Street's expectations as shoppers in China snapped up the brand's luxury goods.

The high-end jewelry company's strength in its third quarter mostly came from the Asia-Pacific region, where sales surged 15 percent to USD283 million. This was mainly due to strong demand in China. Sales were up 5 percent in Europe to \$110 million.

But other places didn't fare as well. In Japan, sales dropped 8 percent to \$139 million. While Tiffany managed to squeeze out a 1 percent sales increase in the Americas, that was considered a disappointment. The company said that a downturn in spending by foreign tourists was part of the reason for the soft sales.

Sales at stores open at least a year, a key gauge of a retailer's health, dipped 1 percent.

ANALYSIS

Maybe China can't take over the world

Christopher Balding

ALMOST daily, newspapers in the U.S., Europe and China release eye-catching headlines about China's technological advances and economic prowess. The accomplishments are real. But they're not necessarily evidence of Western failure or Chinese invincibility.

In touting such achievements, commentators too often overlook the structural factors that have shaped them. Economists now recognize just how much of economic interaction is driven by such forces. For instance, the gravity model in international trade posits that the distance between countries impacts how much they trade. No matter how warm the ties between China and Bolivia, sheer distance will always limit their bilateral trade volumes. By contrast, despite frosty relations, large amounts of trade and investment flow between China and Taiwan owing to proximity and shared language.

Many of the most innovative Chinese companies have benefited not only from government support and protection, but from structural conditions that have made their businesses more viable than they would've been otherwise. They've thrived in a unique cauldron of challenges and inputs that don't exist in most other places in the world.

Take mobile payments, where China is the clear world leader. In 2016, Chinese spent more than USD5 trillion using their phones - more than 50 times as much as in the U.S., according to one estimate. That figure is expected to grow strongly again in 2017, as simple and ubiquitous platforms connect ever more buyers and sellers. In many cities, cash has become virtually obsolete.

Two structural factors have



A merchant quick response (QR) code and payment instructions for Ant Financial Services Group's Alipay

boosted adoption of mobile payments. The first is China's archaic banking system, which has long served the interests of big companies, not consumers. That retarded the development of a credit-card culture among both merchants and buyers. For many years after arriving in China in 2009, I was struck by the fact that even Chinese bank cards weren't accepted in many places, with storeowners preferring cash.

Second, the two key players in the field of mobile payments - Tencent Holdings Ltd., which dominates messaging with its WeChat app, and online retailer Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. - enjoy virtual monopolies in China. Chinese spend roughly 30 percent of their smartphone time using WeChat, not just messaging one another but ordering taxis, exchanging business information, storing loyalty points for retailers. Meanwhile,

Alibaba cornered 60 percent of the e-commerce market in 2016 and well above 50 percent in 2017. No two companies capture consumer time the same way anywhere else in the world.

By contrast, Western consumers are spoiled for choice, especially when it comes paying for things. They can use cash, credit cards, debit cards with major payment networks, checks, PayPal and, more recently, mobile payment systems such as Apple Pay. While mobile payments are gaining, the other payment providers are innovating as well. For the average consumer, there's little difference between scanning a QR code and waving an RFID-enabled credit card at a specially enabled reader. And at least the card doesn't require downloading and learning a new technology.

Similar examples can be found in other sectors as well. Alibaba has succeeded in large part

because brick-and-mortar retailing is so challenging on the mainland. Roughly a quarter of the world's cities with more than 500,000 people are located in China - twice as many as India, the next country on the list. Real estate prices in those urban areas are astronomical, which limits how big stores can be and thus the range of consumer choices.

That makes platforms such as Alibaba and JD.com much more attractive both to consumers - who then provide the kind of data the online giants can use to sell them debt they can use to buy more on the platforms - and to manufacturers. Instead of fighting for shelf space, the latter can simply open online shops, take orders on Alibaba and ship directly from their warehouse. That's led to a flourishing of niche online retailers selling everything up to and including replica NASA space suits.

■ The question is how successful [Chinese] companies will be once transplanted into different contexts

Even the bike-sharing craze that's drawn so much attention in the West has exploded largely because of China's unique environment. Lower-income Chinese have gravitated toward the super-cheap services in order to solve the so-called last-mile problem, getting to and from public transport nodes. The technology didn't emerge first in the West partly because consumers - even in bike-crazy Holland - haven't really needed such a cost-effective solution.

None of this is to diminish the fact that Chinese companies have produced some remarkable technologies and, given the vast amounts of research going into artificial intelligence, are likely to produce even more. The question is how successful such companies and technologies will be once transplanted into different contexts. One of the major puzzles of corporate China is why firms have struggled to expand internationally. The answer may be that they're offering solutions to problems that don't exist in quite the same way overseas. Unless they can cater to the needs of customers operating under very different conditions, their remarkable progress may end at China's shores. **Bloomberg**

SOUTH CHINA SEA

New Chinese military transport aircraft declared set for deployment

CHINESE state media said the country's new Shaanxi Yun-9 military transport aircraft has completed trial runs over the South China Sea and is ready to be deployed, expanding China's abilities in "safeguarding maritime rights" in the strategically crucial waterway.

The Global Times newspaper said Sunday that the quadruple turbo prop

plane "is now able to undertake combat missions" after conducting its first long-range training missions over the South China Sea.

Word of the completion of trials was also announced by the Chinese People's Liberation Army Air Force on Saturday on its official WeChat microblog.

Training included

making air drops without assistance from ground controllers and preparing for emergency contingencies in all weather conditions, the Global Times said. That guarantees its ability to deliver supplies to China's island outposts in the sea, many of which have been equipped with radar stations, missile batteries, hardened aircraft shelters and other military

infrastructure.

The Yun-9 is a longer version of China's mainstay Yun-8 military transport aircraft, boasting advanced features, the ability to take off and land in a variety of environments, including small islands such as those created by China from coral reefs, and relatively inexpensive production costs.

It can transport up to



20 tons of cargo, vehicles and about 100 troops, as well as serve in a medivac function with a maximum range of 4,200 kilometers. The Global Times said that among its training

missions, it flew from a military airport in the southwestern province of Sichuan, landed on an island in the South China Sea and returned to base the same day. **AP**

Apple, Google at internet fest shows lure of market

Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

THE high-profile attendance of the leaders of Apple and Google at a Chinese conference promoting Beijing's vision of a censored internet highlights the dilemma for Western tech companies trying to expand in an increasingly lucrative but restricted market.

The event in Wuzhen, a historic canal town outside Shanghai, marked the first time chiefs of two of the world's biggest tech companies have attended the annual state-run World Internet Conference.

Apple CEO Tim Cook told the gathering as the conference opened this weekend that his company was proud to work with Chinese partners to build a "common future in cyberspace."

His and Google CEO Sundar Pichai's presence along with other business leaders, diplomats and other experts, some analysts say, helped bestow credibility on Beijing's preferred version of an internet sharply at odds with Silicon Valley's dedication to unfettered access.

Chinese President Xi Jinping vowed, in remarks to the conference conveyed by an official, that "China's door to the

world will never close, but will only open wider."

As in previous years, organizers allowed attendees unrestricted access to the internet, contrary to official policy under which internet users face extensive monitoring and censorship and are blocked from accessing many overseas sites by the so-called Great Firewall of China.

These companies are between a rock and a hard place.

ROGIER CREEMERS
LEIDEN UNIVERSITY

Since Xi came to power in 2013, he has tightened controls and further stifled free expression, activists say.

Beijing's restraints also extend to Western companies like Google, Twitter and Facebook, which have largely been shut out from the market, leaving it to homegrown internet giants like Tencent.

Apple has a large production base in China, which is one of its biggest markets, though



Apple's CEO Tim Cook delivers a speech at the opening ceremony of the Fourth World Internet Conference in Wuzhen

domestic smartphone makers are catching up.

It has been criticized by some app developers for complying with Chinese censorship demands. In July, companies that let people get around the government's internet filters — known as virtual private network providers — said their programs had been removed from Apple's app store in China. One such company, ExpressVPN, said Apple was "aiding China's censorship effort."

Apple said that China began requiring this year that developers of virtual-private networks have a government license. The California-based tech giant said it had removed apps "in China that do not meet the new regulations." Two Apple spokeswomen couldn't be reached by phone for comment.

"The problem is that these companies are between a rock and a hard place," said Rogier Creemers, a China researcher at Leiden University who at-

tended the conference. They covet China's huge market but if they do make it in, as in Apple's case, local law "requires things that Western observers generally are uncomfortable with," he said.

Cook's speech drew a big crowd. He said the company supports more than 5 million jobs in China, including 1.8 million software developers who have earned more than 112 billion yuan (USD17 billion).

It's Apple's responsibility to ensure that "technology is infused with humanity," he said, avoiding mention of any sensitive topics.

Google shut the Chinese version of its search engine in 2010 over censorship concerns. Pichai has talked about wanting to re-enter China, and he told a panel discussion in Wuzhen that small and mid-sized Chinese businesses use Google services to get their products to other countries, according to a report in the South China Morning Post. A Google spokesman declined to comment.

The tech giants may have chosen to appear at the conference because the current political climate in the United States encourages a pragmatic approach in pursuing business regardless of other concerns, said Jonathan Sullivan, director of the University of Nottingham's China Policy Institute.

"There has never been a time when an American company is less likely to be called out by the White House for pursuing a business-first approach," said Sullivan. **AP**

Canada's Trudeau in Beijing on visit focused on trade

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

CANADIAN Prime Minister Justin Trudeau began a visit to China focused on trade yesterday with a stop at a Chinese social media giant where he talked up the advantages of travel to his homeland.

Accompanied by four Cabinet ministers, Trudeau also met with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang at the Great Hall of the People.

"It's rare to have such a close, intimate relationship where we have mutual exchanges of visits along with such dialogues," Li told Trudeau in remarks at the start of their meeting. "China-Canada relations are indeed headed toward a golden stage."

Trudeau responded that the opportunities for



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, (left) poses for photos with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang

deepening ties between the countries' economies and people are "tremendous."

"Canada is deeply interested in further engagement and trade across the Pacific and I know we're going to continue to have wonderful and fruitful discussions now and in the future as well," Trudeau said.

The two leaders oversaw the signing of three documents related to trade in food products, energy cooperation and education, though no details were provided.

Trudeau is to meet with President Xi Jinping today.

At Sina, owner of the popular Twitter-like Weibo microblogging

service, Trudeau took part in a panel discussion that touched on Canadian tourism draws, as well as the nation's beer and wine, according to Chinese and Canadian reports.

Next year marks the China-Canada year of tourism and Canada is hoping to double the number of Chinese tourist arrivals.

China and Canada are also in exploratory talks on a framework for a trade agreement, although reports say Ottawa has been pushing for provisions on the environment, governance, labor and gender issues.

Beijing generally seeks to avoid references that might highlight the one-party authoritarian state's human rights record.

China has positioned itself as a leading advocate

of free trade, particularly since President Donald Trump pulled the U.S. out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a pan-Pacific trade deal. Yet foreign businesses often complain that China closes many key areas to foreign investment, and Xi is known to favor a centralized economic model with special support for state-owned industries.

Next year [...] Canada is hoping to double the number of Chinese tourist arrivals

Canada has remained part of the Trans-Pacific Partnership. During recent talks in Danang, Vietnam, Trudeau lobbied for strong provisions for environmental protection, labor rights, and gender issues, and the name of the initiative was altered to be the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.

China largely imports wood and agricultural products, ore, fuels and seafood from Canada, while Canada imports machinery, furniture and sporting goods and textiles from China. The trade imbalance has narrowed, but China still ran a surplus of about USD17 billion with Canada during the first half of this year, according to the Canadian government. **AP**



Cathay Pacific crew saw North Korea missile test

A second airline has reported seeing North Korea's latest missile test during a flight last week.

Cathay Pacific says the crew on a San Francisco-to-Hong Kong flight reported witnessing the apparent re-entry of the ICBM that North Korea launched before dawn Wednesday.

The Hong Kong-based airline said in a statement yesterday that the missile was far from the airplane, and operation was unaffected.

North Korea said the Hwasong-15 missile is capable of reaching anywhere in the U.S. mainland.

Cathay said it would remain alert, but that flight routes have not been changed.

Korean Air pilots on two different planes also reported seeing flashes of light believed to have been the North Korean missile.

JAPAN

More N. Korean 'ghost boats,' bodies wash up on shores

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

THREE bodies and a dilapidated wooden boat believed to have come from North Korea washed ashore in northern Japan yesterday, coast guard officials said.

The coast guard said a Japanese fishing boat picked up a male body floating off the coast of Sakata in Yamagata prefecture and two more bodies washed up on a nearby beach an hour and half later. The bodies were decomposed, but one of them had a lapel pin thought to be North Korean.

Officials are investigating if the bodies were from a boat that washed ashore Saturday.

Winds and water currents push dozens of boats onto Japan's northern coasts annually. Rickety North Korean fishing boats are particularly vulnerable because they lack the sturdiness and equip-



ment to return home.

But the alarming pace over the past few weeks has prompted Japanese authorities to step up patrols.

Twenty-eight of the vessels — dubbed "ghost boats" — were detected in November, up from just four in November last year. Usually, only the boats or fragments wash ashore. It is very rare for survivors to be rescued and

brought ashore by the Japanese.

The increase may be related to a campaign led by Kim Jong Un to boost fish harvests as a means of increasing sources of protein for the nation, which continues to fall short of food self-sufficiency and remains vulnerable to health problems caused by the lack of a varied, balanced diet.

In order to reach their quotas, the North Korean fishermen may be taking more risks and venturing farther from their usual waters.

Japanese authorities are also holding 18 people from two other boats. They claim to be North Korean.

The first batch of 10 landed on a small uninhabited island off southern Hokkaido on a damaged fishing boat and allegedly stole electronics appliances and other items from an unmanned shelter while temporarily taking refuge from rough seas. Japan's coast guard rescued them last week.

Eight other survivors who lost their boat but managed to swim ashore in Akita have been transferred to immigration.

Japanese officials said the 10 are being investigated for possible theft, while the other eight are expected to be sent home via China. **AP**

AD

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Raf Casert, Brussels

EU

Theresa May makes diplomatic blitz to unlock Brexit talks

BRITISH Prime Minister Theresa May will make a diplomatic blitz to Brussels early today [Macau time] to meet top European Union officials and try to reach a much-needed breakthrough in the negotiations on Britain's exit.

May is to meet with EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and EU Council President Donald Tusk, and hopes to make what the EU calls "sufficient progress" on the questions of Britain's leaving bill, Irish border conditions and the rights of citizens in each other's territories.

That progress is needed, the EU says, before the sides can move the negotiations on to the next important stage about future trade relations, including trade, next week.

The Irish border issue in particular has stood out as a sticking point, with Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney telling Irish broadcaster RTE that "we don't yet have agreement" on a full text.

A British official, who spoke only on condition of anonymity in line with government policy, said overnight there were "plenty of discussions still to go" and instead of an initial Monday deadline for a breakthrough, the official called the talks now "an important staging post."

The EU's top Brexit officials will also be huddling among themselves looking how to get more concessions from Britain, specifically on citizens' rights and the Irish border.

Britain is set to leave the EU on March 29, 2019 yet the progress on its exit and the terms of new relations have been painfully slow.

The 27 other member states need to declare there is enough progress on the three divorce

AP PHOTO



issues during their Dec. 14-15 summit before the talks can start including future relations, something which is paramount for hard-pressed Britain.

Yet May is still fraught with difficulties. Juncker first meets

with Brexit experts from the European Parliament, which will eventually have to endorse any departure deal.

And Manfred Weber, the chief of the EPP Christian Democrats' group in the EU parliament, said

his group still saw plenty of hurdles.

Weber said in a tweet that even if the issue of the outstanding bill had made major progress, "we are much more concerned about the fact that negotiations

are stalled on the protection of EU citizens' rights & on the Irish case."

Coveney held out hope, though. "We are not quite yet where we need to be, but it is possible to do that today," he said. **AP**

USA

Billy Bush says Trump 'Access Hollywood' tape is real

BILLY Bush said it was indeed Donald Trump's voice captured on a 2005 "Access Hollywood" tape talking about fame enabling him to grope and try to have sex with women.

"Of course he said it," the former "Access Hollywood" and "Today" show personality said in an op-ed published Sunday in The New York Times.

The video shows Trump, who was the star of "The Apprentice," riding on an "Access Hollywood" bus with then-host Bush. At one point, Trump describes trying to have sex

AP PHOTO



Billy Bush arrives at the Operation Smile's 2014 Smile Gala in Beverly Hills, California

with a married woman. He also brags about women letting him kiss and grab them because he is

famous. "When you're a star, they let you do it," Trump says. "You can do any-

thing." "Along with Donald Trump and me, there were seven other guys

present on the bus at the time, and every single one of us assumed we were listening to a crass stand-up act. He was performing. Surely, we thought, none of this was real. We now know better," Bush said in the op-ed.

The recording of the lewd conversation between Bush and Trump emerged during the 2016 presidential campaign. Trump later said he never did any of the actions described on the tape, and dismissed his words as locker room talk.

In the waning days of the presidential election, more than a dozen women came forward to say that Trump had sexually assaulted or harassed them over the years. He denied it.

But Bush said he believes the women, and he felt the need to write the piece following reports

that Trump had privately suggested that the "Access Hollywood" tape was not authentic.

"I can only imagine how it has reopened the wounds of the women who came forward with their stories about him, and did not receive enough attention," Bush said. "This country is currently trying to reconcile itself to years of power abuse and sexual misconduct. Its leader is wantonly poking the bear."

Bush, who had recently been hired as co-host of the "Today" show, lost his job following the release of the tape. He said he has since gone through a lot of soul searching.

"None of us were guilty of knowingly enabling our future president," he said. "But all of us were guilty of sacrificing a bit of ourselves in the name of success." **AP**

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TIME: 1:30pm-10pm (Mondays to Fridays)

10:30am-10pm (Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays; 90 minutes per session, maximum capacity is 150 people at one time)

UNTIL: February 28, 2018

VENUE: MGM Art Space

ADMISSION: MOP150 (MOP120 for Macau residents; free admission for children aged 2 or under)

A CONTRIBUTION TO THE HISTORY OF MACAU EXHIBITION

TIME: 10:30am-5:30pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: March 31, 2018

ADMISSION: Free

ORGANIZER: Macau Post and Telecommunications Bureau

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8396 8305

COMMUNICATIONS MUSEUM

TIME: 9am-5:30pm daily (Ticket sales is closed 30 minutes prior to closing; closed on public holidays)

ADDRESS: No. 7, Estrada de D. Maria II

ADMISSION: MOP10

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2871 8063; 2871 8570

REPRESENTING WOMEN THROUGH MAM COLLECTION – 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY

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

UNTIL: December 10, 2017

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

Offbeat

FORMER PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA: 'THINK BEFORE YOU TWEET'



When former President Barack Obama spoke to a leadership forum in India's capital last week, he never once used the words "Donald Trump" and was careful to avoid any direct reference to his successor in the White House.

Yet Obama made plenty of veiled references, from climate change to the perils of using Twitter. The responses often drew laughter from the audience at the Hindustan Times Leadership Summit, which was part of a three-country tour Obama is undertaking in one of his first global outings as a private citizen after leaving office.

Here's what Obama had to say:

Obama said he uses spellcheck and punctuation.

"Which my daughters think is odd. They were explaining to us how if you put a period at the end of a sentence it sounds harsh. I said, 'No, that's English. That's how you know the thought is finished.'"

He said he sees people getting in trouble for their tweets, and says they should follow the old advice of thinking before you speak: "Think before you tweet," Obama said. "Same principle."

He said social media is a powerful tool, for both good and ill. "And look, I've got 100 million Twitter followers. I actually have more than other people who use it more often."

(For the record, Obama has 97 million Twitter followers and Trump has 44 million).

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	RTPi News (Delayed Broadcast)
14:55	Discussion of the Policy Address for 2018: Area Transport and Public Works
20:00	Miscellaneous
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live
03:45	Champions League: Barcelona x Sporting (Live)
05:50	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

30 Nov



MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS

ROOM 1

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

Director: Kenneth Branagh

Starring: Penelope Cruz, Willem Dafoe, Judi Dench, Johnny Depp, Michelle Pfeiffer, Daisy Ridley and Josh Gad

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 114 min



WONDER

ROOM 2

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

Director: Stephen Chbosky

Starring: Julia Roberts, Owen Wilson, Jacob Tremblay

Language: Chinese (English)

Duration: 113min



HAPPY DEATH DAY

ROOM 3

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

Director: Christopher Landon

Starring: Jessica Rothe, Israel Broussard, Ruby Modine, Charles Aitken

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 96min

this day in history



1950 PYONGYANG TAKEN AS UN RETREATS

Chinese troops have entered the North Korean capital, Pyongyang, as United Nations forces are pushed steadily back towards South Korea.

The North Korean People's Army (NKPA) invaded the south in June this year. Forces from the UN and Republic of Korea led a counter-offensive on 15 September.

North Korean forces quickly retreated back over the 38th parallel and General Douglas MacArthur ordered troops to pursue them into North Korea.

On 19 October Pyongyang was captured and by 24 November, North Korean forces were driven back almost to the Yalu River which marks the border of China.

But two days later, as General MacArthur prepared for a final offensive Chinese Communist Forces (CCF) joined the NKPA to launch this latest counterattack.

Today in Pyongyang, the CCF had to wade across the Taedong River because American engineers had destroyed bridges to the deserted city and burned all supplies and equipment that might help enemy forces.

Thousands of refugees are waiting to be taken from the north to the south bank by small boats.

Meanwhile in the north-east of the country, up to 20,000 US Marines and 7th Division infantrymen are totally surrounded by Communist Korean and Chinese forces south of the Chosin reservoir.

Reports from the headquarters of X Corp say marines and soldiers are now under fire from six Chinese divisions and enduring some hardship in sub-zero temperatures.

Allied aircraft are supplying the trapped troops with ammunition and food and have evacuated 1,700 wounded men to hospitals on the coast.

The British Commonwealth 29th Brigade, the rearguard of the Eighth Army, has retreated to positions further south of Pyongyang.

And two companies of the US 187th Airborne Regiment are fighting Communist troops near Sibyon, 70 miles (112 km) south-east of Pyongyang.

UN reinforcements have been sent to the American paratroops.

In Washington, British Prime Minister Clement Attlee had a meeting with President Harry S Truman to discuss events in Korea.

And General Omar Nelson Bradley, general of the army, has been explaining the seriousness of the situation to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Yesterday President Truman condemned the Chinese for joining NKPA forces and escalating the war.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The dramatic events at the Chosin Reservoir were reported as one of the greatest and bloodiest retreats in US Marine Corps history. For two weeks, during one of the coldest winters on record, the First Marine Division, 200 British Marine Commandoes and elements of the US Seventh Division fought their way to the sea port of Hungnam along a narrow route through the mountains of North Korea - the Funchilin Pass.

They had support from ships in Hungnam that provided naval gunfire and navy and marine aircraft. At Hungnam, the Navy re-deployed more than 100,000 marines and soldiers of the X Corps, and evacuated over 100,000 North Korean refugees.

All UN troops retreated south and in January, 1951, the Communists recaptured Seoul, the South Korean capital.

UN troops prepared a second counterattack for March 1951 and by June had recaptured Seoul.

The Korean War cost about two million lives.

It ended with an armistice on 27 July 1953 which established a fixed demarcation line with a four kilometre (2.4 mile) demilitarized zone.

The armistice was only ever intended as a temporary measure but remains the only safeguard for peace on the Korean peninsula.

American troops remain stationed in the demilitarized zone on and around the 38th parallel separating North and South Korea.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 The ball is totally in your court, and you could be nearing the end of the game. Give it your all - holding back now just confuses your teammates and might give your opponents just the opening they're waiting for.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Mind games get you nowhere today, especially when the rules are so complicated that no one knows what's going on. You're not doing it on purpose, of course.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Your ideas and advice, usually top-notch, are generally welcomed by your people. A more argumentative energy is flowing through you right now, so make sure you can back up those opinions generously.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Shifting universal energies lead to corresponding changes in your life. They affect you, your friends, your family and, most importantly, how you and all your people relate to one another.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Missing information proves vital to your whole day, so don't jump into any new situation before you know everything you need. It may be hard because everything looks so good at first glance.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Take a hard look at your finances and professional life before you decide to tackle someone else's plans. Is that what you really want? Are you sure that it's even possible at this time?

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Just because someone close has a problem, that doesn't automatically mean that you have to fix it. The temptation to be nice is constant, but it might be kinder to everyone.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Don't stop looking for love just because you're feeling a little cranky, or you may find yourself losing ground really quickly. There's a time and there's a place for the big discussion.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 All your plans are finally falling neatly into place, so now is the perfect time to pack up all your troubles and drop them off at the dump. Decision-making often confounds you, and that leads to procrastination.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You've got a lot to think about right now! An offer to upgrade to a larger home might be out of your immediate financial capability, but opportunities like this allow you to grow.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You may find yourself in the middle of a tense moment with a loved one today. A standoff does no one any good (and just raises your blood pressure), so find a way to talk things over with the relevant party before it's too late.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You're sick and tired of feeling so sick and tired! If you're fed up with an old situation, it's time to take steps so it doesn't keep cropping up in your life over and over again.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

Table listing weather for various Chinese cities: Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, Urumqi, Xi'an, Lhasa, Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming, Nanjing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Hangzhou, Taipei, Guangzhou, Hong Kong.

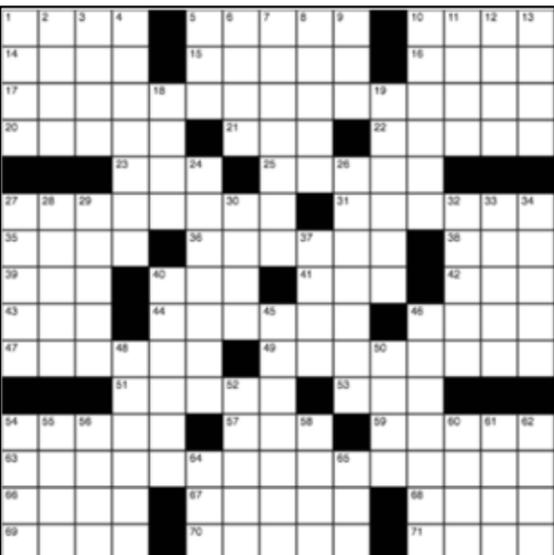
WORLD

Table listing weather for various world cities: Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Prevaricator; 5- Small hand drum; 10- Roseanne, formerly; 14- Scottish Gaelic; 15- Body of salt water; 16- Voice of America org.; 17- In spite of; 20- Squirrel stash; 21- ___ for tat; 22- Proverb; 23- Charged particle; 25- Profundity; 27- So to speak; 31- Go between; 35- Sup; 36- Composer Mahler; 38- Front part of an apron; 39- 401(k) alternative; 40- Flight; 41- Organ of sight; 42- Music producer Brian; 43- Moray, e.g.; 44- In and of ___; 46- Ancient Semitic for "Lord"; 47- Dissimilar; 49- Cancer of the bone marrow; 51- Gentle push; 53- Author Deighton; 54- Circa; 57- Dorm overseers, for short; 59- Pertaining to punishment; 63- High-speed separator; 66- London gallery; 67- Ripped off; 68- Romeo's last words; 69- Cries of discovery; 70- Homerun king Hank; 71- Portable shelter;

DOWN: 1- Tuneful Horne; 2- High-performance Camaro; 3- Apropos of; 4- Big revision; 5- Small child; 6- Zwei cubed; 7- Furthermore; 8- Starbucks order; 9- Santa ___, CA; 10- Indian religious leader; 11- Home to most people; 12- Circular band; 13- Fury; 18- ___ pronounce you...; 19- Aboriginal; 24- Made ineffective; 26- Sportive; 27- French farewell; 28- Femme fatale; 29- Counting everything; 30- Jamaican exports; 32- Steel girder; 33- Mideast peninsula; 34- Deadly virus; 37- Prefix with conference; 40- Monetary unit of Zaire; 45- Bess's predecessor; 46- Advantage; 48- Hardens; 50- Foreign Legion cap; 52- Actress Scacchi; 54- Car; 55- Boring, so to speak; 56- Director Preminger; 58- WWII battle site; 60- Au naturel; 61- Not "fer"; 62- Internet writing system that popularized "pwn3d" and "n00b"; 64- 1860s insignia; 65- Stimp's pal;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
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Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
IACM 28 387 333
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LA LIGA

Valencia loses to 10-man Getafe, trails Barcelona by 5 points

Tales Azzoni, Madrid

BARCELONA stumbled for the second consecutive week but it still gained ground at the top of the Spanish league.

A day after being held to a 2-2 home draw against Celta Vigo — giving its nearest challengers a chance to move closer — the Catalan club saw its advantage at the top strengthen after second-place Valencia lost 1-0 to 10-man Getafe on Sunday.

Valencia had a chance to cut Barcelona's lead to two points, but it left the match against mid-table Getafe five points behind after conceding a second-half goal by Markel Bergara.

Atletico Madrid gained ground on Saturday by defeating Real Sociedad 2-1, but fourth-place Real Madrid missed its chance after drawing 0-0 at Athletic Bilbao. Fifth-place Sevilla won to get within eight points of the lead.

Valencia hadn't lost in 16 games in all competitions this season,



Rakitic (left) duels for the ball against Celta Vigo's Andreu Fontas

and hadn't been held scoreless since a 0-0 draw against Atletico Madrid in the third round. It had won nine straight before a league draw against Barcelona last weekend.

"We have to move on and try to starting winning again as soon as possible," Valencia midfielder Dani Parejo said.

Valencia played with an extra

man from the 25th minute at the Coliseum Alfonso Perez as Mauro Arambarri was sent off for a foul that prompted his second yellow card in a four-minute span. The Uruguay midfielder had been shown his first card in the 21st after another foul.

"We are thrilled to be able to win against a team which had been playing so well," Bergara

said. "We knew it was going to be extremely difficult, and to win after going down a man so early, it makes us very happy."

Valencia struggled to create significant scoring opportunities despite the extra player, while Getafe kept threatening on counterattacks.

Bergara netted the winner with a shot from outside the area in the 66th. The ball changed direction after hitting a defender, fooling Valencia goalkeeper Neto.

Valencia nearly equalized less than 10 minutes later when Parejo struck the post with a free-kick shot that was barely redirected by Getafe goalkeeper Vicente Guaita.

Guaita also made a great save on a long-range shot by Carlos Soler in injury time.

It was the third straight home win for Getafe, which moved to eighth in the standings with 19 points.

STRUGGLING BETIS

Real Betis lost 1-0 at Las Pal-

mas to extend its winless streak to six games in all competitions.

The defeat came only a few days after Betis' demoralizing elimination to second-division Cadiz in the Copa del Rey.

Forward Jonathan Calleri scored a 19th-minute winner for Las Palmas, which snapped a five-game winless run.

It hadn't won in the league since the fourth round. It remained in the relegation zone despite the win. Betis was in 11th place.

LEGANES RALLY

Leganes scored three goals in the final 20 minutes to defeat Villarreal 3-1 and halt a four-game losing streak.

The southern Madrid club moved from 11th to seventh in the standings, only one point behind sixth-place Villarreal.

The last league win for Leganes had been against Athletic Bilbao in October, although it recently had two Copa del Rey victories against second-division club Valladolid in the Round of 32.

Daniel "Raba" Rabaseda put Villarreal ahead in the 60th at Butarque Stadium, but the hosts recovered with goals by Diego Rico in the 72nd, Nabil El Zhar in the 81st and Gabriel Pires in injury time. Leganes had scored only once in its last four league games. **AP**

AD



BBAM, CanCham, FMCC and ICCM invite you to attend our Inter-Chamber Christmas Wined Down

@
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Sofitel At Ponte 16, Macau
Thursday 7th December**

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Christmas Lucky Draw at 7:15 pm

Prizes sponsored by FMCC, Four Seasons Hotel, Grand Lapa, Macau, Nata Bakery, Warrior Fitness and more



Canapés will be served accompanied by two-hour free flow of mulled wine, house wine, beer, soft drinks and traditional, delectable Christmas goodies

Members: MOP/HKD 250.00

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GOLF

Fowler beats Tiger at home and at the World Challenge

RICKIE Fowler isn't winning as much as he would like. He's still undefeated against Tiger Woods over the last month. According to Fowler, anyway.

They played in Florida as Woods began working toward a return to competition from his fourth back surgery. Woods said it was young players like Fowler, Justin Thomas and Daniel Berger who motivated him, encouraged him and at times helped him understand where his game was at.

Fowler and Woods both left the Hero World Challenge with plenty of optimism for the new year.

Fowler rallied from a seven-shot deficit by opening with seven straight birdies and closing with an 11-under 61, the course record at Albany Golf Club, for a four-shot victory over Charley Hoffman that moved him to No. 7 in the world.

Woods had three rounds in the 60s, and even with back-to-back bogeys, he closed with 68 on Sunday and tied for ninth in the 18-man field. It still was his best result since a playoff loss in this



Rickie Fowler (right) poses with Tiger Woods and the trophy

holiday event in 2013 when it was held at Sherwood Country Club in California.

"I'm excited the way this week has gone on," Woods said. "It was a very good week."

As for those matches in Florida? "I didn't lose," Fowler said. Ever? "I was 1 down after nine and he went to go play nine holes with Sam," Fowler said, referring to Woods' 10-year-old daughter. "I think we both shot 65 on a day that it wasn't playing easy, typical kind of south Florida wind. It was never like a match was given to anyone."

There were other times when they played for fun. More than who lost the bets and for how much was that Woods was playing again, and playing a lot.

"It's been cool to see Tiger able to be back playing at home, or even here, just out having fun and healthy," Fowler said. "One of the times we played 18 holes, I was going to go back to work out. And he went and played another nine."

As much as Woods gives credit to Fowler and the kids for bringing him along, maybe it was Woods who helped Fowler.

Fowler had taken off five weeks after the Presidents Cup when he played two rounds with Woods to get ready for the OHL Classic in Mayakoba, Mexico, the only official PGA Tour event he played in the fall portion of the schedule. Fowler shot four rounds in the 60s and finished one shot behind Patton Kizzire.

They played two or three times before Thanksgiving, and when Fowler returned to golf in the Bahamas, he turned in the best closing performance of his career.

"I think he sharpened me up a little bit," Fowler said with a grin. "I've gotten a little scared of how good he was playing at home, thought I needed to start playing a little bit better or something."

Fowler is not always known for a fast start. In three majors this year, he stumbled at the start of the round and then made a big charge late — especially at the PGA Championship — until he ran out of holes.

That wasn't the case in the Bahamas.

Fowler was seven shots out of the lead — three shots ahead of Woods — and he was leading before he even made the turn.

He holed birdie putts of about 12 feet on the first two holes, hit a gap wedge to 3 feet on the par-5 third, made his toughest putt into the green from 15 feet on No. 4, and then holed a bunker shot on No. 5. Fowler followed that with another wedge that spun back to a foot on the par-5 sixth, and he hit out of a bunker to about 7 feet on the next hole.

"You just try and ride her till she bucks you, you know?" Fowler said. "Ride until the horse kicks you off."

He made par on No. 8, ending his streak. And by then, Hoffman couldn't do much about it. Hoffman closed with a 72 to finish alone in second. Tommy Fleetwood (67) and Jordan Spieth (69) tied for third.

The scores will show that Woods finished 10 shots behind in a tie for ninth, and even though he drove the green on the par-4 seventh and made eagle, and shot 31 on the front nine for the second straight day, he was never in contention.

But this was about more than a score.

He was strong from start to finish. Woods said there were no issues with his back, and that 2-iron he quickly and violently recoiled with a shot in the par-5 third hole showed that.

Whether soccer or football, US calls the business a crime

AT a U.S. corruption trial of three former South American football barons, lawyers want to make sure that the case doesn't get lost in translation.

It's confusing enough that the trial involves a byzantine, 24-year conspiracy involving more than a dozen football officials around the globe accused of taking six-figure bribes for broadcast and media rights. Then there's what in the United States is called soccer — a sport that claims a growing U.S. fan base but is something of an also-ran to American football, basketball and baseball.

So lawyers at the trial in Manhattan are taking pains to explain the basics of what in Brazil is called "The Beautiful Game," assuming the jurors can identify LeBron James but not Lionel Messi. The U.S. may have joined FIFA just nine years after football's ruling federation founding in 1904, but it's a fair guess few in the courtroom knew that.

"At the top, there's an organization called FIFA based in Switzerland," As-

sistant U.S. Attorney Keith Edelman said in opening statements in federal court in Brooklyn, New York. "It's in charge of managing the game all across the world. It's kind of like the NFL or Major League Baseball, but it's for soccer and for the whole world."

The three former South American football officials on trial organized tournaments which involved the sport's best professional teams — "kind of like the Yankees or the Mets," said Edelman, who then compared each continent's football federation to baseball's American and National leagues.

Defense lawyers have wheeled out their own comparisons. Charles Stillman, a lawyer for former Brazilian football boss Jose Marin, described the World Cup as "soccer's World Series," while Silvia Pinera, who represents ex-South American soccer federation president Juan Angel Napout, said the game was "more than a passion in South America, it's a religion."

The World Cup is the most-watched sporting event in the world, but it's still has a way to go in the U.S. The 2014 Super Bowl was watched 112 million people in the U.S. — and an estimated 167 million globally — while the 2014 World Cup final had a U.S. audience of about 27 million (and more than 1 billion worldwide).

"Most Argentinians live football as one of the most important things in their lives," a government witness, former Argentine sports-marketing executive Alejandro Burzaco, testified. "If their team wins, they go to work on Mondays happy and willing to make jokes. If their team loses, maybe they skip going to work. It's like a national goal."

Napout, Marin and former Peruvian football boss Manuel Burga are accused of taking tens of millions of dollars in bribes from businesses eager to lock up years-long marketing and broadcasting rights for the most coveted matches. The trial, the first in sprawling U.S. corruption probe in which dozens of football

officials and businessmen have been charged, is being held in the same courtroom where former mob boss John Gotti was convicted in 1992.

For prosecutors, explaining profiteering in football isn't that different from detailing how the Mafia works.

"It's a concept that a New York jury will comprehend," said Anthony Sabino, who teaches law at the business school of St. John's University in New York. "They're going to understand this sport is a business where there's money to be made and bribery is a crime by any other name. Jurors will learn these are huge sporting events with people willing to bribe officials to gain access and reap exclusive contracts."

With the case entering its fourth week, jurors have learned how a bribe paid in Buenos Aires using a Cayman Islands shell entity was processed in Manhattan. They heard how Latin American football officials jetted on private planes from Miami to London to



Mauritius for meetings, banked in Switzerland and vacationed in Uruguay's sun-drenched Punta del Este.

And they listened to dramatic accounts about the cost of cooperating with American prosecutors.

Jose Luis Chiriboga, a football agent who said he laundered at least USD2.8 million in bribes for his father, Luis, the former president of Ecuadorean football, said he may have to seek refuge in the U.S.

"It's not so easy," he said, growing emotional as he testified that he may never again see his aging father who's serving a 10-year sentence in Quito. "This is the hardest moment of my life and this day will be with me forever."

Burzaco, who has admitted bribing at least 30 football officials with more than \$160 million, tearfully

recounted how he hasn't returned to Buenos Aires since May 2015.

Orders had been given in Argentina to ensure he didn't testify at the U.S. trial, "including killing me," he said.

Even with multiple interpreters providing simultaneous translation of testimony into English, Spanish and Portuguese, there's still been a need for some cultural clarification. U.S. District Judge Pamela Chen interrupted an Argentine witness last week to ask if there was a difference between two Buenos Aires football clubs whose bitter rivalry often erupts into violence.

That elicited titters from Latin American reporters in the courtroom, prompting one to later say it was like asking if the Yankees and Red Sox are the same team. **MDT/Bloomberg**

opinion

World Views

Conor Sen, Bloomberg

**FOUR WAYS THAT NEXT YEAR
COULD BE A TURNING POINT**

As 2017 draws to a close, the least surprising thing on Wall Street is seeing strategists forecast that next year will look more or less like this year. I respectfully disagree.

In the economy, in monetary policy, in the technology sector and in politics, 2018 could be the most consequential year of the decade, just as 2008 was to the 2000s.

First, the economy. Since 1970, the only years that finished with an unemployment rate lower than October's 4.1 percent were 1999 and 2000. Those two years were following by the bursting of the technology bubble in 2000 and the recession of 2001, with major corporate scandals like Enron's. This isn't to say that a replay of either 2000 or 2001 is in the cards, but what we know is that the modern era has very little experience with unemployment this low. Next year is setting up to be one of the best environments for workers in the past 50 years.

And how's the Federal Reserve going to respond to this labor market? Especially as the Fed itself is struggling with vacancies and inexperience? Assuming he's confirmed by the Senate, Jerome Powell will take over leadership of the Fed in a few months. One of the board members on the Fed, Randal Quarles, just started. There remain four other vacancies on the Fed's Board of Governors. In a normal year, perhaps all these vacancies and this inexperience might not be a concern, but with the yield curve flattening as much as it has in recent weeks, perhaps inverting at some point in 2018, the bond market is signaling changes in the economy that have historically led to more challenges for policymakers.

The coming 12 months may turn out to be a year of reckoning for the technology sector as well. Perhaps no company has epitomized the halo effect for tech in society this decade better than Tesla with its iconic leader, Elon Musk. Yet it's no secret that Tesla is burning a tremendous amount of cash. And while Tesla and Musk remain focused on the distant future, it's arguably "put up or shut up" time for the company as it struggles to produce its mass-market vehicle, the Model 3. Should production delays continue to plague the Model 3, and as competing electric vehicles hit the market, Tesla may find markets less willing to fund the company.

Another tech company that has epitomized the era is Uber, which has promised an initial public offering by 2019. The closer we get to that date, the more scrutiny there will be on its financials, business model, corporate governance, and battles with regulators. Should any of that disappoint, or if its valuation ends up being far less than what it has achieved in previous rounds of private market financing, it could create spillover effects in the startup and venture capital world.

And then in politics we're looking at the first midterm wave election since 2010. All the information we have is pointing to a Democratic wave. Whether it's special election results, the results in Virginia's elections, presidential approval ratings, or generic ballot polling, it's all saying that Democrats are going to do very well in 2018. Should Democrats win one or both chambers of Congress, Capitol Hill is likely to become far more interested in investigating President Donald Trump. And what sort of legislation will emerge from a Democratic Congress? The nation has watched Republicans achieve little to nothing this year, but their counterparts may prove more united and effective.

Next year may bring the hottest labor market in 50 years, an inexperienced Fed navigating an overheating economy and an inverted yield curve, a crisis of confidence in the unprofitable futuristic technology sector, and Democrats retaking control of Congress. That won't feel like "more of the same."

[Abridged]

**THE UNITED NATIONS VOICES ALARM ABOUT
BUZZ SPREAD OF HIV IN EGYPT**

The U.N. is voicing alarm over the spread of HIV in Egypt, where the number of new cases is growing by up to 40 percent a year, and where efforts to combat the epidemic are hampered by social stigma and a lack of funding to address the crisis.

The virus that causes AIDS, U.N. officials say, is infecting more young and adolescent people than any other age group.

Egypt, home to some 95 million people,

ranks behind only Iran, Sudan and Somalia in the Middle East for the rate at which the epidemic is spreading, according to U.N. figures. In Egypt, patients are often jailed on trumped up charges and ostracized by society. The disease is associated with homosexuality, which is not explicitly illegal but is widely seen as a transgression against religion and nature in the conservative, Muslim-majority country.

**Kushner: Trump
still undecided on
Israel's capital**

Matthew Lee, Washington

PRESIDENT Donald Trump has not yet decided whether to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital or whether to proceed immediately in moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to the holy city. That's according to his son-in-law and senior adviser Jared Kushner.

Kushner said yesterday [Macau time] that the president continues to weigh his options ahead of an announcement on the matter that is expected this week.

"The president is going to make his decision," Kushner said in a rare public appearance at an event hosted by the Brookings Institution, a Washington think tank. "He is still looking at a lot of different facts."

Kushner's comments were his first public remarks on his efforts to restart peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians. And, they came as he faces increasing scrutiny over actions taking during the transition period following former national security adviser Michael Flynn's guilty plea on charges of lying to the FBI.

Shortly before Kushner spoke, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas warned that American recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital would jeopardize the White House's Mideast peace efforts.



White House senior adviser Jared Kushner

"Any American step related to the recognition of Jerusalem as capital of Israel, or moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, represents a threat to the future of the peace process and is unacceptable for the Palestinians, Arabs and internationally," Abbas told a group of Arab lawmakers from Israel, according to the official Wafa news agency.

U.S. officials said last week that Trump is poised to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital in a move that would upend decades of U.S. policy but also to put off once again moving the embassy from Tel Aviv. The officials said Trump is expected to make his decision known in a speech on Wednesday.

The highly charged declaration risks inflaming tensions across the Middle East, and U.S. embassies and consulates around the region have

been warned to expect protests. But it would also offset disappointment from Trump supporters from deferring once again his campaign promise to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem.

Trump's announcement will follow months of internal deliberations that grew particularly intense last week, according to officials familiar with the discussions. They described the president as intent on fulfilling his pledge to move the embassy but also mindful that doing so could set back his aim of forging a long-elusive peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians, who claim part of Jerusalem as the capital of an eventual state.

Moving the embassy could spark widespread protest across the Middle East and undermine an Arab-Israeli peace push led by Kushner. **AP**

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Aung Shine Oo



Supermoon. The moon rises behind the Uppatasanti Pagoda seen in Naypyitaw, Myanmar. Sunday's full moon was the first of three consecutive supermoons.

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	50-70 Good	
High Density Residential Area	50-70 Good	
Ambient	60-80 Moderate	

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

US-PAKISTAN Defense Secretary Jim Mattis is meeting with Pakistan leaders to seek common ground on the counterterrorism fight and encourage Islamabad to more aggressively go after the insurgents moving across the border with Afghanistan.



YEMEN Ali Abdullah Saleh, Yemen's former president and longtime strongman, was killed yesterday, according to multiple Yemeni officials, as his loyalists and Shiite rebels battled for control of the capital.

ISRAEL's internal security service says it has arrested two residents of southern Israel suspected of stabbing to death an Israeli soldier for nationalistic reasons.

MALTA Ten Maltese suspects were arrested yesterday over the Oct. 16 car bomb murder of investigative journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia, Malta's prime minister and other authorities announced.



SPAIN The spokeswoman for a leading Catalan separatist party says a judge's decision to keep the region's former vice president jailed was politically motivated and an attempt to prevent him from running in a regional election this month.

VENEZUELA President Nicolas Maduro says his government will launch a cryptocurrency to fight what he calls a financial "blockade" by the Trump administration against the socialist-run country.

HONDURAS President Juan Orlando Hernandez held on to a lead of more than 52,000 votes in the country's hotly-disputed presidential race, with less than 0.04 percent of ballots left to be counted.