



NON-RESIDENT WORKER DECORATED BY GOV'T
42 individuals, orgs will be decorated today on the 18th anniversary of the MSAR, including a non-resident Filipino worker for bravery

P4



NEW IC PRESIDENT ASKS 'FOR TIME' TO DELIVER RESULTS
Cecilia Tse, the new president of the Cultural Affairs Bureau, has promised to improve the bureau's transparency, but asks "for time"

P6



BEIJING URGES TRUMP TO ACCEPT CHINA'S RISE

P15



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WORLD BRIEFS



JAPAN's Cabinet yesterday approved a plan to purchase a set of costly land-based U.S. missile combat systems to increase the country's defense capabilities amid escalating threats from North Korea. More on p18

PHILIPPINES The Philippine navy chief has been relieved of his duties, reportedly because of differences with other security officials over a frigate deal, officials said yesterday.



INDONESIA Officials said yesterday they have arrested three foreigners who were attempting to smuggle illegal drugs to the tourist island of Bali.

SAUDI ARABIA The Saudi-led coalition fighting Yemen's Shiite rebels said it intercepted a missile fired over southern Riyadh yesterday, while the rebels said they targeted the royal palace in the kingdom's capital.



ISRAEL-PALESTINE An investigation by the Israeli military into the death of a paraplegic Palestinian man cleared Israeli troops of wrongdoing, saying it found "no moral or professional failures" in the incident.

More on backpage

MERRY XMAS

Dec gaming revenue to top MOP23.5b

P3 HSBC REPORT



MARITIME AREAS LAW

No casinos on new landfills

P2



EXCO

Maritime Areas Basic Law bans all gaming activities

Renato Marques

THE new Maritime Areas Basic Law bill includes a legal provision that prevents any of the possible construction projects within the the 85-square-kilometer area from being used for any gaming-related activities, the spokesperson of the Executive Council (ExCo) Leong Heng Teng stated yesterday during a press conference held by ExCo. The spokesperson also informed that the council has concluded the analysis on the aforementioned bill and that it is ready to be sent to the Legislative Assembly (AL) for review.

Questioned on the topic, Leong reaffirmed, "there will be no exceptions [regarding the gaming sector]."

Leong noted that although the law applies only for future developments to be approved in the new maritime areas, "in principle for the current [sites, approved and being built] they are also not expected [to take part in] any development involving gaming."

According to Leong, this is a matter of "very clear policy" from the government that is "safeguarding with a law that [a policy change] does not happen afterwards."

Questioned on whether such a provision was an initiative from the local government or an imposed directive from the Central Government, Leong said, "this started from the government of the MSAR. We want to legislate

in this way. It was not a demand from the Central Government."

The provision is included under one of the five main sections of the law, namely that related to the Management of the Maritime Areas. This law establishes unequivocally that the maritime areas are a "property of the State" and that the MSAR government exercises authority over such areas "through the delegation of powers," as well as having the obligation to inspect all activities taking place within them.

The bill also states that the supervision of the Maritime Areas works would be the responsibility of the Coordinating Committee for Management and Development of Maritime Jurisdiction Areas; a committee created by the government and headed by the Chief Executive that is responsible for the definition of the policy, holding second level decision-making powers over the work done by the entities involved. These include; the Legal Affairs Bureau, Marine and Water Bureau, the Environmental Protection Bureau, the Macao Government Tourism Office and the Economic Bureau.

Leong said the bill would now be sent immediately to the AL for discussion, review and approval. Leong continued by saying that he hopes "the AL can accelerate the process," but qualified that it "is not a matter of urgency as the legal package we have now allows us to manage [the areas, to some extent]."

'Much work' to be done ahead of new bill

DURING yesterday's press conference at the government's headquarters, the spokesperson of the Executive Council (ExCo) Leong Heng Teng informed the audience that there are a total of 47 legal texts that are currently under consideration, and they will be changed to optimize their alignment with the new "Maritime Areas Basic Law."

He said that there was "much work" to be done on the new law in order to implement it fully, affirming that all relevant departments are currently working hard to proceed with the necessary adjustments.

In this way, Leong justified that there is not a great urgency in approving the bill at the Legislative Assembly (AL), although he said that the government hopes the completion will be accomplished in a short amount of time.

The ExCo also noted that the document was prepared according to the current rules in force in the mainland and that it has gathered support during the public consultation. With this support, the Council proposed that the law should enter into force on the day after it is approved. **RM**

Macau refuses entry to another Hong Kong politician

THE vice chairman of political party Third Side, Caspar Wong, was denied entry to Macau, Hong Kong media reported. According to RTHK, Wong has demanded an explanation from Macau authorities after he was barred at the ferry terminal.

Wong left Hong Kong for Macau yesterday to attend a financial forum on FinTech (see p8). But he said he was denied entry by immigration authorities who told him he posed a threat to the city's security.

Wong told HK Free Press that it was his first

time to be barred from Macau and speculated that it could be related to the city's 18th Handover anniversary today. He said he was able to enter the city on September 28 – a few days before China's National Day – and usually enters Macau a few times every year.

However, Wong said he was puzzled by the decision, as Third Side is a moderate political party.

Several members of Hong Kong's pro-democracy camp have been refused entry into Macau in recent months, "ostensibly" for the same reason, RTHK remarked.



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Suspicious fire left two in severe condition

A fire outbreak, believed to be arson, occurred yesterday at a hardware store located on R. de Martinho Montenegro.

The case was reported to the Fire Services Bureau (CB) at around 4:32 p.m.

After their arrival at the scene, the firefighters extinguished the fire within four minutes.

Two people - the female owner of the store and a male customer who had sustained severe injuries - were sent to the hospital.

One of the store's employees reported the case to the fire services.

According to the CB, the employee said that he had heard quarrels right before the fire outbreak occurred.

The CB said that the shop was closed when they arrived at the scene, and that the firefighters had to break in to rescue the people inside and put out the fire.

One of the firefighters sustained a light injury. JZ

GAMING

HSBC says Macau revenues could exceed MOP23.5b

ACCORDING to HSBC's preliminary estimates for December, Macau's gross gaming revenue (GGR) could reach MOP23.5 billion, rounding out the year for a take of about MOP286.5 billion.

The forecast is derived from information provided by HSBC's gaming industry sources, indicating that the first 17 days of December yielded MOP13.1 billion in gross gaming revenue.

As for operators, Sands China and Melco Crown seemed to gain market share from competitors Galaxy Entertainment, Wynn Macau and MGM China, according to HSBC.

The previous week registered an average daily run rate (ADR) of MOP693 million, significantly down from the MOP825 million per day in the week before, but up from MOP600 million per day for the same period last year. Aggregated and extrapolated, that could account for MOP23.5 billion by month-end.

HSBC expects the month to finish slightly higher, in the range of MOP23.7 to MOP23.9 billion, implying an ADR of MOP760 million to MOP770



million for the rest of the month.

MOP23.5 billion in GGR for December would mark an 18.6 percent increase over the MOP19.81 billion recorded in the same month last year and about 2 percent over November 2017.

That would bring gross gaming revenue for the whole year to a total of about MOP286.5 billion, up 28 percent from the MOP223.2 billion in 2016, and the highest annual take since the recession began in 2014.

Year-end GGR would still remain far below pre-recession levels. In 2013

and 2014, total take for the years amounted to MOP360.75 billion and MOP351.52 billion respectively, some 22 to 26 percent higher.

However, some analysts are still exercising caution on Macau's gaming industry.

Wolfe Research analyst, Jared Shojian, said some of the best leading indicators for Macau GGR may be strained in the early months of 2018. GGR in February 2018, during which the busy Chinese New Year holidays will fall, may prove to be key in confirming or rebutting analysts' caution. DB

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Gov't announces 2017 recipients of decorations

THE government announced the Decorations, Medals and Certificates of Merit awarded for 2017 by the MSAR yesterday, and they will be given to 42 individuals and organizations in recognition of achievement, outstanding contribution and distinguished service.

The awards for Decorations of Honor include the Decoration of Honor – Grand Lotus, the Decoration of Honor – Golden Lotus and the Decoration of Honor – Silver Lotus.

Such awards are for individuals or entities that have made outstanding contributions to the image and reputation of the MSAR.

Recipients of the Decoration of Honor – Golden Lotus award will be given to Choi Lai Hang, current Chief Superintendent of Macau Customs, who was recently appointed as coordinator for the Security Forces Co-ordination Office.

Decoration of Honor – Sil-

ver Lotus will be awarded to Lei Loi Tak, and Vong Kok Seng.

The awards also include seven types of Medal of Merit, covering professions, industry and commerce, tourism, education, culture, philanthropy and sports as well as medals for Distinguished Service.

Meanwhile Certificates of Merit, including the Honorary Title – Prestige and the Honorary Title – Merit, are given to commend local residents or others who have made a major contribution to the reputation, development or social progress of the city.

The Honorary Title – Prestige will be awarded to Loreto de Guia Mijares Jr., the non-resident Filipino worker who saved an old couple during Typhoon Hato.

The ceremony to award the Decorations, Medals and Certificates of Merit to the recipients will be held in mid-January 2018.



Choi Lai Hang



Loreto G. Mijares Jr

MSAR MARKS 18TH ANNIVERSARY WITH SERIES OF EVENTS

THE LOCAL government is holding a series of events to mark the 18th anniversary of the establishment of the MSAR, kicking off with a flag raising ceremony at Golden Lotus Square at 8 a.m. today. The Macao Post and Telecommunications Bureau will be offering the public a commemorative postmarking service, the Government Information Bureau said in a statement. It will be organized from a temporary counter at Macao Post's Senado Square headquarters in the city

center. The franking service is available from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. today. In addition, at 9 p.m., the Macao Government Tourism Office will stage a fireworks display at the waterfront near Macau Tower. Another event coinciding with the SAR's anniversary is a flower show titled "Exploring the Golden Hills – Winter Flower Show", which features more than 50,000 winter and festive blooms displayed at the Taipa Houses. The show will run until January 7.

LRT budget 'derailed' again

THE budget of the Macau Light Rail Transit (LRT) system has grown since the start of the building process. The latest amount for the costs of system operations and rolling stock is said to be MOP5.42 billion, as stated by the Chief Executive (CE) in the Official Gazette.

The new adjustment of the costs, which the CE recently green-lighted, is an additional increment on top of those which have grown by almost MOP1 billion, since it was initially budgeted over six years ago.

The value of the contract between the MSAR government and the Japanese contractor, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, has been adjusted upward since then on a regular basis. From 2016 to 2017 the contract went from MOP5.39 billion to MOP5.42 billion.

According to the justification presented in the Official Gazette, the need for the new increment is "due to the adjustment of some contractual works that in turn is necessary to increase the overall amount of the contract as well as to [revise] the scheduling."

It is expected that the LRT budget will continue to increase with time as there is still a large share to be paid in 2019 that amounts to over MOP1 billion - an amount which might also be "adjusted" before then. **RM**

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IC'S NEW PRESIDENT

Cecilia Tse highlights administration transparency

JULIE ZHU



Cecilia Tse

Julie Zhu

THE new president of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), Cecilia Tse, took office yesterday, noting that one key element of her leadership will be the improvement of the IC's administrative transparency. Tse was previously the vice-president at the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO).

"Give us some time. We will surely share with you [the public], regularly and frequently, details about our work regarding its progress and implementation," declared Tse.

Before she was sworn in yesterday, Tse's ability to serve as the leader of IC was questioned, due to her lack of experience working within the organization.

In response Tse said, "I understand that we all have different concerns. But I believe that all government departments have great protection measures towards Macau's cultural specificities. [...] Even though I worked in a different department, I also defend Macau's cultural heritage."

Tse added that she has participated in works related to the promotion of Macau's cultural heritage.

"I disagree with the idea that just because [someone] has always been working in the IC, [that person] has an inclination toward cultural protection and a passion for culture."

Regarding her work agenda, Tse noted that Lai Chi Vun's cultural heritage evaluation has already begun. Her department will report the results to the public once the evaluation has been concluded.

"The evaluation is undergoing. It is being done in the same fashion as all of Macau's previous evaluations," explained Tse. However, she remarked that "no schedule can be announced" to the public at the present moment.

Tse disclosed yesterday that in 2018, a series of forums and exhibitions will be organized as measures to build Macau as a platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

When talking about the IC's future recruitment, the cause of the recent post shuffle, Tse expects to simplify the administration.

"The number of IC's employees is indeed not small. [...] To assess whether we can have a bigger effect based on current human resources is a requirement I [have] assigned myself," said Tse, who also noted that "after a review [of IC's recruitment], I will make a report on the IC's recruitment [methods]."


When asked about the candidates for vice president of the IC, Tse asked the public to give the IC more time to make the decision. She then noted that the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, has already confirmed that Leong Wai Man, head of the Department of Cultural Heritage of the IC, is one of the candidates.

Tse made a few remarks on Macau's cultural heritage protection, saying "we will follow, as always, the instructions of the cultural heritage laws, and we will coordinate with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in order to perform well in terms of cultural heritage protection. There is a lot of work for us to do on how to establish a balance between cultural heritage protection and urban development."


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**CONGRATULATIONS ON THE
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Transport union wants punishment for unruly employers

The Macao Federation of Transportation delivered a petition to Chief Executive Chui Sai On, calling for a firm stance from the government regarding the employment of non-local drivers. The association condemned the fact that the Macau government lacks a firm stance in opposing non-local drivers who work beyond their visa entitlements. It also called for the government to introduce penalties for employers who employ non-local drivers. "Recently, once again, there have been voices calling for the government to open the occupational market to non-local workers in order to solve SME's difficulties in delivering goods," the association said, adding that the voices do not resonate with the reality of the industry.

Association hopes for more FinTech seminars in the region

Lynzy Valles

THE E-commerce Association of Macau kicked off its first seminar on FinTech yesterday. It discussed the systematic advantage of using Macau as the service platform for China and Portuguese-speaking countries' trade and finance cooperation and as the Portuguese-speaking countries' RMB clearing center.

Speaking on the sidelines of the "International Economic Seminar on Fintech in Macau," president of the association Keyvin Bi noted that Macau can play an enhanced role in the Greater Bay Area's development and technology, thus it could push forward economy, trade and finance cooperation in the three regions of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau.

Bi implied that there is an absence of seminars on FinTech in Macau, which hinders the growth of the sector in the region.

Questioned whether the association is working on acquiring alternative Chinese payment methods through non-banking



Keyvin Bi

firms such as Alibaba's WePay and Tencent's Tenpay in Macau, the president remarked, "it should be coming."

With the emerging popularity of the payment method, Bi noted that there are partners who are ready to implement the technology in Macau, stressing

that it should already be available in the territory.

"We don't need to wait because if we do, we lose a lot of chance [of progressing]," he said.

The tight competition in the FinTech industry does not worry Bi, but he hopes that the government will work on being

open to different trends and ideas.

"We want to organize events for young people regarding new technologies, new ideas and innovation but how is our government [helping]?" he questioned.

"[They] still keep the old mindset. They need to open their minds [and ask] maybe they need to recruit or invite more international consultants for help to look into the future or how to progress from here," Bi added.

Meanwhile, the association revealed its plans to invite a speaker from the United States to bring similar topics to the region, along with speakers from the city's neighboring regions.

During the seminar, two cooperation agreements were signed with the intent of promoting international finance and technology innovation.

The seminar was co-organized by the International Blockchain Association, and supported by the Science and Technology Development Fund (FDCT).

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Si Ka Lon calls for engineering supervision

Lawmaker Si Ka Lon has called on the government to review the supervision mechanism of its public projects. In a written inquiry to the government, Si said that the construction of Macau's public engineering projects is frequently delayed, which in turn inflates their budgets. Si believes that this situation is due to insufficient supervision over public engineering projects. The lawmaker said that Macau's current regulations regarding the topic have been used for nearly 20 years, and that they contain copious flaws, for instance, the fact that the government does not consider issues related to the shortage of human resources. Si has called on the government to establish middle and long-term plans for the training of engineers.

Libraries to trial longer hours

Starting from next month, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) will extend the opening hours of its libraries. Four of the larger libraries will be open until midnight, namely the Macau Central Library, Patane Library, Wong Ieng Kuan Library in Areia Preta Urban Park and Taipa Library. The opening hours of these four libraries will be from 2 p.m. to midnight on Mondays, and from 8 a.m. to midnight from Tuesday to Sunday. The remaining eight libraries will be open from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Mondays, and from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. from Tuesday to Sunday.

BestPay joins Macau's online payment competition

BESTPAY, a wholly-owned subsidiary of China Telecom, has just signed an agreement with a local e-commerce platform to be able to provide services in Macau, Chinese media reports say.

However, the payment service at the current stage, is only available for mainland users who travel to Macau.

The agreement will allow BestPay users to purchase products such as coupons through the e-commerce platform. Users can then use the e-coupons when they shop in Macau.

The first stage of this new addition includes approximately 10 members, consisting mainly of restaurants.

In the future, the service will be expanded to souvenir bakeries and ticketing offices.

Compared to other online payment platforms, BestPay believes that it has advantages over its compe-



dition. A representative of BestPay said that it "is not at the same level" as other platforms, and because of that, the company is not afraid of competition.

According to BestPay, it has currently nearly 400 million registered users in

mainland China, of which more than 30 million are active users. It ranks second in terms of the mainland's mobile payment applications, reporting noteworthy growth over its online presence at the start of last year.

"[By] January 2016, BestPay [had] attracted over 200 million users and became the third-largest payment platform operator in China, closely following Alipay and WeChat Payment," the company's webpage reads. **JZ**

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RIDE-HAILING

China's Didi targets Taiwan expansion with franchising model

DIDI Chuxing, the ride-hailing giant that vanquished Uber Technologies Inc. in China, is turning to franchising in Taiwan as it expands its business beyond the mainland.

Didi plans to only operate as a taxi hailing platform in Taiwan and is seeking to work with existing drivers that it's recruiting through its Facebook page. The recruitment is being done by LEDI Technology Co., which is the authorized franchisee in Taiwan, the company said in a statement.

While San Francisco-based Uber has taken its busi-

ness around the world, Didi has been more cautious as it focused on shoring up its grip on ride-sharing in China. The Beijing-based company has a USD50 billion valuation and raised more than \$5.5 billion earlier this year, giving it cash to compete aggressively in foreign markets as it also builds capabilities in artificial intelligence and driverless cars.

LEDI "is conducting market research and exploring extensive community partnerships in Taiwan," Didi said in the statement yesterday. "There is no de-

finite timeline at this moment."

Didi hasn't yet applied for a license for its Taiwan business, the Taipei-based Economic Daily News reported Tuesday, citing an unidentified official from the transport ministry.

The steps taken by the Chinese company are a contrast to Uber, which halted Taiwan operations in February amid opposition from the government and local operators. It later returned to the market after agreeing to work with taxi companies.

Taiwanese lawmakers and

the taxi industry have been effective in getting the world's most valuable startups to comply with local rules. Fines for illegally transporting passengers can be as much as NTD25 million (\$834,000), among the highest penalties faced by the company anywhere in the world. Uber reportedly racked up NTD1.1 billion in fines in January alone.

Didi has only slowly expanded beyond its home market. In Hong Kong it offers some specialist services, such as sedans taking passengers across the border to Shenzhen. **Bloomberg**

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook under fire as German antitrust cops target ad model



FACEBOOK Inc. is on a collision course with one of Europe's most powerful regulators as Germany's Federal Cartel Office attacked the way the social network giant scoops up information on how users surf to drive its advertising revenue.

Users are unaware that Facebook - seen as Germany's dominant social network - gathers data on how they visit other websites and don't appear to consent to how that data is used, the Federal Cartel Office, or Bundeskartellamt, said in an email statement.

People only have the choice to accept the entire package or stop using the network, it said, attacking "inappropriate" terms of service widely used by internet sites. The FCO says it isn't investigating how Facebook collects information on how its users act on the social network, only on their internet habits outside of Facebook's walls.

Facebook generates vast revenues from serving targeted advertising to users it knows well. German regulators may seek changes from the company, saying Facebook could now justify its conduct or "offer possible solutions" to address concerns that its data collection and use may be an abuse of its market power.

A final decision won't come before mid-2018 and may see the FCO close the case, accept commitments from Facebook or issue an order for Facebook to cease certain behavior. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

SANDS CHINA HOSTS ROADSHOWS FOR SMES



As part of Sands China's Local Small, Medium and Micro Suppliers Support Programme, two local SMEs contracted by Sands

China are currently holding roadshows at the back-of-house areas of Sands Macao, The Venetian Macao, Sands Cotai Central, and

The Parisian Macao.

The roadshows are part of Sands China's commitment to further support local procurement and SME growth by offering more business opportunities to local small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), micro-enterprises, young entrepreneurs, and "Made-in-Macao" enterprises.

Between December 18 and 29, local SME suppliers China Product & Special Production Co. and Pure New Zealand Product Shop are displaying close to 80 types of products to Sands China's 28,000 team members, offering them at a discounted price.

Roadshows like these are held regularly for Sands China team members.

They benefit SMEs by giving them access to potential customers, while giving Sands China's team members a chance to enjoy discounted offers.

AUDI RECALLS OVER 52,000 CARS; FUEL LINES CAN LEAK



Audi is recalling more than 52,000 luxury cars in the U.S. and Canada to fix fuel

lines that can leak and increase the risk of a fire. The recall covers

certain A6 and A7 cars from the 2012 through 2014 model years.

The Volkswagen luxury brand said in government documents that the fuel lines have a compression point to make them easier to install. But over time, that point can weaken and may leak fuel.

The documents posted yesterday by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration say the cars were made between Jan. 25, 2011 and Sept. 13, 2013. Audi says no fires or injuries have been reported.

Owners will be notified starting Feb. 5. Dealers will replace the faulty fuel lines.



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Joe McDonald, Beijing

THE Chinese government yesterday criticized U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to label Beijing a strategic rival and called on Washington to accept China's rise.

Trump's decision reflects a "victory of hardliners" in his administration, the official Xinhua News Agency said. It warned that U.S.-Chinese economic relations were likely to face "even more pressure and challenges."

Trump's report yesterday (Macau time) hit a series of sore spots for Beijing. It affirmed ties with Taiwan, the self-ruled island the mainland claims as its territory, and pledged to "re-energize our alliances" with Southeast Asian governments, some of which have conflicts with China over claims to portions of the South China Sea.

The United States and China share one of the world's biggest trading relationships and cooperate in areas from clean energy to public health. But Beijing sees Washington as an obstacle to its ambitions to be East Asia's dominant power, and strains over Taiwan, trade, technology policy and the South China Sea are growing.

The Chinese Embassy in Washington called on the U.S. government to discard "old thinking."

"It is selfish to put your national interest above other countries' interest and the mutual interest of the international community. It will lead the United States to isolationism," the embassy said in a statement.

"The Chinese side is willing to have peaceful coexistence with all countries of the world including the United States on the basis of mutual respect," it said. "The United States should also adapt and accept China's development."

U.S. officials are uneasy about Beijing's rising military spending — already the world's second-highest behind Washington. They see the "Belt and Road Initiative," a multibillion-dollar project to build railways and other infrastructure across dozens of countries from Asia to Europe and Africa, as part of efforts to diminish American influence and nurture a China-centered political structure.

Especially sensitive is Taiwan, the democratic island Beijing has declared a "core interest" over which it will go to war, if necessary.

Trump's report promises to "maintain our strong ties with Taiwan" and provide for its "legitimate defense needs."

China has taken a tougher stance toward Taiwan since last year's election of President Tsai Ing-wen, who has refused to endorse Beijing's contention that Taiwan is part of the Chinese nation. Chinese commentators speculate on the possible need for military



U.S. President Donald Trump waves next to Chinese President Xi Jinping after attending a joint press conference at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing

Following Trump's report, China urges US to accept its rise

steps to put pressure on Tsai.

After Trump signed a law this month that opened the way for U.S. Navy ships to visit Taiwan, a Chinese diplomat quoted by state media said the mainland would attack the day that happened.

China seeks to displace the United States in the Indo-Pacific region [...] and reorder the region in its favor.

THE REPORT

Trump's report doesn't change Washington's official stance but might aggravate tensions if Taiwanese who want formal independence see it as sign of U.S. support and "want to take advantage of it," said Xiong Zhiyong, a U.S. relations expert at China Foreign Affairs University.

"The Chinese government is also anxious," said Xiong, adding that the Chinese diplomat's remark is a "warning out

of real worry that something may happen unexpectedly."

On Monday, Chinese warplanes flew around Taiwan in what the military said was a test of their "ocean combat ability." Taiwan's defense ministry said Japan launched fighter planes to track the Chinese aircraft, but the Japanese government would not confirm that.

Trump's report promises to "re-energize our alliances" with governments including the Philippines and Vietnam, which have conflicting territorial claims with Beijing in the South China Sea. It also pledges to expand military cooperation with India, a country Beijing sees as a rival.

The report emphasized economic security and repeated complaints that China steals technology and uses "economic inducements" to persuade other governments to serve its strategic interests.

It proposes restricting visas to prevent intellectual property theft by foreigners, particularly Chinese, who travel to the United States to study science, engineering, math and technology.

Foreign business groups in China report that companies are increasingly frustrated with market barriers and other restrictions they say violate Beijing's free-trade promises.

The report is another abrupt turn in Trump's stance toward Beijing, which has veered between blistering criticism on trade and currency and optimism about cooperation on North Korea and other problems.

"China seeks to displace the United States in the Indo-Pacific region, expand the reaches of its state-driven economic model, and reorder the region in its favor," the report says.

In April, Trump announced that he was setting aside complaints about trade and currency in hopes of winning Chinese cooperation on North Korea. U.S. officials resumed criticizing Beijing in July.

Trump switched back to friend-

ly overtures during a visit to Beijing in November. He said the two sides could solve most of the world's problems if they cooperated.

The Global Times, a newspaper published by China's ruling Communist Party, said the report "reflects Washington's reluctance to accept the reality of China's rise."

"Given the huge size and strength China has formed, it is impossible for the United States to restrain China," said the newspaper, which is known for its nationalistic tone. "As China continues to grow and its influence continues to spill over, this is the root cause of Washington's anxiety." AP



CHINA unveiled its plan for a national carbon market, creating the world's biggest trading system for the climate-warming emissions.

The market will initially involve only the power sector, National Development and Reform Commission Vice Chairman Zhang Yong said yesterday at a briefing in Beijing. While that's a pullback from a previous plan to include eight industries, China's market will still be bigger than the European Union's system, encompassing 1,700 companies and about 3 billion metric tons of emissions. Zhang didn't give details on when trading will start.

The world's biggest carbon emitter wants to use a market-based system to help it cap emissions by about 2030. The nation is also making big bets on clean-energy projects to help reach its goal of deriving 20 percent of its energy from sources other than fossil fuels by that year.

The introduction of carbon trading in China "is yet another powerful sign that a global sustainability revolution is underway," former U.S. Vice President Al Gore, who has championed efforts to cut fossil-fuel use, said in a statement. "With the top global polluter enacting policies to support the Paris Agreement and transition to a low

ENERGY

China unveils plan for world's biggest carbon-trading market



carbon economy, it is clear that we're at a tipping point in the climate crisis."

The Paris Agreement on climate change in 2015 brought together some 200 nations, including the U.S. and China, in calling for limits on fossil-fuel emissions worldwide. The goal was to help

meet the UN's target of holding global warming to "well below" 2 degrees Celsius. President Donald Trump has vowed to pull the U.S. out of the accord, and is pursuing policies to encourage burning more coal.

China's system will adopt a cap-and-trade rule in which the big-

gest corporate polluters purchase credits from those that don't emit as much, and companies are encouraged to reduce their emissions so they can sell unused allocations. Companies that emit more than 26,000 tons of carbon annually will be included in the market, though that threshold might be lowered at some point, according to the NDRC.

The nation is pressing ahead with a trading plan as similar strategies in the European Union and elsewhere have struggled. The EU was the first to require carbon permits, in 2005, only to see the price plunge in part because participating nations handed out too many allowances for free.

Australia repealed its carbon tax in 2014 and scrapped plans for permit trading after the measures were blamed for destroying jobs. But carbon markets in various forms are in place in California, New Zealand and South Korea, where they're attempting to learn from other's mistakes.

China has been running pilot programs since 2013 in some regions, where transaction values totaled 4.5 billion yuan (USD680 million) as of September, Li Gao, an official of the climate-change department at the NDRC, said at a briefing in October. The agency said yesterday that companies that qualify for the national system will stop participating in the pilot projects.

The carbon market is expected to be fully functional by 2020, according to almost half of 260 industry participants in a survey conducted by China Carbon Forum, ICF International Inc. and SinoCarbon Innovation & Investment Co. between March and July. Forty-four percent anticipate that will happen between 2021 and 2025.

The average carbon price is forecast to be 74 yuan per metric ton in 2020, almost double the 38 yuan estimated in 2017, according to the survey. By 2025, the price may surge to 108 yuan a ton. **Bloomberg**

Hong Kong malls people can't avoid attract Goldman Sachs, Puma

FORGET Gucci and Rolex. Grocery stores, hair salons and tutoring centers may have the brightest future for Hong Kong retail as high-end malls get squeezed by forces beyond their control.

That's according to property consultants including Savills Plc, Jones Lang LaSalle Inc. and CBRE Group Inc., who say that community shopping centers targeting local customers are better suited to weather a downturn that has battered luxury retailers. In Hong Kong's biggest deal involving malls this year, Gaw Capital Partners led a group including Goldman Sachs Group Inc. in a USD2.9 billion purchase of 17 shopping centers located below public housing estates, where residents walk through the malls to get to their homes.

These regional malls are unique to Hong Kong, a densely populated city where space

is scarce and apartments are often stacked on top of shopping centers, restaurants and offices. While most of these shopping centers are dominated by local retailers and family-run stores, some larger brands such as Puma, Uniqlo and Giordano have moved in, attracted by a model that insulates them from the whims of mainland Chinese tourists and competition from online shopping.

During an almost three-year retail downturn that saw sales in Hong Kong fall more than 11 percent, regional malls have fared better than their counterparts in prime locations. According to Jones Lang LaSalle, base rents for second-tier malls have edged up 0.2 percent since 2016, while rents at tier-one malls have fallen 1.6 percent in the same period.

"These malls are anchored around local communities and are consistent-yield-driven



investments," said Simon Smith, senior director research for the Asia-Pacific region at Savills. "Necessity-shopping is pretty much bullet-proof during a downturn, it's the discretionary spending and luxury that get hit the hardest."

To be sure, there is less upside for regional shopping centers during good times. Before a crackdown in China on conspicuous consumption in the past few years, mainland tourists would line up to shop at the likes of Prada,

Gucci and Tiffany, and leave laden with luxury handbags and watches costing thousands of dollars.

"These are low-beta shopping malls," said Cusson Leung, managing director and head of Hong Kong property and conglomerates research at JPMorgan Chase & Co. "When the retail market isn't doing too well, they won't do too poorly because they sell lower level stuff or necessities. In an upswing there isn't as much upside for the landlords." **MDT/Bloomberg**

World Bank sees growth moderating for next two years

CHINA'S economic growth will moderate in the next two years as policies to reduce leverage gradually take hold, according to the World Bank.

Growth in the world's second largest economy will slow to 6.4 percent in 2018 and 6.3 percent in 2019 from 6.8 percent this year, the organization said in a quarterly report. The nation is also making progress this year in its economic re-balancing, as investment's contribution to output growth declined amid the rising importance of consumption, according to the bank.

Stronger inflation, recovering global trade and resilient domestic demand have boosted China's expansion, putting it on track to deliver its first full-year acceleration since 2010. Slower investment

and easing factory inflation will test the government's determination to maintain tightened financial regulation and slower money supply growth into 2018.

"Prudent monetary policy, stricter financial sector regulation, and the government's continuing efforts to restructure the economy and to rein in the pace of leveraging are expected to contribute to the growth moderation," the bank said. "Favorable economic conditions make this a particularly opportune time to further reduce macroeconomic vulnerabilities."

The still rising leverage of the non-financial sector and uncertainty related to property prices may damp the economic expansion outlook further, the bank said. **Bloomberg**

AP PHOTO



INDONESIA

Landslide in sand quarry kills 8 workers

DISASTER officials said eight people were found dead after being buried in a landslide Monday while excavating a sand pit on Indonesia's main island of Java.

National Disaster Mitigation Agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said rescuers retrieved the bodies of eight men and rescued eight other workers who were buried in the landslide in the Central Java district of Magelang.

Nugroho said hundreds of rescuers searched for victims buried under tons of debris in the sand pit. He said the number of missing was unclear.

But Edy Susanto, a local disaster official, said at least four villagers who worked at the sand quarry operated by private company PT Surya Karya Setiabudi were reportedly still missing.

Susanto said most of the victims were traditional miners who were working without contracts.

Nugroho said the search was halted due to darkness and officials did not hold out hope that any other victims would be found alive.

Flooding and landslides kill scores of people every year in Indonesia. Many disasters are blamed on deforestation caused by rampant illegal logging.

Anti-India rebels, woman killed during Kashmir fighting

A woman was killed during anti-India protests in disputed Kashmir yesterday following a gunbattle that killed two rebels, police and villagers said.

Fighting erupted after Indian troops cordoned off a village in the southern Shopian area overnight on a tip that militants were hiding in a house, police said.

The trapped militants tried to escape while firing their guns but soldiers retaliated, leading to nightlong fighting.

As the fighting raged, hundreds of residents, mostly young men, entered the streets in solidarity with the rebels, chanting pro-militant slogans and demanding the end of Indian rule over Kashmir.

The fighting stopped after two militants were killed and a police official and a soldier were injured, police said. But clashes continued between rock-throwing protesters and troops who fired bullets, shot-gun pellets and tear gas.

Police said the woman died in the crossfire. Villagers disputed that claim, saying troops fired at the protesters, killing the woman. At least 10 civilians were also injured.

AP PHOTO



Police said at least one militant escaped during the clashes.

Nuclear-armed rivals India and Pakistan each claim Kashmir, which is divided between them.

Rebel groups want Kashmir to be united, either under Pakistani rule or as an independent country.

In recent years, Kashmiris, particularly young people, have openly supported anti-India rebels and sought to protect them by engaging troops in street clashes during military operations against the militants. Anti

-India protests and clashes have persisted despite the Indian army chief warning recently that "tough action" would be taken against stone throwers during counterinsurgency operations.

Anti-India sentiment runs deep in Kashmir's mostly Muslim population and most people support the rebels. Nearly 70,000 people have been killed in the uprising and the ensuing Indian military crackdown.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training the rebels, which Pakistan denies. **AP**

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Trump administration blames N. Korea for big ransomware attack

PRESIDENT Donald Trump's administration is publicly blaming North Korea for a ransomware attack that infected hundreds of thousands of computers worldwide in May and crippled parts of Britain's National Health Service.

Homeland security adviser Tom Bossert wrote in a Wall Street Journal op-ed published Monday night that North Korea was "directly responsible" for the WannaCry ransomware attack and that Pyongyang will be held accountable for it.

Bossert said the administration's finding of responsibility is based on evidence and confirmed by other governments and private companies, including the United Kingdom and Microsoft.

"North Korea has acted especially badly, largely unchecked, for more than a decade, and its malicious behavior is growing more egregious. WannaCry was indiscriminately reckless," he wrote.

Bossert said the Trump administration will continue to use its "maximum pressure strategy to curb Pyongyang's ability to mount attacks, cyber or otherwise."

The WannaCry attack struck more than 150 nations in May, lo-



White House homeland security adviser Tom Bossert

cking up digital documents, databases and other files and demanding a ransom for their release.

It battered Britain's National Health Service, where the cyberattack froze computers at hospitals across the country, closing emergency rooms and bringing medical treatment to a halt. Government offices in Russia, Spain, and several other countries were disrupted, as were Asian universi-

ties, Germany's national railway and global companies such as automakers Nissan and Renault.

The WannaCry ransomware exploited a vulnerability in mostly older versions of Microsoft's Windows operating system. Affected computers had generally not been patched with security fixes that would have blocked the attack. Security experts, however, traced the exploitation of that weakness back to the U.S. National Security Agency; it was part of a cache of stolen NSA cyberweapons publicly released by a group of hackers known as the Shadow Brokers.

Microsoft president Brad Smith likened the theft to "the U.S. military having some of its Tomahawk missiles stolen," and argued that intelligence agencies should disclose such vulnerabilities rather than hoarding them.

WannaCry came to a screeching halt thanks to enterprising work by a British hacker named

Marcus Hutchins, who discovered that the malware's author had embedded a "kill switch" in the code. Hutchins was able to trip that switch, and the attack soon ended. In an unusual twist, Hutchins was arrested months later by the FBI during a visit to the U.S.; he pleaded not guilty and now awaits trial on charges he created unrelated forms of malware.

The United States and South Korea have accused North Korea of launching a series of cyberattacks in recent years, though the North has dismissed the accusations.

A South Korean lawmaker in October said North Korean hackers stole highly classified military documents that include U.S.-South Korean wartime "decapitation strike" plans against the North Korean leadership. Seoul's Defense Ministry earlier said North Korea was likely behind the hacking of the Defen-

se Integrated Data Center, which is the military data center where the information was kept, in September last year. But the Defense Ministry refused to confirm the nature of the information that was compromised.

South Korea also last year accused North Korea of hacking the personal data of more than 10 million users of an online shopping site and dozens of email accounts used by government officials and journalists.

The United States in 2014 formally accused North Korea of hacking Sony Pictures Entertainment over the movie "The Interview," a satirical film about a plot to assassinate North Korea's leader.

South Korea said in 2015 that North Korea had a 6,000-member cyberarmy dedicated to disrupting the South's government and military. The figure was a sharp increase from a 2013 South Korean estimate of 3,000 such specialists.

Baik Tae-hyun, spokesman for South Korea's Unification Ministry, which deals with matters related to North Korea, said Monday that the Seoul government was examining whether the North was behind hacking attacks on a cryptocurrency exchange in June. About USD7 million in digital money was stolen in the hacks, South Korean officials said.

There's speculation in the South that North Korean hackers are possibly targeting cryptocurrency like bitcoin to evade the heavy financial sanctions imposed over the country's nuclear weapons and missiles program.

"We are monitoring the bitcoin-related issue. We believe that North Korea is currently engaging in various activities to evade sanctions and earn foreign currency," Baik said. **AP**



Students participate in a cyber-defense programming class in Seoul, South Korea. They were practicing hacking each other as part of a government program to train them to battle North Korean hackers

Japan approves missile defense system amid Pyongyang threat

JAPAN'S Cabinet yesterday approved a plan to purchase a set of costly land-based U.S. missile combat systems to increase the country's defense capabilities amid escalating threats from North Korea.

The approval will allow the Defense Ministry to buy two Aegis Ashore systems to add to Japan's current two-step missile defense consisting of Patriot batteries and Aegis-equipped destroyers.

"North Korea's nuclear and missile development has become a greater and more imminent threat for Japan's national security, and we need to drastically improve our ballistic missile defense capability to protect Japan continuously and sustainably," a statement issued by the Cabinet said.

The deployment will add to growing defense costs in Japan as Prime Minister

Shinzo Abe's government pushes to allow the military a greater international role and boost its missile combat capability.

Defense officials say two Aegis Ashore units can cover Japan entirely by using advanced missile interceptors such as SM-3 Block IIA that was jointly developed by Japan and the U.S., and would cost around 200 billion yen (USD1.8 billion), though they have not relea-

sed exact figures.

Officials say they hope the systems are ready for operation by 2023. They refused to disclose cost details until a planned release of a 2018 budget, in which defense spending is expected to rise to a record.

Abe has said he fully backs U.S. President Donald Trump's policy of keeping all options on the table, including possible military actions, against the North.



Abe has vowed to bolster Japan's security cooperation and increase use of advanced U.S. missile defense equipment.

The U.S. has installed the land-fixed Aegis in Romania and Poland, and Japan will be a third to host the system. **MDT/AP**

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US vetoes Security Council resolution against Trump's Jerusalem decision

THE United States on Monday vetoed a resolution supported by the 14 other U.N. Security Council members that would have required President Donald Trump to rescind his declaration of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, a vote that showed the depth of global opposition to the U.S. move.

The United States was certain to veto the Egyptian-sponsored resolution, but its Arab supporters wanted the vote to demonstrate that countries everywhere and even many U.S. allies such as Britain, France and Japan are against Trump's action.

The Palestinians immediately announced that they will seek a resolution with similar demands in the 193-member General Assembly, where there are no vetoes. But unlike the Security Council, the assembly's resolutions are not legally binding.

Palestinian Ambassador Riyad Mansour told reporters after meeting with the General Assembly president that he expects a vote this week. He said he hopes for "overwhelming support" telling the Trump administration that the international community doesn't accept the U.S. position, which he said violates international law and

Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley called the Security Council resolution "an insult" that won't be forgotten, saying the United Nations forced the U.S. to cast a veto simply because of its right to decide where to put its embassy. She said the veto — the first cast by the U.S. in more than six years — was done "in defense of American sovereignty and in defense of America's role in the Middle East peace process."

The vetoed resolution would have demanded that all countries comply with 10 resolutions on Jerusalem, dating back to 1967, including requirements that the city's final status be decided in direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

It would also have affirmed that "any decisions and actions which purport to have altered, the character, status or demographic composition of the holy city of Jerusalem have no legal effect, are null and void and must be rescinded."

Trump shattered decades of unwavering U.S. neutrality on Jerusalem on Dec. 6 when he declared that the United States recognizes the divided holy city as Israel's capital and will move its embassy

there. Trump insisted that after repeated peace failures it was past time for a new approach, saying his decision was merely based on reality.

The status of Jerusalem has been a central issue in the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and Trump's announcement was widely perceived as taking the side of Israel. It countered an international consensus that Jerusalem's status should be decided in negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, who claim east Jerusalem as the capital of their future state.

Trump's announcement triggered denunciations and demonstrations around the world. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah movement and other groups organized mass protests while its rival, the Gaza-based Islamic militant group Hamas, has called for a third violent uprising against Israel.

Trump has been working on a new Mideast peace plan and says he remains committed to brokering a deal, despite the Jerusalem move.

Haley told the council "the United States has never been more committed to peace in the Middle East," and called accusations that the U.S. is setting back the prospect for peace "scandalous."

But Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, in some of his sharpest rhetoric since Trump's announcement, reiterated in public comments to senior Palestinian officials Monday that he will no longer accept the U.S. as a Mideast mediator.

He said "a crazy person wouldn't accept" that role for Washington after Trump's action.

Haley said Trump "took great care not to prejudge final status negotiations in any way, including the specific boundaries of Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem," which must be decided by the Israelis and Palestinians. And she insisted that this position "is fully in line with the previous Security Council resolutions."

But one by one, ambassadors of the 14 countries that supported the resolution said after the vote that the U.S. violated council resolutions that make clear that no country can unilaterally decide that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel.

British Ambassador Matthew Rycroft said, "The status of Jerusalem should be determined through a negotiated settlement between the Israelis and the Palestinians, and should ultimately be the shared capital of the Israeli and Palestinian states." **MDT/AP**

BRITAIN

Newest aircraft carrier needs repair



The British navy's newest and most expensive aircraft carrier needs repairs after a faulty shaft seal was identified during sea trials. Officials say the HMS Queen Elizabeth, which cost roughly 3 billion pounds (USD4 billion) to build, will be "scheduled for repair" at Portsmouth. Defense Secretary Gavin Williamson said yesterday the repairs wouldn't be paid for by taxpayers because contractors who built the ship would be responsible. A Royal Navy statement says the problem won't prevent the ship from sailing or interfere with the extensive sea trials program underway. Queen Elizabeth II earlier this month attended the commissioning ceremony of the carrier, which is named after the monarch.

GREECE

Lawmakers to vote on 2018 'austerity budget'

Greek lawmakers are to vote on the country's 2018 budget, which includes further austerity measures beyond the official end of Greece's third international bailout next summer. The budget promises Greece's international lenders continued belt-tightening measures and high primary budget surpluses — the budget balance before debt and interest payments are taken into account. Greeks will see new tax hikes and pension cuts over the next two years. Bailout lenders had demanded additional guarantees the Greek economy will be stabilized before considering measures to improve the debt repayment terms.

GERMANY

Survivors remember Berlin attack



Survivors and dignitaries are commemorating the anniversary of the attack on a Berlin Christmas market in which 12 people were killed and dozens injured. German Chancellor Angela Merkel and other leading figures joined relatives and victims for an interreligious service yesterday at the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church in the heart of west Berlin. Berlin's mayor Michael Mueller unveiled a memorial featuring the names of those killed by an Islamic extremist who drove a stolen truck into the crowded market on the Breitscheidplatz. The attacker was killed in a shootout with Italian police days after the Dec. 19, 2016, attack.



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Amtrak train derailed on new, faster route that drew concern

A community along the new rail line where an Amtrak train derailed in a deadly crash had tried to stop the project on grounds higher-speed passenger trains would endanger pedestrians and motorists.

The city of Lakewood, several miles north of the crash site, went to court in 2013 to stop the Point Defiance Bypass project, which redirected passenger trains from a curvy route along Puget Sound that competes with freight traffic and squeezes through single-track tunnels where only one train can go through at a time.

Opponents said the route, which shortened the trip between Portland, Oregon, and Seattle would expose car and pedestrian traffic to faster trains at more than a half-dozen street-level crossings in Lakewood. City officials asserted the state transportation department's environmental review of the new route was inadequate and failed to consider traffic, neighborhood and other impacts.

In March 2014, a judge dismissed the lawsuit and the USD181 million track upgrade moved forward. Until now, the route was used by freight trains.

Early Monday, during the first

run of the new passenger service, 13 of the 14 cars went off the tracks at an overpass, some tumbling onto Interstate 5.

Even people who tried to stop the new route on safety grounds said a derailment wasn't a concern.

■ Even people who tried to stop the new route on safety grounds said a derailment wasn't a concern

"These are new, upgraded tracks — that's what is so surprising about this," said John Niles with the Coalition for Effective Transportation Alternatives, which joined local elected officials in opposing the project. "They we-

ren't worried about a train derailling."

At least three people on board were killed, local authorities said, contradicting a U.S. official briefed on the investigation who earlier told The Associated Press that at least six were dead. No additional briefings were provided by late afternoon, and the official said he had no new information to explain the discrepancy in the numbers.

The U.S. official was not authorized to discuss the investigation publicly and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity.

The track is owned by Sound Transit, the public transit system for the Seattle area, which oversaw the upgrades and did extensive testing prior to Monday's public opening, agency spokeswoman Kimberly Reason said.

While it will take investigators months to determine the precise cause, speed may have been a factor.

Moments before the derailment



the train was going 81.1 mph - or 130.5 kph - according to transitdocs.com, which maps train speeds using data from Amtrak's train tracker app.

The maximum speed drops from 79 mph (127 kph) to 30 mph (48 kph) for passenger trains just before the tracks curve to cross Interstate 5, according to a track

chart prepared by the Washington State Department of Transportation.

Another Sound Transit spokeswoman, Rachelle Cunningham, confirmed the maximum allowable speed was 30 mph (48 kph) at the derailment point but could not say where that lower limit began. AP

AD

SATURDAY SUPER STACK

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what's ON



TEAMLAB FUTURE PARK

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)

DISCOVER MACAU: MUSEUM OF TAIPA AND COLOANE HISTORY

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (Last admission at 5:30pm; closed on Mondays)

ADDRESS: Rua Correia da Silva, Taipa

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

A PROMENADE IN THE SMALL CITY: AN ILLUSTRATION EXHIBITION OF THE MACAU CULTURAL AND CREATIVE MAP

TIME: 11am-10pm

UNTIL: December 31, 2017

VENUE: Lakeside Gallery, Anim'Arte

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

AFFECTION FOR LOTUS – EXHIBITION OF PAINTING AND CALLIGRAPHY FOR THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF JAO TSUNG-I

TIME: 10am-6pm (Last admission at 17:30; closed on Mondays; open on public holidays)

UNTIL: December 31, 2017

VENUE: Jao Tsung-I Academy

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2523

THE MEMORABLE TIME - THE TRADITIONAL HANDICRAFT INDUSTRIES OF MACAU

TIME: 10am-6pm, last admission at 5:30pm (Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)

UNTIL: February 25, 2018

VENUE: 3/F, Macau Museum, No. 112, Praceta do Museu de Macau

ADMISSION: MOP15 (Free for Macau residents, children of 12 years old or below and seniors of 65 years old or over)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

Offbeat

'WHATEVER' TOPS ANNOYING WORD LIST

The shoulder-shrugging reply "whatever" continues to annoy Americans more than other words or phrases, but "fake news" is coming on strong.

The annual Marist College poll of most annoying words and phrases found "whatever" topping the list for the ninth straight year. It was the pick of one third of poll respondents, who were given five choices.

One-third of Americans said that they considered "whatever" the most annoying word, slightly down from the previous year when it received 38 percent.

The recent addition "fake news" was slightly ahead of "no offense, but" for second place, 23 percent to 20 percent. About one in 10 found "literally" to be most grating, as did a similar number for "you know what I mean."

"Since 2015, we have seen a narrowing between 'whatever' and the rest of the list," says Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion. "It has been more than 20 years since 'whatever' first gained infamy in the movie Clueless. While the word irks older Americans, those who are younger might not find 'whatever' to be so annoying."

The telephone survey of 1,074 adults conducted Nov. 6-9 has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

TV canal macau

07:55	Commemorative Ceremony of the 18th Anniversary of the SAR Establishment (Live)
08:30	RTPi Live
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	RTPi News (Delayed Broadcast)
15:00	Miscellaneous
17:50	Zig Zag
18:25	Brazilian Soap Opera (Repeated)
19:15	TDM Interview (Repeated)
19:50	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:30	Serie
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:50	RTPi Live

cinema

CINETEATRO

14 Dec - 20 Dec



STAR WARS EPISODE VIII

ROOM 1

(2D) 2:15, 9:30pm

(3D) 6:50pm

ROOM 2

(2D) 4:15, 7:00pm

Director: Rian Johnson

Starring: Daisy Ridley, John Boyega, Mark Hamill

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 150 min



MY LITTLE PONY: THE MOVIE

ROOM 1

5:00pm

ROOM 3

2:30pm

Director: Jayson Thiessen

Starring: Emily Blunt, Kristin Chenoweth, Liev Schreiber

Language: Cantonese

Duration: 99min

WONDER

ROOM 2

2:15, 9:45pm

Director: Stephen Chbosky

Starring: Julia Roberts, Owen Wilson, Jacob Tremblay

Language: Chinese (English)

Duration: 113min



MY TOMORROW, YOUR YESTERDAY

ROOM 3

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

Director: Takahiro Miki

Starring: Sota Fukushi, Nana Komatsu

Language: Japanese (English & Chinese)

Duration: 111min

this day in history



1995 'DIVORCE': QUEEN TO CHARLES AND DIANA

The Queen has urged the Prince and Princess of Wales to seek "an early divorce".

Buckingham Palace said the Queen called for an end to the marriage in a letter to each of them earlier this week.

It is understood the prince has replied in agreement with his mother but the princess has yet to respond, according to a Palace spokesman.

"After considering the present situation the Queen wrote to both the prince and princess earlier this week and gave them her view, supported by the Duke of Edinburgh, that an early divorce is desirable," the spokesman said.

"The Prince of Wales also takes this view and has made this known to the Princess of Wales since the letter.

"The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will continue to do all they can to help and support the Prince and Princess of Wales, and most particularly their children, in this difficult period."

The Queen's action comes just weeks after the princess's interview on Panorama which sparked a national debate on the future of the monarchy.

In it she said she did not want a divorce and claimed there were "three people" in their marriage because of Charles' friendship with Camilla Parker Bowles.

Diana was also repeatedly critical of her husband's ability to become king, his family, and their advisers and also admitted committing adultery herself.

Constitutional experts have said divorce would mean the Princess of Wales could never become queen.

The prime minister and senior Privy Councillors have backed the Queen's decision after prolonged private talks over the last two weeks.

Buckingham Palace's announcement followed discussions between the Queen and the Prime Minister.

Mr Major, who announced the couple's original separation in the Commons in 1992, will make a further statement to MPs once divorce proceedings are under way.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The "fairytale" marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales ended with a "decree nisi" on 28 August 1996.

It was a far cry from their lavish wedding at St Paul's Cathedral 15 years earlier, witnessed by a television audience of millions.

As part of the divorce settlement Diana was stripped of her royal title - HRH - and instead became known as Diana, Princess of Wales.

It is understood she was awarded a £17m lump sum and £350,000 a year to run her private office, while Diana and Charles agreed to share custody of their sons.

Almost exactly a year later Diana died in a car crash with her companion Dodi Fayed in Paris.

Prince Charles married Camilla Parker Bowles in April 2005.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Are you feeling stuck in the moment? How did you get here, anyway? This probably isn't the destination you had in mind when you set out, so take a look around and observe the situation.

Taurus April 20-May 20 You can get an image overhaul today by getting a clear look at yourself. Why get a total physical makeover when all you really need is a little boost to your self-esteem? It's easier on your wallet.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Your energy is working behind the scenes to ensure that your career and love life are each building positive alliances, so it's time to get serious and ask for your due.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 It's time you were ruthlessly true to yourself and your real desires. Stop making compromises when it comes to complex work or relationship matters! Some problem seems terribly complex.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Challenges to authority make you feel powerful, but they could end up in endless bickering over what turn out to be trivial issues. Pursue a higher purpose and make sure you see petty gripes for what they are.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Make sure to retain some mercy today, especially if you're dealing with someone who needs understanding. More importantly, don't just say you're ready to forgive and forget if that's not true yet.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 It's far too easy right now to be bamboozled by someone's personal style, so try to make sure it doesn't hit you where you live. Be especially vigilant if some enticing offer includes a large investment on your part.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You thought you were all done hearing confessions from your friends since you've let them know that nothing can surprise you anymore. Suddenly, though, someone calls to reveal something new they feel guilty about.

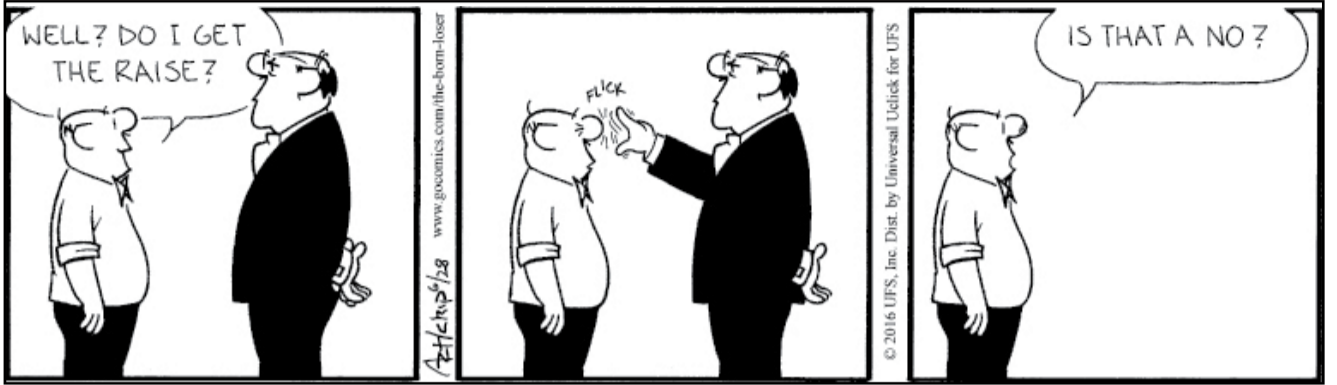
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You're entrusted with a secret - and not just by one person, either. At least two confidantes feel the need to connect with you about the same issue - which puts you in a rather difficult position.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You know quite well just how to make rules, follow them and delegate authority when need be. That goes double for rules that have already been tried out and found to be workable.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 If you harbor even one tiny doubt about their motives, you need to get to the bottom of the matter quickly. This doesn't mean you need to reconsider whatever it is they've asked you to do.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 There's just one person who can give you the advice you need now - especially since it's such an intimate, private matter! Track them down or at least give them a call.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

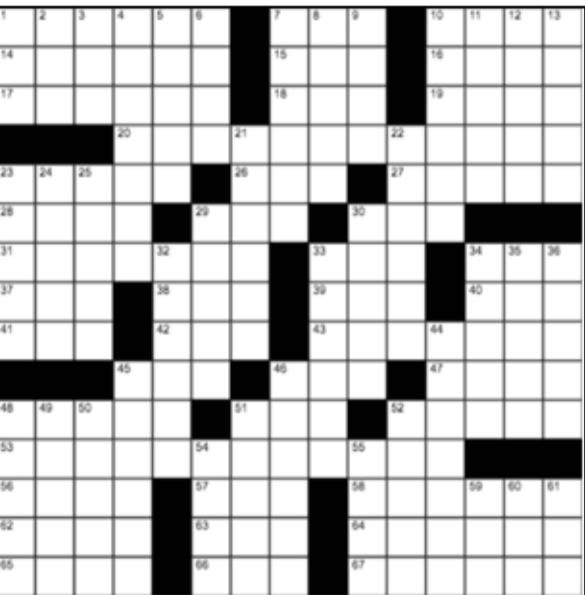
WEATHER

Weather forecast table for China and World cities, including columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Saw for cutting wood with the grain; 7- Golfer Ernie; 10- Heels; 14- Excite; 15- By way of; 16- Thin woodwind instrument; 17- Small burrowing rodent; 18- Tolkien ogre; 19- What the fourth little piggy had; 20- Capital of Utah; 23- Encourage; 26- Campers, briefly; 27- Oklahoma city; 28- Where heroes are made; 29- Take to court; 30- Bruins legend; 31- Quarantine; 33- Oklahoma city; 34- Appropriate; 37- Geom. point; 38- Monopoly quartet; Abbr.; 39- Seed vessel; 40- Rock's ___ Speedwagon; 41- Mystery writer Josephine; 42- Muesli bit; 43- Keep from occurring; 45- Eat dinner; 46- Loser to DDE; 47- Division preposition; 48- Birdlike; 51- Santa ___ winds; 52- Stiff bristles; 53- To destroy oneself; 56- Branch location; 57- Abner's adjective; 58- Most reasonable; 62- Increases; 63- Summer drink; 64- Thrills; 65- Borscht ingredient; 66- Debussy's "La ___"; 67- Distant;

DOWN: 1- Old cloth; 2- Indignation; 3- ___ favor; 4- Undersoil; 5- Eastern; 6- Commendably; 7- Develop gradually; 8- Turkish money; 9- Large bag; 10- Agree; 11- Bubbling; 12- No-nos; 13- Later, dudel; 21- Most loyal; 22- Online brokerage; 23- Decree; 24- Beau ___; 25- Renown; 29- Backpack part; 30- Smells; 32- About; 33- Become visible; 34- ___ we all?; 35- Five; Prefix; 36- From head ___; 44- Country in SE Asia; 45- Most secure; 46- Deer horn; 48- Take ___ at (try); 49- Mesa ___ National Park; 50- France; 51- Digression; 52- Climb; 54- Jack of "Rio Lobo"; 55- ___-friendly: not too technical; 59- Ike's WWII command; 60- What the sun does in the west; 61- Mao ___-tung;



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



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“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”

FOOTBALL

The longest winning runs in Europe's top leagues

IT is 16 straight victories and counting for Manchester City.

And there's no sign of the team's record winning run in the English Premier League coming to an end anytime soon.

Under Pep Guardiola, City has won every league game since snatching a 2-1 victory over Bournemouth on Aug. 26 thanks to Raheem Sterling's goal in the seventh minute of injury time.

A 2-1 win at fierce rival Manchester United on Dec. 10 made it 14 in a row, a record for a single English top-flight season, and beating Swansea three days later gave City the mark for consecutive victories in any English league.

Having beaten Tottenham 4-1 on Saturday, City now faces Bournemouth, Newcastle and Crystal Palace — teams currently lying in the bottom seven of the league — to round off 2017.

Here's a look at how City's historic winning run compares to those in Europe's other big leagues, with Guardiola the architect of records in Spain and Germany, too:

SPAIN

Fittingly, Guardiola set a record of 16 straight wins in the Spanish league while coaching Barcelona in the 2010-11 season. Real Madrid equaled that mark under Zinedine Zidane in 2016.

Barcelona's run started with a 2-1 win over Valencia on Oct. 16, 2010 and concluded when the team drew 1-1 at Sporting Gijon on Feb. 12, 2011. The streak included a historic 5-0 thrashing of Jose Mourinho's Real Madrid at Camp Nou.

Barcelona went on to win its second Champions League title under Guardiola that season, in addition to its third consecutive Spanish league.

Madrid won 16 in a row over two seasons, finishing 2015-16 with 12 victories to almost catch Barcelona for the league title. Zidane's team then added four more wins to start the next



league campaign. Overall, the run started with a 3-1 win at Levante on March 2, 2016, and ended with a 1-1 draw against Villarreal on Sept. 21.

GERMANY

In the 2013-14 season, when Bayern Munich dominated the Bundesliga like never before to clinch the title in March, the team did so on the back of 19 consecutive wins culmina-

ting in the 3-1 victory at Hertha Berlin that sealed Guardiola's first German championship.

Bayern was unbeaten at the time and had racked up 25 wins from its 27 games. The streak started on Oct. 19 and ran through March 25.

Perhaps as a consequence of the title celebrations, Bayern drew the next game, 3-3, at home with Hoffenheim.

With the title secured, Guar-

diola's side concentrated on the German Cup and Champions League as it sought to repeat the treble won under Jupp Heynckes the season before. Bayern slipped to two losses and two more draws in its remaining league games after Hoffenheim.

Bayern still finished 19 points clear of second-place Borussia Dortmund, which it also defeated in the German Cup final. Eventual Champions League

winner Real Madrid denied Bayern the treble.

ITALY

Inter Milan holds the Serie A record at 17 straight wins, established during the 2006-07 season under Roberto Mancini.

With Hernan Crespo and Zlatan Ibrahimovic scoring most of the goals, Inter's run began in late September with a 4-1 home victory over Livorno and ended in late February with a 1-1 draw at home with Udinese.

Later that season, Inter won its second straight Serie A title but first on the field since 1989. Inter was awarded the previous season's championship when Juventus was stripped of the honor due to the Calciopoli refereeing scandal.

It was an Inter team consisting of Julio Cesar in goal; Marco Materazzi and Walter Samuel in central defense; Javier Zanetti and Maicon at fullback; and Luis Figo, Dejan Stankovic, Patrick Vieira, Olivier Dacourt and Esteban Cambiasso in midfield.

Adriano, the powerful Brazilian striker who had been a force in previous seasons, scored only five goals in 23 Serie A appearances.

FRANCE

Defending champion Monaco holds the record for consecutive league wins with 16, starting in late February and crossing over into early this season.

Led by the firepower of veteran striker Radamel Falcao and teen sensation Kylian Mbappe, Monaco won the final 12 games of last season on the way to the championship.

Despite selling Mbappe to Paris Saint-Germain, the title defense began in style as Monaco won the first four matches in the process — scoring 14 goals in the process — before a 4-0 loss at local rival Nice on Sept. 9.

Monaco's run of 16 surpassed the previous record of 14 set by Bordeaux when it won the 2008-09 title under coach Laurent Blanc. **MDT/AP**

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opinion

Macau Matters

Richard Whitfield



MORE TAXI COMMENTARY

Along with many others, I have previously ranted about the problems with Macau taxis. In my view, we clearly need to move towards a Didi/Uber style taxi booking and payment system, and the sooner the better.

I recently got three teams of undergraduate university students to do street intercept questionnaire studies of the quality of Macau's taxi services and the results just confirm my thinking. In our survey we had a somewhat disproportionate number of younger respondents, but 238 out of the 300 respondents told us that they had previously used Didi/Uber type systems in other places and 248 of the 300 wanted to see them implemented in Macau. Our respondents were a relatively even mixture of locals, tourists (mostly from China) and non-locals working in Macau.

It totally mystifies me why the Macau government panders to a small number of very mediocre taxi drivers and taxi license owners to stall innovation in taxi services at the expense of the broader local community and our tourists (who are the lifeblood of Macau) that strongly want to see changes.

Everybody hates Uber as a company, but love its taxi booking and payment system and recognize that it is far better than the traditional approach to managing taxi services. If we do not want to let in Uber/Didi, I believe that Macau can develop a similar non-profit open IT platform for connecting customers with service providers. Such a system does not seem that complex to me, and I believe that as well as taxis, other services can be piggy-backed onto the same platform, eg people offering a variety of home maintenance, delivery and handyman services. The open platform just needs mechanisms to show the availability and location of service providers, to review and rank the quality of service providers and customers, to make bookings and arrange payments and to register and certify service providers and customers. The infrastructure needed for the system could be paid for by a government mandated transaction levy.

Requiring service providers to be good-standing members of the Macau community (no criminal record and a good driving record for taxi drivers) and requiring them to complete reasonable service training, and requiring vehicles and other equipment used by service providers to meet good professional standards and to be properly operated, maintained and insured should go a long way to keeping "bad apples" out of the pool of service providers. Clear and transparent service charges, including reasonable peak period price escalation, along with strict enforcement of online payments should largely eliminate service gouging and ensure adequate availability of service providers. Finally, making the platform non-profit gets rid of bad corporate actors like Uber.

The open platform should also shift the emphasis to licensing individual service providers and eliminate the need for taxi licenses and the like. I really have no sympathy for the loss in value of the existing taxi licenses that this entails - current license owners have repeatedly failed to ensure that reasonable services are built on their licenses.

We also all know that fully autonomous taxi services are coming within the next 10+ years, if not much sooner. These services will require an online booking and payment system akin to Uber/Didi. On this point, an architect friend firmly believes autonomous taxi services will arrive quicker than we think and that as a consequence the value of car parking spaces will fall dramatically - who wants to maintain a car if you can get cheap and convenient autonomous taxi services anytime, anywhere?

In Macau we should be facilitating these kinds of lifestyle innovations and not holding them back. As I always say, Macau should be a showcase for the world of the future.

THE BUZZ KAREEM ABDUL-JABBAR TO ADDRESS FIRST 'JAZZ CONGRESS'

A new jazz conference seeks to determine what role jazz can play in today's society, and it has tapped Kareem Abdul-Jabbar [pictured] as its keynote speaker.

Jazz Congress will hold its inaugural event on Jan. 11 in New York City. While Abdul-Jabbar is best known as a Hall of Fame basketball legend, he's also become a cultural

commentator and has long been a jazz enthusiast; his father was a trombonist.

Abdul-Jabbar will discuss what role jazz can play in the cultural, political and social framework of today's society.

The goal of the Jazz Congress is to boost the jazz community, which has dwindled over the decades.



Station	Air quality	Icon
Roadside	55-75 Moderate	Yellow smiley
High Density Residential Area	45-65 Moderate	Yellow smiley
Ambient	55-75 Moderate	Yellow smiley

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

POLAND Wreckage from a Polish fighter jet that disappeared from radar was found near a domestic air base, but the pilot of the Russian-made plane survived the crash, a defense official said.

SWEDEN A Swedish prosecutor says one of two men held for allegedly throwing firebombs at a synagogue in the Swedish city of Goteborg, has been released.



SPAIN Political parties for and against Catalonia's independence from Spain were making a final effort to convince voters as campaigning for a regional election ends. The election tomorrow is being held in exceptional circumstances as it was ordered by the Spanish government when it seized control of the region, dismissed its government and dissolved the regional parliament.

BRAZIL A sprawling probe into kickbacks in Brazil has suffered a large defeat after the country's top court decided to halt investigations against several lawmakers.



UNITED NATIONS The United States vetoed a resolution supported by the 14 other U.N. Security Council members that would have required President Donald Trump to rescind his declaration of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, a vote that showed the depth of global opposition to the U.S. move. More on p21

HOLIDAY TIMES

Macau Daily Times will not be published during the holiday. The Times will be back on the stands on Friday December 22. However the MDT website will be updated with breaking news during the recess period. We wish our readers, advertisers and friends the best of times.

Abu Dhabi's Louvre to unveil Leonardo painting 'very soon'



Fay Abuelgasim, Abu Dhabi

AN official in the United Arab Emirates said yesterday the new Louvre Abu Dhabi museum is "very proud" to have acquired a painting by Leonardo da Vinci that sold for a staggering USD450 million last month.

Director of Abu Dhabi's Department of Culture and Tourism, Saif Ghobash, told The Associated Press that the public will be able to view the "Salvator Mundi" painting when it is unveiled at the museum "very soon."

The Wall Street Journal and New York Times reported that a Saudi royal acting as a proxy for Saudi Arabia's crown prince was

the buyer. The Saudi Embassy in Washington says the Saudi royal purchased the painting on behalf of the museum in Abu Dhabi.

"At the end of the day, what is most important is that it is coming to the Louvre Abu Dhabi," Ghobash said.

"There is a lot of controversy out there that has nothing to do with the fact that it is going to be displayed at the Louvre Abu Dhabi, God willing, very soon," he added.

In the meantime, the museum is unveiling a new exhibition of around 150 pieces of artwork featuring collections from the Louvre in Paris and the Palace of Versailles.

The exhibition, which

opens to the public Dec. 21 and runs until early April, traces the history of the Louvre museum in the 18th century. Divided into three sections, it includes collections under Louis XIV, known as Louis the Great, who reigned over France for 72 years until his death in 1715.

Abu Dhabi has agreed to pay France \$525 million for the use of the "Louvre" name for the next 30 years and six months, plus another \$750 million to hire French managers to oversee 300 loaned works of art.

Authorities have not said how much it cost to build the museum, which opened last month and is located on Abu Dhabi's Saadiyat Island. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon



Friends close... South Korean and U.S. Marines from III Marine Expeditionary Force from Okinawa, Japan, have a wrestling match on the snow during their joint military winter exercise in Pyeongchang, South Korea, yesterday.