



MACAU MAY HOST WTCR FIRST-YEAR 'SEASON FINALE'
The new series is set to bring more cars, more races and new rules, adding interest and competition to WTCC

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CAMPAIGN 'SEND POSTCARDS' TO JAILED ACTIVIST IN MOTION
An NGO in Taiwan launched a campaign to send postcards to a Taiwanese human rights activist who is currently imprisoned in China

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ABUSED INDONESIAN SAYS HK NEEDS MORE SAFEGUARDS FOR MAIDS

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WORLD BRIEFS



JAPAN's Emperor Akihito marked his 84th birthday with a pledge to fulfill his duties until the day of his abdication in 2019, and to prepare for "passing the torch to the next era." More on p13

PHILIPPINES A powerful storm that left more than 160 people dead in the Philippines was downgraded to a tropical depression yesterday and failed to make landfall in Vietnam. More on p13



PAKISTAN-AFGHANISTAN The foreign ministers of Pakistan and Afghanistan appealed to Taliban militants to join peace talks following a meeting yesterday organized by China to mend strained relations between the two governments.



SYRIA Rebel fighters and opposition groups have blasted Russia's role in Syria, strongly rejecting its proposed peace talks expected next month. In a series of statements yesterday, 40 rebel groups, including some of Syria's most prominent, as well as political opposition umbrella groups, said Moscow's proposed talks are an attempt to "circumvent" the United Nations-led process.

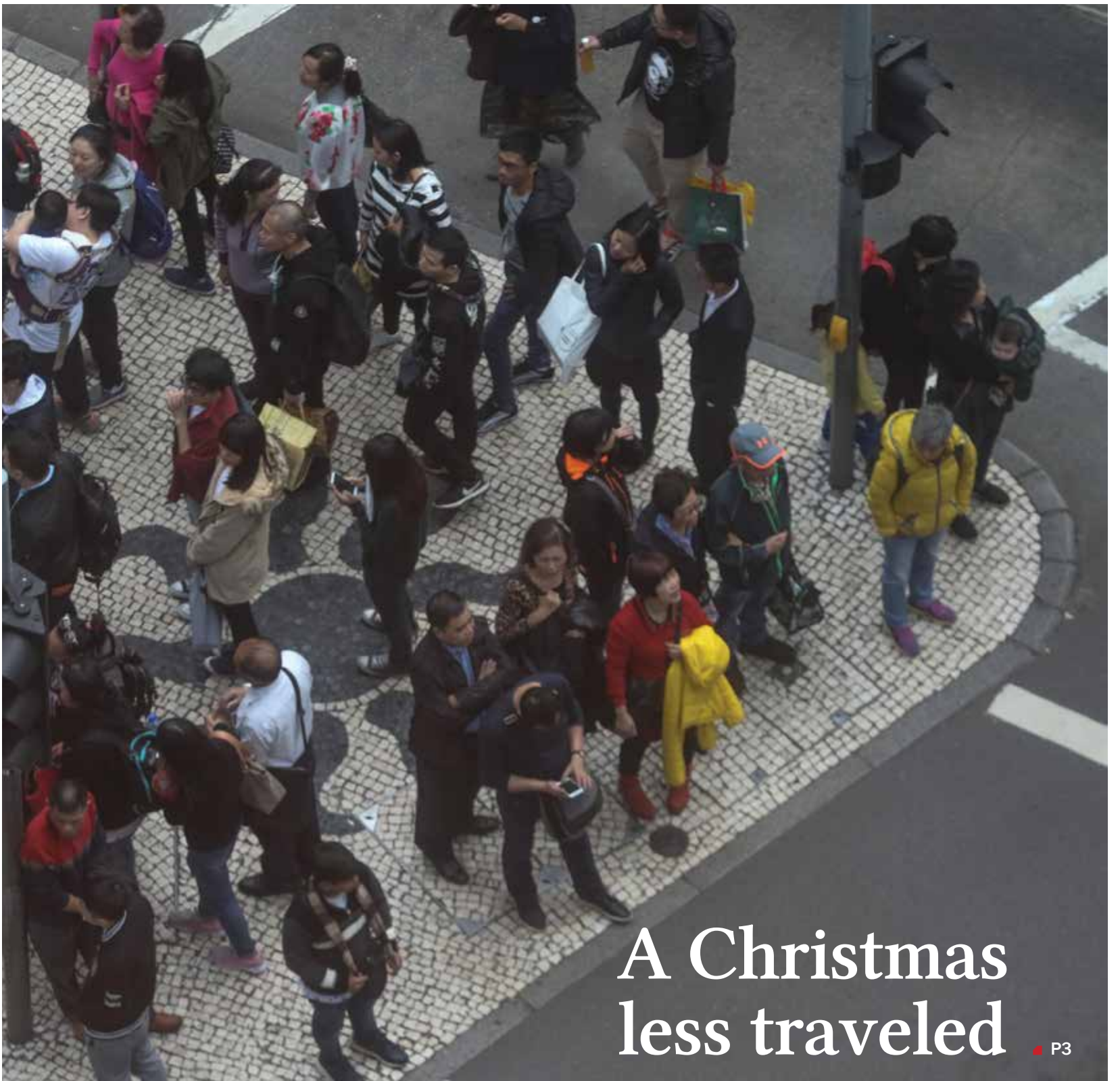
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SPANISH COURT

Judge implicates Macau in money laundering

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RENATO MARQUES



A Christmas less traveled

P3

THE Centro Comercial Teatro Capitol is ready to open to the public, starting from January 2018, according to media reports.

However, the cultural and recreational industry is the only sector that will be allowed to use the theater once it is reopened.

The theater is currently under refurbishment, with more than 90 percent of the refurbishment process complete.

Kuan Vai Lam, chairman of the board of the company which owns most of the shares of the theater, told TDM that the theater's refurbishment cost somewhere around MOP15 million.

In the beginning, the theater will be open exclusively to cultural and recreational groups in order to give space to different types of cultural and art events.

The theater has a capacity of 300 seats.

Earlier, during an experimental operation period, 50 organizations visited the theater and put forward their suggestions to the theater management. Their suggestions, among others, were to establish rest lounges and audio rooms.

Currently, according to Kuan, the theater's owners have not decided on the prices of admission. The theater will be run on a non-profit model and will charge visitors for management and electricity fees.

"We have built a big stage which can be used for dancing, singing and for Cantonese opera," Kuan said.

"I hope that we can build the third floor into a cultural and recreational space to introduce Macau films. [...] Groups can also use it for exhibitions or seminars."

Centro Comercial Teatro Capitol to open in January



Macau Bats maintains rank for Bowl tournament

YOUTH rugby team Macau Bats, recently played their third Hong Kong festival, ahead of the holiday period, maintaining their ranking for the New Year's Bowl competition with several wins.

At the Hong Kong Festival the under-tens continued their strong display from the season by recording another four wins without a loss. They defeated Sai Kung 5-2, Hong Kong Football Club 3-2, East Kowloon Eagles 10-1, and Wanchai Monkeys 8-0 in the Flying Kukris contact tournament.

The under-nines team matched the results of the older team by also earning four wins against Sai Kung



6-1, East Kowloon 10-0, a 3-1 win against Shatin and defeating the Hong Kong Football Club by 1-6.

Meanwhile, the under-sevens and under-eights teams played in the tour-



naments' non-contact edition with the under-sevens losing two games, winning one and drawing the fourth, while the under-eights, managed to win their four games.



For the under-eights, a 4-3 win over the hosts, Flying Kukris, was followed by a 3-1 win over Tsuen Wan Rhinos and a 6-3 win against Tung Chung, according to a statement



from the team.

The Bats then scored a 4-2 win against the strong Discovery Bay Pirates team.

The Macau Bats under-12s played in the Bowl

championship and recorded a win against Tung Chung/South Lantau, a draw with Sandy Bay and suffered two defeats, against USRC Tigers and Hong Kong Football Club.

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF (DIRECTOR) Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
MANAGING EDITOR Paulo Barbosa paulo.barbosa@macaudailytimes.com
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Eric Sautedé, Leanda Lee, Severo Portela

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Daniel Beitler, Emilie Tran, Grace Yu, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Julie Zhu, Juliet Risdon, Lynzy Valles, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Rodrigo de Matos (cartoonist), Viviana Segui
DESIGNERS Eva Bucho, Miguel Bandeira | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES Associated Press, Bloomberg, Financial Times, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua | SECRETARY Yang Dongxiao army@macaudailytimes.com

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

SECRETARY Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephone: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

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Macau may host WTCR first-year 'Season Finale'

Renato Marques

THE FIA World Touring Car Cup (WTCR) has unveiled its calendar for the first edition of the WTCR series, the new motorsports category that merges together the previous FIA World Touring Car Championship (WTCC) and TCR specifications cars.

The new series is set to bring more cars, more races and new rules, adding interest and competition to WTCC, which had been losing both popularity and manufacturers' support.

Although it is still incomplete, in the calendar revealed last week, there is a high possibility that the "Season Finale" for the new series will be held on the Guia Circuit in Macau, marking the return of the season's main event to the region.

Commenting on the calendar, François Ribeiro, Head of Eurosport Events and WTCR promoter said, "publication of the provisional schedule marks another important step ahead of the inaugural FIA WTCR season in 2018. The nine selected events will not only offer a great variety of circuits to drivers and teams, but will also mean that WTCR races take place in front of big crowds. We are in discussions with two potential locations, which Eurosport Events has not worked with before, to select one additional event for FIA WTCR schedule, and we hope to conclude these as soon as possible."

Remarking on the new regulations, Ribeiro said, "the combination of the TCR technical regulations, the expertise and neutrality of the FIA and its stringent sporting rules and procedures, plus the promotional strength of Eurosport Events, gained since 2005,

RENATO MARQUES



will deliver a highly competitive grid, exciting racing and a fan-friendly format that can only drive success."

It was also noted by the organizers that the deal, which will merge the series regulations and technical specifications, is valid for two seasons.

On the topic, Marcello Lotti, Chief Executive Officer of WSC Ltd, which owns the rights over the TCR concept said, "we are very proud of this agreement that fully respects the very spirit of TCR. The association, with an experienced promoter such as Eurosport Events, together with the FIA label on the WTCR represent the ultimate recognition for the TCR concept that we laun-

ched three years ago and that hasn't stopped growing since."

The TCR technical regulations cater for front-wheel-drive, four/five-door sedan or hatchback cars using turbocharged production engines with a capacity of between 1750-2000cc and with a maximum power output of 350bhp. At the moment, there are already 19 TCR-based championships or series around the world, while car manufacturers have put forward many proposals of vehicles eligible to race under the TCR specifications. Alfa Romeo, Audi, Ford, Honda, Hyundai, KIA, LADA, Opel, Peugeot, Renault, SEAT, Subaru and Volkswagen are just some of the brands that

currently have models approved and racing under this category, but more are expected to join in the future. According to TCR organizers, to date, over 600 TCR racing cars have been built and sold to customer teams all over the world.

The season will start on April 8 in Marrakech, Morocco, and is expected to hold events in the major Touring Car circuits including Hungaroring, Nurburgring, Zandvoort, Vila Real, Termas de Rio Hondo, Ningbo, China, Suzuka, and Macau.

Some of the choices for the season finale night events are countries such as Qatar or the UAE.

Man arrested after violently reacting to police inspection

A 30-year-old non-permanent male resident, surnamed Lam, has been arrested for violently confronting a police officer who was carrying out an inspection, concerning his chosen work, illegally providing taxi services. On December 14, Lam was illegally picking up passengers at the Lotus Flower border gate. Upon being inspected by a police officer, Lam refused to cooperate with the officer and drove away from the scene. The police officer pursued the man on foot and sustained injuries to his head, hands, right foot, waist, and hip. On December 18, the mainland police authority arrested Lam in Zhuhai, and transferred him to the Macau authorities last Thursday. On Friday, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) brought the suspect to the Prosecution Office (MP). On the same day, the MP issued a statement saying that Lam is currently in custody at the Macau prison.

Malo Clinic to reopen in Macau 'soon'

Malo Clinic will resume its operations at a time and location to be announced soon, reads a statement sent to customers yesterday. The note - which begins by bemoaning the fact that it "provisionally is not providing dental services" - says clients can continue treatment at one of Malo's 18 dental clinics in mainland China. The clinic assures that it will cover transportation costs from Macau to two of its clinics, located in Guangzhou and Shenzhen, as well as providing all the necessary clinical information to colleagues in the group.

33,496 civil servants recorded at the end of 2016

A report from the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau (SAFP) on the human resources of the SAR's public administration of 2016 showed that Macau, by the end of 2016, had a total of more than 33,496 civil servants. Around 30,831 people were working in public departments, while 2,665 were working in foundations and governmental department such as the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), and the Monetary Authority of Macau. Some 14,000 civil servants held a Bachelor's degree, around 4,700 were high-school graduates, and approximately 3,100 obtained a Master's degree or a college degree.

Fewer tourists recorded on Christmas Eve

NEARLY 470,000 crossings were registered on Christmas Eve (until 9 p.m.), the Public Security Police Force (PSP) reported.

Some 72 percent of the crossings were recorded at the border gate. Over 240,000 crossings were mainland tourists. The number of crossings made by Macau residents was 148,000.

Until 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve, all ports in Ma-

cau saw a total of 331,000 crossings, with 233,000 being registered at the border gate.

Last Christmas Eve, a total of 537,000 crossings were recorded, which marked the second highest number of tourist entries on record, in terms of crossings on a single day.

From December 22 until December 25 of 2016, a total of 1,308,237 crossings were recorded across

all of Macau's ports. In particular, 504,891 entries and 510,915 departures were recorded at the border gate.

Regarding Hong Kong, 236,000 crossings were recorded at the Luohu Port (busiest port between Shenzhen and Hong Kong) until 5:50 p.m. on December 24. More than 300,000 crossings were expected for the whole day of December 24. **JZ**

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Alliance launches campaign to send postcards to Taiwanese jailed rights activist

A non-governmental organization (NGO) in Taiwan launched a campaign on Monday to send well-wishing postcards to a Taiwanese human rights activist who is currently imprisoned in China.

The "Lee Ming-che rescue team," an alliance established by the NGO, launched the campaign as Lee's wife, Lee Ching-yu revealed that it has been nearly a month since they have heard an update on her husband's situation.

At a press conference organized by the alliance in Taipei, Lee Ching-yu noted that the move was launched in a bid to remind her husband that he has not been forgotten.

"I don't even have the chance to send him a love letter," she said, as cited in Taiwanese media reports.

The activist's wife urged the public to write her husband a postcard and to send it to the detention center in Changsha in Hunan province, where he was detained before being sentenced in November for five years in prison and two years' deprivation of political rights for "subversion of state power."

According to Lee Ching-yu, she has not been informed of where her husband is being incarcerated since the verdict was handed down.

Lee was the first Taiwanese to be convicted of attempting to

overthrow the Chinese government.

A staff member at Wenshan Community College in Taipei, he was arrested on March 19 while entering Guangdong province from Macau, reports noted.

China accused Lee of cooperating with a Chinese citizen named Peng Yuhua, in "organizing, planning and taking action to subvert national authority and overthrow the socialist system." They allegedly used online discussion groups to disseminate information and articles attacking the Chinese government and system. The verdict was handed down by the Yueyang Intermediate People's Court in Hunan Province on November 28.



Lee's wife, Lee Ching-yu

NPC

Chinese legislators discuss cultural heritage protection

Chinese legislators discussed a report this week on cultural heritage work submitted to the ongoing bi-monthly session of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC).

Some legislators were concerned that cultural heritage work has become an insular process that largely disregards the ultimate goal: informing and enhancing the public's knowledge of their own cultural heritage. These legislators expect that the works should be more people-oriented.

Deputy to the NPC and local delegate Iong Weng Ian, as cited in a report by the press agency, Xinhua, suggested making better use of social resources.

"Hopefully, we'll take them into further consideration, whether they're from the Chinese mainland or overseas Chinese," she said.

"Many overseas Chinese are actually keen on making their own contributions to the protection of Chinese antiques," the delegate continued.

Her calls were in line with the report, which suggested further cooperation



Iong Weng Ian at an event at City U

with other countries and for Hong Kong and Macau to enhance China's "soft power."

Macau delegate Iong Weng Ian suggested making better use of social resources

According to the report, over the past five years China's international exchanges in cultural heritage have had nearly 300 exhibitions of Chinese antiques held abroad, and more than 100 foreign exhibitions held in China.

China has signed bilateral treaties and memorandums of understanding on cultural heritage with several countries.

Meanwhile Yang Bangjie, member of the NPC Standing Committee noted that there are antiques stored in several places but not exhibited.

"It makes it hard for us

to appreciate the antiques and do research, as many of them cannot be approached and inventories are obscure," he argued.

Wang Gang, another member of the Standing Committee, compared China with Europe, where the interpretation of cultural heritage is often combined with things such as philosophy, technological evolution and history. He noted that while the protection of cultural heritage is the top priority, its ultimate goal is to strengthen the knowledge of the public on its cultural heritage. LV

Cybersecurity Law public consultation until January 24

In order to gather opinions on the Cybersecurity Law, the government has organized a public consultation, which began on December 11 and will last for 45 days until January 24. During these 45 days, eight public sessions, starting from January 5, are planned, according to a statement by the Office of the Secretary for Security.

According to the same statement, out of the eight thematic public sessions, five of them are specifically aimed at government entities and representatives from Macau's directly re-

lated infrastructure, while the other three are reserved for the public.

Since there are a limited number of seats for the sessions and because of this the Office of the Secretary for Security has called on interested parties to register their seats in advance. They have also informed that, in addition to the public sessions, the citizens can review the consultation text and present opinions through the Internet, on the website www.gss.gov.mo (available in Chinese and Portuguese languages).

PUBLIC SESSIONS

1 - January 5 2018, from 8 p.m.-10 p.m., Judiciary Police (PJ) headquarters.	Registration period - from 9 a.m. of December 27 to 12 p.m. of January 12.
2 - January 13, from 3 p.m.-5 p.m., PJ headquarters	Registration period - from 9 a.m. of December 27 to 12 p.m. of January 12.
3 - January 14, from 8 p.m.-10 p.m., PJ headquarters.	Registration period - from 9 a.m. of December 27 to 12 p.m. of January 12.
4 - January 13, from 3 p.m.-5 p.m., PJ headquarters	Registration period - from 9 a.m. of December 27 to 12 p.m. of January 12.

Riding in the New Year at Aux Beaux Arts

With the Christmas festivities winding down, MGM MACAU is gearing up for the new year.

Diners heading out for a meal before a raucous New Year's party will love the warm and welcoming ambience of classic Parisian bistro Aux Beaux Arts, a local favourite which has launched two unique evening menus for the season.



For the four-course menu (MOP 688) the restaurant is pulling out all the stops with an opening course of carpaccio scallop and langoustine, topped with five herbs and a side of caviar, followed by a decadent poached lobster with fava beans, champagne veloute and truffle pearl.

The brasserie also holds nothing back when it comes to traditional home-cooked French dishes, either: the combination of seared wagyu beef fillet and foie gras – with a side of rosti potato and wild mushroom ragout, drenched in madeira jus – is guaranteed to be a hit with meat lovers.

For the final course, Aux Beaux Arts has prepared a selection of petit fours and a thick slice of milk chocolate hazelnut cake with vanilla sauce: a light dessert packed with a punch of rich flavour.



Those craving a spot of supper may prefer the second, five-course menu (MOP 888). The set includes a complimentary glass of Billecart-Salmon Brut Reserve champagne from Aux Beaux Arts' famous cellars and – above and beyond the four delectable dishes already on offer – an extra course of golden poached egg and corn bread with lardon, chicken jus and black truffle.

Aux Beaux Arts' four-course menu is available between 6:00pm and 8:30pm, while the five-course set is available from 9:00pm to midnight. Both sets are available only on December 31. All prices are subject to 10% GST.

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FOR RENT



Apartment C, Nam Long, Taipa
(Ref: 17110660)
420 sq.ft. HKD 8,800

Unique top floor studio apartment with stunning sun terrace. Located at the beginning of Taipa village a stones throw from CuppaCoffee. Nicely fitted out with everything within reach plus plenty of storage this apartment is perfect for a singleton.



C Unit, Vai Fat, Taipa
(Ref: 17110659)
800 sq.ft. HKD 12,800

Fabulous newly renovated one bedroom furnished apartment. Modern fitted kitchen with western style oven & cooktop. Great location in Taipa across the road from CuppaCoffee. Available from 5th December 2017



Kinglight, Taipa
(Ref: 17120662)
800 sq.ft. HKD 15,000

Stunning top floor apartment with stunning views across the Taipa race course to Henqin. The apartment comes fully furnished and has plenty of storage. The large double bedroom has an en suite shower room and a lovely open plan split level kitchen and living area.



Carnation Court, Hellene Gardens, Unit A
(Ref: 17110661)
1,663 sq.ft. HKD 17,500

Modern apartment on low floor. Beautifully furnished throughout with lots of storage space in every room. Three bedrooms, two bathrooms, small storage space, open plan living and dining area with bi-fold doors onto small balcony.. Galley style fitted kitchen including white goods. Price includes one car park space.

FOR SALE



Va Nam, Taipa Village
(Ref: 17085531)
680 sq.ft. HKD 4.42M
Rate: HKD 6,500

Top floor apartment Taipa Village. Fully renovated 4 years ago from a small two bedroom property to a large one bedroom. The bedroom has ample space for king bed and lots of storage, two fabulous windows giving lots of natural light into the room. Lovely shower room with walk in shower



Coloane Village (Investment Property) - Coloane
(Ref: 16095490)
664 sq.ft. HKD 4.252M
Rate: HKD 6,404

Located in the quiet village of Coloane. Renovated 3 years ago this apartment needs no further investment. 2 bedrooms; a double & single size. Shower room with built in cabinets. Fully fitted kitchen. Open views. Close to Coloane bus stop, village square, cafes



4th Floor Car Park, The Manhattan, Taipa
(Ref: 17115538)
sq.ft. HKD 1.85M
Rate:
Car park space available for Sale in the Manhattan, Taipa. Great location on the 4th floor. Good size space. Asking price HKD1.85 million



Grande Plaza, Taipa
(Ref: 17115537)
980 sq.ft. HKD 8.88M
Rate: HKD 9,061

Superb bright & quiet three bedroom apartment in Taipa just off the main road. Three good size bedrooms with two shower rooms, on W suite off the master room. The location is fantastic right next to the escalator off the main road in Taipa, easy for transportation and shopping.



Old Taipa, Nam Long (I Unit)
(Ref: 16095500)
515 sq.ft. HKD 3.8M
Rate: HKD 7,378

Unique property located at the beginning of old Taipa village. A great investment property which was renovated in 2015, making the original two small bedrooms into one spacious bright room bedroom. The kitchen has also been opened up and is now just off the living area, giving the apartment a lofty feeling. The kitchen is small however well equipped with most appliances built in.



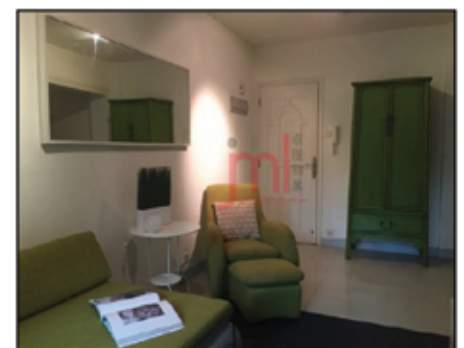
Hellene Gardens, Lot IV, Unit B, Carnation Court, Coloane
(Ref: 17025509)
1,663 sq.ft. HKD 8.3M
Rate: HKD 4,990

Located in the clean, beautiful island of Coloane, this stunning 3 bedroom, 2 bath apartment has incredible sea views from the living room and master bedroom, and green mountain views from all other rooms. The apartment has been renovated to a high standard with modern bathrooms etc



Nam Long, Taipa Village
(Ref: 17085534)
691 sq.ft. HKD 4.485M
Rate: HKD 6,490

Lovely apartment on the second floor of a three storey building in Taipa Village. Renovated 10 years ago from a two bedroom property to a great size one bedroom apartment, well maintained and managed by JML of the last ten years, historical maintenance data available on request. The bedroom has ample space for double bed and plenty of storage.



Va Fat, Taipa Village
(Ref: 17085533)
638 sq.ft. HKD 4.25M
Rate: HKD 6,661

Lovely apartment on the third floor of a five storey building in Taipa Village. Renovated 3 years ago the apartment has two good size bedrooms and separate walk in shower room. The apartment has been well maintained and managed by JML of the last eight years, historical maintenance data available on request. The main bedroom has ample space for double bed and plenty of storage.

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Spanish judge names Macau as a tax haven for drug trafficking

MACAUI is one of the places mentioned in an investigation headed by Spanish judge Pilar de Lara that aims to track down money from a Lugo (Galicia, Spain) drug trafficking criminal organization, the local newspaper El Progreso reported.

According to the report, Spanish courts have managed to track and freeze several bank accounts used to launder the profits from the criminal activities in tax havens such as Andorra, Switzerland, Macau, the Bahamas and Luxembourg.

On such accounts, the newspaper claims to have caught around 6 million euros (around MOP57.3million) as well as over 40 real estate properties in the areas of Lugo, Asturias and Marbella (Spain).

According to judge de Lara, the suspects were using several bank accounts in tax havens to launder the money through the creation of a complex network of companies and offshore firms.

It was mentioned that the alleged head of the criminal gang has numerous criminal antecedents for tobacco smuggling since the

1980s. However, over time the gang's structure has developed into more lucrative drug products such as heroin and cocaine.

■ The suspects were using several bank accounts in tax havens to launder the money

Among the multiple people under investigation are several accomplices that are suspects of creating front companies with the purpose of hiding and disseminating the high incomes coming from the illicit activities.

Sources cited in the process remark that the investigation started in 2014 and has involved frequent phone tapping and other surveillance methods. The authorities acted by taking several group members into custody, unveiling the business network



Casa do Concello in Lugo, Spain

scheme which involved more than a dozen companies in Spain and in Andorra, Macau, the Bahamas and Switzerland. In total, the courts managed to block funds of a sum of over MOP57 million in Spain and abroad, but the amount goes up as more proper-

ties, real estate, vehicles and other goods are found to be part of the scheme.

The suspicion of investigators arose from the unusual "excess of luck" that the ex-wife of the head of the gang claimed to have between 1996 and 2015, after she declared

almost 400,000 euros (aprox. MOP3.8 million) of income coming from several lottery prizes.

This was considered improbable by the judge, who hypothesized that it may be a result of a scheme of "buying prized lottery tickets" in order to launder money. **RM**

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Big labor sees growth potential in California pot workers

Scott Smith, Goshen (Calif.)

UNIONS have caught a whiff of a rare opportunity to organize a whole new set of workers as recreational marijuana becomes legal in California.

The United Farm Workers, Teamsters and United Food and Commercial Workers are looking to unionize the tens of thousands of potential workers involved in the legal weed game, from planters to rollers to sellers. The move could provide a boost to organized labor's lagging membership — if infighting doesn't get in the way.

The United Farm Workers, co-founded by iconic labor leader Cesar Chavez, says organizing an industry rooted in agriculture is a natural fit, and growers could label their products with the union's logo as a marketing strategy.

"If you're a cannabis worker, the UFW wants to talk with you," national vice president Armando Elenes said.

But United Food and Commercial Workers, which represents grocery store employees, meat packers and retail workers, regis-

AP PHOTO



tered its intent to organize cannabis workers across the country.

"We would hope they respect our jurisdiction," UFCW spokesman Jeff Ferro said.

Teamsters organizer Kristin Heidelberg said there's no need for unions to battle each other. There will be plenty of workers needing representation as small cannabis businesses run by "happy stoner" types give way to large pharmaceutical corporations,

she said.

The green rush that begins in 2018 is an opportunity for unions to regain influence that began declining in the late 1950s, said David Zonderman, a professor of labor history at North Carolina State University. But discord between unions could upend it. As could resistance from cannabis business leaders.

"Are they going to be new-age and cool with it," Zonderman

said, "or like other businesspeople, say, 'Heck, no. We're going to fight them tooth and nail?'"

Last year, California voters approved sales of recreational marijuana to those 21 and older at licensed shops beginning Jan. 1.

Cannabis in California already is a USD22 billion industry, including medical marijuana and a black market that accounts for most of that total, according

to University of California, Davis, agriculture economist Philip Martin. Medical marijuana has been legal since 1996, when California was the first state to approve such a law.

Labor leaders estimate recreational pot in California could employ at least 100,000 workers from the north coast to the Sierra Nevada foothills and the San Joaquin Valley, harvesting and trimming the plants, extracting ingredients to put in liquids and edibles, and driving it to stores and front doors.

Other pot workers have organized in other states, but California should be especially friendly territory for unions, said Jamie Schau, a senior analyst with Brightfield Group, which does marketing analysis on the marijuana industry.

The state has one of the nation's highest minimum wages and the largest number of unionized workers across industries. Its laws also tend to favor employees.

At least some workers say they're open to unions.

"I'm always down to listen to what could be a good deal for me and my family," said Thomas Grier, 44, standing behind the counter at Canna Can Help Inc., a dispensary in the Central Valley community of Goshen.

The dispensary — with \$7 million in yearly sales — sells medical marijuana. AP

AD

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Abused Indonesian: HK needs more safeguards for maids

Josie Wong, Hong Kong

AN Indonesian maid who won a civil case this week against her former Hong Kong employer for shocking physical abuse said Friday she's happy with the result but urged the city to do more to help foreign maids.

Erwiana Sulistyaningsih said authorities aren't doing enough to protect the southern Chinese financial center's army of foreign domestic workers, most of whom are women from either Indonesia or the Philippines.

A Hong Kong court ordered Sulistyaningsih's former employer to pay her nearly 810,000 Hong Kong dollars (USD103,500) in damages for the abuse, which occurred over eight months starting in 2013.

The employer, mother of two Law Wan-tung, was earlier convicted on assault and other charges, fined and given a six-

year prison term.

The case came to light when graphic pictures of Sulistyaningsih's injuries started circulating among Hong Kong's Indonesian community showing her face, hands and legs covered with scabs and lacerations and blackened, peeling skin around her feet.

Sulistyaningsih said that since her case she had met with many other foreign maids who were mistreated by the families they work for.

"Still the employers give long working hours," she said at a news conference. "Other victims also tell me their stories. Like they weren't given enough food, they didn't have holiday."

She urged the Hong Kong authorities to review current policies and practices, saying not enough is being done to protect workers.

Since her case came to light, she said, "I think nothing changed." AP

Lam Tsuen holds once-a-decade festival

IN a rural community far from Hong Kong's hustle and bustle and towering skyscrapers, villagers hold one of the southern Chinese city's rare and colorful local festivals.

Residents gather in the village of Lam Tsuen for the days-long Tai Ping Ching Jiu festival. Participants give thanks to Taoist deities like Tin Hau for abundant harvests and pray for peace.

Organizers spend lavishly on the celebration, erecting a massive temporary bamboo theatre for traditional Cantonese Opera performances.

Other highlights include lion dances, vegetarian feasts and the burning of life-size paper effigies of animals like horses

for luck. On the final day, meat is once again allowed to mark the ritual's close, so revelers enjoy delicacies like roast suckling pig.

The event is so popular that even villagers who have emigrated overseas return home to join in the festivities.

The festival, also known as Da Jiao, is held in other agrarian villages across Hong Kong's outlying New Territories at varying intervals. It was also once common in parts of neighboring Guangdong province in mainland China until the Communist Party took power, when such traditions were suppressed by the country's atheist leaders, who viewed them as feudal superstition. AP

ADVERTORIAL

SANDS CHINA NEWS

Sands China Recognises Outstanding Employees at 8th Because We Care Team Member Awards

More than 200 top nominees Awards in seven categories

Sands China Ltd. held the eighth edition of its Because We Care Team Member Awards earlier at The Parisian Macao's Parisian Theatre, where it honoured outstanding team members who exemplify Sands China's Because We Care service culture.

With approximately 28,000 employees, Sands China considers its team members as its most valuable asset. The Because We Care Team Member Awards is a way to reward dedicated team members for exceptional levels of service to the company and its customers.

"Our team members are the ones who really bring this company to life," said Dr. Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd. "They are the ones who internalise and apply our Because We Care set of values on a daily basis. It's because of their outstanding service that our guests and visitors are able to make lasting memories at our integrated resorts. It is our pleasure to recognise the most exemplary among them each year with these awards."

From a pool of 326 total nominations, 239 team members were shortlisted as top nominees by a judging panel made up of previous award winners and top nominees. Sands China team members then decided the finalists in each award category through a company-wide vote. This methodology allows for transparency and fairness while collecting opinions from a wide group of team members, who are able to gain inspiration when reading the stories of the top nominees.

A total of 133 team members received awards, including 17 individual awards and four team awards. Gold, silver and bronze awards were given in each of seven award categories: Influential Service, Exceptional Spirit, Impressive Performance, ECO360 Live. Green*, People's Choice, Best Leadership and Outstanding Teamwork.

In addition, a special award presentation was held in honour of 50 Sands China departments, whose hard work and contributions during Typhoon Hato fully exemplified the cultural values of Because We Care. A trophy was presented to a representative of each department to honour their team's contributions.

And to recognise all 326 team members who were nominated in the Because We Care Team Member Awards, the company issued thank you certificates to each of them through their respective departments.

During the awards ceremony, the company also shared with the audience Sands China's noteworthy achievement of having earned a total of 86 international and regional awards and accolades in 2017 – for its outstanding hotel accommodation and services, diversified food and beverage offerings, its successful marketing campaigns and events, exceptional spa facilities and services, environmental sustainability initiatives, its innovative human resources efforts, and for its wide variety of retail and leisure services. The widespread industry recognition stands as a testament to the dedicated efforts of team members to exemplify the Because We Care culture of service in their daily interactions with guests and with each other.

The event also included another special moment of recognition, held for two team members who were recipients of the Macao government's Outstanding Senior Employee Award. The award recognises the outstanding performance of senior employees in different workplaces, in order to enhance employers' understanding and acceptance of senior employees in the workplace and to promote appreciation and acceptance of their experience and abilities.

More than 800 team members, including members of management, attended the awards ceremony, as did friends and family members of the nominees.

Top nominees and award winners received a variety of prizes, including cash, trophies, certificates, and pins featuring the "Because We Care" core values.



A special award presentation is held during the Because We Care Team Member Awards, in honour of 50 Sands China departments whose hard work and contributions during Typhoon Hato fully exemplified the company's Because We Care cultural values.



Outstanding Sands China team members are recognised at the company's Because We Care Team Member Awards at The Parisian Macao.

Working with Over 120 Local Charities

GEG Volunteer Team Delivers Love and Care in the Macau Community



Since its launch in August 2011, the GEG Volunteer Team has reached out to over 120 different charitable groups in Macau.

Galaxy Entertainment Group ("GEG") endeavors to provide full support to the Macau SAR Government's policies on nurturing youth and talent, developing sport and culture, protecting the environment, promoting social harmony, supporting national education and supporting Macau on its road to becoming a World Center of Tourism and Leisure. Abiding by the philosophy of "what is taken from the community is to be used for the good of the community", GEG estab-

lished the GEG Volunteer Team in August 2011. Since then, the GEG Volunteer Team has reached out to over 120 charitable groups in Macau. Advancing GEG's corporate citizenship pledge of "Making a Difference by Making a Commitment", the GEG Volunteer Team is continuing to utilize company, society and team member resources to fulfill its social responsibility and give back to the community. The team's activities this year include inviting associations

from the Macau Holy House of Mercy to watch Viva La Broadway; bringing team members, their families and the members of the Fuhong Society of Macau together for the Potted Plant Family Workshop at the Society's Happy Shop at Anim'Arte Nam Van; and visiting homes for the elderly.

Work with the Community

In the aftermath of Typhoon Hato in Macau on August 23, GEG announced it would donate MOP60 million to fund

relief work in the community in helping its affected citizens. Reaching out to Macau's different social service units, the company proactively offered its assistance to groups in need. As well, over 400 GEG volunteers joined the relief efforts in severely affected areas of Fai Chi Kei, Seac Pai Van, Coloane and Hac Sa Beach where they delivered food and water to the elderly and citizens in need; cleared trash, branches and broken debris; assisted households with

clean-ups; and distributed information on post-typhoon support to residents. Upon learning of the city's need for trucks for debris removal, GEG immediately contacted related units and mobilized trucks to assist with the related efforts. Moreover, team members from K Wah Construction Materials also joined in to provide emergency maintenance service to affected households in Coloane.



GEG Volunteer Team held "Decoupage Easter Egg Workshop" for the Association of Parents of the Mentally Challenged of Macau.



Elderly residents and members from Macau Holy House of Mercy's Elderly Home and Center for the Blind were invited to enjoy Viva la Broadway, a spectacular variety show at Broadway Macau during Chinese New Year.



After Typhoon Hato brought immense damage to Macau on August 23, GEG volunteers delivered food and water to the elderly and others in need, helped to clean up affected areas and arranged trucks for debris removal.

Inspiring Others to Spread the Love

"I feel happy and fulfilled for having opportunities to deliver care to the disadvantaged in society."

Nicknamed "Uncle Tak", team member Wong Wai Tak from the Engineering Department has been an active member of the GEG Volunteer Team for a few years. He said that volunteering has enriched his life. "I feel happy and fulfilled for having opportunities to deliver care to the disadvantaged in society and, at the same time, make new friends with colleagues that share the same vision and passion," he

said. Despite a busy daily work schedule, Uncle Tak volunteers whenever he has time, joining the Volunteer Team in visiting local homes for the elderly and supporting activities for people in need.

Recalling memorable moments from his volunteering experiences, Uncle Tak said, "During a visit to an elderly home, I sang a

traditional Cantonese song for the elderly, hoping to bring them joy. It was unexpected that the elderly enjoyed it so much that they sang along with me!" In the future, he hopes to inspire more of his colleagues to engage in volunteering. "As long as you enjoy what you are doing, you will gain something in return," he said.



Wong Wai Tak (left) and Yama Wong (right) are two active members of the GEG Volunteer Team.

GEG Promotes Responsible Gaming for Team Members

Over 40,500 Team Members Participate

In addition to spreading care through the Macau community, Galaxy Entertainment Group ("GEG") is committed to its other social responsibilities, including cooperating with the responsible gaming policies of the Macau SAR Government. GEG understands that its long-term commitment requires collaborative efforts to promote responsible gaming. That is why GEG ensures a variety of training courses are provided to team members in order to increase their awareness of

responsible gaming and help them to identify gambling disorder behaviors. As an active member of the Responsible Gaming Work Preparation Unit of the Macau SAR Government, GEG works closely with the authorities and various non-governmental organizations to develop a wide range of initiatives to enhance Macau's responsible gaming culture for team members and patrons.

Since the beginning of its responsible gaming efforts,

GEG has held 33 activities and events of different scales, such as training courses, workshops and other campaigns for team members, with the number of participation totaling over 40,500.

This year, more than 14,700 GEG team members took part in the company's responsible gaming activities. In January, GEG set up responsible gaming game booths in cooperation with Associação de Juventude Voluntária de Macau. With the theme of

"Gambling with Borrowed Money is Harmful", the promotion attracted over 900 team members. With the guidance of social workers, team members' awareness of responsible gaming behaviors and gambling addiction was increased.

Additionally, GEG invited gaming experts to deliver a training course for the GEG Responsible Gaming Committee in March, where the members learnt about responsible gaming policies and their importance, helping to promote the healthy development of the industry. The Responsible Gaming Online Refresher Training took place between April and August this year. Over 9,800 GEG team members, accounting for 98 percent of

the company's frontline gaming employees, completed the program. A number of talks on responsible gaming and visits to local social service groups are also regularly organized by GEG.

Last month, GEG launched the 5th Responsible Gaming Awareness Week, themed "Gambling is not Business, Stay in Control". The campaign featured a number of activities including workshop and games to reinforce responsible gaming guidelines. More than 2,000 GEG team members participated in the activities. In the future, GEG will continue its efforts to promote responsible gaming through a variety of activities for team members.



GEG was the first gaming operator to visit the new service center of Macao Gaming Industry Employees Home, where the participating team members learnt about problem gambling through playing the Monopoly game adapted to Responsible Gaming version.



GEG regularly hosts different training courses, workshops and other campaigns for team members, with the number of participation in this year's activities totaling over 40,500.

Happiness is in Giving

"During volunteer work, you can feel the unity among the volunteers that work together in helping people in need, no matter their identities, nationalities, backgrounds and positions."

with the aim of contributing to the community. She believes that volunteering brings valuable experience. "During volunteer work, you can feel the unity among the volunteers that work together in helping people in need, no matter their identities, nationalities, backgrounds and positions," she said.

"During a recent volunteering event, we sang for children and interacted with them during the show. And the children, despite disability, were clapping their hands to the beat when we were singing, which was one of the most touching moments I have had in doing volunteer work," Yama added.

Yama expressed gratitude to her supervisors and colleagues for giving her the support and flexibility to join the activities

organized by the Volunteer Team. Yama said she would continue to encourage her colleagues to do volunteer work. "Some foreign colleagues of mine were worried that they could not provide appropriate assistance to the people in need as they don't speak Chinese. To encourage them to participate, I offer them help by translating. I hope to continue encouraging more people to take part in these meaningful activities to share the ultimate happiness that volunteering brings!"

Working in GEG's F&B Operations & Culinary, Yama Wong is another passionate member of the Volunteer Team. Having received help from others, Yama joined the GEG Volunteer Team about two years ago



Recently, GEG volunteers spent an afternoon of fun and joy with elderly members of Asilo de Felicidade.

A prominent activist who called himself the Ultra Vulgar Butcher as he mocked and pressured Chinese officials was given an eight-year prison sentence yesterday for subversion, the harshest sentence handed down in a sweeping crackdown on rights campaigners.

The Tianjin No. 2 Intermediate People's Court handed down the sentence after finding activist Wu Gan guilty of subverting state power. Wu will appeal the sentence, his lawyer Ge Yongxi told The Associated Press.

Wu had become known among rights advocates and lawyers for his attention-grabbing campaigns. In one, he posed for online portraits brandishing knives that he said he would use to "slaughter the pigs" among local officials who'd done wrong.

In court yesterday, Wu struck an irreverent note in his remarks following the sentence, saying he was "grateful to the party for granting me this lofty honor," according to Ge, who was in court.

"I will remain true to our original aspiration, roll up my sleeves and make an extra effort," Wu said, playing on well-known phrases Chinese President Xi Jinping often uses to exhort Communist Party officials to improve their work.

Wu was among the first activists and lawyers caught up in an intense crackdown by authorities that began in 2015. His secretive one-day trial was held in August after a detention of more than two years.

Activists like Wu focused on individual cases instead of challenging Communist Party policy at the national level, making them a greater headache for local officials than for Beijing. But their ability to organize and bring people out on the ground apparently made authorities nervous.

Human rights groups have said that the authorities are persecuting Wu and that it is ironic that his fight for justice for others had cost him his own freedom.

"With extraordinary courage and disdainful words, Wu Gan set the tone for this so-called 'trial' against him," said his friend and fellow Chinese activist Wu Yuren. "It will inspire more and more people to stomp on this government that seems powerful yet doesn't have the authority of the people."

The court said Tuesday in an online statement that Wu Gan had made many remarks online that "attacked state power."

It accused him of hyping cases that "discredited state organs" by organizing illegal



Wu Gan, also known as the Ultra Vulgar Butcher, is seen behind bars at police station in Nanchang city

China sentences 'Vulgar Butcher' activist to eight years in prison

public gatherings, causing trouble, and making abusive comments online about other people. It said such actions were part of a series of criminal activities seeking to "overthrow state power and the socialist system."

Wu had also worked as an administrative assistant at the Beijing Fengrui Law Firm, which had worked on sensitive cases and became the focus of the authorities' crackdown that began in July 2015. Hundreds of lawyers, activists and others were detained in a coordinated nationwide sweep that sent a chill through China's activist community. Many were later released.

Vaguely defined subversion charges are frequently leveled against human rights activists and perceived political foes of the ruling Communist Party.

Wu had been detained in May 2015, after travelling to the southeastern city of Nanchang to put pressure on a judge. Defense lawyers had

been denied access to files in a case in which four men were serving prison time for a double murder despite a later confession from a fifth man. Wu had said on social media that he planned to hold a mock funeral for the judge, and was arrested after unfurling a banner that insulted him.

In a separate case yesterday, a court in central China convicted the lawyer Xie Yang for inciting subversion of state power but said he was exempted from criminal penalties.

Xie had been detained for two years before he was released on bail in May after he admitted to the charges. Even after his release, his wife said, Xie was followed by security agents everywhere he went.

Four months prior to his release, Xie's family had released a jailhouse statement from him saying he had been tortured in custody with repeated beatings, starvation and dehydration. It said that

if he publicly confessed at any point in the future, it would be because he broke down under enormous government pressure and coercion.

By trying to avoid the press and int'l community, the Chinese government betrays the fact it knows these sham trials cannot withstand scrutiny.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
CHINA RESEARCHER
PATRICK POON

In May, Xie pleaded guilty at his trial to inciting subversion of state power and read from a prepared statement denouncing his past activism. He also recanted the allegation of torture, which had gained international attention.

Xie said he accepted the verdict and would not appeal, according to a video of part of the hearing posted on the Changsha City Intermediate People's Court's official microblog site.

Amnesty International's China Researcher Patrick Poon said it was "disgraceful" that the Chinese authorities chose to deal with Wu and Xie's cases the day after Christmas — when diplomats, journalists and the public are less likely to respond.

"By trying to avoid scrutiny from the press and the international community, the Chinese government betrays the fact it knows well these sham trials cannot withstand scrutiny," Poon said. **AP**



Japan's Emperor Akihito (third from left) waves with his imperial family

JAPAN

Emperor turns 84, thanks people over abdication plans

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

JAPAN'S Emperor Akihito marked his 84th birthday on Saturday with a pledge to fulfill his duties until the day of his abdication in 2019, and to prepare for "passing the torch to the next era."

Akihito waved to thousands of well-wishers from a balcony of the royal palace. He was to attend birthday celebrations at the pa-

lace later Saturday.

In his annual birthday comment at a news conference earlier this week and released Saturday, Akihito thanked the people for putting together thoughts and efforts to achieve his abdication wish that had surprised the nation.

Akihito still has a busy schedule, signing official documents, receiving foreign dignitaries and traveling to disaster-hit areas. But he said he will keep

working until April 30, 2019, the day he is scheduled to abdicate.

"Over the remaining days, I continue to carry out my duties as the symbol of the state," Akihito said. "I would like to make preparations for passing the torch to the next era, together with the people concerned."

Akihito last year expressed his wish to abdicate, citing his age and health as a concern. He ascended the throne at the age of 56

in January 1989, after the death of his father, Emperor Hirohito, beginning the Heisei Era.

The government has adopted a one-time law allowing for Akihito's abdication, and this month formally set the date for the event. His elder son Crown Prince Naruhito will ascend the Chrysanthemum Throne the next day, on May 1, 2019. He will be 59.

There will be more preparations ahead of the abdication, including deciding a new era name and a new home for the emperor and the empress.

Akihito's desire to leave the throne revived a debate about the country's 2,000-year-old monarchy, one of the world's oldest, as well as discussion about improving the status of female members of the shrinking royal population. The current male-only succession rules prohibit women from succeeding the throne. Women lose their royal status when they marry a commoner.

Unlike his father who was worshipped as god until the end of World War II, Akihito has devoted himself to being a symbolic figure as defined in Japan's postwar pacifist constitution while trying to soothe the wounds of war from his father's era. Though spoken in soft language, his emphasis on the importance of peace and compassion toward the handicapped, the weak and the elderly as he himself grew older is often seen in contrast to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's right-wing, hawkish policies.

The last emperor to abdicate was 200 years ago — Kokaku in 1817. **MDT/AP**

North Korea ambassador demands US prove ransomware claim

NORTH Korea's envoy in charge of U.S. affairs at the United Nations demanded Washington provide evidence to back up its claim Pyongyang was behind the Wannacry ransomware attack, an allegation has said was a "baseless provocation" being used to generate tensions.

Pak Song Il told The Associated Press in a telephone interview from New York late Monday that Pyongyang sees the allegation as an effort to create an "extremely confrontational atmosphere."

"If they are so sure, show us the evidence," he said.

The Wannacry ransomware attack infected hundreds of thousands of computers worldwide and crippled parts of Britain's National Health Service

in May.

U.S. Homeland security adviser Tom Bossert wrote in a Wall Street Journal op-ed published last week that the U.S. administration had determined North Korea was behind the WannaCry attack. He said its finding of responsibility is based on evidence that has been confirmed by other governments and private companies, including the United Kingdom and Microsoft.

He wrote that North Korea would be held accountable.

North Korea's state-run media quickly condemned the accusation, saying Pyongyang would never tolerate such "reckless" claims. It called Bossert's claim a "grave political provocation" and vowed to retaliate. **MDT/AP**

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Vietnam escapes worst of typhoon that battered Philippines

A powerful storm that left a trail of death and destruction in the Philippines was downgraded to a tropical depression yesterday and failed to make landfall in Vietnam.

Hundreds of thousands of people in Vietnam's Mekong Delta had been evacuated as the region braced for the arrival of Typhoon Tembin after the storm left more than 160 people dead in the Philippines.

Weather forecasters had expected the delta's southern tip to be in Tembin's path, and said heavy rain and strong winds starting Monday night could cause serious damage in the vulnerable region, where faci-

lities are not built to cope with such severe weather. By yesterday morning, the storm was downgraded to a tropical depression and forecasters said it would not make landfall in Vietnam.

Over the weekend, Tembin unleashed landslides and flash floods that killed at least 164 people and left 171 others missing in the Philippines, according to Romina Marasigan of the government's main disaster-response agency.

Initial reports from officials in different provinces placed the overall death toll at more than 230, but Marasigan warned of double counting amid the confusion in the storm's after-

math and said the numbers needed to be verified.

More than 97,000 people remained in 261 evacuation centers across the southern Philippines on Monday, while nearly 85,000 others were displaced and staying elsewhere, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said.

The hardest-hit areas were Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur provinces and the Zamboanga Peninsula. Tembin hit the Philippines as a tropical storm but strengthened into a typhoon before blowing out of the country Sunday into the South China Sea toward Vietnam.

Philippine officials had warned villagers in acci-

dent-prone areas to evacuate early as Tembin approached and the government was trying to find out what caused the widespread storm deaths, Marasigan said. She added that it was difficult to move people from homes shortly before Christmas.

"We don't want to be dragging people out of their homes days before Christmas, but it's best to convince them to quietly understand the importance of why they are being evacuated," Marasigan said at a news conference in Manila.

Tembin was among a series of disasters to hit the predominantly Roman Catholic Philippines at the peak of Christmas



This image made from video shows uprooted trees in Lanao del Norte, southern Philippines

preparations.

An inter-island ferry sank off northeastern Quezon province Thursday after being lashed by fierce winds and big waves, leaving at least five people dead. More than 250 passengers and

crewmembers were rescued. Earlier in the week, another tropical storm left more than 50 people dead and 31 others missing, mostly due to landslides, and damaged more than 10,000 houses in the central Philippines. **AP**



Spain's king addresses Catalonia in Christmas speech

King Felipe VI used his traditional Christmas Eve address to call on Catalonia's newly elected parliament to renounce further moves toward secession from Spain. "The way forward cannot once again lead to confrontation or exclusion that, as we now know, only generates discord, uncertainty, anguish," the Spanish monarch said in a televised speech. The king gave the address four days after regional parliamentary elections resulted in separatist parties being voted back into power. Spain's prime minister, Mariano Rajoy, had dissolved the previous parliament after it voted in October to declare Catalonia an independent republic, but saw his hopes dashed that separatists would not regain a majority of seats.

British navy escorts Russian warship

British officials say the Royal Navy has escorted a Russian warship through the North Sea near U.K. waters. The Russian ship was also shadowed by a navy helicopter as it transited through what British officials called "areas of national interest" on Christmas Day. The navy says there has been a recent surge in Russian vessels traveling near U.K. waters. Officials say that on Christmas Eve, a navy vessel was used to escort a Russian intelligence-gathering ship through the North Sea and English Channel. Defense Secretary Gavin Williamson said Britain wouldn't tolerate aggression. British officials warn that Russian ships may cut undersea internet cables.



Lethal weapons bound for Ukraine

The Trump administration has approved a plan to provide lethal weapons to Ukraine, a long-awaited move that deepens America's involvement in the military conflict and may further strain relations with Russia. Ukraine has long sought to boost its defenses against Russian-backed separatists armed with tanks that have rolled through eastern Ukraine during violence that has killed more than 10,000 since 2014. Previously, the U.S. has provided Ukraine with support equipment and training, and has let private companies sell some small arms like rifles. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said the U.S. decision will only make the conflict more deadly and suggested that Russia could be forced to respond.

PERU

Thousands protest pardoning of former president

Franklin Briceno, Lima

THOUSANDS of Peruvians took to the streets on Monday to protest the pardon granted to former President Alberto Fujimori, with many calling it part of a backroom deal struck to protect the current president from impeachment on corruption charges.

The Sunday pardon came three days after abstentions by lawmakers from a party led by Fujimori's children caused the failure of a vote to impeach President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski. Fujimori, 79, was serving a 25-year sentence for the killings of 25 people in a campaign against the leftist Shining Path terrorist group.

Roughly 5,000 people protested across the country carrying posters with elder Fujimori's face and the words "murderer" and "thief."

In a message to the nation late Monday, Kuczynski called for an "effort at reconciliation," urging the protesters to "turn the page" and not be carried away by hate and "the negative emotions inherited from our past."

Kuczynski was accused of lying about his financial ties



Former president of Peru, Alberto Fujimori

to the Brazilian construction giant Odebrecht, which paid hundreds of millions in bribes to public officials across Latin America in order to win lucrative public works contracts. Fujimori's powerful lawmaker daughter, Keiko Fujimori, led the impeachment drive in Congress but legislators loyal to the ex-president's son Kenji, also a lawmaker, killed the effort by abstaining.

Kenji Fujimori has long pushed for his father's release from prison and Kuczynski's opponents said the pardon was clearly payback for the abstentions that ended the

impeachment drive. With Kuczynski under criminal investigation for his Odebrecht ties and weighed down by an 18 percent approval rating, observers said his long-term political survival still appears to be in jeopardy.

"The pardon opens a Pandora's Box — the haste with which it was taken makes Kuczynski even more vulnerable," said Jose Carlos Requena, an analyst with political consulting firm 50+1.

Kuczynski's business, Westfield Capital, received USD782,000 from Odebrecht more than a decade ago. Ku-

czynski had denied any ties to the company until the evidence was made public this year. He later said that none of the contracts in question contained his signature and he had no knowledge of the payments.

Fujimori, president from 1990 to 2000, is remembered both for stabilizing the economy and defeating the Shining Path; and for human rights violations and corruption.

He was moved to a clinic Saturday for what his doctors said was heart arrhythmia. His supporters said he would remain there until he was healthy enough to leave. **AP**

Guatemala says it is moving embassy to Jerusalem

GUATEMALA'S president announced on Christmas Eve that the Central American country will move its embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, becoming the first nation to follow the lead of U.S. President Donald Trump in ordering the change.

Guatemala was one of nine nations that voted with the United States and Israel last week when the U.N. General Assembly overwhelmingly adopted a non-binding resolution denouncing Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Trump didn't set any timetable for moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, and neither did Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales.

Morales said that af-



ter talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, he decided to instruct Guatemala's foreign ministry to move the embassy.

Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad al-Malki criticized the decision, saying in a statement Morales was "dragging his country to the wrong

side of history by committing a flagrant violation of international law."

Al-Malki called it a "shameless act of lawlessness" and "a brazen act of disrespect and disregard" to international alliances of which Guatemala is part.

Guatemala and Israel have long had clo-

se ties, especially in security matters and Israeli arms sales to Guatemala.

No other country has their embassy for Israel in Jerusalem, though the Czech Republic has said it is considering such a move.

In a statement, Netanyahu praised Morales' decision and said that he was waiting in Jerusalem.

"God bless you, my friend, President Morales," he said. "I told you recently that there will be other countries that would recognize Jerusalem and announce the transfer of their embassies to it. Well here is the second country and I reiterate: It is only the beginning and it is important."

Netanyahu has made great efforts to reach out to Latin America in recent years as part of a campaign to counter longstanding support for the Palestinians at the United Nations. **MDT/AP**

POPE CALLS FOR HOLY LAND PEACE

LAMENTING "the winds of war" blowing around the world, Pope Francis in his traditional Christmas message on Monday called for peace for Jerusalem and the Holy Land. He prayed, "that the will to resume dialogue may prevail between the parties and

that a negotiated solution can finally be reached, one that would allow the peaceful coexistence of two states within mutually agreed and internationally recognized borders." About 50,000 faithful packed St. Peter's square for the pope's annual message.



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what's ON



THE GOLDEN PARADE –IMPERIAL WEAPONRY FROM THE PALACE MUSEUM
TIME: 10am-7pm, last admission at 6:30pm (Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)
UNTIL: March 11, 2018
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, NAPE
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

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

LAI CHI VUN REBIRTH—ARTWORKS EXHIBITION OF LAI CHI VUN SHIPYARDS AREA
TIME: 11am-10pm
UNTIL: December 31, 2017
VENUE: Lakeside Gallery, Anim'Arte Nam Van
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRES: (853) 2836 6866

Offbeat

WILD TRUFFLE GROWS ON PARIS ROOFTOP, IN SCIENTIFIC MYSTERY

Urban scientists and Paris foodies are getting excited about a bizarre discovery atop a hotel near the Eiffel Tower: the first-ever wild truffle growing in the French capital.

It's just one 25-gram winter truffle. But truffles normally sprout only in limited areas of southern Europe, and are so rare that the most prized versions can sell for thousands of euros per kilogram.

The National Museum of Natural History, which confirmed the discovery last week, called it a "beautiful example" of environmental benefits of rooftop gardens sprouting across Paris and other cities.

Urban ecology researcher Frederic Madre described on France-Info television finding the mushroom beneath a hornbeam tree at the Mercure Paris Centre hotel.

This truffle was donated to science — but the hotel is already hoping to be able to offer homegrown truffles to diners someday.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	RTPi News (Delayed Broadcast)
15:00	Miscellaneous
15:35	Miscellaneous
17:20	Zig Zag
18:25	Brazilian Soap Opera (Repeated)
19:15	TDM Interview (Repeated)
19:50	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Miscellaneous
21:30	Miscellaneous
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

21 DEC - 27 DEC



JUMANJI: WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE

ROOM 1

2:00, 8:00, 10:00pm

Director: Jake Kasdan

Starring: Dwayne Johnson, Jack Black, Karen Gillan, Kevin Hart

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 119 min



PADDINGTON 2

ROOM 1

4:15, 6:10pm

ROOM 3

2:30pm

Director: Paul King

Starring: Hugh Bonneville, Sally Hawkins, Hugh Grant

Language: Cantonese (English)

Duration: 103 min

STAR WARS EPISODE VIII

ROOM 2

2:00, 4:45, 9:30pm

ROOM 3

6:45pm

Director: Rian Johnson

Starring: Daisy Ridley, John Boyega, Mark Hamill

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 150 min



THE GREATEST SHOWMAN

ROOM 2

7:30pm

ROOM 3

4:30, 9:30pm

Director: Michael Gracey

Starring: Hugh Jackman, Zac Efron, Michelle Williams, Zendaya

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 105 min

this day in history



1977 STAR WARS FEVER HITS BRITAIN

Thousands of people are flocking to cinemas in the UK to watch the long-awaited blockbuster, Star Wars - a movie which is already setting US box offices alight.

Bracing the cold weather, young and old queued from 0700 GMT in London at the Dominion, and Leicester Square cinemas, to snatch up non-reserved tickets which are otherwise booked until March.

Star Wars, which was first released in America seven months ago, has taken audiences by storm and outstripped last year's blockbuster Jaws to gross \$156m (£108m) at the box office.

Carrie Fisher, Sir Alec Guinness and little known Harrison Ford star in this fairytale set in space.

Produced by Gary Kurtz, written and directed by George Lucas who directed American Graffiti, the U-classified sci-fi film is a classic epic of good versus evil.

It has enthralled audiences under a dazzle of special effects with wizards, heroes, monsters in "a galaxy far, far away".

The 900 people involved in the film included giants, dwarfs, artists and the man who built machines for James Bond.

Many of the optical special effects were developed in California by Industrial Light and Magic, a George Lucas company. The on-stage special effects were put together at Elstree studios in Britain.

Filming took the cast to Tunisia, Death Valley California, Guatemala and the EMI soundstage at Elstree.

The build-up and hype has led to store wars over Star Wars with products including T-shirts, sweets, jig-saw puzzle, watches and food to name but a few.

Mr Lucas has published a paperback version and Marvel comics have produced a special edition to meet the thirst for Star Wars' merchandise.

But for those queuing today nothing will satisfy them but a chance to see the film itself - easy targets for touts trying to sell £2.20 tickets for £30.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The low-budget film, which George Lucas feared would be a flop, originally took £294.29m worldwide. In an inflation-adjusted tally the film comes second only to Gone With The Wind, with an international gross of £975,743,340.

It became a worldwide phenomenon and was followed by The Empire Strikes Back and Return of the Jedi both released in quick succession, securing the film in movie history.

The original three films were based on parts 4, 5, and 6 of screen plays Lucas had written on the same theme. The original Star Wars movie was turned into a novel by Alan Dean Foster.

Fans waited almost 20 years to see one of the "prequels" to these - parts 1, 2 and 3 - which were withheld because Lucas wanted to wait until special effects were more sophisticated. In 1999 the first of these prequels, The Phantom Menace, was released and three years later the Attack of the Clones hit the screens. In 2005 the third episode, Revenge of the Sith, was released.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Think of yourself as a visionary for now - someone whose thoughts are so far ahead of the game, people just stare in wonder. Put those thoughts into action! Organize a group and turn your ideas into reality.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Some news comes your way that you may not know quite what to do with. It likely puts you in the position of making a sudden decision, so be ready. There are several factors underlying the situation.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You're usually one of the last ones to take things seriously, especially if there's any way to have some fun. Right now, though, your keen instincts have informed you that something needs to be done right away.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Today things seem a bit too cerebral to your more intuitive, emotional soul. That may feel like a challenge, but the one thing you can be sure of today is that there's always a way to turn a challenge into a success.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 If you love something let it go - if it comes back to you, it was always yours. As you struggle through today's power issues, think about that old chestnut. Are you holding on too tightly?

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You know how things should be done, and you have a plan for everything. Still, it might be time to observe how others make their lives work because they're doing something different.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 On a day like today, you can pretty much just sit back and let fun and romance come to you. You should enjoy yourself even more if you make an effort to get out there and see and be seen.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You might want to take out your walking shoes, as you are sure to need to take a few breathers throughout the day. Life at home is a little less harmonious than you would like.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Someone new has piqued your interest, but rather than just sitting there imagining talking with them, you need to scoot over and make a move. You don't even need a line or a good excuse.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Whatever you have planned today is unlikely to turn out quite as you had hoped. If you spend the free time that opens up planning for your future instead, you should be quite successful.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 This is your kind of day! You get to instigate all the good trouble you want, and people are sure to follow along. You're full of good energy, and your inspiring ideas are exactly what those around you need.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 When was the last time you felt so alive? Put that energy to good use! Your options are limitless, so whether you want to treat yourself to something nice or be generous to those around you.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

MIN MAX CONDITION

CHINA

Beijing -5 0 cloudy/overcast
Harbin -24 -13 clear/cloudy
Tianjin -4 1 overcast/flurry
Urumqi 10 -6 cloudy
Xi'an 0 6 cloudy
Lhasa -4 14 clear
Chengdu 5 8 overcast
Chongqing 9 11 overcast
Kunming 8 19 clear
Nanjing 4 6 drizzle
Shanghai 7 9 overcast/drizzle
Wuhan 3 6 drizzle/overcast
Hangzhou 6 8 drizzle
Taipei 18 21 drizzle
Guangzhou 15 20 overcast
Hong Kong 18 20 cloudy

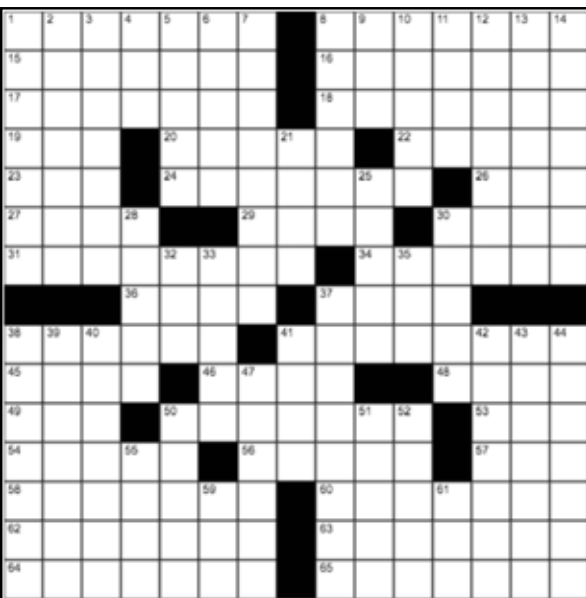
WORLD

Moscow -1 1 overcast/sleet
Frankfurt 1 3 moderate rain
Paris 2 8 drizzle
London 4 6 drizzle
New York -8 -2 flurry

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Complaint; 8- Vegetable appliance; 15- Subscription continuation; 16- Steak ___; 17- On the line; 18- Miscarriage; 19- Diarist AnaA's; 20- Head supporters; 22- Riyadh resident; 23- ___ whim; 24- Straddling; 26- Clear (of); 27- Yuri's love; 29- Got up; 30- Nerve network; 31- Aversion; 34- Swaps; 36- Job detail, briefly; 37- Notable exploit, legal document; 38- Sweeping implements; 41- Acts; 45- Enlist again; 46- End-of-workweek shout; 48- Tidy, without fault; 49- Thunder Bay's prov.; 50- Mental impression; 53- Links org.; 54- Grassy plain; 56- ___ of Two Cities; 57- Rule, for short; 58- Quantities; 60- Sampling; 62- Writing space; 63- International accord; 64- Values highly; 65- Morning light?;

DOWN: 1- Breakfast food; 2- Related to the back of the eye; 3- Untangle; 4- Assembled; 5- African sir; 6- HOMES, e.g.; 7- Charged; 8- Equilibrium; 9- Bar bill; 10- Uneven, as if gnawed away; 11- Razor brand; 12- Ripe; 13- Learned; 14- Dwells; 21- McDonald's founder Ray; 25- Prevent; 28- Greek fabulist; 30- Radioactive gas; 32- LP speed; 33- Beau ___; 35- TKO caller; 37- Beaten; 38- Elaborate fabric; 39- Christens anew; 40- Farthest out; 41- Ancient Briton; 42- Later edition; 43- Purplish red; 44- Totter; 47- Understands; 50- Florence's ___ Vecchio; 51- Primary strategy; 52- Irritable; 55- Vomit; 59- Male turkey; 61- Your, to Yves;



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
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



AD

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The New Tiguan2. All grown-up



Active Info Display



1.4TSI with 150HP



5 star NCAP



LED Headlight



3D LED Taillight

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



Volkswagen

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ENGLISH football has never seen a team so utterly dominant as Manchester City entering the packed Christmas program.

There seems little doubt Pep Guardiola will be raising the Premier League trophy for the first time in May. It is just a question of when City will wrap up its third title since 2014, and how many records will tumble on the way.

City has already reeled off the most consecutive English top-flight wins — a record extended at the weekend to 17 games.

Manchester United's record Premier League title-winning margin of 18 points from 2000 could also be under threat. And England could be looking at its third unbeaten "Invincibles" team after Preston in 1888-89 and Arsenal in 2003-04.

So it doesn't bode well for a compelling second half of the Premier League season? Think again.

The chase for the other three Champions League spots should be fierce with eight points separating second-place Manchester United and Arsenal in sixth. Chelsea, Liverpool and Tottenham are in the mix among them. Two leading sides will fall by the wayside and be denied a place among the European elite.

The battle to stay in the world's richest soccer league is also intense. No team is stranded at the bottom, with Swansea in 20th place only six points behind Southampton in 13th.

A closer look at the first half of the season:

TITLE RACE

City leads by 13 points at the halfway stage after winning 18 of its 19 games and drawing one in the best ever start to a Premier League season. The only dropped points came at home to Everton in the second game on Aug. 21, when City played more than a half with 10 men following Kyle Walker's sending-off.

Guardiola won the Bundesliga with Bayern Munich in late March in 2014 — aided by a winning streak of 19 games ne-

FOOTBALL | EPL

Matter of when Man City wins title and how many records fall



Manchester City's Sergio Aguero (left) celebrates with teammates after scoring during an English Premier League football match

ver before seen in a major European league.

It will be tough for Guardiola to win the title that early in England as he chases a quadruple after finishing his first season at the club without a trophy. City is already through to the League Cup semifinals, into the Champions League last 16 and begins its FA Cup campaign in two weeks.

Man United is in second place, with defending champion Chelsea three points further back in third. United manager Jose Mourinho says the title race is still on, but the rest of his peers among the chasing pack don't see City faltering now.

It will be intriguing how Mou-

rinho reacts to be seeing his title ambitions further fade in his second season at United, having already opted to publicly call out his "childish" players after a draw at Leicester on Saturday.

EMERGING TALENT

Amid an offseason of record spending in English soccer, little was made of Watford signing Richarlison from Brazilian team Fluminense for 13 million pounds (USD17 million).

Yet the 20-year-old forward is proving a bargain, settling in quickly to the pace and intensity of the Premier League and being one of the key factors in Watford's impressive start to the sea-

son that, at one stage, saw them challenging around the top four.

Richarlison told ESPN Brazil this month: "Teams are already marking me individually, they are putting two players there on my side."

Chelsea and Tottenham have been linked with the Brazil under-20s player, who has yet to earn a call-up to the senior squad. That appears only a matter of time.

Other players to break through this season are Chelsea's Andreas Christensen, the Danish center back who has ousted David Luiz, and Liverpool's Joe Gomez, the right back who has ensured long-term injury absentee Nathaniel Clyne hasn't been missed.

SURPRISE TEAM

An unfashionable club is mixing it with the heavyweights of the Premier League against all the odds. We've heard this before, right?

Two years ago, it was Leicester delivering a soccer fairy tale by somehow winning the league. Now it's Burnley's turn to provide the feel-good story of the season.

Widely regarded as a relegation candidate at the start of the season, Burnley is currently seventh. Don't rule Burnley out of staying in the tussle for the Champions League qualification places, with Liverpool only three points better off in fourth. The northwest team hasn't finished a season higher than sixth place in the top flight since 1974.

Burnley, which has conceded just 15 goals in 19 games, has already beaten Chelsea away and drawn at Tottenham and Liverpool. Not bad for a team that returned a profit of about \$20 million in summer player sales when most of the rest of the Premier League was spending freely.

POINTS TO PROVE

In the dugout, these are testing times for two British managers: Alan Pardew and Mark Hughes.

Pardew succeeded Tony Pulis a month ago with a mission to keep West Bromwich Albion in the Premier League. Then the Baggies were two points above the bottom three. Now they are next-from-bottom after collecting only two points from Pardew's first five games.

Hughes' future appears on a knife-edge at Stoke despite a pressure-relieving victory over West Brom on Saturday that hauled the team three points from the danger zone. MDT/AP

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opinion

World Views

Mohamed A. El-Erian, Bloomberg

THIS COULD BE BITCOIN'S MOMENT OF TRUTH

Bitcoin has had a terrific year overall, thanks to a small but dedicated set of believers in the disruptive power of cryptocurrencies who have also enabled many other individual investors to participate in the eye-popping phenomenon.

Yet after bitcoin's value fell by more than a third in just a few days last week, and as exchanges struggle to cope with all the investor activity, the market finds itself at an important juncture - perhaps even a defining one. Either this sharp price correction will act as a catalyst for expanding what, until now, has been quite limited institutional involvement in this market - or it will become a stage in the deflation of a remarkable and historic asset bubble.

Bitcoin hit several milestones as it surged from around USD1,000 at the beginning of the year to a record of nearly \$20,000 last week - from the introduction of bitcoin futures trading on the CBOE and CME to the emergence of specialized investment products. Most importantly, these events fueled a growing appreciation of the potential of blockchain technology, the innovation underlying bitcoin.

Also notable is what has failed to happen. At least until now, with the exception of China, bitcoins have yet to attract the type of government intervention and regulation you might expect on the basis of traditional concerns about consumer protection, money laundering and other criminal activity, and even financial stability.

Also absent is a significant erosion in what, as illustrated by recent data from the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission, remains a notably segmented investor base. The "longs" - that is, those who bought bitcoins outright, either as an investment or as a trade - are dominated by individual ("retail") investors; the "shorts" - those who sold in anticipation of covering their position profitably at a lower price - are anchored by a more professional class of market participants.

Meanwhile, large institutional investors (such as traditional mutual funds, Wall Street banks and established hedge funds) have generally remained on the sidelines, even though their involvement is key to bitcoin's sustainability.

After bitcoin experienced one of the biggest roller-coaster weeks in its young history, the most important question facing it is whether the recent price correction will prove to be what market participants refer to as "healthy" - specifically, one that serves to shake out excessive irrational exuberance, provides for the entry of institutional investors, encourages the development of market-deepening products, and widens and balances out the investor base and the product offering.

Were this to occur, it would help bitcoin - as well as its growing universe of cryptocurrency peers - develop deeper structural roots, reduce the probability of a heavy-handed regulatory response, and lower the threat of a price crash.

Absent this, not even the deep commitment of true believers will be enough to protect individual retail investors who would end up experiencing a price appreciation and collapse that would rival even the biggest investment bubbles in history.

THE BUZZ GOT TIPS? HURRY! THEY'RE STILL WORTH USD10M TO ROBBED MUSEUM

A hot tip could still earn you a cool USD10 million from a Boston museum desperate to recover a trove of missing masterpieces. But you'd better hurry.

Midnight Dec. 31 is the deadline to collect a doubled reward being offered for information leading to the recovery of 13 works worth an estimated \$500 million - including paintings by Degas, Manet, Rembrandt and Vermeer - stolen in 1990 from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum.

So far, no takers. That's a big disappointment to the museum and the FBI, which still hasn't managed to solve the largest art heist in U.S. history. Both had hoped the enhanced reward would spur a flurry of fresh leads. Instead, it's been like watching paint dry. "Right now we're laser-focused on this deadline," said museum spokeswoman Kathy Sharpless. "Clearly there's a sense of urgency on our part. We want our paintings back."

'Sound of Music' actress Heather Menzies-Urich dies at 68



In this 2015 file photo, Heather Menzies-Urich (from left), Kym Karath and Debbie Turner, cast members in the classic film "The Sound of Music," pose together before a 50th anniversary screening of the film in LA

ACTRESS Heather Menzies-Urich, who played one of the singing von Trapp children in the hit 1965 film, "The Sound of Music," has died. She was 68.

Her son, actor Ryan Urich, told Variety that his mother died late Sunday in Frankford (Monday in Macau), Ontario. She recently had been diagnosed with brain cancer.

"She was an actress, a ballerina and loved living her life to the fullest," Urich said.

Menzies-Urich played Louisa von Trapp, the third-

oldest of the seven von Trapp children, in the film adaptation of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical that starred Julie Andrews and Christopher Plummer.

"The Sound of Music" captured five Academy Awards, including best picture.

"Heather was part of 'the family.' There is really no other way to describe the members of the cast of the movie of 'The Sound of Music,'" Ted Chapin, president and chief creative officer of the Rodgers and Hammerstein Organization, said in a statement.

A Toronto native, Men-

zies-Urich's other film credits include "Hawaii" and "Piranha." On television, she appeared as a fugitive in "Logan's Run" and had guest spots on "Dragnet," "Bonanza," "Marcus Welby, M.D." and other series.

Variety reports that Menzies-Urich is survived by two other children, several grandchildren and a great grandchild.

Her husband, actor Robert Urich, died in 2002. After his death, Menzies-Urich established the Robert Urich Foundation to raise funds for cancer research. **AP**

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



On the waves. The supermaxi Black Jack passes the heads of Sydney Harbour during the start of the Sydney Hobart yacht race in Sydney yesterday. The 630-nautical mile race had 102 yachts starting in the race to the island state of Tasmania.

Station	Air quality	Icon
Roadside	70-100 Moderate	☹️
High Density Residential Area	70-100 Moderate	☹️
Ambient	70-100 Moderate	☹️

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

RUSSIA Officials should review opposition leader Alexei Navalny's calls for an election boycott to see if they might be breaking the law, the Kremlin said yesterday, hinting at possible legal repercussions.

SERBIA has extradited a Kurdish political activist who sought asylum in Serbia after fleeing Turkey where he was sentenced to 15 years in prison, a lawyer said yesterday.

GERMANY Police in Berlin say a man crashed a car into the entrance area of the country's Social Democratic Party at midnight on Christmas Eve.



FRANCE Critics contend that President Emmanuel Macron's increasingly tough policy on migrants - though wrapped in a cloak of goodwill - contradicts his image as a humanist who defeated an anti-immigrant populist for the presidency. His government is ramping up expulsions, raising pressure on economic migrants and allowing divisive ID checks in emergency shelters.



PERU Thousands of Peruvians took to the streets on Monday to protest the pardon granted to former President Alberto Fujimori, with many calling it part of a backroom deal struck to protect the current president from impeachment on corruption charges. **More on p14**

GUATEMALA's president announced on Christmas Eve that the Central American country will move its embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, becoming the first nation to follow the lead of U.S. President Donald Trump in ordering the change. **More on p14**