

3,000 PROSECUTED FOR SMOKING INSIDE CASINOS

Three thousand people were prosecuted for smoking inside casinos since the tobacco control law came into effect in 2013



P2

SEAC PAI VAN SCHOOL COSTS MOP760 MILLION The gov't is granting a total of MOP760 million for the construction of education facilities at Seac Pai Van, Coloane



EASY RIDER HARLEY-DAVIDSON WANTS TO TEACH MORE TO RIDE

P9



WORLD BRIEFS

VIETNAM is deploying a 10,000-member military cyber warfare unit to combat what the government sees as a growing threat of "wrongful views" proliferating on the internet, according to local media. More on p13



MALAYSIA An Australian woman was found not guilty yesterday of trafficking 1.5 kilograms of crystal meth at Kuala Lumpur's airport three years ago, avoiding a possible death sentence.

CHINA-N. KOREA

China's foreign ministry has defended its enforcement of U.N. sanctions against North Korea following reports Chinese ships improperly transferred oil to North Korean vessels at sea.



PROBLEMENT OF DEMONSTRATE Production cuts major acts, deceives public P2 MDT REPORT



RUSSIA President Vladimir Putin has submitted his endorsement papers with election authorities. Putin is running for his fourth term in office as an independent candidate. The law requires all independents to secure an endorsement from at least 500 people.

PAKISTAN said that Indian forces killed three of its soldiers near the Line of Control in the disputed Kashmir region. More on p12

More on backpage



China to discuss first revisions to constitution since 2004

28.12.2017 **thu**

Lynzy Valles

WATER-BASED en-tertainment show, The House of Dancing Water, has allegedly been eliminating the most iconic parts of its acrobatic show for some time, without prior notice to attendees.

According to visitor Mel Chang, who travelled to Hong Kong and Macau from Singapore with her family to see The House of Dancing Water, the show did not feature iconic acts including the boat masts, the Russian swings, the trapeze ballerinas and the anticipated high-diving act at the end of the show.

"I don't know how that is acceptable. We flew in to Macau especially to see the show for the first time and we came with high hopes full of excitement and anticipation," she told the Times.

Chang, who also voiced her disappointment on TripAdvisor, explained that she approached a staff member in the control box at the end of the show and was told that those acts were eliminated due to "technical difficulties."

"We [...] asked whether, due to the unforeseen circumstances or technical difficulties – which we totally understand – they are able to offer us a return voucher (similar to a courtesy credit) [that we can use] the next time we are in Macau so that my kids can see the acts they missed and we were answered with a straight, 'No!'" Chang complained.

According to Chang, staff highlighted article 5 of the terms and conditions listed on the back of the ticket, which reserved the show's right to change the content.

HOUSE OF DANCING WATER SHORTENED Visitor accuses Melco of unethical business practices'

Chang, who lives in San Francisco, noted that her request was transferred to an assistant manager from the box office at City of Dreams and was also informed that the iconic acts had been eliminated for the entirety of the previous week.

To me this is a classic example that illustrates the scope of unethical **business** practices.

MEL CHANG

"There are many ways that businesses engage in unethical conduct, exploiting their customers, and even the public at large. To me, this is a classic example that illustrates the scope of unethical business practices," Chang lamented.

"They knew beforehand there were technical difficulties. These technical problems didn't occur overnight. In fact, for the whole of last week they already had these problems, according to [the] assistant manager at the box office," she continued.

Chang stated, "the ethical thing to do would be to invest

3,000 people prosecuted for smoking inside casinos since 2013

in repairing the technical problems and make sure they can deliver a 100 percent performance before selling tickets to the unsuspecting public." She added that they "felt exploited by City of Dreams."

The Times contacted Melco Resorts, the gaming operator behind the City of Dreams show, to confirm the complaint but did not receive a reply by press time.

The show was suspended for days last month also due to technical problems.

"The show pushes the boundaries of technical requirement and human performance," Melco Resorts said in a note to the Times last month. "Some of the equipment has required special maintenance to continue to provide our audience with the same thrilling experience."

Reports of mid-show cancellations were consistent with an anonymous email sent to the Times last month.

Another visitor last week also noted on TripAdvisor, "they cancel almost every show without warning in advance. Any technical problems are not an excuse because they can't appear every time!!"

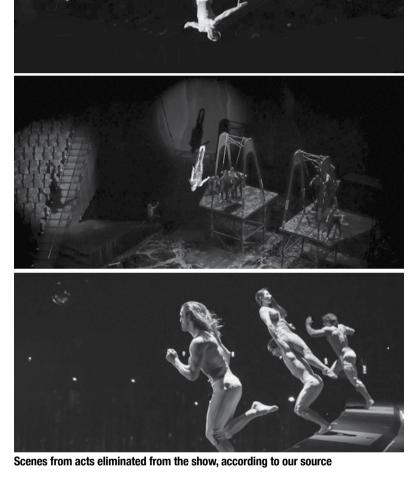
"These now trademarked diving feats were totally eliminated from the show I watched (21st Dec 2017) due to technical difficulties. No prior disclosures whatsoever and all ticket prices remain the same," said another.

> percent prosecution rate to be relatively high, translating to one out of every five complaints to DICJ.

On average, 6,000 people are prosecuted every year, with 87 percent choosing to settle their penalties.

control office will also establish fixed smoking ban signs near these bus stops.

Lo Iek Long, a chest and lung specialist at the Conde de São Januário Central Hospital (CH-CSJ), noted that three out of 10 deaths in Macau are attributable to smoking -related diseases. Lo also noted that Macau has clinics that provide quitting services to those in need. In fact, 40 percent of people in Macau who attempt to quit smoking are successful, which is a relatively good rate according to Lo. JZ





for smoking inside casi- percent of the smoking nos since the current tobacco control law came into effect in 2013, said Tang Chi Ho, Chief of the Tobacco Control and Prevention Office during vesterday's TDM radio talk show. The talk show featured a discussion on the new tobacco control law that will come into effect

HREE thousand peo-

L ple were prosecuted

cases originating from casino inspections led to prosecutions.

Tang revealed that 20

on Monday.

When Tang's office receives reports on smoking in casinos, it forwards the information to the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ).

Tang considers the 20

The new tobacco control law will ban smoking within 10 meters of bus stops. Tang said that his office has already completed 80 percent of preparatory works, including delimiting the area around each bus stop within which smoking is prohibited. The tobacco



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Times News At Hand



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Overcharging taxi drivers may have license revoked



The President of the Associação dos Comerciantes e Operários de Automóveis de Macau, Leng Sai Vai, suggested revoking the driving licenses of taxi drivers who consistently overcharge passengers. According to Jornal Va Kio, Leng said that there have been cases of taxi drivers being ticketed four times in one day due to overcharging infractions, while others have stopped their vehicles for more than two hours to avoid picking up passengers. Leng believes that the city's taxi infractions have deteriorated to new lows in recent years, and that the low penalties applied to drivers is the reason behind this phenomenon. Leng suggested cancelling the driving licenses of those taxi drivers who have three overcharging infractions. He also suggested that the government install GPS devices inside taxis to track the vehicles' locations and to provide location updates to passengers.

Three Hato flooded parking lots see opening delayed

The reopening of three underground parking lots has been delayed until next year, Macao Daily News reported. Parking lots in Edifício Cheng I, Edifício Fai Tat and Lido were damaged due to flooding caused by typhoon Hato. The Transport Bureau (DSAT) expected to complete the repairs of all three parking lots by the end of this year. The Edifício Cheng I parking lot was partially reopened on December 18, but is now planned to reopen in the second quarter of 2018. The Lido parking lot is likely to reopen in the first quarter of 2018, while maintenance works on the Edifício Fai Tat parking lot are expected to be completed some time in the third quarter of 2018.

Visitors up 9.4pct in November

HEALTH

Gov't grants hefty contracts to supply chemical reagents, lab equipment

Renato Marques

THE Chief Executive (CE) L Chui Sai On approved several contracts between the Health Bureau (SSM), the University of Macau (UM) and three pharmaceutical companies for the supply of chemical reagents, laboratory equipment for both the Clinic Pathology Service at the public hospital (CHCSJ) and the Public Health Laboratory, as well as for the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) of the UM. The contracts amount to almost MOP53 million in total, according to yesterday's publication in the Official Gazette (BO).

From the three companies chosen to supply the chemicals and laboratory equipment, the majority of the supply comes from the Firma Chun Cheong Produtos Farmacêuticos, Limitada, which will receive a total of almost MOP_{28.5} million to supply chemical reagents for the Clinic Pathology Service as well as laboratory equipment for

the Public Health Labora-



tory. From these, MOP24.9 million are dedicated to the chemicals alone. This sum will be paid by the government in two installments of MOP12.49 million, in 2018 and 2019.

The remaining MOP 24.5 million will be distributed between Professional Health Importação Exportação Lda

and Four Star Companhia Limitada, who will receive MOP14 million and MOP10.5 million respectively. The Professional Health Importação Exportação Lda contract also includes the supply of chemical reagents for the Clinic Pathology Service and the provision of equipment for cell culture and storage for the FHS of UM (MOP9.7 million).

The Four Star Companhia Limitada is contracted to supply chemical reagents for the Clinic Pathology Service, the supply of equipment for cell culture and storage for the FHS of UM, as well as laboratory equipment for the Public Health Laboratory.

Gov't awards MOP760m for Seac Pai Van **School facilities**

THE government on April 19 this year. L has granted a A total of 17 proposals total of MOP760 million for the cons-The truction of school and proposed to perform education facilities on the works in 669 plot CN6a at Seac Pai days for MOP762.9 million. The final Van, Coloane. The contract is made contract price is a slight reduction from out to a consortium of companies consisthe original tender, and sets out a toting of Companhia de tal of MOP759.01 Decoração San Kei Ip, million, split into Limitada and Sociedade de Construção three installments. The first instalment e Engenharia – Grupo de Construção de of MOP98.15 million Xangai - SCG (Mawas paid this year, the cau), Limitada that second instalment will undertake the (MOP_{260.6} million) works over 669 days. is due in 2018, and The Chief Executive's the third instalorder, published yesment (MOP400.34 terday in the Official million) is due in Gazette, authorizes 2019. the contract which is a According to the public tender, the eduresult from the public cational facilities will tender that concluded

were tendered.

include construction works for kindergarten, primary and secondary education, consortium technical-professional training, a center for language training, dormitories and a technical-professional training center for artistic, cultural and creative education. During the policy address for the sector for 2018, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam stated that the technicalprofessional training center is intended to be devoted to training culinary and gastronomical skills, in light of UNESCO's recent classification of Macau as a creative gastronomy city. **RM**



MOP14.4m for emergency repairs

Visitor arrivals for November increased by 9.4 percent year-on-year to over 2.83 million, a growth that has been mainly driven by a double-digit increase in visitors from the city's most important source of inbound tourists, mainland China, according to data released yesterday by the Statistics and Census Service. In November, the number of overnight and same-day visitors rose by 10 percent and 8.8 percent year-onyear to 1.51 million and 1.32 million respectively. The average length of stay of visitors in November was 1.2 days, on par with the figure in the previous month as well as in the same month last year. The number of mainland Chinese visitors to Macau in November was slightly above 1.98 million, up by 16.1 percent year-on-year. Among them, 886,093 visitors were travelling under the Individual Visit Scheme, up 12 percent from the prior-year period.

to public facilities damaged by Hato

THE Chief Executi-ve (CE) approved, through an order published in yesterday's Official Gazette (BO), the granting of MOP14.37 million to the construction company – Lei Ka Chi Civil Construction, in order to pay for "urgent maintenance and repair works" done by the company to several public facilities damaged during the passage of Typhoon Hato on August 23. As usual, the amount is

to be released by the government in two instalments referring to 2017 and 2018 respectively. In 2017, the first and bigger share of MOP8 million is due, being reserved the remaining MOP6.37m for the upcoming year. In the executive or-

der there is no detailed information on which works were done and to which facilities. It notes only that the contract was decided by direct award. RM

FTER discounting the effect of price changes, the Gross National Income (GNI) fell by 1 percent yearon-year in real terms in 2016, according to the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).

The GNI fall was followed by a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) drop of 0.9 percent. At the same time, per-capita GNI went down by 1.7 percent year-on-year in real terms, as compared to a 1.5 percent decrease in per-capita GDP.

The report noted that GNI refers to the total income earned by residents of an economy from engaging in various economic activities within or outside that economy, corresponding to GDP plus income earned by resident investors from abroad, minus income earned by non -resident investors in Macau.

The statement notes that at current prices, the GNI increased slightly year-on -year during 2016, moving from 8.1 percent in 2015 to 8.4 percent in 2016. GNI was MOP331.84 billion in 2016, which was MOP30.42 billion lower than the MOP362.27 billion in GDP. In the same report, DSEC also noted that in 2016, the percapita GNI was MOP513,809, as compared to per-capita GDP at MOP560,913.

GNI for 2016 drops by 1 percent



The GNI fall was followed by a GDP drop by 0.9 percent

The total outflow of external factor income reflects income earned by non-resident enterprises and investors from investment in Macau. In 2016, the total outflow of external factor income dropped by 6.7 percent year on year to MOP61.61 billion, mainly due to a 7.3 percent decrease in direct investment income (MOP47.86 billion) earned by some non-resident enterprises and investors.

Furthermore, portfolio investment income (MOP716 million) and other investment income (MOP10.91 billion) decreased by 25.8 percent and 5.4 percent respectively.

The total inflow of external factor income reflects income earned by resident enterprises and investors from abroad. In 2016, total inflow of external factor income dropped by 15.2 percent year-on -year to MOP31.19 billion, attributable to a 21.5 percent decrease in portfolio investment income (MOP11.30 billion) and an 11.2 percent fall in other investment income (MOP17.94 billion) earned by some resident enterprises and investors from abroad. Meanwhile, direct investment income (MOP454 million) also decreased by 52.5 percent yearon-year. **RM**

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GREATER BAY AREA

SARs' leaders propose medical education plans to Beijing

THE Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council revealed that the Chief Executives of both SAR governments have made a proposal to the central government, asking it to allow them to operate medical and teaching institutions in the Greater Bay Area.

Earlier this month, Macau's Chief Executive (CE) Chui Sai On and Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam visited Beijing to meet with the state leaders and deliver reports about their works.

The Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council said that the two CEs, while they were in Beijing, expressed their hopes that the central government would support the two SARs in opening hospitals, schools and nursing centers in the Greater Bay Area.

Recently, the State Council's division for Hong Kong and Macau organized a meeting to report on the Central Government's working spirit concerning the two SARs.

Zhang Xiaoming, Director of the Liaison Office in Hong Kong, who hosted the meeting, urged all the involved governmental parties to carefully implement the Central Government's plans It was noted that said parties should particularly focus on the Greater Bay Area development plan, and should also conduct research on policies regarding human resources, logistics, capital and information technology, among other topics.

Zhuhai launches plans to develop a Greater Hengqin urban zone

HUHAI announced several projects this week concerning the integrated development of the Greater Hengqin area.

Zhuhai launched several key projects regarding the city's free trade zone, the Hengqin district, and the Hongwan area.

The projects are part of the Zhuhai government's development plan for the area, spanning 26 square kilometers, that aims to build an economic zone and new urban center for Zhuhai.

The integrated regional operations at Hengqin will be implemented by a recently launched company dedicated to the development of the Greater Hengqin urban center, Macao Daily News reported.

The company is also responsible for developing the integrated areas, investments and attracting external investment. Nine infrastructure projec-



ts were revealed, including the construction of three tunnels, and the Hengqin science city. These projects involve a total of RMB 48.2 billion in investments. The Hengqin district has also signed a cooperation agreement with six of China's state-owned Nine major social investment and construction projects were also signed this week. These projects include the second theme park of Zhuhai's Chimelong international marine resorts; a Macau future center; and a cultural and recreational center. **JZ**

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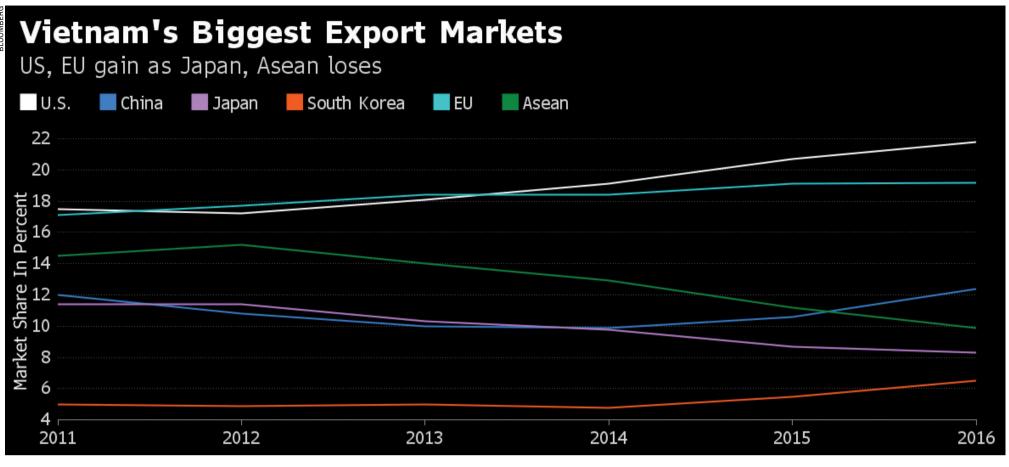
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Nguyen Dieu Tu Uyen

FROM mobile phones to fur-niture, Vietnam's export boom shows no signs of losing steam, defying a gloomy outlook at the beginning of the year when U.S. President Donald Trump persisted with his trade threats.

Furniture maker Xuan Hoa Viet Nam Co. is planning for a 20 percent increase in export orders next year by investing USD3 million on equipment to expand production, General Director Le Duy Anh said in an interview. The company, based near Hanoi, makes office tables and cabinets for clients including Ikea.

"I'm quite optimistic about our sales next year," Anh said. "We have new customers in Europe while our regular clients also sent more orders than last year."

When Trump pulled the U.S. out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership in January, it was seen as a blow to Vietnam, which exports about a fifth of its goods to the world's largest economy. Instead, a global trade recovery and

'Made in Vietnam' export boom defies Trump's trade threats

Vietnam's young and low-cost workforce have been magnets for international investors like Nestle SA, which have opened factories in the country this year. That's helping underpin its economy, which expanded 6.81 percent this year, among the fastest in the world.

"We've seen Vietnam's coming of age this decade with its rapid transformation to a manufacturing powerhouse," said Eugenia Victorino, an economist at Australia & New Zealand Banking Group in Singapore. "The diversification of products and markets provides a tailwind to exports. We are very bullish on growth, though we remain cautious of structural issues of legacy bad debts."

Gross domestic product rose

7.65 percent in the fourth quarter from a year earlier, data on Wednesday showed. Exports increased 21 percent in 2017 to a record USD214 billion, with mobile phones and parts making up the biggest segment at about a fifth.

The strength of the US economy bodes well for Vietnam

The strength of the U.S. economy bodes well for Vietnam, which was the top exporter of goods last year among Southeast Asian nations. Sales to the U.S. rose 8 percent this year.

Nguyen Sy Hoe, deputy general director of Phu Tai Corp., which makes home furniture for Wal-Mart Stores Inc. outlets in the U.S., forecasts a 30 percent increase in exports next year. Phu Tai, based in a central province of Vietnam, relies on the U.S. for 40 percent of its sales.

Vietnam's shipments abroad accounted for 90 percent of GDP in 2015, compared with 64 percent a decade ago, according to the World Bank.

Xuan Hoa is buying three machines that make wooden furniture parts and equipment to make steel cabinets, Anh said. The company is also boosting its workforce by 20 percent with the hiring of 100 more laborers.

"We've increased production and are now preparing for the first shipment next quarter," Anh said. "We're very prepared." Vietnam's government is counting on those shipments to bolster growth to as much as 6.7 percent in 2018, the same goal for this year.

"There are some potential risks for next year that we need to be mindful of," said economist Vu Minh Khuong, Associate Professor at National University of Singapore, who is also a member of the newly-formed economic advisory team to Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc.

"Downside factors may come from the U.S. and some other international markets. But for now, the economy is resilient with good indicators." Bloomberg

SWAN LAKE TO RETURN TO THE VENETIAN



The St Petersburg Ballet Theatre will return to Macau to present Tchaikovsky's renowned ballet, Swan Lake, at the The Venetian Theatre, The Venetian Macao on April 27 and 28, 2018.

Petersburg St The

Ballet Theatre's rendition of Swan Lake was sold out in London. Paris and Svdnev. according to a statement issued by Sands China. The Company has toured six continents, performing

in Spain, Germany, UK,

France, Italy, Singapore and Australia.

The performance tells a classic love story of Prince Siegfried and the Swan Princess Odette, torn apart by the villainous sorcerer Rothbar.

With its famous ballroom scene, sublime music and moving story, Swan Lake was first performed in St Petersburg in 1895.

Founded in 1994, the repertoire of St Petersburg Ballet Theatre includes the classical masterpieces Giselle, Don Quixote, The Nutcracker and The Sleeping Beauty. Tour producer Andrew Guild said, "St Petersburg Ballet Theatre is truly traditional Russian classical ballet at its very best. We're delighted to be bringing this superb company to Macau again."

IPHONE X SHIPMENT FORECASTS CUT BY ANALYSTS ON TEPID DEMAND



Analysts lowered iPhone X shipment projections for the first quarter of next year, citing signs of lackluster demand at the end of the holi-

day shopping season, and the company's shares fell Tuesday along with those of some suppliers. Sinolink Securities Co.

analyst Zhang Bin said in a report earlier this week that handset shipments in the period may be as low as 35 million, or 10 million less than he previously estimated. "After the first wave of demand has been fulfilled, the market now worries that the high price of the iPhone X may weaken demand in the first quarter," Zhang wrote.

JL Warren Capital LLC said shipments will drop to 25 million units in the first quarter of 2018 from 30 million units in the fourth quarter, citing reduced orders at some Apple suppliers. The drop reflects "weak demand because of the iPhone X's high price point and a lack of interesting innovations," the New York-based research firm said in note to clients last week.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

BUSINESS D

Ivan Moreno, Milwaukee

LEGENDARY

ARLEY-DAVID-SON is placing a renewed emphasis on teaching people to ride as part of its efforts to attract more customers.

The Milwaukee-based company's decision to expand the number of dealerships with a Harley "Riding Academy" comes as the industry grapples with years of declining sales and an aging customer base.

The program launched in 2000 with about 50 locations and now 245 dealerships in the U.S. offer the three- or fourday course. The company says about a quarter of those launched since 2014.

Harley sold 124,777 new motorcycles through nine months in 2017, down from 135,581 during the same period the previous year, according to the company's most recent earnings report.

The Motorcycle Industry Council says the median age of motorcycle owners increased from 32 to 47 since 1990. About 46 percent of riders are over 50; only about 10 percent are 30-34.

Samantha Kay rode on the back of her father's motorcycle growing up, but when the 25-year-old took a class to ride for the first time she couldn't help being anxious.

"I think motorcycles inherently do scare a lot of people," said Kay, a Milwaukee woman

Amid sales drop, Harley-Davidson wants to teach more to ride



Samantha Kay poses for a photo on a 2017 Harley Sportster Forty-Eight in Milwaukee's House of Harley

who is one of 50,000 people nationwide who took a riding course at a Harley-Davidson dealership this year.

The training is one of the ways Harley is trying to attract a new generation of riders like Kay amid big demographic shifts.

"Some of the aging Baby Boomers, which have been the guts of Harley-Davidson's purchasers, they're getting older and some of them are just getting out of the sport because they can't handle the motorcycle anymore," said Clyde Fessler, who retired from Harley-Davidson in 2002 after holding several executive positions over 25 years. He created what became the "Riding Academy."

He said the idea "is getting people comfortable on a motorcycle and getting them to feel safe and confident."

In addition to riders getting

older, a slow economic recovery has made it harder for millennials to buy new motorcycles, said Jim Williams, vice president of the American Motorcyclist Association.

Among the newest models, a 2018 Softail Slim starts at USD15,899 and a 2018 Sportster Forty-Eight at \$11,299.

"The younger generations are buying plenty of motorcycles, they're just not new," Williams said.

But it's not all the millennials' fault, said Robert Pandya, who managed public relations for Indian Motorcycles and Victory Motorcycles. Pandya recently launched "Give A Shift," a volunteer group discussing ideas to promote motorcycling. One of their conclusions, he said, is the idea that "if mom rides, the kids will ride."

Currently, women are about 14 percent of the riding population, according to the Motorcycle Industry Council.

"The biggest possible opportunity in motorcycling is to invite more women to ride," he said.

That's not lost on Harley-Davidson. Among the ways Harley-Davidson is trying to reach younger riders is by having motorcycle role-models like Jessica Haggett, the founder of the "The Litas" all-women motorcycle club, be a voice for the company on social media. And the company is also focusing advertising efforts in male-dominated sports like the X Games and UFC events popular with younger viewers. **AP**



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língua/language:

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número máximo de participantes/maximum number of participants: 15

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Spot among top 5 container ports in jeopardy

Kyunghee Park

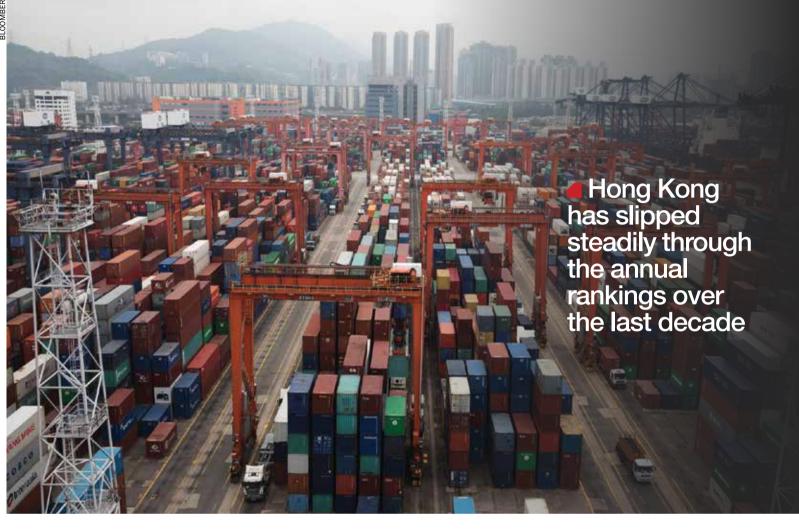
HONG Kong is poised to lose its ranking as the world's fifth-busiest container port if cargohandling trends continue.

Sea freight processed in the city dropped for a second straight month in November, making Hong Kong the only container port among the world's top five to report weaker traffic, based on statistics compiled by port authorities. South Korea's Busan, ranked sixth, has narrowed the gap and is set to overtake Hong Kong on an annual basis in 2018, said Rahul Kapoor, an analyst at Bloomberg Intelligence.

As China expanded its manufacturing prowess to become the biggest exporter of everything from fabrics to machinery, the nation also boosted capacity at its ports, making it possible for larger ships to start direct services to major cities such as Shanghai and Shenzhen. Until 2004, Hong Kong was the world's busiest container port as it served as a conduit for cargo moving in and out of China.

"The hollowing of manufacturing activities in Hong Kong has been the main driver," Corrine Png, chief executive officer of Crucial Perspective, a specialist in Asian transportation equity research. "Hong Kong faces stiff competition, mainly from the Chinese ports, especially as the Chinese have been investing heavily in port infrastructure in recent years and working on improving their operating efficiency."

Hong Kong handled 18.97 million 20-foot containers in the



first 11 months of 2017, 6.4 percent more than a year earlier. That trails the 8.3 percent increase for Shanghai and 9.1 percent growth in Singapore.

Hong Kong has slipped steadily through the annual rankings over the last decade. The city's port lost its No. 1 status to Singapore in 2005, No. 2 to Shanghai in 2007, No. 3 to Shenzhen in 2013, and its fourth placing to Ningbo in 2015.

It's set to be overtaken again, this time by Busan, which has seen increased traffic from transshipment cargo to the Bohai Bay area in northeastern China, according to Drewry Financial Research Services. Based on available ports data, traffic at Busan exceeded Hong Kong's for three of the 11 months so far this year. Shenzhen, just across the border from Hong Kong, has been expanding its capacity as it serves as a major port for exports of goods manufactured in factories in southern China. The city's harbor is the world's third-busiest after Shanghai and Singapore.

Most of the biggest container ships worldwide - even the ones operated by Hong Kong-based Orient Overseas Container Line Ltd. - favor calls at Chinese ports en route to Europe.

"There's a general trend of increased direct services to China, so there's reduced demand for transshipment in Hong Kong," said Victor Wai, an analyst at Drewry in Singapore. "For Busan to overtake Hong Kong, it will be because Hong Kong is losing its volume." **Bloomberg**

Contrarian who got yuan right says rally has further to go

THE yuan's climb led by Bloomberg.

early as the first quarter. ned economic recovery,



▲ against the dollar has further to go, even after China's currency closes out its steepest annual gain since 2008.

That's according to Peter Rosenstreich, head of market strategy at Swissquote Bank SA, who says strong economic growth, higher local borrowing costs and a weaker greenback will support the currency. The Gland, Switzerlandbased lender predicted at the end of last year that the yuan would strengthen to 6.55 per dollar by the end of 2017 - a contrarian bullish call that is looking like it'll be the most accurate among projections compi"We continue to be more optimistic on China, and expect broad dollar weakness and demand for alternative currencies, diversifying out of the greenback, to support the yuan," said Rosenstreich, who expects the exchange rate to end 2018 at 6.45. A stronger exchange rate helps "project the image that holding the currency is a smart idea."

The Chinese currency has surged this year amid tighter capital controls, climbing bond yields and a slump in the dollar. A year ago, analysts were expecting the currency to weaken to 7 per dollar as Their latest consensus projection is for it to remain little changed in 2018.

The yuan's steady ascent has improved the appeal of the nation's assets for foreign investors and helped to distance memories of 2015's shock devaluation, while also signaling that the deleveraging campaign that has sent bonds tumbling hasn't got out of hand. Still, the risk of a stronger currency for China is that it could crimp exports. The yuan was near the highest level this year against a basket of peers this week.

Next year, the yuan will be supported by a sustaiwith growth likely to accelerate to 6.8 percent amid an increase in investments and strong external demand, said Rosenstreich. The People's Bank of China will be ready to boost interest rates if the Federal Reserve turns more hawkish than expected, reducing the risk of capital outflows, he added.

For Sean Yokota, head of Asia strategy at Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken AB, which was ranked by Bloomberg as the top yuan forecaster in the two quarters through September, policy makers will strengthen the exchange rate to attract foreign investors

and help increase the chance for onshore bonds to be included in global indexes in 2018. He expects the currency to rise to 6.3 by the end of next year from 6.5560 as of 5:01 p.m. in Shanghai yesterday.

"The U.S. built the image that a strong dollar equaled a strong U.S.," said Rosenstreich. "China could be following this branding strategy." **Bloomberg**

Ting Shi

HINA'S leading policy makers plan to discuss next month a proposal to amend the national constitution for the first time since 2004, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

The decision was made yesterday at a Politburo meeting headed by President Xi Jinping, according to the report. It provided no details on the possible change to the constitution, which was first adopted in 1982 and revised four times. The party's Central Committee will discuss the amendments at a plenum some time in January.

Speculation has swirled that Xi might seek to stay in office beyond 2022 after he unveiled a new leadership line-up in October that didn't include a clear potential heir. Under the current national constitution, the president can only serve two five-year terms. There are no limits on Xi's two other key titles: Head of the party and military chief.

Any change involving term limits would require consensus among lawmakers, according to Ji Weidong, dean of Shanghai Jiao Tong University's KoGuan School of Law. Either way, he said a constitutional revision is needed to set up the new National Supervision Commission, an all-encompassing anti-graft body.

"The new supervision commission needs a constitutional basis for its power, as it involves a structural change in China's political system," Ji said.

Beijing to discuss first revisions to constitution since 2004



President Xi Jinping

The national constitution defines China's major state institutions, including the judiciary, the top prosecuting body and the State Council, or the cabinet.

Xi became one of China's most powerful leaders ever in October, when the Communist Party charter was revised to elevate him to a status that eluded his two immediate pre-

decessors. Many of Xi's major initiatives of his first five years in power were added to the revised charter, from his anti-corruption campaign to his Beltand-Road Initiative.

At an earlier two-day meeting that ended Dec. 26, members of China's Politburo each vowed to implement Xi's agenda two months after he mapped out an ambitious three-decade vision for the country. Xi said the priority for all Politburo members is to "aggressively" and "comprehensively" carry out tasks set out at the party congress in October, according to Xinhua.

Each of the 25 Politburo members made a speech at the meeting in which they reflected on their own performance and pledged loyalty to the overall mis-

sion, according to a statement issued by Xinhua.

"Words are not enough while actual actions are needed," Xi was quoted by Xinhua as saying. "Holding meetings and handing out papers are not enough while actual implementation is needed."

The meeting yesterday also reviewed a work report from the party's top graft-busting agency, the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, and set the dates for the body's plenary meeting as Jan. 11-13. Leaders pledged to "seriously punish" disloyal party members, and crack down on vested interests and "clique-forming" behavior.

Xi on Tuesday called on Politburo members to set an example of self-discipline and to avoid granting privileges to their family members and close aides. His sweeping anti-corruption campaign has brought down former Politburo members, including Sun Zhengcai and Guo Boxiong.

Xi also urged the elite party body to have "a strong sense of urgency" while warning of "barriers and risks" both at home and abroad, according to the statement. Senior officials should also take the lead to "solve the most difficult problems," he said. **Bloomberg**

Huawei's China consumer sales head detained in corruption probe

UAWEI Tech-**I** nologies Co., China's biggest maker of smartpho-

Electronics Co. ggest closely-held te- what can be disclo- who heads domes-

investigating the ma-The arrest is a blow tter, and we defer to to one of China's bi- their discretion as to

The company made no mention of a replacement for Teng,

Baha Mar developer claims to be victim of fraud

THINA Construction America Inc. was accused in a lawsuit of ripping off the original developer of the long-delayed USD3.9 billion Baha Mar resort in bills, understaffed the project and used it as a training ground for inexperienced workers.

CCA knew it wouldn't be able to meet the planned December 2014 deadline to open the resort but created the appearance that it would, in order to remain on the project and collect undeserved fees, BML claims. BML is seeking at least \$2.25 billion in damages. Baha Mar, which opened in April, is now owned by Hong Kong-based, Chow Tai Fook Enterprises Ltd. The development features more than 2,300 rooms, 40 restaurants and lounges, a convention center, a Jack Nicklausdesigned golf course, shopping and the biggest casino in the Caribbean, according to Baha Mar's website. MDT/Bloomberg

nes, said the head of sales for its domestic consumer business has been detained in a corruption investigation.

Police have taken immediate action on Teng Hongfei on "suspicion of taking bribes," the Shenzhenbased company said in a statement yesterday. Teng ran Chinese consumer sales for the company, which over the past year rose to No. 1 in smartphones at home and No. 3 globally to become a major rival to Apple Inc. and Samsung

chnology companies, the largest of a coterie of Chinese smartphone makers that have grabbed global market share via affordable phones with premium specifications. It debuted its Mate 10 right around the time Apple took the lid off the iPhone X. The company, which says it's controlled by employees. was founded by former army engineer Ren Zhengfei and is considered to have strong government relations. "The authorities are

sed," Huawei said. "We take our business ethics extremely seriously, and have zero tolerance for corrupt behavior." The company has targeted corruption within its ranks in the past. In 2015, Ren told the World Economic Forum in Davos that Huawei needed to step up internal policing after forgiving more than 4,000 workers - including senior executives - for involvement in graft and fraudulent business practices.

tic sales for one of Huawei's fastestgrowing arms. The consumer division, comprising mainly smartphones, reported a 36 percent rise in revenue to 105.4 billion yuan (USD16 billion) during the first six months. The unit had targeted 25 percent growth in consumer revenue to \$33 billion in 2017, down from about 42 percent in 2016. It also sells smartwatches, tablets and accessories from earbuds to cameras. Bloomberg

the Bahamas by submitting fraudulent bills and collecting undeserved fees.

BML Properties Ltd., led by wealthy Bahamas businessman Sarkis Izmirlian, sued CCA Tuesday claiming the state-owned Chinese contractor pulled off a "massive fraud" to enrich itself at BML's expense, leading to the collapse of the project in 2015. Delays in the construction of the biggest and most expensive resort to be built in the Caribbean have been a drag on the Bahamian economy in recent years.

BML claims that CCA submitted hundreds of millions of dollars in fake **PAKISTAN** said that Indian forces killed three of its soldiers near the Line of Control in the disputed Kashmir region.

A military statement said the "unprovoked cease-fire violation" took place Monday in Rawalakot in the Pakistancontrolled part of Kashmir. It came two days after India's army said four of its soldiers were killed by Pakistani fire along the de facto border between the South Asian rivals.

In the latest shooting, the Indian military said that its soldiers targeted Pakistani posts after they were fired upon. The Indian troops did not suffer any casualties, officials said.

The confrontation happened hours after the wife and mother of an imprisoned Indian naval officer who faces the death penalty in Pakistan for espionage and sabotage were allowed to meet with him in Islamabad.

After Saturday's shooting, the Indian military had said in a statement that the soldiers' killings "will not go in vain." India said Pakistani soldiers had violated the 2003 cease-fire accord by targeting Indian forward posts in the Rajouri sector.

On Tuesday, Pakistan summoned an Indian diplomat and lodged a protest over the killing of Pakistani soldiers.

The Pakistani army initially said the three soldiers were killed by Indian fire, but the Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Faisal later said

Pakistan says Indian forces killed three soldiers in Kashmir



the Indian fire provided cover for "non-state actors" to plant explosive devices, which killed the soldiers.

"The Indian actions got a befitting response from the Pakistani side and their guns were silenced," he said in a statement.

India and Pakistan have a long history of bitter relations over the Himalayan territory, which both claim in its entirety. Both countries have repeatedly accused the other of initiating border skirmishes that led to the deaths of soldiers and civilians.

They have fought two of their three wars over the region since they gained independence from British colonial rule in 1947.

Meanwhile, India accused Pakistan of violating mutual understandings on Tuesday's meeting between the imprisoned Indian naval officer and his wife and mother. Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman Raveesh Kumar said that contrary to assurances, the overall atmosphere of the meeting was intimidating.

It was the first meeting between Kulbhushan Jadhav and his family since he was arrested in March 2016 after allegedly entering the country from Iran.

A Pakistani military tribunal found Jadhav guilty of espionage and sabotage and sentenced him to death, but India obtained an order from the International Court of Justice to halt the execution.

28.12.2017 thu

During the meeting, Jadhav was seen sitting behind a glass screen in the Pakistani Foreign Office while his mother and wife sat on the other side. They spoke through an intercom for nearly 40 minutes.

Faisal said Pakistan allowed the meeting as a "humanitarian gesture" following a request from India. **MDT/AP**



among others calling for their release.

Dozens of Myanmar journalists appeared at the court wearing black shirts as part of a protest against the journalists' arrests.

"We are facing the same kind of harassment under the civilian government as we did under the military government," said Thar Lun Zaung Htet, head of a local pressure group for press freedom. "It is not

VIETNAM

10,000 cyber warriors deployed to fight 'wrongful views'

VIETNAM is deploying a 10,000-member military cyber warfare unit to combat what the government sees as a growing threat of "wrongful views" Tube took down 4,500 videos, or 90 percent of what the government requested, according to VietnamNet news, which cited Minister of Information and Communications Truong Minh Tuan last week. The National Assembly is debating a cybersecurity bill that would require technology companies to store certain data on servers in the country. Vietnam's youthful population - almost 60 percent are under 35 - has made the country a leader globally in terms of penetration of social networks, according to EMarketer Inc. More than 60 percent of Vietnamese are online, according to Nghia. Representatives for Facebook and YouTube did not immediately respond to requests for comment. MDT/Bloomberg

MYANMAR

Court extends detention for two reporters

A court in Myanmar extended the detention of two Reuters journalists yesterday and set their trial for Jan. 10 on charges of violating state secrets.

Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo were arrested Dec. 12 for acquiring "important secret papers" from two policemen. The police officers had worked in Rakhine state, where abuses widely blamed on the military have driven more than 630,000 Rohingya Muslims to flee into neighboring Bangladesh. The charges are are punishable by up to 14 years in prison.

"We are just working as journalists. [...] We never violate journalism ethics," Wa Lone told reporters as he and his colleague were led out of a police van into

the courtroom in Mingalardon, on the outskirts of Yangon.

Their families wept as they got a chance to see them for the first time since their arrests.

"I want my husband to be free soon. And I trust him that he would never violate the law," said Wa Lone's wife, Pan Ei Mon. U.S., U.N. and European Union officials are

fair for the two journalists to be charged under the official secrets act because they were doing their job as journalists who tried to get information." On Tuesday, authorities said they would drop charges against two reporters from Singapore and Malaysia and their local staff working for the Turkish state broadcaster TRT. They were arrested on Oct. 27 for allegedly flying a drone over the parliament building without permission.

Their lawyer said a decision will be made today. **AP** proliferating on the internet, according to local media.

Force 47 has worked pro-actively against distorted information, Tuoi Tre newspaper reported, citing Nguyen Trong Nghia, deputy head of the general politics department under the Vietnam People's Military. The disclosure of the unit comes as the Communist government pressures YouTube Inc. and Facebook Inc. to remove videos and accounts seen damaging the reputations of leaders or promoting anti-party views.

Facebook this year removed 159 accounts at Vietnam's behest, while YouMacauDaily #P\$HEIM#

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In this Nov. 9, 2017 file photo, President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping participate in a welcome ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing

USA

In break with tradition, Trump doesn't host a state dinner

Darlene Superville, Washington

PRESIDENT Donald Trump couldn't stop talking about the red carpets, military parades and fancy dinners that were lavished upon him during state visits on his recent tour of Asia. "Magnificent," he declared at one point on the trip.

But Trump has yet to reciprocate, making him the first president in almost a century to close his first year in office without welcoming a visiting counterpart to the U.S. with similar trappings. Trump spoke dismissively of state dinners as a candidate, when he panned President Barack Obama's decision to welcome Chinese President Xi Jinping with a 2015 state visit. Such visits are an important diplomatic tool that includes a showy arrival ceremony and an elaborate dinner at the White House. "I would not be throwing [Xi] a dinner," Trump said at the time. "I would get him a McDonald's hamburger and say we've got to get down to work." Last month it was Xi's turn to literally roll out the red carpet. The Chinese leader poured on the pageantry as he welcomed Trump to Beijing on what was

billed as a "state visit, plus." Trump also made state visits to South Korea and Vietnam. White House press secretary

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said there is no "singular reason" why Trump hasn't extended a state visit invitation yet, but added that the administration hopes to schedule a visit early in 2018. Sanders gave no hints about which of Trump's foreign counterparts are being considered for the diplomatic honor.

A state visit typically is offered as a sign of friendship and to showcase strategic ties between countries that are important to each other, said Anita McBride, a veteran of three Republican administrations who last served as chief of staff to first lady Laura Bush. tiful piece of chocolate cake." "President Xi was enjoying it," the president reported.

Trump has also met at the White House, sometimes over lunch as well as abroad, with many of his foreign counterparts. He recently put the figure at more than 100.

But nothing compares to a state visit.

Knowing Trump enjoys flattery, Xi pulled out all the stops to impress him on that November stop in Beijing

a lavish state dinner attended by hundreds, including members of Congress, business leaders, celebrities, political donors and others.

The visiting leader also has lunch at the State Department, and sometimes will address a joint meeting of Congress.

Such visits are reserved for when the U.S. wants to put on its "best face" for a particular leader and ally, said Peter Selfridge, who served as a liaison between the White House and visiting foreign dignitaries as U.S. chief of protocol from 2014 to January 2017. away for a private tour of the Forbidden City that included dinner. The meal was a first for a visiting foreign leader at Beijing's historic imperial palace since the founding of modern China. Trump also raved about an outdoor opera performance.

The following morning brought another welcome ceremony at the Great Hall of the People featuring a military parade that Trump said was "magnificent." He said "the world was watching" and claimed to have received telephone calls about it from around the world. "Nothing you can see is so beautiful," Trump said.

Xi also honored Trump at a state banquet that included video highlights from the Chinese leader's visit to Florida, along with clips from Trump's trip and the screening of a video of Trump's granddaughter, Arabella, singing in Chinese.

McBride said Trump's decision to not extend a state visit invitation could be partly because his first year was a chaotic one, dominated by staff upheaval and lengthy negotiations with Congress over health care and tax legislation. Separately, the first lady, who is responsible for planning a state dinner down to the smallest detail, didn't officially relocate to the White House until June. A state visit is also a massive undertaking and Trump has been running the government with a barebones staff.

But Trump's first state visitor will matter. "The other world leaders will pay attention to that," McBride said.

Not since Calvin Coolidge in the 1920s has a president ended his first year in office without hosting a foreign leader for a state visit, according to the White House Historical Association.

Coolidge assumed office in 1923 after the sudden death of President Warren G. Harding, and was elected to a full term in 1924. Coolidge didn't hold a state dinner until October 1926 for Queen Marie of Romania, according to the White

"The White House is the world stage to elevate that," she said. "These occasions really go a long way to solidify and strengthen relationships."

Trump speaks often about his relationships with many of his foreign counterparts, including Xi. Trump and the Chinese leader met at Trump's Florida estate in April, and Trump treated Xi to a full dinner — not the aforementioned burger — and what Trump described as "the most beauThe White House portion of the visit begins with an elaborate arrival ceremony on the South Lawn, including the pomp of a military honor guard, a troop review and leader statements. The leaders meet privately in the Oval Office before they hold a joint news conference in the East Room or the Rose Garden. The evening ends with the foreign leader as the guest of honor at "It's a really important arrow in a president's quiver when it comes to the diplomatic nicety side of his work," Selfridge said.

And not just for American presidents. Knowing Trump enjoys flattery, Xi pulled out all the stops to impress him on that November stop in Beijing. The visit opened with an arrival ceremony considered lavish even by Chinese standards, with Trump and his wife, Melania greeted at the airport by Chinese and American dignitaries standing at attention, a band playing military music and scores of flagwaving children chanting "welcome."

Trump was then whisked

House association.

Every president since Coolidge has hosted at least one state visit their first year.

Lyndon Johnson held 12 in 1964, his first full year in office after President John F. Kennedy's assassination in 1963. Barack Obama, Trump's immediate predecessor, held just one in 2009 — and it was famously crashed by a celebrity-seeking couple.

Earlier this year, Trump was the special guest of President Emmanuel Macron at France's Bastille Day parade. Trump has also accepted an invitation from Queen Elizabeth II for a state visit. Sanders said she expects those details will be announced soon. **AP**

TAX-FREE NO MORE Saudi Arabia, UAE to roll out VAT in 2018

AUDI Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, which have long lured foreign workers with the promise of a tax-free lifestyle, plan to impose a 5 percent tax next year on most goods and services to boost revenue after oil prices collapsed three years ago.

The value-added tax, or VAT, will apply to a range of items like food, clothes, electronics and gasoline, as well as phone, water and electricity bills, and hotel reservations.

Elda Ngombe, a 23-year-old college graduate who's looking for a job in Dubai, said there's one specific purchase she's planning before next year's price hike: "Makeup, because I can't live without makeup."

"I am scared because everything is actually expensive already in Dubai. The fact that it's actually adding 5 percent is crazy," she said.

There will be some exemptions for big-ticket costs like rent, real estate sales, certain medications, airline tickets and school tuition.

Higher education, however, will be taxed in the UAE. Extra costs

parents pay to schools for uniforms, books, school bus fees and lunch will also be taxed, as will real estate brokerage costs for renters and buyers.

Other Gulf countries are expected to implement their own VAT scheme in the coming years.

Even with a five percent jump in prices, the tax rate is still significantly less than the average VAT rate of 20 percent in some European countries.

"If you compare with Europe, I don't think it's as expensive. Only in rent and food," said Vera Clement, a mother and assistant manager of restaurants from France who has lived in Dubai for three years.

"We are going to be more careful when we buy something," she added.

The National newspaper, based in Abu Dhabi, says the cost of living in the UAE is expected to rise about 2.5 percent next year because of the VAT. Salaries, meanwhile, remain the same.

As the government adjusts to lower oil prices, the UAE is expected to raise around 12 billion dirhams (USD3.3 billion) from



the tax.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia recently unveiled the biggest budget in its history, with plans to spend 978 billion rivals (\$261 billion) this coming fiscal year as the government forecasts a boost in revenue from the introduction of VAT and plans to reduce subsidies. Still, Saudi Arabia is facing a budget deficit until at least 2023.

The International Monetary

Fund has recommended oil-exporting countries in the Gulf introduce taxes as one way to raise non-oil revenue. The IMF also recommends Gulf countries introduce or expand taxes on business profits.

Though the Gulf has long been associated with being a tax-free haven, foreign companies- except in Bahrain- pay corporate income taxes. In Oman, locallyowned companies also pay taxes. Customs duties are in place, though medicine, food and raw material for industry were exempt in the past.

Foreigners make up about a third of the Saudi population and far outnumber locals in the UAE. For now, anxious residents have been reassured that there are no immediate plans to impose a payroll tax, which could prompt an exodus of highly-skilled expatriate workers. MDT/AP









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what's ON

LANGUAGE & THE ART OF XU BING TIME: 10am-7pm, last admission at 6:30pm (Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays) UNTIL: March 4, 2018 VENUE: Macao Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, NAPE ADMISSION: Free ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

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

MONKEY KING TIME: 4pm & 8pm daily (Except on Thursdays) VENUE: Sands Cotai Theatre ADMISSION: MOP420, MOP480, MOP680, MOP880, MOP1080 COTAI TICKETING: (853) 2882 8818 KONG SENG TICKETING: (853) 2855 5555

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

Offbeat

MAN'S 1944 LOVE LETTER FOUND WITHIN REMODELED HOME'S WALLS

Massachusetts police have a new mystery to solve: Who

Greenfield, Mass Police Department occur 4 new proces. ---Time is a Holday challenge!

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13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	RTPi News (Delayded Broadscast)
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:30	Miscellaneous
17:35	Zig Zag
19:00	Brazilian Soap Opera (Repeated)
19:50	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Talk Show
21:45	Yes Chef! - Sr 2
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:35	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:10	RTPi Live



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21 DEC - 27 DEC



COCO ROOM 1 2:30, 4:45, 7:15pm Director: Lee Unkrich Starring: Anthony Gonzalez, Gael García Bernal, Benjamin Bratt Language: Cantonese (English) Duration: 105 min

STAR WARS EPISODE VIII

ROOM 2 9:30pm Director: Rian Johnson Starring: Daisy Ridley, John Boyega, Mark Hamill Language: English (Chinese) Duration: 150 min

THE GREATEST SHOWMAN

ROOM 2 2:30, 7:30. 9:30pm Director: Michael Gracey Starring: Hugh Jackman, Zac Efron, Michelle Williams, Zendaya Language: English (Chinese) Duration: 105 min



this day in history



1993 MAFIA LINK IN COCAINE HAUL

British customs officials have seized £70m of Colombian cocaine which is thought to be directly linked to the Mafia.

The discovery of more than a quarter of a tonne of cocaine came after British Customs and Excise officials were tipped off by Italian anti-Mafia investigators.

The international operation also involved the help of Colombian police.

More than a tonne of cocaine was seized, 263 kg of it was impounded in Britain and the rest in Sicily where two Italians were arrested.

In Britain two men, from north London and Chelmsford, Essex, were remanded in custody at Ipswich magistrates court charged with smuggling.

A third man was released on police bail.

"This is the first confirmed involvement of the Mafia in drugs smuggling into the UK. The job was the province of the police in Rome and we acted after we received instructions from them," a Customs and Excise spokesman said.

The Colombian merchant vessel, Maipo, travelled directly to Britain and docked at Felixstowe where customs officers had been preparing for their arrival since last week.

Customs officials were in waiting as a container adapted to hide drugs was unloaded on the dock.

The three men were kept under surveillance for two days when they were arrested as they returned to Felixstowe to pick up the drug.

The haul is believed to have originated from one of the world's largest drug cartels - the Medellin in Colombia.

Investigators claim it is unusual for parties from a third country to be involved in smuggling from South America.

wrote a 1944 love letter discovered within the walls of a house being remodeled?

The Greenfield Police Department took to Facebook on Christmas Eve to ask for the public's help in figuring out the backstory behind the handwritten letter. Police say the letter is dated April 19, 1944, and was penned by a man who identified himself only as Walter.

The letter was addressed to Miss Betty Miller, of Greenfield. In

the letter, Walter makes no attempt to hide his affections. He writes: "I have always thought more of you than any other girl, and I still do."

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Police say they only have one motive: reuniting the letter with Miller or her family.

allel it was written on April 19, 1944 by "Viaiter" for "tilles Betty Mills ifte lived on 360 Chapman St.

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PADDINGTON 2 ROOM 2 4:30pm ROOM 3 2:30pm Director: Paul King Starring: Hugh Bonneville, Sally Hawkins, Hugh Grant Language: Cantonese (English) Duration: 103 min

JUMANJI: WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE ROOM 3 2:00, 8:00, 10:00pm

Director: Jake Kasdan Starring: Dwayne Johnson, Jack Black, Karen Gillan, Kevin Hart Language: English (Chinese) Duration: 119 min They suggest it indicates the Mafia is increasing its grip on the world's drug trade by filling the gap created by the death of the Colombian drugs baron, Pablo Escobar, the head of the Medellin cartel. He was ambushed and shot by Colombian police earlier this month.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

British, Italian, and Colombian anti-drug officials hailed a new era of international co-operation following the seizure in Britain that partly disrupted Colombia's Cali cartel. In total, 13 people in three countries were arrested. The seizure was part of a larger operation by Italian forces to curb the activities of the mafia who had apparently identified Britain as a "safe" place to be on the run. British detectives said the mafia had established 'cells'' in the country and they were involved in at least nine areas of serious crime, including fraud, arms dealing and drug trafficking.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

INFOTAINMENT

YOUR STARS



Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Some wild news comes your way, but luckily, just about all of it is positive for you. The word should arrive via some higher-up you were positive had never even noticed you.



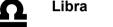
May 21-Jun. 21

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.



Jul. 23-Aug. 22

You need to stop trying to convince the world that you're unique and decisive. You may even be ready to choose a partner who's just as entertaining and fiery as you are!



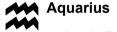
Sep.23-Oct. 22

Your specialty is taking care of others. though more often than not, that comes at your own expense, without any hope of being reimbursed. Startling news from a family member or an old, dear friend.



Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You're famous for consistently being game to experience the last thing on earth anyone else might try, and then tell everyone you know all about it. Today's nutty energy is perfect for you.



Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Just when you thought you were done informing the world how exactly it should be run, you've discovered that certain key elements just aren't cooperating. You may be up for a few days of instructing them.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Little devil; 4- Juridical; 9- Fishhook line; 14- Needlefish; 15-Teheran native; 16- Men; 17- Single unit; 18- Claw; 19- That is, in Latin; 20- Agent; 23- "___ Tu" ('70s hit); 24- "Michael Collins" actor; 25- Places of contest; 28- Mil. addresses; 30- Airline to Oslo; 33- Wine grape; 34-Percussive instrument; 35- Gumbo ingredient; 36- In spite of; 39- Biblical garden; 40- Shout in derision; 41- Haunting; 42- ___ Lingus (Irish carrier); 42- Blantdi 44 Ounge of a clause; 45- Orgh carting; 46- Matelline derivery 43- Planted; 44- Owner of a slave; 45- Orch. section; 46- Metallica drummer Ulrich; 47- Unscrupulous; 54- Funny Anne; 55- Florence's ___ Vecchio; 56-Cath. or Prot.; 57- "Silas Marner" author; 58- Like non-oyster months; 59-Feel lousy; 60- Geeky guys; 61- Affirmatives; 62- Code-breaking org.;

DOWN: 1- Aviation pioneer Sikorsky; 2- Horse hair; 3- Get ready; 4- Clerisy; 5- Rubs out; 6- Strong winds; 7- Bartlett's abbr.; 8- Bits of thread; 9- Strikes 10- Gymnast Comaneci; 11- Hgt.;

12- ____ majesty; 13- D-Day craft; 21-Fame; 22- Smell, usually a pleasant one; 25- Sleep issue; 26-Janeiro; one; 25- Sleep issue; 26- ____ Janeiro; 27- Keyboard key; 28- Flaming felony; 29- Golf stroke; 30- Garment worn by



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.



Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Your idea of an ideal relationship involves combining your interests (financial, emotional, familial and otherwise), and then assembling them to come up with one solid.

Virgo



mean trying to ignore your friends.



Clear your throat and prepare to make the big announcement. You need to immerse yourself in nothing but the best interests of Number One. It's your turn to treat yourself to a stretch of being nice to yourself.



Several big influences conspire to cause some object in your possession, be it electrical, mechanical or electronic, to shirk its responsibilities. Your first impulse may be to go after it with a hammer.



Pisces

You should be more than ready to wear your heart on your sleeve, even when you're supposed to be tough and insensitive. Does this mean you're invulnerable at the moment? In a way - but only on the surface.



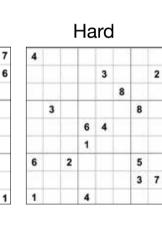
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NEATHER

	MIN	МАХ	CONDITION
CHINA -			
Beijing	-5	5	clear
Harbin	-24	-13	clear
Tianjin	-3	5	clear
Urumqi	-10	-4	heavy snow/cloudy
Xi'an	-1	9	clear
Lhasa	-7	11	clear
Chengdu	5	13	cloudy
Chongqing	7	14	cloudy/clear
Kunming	4	17	clear
Nanjing	7	10	overcast/drizzle
Shanghai	9	12	overcast/drizzle
Wuhan	5	10	drizzle
Hangzhou	5	10	drizzle
Taipei	16	19	cloudy/drizzle
Guangzhou	14	21	overcast
Hong Kong	16	19	cloudy
WORLD -			
WOILD			
Moscow	0	2	drizzle
Frankfurt	1	4	drizzle/moderate rain
Paris	2	4	drizzle/cloudy
London	1	4	clear/cloudy
New York	-9	-6	cloudy/clear

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency calls 999 Fire department 28 572 222 PJ (Open line) 993 PJ (Picket) 28 557 775 PSP 28 573 333 Customs 28 559 944 S. J. Hospital 28 313 731

Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333

Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283 Water Supply - Report 2822 0088 Telephone – Report 1000 Electricity - Report 28 339 922 Macau Daily Times 28 716 081





women; 31- Army leader?; 32- More wise; 34- Arab sailing vessel; 35- Black Sea port; 37- Sharp-pointed plant outgrowth; 38- Proximity; 43- Summer ermines; 44- ___-tung; 45- Young haddock; 46- Queues; 47- River to the Ubangi; 48- Neet rival; 49- Agile; 50- "Unforgettable" singer; 51- Fiber source; 52- Fragrant neckwear; 53-First name in scat; 54- More than one male;

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AD



FOOTBALL

US jury acquits Peruvian defendant in FIFA bribery case

Larry Neumeister, New York

A former South American football official was acquitted in the FIFA bribery scandal on Tuesday (yesterday, Macau time) and walked out of the courtroom saying he's finished with the world's most popular sport.

The verdict clearing Manuel Burga, former president of Peru's fottball federation, of a single racketeering conspiracy charge came days after prosecutors won guilty verdicts on multiple charges against two other former soccer officials.

"God bless America. That's all I can say," the 60-year-old Burga said with eyes still wet from tears minutes after the verdict was delivered in Brooklyn federal court.

Burga was the first person to be acquitted among over 40 people and entities in the world of global soccer charged in the U.S. with a scheme to extract hundreds of millions of dollars in bribes and kickbacks. Of those, 24 pleaded guilty.

The case against Burga was



always thin. He faced a single count while two co-defendants — Juan Napout, of Paraguay, and Jose Maria Marin, of Brazil were convicted of heftier charges Friday in a prosecution that exposed a culture of greed and corruption in soccer's executive suites.

Burga called the result a miracle and noted he prayed the rosary twice daily before the acquittal. Burga said he would go home to Peru and resume a career as a lawyer after 15 years as a soccer executive.

"My history in soccer is finished," he said. "I'll go back to the law."

The judge had jailed Marin, 85, and Napout, 59, after their convictions Friday. The two also were acquitted on some lesser charges. Burga's attorney, Bruce Udolf, said he was sure Burga was innocent but believed he would be convicted Tuesday based on a question from jurors Friday.

"I figured I'd be looking at him a jail cell," Udolf said. "I'm so happy. [...] I want to go outside and do a couple of cartwheels."

Marin, Burga and Napout had been arrested in 2015. Prosecutors accused them of agreeing to take millions of dollars in bribes from businessmen seeking to lock up lucrative media rights or to influence hosting rights for the World Cup and other major FIFAcontrolled tournaments.

World football's governing body had said last week it would seek compensation and a share of the cash.

During the trial, Udolf insisted his client never took a bribe.

"I would submit to you that never has more been made of less evidence," he told jurors.

On Tuesday, Udolf credited Burga for insisting on a trial and saying he never agreed to anything.

"He'll go to his grave saying that," said the Fort Lauderdale, Florida, lawyer who headed the public integrity unit of the Miami federal prosecutor's office for five years in the 1990s.

Udolf said Burga would return to his childhood home, where he now lives modestly with his wife and two children.

Burga was held for a year in Peru on the U.S. charges before his transfer to the United States, where he was freed on bail to await trial. He'd been living with relatives in Washington.

Burga said he'd spend a month reunited with family before helping others through an administrative law practice.

"We have to look forward, not backward," he said. **AP**



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ALASTAIR Cook broke out of his recent form slump in dramatic fashion on Wednesday when he posted his first century at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, reaching the milestone in the final over before stumps as England enjoyed its best day of the Ashes series against Australia.

After surrendering the old burn by losing the first three tests of the five-match series, England finally turned the tables on the Australians, demolishing their batting lineup then making a strong reply with the bat on the second day of the fourth test.

Cook, who had struggled badly in the first three tests, prompting speculation about his future in the team, was at his imperious best. He registered the 32nd test hundred of his distinguished career to help England reach 192-2 at the close of play in reply to Australia's 327, still 135 in arrears but with momentum on its side.

"We know that we'll need three more fantastic days to win this test," England fast bowler Stuart Broad told a news conference. "It's not going to be easy to go and take 20 wickets here but we've put ourselves in a position where we could.

"We've still got a huge amount to play for."

The Australians looked set for a much bigger total before crumbling in a heap and losing their last seven wickets for just 67 runs as England's embattled fast bowlers bent their backs and dug deep on a pitch that offered little real assistance to the seamers.

While England's old guard reveled in the conditions, it was a day to forget for

England reach 192-2 in reply to Australia's 327 at stumps



the Australian captain Steve Smith, who has been the standout player of the series after scoring a hundred in the first test in Brisbane and a double century in the third match in Perth.

Smith squandered his chance of another century when he chopped a wide delivery from England debutant Tom Curran onto his stumps when he was on 76, then dropped a sharp catch off Cook at slip when he was on 66. Smith then gave up 11 runs in the last over of the day to allow England's all-time leading scorer to get his hundred before stumps were drawn.

"You always want to take your catches. We know how important they are," Australian spinner Nathan Lyon said.

"It was unlucky it popped out at the last minute but hat's off to Alastair Cook, he batted extremely well and we all know how much of a talent he is."

The 33-year-old Cook batted for more than four hours and hit 15 boundaries off 166 balls to finish the day unbeaten on 104 with his skipper Joe Root alongside him on 49 not out. The pair had shared an unbroken partnership of 112 on a baking hot day that sapped the energy of all the players.

The Australians did pick up two early wickets when Lyon took a diving one-handed catch off his own bowling to remove Mark Stoneman for 15 and Josh Hazlewood trapped Vince James lbw for 17 but struggled in the absence of injured paceman Mitchell Starc and an out-of-sorts Pat Cummins, who was restricted to just 11 overs because of a stomach bug.

England's quicks avoided the worst of the heat by ripping through the Australian middle and lower order in the cooler morning session, with Broad (4-51), James Anderson (3-61), Chris Woakes (2-72) and Curran (1-65) all taking wickets.

"We should have pushed on to 400-plus but we lost wickets early. We definitely left runs out there," Hazlewood told Australian radio.

"A few of the boys know that they need to be better." MDT/AP

There's a story behind Spieth's 'Go get that' line to caddie



WITH three words, Jordan Spieth delivered a British Open moment as memorable as the 50-foot eagle putt that prompted his famous line. "Go get that."

He was telling Michael Greller to get his ball from the cup as Spieth stood to the side of the 15th green, still soaking up the significance of such a long eagle putt that restored his lead with three holes to play. And there's a story behind it.

The reaction, while entirely spontaneous, might not have happened except for Spieth being in the makeshift gym all week at Royal Birkdale.

"I had been watching replays of the Open in the gym," Spieth said. "There was a TV in there, and they were playing old Opens. For whatever reason, it intrigued me earlier in the week that the guys, when they made putts, they never went and picked their ball out of the hole. The caddie went and got it on long putts. And I guess that stuck in my head: 'You don't have to pick the ball out of the hole. Michael can go get it."

There was more to the moment, of course.

Two holes earlier, Spieth missed the 13th fairway so far to the right that it hit a spectator in the head and caromed into the dunes. When he found it, he realized the driving range was not out of bounds, took a drop, had to take relief from the equipment truck and sent Greller toward the green to scout out the shot. The whole process took some 20 minutes as Matt Kuchar waited at the green. On the 15th hole, Kuchar

On the 15th hole, Kuchar was in a bunker in two and blasted out to about 6 feet, and then Spieth made his 50-foot eagle putt. "Michael, when I looked over, he's laughing," Spieth said. "For whatever reason, I didn't want to walk all the way up there. It was pretty far away. He started to walk toward the bag, but I was already walking toward the bag and I was really intense at that point. 'Michael, go get that!'

"It was half being serious, like: 'Go get it quickly because Kuch still needs to putt and we don't need to drag this on. I've already been in his way too much the last couple of holes. Let's not do that anymore.' And it was half intense — 'Pick that ball

out of the hole."

Either way, Greller went and got it. Spieth added two birdies and his name was etched into the silver claret jug. MDT/AP

A MacauDaily 澳門每日時報 ®



Made in Macao Jenny Lao-Phillips

Rice dumplings for all festivals

The Eastern world has a very strong rice culture. In fact, an event I attended a few years ago opened with young representatives from various Asian countries - including Macao, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Malaysia, and the Philippines holding handfuls of rice to be put into a large bowl as a symbol of solidarity among all participating Asian countries. The symbolism of rice in Asian culture is strong, with almost all Asians having rice as a daily sustenance, while the Chinese culture is especially represented by rice dumplings

Anyone living in Macao would know that almost every Chinese festival is celebrated with rice dumplings. However, the term rice dumpling has been used to refer to different types of Chinese food, all of which are made from glutinous rice and pressed into dumplings, with variances in taste, size, and origin. The more widely known kind of rice dumpling is zongzi 粽子, although it is not necessarily the most widely eaten.

As a festive food, zongzi is mostly only eaten during the Dragon Boat Festival. Zongzi is a type of rice dumpling wrapped in bamboo leaves, usually made with savory ingredients such as pork, mushrooms and salted eggs within sticky glutinous rice. Zongzi originated from the Warring States period when the patriotic minister Qu Yuan 屈原 was believed to have committed suicide by jumping into the river in devastation at the fall of the Chu empire. To prevent the fish in the river feeding on Qu Yuan's body, people threw zongzi into the river to feed the fish instead. Therefore, year after year, we make and eat zongzi on the day believed to be the anniversary of Qu Yuan's death, now remembered as the Dragon Boat Festival in memory of his patriotism.

The less widely known but more widely eaten kind of rice dumpling is tangyuan 湯圓. These are small round balls of glutinous rice with sweet fillings, usually black sesame, or red bean or peanut pastes, boiled in sweet soup, and are a very important Chinese festive food. Tangyuan is eaten at different festivals, from Chinese New Year to the Mid-Autumn Festival. In fact, the main festivals celebrated by eating tangyuan is the Lantern Festival - Yuan Siu 元宵 - which falls on the 15th day of the Lunar Year to celebrate the beginning of Spring, and the Winter Solstice - Dong Zhi 冬至 - which occurred last week to celebrate the beginning of Winter. So, why is tangyuan eaten at all these festivals?

Unlike zongzi which has its own story of how it was invented, Tangyuan is a traditional Chinese snack believed to date back to the Song Dynasty when it was first recorded in Poems from Song. But some believed that as far as the Warring States period people already ate tangyuan. The reason why they are eaten on the different festivals is what they represents. Because these small dumplings are round (yuan in Chinese) and sweet, they represent Tuan Yuan 團圓 - reunion or togetherness. So, the reason why tangyuan are eaten at different Chinese festivals is that all Chinese festivals have the element of reunion of the family or friends. This is true no matter whether the festival is for the celebration of the new year, the coming of spring, Chinese valentine's day, mid-autumn, or the coming of winter. Tangyuan is a delicious festive food to symbolize love and togetherness. But don't forget that they are made from glutinous rice and sweet fillings, so beware of the calories and sugar before digging in the sweet, hot bowl of delicious rice dumplings.

SPAIN'S ECONOMY SEEN GROWING SUZZ STRONGLY DESPITE CATALAN CRISIS

Spain's central bank says strong exports are likely to help the economy grow by a quarterly rate of 0.8 percent in the last three months of the year despite the negative effects of the Catalan political crisis.

Spain's economy is set to expand by 3.1 percent in 2017, but the government revised its estimate for 2018 from 2.6 percent to 2.3 percent because of uncertainty created by the sinceousted Catalan regional government's push for independence in October.

The central bank said yesterday buoyant exports overall made up for the economic fallout in prosperous Catalonia.

Its figures are estimates and official data will be published by the National Statistics Institute next month.

Spain emerged from recession in late 2013 and is now one of the European Union's fastestgrowing economies.

Construction halted at church destroyed in 9/11 attacks



St. Nicholas National Shrine in New York

Colleen Long, New York

АР РНОТ

NONSTRUCTION on a →Greek Orthodox church to replace one that was crushed in the Sept. 11 attacks has been temporarily suspended amid rising costs and questions over how donations have been managed.

The St. Nicholas National Shrine next to the World Trade Center memorial plaza was to replace a tiny church obliterated when the trade center's south tower fell in 2001. The new building was designed by renowned architect Santiago Calatrava, who created the soaring white bird-like mall and transit hub nearby called the Oculus. But unlike the transit hub, built largely with federal transportation dollars, the church is being funded through donations including from the Greek government, Greek Orthodox church members around the world, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston and the Italian city of Bari, whose patron saint is St. Nicholas.

jumped to an estimated \$72 million to \$78 million as of this month.

Two firms, PricewaterhouseCoopers and BakerHostetler, were hired to perform an independent investigation into the construction, according to a Dec. 9 statement posted on the website of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

The stoppage was ordered by the construction company on the project, Skanska USA, the statement said.

"The archdiocese is confidently hopeful that construction will recommenbased Skanska AB, said it had extended payment deadlines and discussed alternatives with the archdiocese to try to keep the project going but ultimately had to halt construction.

"We regret that stopping work was the only viable option at this point in time," Skanska USA Executive Vice President Tom Webb said in a statement yesterday [Macau time]. "We are confident that they will find the funding to complete this work at some point in the future."

The St. Nicholas shrine, meant as a salve for the faithful and a welcoming space for those wishing to reflect, was inspired by two Byzantine shrines in Istanbul, the Hagia Sophia and the Church of the Holy Savior in Chora. The building was to be sheathed in marble from quarries north of Athens, the vein of marble used to build the Parthenon. The original St. Nicholas was far more modest. The building housed a tavern when Greek immigrants bought it in 1919 to use as a church. It was the only building not part of the trade center complex that was demolished after hijackers flew commercial jets into the towers. AP



WORLD BRIEFS

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Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, which have long lured foreign workers with the promise of a tax-free lifestyle, plan to impose a 5 percent tax next year on most goods and services to boost revenue after oil prices collapsed three years ago. More on p15

EGYPT A presidential hopeful is proposing a new election law aimed at ensuring a free and transparent vote next year. Rights lawyer Khaled Ali told a packed news conference that a free election requires "real guarantees that include lifting the emergency state" imposed since April.



LIBERIA's National **Elections Commission** is beginning to release provisional results from the West African nation's presidential runoff. State radio correspondents reported unofficial results overnight indicating that former international soccer star George Weah led in several counties.

GERMANY A tourist ship struck a highway bridge on the Rhine river in western Germany and 25 people were injured, police said yesterday.



In September, the estimated cost was USD50 million. But according to The New York Times, which first reported the work suspension, the cost had

ce in the very near future and has been assured by Skanska [...] that they are looking forward to the rescinding of this temporary suspension to continue working together in cooperation with the archdiocese for the completion of the building project," the statement read.

The Greek Orthodox archdiocese, based in New York, represents more than 500 parishes across the country with more than 1.5 million members of the church and 800 priests. It reported last fall it was suffering from a "severe and complex" financial deficit. Skanska, part of Stockholm-

MEXICO's central bank said it will seek to bolster the peso amid concerns that the U.S. tax overhaul could reduce investment flows to Mexico.

BRAZIL-VENEZUELA

Authorities in Brazil say they are stripping Venezuela's top diplomat of his credentials and kicking him out in a dispute between the neighboring South American countries. Brazil's ministry of foreign affairs said it considers Venezuelan chargé d'affaires Gerardo Antonio Delgado Maldonado a persona non grata.