



### EXHIBITION SHOWCASES HISTORIC LANDSCAPES

The Museum of Art is showcasing 70 watercolour paintings of local landscapes from 19th and 20th centuries

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### CITY OUT OF TOP FIVE

Macau has fallen out of the top five most popular overseas tourism destinations for mainland tourists

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### POPE WANTED IN PYONGYANG

N. Korean leader Kim Jong Un wants Pope Francis to visit the officially atheist country, Seoul said yesterday

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

## WORLD BRIEFS



**CHINA** The wife of the former Interpol president who disappeared in China has revealed that she had received a threatening phone call warning of agents coming for her while she fights a so-far fruitless battle for information about her husband's fate.



**INDONESIA** The death toll from the earthquake and tsunami on Sulawesi island has climbed past 2,000, the disaster agency announced, as authorities prepared to end the search for thousands of victims feared buried in mud and rubble in the hardest-hit neighborhoods.



**JAPAN** Police is investigating the death of a zookeeper in an apparent attack by a white tiger. Police said Akira Furusho was found bleeding from his neck and lying on the floor Monday evening inside a tiger cage at Hirakawa Zoological Park in Kagoshima.

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# Gov't acknowledges offshores concerns

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## Hong Kong banks slash property valuations as home market teeters

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## TDM re-elected to ABU's Administrative Council



Manuel Pires (center)

Local broadcaster TDM was re-elected as member of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) Administrative Council for a further term. The 55th ABU general assembly meeting was held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, from September 30 to October 5. Manuel Pires, chairman of the Executive Committee of TDM, was invited to host the Members' Forum and also attended a debate panel on the topic "Thriving in the New Media Era: Broadcasting for Diverse Audiences." TDM joined ABU in 1983 and has served as a member of Administrative Council since 2004.

## HK-Macau Visual Art Biennale ongoing

The 6th Hong Kong-Macau Visual Art Biennale is now being presented at Dunhuang International Convention and Exhibition Centre in Gansu until October 15, after previously being showcased at the Beijing Minsheng Art Museum. This year's theme is "Urban Touch." According to a statement issued by the Cultural Affairs Bureau, the biennale "presents cutting-edge creations and development of the visual arts in the three regions in recent years through architecture, spatial design, public art and individual art creation." Macau's exhibition space is dedicated to the theme "Transcending the City." It explores the interaction between people, the relationship between them and the city, and the memories and experiences that arise therein. Six local young artists are taking part in the exhibition. Ng Man Wai, Lai Sio Kit, Wong Ka Long, Wong Weng Io, Cheong Cheng Wa and Fok Hoi Seng presented their artworks in a variety of mediums, including paintings, prints, video recordings and light installations, displaying rich visual effects and an innovative mix of media and design. After the exhibition closes in Dunhuang, it will be presented at the Zhejiang Art Museum in Hangzhou from October 30 to November 11.

## 273 drivers accused of failing to give way at pedestrian crossings

The Public Security Police released data yesterday regarding the number of prosecution cases involving failure to give way at pedestrian crossings, jaywalking and passenger overloading for the third quarter of 2018. During this period, there were 273 drivers accused of failing to give way at pedestrian crossings and 276 cases of jaywalking. A total of 133 cars were caught carrying excess passengers.

# LECM proposes anti-earthquake building ordinance amendments

**T**HE Macau Laboratory of Civil Engineering (LECM) held a seminar on seismic resistance and disaster prevention yesterday. On the sidelines of the seminar, the LECM president Ao Peng Kong proposed that the Macau government should amend laws related to architectural structures and construction.

Ao, who is also the president of the board of directors of LECM, noted that most buildings in Macau were not built with earthquakes in mind, especially podiums and towers.

These two structures face greater challenges in earthquake prevention, Ao explained. He also pointed out that since most of Macau's lands are reclaimed, the underlying soil structure will increase the intensity of an earthquake. In addition, sands are likely to become



liquefied.

When voicing his opinions, Ao recommended the local government to amend the relevant laws.

"First of all, it [the Macau government] needs to amend building ordinance. Second, it should use the new criteria from this new ordinance to measure whether old buildings meet the safety standards," said Ao.

In addition to Ao, Shen

Qiang, head of the Centre of Foundation and Prospecting at LECM, recommends for the local government to conduct an investigation into the types of soils in reclaimed lands.

The civil engineer suggested that "the most important step is that Macau should carry out an investigation regarding the possibility of soil liquefaction."

In the new urban zone,

the chances of soil liquefaction are low as the soils underwent a special treatment process during the reclamation.

## Macau should carry out an investigation regarding the possibility of soil liquefaction.

AO SHEN QIANG

However, Chen expressed his concerns about the risk of soil liquefaction in the Barra, NAPE and Fai Chi Kei areas, due to the lack of reclamation information and documents.

## Museum of Art exhibition showcases historic landscapes

**T**HE Museum of Art (MAM) is hosting the exhibition "Landscape of Change – Macau Watercolour Paintings from the MAM Collection," showcasing 70 watercolour paintings of local landscapes from 19th and 20th centuries.

In the 19th century, European artists George Chinnery and Auguste Borget depicted the coastal scenery of Macau through watercolour sketching or panoramic composition, the Cultural Affairs Bureau informed in a statement.

In the mid-20th century, Russian architect George Vita-



lievich Smirnov depicted buildings and streetscapes in a realistic way, showing Macau's "most precious and tranquil" scenes, while Luís Demeé, a student of Smirnov's, depicted

fishermen's lives on the glittering sea.

Meanwhile, during the middle and late 20th century, a group of local painters using watercolour as their medium of choice emerged.

They depicted society and people's livelihoods from a realistic perspective, but also tried to capture city scenes. These artists included Kam Cheong Ling, Tam Chi Sang, Lai Ieng

and Kwok Se, among others.

Through the perspectives and paintings of over 20 Chinese and foreign artists, the exhibition is divided into four themes: "The Coastline," "Peaceful Time," "Fishing Sceneries" and "Modern Glist," taking the audience on a journey through time by revisiting Macau's historical landscapes.

The exhibition, which runs until February 10, shows the changes in the city's urban landscapes over 100 years.

Additionally, the "Abstract Paintings from the MAM Collection" exhibition is currently being displayed at MAM and presents the artistic characteristics of Sino-Western cultural integration in Macau.

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# Gov't pledges to support companies affected by new offshore regulations

**N**EW offshore regulations are raising concerns in an industry that employs around 1,700 workers in 360 companies.

The Executive Council (ExCo) recently concluded their analysis of the new regime which will abolish existing regulations for offshore companies. The new rules will follow guidelines issued by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. Offshore institutions will only be allowed to have special tax-free status and stamp duty exemptions until June 2021.

The Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) is now establishing a "one-stop" service to provide support and information to the affected companies in collaboration with the Labour Affairs Bu-



reau (DSAL).

According to a statement from IPIM, the "one-stop" service aims to help institutions "transform themselves into general enterprises in Macau, continuing to run business and recruit workers in the territory and, therefore, intensifying their development in Macau." IPIM also notes that during the transition period (which ends December 31, 2020), "the institutions can adjust their [business] plans in order to meet the needs of

their businesses." It plans to facilitate bureaucratic affairs and create a series of tax exemptions so companies can transition during the period established by the new law.

The institute also pointed out the bill is still waiting to be discussed and approved by the Legislative Assembly, noting that "although these entities will not see their activities exempted of taxation after the transition period, the taxation in Macau is still lower than the neighboring

regions," a fact which, in their opinion, should continue to attract companies to stay and continue doing business in Macau.

Furthermore, IPIM, together with another institution, has conducted several studies regarding offshore regulations in Macau. Besides the abolishment of the current offshore regime, other proposals were considered," IPIM stated. However, "a final decision was made to abolish the legal regime."

## More restaurants operating, industry registers good revenue

In 2017, the number of restaurants and eating and drinking places went up by 48 year-on-year, and the number of persons engaged in the food and beverage industry increased by 181 to 32,594. Receipts and expenditure of these establishments amounted to MOP11.17 billion and MOP10.98 billion, up by 5.5 percent and 5 percent respectively year-on-year. According to a survey released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), restaurants and eating and drinking places registered increases across all items of expenditure. Expenditure spent on the purchase of goods (MOP4.10 billion), the compensation of employees (MOP3.85 billion) and operating expenses (MOP3.04 billion) rose by 7.4 percent, 2.5 percent and 5.1 percent respectively year-on-year. With respect to operating expenses, rent of establishments went up by 11.1 percent to MOP 1.35 billion, accounting for 44.4 percent of the total expenses. Electricity charges grew by 4.1 percent to MOP377 million.

## Youth forum on Greater Bay Area to be held

A forum on the role of youth in the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area will kick off on Saturday. The three-day event, with the theme "new opportunities for the development of young people through the construction of the Greater Bay Area," will include thematic forums and five parallel sessions. Meanwhile, an initiative is to be agreed to by 30 young representatives on the role of youth in the construction of the Greater Bay Area. More than 1,000 representatives are expected to attend the forum.

AD

## Oktoberfest Macau at MGM 2018

The annual Oktoberfest Macau at MGM will once again rock the town in October this year. To mark its 10th anniversary, the event will take place at MGM's newest resort hotel, MGM COTAI, with a more spacious environment for bigger crowds. Guests can experience the most authentic beerfest outside of Germany in the 11-day Bavarian party.

With Macau celebrating the 2018 Macao Year of Gastronomy, MGM aims to enhance the city's gastronomic development with its cultural and entertainment elements as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy. Once again, this year's event will be partnered with the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Hong Kong and the German Macau Business Association, and will be supported by the Macao Government Tourism Office.

In the past nine years, MGM has welcomed 127,473 beer lovers with 123,750 liters of beer and nearly 40,000 kilograms of roasted pork knuckles and chickens. MGM captures the essence of the festivities through the traditional German food and beverage, entertainments and decorations, delivering the most authentic Bavarian party atmosphere to Macau. The beloved Höggl Fün Band will once again fly over from Munich for several nights of dynamic live performances. Löwenbrau, one of the six genuine German Oktoberfest brews, is definitely one of the highlights. With the traditional German gastronomies, Bavarian patterned beer tent and ceiling wreaths, as well as a wide range of carnival game booths, all of these will craft Oktoberfest Macau at MGM a guaranteed fun and alive event that is just like the Munich Oktoberfest.



MGM is hosting Oktoberfest from October 18 to 29 (excluding 21).

We are giving away a total of 10 sets of entry tickets and F&B coupons.

Readers will have to correctly answer today's question for a chance at winning.

Each prize set includes:

Oktoberfest entry tickets x 2	\$340
F&B coupons	\$100
<b>Total set value</b>	<b>\$440</b>

### Ticket Reservation & Details

Date: September 17, 2018 - October 29, 2018  
Phone: +853 8802 2666  
Email: oktoberfest@mgm.mo  
Website: <https://www.mgm.mo/en/cotai/entertainment/oktoberfest-2018>  
Ticket Counters: MGM COTAI and MGM MACAU

Oktoberfest Macau at MGM October 18 - 29, 2018 (excluding October 21)  
6pm - 12am MOP170

Industry Day October 20, 2018  
11am - 3pm MOP100

Family Day October 28, 2018  
11am - 3pm MOP170

### Today's Question:

How long will the event last?

Please email your answer to:  
[oktoberfest2018@macaudailytimes.com](mailto:oktoberfest2018@macaudailytimes.com)  
along with your name and contact details



## Au expresses confusion regarding PJ's accusation

Lawmaker Au Kam San has confusion regarding the defamation accusation made by the Judiciary Police (PJ). "I don't understand. As a lawmaker and as a person who has the power to supervise the government, [I] brought out some doubts. How come these [doubts] become defamatory and false accusations?" Au wrote in his letter to PJ and the Chief Executive. "Regardless of the outcome [of the criminal proceedings], there will be a chilling effect associated with suppressing freedom of speech."

## Contractor loses Taipa ferry terminal appeal

The former contractor for the Taipa Ferry Terminal facility maintenance project lost their lawsuit against the government regarding the termination of contract. Previously on Dec. 30, 2016, the government outsourced the contract to the Focus-Gestão, Operação e Manutenção de Instalações, S.A.. The contract was signed on June 15, 2017. However, the tender was eventually terminated after another company, Companhia de CCCC Terceiro Macau, Limitada, filed a judicial appeal regarding the outsourcing and after the CE canceled the contract with Focus-Gestão, Operação e Manutenção de Instalações, S.A., having in turn awarded the contract to Companhia de CCCC Terceiro Macau, Limitada.

## Ticket scalper loses HKD120,000 to partner

A mainland ticket scalper has been cheated out of HKD120,000 by his Hong Kong accomplice. Last October, the two were working together to scalp tickets. The victim gave HKD121,000 to the suspect so he could buy 48 tickets for a concert scheduled in April of this year. However, the suspect, 24 has disappeared since then. The victim reported this to both the Hong Kong and Macau police authorities. On Sunday, the suspect was arrested. He admitted to reselling all the tickets in order to pay off his debts.



# Lawmakers visit China prior to AL resumption

A delegation of Macau lawmakers kicked off a visit to Beijing and Tianjin yesterday at the invitation of the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office of the State Council, and will return to Macau on Friday.

The visit takes place right before the resumption of the Legisla-

tive Assembly (AL) after a two-month summer break.

According to a report by the Macao Daily News, the visit has also been suggested by the Chief Executive, with the State Council's SARs Affairs Office inviting all of Macau's lawmakers to visit Beijing and Tianjin.

The delegation will meet with Tianjin People's Congress and Chinese leaders in Beijing.

The trip's purpose is said to be enhancing the MSAR's connection with mainland China, as well as the lawmakers' knowledge of the motherland.

Yesterday, a total of 29

lawmakers (including AL president Ho Iat Seng) departed from Macau International Airport. Three directly-elected lawmakers (Sulu Sou, Au Kam San and Ng Kuok Cheong) were absent from the delegation. Chan Chak Mo, who is currently on a trip to Europe representing a local association, also missed the trip.

## Sulu Sou, Au Kam San, Ng Kuok Cheong and Chan Chak Mo are absent from the delegation

When commenting on the visit, Ho said that many lawmakers hope to know more about the Greater Bay Area projects.

Economic concerns aside, lawmakers also expressed their expectations. In Song Pek Kei's opinion, nowadays, since mainland China's legislation system is rather advanced, Macau could benefit by learning from it.

Song also highlighted the special need for Macau to have enhanced communication between its administrative authority and legislation authority. **JZ**

## Mainland services failing to accept new smart IDs

SEVERAL Hong Kong and Macau residents have received their new mainland identity cards, but have noted that some systems still do not accept the permit. The residence permit is for people from Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan who have been living, working or studying in the mainland for at least six months.

The card gives them the same access as mainlanders to 18 public schemes and services, making it more convenient to access services spanning employment, social insurance, housing fund schemes, education and basic medical services.

Patrick Ho, a university student in Zhuhai, Guangdong, was among the first to apply for the residence permit.

However, when Ho tried to update his data on Alipay's mobile payment service using the smart card, the student was informed that the system was "not ready" to accept his new permit.



An applicant from Hong Kong provides fingerprint data while applying for the mainland residence permit

As cited in South China Morning Post, Ho discovered that some private and government electronic systems are not ready for the new residence permits.

He was informed by Alipay staff that the identity verification process relied on cross-checking by the mainland's public security authority. However, authorities have not included the new smart card in its crosschecking service.

A spokeswoman said the company, which has 870 million active users

worldwide, was still preparing to add the new residence permit to its verification process.

Similarly, a Zhuhai People's Hospital staff member also disclosed that its online appointments system does not recognize the residence permit.

Mainland authorities have not disclosed the total number approved so far, yet Xinhua reported last month that Zhuhai had received over 2,100 applications, which some 1,000 permit applications from Macau residents.

## Lusophone theatre in display during 10th Cultural Week

THE Fifth Theatre Display from Portuguese Speaking Countries (PLP) started yesterday and will run until October 23. The event is part of the 10th Cultural Week of China and Portuguese-speaking Countries. This year, the week aims to deepen cultural co-operation between China and PLP under the motto "One Belt, One Cultural Road," the organizer said in a statement.

The "TEATRAU," or Theatre Display, includes groups from countries and regions such as Macau, Brazil, Cape Verde, Angola and Guinea-Bissau. The shows can be seen on the main stage at Old Court Building in central Macau, and will have sessions held across the city, with the support of schools and other institutions.

The idea was promoted by the Portuguese Oriental Institute (IPOR) and will be

bringing five theater companies to the Black Box of the Old Court Building, each with a different approach to texts and characters, ranging from traditional to experimental dramaturgy.

Local group "Dream Theater Association" will represent Macau, with a theatrical piece inspired by the story of the Lai Chi Vun old shipyards, titled "Our Shipyard Victory." Shows will start at 8 p.m. and admission is free. On the weekend (October 13 and 14), there will be three sessions held per day, starting at 3 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

The company programs also include workshops and visits to institutions such as the Macau Polytechnic Institute, the University of Saint Joseph, Escola Oficial Zheng Guanying, ArtFusion and Escola Primária Luso-Chinesa da Flora. **RM**

**T**O date, Sands China Ltd (SCL) has spared no effort in helping rebuild the community following deadly Typhoon Hato that hit the city in August 2017.

Its continuing effort in providing relief aid has benefitted a number of large non-governmental organizations that support the city's most vulnerable groups.

Just last month, Sands China has once again initiated a series of measures to assist victims of the deadly typhoon.

The gaming operator has started a Hato Education Sponsorship Fund, benefiting six children and young adults who lost a parent to Typhoon Hato.

In support of their continuing education, the fund is part of the company's long-term support to the community in the aftermath of the storm.

Established along with Fidelidade – Insurance Company Limited (Life), SCL will provide a total of MOP6 million to the affected children and young adults, with MOP 1 million allocated for each recipient.

“Sands China remains dedicated to offering continuous support to those in need after Typhoon Hato,” said Sands China Ltd. president Dr. Wilfred Wong.

“After understanding the dire situation of children and young adults whose families suffered severe losses, we began developing a plan to help. This education fund will provide crucial support for their studies, as education is essential for their development and success in life. Our gratitude goes toward the Social Welfare Bureau for their help in coordinating this effort.”

The ongoing support of the company did not stop there. Also in September, it donated nine brand new service vehicles to four NGOs as part of the gaming operator's long-term support to the community.

These organizations include Caritas Macau, Macau Special Olympics, the Association of Parents of the People with Intellectual Disabilities of Macau, and the General Union of Neighbourhood Associations of Macau (UGAMM).

The donation of nine vehicles includes buses, 7-seater vans and other vehicles, with some being modified for users with reduced mobility. Beneficiaries of the services provided by these vehicles include the elderly and the physically or mentally disabled.

“Sands China is pleased to be able to offer long-term support to the community as it continues to recover from Typhoon Hato,” said Dr Wilfred Wong.

“The delivery of these new service vehicles is the culmination of our efforts to keep the operations and services of these local NGOs running smoothly after having provided ongoing transportation assistance after

# Sands China boosts ongoing assistance to victims of Hato



## The gaming operator has started a Hato Education Sponsorship Fund, benefiting six children and young adults who lost a parent to Hato

the storm. Our company is grateful to the Macau government for its continued support and coordination in this and many other post-Hato recovery efforts throughout the community.”

SCL's transportation assistance to the NGOs immediately after Hato has included providing vans and drivers to support organisations like Caritas Macau and its Good Take Express service until the new vehicles could be donated to replace those damaged in the storm.

SCL has also previously donated a total of MOP1 million to four NGOs, MOP 250,000 each, for their emergency use, such as for the repair of typhoon-dama-

ged service vehicles to NGO's including Caritas Macau, Macau Special Olympics, the Association of Parents of the People with Intellectual Disabilities of Macau and Fuhong Society.

In the immediate aftermath of the typhoon, SCL contacted these organizations and were quick to offer transportation assistance in a bid to sustain normal operations, particularly for students who needed it most.

This type of post-typhoon

transportation assistance has amounted to an investment of nearly MOP4 million, and facilitated over 6,400 trips made over the last year. The donation of the nine new vehicles comes to a tax-exempt MOP4 million, bringing the company's total post-Hato transportation support to around MOP8 million. SCL has been tirelessly working with the community to provide continuous support in areas of need since the typhoon,

including the sending of its volunteer teams to these NGOs to offer assistance.

In addition to transportation, this has included technical support, SME support, restoration of damaged homes in Coloane and clearing debris.

The company has pledged to donate MOP 65 million – MOP 30 million from Sands China and a MOP 35 million contribution from the Adelson Family Foundation – to assist with longer term relief, recovery and rebuilding efforts in the city.

**\*This article is sponsored by Sands China Ltd.**

### WHAT BENEFICIARIES SAY

“More than 20 of our vehicles were flooded so when SCL heard about this, they contacted us immediately. With this donation, we will use the vehicles to help the elderly or people in need of transport to go the hospital, or government departments.

After these two cars arrived, we improved our service quality, improving the number of the services. Several service recipients could travel in cars together, which saved our resources.”

**Ng Siu Lai**, President of Board of Directors of General Union of Neighbourhood Associations of Macau

“SCL has always given support and encouragement to children with mental disabilities and the families of these children. They helped us fixed

windows and doors and immediately promised to donate 24-seater buses, as our buses had been inundated in the flood. They immediately made arrangements for buses and drivers for us for our long-term usage, for a long time. The drivers have a very good manner, especially toward people with autism.”

**Chang Tak Toi**, President of the General Assembly of Association of the Parents of the People with Intellectual Disabilities of Macau

“SCL took the initiative to contact us, asking us for what we need. They were very considerate. We were anxious when our vehicles were flooded, as we have approximately 10 cars, which were basically used to send children with mental disabilities to school.

After Hato, we were a bit lost regarding how to re-start our service but the company donated immediately. Most importantly, they showed us how they might help us. Not only did they donate cars for us to use, they also arranged cars to help us send students to schools throughout the 2017/2018 academic year.”

**Siu Yu Ning**, Vice Chairman of Macau Special Olympics

“The drivers that were sent by SCL were very patient. We know that the vehicles need to be imported and that treatment for the disabled people cannot wait. So, they quickly dispatched their cars and drivers from September last year for a successive period of ten months.”

**Paul Pun**, secretary general of Caritas Macau

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SURVEY

# Macau out of top five overseas destinations for mainland tourists

**M**ACAU has fallen out of the top five most popular overseas tourism destinations for mainland tourists during the Chinese National Day holiday, according to statistics released by Alipay and Alitrip, both under the parent company Ant Financial.

In 2017, the top five most popular overseas tourism destinations for mainland Chinese tourists were Thailand, Japan, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan. This year, they were Japan, Thailand, Hong Kong, South Korea and Taiwan.

Furthermore, statistics show that the number of Alipay transactions made in Macau were nearly triple that of last year. The overall number of transactions made in Macau during the Chinese holiday this year was 2.6 times that of last year, with an average of RMB1,009 spent per person.

Average consumption was also 1.5 times that of the same period in 2017.

In the business area around the Ruins of St. Paul, the number of transactions was 2.3 times



## Alipay transactions made in Macau were nearly triple that of last year

mes that of last year, with average expenditure in the area doubling that of 2017.

In terms of number of transactions, various destinations in Asia continue to be the top of the list. Hong Kong remains the region where the largest number of overseas Alipay transactions were made, followed by Thailand and Japan.

The number of transactions in Hong Kong was 2.5 times that of the same period last year, with the per capita consumption estimated at RMB1,709, 1.4 times that of the same period in 2017.

According to the data available, the most popular places for mainland Alipay users to spend their money in Hong Kong are beauty stores, department stores and restaurants.

Among restaurants, Hong Kong-style and Western-style fast food restaurants have the highest number of transactions.

The country with the highest per capita consumption is Denmark (RMB8,764), followed by France and Italy. **JZ**

## 402 taxi offences seen in September

A total of 402 taxi offences were recorded by the Public Security Police Force (PSP) in September (355 in August), according to a statement released by PSP yesterday. Among them, 230 offences (57 percent) were related to overcharging and refusing to carry passengers. In August, 220 such offences were recorded. There were 87 cases (22 percent) of taxi drivers refusing to accept passengers and 85 cases involving other violations. In the third quarter, there was a total of 276 jaywalking cases.

## City to host its 1st international regatta

The 2019 Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area Cup Regatta & Macau Cup International Regatta will be held from January 10 to 13, 2019. A press conference was held yesterday at the Sports Bureau headquarters to announce the details of the event, which will be the first international regatta hosted by Macau. According to the Sports Bureau, which organizes the event with Across Four Oceans Sailing Event Management, the regatta will represent "a new era for Macau's international sailing competitions." With a 76.7 kilometer coastline, "Macau is endowed with the extraordinary geographical advantages in hosting international sailing events," states the Sports Bureau. **JZ**

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**PRAY FOR SULAWESI**  
A day of PRAYER & FUNDRAISING for the victims of  
2018 SULAWESI EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI

**TIME: 16:00 – 17:30 PM**  
**VENUE: Macau Assembly of God Church**  
E, G/F, 15 R. de Ferreira do Amaral (opposite Royal Hotel)

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## Google discloses privacy security flaw kept quiet since March

Gerrit De Vynck, Naomi Nix

ALPHABET Inc.'s Google said it found a "software glitch" in its Google+ social network in March that could have exposed the personal data of as many as half a million users, but decided not to tell the public until Monday.

Google chose not to disclose the flaw out of concern it would trigger regulatory backlash, especially in the wake of criticism against Facebook Inc. for its privacy failures, according to the Wall Street Journal, which initially reported the news Monday. In a statement posted to its blog minutes after the report, Google said it plans to shut down Google+ for consumers and introduce new privacy tools restricting how developers can use information on products ranging from email to file storage.

The internet giant found the flaw in March during an extensive privacy and security review, Ben Smith, Google vice president of engineering, said in the statement. An internal committee decided not to disclose the potential breach of Google+ because there wasn't evidence of any misuse of

the exposed data, which included names, email addresses, ages and occupations, Smith said. The bug was immediately fixed at the time, he said.

The news adds to Google's woes and further erodes the narrative that Facebook is the worst offender of the major technology companies on data privacy. Facebook has received months of harsh criticism for allowing a developer to spirit away user information and pass it to a political firm that worked in 2016 for Donald Trump's election campaign. In the last two months, U.S. politicians on both sides of the aisle have stepped up their attacks on Google, with Republicans accusing it of harboring biases against them and Democrats questioning whether the company has gotten too big and powerful.

"This has been going on for too long," said Marc Rotenberg, president of the Electronic Privacy Information Center. "Companies like Google experience these breaches. They don't report them. They don't suffer consequences."

The Federal Trade Commission needs to step up and start inves-

tigating the company's privacy practices, he said.

The FTC, as the nation's chief privacy watchdog, has the authority to investigate data breaches. In 2011, it found that Google broke its own privacy policies when it introduced its Buzz social network - a precursor to Google+. The company is still under a consent decree stemming from that incident that requires it to implement a privacy program. The FTC can fine companies when they violate terms of a consent decree.

Google+ never caught on as a social network. Even so, many users still technically have a profile that has personal information on it. Google will shut it down over the next 10 months for consumers, but keep a version built for businesses open and operating.

The other changes Google is making include requiring apps to ask separately for each type of information they want from a user, such as access to calendars or address books. On Gmail, Google's ubiquitous email service, only apps that improve email functionality will be allowed to request access. **Bloomberg**

## Hong Kong banks slash property valuations as home market teeters



**BANKS** in Hong Kong are aggressively cutting property valuations as the city's housing market weakens, threatening to fuel a downward spiral in prices, according to brokerage CLSA Ltd.

"The banks' assessment is often a self-fulfilling prophecy, as lower valuations will mean less lending," analysts led by Nicole Wong wrote in a note yesterday.

Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam is set to unveil measures today aimed at countering the housing crisis in a city that's topping global rankings for bubble risks and the least-affordable homes. The CLSA note adds to a drumbeat of bearish commentaries as rising interest rates threaten to drag down property prices that have been on a bull run for most of the past 15 years.

Lam will focus on measu-

res to boost supply, including converting industrial buildings into residential housing, building on farmland and reclaiming land from the sea, CLSA predicts.

"The government may also convert some private land supply into subsidized housing to take bigger control of housing supply," the analysts wrote. "Any more dramatic measures would be taken negatively and deepen the current price correction."

Recent market weakness has included a 1.6 percent decline in secondary home prices last month and a sharp dip over four months in a Centaline Property Agency valuation index, which reached the lowest level since 2015 in September, the analysts said.

UBS Group AG last month named Hong Kong as leading a Global Real Estate Bubble Index of 20 major centers. **Bloomberg**

### corporate bits

#### SANDS CHINA LAUNCHES TRAINING AIMED AT PREVENTING DISCRIMINATION



Sands China Ltd. has launched a new training module on recognising and preventing discrimination and harassment in the workplace in July, with the aim of training all of the company's more than 28,000 team members by the end of the year.

More than 15,000 Sands China team members have already completed the training within the first three months of its launch, the gaming operator announced in a statement.

"Establishing and maintaining a positive workplace

is essential for any business, and our company believes in providing an inclusive environment where discrimination and harassment are not tolerated, and respect and consideration are the norm," said Dr. Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd.

The company's formal policy for preventing discrimination and sexual harassment was established in July.

It seeks to promote a culture of respect and equity, and has a 'no tolerance' policy towards any type of harassment or discrimination. The policy further ensures that appropriate action is taken in cases where accusations of harassment or discrimination are made by or against team members.

#### WYNN TO HOLD BUSINESS MATCHING SESSIONS



Wynn Resorts is partnering with the Macao Chamber of Commerce to organize the Wynn Local SME Procurement Partnership Program 2018 - Business Matching Session for Small and Micro Enterprises, "Made in Macau" Enterprises, and Macau You-

ng Entrepreneurs Enterprises, on November 22.

The event to be held in the Grand Ballroom of Wynn Macau aimed at creating more business opportunities for SMEs and help facilitate their business growth.

The partnership meeting

will be arranged in advance through appointments, the gaming operator said in a press release.

Eligible enterprises are invited to send representatives to attend the meeting and develop business partnerships.

During the event, Wynn will collect information from three major types of enterprises via a questionnaire. The questionnaire aims to optimize Wynn's policies and measures to continuously support SMEs and local vendors. Relevant vendors can confirm their attendance and register for this business-matching session through the Online Business Matching Service Platform of the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute until October 24.



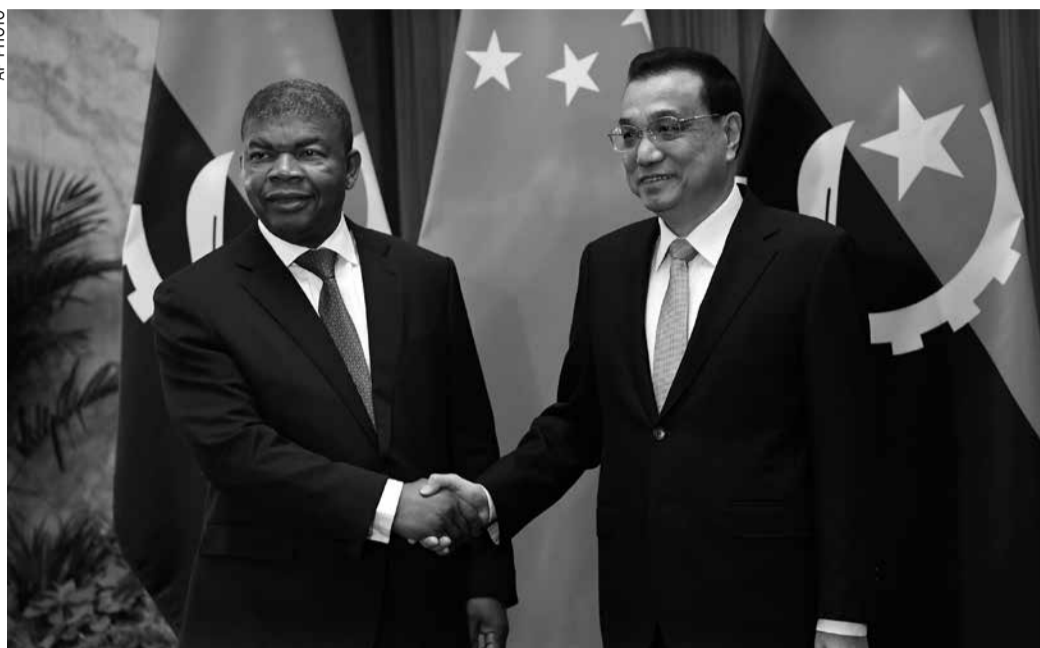
# Angola's president starts state visit to China

**T**HE Angolan President, João Lourenço, has begun his first State visit to the People's Republic of China since his inauguration in 2017, which is expected to result in the signing of three agreements and a memorandum of understanding, according to the Angolan press.

The first agreement is aimed at avoiding double taxation, the second covers economic and technical cooperation and the third deals with the opening of a credit line to be signed by the Development Bank of China and the Ministry of Finance.

The parties will also sign a memorandum of understanding on human resources, according to Angolan state news agency Angop.

China and Angola plan to deepen the strategic partnership between the two countries, which has already resulted in the opening of credit lines worth an estimated US\$23 billion provided by China to the Angolan government since 2002.



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang (right) shakes hands with João Lourenço prior to a meeting at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing

Although the visit has a strong economic focus, President João Lourenço and the delegation will also seek, over the two-day visit, to strengthen political and diplomatic cooperation.

To this end, meetings are scheduled with governors and leaders, including Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China, Li Zhanshu.

Lourenço is also due to meet with local business people, as well as visit to the Huawei Technology Centre and various enterprises in the city of Tianjin. Angola and China established diplomatic relations in 1983. **MDT/Macauhub**

# Tencent buys stake in Brazilian company Nubank



**C**HINESE group Tencent plans to invest USD200 million to buy a 5 percent stake in Brazilian financial technology company Nubank, according to The Information website.

The deal valued Nubank, a company that markets a credit card and online bank accounts, at USD4 billion, double the amount it was valued for in March, making this business one of the most valuable in Latin America.

The Tencent group owns the WeChat application, which has its own mobile payment system, WeChat Pay, so following this acquisition it is expected to share technology with the Brazilian company.

Nubank reached the market in 2013 with a digital credit card with no annual fee and, according to the Brazilian press, was successful in a market marked by the concentration of large financial institutions, more recently providing customers with digital accounts.

Brazilian business magazine Exame reported that digital bank Nubank has 5 million customers in the credit card segment, which places the company among the five largest issuers in Brazil. **MDT/Macauhub**

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## ALBERGUE SCM

婆仔屋文創空間



### Sculpture: A Journey

Exhibition by António Leça  
Celebration of Day of Portugal, Camões, and the Portuguese Communities  
Duration of the Exhibition  
June 13th, 2018 until October 21th, 2018  
Opening Hours  
Tuesday to Sunday from 12:00pm to 8:00pm  
Monday from 3:00pm to 8:00pm  
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AP PHOTO



# Beijing promises not to weaken yuan, criticizes US concern

CHINA promised yesterday not to weaken its currency to boost exports during a tariff fight with Washington and rejected U.S. concern about the yuan's sagging exchange rate as groundless and irresponsible. Beijing has no intention of using "competitive devaluation," said a foreign ministry spokesman, Lu Kang. A U.S. official told reporters

in Washington the Trump administration is concerned about the weakening yuan. The official spoke on condition of anonymity ahead of Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin's trip to Indonesia for meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. The tightly controlled yuan has lost almost 10 percent of its value against the dollar this

year. That prompted suggestions Beijing might weaken the currency to help exporters that face punitive U.S. tariffs of up to 25 percent. However, the decline also threatens to damage the Chinese economy by encouraging capital to flow out of the world's second-largest economy, increasing borrowing costs at a time when communist leaders

are trying to shore up cooling growth. The central bank intervened in August and tightened controls to discourage speculative trading. Weaker Chinese economic growth "is likely to further weigh on" the exchange rate, Luc Luyet of Pictet Wealth Management said in a report. On Monday, the yuan sank to a 22-month low of 6.93 to the

dollar, making one yuan worth about 14.4 cents. It edged up to 6.92 to the dollar yesterday.

The U.S. official's comments were "groundless speculation and irresponsible," said Lu at a regular news briefing.

Washington and Beijing have imposed punitive tariffs of up to 25 percent on billions of dollars of each other's goods in an escalating fight over U.S. complaints China steals or pressures companies to hand over technology.

Analysts say the yuan's decline has been driven mostly by China's slowing economic growth and the divergence between U.S. and Chinese interest rates.

The margin of decline has been unusually wide because other currencies in the basket used by the Chinese central bank to set exchange rates have not risen along with the greenback.

The central bank is trying to make the yuan more market-oriented and flexible but has intervened when the currency threatened to slide too far.

Its August controls require traders to post deposits for contracts to buy or sell yuan. That allows trading to continue but raises the cost in hopes of deterring speculators.

Beijing imposed similar controls in October 2015 after a change in the exchange rate mechanism prompted markets to bet the yuan would fall. The currency temporarily steadied but fell the following year.

The central bank is likely to prevent the yuan from crossing the "psychological threshold" of seven to the dollar, Luyet said. That would represent a decline of another 1 percent from Monday's level.

"One should not underestimate the central bank's resolve," he said. AP

# Taiwan holds military drill with Paraguay amid China tension

TAIWANESE President Tsai Ing-wen hosted her Paraguayan counterpart yesterday at a military exercise in a sign of the island's determination to withstand China's diplomatic onslaught.

The joint land and air training exercise simulated an attempt by Chinese forces to attack a Taiwanese air base in the north of the island.

China claims Taiwan as its own territory and has been whittling away at the self-governing island's pool of diplomatic allies, leaving it now with just 17, including Paraguay.



Taiwanese soldiers take position during a military drill in Taoyuan city, Northern Taiwan, yesterday

Defense Ministry spokesman Chen Chong-chi said inviting Para-

guayan President Mario Abdo Benitez to view the exercise alongside Tsai

would "help strengthen the friendship between the two countries" and

boost future civilian and military exchanges.

Taiwan and China separated amid civil war in 1949. Beijing has vowed to bring the island under its control by force if deemed necessary.

Last month, the United States recalled its envoys to the Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Panama after decisions by those nations to cut ties with Taiwan in favor of diplomatic relations with China.

While Washington formally recognizes only China, it remains a close Taiwanese ally and maintains a de facto embassy in the island's capital, Taipei.

China cut off contacts with Tsai's government shortly after her 2016 inauguration and has repeatedly demanded that she endorse the "one-Chi-

na" principle that designates Taiwan as a part of China.

Along with poaching diplomatic allies, China has blocked Taiwan's participation in international meetings such as the World Health Assembly and has pressured multinational companies ranging from fashion brands to airlines to describe Taiwan as part of China.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has also sent warships, bombers and fighter planes on training missions circling the island in an attempt to intimidate Tsai's supporters. Xi has declared that the issue of bringing Taiwan under Chinese control cannot be postponed indefinitely and some analysts believe he is determined to accomplish that feat during his time in office. AP

## KOREAS

# Seoul says Kim Jong Un wants Pope Francis to visit North

Kim Tong-Hyung, Seoul

**N**ORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un wants Pope Francis to visit the officially atheist country, South Korea said yesterday.

South Korea's presidential office said in a statement that Kim told President Moon Jae-in during their summit last month that the pope would be "enthusiastically" welcomed in North Korea.

Kim has been intensely engaged in diplomacy in recent months in what's seen as an effort to leverage his nuclear weapons program for an easing of economic sanctions and military pressure.

North Korea strictly controls the religious activities of its people, and a similar invitation for then-Pope John Paul II to visit after a 2000 inter-Korean summit never resulted in a meeting. The Vatican insisted at the time that a papal visit would only be possible if Catholic priests were accepted in North Korea.

Moon plans to convey Kim's desire for a papal visit when he travels to the Vatican next week. Moon said on Monday that he expects Kim to visit Russia soon and possibly hold a summit with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

The Vatican did not comment on the possibility of a papal visit.

AP PHOTO



But immediately after the news, the Vatican press office released a statement confirming that the pope would receive South Korea's president in an audience at the Vatican on Oct. 18.

Vatican spokesman Greg Burke said the audience will come a day after the Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, celebrates a Mass for peace on the Korean Peninsula in St. Peter's Basilica, where Moon will participate.

Francis visited South Korea in August 2014. On the plane ride back to Rome, he expressed hope

that the divisions would be overcome, saying "the two Koreas are brothers, they speak the same language."

"When you speak the same language it is because you have the same mother, and this gives us hope," the pope said. "The suffering of the division is great, and I understand this and pray that it ends."

North Korea's reported overture comes a few weeks after the Vatican signed a landmark deal with Communist China, North Korea's closest ally, over bishop nominations, aimed at ending decades

of tensions that contributed to dividing the Chinese church and hampered efforts at improving relations between China and the Vatican.

Following an unusually provocative run of weapons tests last year, Kim has been on a diplomatic offensive since the start of this year.

He initiated offers for summits with Seoul and Washington, which led to three meetings with Moon and a highly choreographed June summit with U.S. President Donald Trump at which they issued an aspirational goal of

a nuclear-free peninsula, without describing how or when it would occur.

Kim has presented himself as an international statesman, sharing food, wine and laughs with South Korean officials and appearing thoroughly at ease during his meeting with Trump in Singapore.

But post-summit nuclear negotiations between North Korea and the United States got off to a rocky start, with the North accusing Washington of making "gangster-like" unilateral demands for denuclearization, and calling for sanctions to be lifted before any further progress in nuclear talks.

## North Korea strictly controls the religious activities of its people

There are doubts whether Kim is willing to fully relinquish his country's nuclear weapons, which he may see as a stronger guarantee of survival than whatever security assurances the United States could provide.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo visited Kim in Pyongyang, North Korea's capital, on Sunday for talks on setting up a second summit with Trump.

The Vatican's priests were expelled by North Korea long ago and state-appointed laymen officiate services.

Estimates of the number of North Korean Catholics range from 800 to about 3,000, compared to more than 5 million in South Korea. AP

## MALAYSIA

# Gov't plans new taxes to help pay off snowballing debt

**M**ALAYSIAN Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng said yesterday the government plans to introduce new tax measures to help raise funds to pay off national debt that has snowballed due to corruption under the previous government.

Lim said it will take the government three years to resolve its fiscal woes due to more than 1 trillion ringgit (USD240.5 billion) in debt and another 35 billion ringgit (\$8.4 billion) in newly discovered unpaid tax refunds that were not disclosed by the previous government.

"Fiscal consolidation will not be achieved easily, and we must be willing to expect some pain and even offer some sacrifice. We would need 3 years to resolve the fiscal issues,"

AP PHOTO



Mahathir: the fiscal problems have turned Malaysia from an Asian tiger into a "small kitten"

Lim told an economic forum. He didn't give details of the tax measures but said these will be announced in the 2019 federal budget that will be unveiled Nov. 2.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad told the forum the fiscal problems have turned Malaysia from an Asian tiger into a "small kitten."

"It is going to be tough

for the government because it inherited a country that is completely disoriented," said Mahathir, who was elected a second time to become the world's oldest leader at 93. "We may have to devise new taxes in order to have the money to pay our debts. Of course the other thing we can do is to sell our assets."

Anger over massive corruption at the 1MDB state investment fund prompted Mahathir — who led Malaysia for 22 years until 2003 — to make a political comeback and turn on his former party. Mahathir's alliance won a stunning victory in May 9 elections to oust scandal-tainted former Prime Minister Najib Razak, ushering in the country's first change of power since inde-

pendence from Britain in 1957.

The country's huge debt is partly due to losses from the 1MDB fund set up by Najib that led voters to abandon him, and sparked investigations in the U.S. and several other countries. U.S. investigators say Najib's associates stole and laundered at least \$4.5 billion from the fund.

Najib and his wife Rosmah have been charged with multiple counts of corruption and money laundering linked to 1MDB, after Mahathir reopened investigations into the fund that were suppressed during Najib's rule. The couple have both pled not guilty and Najib has accused the government of seeking political vengeance against his family.

The new government has reviewed large infrastructure projects, including Chinese investment, to cut costs. It also is seeking ways to bolster revenues to pay off debts and plug deficits expected after it scrapped an unpopular goods and services tax.

Lim said the government may sell its equity in state-owned companies to raise funds but will aim to strike a balance between fiscal consolidation and ensuring productive spending and investment.

"While it is imperative for the government to be prudent with our expenditure, we are equally cognizant that we must not fall into the austerity trap. What we want is merely to get a bigger bang for the buck," Lim said at the forum.

Thomas Kutty Abraham

TOKYO will lose the crown of being the world's most populous city to Jakarta by 2030, according to Euromonitor International.

The population in Jakarta, the capital city of Indonesia, will reach 35.6 million as it is forecast to add 4.1 million people between 2017 and 2030, Euromonitor said in a report. In contrast, Tokyo's population will shrink by about 2 million to 35.3 million because of aging, it said. Karachi is forecast to be at third place, followed by Manila and Cairo.

The population boom will bring challenges to Jakarta, where traffic was ranked as the world's third worst in TomTom's congestion index. Six new megacities, defined as having a population of at least 10 million, are expected to rise: Chicago, Bogota, Chennai, Baghdad, Luanda in Angola and, Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, Euromonitor forecast.

While cities from emerging economies are on the rise, those from developed countries will still be more affluent and remain key consumer markets in the future. The total disposable income of a developed megacity will be around five times larger than the one in an emerging market in 2030, Euromonitor estimated.

"Key consumer markets of the future will still be located in developed megacities, guaran-

# Jakarta to topple Tokyo as world's most populous city by 2030

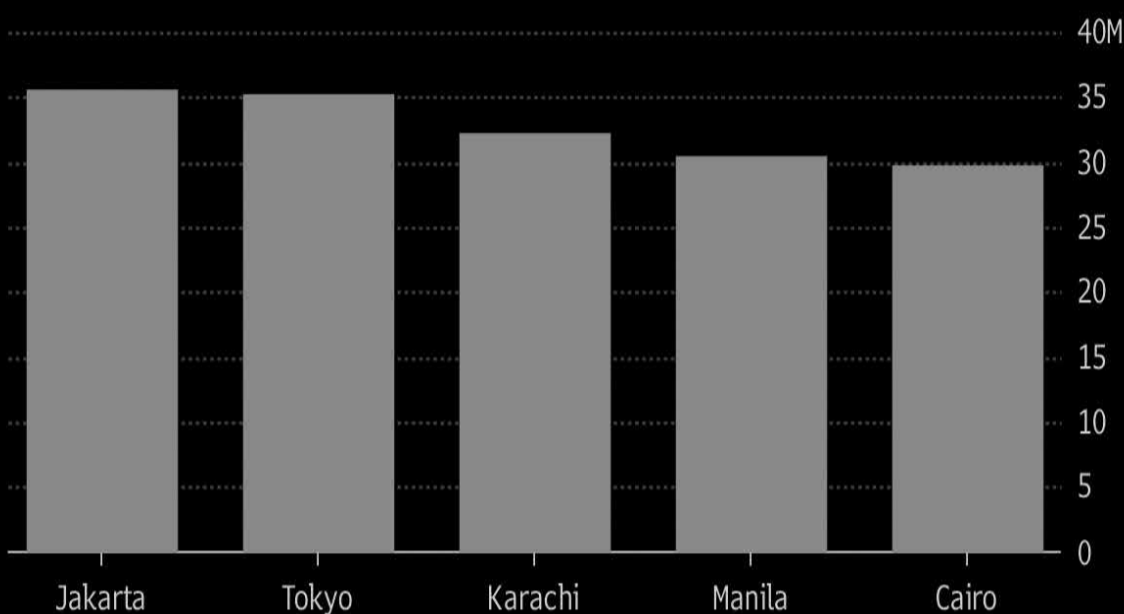
teeing higher incomes paired with more advanced housing, health care, and transportation infrastructures," Fransua Vytautas Razvadauskas, a senior city analyst at Euromonitor, said in a statement.

### The population in Jakarta will reach 35.6m as it is forecast to add 4.1 million people between 2017 and 2030

According to the report, 9 percent of world's population will live in 39 megacities by 2030. Urbanization is taking hold in Africa and Cairo will emerge as the largest city in the region by 2030 with a population of 29.8 million. Osaka predicted to be the oldest megacity in the world with 31 percent of its population aged over 65 years. **Bloomberg**

## Five Largest Megacities

Jakarta to overtake Tokyo as the most populous city by 2030



Source: Euromonitor International

Bloomberg

AD



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monitor: **Cristina Vinhas**

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local/venue:  
Avenida do Dr. Francisco Vieira Machado n.º431 - 487 Edf. Industrial Nam Fung 8º andar B, Macau

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

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## AUSTRALIA

# Government mulls banning some immigrants from biggest cities

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

**S**TARTING a new life in Australia might not come with views of the Sydney Opera House or surfing at the city's Bondi Beach with the government considering a ban on some immigrants from settling in big cities.

Minister for Cities, Urban Infrastructure and Population Alan Tudge said yesterday that his government wants to cut the number of immigrants moving to Sydney and Melbourne in a bid to reduce congestion in Australia's two biggest cities.

Tudge said placing conditions on visas that force immigrants to stay in less popular centers for several years would increase the likelihood that they would settle in those places permanently.

"Nearly every visa has conditions attached to it, so it wouldn't be unusual to have a geographic attachment to a particular visa," Tudge told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

Australia is one of the most sparsely populated countries in the world, but has long had a high proportion of its population — currently 25 million people — living in cities. Around two in every five Australians live in Sydney and Melbourne alone.

The government is considering banning immigrants from settling in Sydney and Melbourne for five years after they arrive in the country, The Australian newspaper reported.

Tudge would not say how immigrants might be punished if they strayed from where they

AP PHOTO



Starting a new life in Australia might not come with views of the Sydney Opera House

were supposed to live or whether they might be deported. "We haven't outlined all of the precise details just yet," he said.

Australia has the fastest population growth of any advanced Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development country other than Canada, growing 1.6 percent a year. But the population of Melbourne grew last year by 2.7 percent, the population of the southeast corner of Queensland state around Brisbane and the Gold Coast grew by 2.3 percent, and Sydney

grew by 2.1 percent.

The main driver of population growth in Sydney and Melbourne was overseas migration, with 87 percent of skilled migrants to Australia and almost all refugees gravitating to those cities. Growth in the Brisbane-Gold Coast region reflected higher levels of population shift within Australia and a higher birthrate.

Tudge said some categories of immigrants would be exempt from geographic blocks. Migrants who were sponsored by employers would be able to work

where employers need them and those on family reunion visas, typically a foreigner marrying an Australia, would also be free to live where they chose. Sponsored employees make up 25 percent of Australia's immigrant intake and family reunion visas make up 30 percent.

Marion Terrill, an expert on cities and transport from the Melbourne-based Grattan Institute think tank, said governments need to improve infrastructure in major cities rather than curb population growth.

"People are voting with their feet, they want to be in cities and so I think the job for government is to ensure that cities work and that people can get around rather than to try to get people to go where they don't want to go," Terrill said.

Melissa Montero, an immigrant advocate and chief executive of the Sydney-based Community Migrant Resource Center, said immigrants need social support, language services as well as jobs to successfully re-settle.

**“**Nearly every visa has conditions attached to it, so it wouldn't be unusual to have a geographic attachment to a particular visa.**”**

ALAN TUDGE  
MINISTER FOR CITIES

Carla Wilshire, another immigrant advocate and chief executive of Migrant Council Australia in Canberra, suggested that government invest in services outside Sydney and Melbourne to make smaller towns more attractive to immigrants.

Mark Morey, secretary of Unions NSW, which represents trade unions in New South Wales state, said the government's plan would leave immigrants isolated, with fewer job options and with less pay than they could hope for in big cities. **AP**

## PAKISTAN

# Finance minister to seek IMF loan to avert meltdown

**P**AKISTAN says it will seek a bailout loan from the International Monetary Fund to address a mounting balance of payments crisis, Finance Minister Asad Umar said.

Umar said he will hold talks with IMF officials later this month.

Analysts say Pakistan hopes to secure USD8 billion in loans to avoid an economic meltdown. It also wants fresh loans from China, which has already invested heavily in roads and the energy sector.

After a visit last week, the IMF issued a report saying Pakistan is facing

AP PHOTO



significant economic challenges, with declining growth, high fiscal and

current account deficits, and low levels of international reserves.

IMF senior economist Harald Finger, who led the visit, said the pro-

blems mostly stemmed from an overvalued exchange rate and excessively easy credit.

"The fast rise in international oil prices, normalization of US monetary policy, and tightening financial conditions for emerging markets are adding to this difficult picture. In this environment, economic growth will likely slow significantly, and inflation will rise," he said in a statement.

Washington, which recently suspended military aid to Pakistan over its alleged failure to crack down on the Taliban, has expressed concern about

IMF funds being used to repay Chinese loans.

Pakistan has been approaching the IMF since the 1980s, and received a \$6.7 billion loan in 2013.

The IMF report said Pakistan's government has already begun moving in the right direction but had not gone far enough.

"Decisive policy action and significant external financing will be needed to stabilize the economy," it said.

It urged the government to relax controls on its currency and to do more to help the poor to help lay the foundations for sustainable growth. **AP**

# Turkey to search Saudi Consulate for missing journalist

**T**URKEY said yesterday it will search the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul as part of an investigation into the disappearance of a missing Saudi contributor to The Washington Post, a week after he vanished during a visit there.

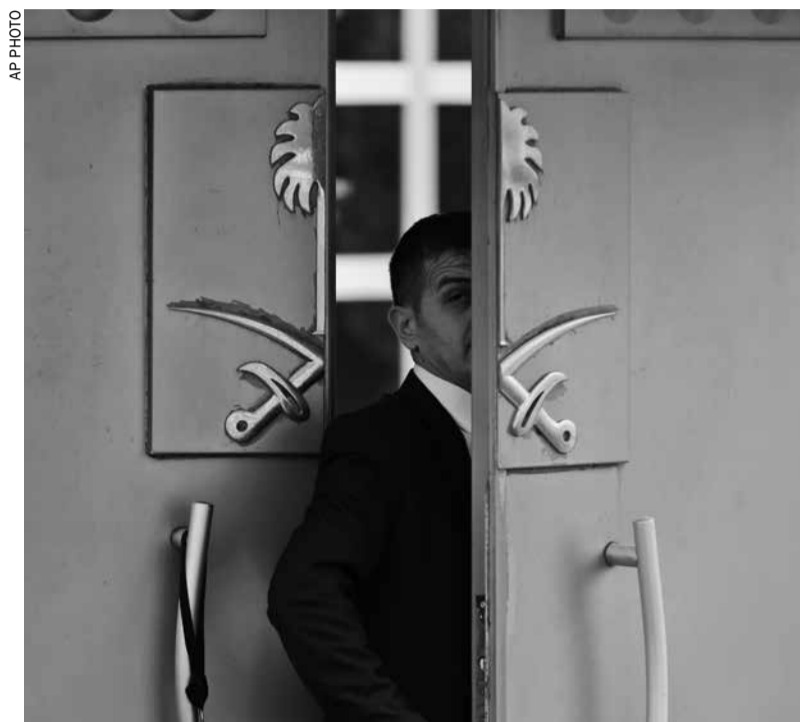
The announcement came as the Post published a surveillance image of Jamal Khashoggi walking into the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul, just before he disappeared. Turkish officials have said they fear the columnist was killed inside the premises.

Saudi Arabia has called the allegations that it killed 59-year-old Khashoggi “baseless” but has offered no evidence over the past seven days to show that he ever left the building.

Yesterday’s statement from the Turkish Foreign Ministry’s spokesman, Hami Aksoy, said Saudi authorities have notified Ankara that they were “open to cooperation” and would allow the consulate building to be searched. The ministry did not say when the premises would be searched.

Officials in Saudi Arabia did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The surveillance image released by the Post bore a date and time stamp, as well as a Turkish caption bearing Khashoggi’s name and that he was arriving to the consulate. The Post said “a person close to the investigation” shared the image with



A security guard walks in the Saudi Arabia consulate in Istanbul

them, without elaborating.

The door Khashoggi walked in through appeared to be the main entrance of the consulate in Istanbul’s 4th Levent neighborhood, a leafy, upscale district near the city’s financial hub that’s home to several other consulates. However, the consulate has other entrances and exits as well, through which Saudi officials insist he left.

It’s unclear which camera the footage came from, nor who operated it. However, a number of closed-circuit surveillance cameras surround

the area. Friends of Khashoggi say Turkish police have taken possession of footage from the neighborhood as part of their investigation.

The Saudis have offered no surveillance footage or evidence to corroborate their claims, nor have Turkish authorities offered proof to show why they believe the columnists was killed there.

“If the story that was told about the murder is true, the Turks must have information and videotape and other documents to back it up,” Fred Hiatt, the Post’s editorial page editor, told

The Associated Press. “If the story the Saudis are telling, that he just walked out [...] after half an hour, if that’s true, they ought to have facts and documents and evidence and tapes to back that up.”

Hiatt added that the “idea of a government luring one of its own citizens onto its own diplomatic property in a foreign country to murder him for the peaceful expression of his views would be unimaginable.”

Khashoggi had gone to the consulate in Istanbul for paperwork to marry his Turkish fiancée. He had been living since last year in the United States, in a self-imposed exile, in part due to the rise of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the son of King Salman.

As a contributor to the Post, Khashoggi has written extensively about Saudi Arabia, including criticizing its war in Yemen, its recent diplomatic spat with Canada and its arrest of women’s rights activists after the lifting of a ban on women driving. All those issues have been viewed as being pushed by Prince Mohammed, who similarly has led roundups of activists, businessmen and others in the kingdom.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Monday urged the Saudis to back up their claim that Khashoggi left the consulate.

“Now when this person enters,

whose duty is it to prove that he left or not? It is (the duty) of the consulate officials,” Erdogan said during a visit to Hungary. “Don’t you have cameras and other things? Why don’t you prove it, you have to prove it.”

Turkey summoned the Saudi ambassador on Sunday to request the kingdom’s “full cooperation” in the investigation, a Foreign Ministry official said. The Turkish private NTV television said Ankara asked for permission for its investigators to search the consulate building, but a Foreign Ministry official would not confirm the report. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to reporters about the subject.

Ties between Ankara and Riyadh are at a low point over Turkey’s support for Qatar in its year-long dispute with Saudi Arabia and other Gulf nations. Turkey sent food to Qatar and deployed troops at its military base there.

A Sunni power, Saudi Arabia is also annoyed by Ankara’s rapprochement with the kingdom’s Shiite archrival, Iran.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia faced increased scrutiny over Khashoggi’s disappearance from officials in America, the kingdom’s longtime ally. Even President Donald Trump, who took his first overseas trip as U.S. president to the kingdom and whose son-in-law Jared Kushner has close ties to Prince Mohammed, said he had concerns.

“I don’t like hearing about it. And hopefully that will sort itself out,” Trump said. “Right now, nobody knows anything about it, but there are some pretty bad stories going around. I do not like it.” AP

## BULGARIA

# Radio says suspect arrested over journalist slaying

Teodora Barzakova, Ruse

**B**ULGARIAN national radio reported yesterday that a suspect has been arrested in connection with the slaying of television reporter Viktoria Marinova, whose body was found dumped after she highlighted possible government corruption.

Tuesday’s report said that according to unconfirmed information from the interior ministry, the suspect is “a Romanian citizen with a passport from Moldova.” No other information was immediately available.

Police are investigating the rape and slaying of Marinova, 30, whose strangled body was found Saturday near the Danube River. Marinova hosted a show last month featuring two investigative journalists who



A woman places flowers next to a portrait of slain television reporter Viktoria Marinova

were detained for their work on suspected fraud involving EU funds.

The interior ministry said late Monday that prosecutors had opened an investigation into GP Group, a large private Bulgarian building company alleged to have misused the EU money, and froze 14 million

euros (USD16 million) of its assets.

While Marinova did not appear to have been closely involved in the fraud investigation, her show touched on a sensitive subject in Bulgaria, where corruption is endemic. The Balkan nation joined the EU in 2007 and was ranked 71st on Trans-

parency International’s corruption list last year. Joining the bloc opened an enormous spigot of possible new EU funding for Bulgarian infrastructure projects or other programs designed to bring the nation up to EU standards.

Journalists’ groups and European leaders expressed shock at Marinova’s murder. Margaritis Schinas, spokesman for European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, said Monday the commission expected “a swift and thorough investigation [...] that will bring those responsible to justice and clarify whether this attack was linked to her work.”

He quoted Juncker as saying previously that “too many” journalists are being intimidated, attacked or murdered and “there is no

democracy without a free press.”

The German government also sharply condemned the slaying, with the Foreign Ministry saying it was imperative “that there’s a fast investigation and that this horrible event will be illuminated as comprehensively as possible.”

Bulgarian Interior Minister Mladen Marinov insisted Monday there was no evidence to suggest the killing was linked to Marinova’s work.

Marinova was a director of TVN, a TV station in Ruse, and a TV presenter for two investigative programs. Her final show on Sept. 30 was a program about Attila Biro, an investigative journalist with the Rise Project Romania, and Dimitar Stoyanov from the Bulgarian investigative site Bivol.

The two men were briefly detained Sept. 13 south of Sofia as they investigated a tip that documents connected to suspected fraud involving EU funds were being destroyed.

Bivol.bg owner Assen Yordanov said he couldn’t directly link Marinova’s slaying to her work, but noted her show tackled “our very sensitive investigation into the misuse of EU funds.”

“This is a topic on which no other Bulgarian national media dared to report on,” he told The Associated Press.

Biro told the AP he had never met Marinova — he said one of her colleagues had interviewed him and Stoyanov about their work. “They are on the right path, but let’s see how the investigation proceeds,” he said. AP

# Tycoon going on SpaceX rocket says he trusts Musk

Yuri Kageyama, Tokyo

**T**HE Japanese online retail tycoon who plans to travel to the moon on the SpaceX rocket says he respects and trusts Elon Musk as a fellow entrepreneur, despite his recent troubles.

"Twitter can get you into trouble," Yusaku Maezawa, chief executive of Zozo Inc., said yesterday at the Foreign Correspondents' Club in Tokyo. "And that can be said of Elon Musk, too."

Musk's tweet in August that declared he had secured financing for a Tesla buyout got him in trouble with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Under a settlement, Tesla and Musk each must pay a \$20 million penalty. Musk also stepped down as Tesla's chairman.

Maezawa, 42, who is also quite active on social media, intends to be a passenger on Musk's SpaceX, the first-ever private commercial space trip, scheduled for blast-off in 2023, to orbit the moon, in what Maezawa has dubbed his "#dearMoon Project."



Zozo Chief Executive Yusaku Maezawa

Maezawa said he got a good feel for Musk's character by visiting Tesla, and seeing the relationship Musk had developed with his employees. "They believe in Elon Musk," he said. "That kind of company is marvelous. I felt that as another entrepreneur."

Although Maezawa said nothing was decided yet on who was going with him on the space travel, he said he wanted to take visual artists, fashion designers and musicians from a variety of

backgrounds, including the actress he was dating, Ayame Goriki, "if she proves to be a good match for the mission."

Maezawa said his company has a twitter policy, and experts go over his tweets in advance. Sometimes he gets emotional on social media, but he is careful not to say anything that might hurt his company, he said.

Recently, he took to his twitter and Instagram accounts to lash out at online hecklers, who had

ridiculed his halting rendition of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" on an expensive Stradivarius violin he had just purchased.

Maezawa is known for lavish purchases, including artworks by Jean-Michel Basquiat and Andy Warhol. But he is equally known for sharing them with the public.

He shrugged off the possible dangers of space, just as he brushed off the risks of tweets and associations with Musk. "There is no end if you start thinking about that," he said of the risks.

Maezawa said he has not yet started training for the mission, but he has been getting regular medical checkups and is brushing up on his English.

In a nation where people tend to be focused on blending in and getting along, Maezawa has stood out. Forbes magazine estimates his wealth at \$2.9 billion.

Maezawa ran an import CD business and played in a rock band before he embarked on his online fashion business with his shopping site Zozotown.

Recently, he has begun making clothes, such as a wearable tech-

nology called Zozosuit. The suit, splattered with hundreds of dots, takes body measurements with a software application, ensuring a good fit.

Maezawa said nicely fitting clothes bring smiles and the moon trip's purpose also is to add to happiness.

**Maezawa is known for lavish purchases, including artworks by Jean-Michel Basquiat and Andy Warhol**

The world remembers the first words of the 1969 Apollo astronaut Neil Armstrong, "That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind," he said.

Maezawa has a message of his own that he says will be more casual, akin to the lyrics he loved playing in rock bands growing up.

All I want to say is this: Wouldn't the world be a better place if there is peace?" said Maezawa. **AP**

AD

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## what's ON



## ASSEMBLAGE OF TREASURES

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

UNTIL: February 19, 2019

VENUE: Macau Museum (Mount Fortress)

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

## SCULPTURE – A JOURNEY, EXHIBITION BY ANTONIO LEÇA

TIME: 3pm-8pm (Mondays)

12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)

UNTIL: October 21, 2018

VENUE: A2 Gallery, Albergue SCM

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550

## 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

## EXHIBITION OF NEW WORKS IN MAM COLLECTION

TIME: 10am-7pm (last admission 6:30pm; closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: October 26, 2018

VENUE: Macao Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free admission

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

## BEYOND THE SCENERY: EXHIBITION COMMEMORATING THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSING OF WU LI

TIME: 10am-7pm (last admission 6:30pm; closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: November 11, 2018

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art

## Offbeat

## WALK ON THE WILD SIDE: DUTCH JOGGER RUNS INTO LION CUB



A jogger's run through the Dutch countryside turned into a walk on the wild side when he discovered a lion cub in a field. Police say the young cub was found Sunday in a cage dumped in a field near Tienhoven between the central cities of Utrecht and Hilversum.

Police have taken to Twitter to appeal for help in tracing the animal's owner, while the young cub, a male believed to be about five months old, is being cared for by a foundation that looks after big cats.

The foundation said on its Facebook page that the cub "is very tired from the hectic events" and is in quarantine. It adds that the cub is drinking water and already feeling at ease in its new surroundings.

## TV canal macau



13:00 TDM News (Repetição)

13:30 Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)

15:00 Mistura Fina

15:55 Os Craques do Pingue-Pongue

16:20 Nelo & Idália

16:55 Quem Quer Ser Milionário

18:05 Depois do Adeus

19:00 TDM Entrevista (Repetição)

19:35 Os Nossos Dias Sr.2

20:30 Telejornal

21:15 Montra do Lilau

21:45 LiteratAqui

22:10 Liberdade 21 - Fim

23:15 TDM News

23:50 Curso de Cultura Geral Sr.2

00:45 Telejornal (Repetição)

01:30 RTPi Directo

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

04 - 10 Oct



## VENOM

ROOM 1

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

Director: Ruben Fleischer

Starring: Tom Hardy, Michelle Williams, Riz Ahmed

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 112min



## PROJECT GUTENBERG

ROOM 2

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

Director: Felix Chong

Starring: Chow Yun Fat, Aaron Kwok, Zhang Jingchu

Language: Cantonese (Chinese, english)

Duration: 130min



## A SIMPLE FAVOR

ROOM 3

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

Director: Paul Feig

Starring: Anna Kendrick, Blake Lively, Henry Golding

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 117min

## JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN

ROOM 3

7:30pm

Director: David Kerr

Starring: Rowan Atkinson, Emma Thompson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 88min

## this day in history



## 1980 THATCHER 'NOT FOR TURNING'

The Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has made a defiant speech to Conservatives at the party conference in Brighton.

In it she stressed her determination to stick to tough economic policies despite doubts expressed within Tory ranks.

Responding to recent expectations of an about-turn on counter-inflationary policies, Mrs Thatcher declared to widespread cheers:

"To those waiting with bated breath for that favourite media catchphrase, the U-turn, I have only one thing to say: You turn if you want to. The lady's not for turning!"

Outside in the rain, 'Right to Work' protesters demonstrated, two of whom managed to breach security and make their voices heard in the hall.

But her speech did acknowledge the plight of the country's two million unemployed.

"Let me make it clear beyond doubt. I am profoundly concerned about unemployment," she said.

She added: "Human dignity and self-respect are undermined when men and women are condemned to idleness."

The Prime Minister expressed her commitment to reducing inflation which she said was beginning to fall, reminding delegates it was the "parent of unemployment".

She also claimed a number of measures imposed by her government in its first 17 months in office as successes.

This included the "first crucial changes" in trade union law, the breaking down of monopoly powers and allowing council tenants the chance to buy their homes.

Mrs Thatcher condemned Soviet foreign policy and in particular its present occupation of Afghanistan.

In response to the recent demonstrations by Polish ship-workers, she praised their resolve to "participate in the shaping of their destiny", and their actions as testament to a crisis in Communism.

Her closing words were reserved for criticism of Labour and votes cast at its party conference in favour of withdrawal from NATO and the EEC.

"Let Labour's Orwellian nightmare of the Left be a spur for us to dedicate with a new urgency our every ounce of energy and moral strength to rebuild the fortunes of this free nation," she said.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Margaret Thatcher was the UK's first female prime minister and this was one of her most famous speeches.

She led three successive Conservative governments from 1979 to 1990.

In office she privatised state-owned industries and utilities, implemented strict trade union restrictions, and reduced social expenditures.

Thatcher's free market economics strengthened the overall economy and created a growing middle class, but widened the gap between rich and poor.

Between 1979 and 1983 unemployment peaked at three million, declining only very slowly during the 1980s.

Her refusal over European integration and the creation of the hated poll tax lost her the leadership to John Major in 1990.

She was made a Baroness in 1994.

In March 2002 she announced she was withdrawing from public life on doctor's orders after a series of minor strokes.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Try to pitch in when you see something that's not working out at the office or at home — you don't need to wait for the distress signal before snapping into action. Your initiative earns kudos.

Taurus April 20-May 20 You need to get out there and enjoy the nightlife — or daytime — of your city, town or village. A concert would be perfect for your energy, even if it's just the lull of a low-key jukebox.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Don't let anything accumulate in your inbox for long today — you need to answer messages as soon as you get them, or you risk losing out on great opportunities. Make it fast!

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Your ability to communicate is heightened today, so reach out to an old family member or make a new friend — use that social energy before it dissipates! It's a good time to build bridges.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 How does your budget look? If you don't have one to check on, now is a great time for you to draw one up — with the help of a smart friend, of course. You may be surprised by what you find.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You find yourself on the receiving end of some serious praise — or maybe an award of some kind. You know you deserve it, but it's hard to take this in the right way. You can make it work!

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You're facing far too many details today — you need to make sure that you can cover them all, or maybe get them covered by someone else. Things don't have to get too crazy, right?

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Your secrets are starting to come out — but only the ones that you want to make public! Your strategic release of information should come as a surprise to at least one key player.

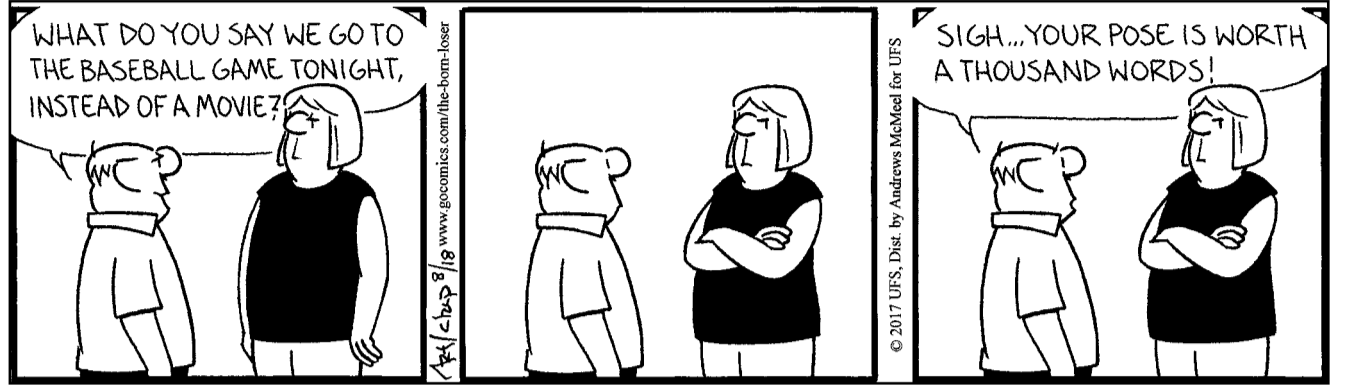
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 This is not the time to rush ahead — you have to cover all the details of your new work or home situation first. One step at a time gets it all done, whereas impulsive behavior moves you backward.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You need to spend some time online or in a good, old-fashioned library today — the information you need isn't going to come to you! Ask questions and follow up leads until you know it all.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You feel a little closer to normal today, and better able to see things through a prism of responsibility rather than freaked-out worry or wild fantasy. It may not be as fun, but it's closer to the truth.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You need to get to work on a new project — and today is perfect for picking out new things to do. You may find that your energy is better spent on intense and focused tasks than diffuse brainstorming.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

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

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

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- RR stop; 4- Goes with the flow; 10- Mountain lake; 14- \_\_\_ de Cologne; 15- Concealed; 16- Suit to \_\_\_; 17- George Strait's "All My \_\_\_ Live in Texas"; 18- Question a decision; 20- It may be picked; 21- Asian river; 22- Les \_\_\_-Unis; 23- Bitter; 25- Pan-fry; 28- China's Chou En-\_\_\_; 29- Spahn teammate; 30- Jack Sprat could \_\_\_ fat; 31- Sheep shelter; 32- Address to a graduating class; 35- Western Hemisphere org.; 36- Dusk, to Donne; 37- Principles of commerce; 44- Kemo \_\_\_; 45- Inclined; 46- Nair rival; 48- Do something; 49- \_\_\_ Park, Colorado; 50- Playing marble; 51- On top of the standings; 53- Put in order; 55- Female pronoun; 56- Having all the angles equal; 59- Back muscle, briefly; 60- Floating vegetable matter; 61- Sister of Venus; 62- French article; 63- Summer shirts; 64- Shores; 65- Neth. neighbor;

Yesterday's solution crossword grid with filled-in words like ASPIC, RAGGS, PARI, CELLO, KLAL, UNIT, TWAIN, ASEA, BADE, TACTIC, OLDTIMER, OSTRICH, EAR, SISTER, SHOUT, OMIT, DIM, LEAN, ADELE, AUDI, ODD, AMATI, ARMOR, GALOSH, DAM, JALOUSIE, WINNER, UTAMI, TSO, REESE, NITA, AVISO, ERES, OTOS, LANES.

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## FOOTBALL | LA LIGA

# Sevilla looking like a strong title candidate in Spain

Tales Azzoni, Madrid

**W**HILE Barcelona and Real Madrid struggle, Sevilla has its attack clicking and its defense ticking. The result is first place in the Spanish league and a real hope that this could be Sevilla's year to topple the powerhouses.

"We are taking advantage of our chances and we are playing with confidence," Sevilla coach Pablo Machin said. "We know what we are capable of. We will try to keep this going for as long as possible."

Sevilla defeated Celta Vigo 2-1 on Sunday for its fourth straight league win, reaching 16 points from eight matches — one more than Barcelona and Atletico Madrid and two more than Real Madrid. Barcelona is winless in four league games, while Real Madrid hasn't won — or scored — in four consecutive matches in all competitions.

Sevilla had a chance to win the title two years ago, staying among the contenders until late in the season. But, as usual, Barcelona, Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid ran away in the end.

Last season was a disappointment. Things started well but the team quickly dropped out of contention and finished seventh, 35 points off the lead and barely making it to the Europa League. This season is different, so far.



Sevilla's Andre Silva celebrates after scoring a goal

**SCORING AT EASE**

Sevilla has shown the type of attacking force that only Barcelona and Real Madrid have displayed in recent years.

The team outscored opponents 20-7 in its last six matches in all competitions, and already has 18 goals in the Spanish league, only one fewer than Barcelona. Real Madrid, which was outclassed by Sevilla 3-0 last

month, has 12 goals.

Among Sevilla's other routs this season was a 6-2 win at Levante. In the Europa League, the team defeated Lithuanian club Zalgiris Vilnius 5-0 and Belgian club Standard Liege 5-1.

**ATTACKING DUO**

Part of the reason Sevilla's attack is clicking is because of

great performances by forwards Andre Silva and Wissam Ben Yedder.

Silva, the Portugal striker playing on a loan from AC Milan, has seven goals in the league, one fewer than scoring leader Cristhian Stuani of Girona.

Ben Yedder, a regular in the squad in past years, has five goals, only one fewer than Messi.

**SOLID COACHING**

The man guiding the team's potent attack is Machin, a former right back who arrived in the offseason after three seasons with Girona, which he helped reach the first division for the first time in its history.

Girona finished 10th in its top-flight debut a year ago with an attack that scored 50 goals, among the top 10 in the league.

**REVAMPED SQUAD**

Sevilla lost some important players in the offseason but was able to remain competitive with signings like Silva.

Sports director Joaquin Caparros, who coached Sevilla from 2000-05, also brought in defenders Sergi Gomez and Joris Gnagnon, midfielders Roque Mesa, Maxime Gonalons and Ibrahim Amadou, goalkeeper Tomas Vaclik, and winger Aleix Vidal.

The departures included defender Clement Lenglet to Barcelona, Steven N'Zonzi to Roma, Joaquin Correa to Lazio and goalkeeper Sergio Rico to Fulham.

**BIG TEST**

Sevilla impressed in its 3-0 rout of Real Madrid at Ramon Sanchez-Pizjuan Stadium, and now it will have another chance to show its worth when it takes on Barcelona at Camp Nou after the international break.

Barcelona has drawn two straight at Camp Nou — 2-2 against Girona and 1-1 against Athletic Bilbao — but it hasn't lost to Sevilla at the venue since a Copa del Rey match in 2010. The last time Barcelona lost points to Sevilla at home was in 2011.

"The break will allow us to recover some of our gladiators," Machin said. "Hopefully everyone will be ready." **AP**

# Modric, Mbappe in running for Ballon d'Or

Samuel Petrequin, Paris

**L**UKA Modric and Kylian Mbappe are in the running to break Lionel Messi's and Cristiano Ronaldo's 10-year dominance of the Ballon d'Or.

The World Cup finalist and champion, respectively, are nominees for this year's award, alongside Brazilian forward Marta. For the first time, France Football magazine is awarding the individual trophy to a woman and a man on December 3 in Paris.

The last player to win the trophy before Ronaldo and Messi took over was Kaka in 2007. This year, Ronaldo and Messi have not been as dominant, leaving the door open for a new winner.

Marta features among



Luka Modric

the 15 women's nominees unveiled on Monday along with Lyon players Ada Hegerberg of Norway and Dzsenifer Marozsan of Germany.

Mbappe won the World

Cup for France in Russia, where he became the first teenager to score in a final since Pele in 1958. France beat Modric's Croatia 4-2 in the final, and the latter was voted player of the

tournament.

Last month, the technically gifted Modric won FIFA's best player award, and is regarded as the front-runner for the Ballon d'Or.

The France Football award merged with FIFA's player of the year from 2010-15, but they split two years ago.

In addition to guiding Croatia to the World Cup final, Modric also won the Champions league with Real Madrid.

Mbappe also helped Paris Saint-Germain to a domestic treble last season.

Ronaldo and Messi are also among the 30 male nominees. They have shared the past 10 Ballon d'Or trophies, winning five times each.

Antoine Griezmann, Neymar, Gareth Bale,

Mohamed Salah, and Sergio Aguero are also listed. Bale scored with a bicycle kick for Madrid in the Champions League final, while Salah enjoyed a breathtaking first season with Liverpool, bagging 32 goals in the English

Premier League.

Among prominent names who did not make the cut was PSG goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon, who finished fourth last year but was penalized by Italy's absence from the World Cup. **AP**

**THE NOMINEES FOR THE BALLON D'OR AWARD****Women's nominees:**

Lucy Bronze, Pernille Harder, Ada Hegerberg, Amandine Henry, Lindsay Horan, Fran Kirby, Sam Kerr, Saki Kumagai, Amel Majri, Dzsenifer Marozsan, Marta, Lieke Martens, Megan Rapinoe, Wendie Renard, Christine Sinclair.

**Men's nominees:**

Sergio Aguero, Alisson, Gareth Bale, Karim Benzema, Edinson Cavani, Thibaut

Courtois, Cristiano Ronaldo, Kevin De Bruyne, Roberto Firmino, Diego Godin, Antoine Griezmann, Eden Hazard, Isco, Harry Kane, N'Golo Kante, Hugo Lloris, Mario Mandzukic, Sadio Mane, Marcelo, Kylian Mbappe, Lionel Messi, Luka Modric, Neymar, Jan Oblak, Paul Pogba, Ivan Rakitic, Mohamed Salah, Sergio Ramos, Luis Suarez, Raphael Varane.

opinion

**Macau Matters**

Richard Whitfield



**DOCTORAL EXAMINATIONS**

My nomination as an external examiner for a Doctoral dissertation was recently rejected because I had previously worked at the university involved. This annoyed me quite a bit because I enjoy examining Doctoral research and the rationale behind the rejection is vaguely insulting, and so this article is a bit of a rant on the topic.

A Doctorate is the highest level of formal university education and to achieve it a candidate must rigorously complete a substantial research project that yields "new knowledge". In this work, which typically takes 4-6 years, the candidate is mentored by a university supervisor. At the end of the project the candidate must defend the project work to an examination panel, which includes the supervisor, some internal examiners from within the university and at least one external examiner from outside the university. Typically, a candidate's written research report (which is usually 250+ pages) is given to the examiners to read and then (s)he orally presents the work and answers probing questions from the examiners who are looking for flaws and problems with the study.

I have successfully supervised 3 Doctoral projects and have been a university examiner for 4 others and an external examiner for a further 6 others. I have also supervised and examined hundreds of Master dissertations, which are usually "mini" Doctoral projects that only take 6 months and do not have to yield "new knowledge". Based on well known academic regulations and standards, their own past experiences and through examination panel discussions, supervisors and examiners maintain the academic quality of Doctoral research projects. External examiners are essential in this by ensuring that academic standards are maintained between universities.

Examination panel selection is very important for all Doctoral projects. You need examiners who are technically familiar with the research field and with the required academic standards and who will give the candidate a "fair go". Generally, supervisors will not submit a Doctoral project for assessment unless they feel it meets the standards. This is often tested by publishing parts of the work in peer reviewed research journals before the examination. And normally, examination panels will not let an oral defense go ahead unless the project has a strong chance of passing, and may require extra work to be done in preparation. And, when a project is deemed to not reach the required standards in an oral defense, the examination panel usually instructs the candidate on what must be done to improve the work and will only then allow it to be resubmitted for assessment.

As a supervisor I have required candidates to do more work before submitting their research for assessment, co-authored research publications based in the work done by Doctoral (and Master) candidates, and helped candidates with research dissertation editing and oral presentation preparation. As an examiner I have also counseled supervisors and candidates to do more work before resubmitting.

Most Doctoral candidates need to make minor corrections to their work, and some may need major revisions but outright failures are very rare – examination systems are designed to avoid them because they reflect very badly on the university, the supervisor, the examination panel and the candidate. In this system totally unknown participants can be very risky and so virtually all Doctoral examiners have some prior relationship with the field of research, the university and/or the supervisor. An examiner that does not like the work, is out of sync with the rest of the examination panel, does not understand the regional quality standards and will not listen to reason can do a lot of damage to the career of a candidate, the supervisor and the university. In my recent case the university concerned has "shot itself in the foot" and, for the candidate's sake, I hope they do not live to regret their decision to exclude me.

**THE ALBANIA TO RELOCATE CASINOS, BETTING SHOPS TO CITY OUTSKIRTS**

Albania's government says it will relocate all casinos and betting shops out of residential areas to curb their spread, especially in the capital Tirana. Prime Minister Edi Rama said yesterday that by Dec. 31 all casinos, including shops taking bets on sports and animal races, will need to be closed and move to city outskirts.

City streets in Albania, one of the poorest

countries in Europe, are filled with sport betting shops. The prime minister said that although the number of casinos have dropped to 20 from 40 in 2013, the government's gambling tax revenue has increased to \$54 million (€47 million) from \$37 million (€32 million) five years ago. Rama also warned that media outlets that don't stop illegal gambling advertising will be "closed by force."

**China's soy appetite is leaving Brazil crushers emptied handed**

Tatiana Freitas

**CRUSHERS** in Brazil are running out of soybeans amid tougher competition from Chinese buyers for the remaining 2017-18 season supplies.

Brazilian crushers have been working with negative margins since the second half of September, leading some to slow the pace of processing, according to Cepea, the University of Sao Paulo's research arm. The soy rally that saw a doubling of premiums this year is squeezing domestic processors.

Other plants have halted activities, with some considering resuming only when the new harvest begins in the first quarter of 2019, said Debora da Silva, an analyst at Cepea. "Soy-product inventories are low, and some plants are signaling they no longer have soybean-oil to sell," she said.

The group representing soybean processors in Brazil, known as Abiove, says crushing margins have been squeezed due to higher soybean prices, but it hasn't affected the pace of processing, at least until August, the last month for which there's crushing data available.

"The soybean industry has been meting international



and local demand," Daniel Furlan Amaral, economics manager at Abiove, said in a telephone interview.

Brazil's soybean inventories are expected to fall to 1.5 million tons this season, the lowest since 1999, when Abiove started to compile the data. That's a result of increasing demand from China amid a trade war with the U.S. and higher exports of soy products earlier this season to fill the gap left by a slump in Argentine production after the worst drought in decades.

Brazil shipped 69.2 million tons of soybeans through September this year, up 13 percent from a year earlier, Trade Ministry data show. In September, exports totaled 4.6 million tons, of which 91 percent went to China.

Since export prospects remain favorable, crushers may need to turn to imported soy-oil to meet domestic demand, Silva said. Brazil has a mandatory biodiesel mix in diesel of 10 percent, and 70 percent of the biofuel is made from the oilseed. In September, Brazil imported 10,000 tons of soybean oil, rising from 2,000 tons a year ago. It was the first soy-oil import since May.

"Differentials between Brazil and U.S. soy prices indicate that importing the oilseed for crushing may make sense for some Brazilian industries," Amaral from Abiove said. "Still, I believe soybean imports, if they really happen, will be few, only to meet a very specific demand in the coming months." **Bloomberg**

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**

Alexandre Groyer/Marine Nationale via AP



A Tunisian ship (left) and a Cypriot collided north of the French island of Corsica island this week. The collision caused a 4-kilometer fuel spill in the Mediterranean Sea that French and Italian authorities are working to contain.

Station	Air quality	Icon
Roadside	45-65 Moderate	☹️
High Density Residential Area	45-65 Moderate	☹️
Ambient	70-100 Moderate	☹️

SOURCE: DSI/MG

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**AUSTRALIA** Starting a new life in the country might not come with views of the Sydney Opera House or surfing at the city's Bondi Beach with the government considering a ban on some immigrants from settling in big cities. [More on p13](#)

**PAKISTAN's** currency plunged by about 7 percent yesterday after the government said it would seek emergency bailout loans from the International Monetary Fund. [More on p13](#)



**MALAYSIA** The government plans to introduce new tax measures to help raise funds to pay off national debt that has snowballed due to corruption under the previous government. [More on p11](#)

**PHILIPPINE** President Rodrigo Duterte said yesterday that medical tests show he doesn't have cancer, but added that he won't release a detailed report on his health.



**USA** U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley is leaving the administration at the end of the year, she and President Donald Trump announced. She gave no reason for her departure after two years, though there has been speculation she will return to government or politics at some point.

**BULGARIA** A man was taken into custody in connection with the slaying of Bulgarian television reporter Viktoria Marinova, whose body was found dumped after she highlighted possible government corruption, the Bulgarian interior ministry said. [More on p14](#)